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VolzoneAlfonso

INTERVIEWER: This is an interview with Mr. Alfonso Volzone of Three Oh One North Lincoln Street in Wilmington, Delaware. MR. VOLZONE:, where were you born?

MR. VOLZONE: In Italy.

INTERVIEWER: Where in Italy?

MR. VOLZONE: Solerno. Provincia Solerno.

INTERVIEWER: Solerno. The City of Solerno.

MR. VOLZONE: No, provincia...

INTERVIEWER: Okay, the province...

MR. VOLZONE: (unintelligible)

INTERVIEWER: Okay, what was that name again?

MR. VOLZONE: Olevano Sultuchano.

INTERVIEWER: Olevano Sult...

MR. VOLZONE: Sul-too-shano (phoenetic)

INTERVIEWER: Sultutiano.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Olevano Sultutiano. Okay, now...

MR. VOLZONE: Provincia Solerno.

INTERVIEWER: Provincia Solerno. Okay. Could you spell the name of the town?

MR. VOLZONE: Ardiano. (unintelligible) Ardiano.

INTERVIEWER: Ariano?

MR. VOLZONE: Ariano.

INTERVIEWER: A-R-I-A-N-O?

MR. VOLZONE: That's right.

INTERVIEWER: And sotto? S-O-T-T-O? And, uh, how about the last part?

MR. VOLZONE: (speaking Italian)

INTERVIEWER: Okay, there are three or four small towns together...

MR. VOLZONE: That's right.

INTERVIEWER: And they have just one city hall.

MR. VOLZONE: One city hall. That's right.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Sottu...

MR. VOLZONE: ...Tiano.

INTERVIEWER: Sciano. S-C-I-A-N-O?

MR. VOLZONE: That's right.

INTERVIEWER: Sciano. Okay. What year were you born?

MR. VOLZONE: Ariano.

INTERVIEWER: No. Il ano.

MR. VOLZONE: (speaking Italian)

INTERVIEWER: 1887.

MR. VOLZONE: 87. That's right.

INTERVIEWER: You can answer these in English, you know?

MRS. VOLZONE:

MR. VOLZONE: (chuckling)

INTERVIEWER: Now, Solerno is close to Naples, isn't it?

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. It, yeah. (Unintelligible) village in Naples.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, in other words, your village is on, what, the Tyrrhenian Sea?

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Il Mare Tyrrhenian? (speaking Italian) The Tyrrhenian Sea, then. And, was it right on the coast?

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Yes, on the coast.

MR. VOLZONE: Long beside the sea.

INTERVIEWER: Right alongside the sea. What did your father do in Italy?

MR. VOLZONE: Blacksmith.

INTERVIEWER: He was a blacksmith?

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah, but he wasn't confined to make horseshoes for the horse and the mule, donkey, and the cows.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, they had shoes for cows?

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. Oh, yeah. (unintelligible) for bulls.

INTERVIEWER: For bulls.

MR. VOLZONE: (speaking Italian)

INTERVIEWER: Oh, oxen.

MR. VOLZONE: Ox. That's right.

INTERVIEWER: Shoes for oxen. Now, did he do anything else besides make shoes? Did he make, like, kitchen, like frying pans, that sort of thing?

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah, cookware.

INTERVIEWER: He did cookware and everything. All right, no
MRS. VOLZONE: Did you go to school in Italy?

MR. VOLZONE: A few months.

INTERVIEWER: A few months?

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. Not much.

INTERVIEWER: How old were you when you started?

MR. VOLZONE: Oh, I was a baby. Six, seven years old. And then I had to go to work. Because we had, you know, eight in the family.

INTERVIEWER: Eight children in the family, so...

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah, eight children.

INTERVIEWER: Were you the oldest one of the children?

MR. VOLZONE: I'm the first, the last, not the last, the one the last...

INTERVIEWER: You're next to the last...

MR. VOLZONE: Next to last.

INTERVIEWER: All right. Now, did you work with your father?

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. My father had a lot of (unintelligible) levels, you know, outside when I was five, four five, six years. And (unintelligible). Yeah, I caught you there. The main line, you know, the apple.

INTERVIEWER: When you were four or five, you had to pick apples.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah, and give it to (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: In other words, your father was a blacksmith, but he also had a farm.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. (unintelligible). We had a lot of ground there. Elevated. (unintelligible)

INTERVIEWER: A storage for olives.

MR. VOLZONE: No storage. A (unintelligible)

INTERVIEWER: A grain.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: A grain elevator. (speaking Italian).

MR. VOLZONE: (speaking Italian)

INTERVIEWER: Oh, you had olive trees.

MR. VOLZONE: Yes, olive trees. And then we pick the olives...

INTERVIEWER: Pick the olives. You made oil.

MR. VOLZONE: That's right.

INTERVIEWER: And you did this when you were a boy.

MR. VOLZONE: (unintelligible) (speaking Italian)

INTERVIEWER: Now, when you were in Italy, did you ever leave the town that you were born in to travel to different places?

MR. VOLZONE: No.

INTERVIEWER: You always stayed...

MR. VOLZONE: It was some time ago, next village (unintelligible) a half a day, you know?

INTERVIEWER: A half a day. You'd go for various feast days, for fairs...

MR. VOLZONE: Fairs and like, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: But you always, usually stayed in your own town.

MR. VOLZONE: Oh, yeah, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: All right. Now, when did you first hear of the United States?

MR. VOLZONE: Well, I come here in 1906...

INTERVIEWER: You came here in 1906. But when, but when did you first hear of the United States?

MR. VOLZONE: What now was...

INTERVIEWER: No, no... When did you become aware that the United States existed? (Speaking Italian).

MR. VOLZONE: Oh! My brother was here.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, your brother was here.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. My two brother was here. And they send me money. And then I come here.

INTERVIEWER: You came over here. And you came here in 1907.

MR. VOLZONE: In 1906.

INTERVIEWER: In 1906. What month was that?

MR. VOLZONE: March the twenty-fourth.

INTERVIEWER: March the twenty-fourth. Is that the day you arrived here?

MR. VOLZONE: Yup. That's right.

INTERVIEWER: How did you go about leaving Italy to come here? Did you have to get papers filled out anywhere?

MR. VOLZONE: Well, a passport, you know
MRS. VOLZONE:

INTERVIEWER: That's all? Just a passport?

MR. VOLZONE: Passport. That's all.

INTERVIEWER: There was no quota at that time, was there?

MR. VOLZONE: No. No, that was everything. At that time I paid sixty liras to come here.

INTERVIEWER: It cost sixty liras to come here.

MR. VOLZONE: (unintelligible)

INTERVIEWER: How much was sixty lira worth in dollars?

MR. VOLZONE: Oh, at that time, sixty lira was, what... Six? Twelve dollars.

INTERVIEWER: About twelve dollars.

MR. VOLZONE: Twelve dollars.

INTERVIEWER: That's all it cost you to come here? Twelve dollars?

MR. VOLZONE: That's right. At that time.

MRS. VOLZONE: (speaking Italian)

MR. VOLZONE: (speaking Italian)

INTERVIEWER: Now, where did you...

MR. VOLZONE: The money was bigger in the United States at that time. A few cents (unintelligible) from here to Italy (unintelligible) you pay anything, and they give you a cigar. You see? You send five dollars somebody around here knows... You send five dollars, and then they won't take no money from you. They give you cigar, but the money there was bigger because they get it from, what was it... From the company or something. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Now, when you left Italy, did you leave from Naples?

MR. VOLZONE: From Naples.

INTERVIEWER: How did you get to Naples from Salerno? Train?

MR. VOLZONE: From the (speaking Italian).

INTERVIEWER: (speaking Italian)

MR. VOLZONE: (speaking Italian) to Naples with a train.

INTERVIEWER: A train. Now, when you got to Naples, was the ship in the port?

MRS. VOLZONE: Yeah.

MR. VOLZONE: No, no, not yet. The next day, it was on the port.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, the next day...

MR. VOLZONE: Somebody comes down, and we go up.

INTERVIEWER: Where did you spend that first night in Naples? Did you spend it in a hotel?

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah (laughter). That's right.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, now... The ship that you got on, was it an Italian ship?

MR. VOLZONE: Italian ship, yeah. I forget the name, but... Some Italian ship, yeah.

MRS. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian)

MR. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian)

MRS. VOLZONE: Shock. Shock.

MR. VOLZONE: No, no.

MRS. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian)

MR. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian)

MRS. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian)

MR. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian)

INTERVIEWER: Now, how long did it take the ship to go from Naples to the United States?

MR. VOLZONE: Fourteen and a half days.

INTERVIEWER: Fourteen and a half days? Did it stop anywhere along the way?

MR. VOLZONE: No.

INTERVIEWER: The strait... Did it stop at Gibraltar? (Speaking Italian)

MR. VOLZONE: I don't remember. I don't remember.

INTERVIEWER: You don't remember...

MR. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian)

INTERVIEWER: (Speaking Italian) (unintelligible) usually stop there.

MR. VOLZONE: (unintelligible) (laughter).

MRS. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian)

MR. VOLZONE: (unintelligible)

MRS. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian)

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah, yeah, (Speaking Italian), but I don't know that time.

MRS. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian)

INTERVIEWER: What were the conditions like aboard ship?

MR. VOLZONE: (laughter) It was bad.

INTERVIEWER: It was bad?

MR. VOLZONE: You had, you had to get the, you know, dish every, every four or five man, you had to get a bigger dish, and then you ride up, and no order, and you had to go down the (unintelligible). We meet the diners there after we eat. Then they give you wine. (Unintelligible), like a dish house [10:00] with a canteen, go down and get the wine, but then (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: In other words...

MR. VOLZONE: And no water.

INTERVIEWER: No water?

MR. VOLZONE: No water. Not (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: (Unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: There was bad water that time.

INTERVIEWER: Got four men together, one man went and got the food and (unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: ...And came back and divided it up.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. Right.

INTERVIEWER: After you finished eating, you didn't have anything to drink with the meal. Then you went to another...

MR. VOLZONE: No. No. They give us wine.

INTERVIEWER: But you got the wine after you finished eating.

MR. VOLZONE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, while you were eating.

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: So you could have the wine then.

MR. VOLZONE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: But no (unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: Somebody get wine, somebody get...

INTERVIEWER: Ah. Okay. Now, when you first arrived in the United States, did you arrive in New York?

MR. VOLZONE: New York, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Did anybody meet you there?

MR. VOLZONE: No.

INTERVIEWER: How did you know where to go?

MR. VOLZONE: (Laughter) (Unintelligible) We had a quarantine of, oh, about ten hours aboard.

INTERVIEWER: You were quarantined for about ten hours?

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. Outside of New York. And then we come in and then pass the examination and everything. And then we took a (unintelligible). Why did we have to go on (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Tagged? (Unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah (Unintelligible) the tag on the jacket. And then we get it (unintelligible) about eleven o'clock.

INTERVIEWER: You left New York about eleven...

MR. VOLZONE: No. I left (unintelligible) with a friend of the ship eleven o'clock.

INTERVIEWER: There was a train back to Wilmington at eleven...

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Was that in the morning or at night?

MR. VOLZONE: In the mo... No, at night.

INTERVIEWER: At night.

MR. VOLZONE: About eleven o'clock. Night. And we took a cab. And we was four for one dollar. (Laughter) It was a quarter a piece. And then we had a house (unintelligible) on Seventh Street. On Tenth Street, had another, Sixth Street (unintelligible). I find my brother. I knocked the door, and that was my brother coming down.

MRS. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian)

MR. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian)

MRS. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian)

MR. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian)

MRS. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian)

MR. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian)

MRS. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian)

INTERVIEWER: Okay, now, once you got here, you stayed with your brother.

MR. VOLZONE: Yes, I stayed with him my brother. Two days.

INTERVIEWER: And then what did you do?

MR. VOLZONE: I now went to my uncle. (Speaking Italian). He was up in a house (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Tenth and Lincoln?

MR. VOLZONE: Tenth and Lincoln. (Unintelligible) three months.

INTERVIEWER: You stayed there three months.

MR. VOLZONE: Three months. And then we moved. (Unintelligible) and Fourth Street. This house. (Unintelligible). And my uncle had make bread back there.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, yeah, a bakery shop.

MR. VOLZONE: Bakery shop up here. On the Fourth Street.

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh. Whereabouts on Fourth? Between Lincoln and Union?

MR. VOLZONE: Between Union and Lincoln, that's right.

INTERVIEWER: (Unintelligible) bakery shop there.

MR. VOLZONE: Bakery shop, yeah, there was. In the house, uh, (unintelligible) house.

INTERVIEWER: How did, um... You earned a living. Did you go to work as soon as you got here?

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. Yeah. Two days after.

INTERVIEWER: Where did you go to work?

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Where?

MR. VOLZONE: Marible (phonetic) Island.

INTERVIEWER: Marible Island?

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. Marible Island. That's what they called Marible Island on the outer side... When you go to the boat, you know

MRS. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible). On the other side...

INTERVIEWER: Oh, the industrial highway.

MR. VOLZONE: No, no. (Unintelligible) Philly.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, you mean the Wilson line.

MR. VOLZONE: Wilson line, and then past the bridge and (unintelligible) about half a mile on the other side.

INTERVIEWER: There was an iron factory.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. Iron factory.

INTERVIEWER: Malleable iron.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. What kind of work did you do there?

MR. VOLZONE: Well, some kind (unintelligible) we call it (unintelligible) iron, put it in, and then they go (unintelligible) pour something like the (unintelligible). And I work at that three years. And I had pretty good money that time.

INTERVIEWER: About how much...?

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible) thirty cents (laughter).

INTERVIEWER: A day?

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible) see, my brother, he was sick in (unintelligible) that time, so, he left after six months and go back to Italy. (Unintelligible) that's too bad.

INTERVIEWER: And you stayed there.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Now, were there mostly all Italians who worked there?

MR. VOLZONE: A pretty good size of Italian and Pollock.

INTERVIEWER: And you got along, then, with the Italians. You didn't have to know any English, then, didn't you?

MR. VOLZONE: (Laughter). (Unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: (Unintelligible). But everyone there that you talked to was Italian, so you didn't need (unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible) how to do it.

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh. Now, you stayed there, you said, about two years.

MR. VOLZONE: About two years, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Where did you go after that?

MR. VOLZONE: Well, I went down there and I was (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: You had a fish business.

MR. VOLZONE: You know Chris Coli (phonetic)?

INTERVIEWER: Yes. I remember he used to have a fish store down on Peel (phonetic) Street.

MR. VOLZONE: Well, I work with him. (Unintelligible) Chris Coli died. Died. (Unintelligible) in 1927. And I work with him about three years. And then (unintelligible) and then when the mollusk comes, that was (unintelligible) to fish then.

INTERVIEWER: What was the other one?

MR. VOLZONE: Molluskalz (phonetic).

INTERVIEWER: Molluskalza (phonetic)?

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. On King Street. And then (unintelligible) Dominick Salvatore. You know him?

INTERVIEWER: I, I (unintelligible) my father knew him, but I, I didn't know (unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible) all together about five or six years.

INTERVIEWER: Now, when you worked at Malleable Iron, how many hours a day did you work?

MR. VOLZONE: Seven o'clock in the morning to five o'clock. Ten hours.

INTERVIEWER: Ten hours a day. And how many days a week?

MR. VOLZONE: Six days.

INTERVIEWER: Six days.

MR. VOLZONE: On Saturday, half a day.

INTERVIEWER: In other words, you worked five and a half days a week.

MR. VOLZONE: Five and a half days.

INTERVIEWER: And when you went to work in the fish store...?

MR. VOLZONE: Well, (unintelligible) six days. In the morning, about five, four. On the Friday morning, four o'clock. Go there and fix the stand, you know? And then work (unintelligible). Lot of Jews come in early in the morning with the (unintelligible). So, we had to clean the fish, sell them clean with (unintelligible) and then (unintelligible) six o'clock.

INTERVIEWER: In other words, you worked from about four o'clock in the morning til about six o'clock at night.

MR. VOLZONE: Six o'clock.

INTERVIEWER: Six days a week.

MR. VOLZONE: Six days a week.

INTERVIEWER: What was the pay like then?

MR. VOLZONE: They give me twelve dollars a week.

INTERVIEWER: Twelve dollars a week.

MR. VOLZONE: Yup.

INTERVIEWER: That's two dollars a day.

MR. VOLZONE: And and after a year, I was working with (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: In other words, he...

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible) (speaking Italian).

MRS. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian).

INTERVIEWER: In other words, you got paid twelve dollars a week...

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: ...for six days, plus your meals.

MR. VOLZONE: Meals, yeah, after a year.

INTERVIEWER: After you (unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible) that time, though, was twenty-five to thirty cents, fifty cents (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. Now, how long did you stay there with him?

MR. VOLZONE: Three years.

INTERVIEWER: Three years.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Now, did you still make the same pay for three years? Twelve dollars a week. That was it.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: When you weren't working, what did you do?

MR. VOLZONE: Clean fish.

INTERVIEWER: No, when you were not working. (Speaking Italian).

MR. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian). (Laughter).

INTERVIEWER: (Speaking Italian).

MR. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian).

INTERVIEWER: (Unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: On Sunday, just on Sunday, with the one right next to the, pay one dollar, about a dollar and a half, for (unintelligible) everything.

INTERVIEWER: How did you get to Atlantic City?

MR. VOLZONE: Was excursion. (Unintelligible) every Sunday.

INTERVIEWER: An excursion. By bus?

MR. VOLZONE: No. It was a train.

INTERVIEWER: A train.

MR. VOLZONE: It comes down here to (unintelligible). On the other side, there'd be another train, and it went to Atlantic City.

INTERVIEWER: And you did that on the Sundays during the summer.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: And it would cost you about a dollar.

MR. VOLZONE: About a dollar to go, and to come back.

INTERVIEWER: Round trip was...

MR. VOLZONE: It was about a dollar and a half, maybe two dollars.

INTERVIEWER: (Unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible) because of what everyone spend. (Laughter).

INTERVIEWER: Depending on how big a sport you wanna be. (Laughter).

MR. VOLZONE: That's funny.

MRS. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Tell me, did you ever belong to any kind of organization...

MR. VOLZONE: No, not at that time.

INTERVIEWER: Did you belong to Eagles or Sons of Italy or anything?

MR. VOLZONE: No. No.

INTERVIEWER: No. All right...

MR. VOLZONE: After... I don't know when, but I was (unintelligible) with the Columbo (phonetic).

INTERVIEWER: Okay, the Sons of Columbus here, which became a part of Sons of Italy.

MR. VOLZONE: Sons of Columbus.

INTERVIEWER: Well, they didn't...

MR. VOLZONE: I don't know when, but I do remember.

INTERVIEWER: Now, when did they open up this place? In 1923?

MR. VOLZONE: I, I don't.

INTERVIEWER: Remember when?

MR. VOLZONE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

MR. VOLZONE: I don't remember. I (unintelligible) after World Wars.

INTERVIEWER: Yes, it was after the first World War. I was going to ask you a couple of other questions. Do you know where the Republican Club used to be up on Sixth Street between Lincoln and Union?

MR. VOLZONE: Yes. I remember.

INTERVIEWER: Did you ever go there when it was a club?

MR. VOLZONE: Yes, sometimes.

INTERVIEWER: What was it like?

MR. VOLZONE: Well, it was pretty (unintelligible) for a glass of beer.

INTERVIEWER: Play cards or a glass of beer, something like that.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: How about the Democratic Club, now? The Democratic Club was up on Lincoln Street where the Neighborhood House is right now, right?

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Did you ever go there?

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah, I went there, too.

INTERVIEWER: Who were the... Who would you say was the boss of the Democratic Club or the Republican Club?

MR. VOLZONE: The boss was at one time I remember. It's...

INTERVIEWER: Carletto at the Democratic Club?

MR. VOLZONE: No, no not Carletto.

INTERVIEWER: Not this one; his father, though.

MR. VOLZONE: No. (Laughter). I'd know his father. Father, no. He was (unintelligible) (speaking Italian?).

MRS. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: (Unintelligible) Marcosi? (Phonetic)

MRS. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: No, (speaking Italian).

INTERVIEWER: Oh, Bernardo.

MR. VOLZONE: Bernard. That's right. Bernardo.

INTERVIEWER: My father's uncle.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Well, he was a Republican.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Now how about the Democrat, though? Wasn't the Democrat, Nick Crunotto's (phonetic) father?

MR. VOLZONE: No, no.

INTERVIEWER: You don't remember that.

MR. VOLZONE: No, no.

INTERVIEWER: Now, I understand he was the first man that brought movies here to Little Italy. Well, up in that old Democratic Club.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: All right. NoMRS. VOLZONE: You came to this country in 1906, right? You worked for about two years for the steel mill. You said two years for the steel mill, or one year?

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah, about two years.

INTERVIEWER: Two years. Puts it 1908. The three years with the fish station.

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: It's 1911. Right? And what did you do after that?

MR. VOLZONE: That was when I work over at Bancroft.

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh, work at Bancroft.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah, outside the yard.

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh.

MR. VOLZONE: And I work over there since 1911, 12, something like that. In the yard. And then I work five years over there. And then when the war started, the war...

INTERVIEWER: First World War.

MR. VOLZONE: First World War. And now, I join the Army (laughter).

INTERVIEWER: You joined the American Army?

MR. VOLZONE: American Army. And now when (unintelligible) 1917, I went over France, and spent '17 and '18 and the first '19 and come back '19 here.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, now, when you first went in the army, where did they send you? In the United States for training?

MR. VOLZONE: We, we leave here and we went to Liverpool.

INTERVIEWER: You were in England.

MR. VOLZONE: In England.

INTERVIEWER: But didn't you get any training here in the United States first?

MR. VOLZONE: Oh, yeah, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Where did you go here in the United States?

MR. VOLZONE: It was a camp off Georgia. Camp Up (phonetic), Georgia.

INTERVIEWER: Camp Up?

MR. VOLZONE: Georgia.

INTERVIEWER: In Georgia. Now, were there a lot of Italian boys that went in the service?

MR. VOLZONE: Oooh, lot of Italian.

INTERVIEWER: Did you speak English at that time?

MR. VOLZONE: Little bit.

INTERVIEWER: A little bit.

MR. VOLZONE: Little bit. Little bit, yeah. There was, ah, we was about sixty, sixty-five, sixty-two in the company. And then when we had to go to France, two months before we go over there, the company (unintelligible) for two hundred and fifty. There was the most Italian from New York. (Laughter). (Unintelligible) there was about sixty or seventy Italians. No wonder it was so high. (Unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: (Unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Well, how were you treated in the Army?

MR. VOLZONE: Well, I (unintelligible) good. But we went in the morning the drill and (unintelligible) and everything, and then come back eleven o'clock, and then we had a lot of people. Sometimes we go to help KP, and sometimes you sit down to eat with everything on the table. Good things.

INTERVIEWER: You enjoyed that. Now, how long were you trained in the United States before they sent you overseas?

MR. VOLZONE: One year.

INTERVIEWER: One year. And then they sent you to Liverpool, England.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. (Unintelligible) a year and two months.

INTERVIEWER: So you stayed in England about a year and two months?

MR. VOLZONE: No, no England. After eight days. We just clean them up in England.

INTERVIEWER: Three days and they send you to France.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. After (unintelligible) sent across the...

INTERVIEWER: The Channel into France.

MR. VOLZONE: Channel, yeah. We went past the Channel, and everybody was safe. (Unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: It was real, it was rough. You (unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Okay. And how were things when you got to France?

MR. VOLZONE: And then we went France and we lost one ship. (Unintelligible). We lost them and we had a drill to get some more from the United States and we had to drill for two months.

INTERVIEWER: You had to wait two months to...

MR. VOLZONE: Two months. Yeah. And then after we went over France on the front, and now was sixty-seven of us there on the front. And then we come back. Then we come back, and the work was sixty days. One place or the other, one place or the other, one place or the other. And then we go over to France again. After three days, Army (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: And then you came back to the United States?

MR. VOLZONE: (Laughter). No. We (unintelligible) long time.

INTERVIEWER: You stayed in France a long...

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. We work and work and between one place and the other (unintelligible) rain, rain every day. And then (unintelligible) in the morning. (Unintelligible).

MRS. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Sea rations, they called them. (Unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Hard tack.

MR. VOLZONE: A little piece. (Unintelligible). A little piece. And a cup of coffee. Nothing for dinner. A night about three year when we was one place in one village to another village we see maybe fifteen miles. Twenty miles. Sixty miles see one place to the other. We stopped one night at three, four, five o'clock, and depend on the village, you know, one person or the other, you know, how long you (unintelligible). So, and they give you a big bowl of soup. Carrots. Those are dry carrots.

INTERVIEWER: (Unintelligible) carrots.

MR. VOLZONE: (Laughter). (Unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: And another piece of hard tack.

MR. VOLZONE: That's all.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, and that was it. Now, when you came back to the United States, this was about the end of 1919.

MR. VOLZONE: 1919, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: What did you do when you first got back?

MR. VOLZONE: Well, when I come back, I was open the store up in Union Street. Little, little shack, you know.
MRS. VOLZONE: And we sold cigarette, tobacco, fruit. And (unintelligible) 1921.

INTERVIEWER: Now, where on Union Street was that?

MR. VOLZONE: It was (unintelligible) house and big old house on Seventh Street.

INTERVIEWER: On Seventh and Union?

MR. VOLZONE: Seventh and Union. Big house (unintelligible). Back then, had a (unintelligible) back there. (Unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: (Unintelligible) store.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. And I was there for a year and a half. About a year. A little over a year. And then I went to Italy after 1925.

INTERVIEWER: So in (unintelligible) you went to Italy.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. I went there, and I got married. I got a wife.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Now, what were the living conditions like for Italian people in this country before you went into the Army for World War I?

MR. VOLZONE: Oh, it was bad that time.

INTERVIEWER: It was bad?

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah, well, (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: No central heating.

MR. VOLZONE: No. We didn't have nothing. The stove...

INTERVIEWER: In the kitchen.

MR. VOLZONE: Coal...

INTERVIEWER: Coal stove in the kitchen.

MR. VOLZONE: Used to, you know, sit down alongside the stove (unintelligible) was all right but the night was cold (laughter). The toilet (unintelligible). The toilet was about oh someplace fifty feet.

INTERVIEWER: About fifty feet (unintelligible) back the toilet.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. To go (unintelligible) rain, you had to go, you had to go (laughter).

INTERVIEWER: You had to go, you had to take a hike (unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: (Laughter).

INTERVIEWER: All right, now...

MR. VOLZONE: That time.

INTERVIEWER: Right. After World War I, when you came back, had things changed?

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible) change. Every year, change, change, change into something. Everything.

INTERVIEWER: In other words, it started changing for the better, right?

MR. VOLZONE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: It started getting better.

MR. VOLZONE: Better, oh yeah, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: What sort of changes did you notice right after World War I?

MR. VOLZONE: Well, the first street. On the center street, there was a, between the (unintelligible) there was a...

INTERVIEWER: Trolley car.

MR. VOLZONE: Trolley car between the (unintelligible). Never have enough payment, never nothing (unintelligible) bigger plants.

INTERVIEWER: Just plant, you know, bigger (unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: Plants, you know, that grow off of the porch.

INTERVIEWER: Between the tracks, there was nothing.

MR. VOLZONE: Nothing.

INTERVIEWER: Right.

MR. VOLZONE: Just like (unintelligible) when they (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: (Unintelligible) right.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah, (unintelligible) rained.

INTERVIEWER: When it rained, right. You stayed in (unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: When it rained you had mud and you have (unintelligible). You go down there and then go up the porch.

INTERVIEWER: (Unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible), that's all.

INTERVIEWER: I see. There was no pavement at all.

MR. VOLZONE: No. No.

INTERVIEWER: And after World War I, they put (unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible) start to build everything.

INTERVIEWER: (Unintelligible) streets, right. Okay.

MR. VOLZONE: Union Street was bad. Now...

INTERVIEWER: And then they paved Union Street also. What was it, just a dirt road before?

MR. VOLZONE: No, no, (unintelligible) the first World War that (unintelligible) old house down here.

INTERVIEWER: Union Park Gardens.

MR. VOLZONE: Union Park Gardens.

INTERVIEWER: Is that what was built (unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible) when I come back I find all of them house...

MRS. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian).

MR. VOLZONE: Ah, I tell you why I went out, went out once a year. Went out (unintelligible), see.

MRS. VOLZONE: Ah, (speaking Italian).

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah, was when I come here with my brother. My brother was, was born in the (unintelligible) before the upstairs, and three, it was, well, it was eight. Eight.

INTERVIEWER: Eight men in a house.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. And, uh, and (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: In other words, there was one woman in the house who did all the cooking and the cleaning...

MR. VOLZONE: Cooking, yeah, and cleaning. And she was a blonde, you know
MRS. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible). Paid two dollar. She so happy to get paid three dollars.

INTERVIEWER: In other words, what, you had, what, just to pay...

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: A bum.

MR. VOLZONE: A bum. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Right.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, if you had a bum, you paid three dollars.

MR. VOLZONE: If you had a bum, paid two dollars.

INTERVIEWER: (Unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: Two dollars a month.

INTERVIEWER: Right. And if you didn't have one...

MR. VOLZONE: You had to pay another dollar.

INTERVIEWER: Three dollars a month.

MR. VOLZONE: Three dollars a month.

MRS. VOLZONE: Three dollars (speaking Italian).

INTERVIEWER: I see. And that was a month. And you were (unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: A month. Yeah. You couldn't, you couldn't (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

MR. VOLZONE: Oh, yes. When I was work over there (unintelligible) wine, when I come back, you know, half a day, a stop (unintelligible) to sleep. But it was (unintelligible) by half a dozen of beer (unintelligible). And maybe (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Right. A lady in the house would cook, and you'd (unintelligible) the food...

MR. VOLZONE: The cook (unintelligible) in the morning. (Unintelligible) everybody could cook beans (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. (Unintelligible) and beans.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. (Unintelligible). (Speaking Italian).

INTERVIEWER: (Unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible) on the soap, you know
MRS. VOLZONE: Four, five, six. (Laughter).

INTERVIEWER: So you said she cooked something for everybody.

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: (Unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible) and wash. Wash the shirts.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, now...

MR. VOLZONE: Not, not with the dirty (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: The work shirts.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. We don't use that dye (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Now in 1921, you went back to Italy and got married.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Now, in 1921, things are pretty rough in Italy. They're pretty bad in Italy.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: And Mussolini, in 1920, when he started coming to power there.

MRS. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Alright, now when did he come into power? In 1923? Mussolini...

MRS. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian).

INTERVIEWER: (Speaking Italian).

MR. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian).

MRS. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian).

MR. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian).

MRS. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian).

MR. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian).

INTERVIEWER: Okay, in 1921, then he (unintelligible).

MRS. VOLZONE: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: What did the people in Italy in 1920, when you, you were there, what did they think of Mussolini?

MRS. VOLZONE: It was all right.

INTERVIEWER: They liked him. They liked him. How were things, uh, how did things change in Italy after he came in to power?

MR. VOLZONE: Well, I, I don't know. MRS. VOLZONE: I don't stay there long. I went over, over there February... I think I reached there...

MRS. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian).

MR. VOLZONE: No.

MRS. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian).

MR. VOLZONE: February... I think there was six February or seven. I don't remember very good. And the, and then I get my wife on the thirty-first, thirty first of March. And I come back here on the sixth May.

INTERVIEWER: The sixth of May, 1921.

MR. VOLZONE: '21, yeah. See, only stayed about two months, three months.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Now, when you came back here, did your wife come back with you?

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: She came back with you.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: All right. Now, what did you...

MR. VOLZONE: She was, she was here before. Her father, her mother died when (unintelligible).

MRS. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian).

INTERVIEWER: No, no (speaking Italian).

MRS. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian).

INTERVIEWER: Okay, now, when you first came back, when you came back here in 1921, did you go right back to work again?

MR. VOLZONE: No.

INTERVIEWER: What did you do?

MR. VOLZONE: I had a store. I keep the store (unintelligible) store that I told you.

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah, I keep that for maybe six months, a year. And then (unintelligible) and then I, I got some money from the (unintelligible). I got some money, and I would work on the (unintelligible) again.

INTERVIEWER: All right. Now, when you first came back, did you buy a house? Did you buy a house in 1921?

MR. VOLZONE: No. No, no.

INTERVIEWER: Were you renting a house or were you living in a room, or what?

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible) my wife with the one room. (Laughter).

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Then you went back to work at Bancroft.

MR. VOLZONE: Bancroft, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: And how long did you stay there?

MR. VOLZONE: Well, I still there for (unintelligible) year, two years, (unintelligible). Five years.

INTERVIEWER: Were you doing the same job that you did before?

MR. VOLZONE: Same job I done before. And then the boss don't like me because Mrs. Bancroft (unintelligible) Bancroft's wife, she wanted me to go up every morning, every morning up to the house and clean up, and the boss don't like me to go up there. So, I quit. After I quit, I went to work with a gas company.

INTERVIEWER: I see. How much were you making when you went back to Bancroft in 1921?

MR. VOLZONE: Oh, I forget, but I don't think I make much. I forget (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Then you say you went to work for the gas company.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: And what kind of work did you do with them?

MR. VOLZONE: Same thing. Same thing in the (unintelligible). Bancroft?

INTERVIEWER: No, the gas company.

MR. VOLZONE: The gas company? Pick and shovel.

INTERVIEWER: And how much did they pay?

MR. VOLZONE: I don't remember, but they paid pretty good and their overtime (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Oh, did they pay overtime?

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: How much, how many hours a day did you have to work?

MR. VOLZONE: Eight.

INTERVIEWER: Eight hours. You cut it from ten to eight.

MR. VOLZONE: Eight, yeah, eight hours that time.

INTERVIEWER: And how many days a week?

MR. VOLZONE: Five days.

INTERVIEWER: Five days a week?

MR. VOLZONE: Five days a week.

INTERVIEWER: Well, that's not too bad. And if you worked any extra, you got overtime.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah, yeah. That changed after a year (unintelligible) everything after war.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. All right. Now, you worked there about a year. And...

MR. VOLZONE: And then, wait a minute. And then I work over there since 1926. I mean '26. And then you know Popsy (phonetic)? Kia Popsy (Phonetic)?

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. I, he wants me to go (unintelligible) on the store, so I was his (unintelligible) in the house. (Unintelligible) are there no more. And I spent about six hundred dollars put the (unintelligible). And I had to give it to him so much every week. So, after one year, the sum, he had a bank. A little bank in (unintelligible). There's a few ones stay here, stay, but I'm gonna close my store, and I wanna have... So I, I make pretty good money. **[40:00]** I had about two hundred thousand (unintelligible). I change it, you know, go Italy. I was going to leave two hundred thousand (unintelligible) that time was money. So, I went Italy. So now I go up when Italy two banks fail. And I lost about eighty dollars.

INTERVIEWER: Eighty dollars.

MR. VOLZONE: Eighty thousand liras.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, eighty thousand liras.

MR. VOLZONE: Eighty thousand liras.

INTERVIEWER: Was that here in this country or over in Italy?

MRS. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian).

MR. VOLZONE: In Italy. In Italy when I (unintelligible) 1927. So, I left after six months. My wife, she got twins. (Unintelligible) another baby. (Unintelligible). (Laughter). So the family wasn't so small. I couldn't move no place else. (Unintelligible). So, 1928, 1926, I had a (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Now, what year did you go back to Italy, now, what year was that?

MR. VOLZONE: When I come back, I...

INTERVIEWER: No, what year did you go back to Italy?

MR. VOLZONE: 1927.

INTERVIEWER: You went back to Italy.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. And I was still there eleven years. 1936, I had one house (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: In other words, you got a bonus from World War INTERVIEWER:

MR. VOLZONE: That's right.

INTERVIEWER: Right. The government (unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible) money was a good (unintelligible). Family was big (unintelligible) my money. I told my son that we were (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: The place called Alishka (phonetic)?

MR. VOLZONE: Alishka...

MRS. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian).

MR. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian). Sammy, the first son, (speaking Italian). We go home and tell Mom and see if she wants. So I went home with them ideas, you know? I went home and tell my wife (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: (Laughter).

MR. VOLZONE: (Laughter). (Speaking Italian).

MRS. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible) and when you wanna go, you just come here and get that.

INTERVIEWER: The papers you need to go.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. To pass. So, I went back and I went to get the passport for the whole family. After three months, I got a passport, I got everything and (unintelligible). Now, went in Naples to get my pass over the counter. And that was a (unintelligible) about ten, eleven o'clock, half past ten. Something like that. So, at the, when twelve o'clock, somebody comes around and says (unintelligible) says anybody want to go home and eat, or somebody want to stay here in the line, all right. But don't (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: The King was coming to Naples and (unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

MR. VOLZONE: I had to go home to my wife. And I went to my wife, but there was a (unintelligible). Told my wife you take all the (unintelligible), you know? Suitcase...

INTERVIEWER: Suitcase (unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. Everything we got. And go back (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, you get (unintelligible) here (unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. You (unintelligible) more than you (unintelligible). I got to come back and get the pass, too. So, I went there, and I learned I was bigger now was I left. I was (unintelligible) before. So, I told my son, son (unintelligible), you stay there. So, that was land this way and in this society, there was no more room. And the next was another room. So I went (unintelligible) there was a door right on the front of it. (Unintelligible). So, (unintelligible), I step in the door and (laughter) (unintelligible). Good thing that nobody said anything. I don't know MRS. VOLZONE: Nobody said anything. So the man call (unintelligible). So I went in and they give me the pass and say good luck, and that was come back. And then there was the boat was leave half past four. It was three-thirty. One hour. I went over to the (unintelligible) and then the (unintelligible) paid for (unintelligible) four o'clock, quarter after four, something like that. So I stayed in the ship, the boat, (unintelligible). Just in time, the farmers and the (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: You would never have gotten the ship.

MR. VOLZONE: Never have got the ship and I had to come back home again.

INTERVIEWER: Do you remember the name of that ship? How long did it take to...

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

MRS. VOLZONE: Yes.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. That ship, the destroyer from the war time, what was that called?

INTERVIEWER: The Roma (phonetic)?

MRS. VOLZONE: No.

MR. VOLZONE: No.

MRS. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian).

MR. VOLZONE: Big ship, it's the fastest ship we had.

INTERVIEWER: Not the Lorcana (phonetic) (unintelligible).

MRS. VOLZONE: No, no, (speaking Italian).

MR. VOLZONE: It was the best ship we had, oh yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Well, okay. How long did it take you to come across?

MR. VOLZONE: Eight days.

INTERVIEWER: Eight days. Did you stop anywhere?

MR. VOLZONE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Went straight to New York.

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Right. Okay, well, in '38, you got back to the United States. You landed in New York. And did you get through customs easy when you got here that time? Did you have any problem getting through customs?

MR. VOLZONE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Did you come right straight to Wilmington then?

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah, straight...

INTERVIEWER: Where...

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible) you know (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Daniello (phonetic).

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Antonio Daniello.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. (Speaking Italian).

INTERVIEWER: Oh yeah?

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah, yeah. (Speaking Italian).

INTERVIEWER: His wife came to get you in New York.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. My wife and... They had pants, you know, wore to work on gravestone. Had pants. And then I come back here and tell my uncle (unintelligible). (Speaking Italian).

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

MR. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian). They had the store down here. Big store.

INTERVIEWER: The store down on Second and Lincoln. Yeah.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. So that fix me nice. Two rooms. Kitchen room. Bed room. And two room, but for (unintelligible). And a kitchen, and a bedroom.

INTERVIEWER: In other words, two bedrooms, a kitchen, and...

MR. VOLZONE: That's it. The same house where there was on Seventh Street. So, after four or five months, well, let me tell you before, and now I (unintelligible) go over there, and no jobs. I go there

because I was fifty-one. Past fifty. You know? MRS. VOLZONE: Nobody want to give me a job. So I was working (unintelligible) Miss Weaver. Miss Weaver give me a job.

INTERVIEWER: You went to see Miss Weaver at the Neighborhood House.

MR. VOLZONE: Neighborhood House.

INTERVIEWER: Right.

MR. VOLZONE: So Miss Weaver give me a job on a farm. We had a farm up some place (unintelligible). Make fifteen, sixteen dollars a week. (Unintelligible). You know, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, eighteen dollars or more. Well, paid the rent. I don't know, I forget that much (unintelligible) guess twelve dollar. No twelve. Fifteen dollars. Something like that. So after three, four, five months, [50:00] I found another house, and I went to Christiana. I (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: (Unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: You bought a house from a real estate man...

MR. VOLZONE: No, no, no. I never, I never... I had a house off of Seventh Street that was belong to (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Oh, you were renting a house on seventh street.

MR. VOLZONE: Rent. Rent. I was, uh...

INTERVIEWER: Was that Sassone (phonetic)?

MR. VOLZONE: Sassone, there was...

INTERVIEWER: Sassone was the real estate man.

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible) is the money at the end of the month I was gonna move. He say no, no, no, no. You gotta pay another month. Hey. I ain't got nothing. What do you mean I pay another month? I pay you no MRS. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible). That's what I told (unintelligible). So, well, he take the money and says I'm (unintelligible) rent somebody else (unintelligible) I won't pay anything because I want to move. So I went Seventh Street up above Scott Street. And the (unintelligible), well, there they are. Cellar. They got a kitchen down the cellar. And then a little yard. And then a room upstairs. Two room, and two room up. It was a nice, nice place for my family. And (unintelligible) paid twenty dollars a month. Twenty dollars. But, no, eighteen dollars a month. And then every time I sent the money to the lady, and that (unintelligible) I forget the name, anyho MRS. VOLZONE: She was up Seventh Street at (unintelligible). So, begin send it with the boy and they give him a receipt. It should take it down and give it to my son (unintelligible). And then (unintelligible) I have a little bit. I have oh, about five or six dollars. I figure (unintelligible) seven dollars, and then pay for a (unintelligible). And I paid twenty-five dollars (unintelligible). You know what that is?

INTERVIEWER: Yes. (Unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible). I would pay six dollars a month. Six percent. So, after two years, my son was working at (unintelligible). And every one (unintelligible) since 1943. I (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: All right. Now...

MR. VOLZONE: And then, wait a minute, and then my wife, she died in 1951. And I went and married this one in 1955.

INTERVIEWER: You went back to Italy.

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible) present wife. Back Italy, yeah, well, I said I got a sister-in-law in Italy. Two sister-in-laMRS. VOLZONE: So I (unintelligible) sent her back to Italy to my sister-in-law who says they had to (unintelligible). So they come around (laughter) (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Okay, now, I'll ask you a couple other questions about different things here. What did people in this country think about Mussolini? Now, you were in Italy from '27 to '38, eleven years. All that time, Mussolini was in power during that eleven years. How...did that affect your life at all in Italy?

MR. VOLZONE: Well, tell you Mussolini was good.

INTERVIEWER: Uh huh.

MR. VOLZONE: He was good. Good for everybody. Not...not for some people, you know, maybe in a village. Let me tell you about my village. I (unintelligible) a doctor. That was high, you know?

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

MR. VOLZONE: From the village. And then (unintelligible) he say that (speaking Italian).

INTERVIEWER: The sixth of January. The Epiphany.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. Epiphany. (Speaking Italian).

INTERVIEWER: The Prefect of Salerno.

MR. VOLZONE: Sent a lot of people, you know, course (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: There was a Prefect of Salerno who would send food and everything else (unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible). They give you some. Some people, they have no money, they couldn't eat. They never (unintelligible). See?

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

MR. VOLZONE: You know what I mean?

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. In other words, he just used to give, the doctor was the one that gave the food and everything...

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Right. He used to give it to his friends and not to people who really needed it.

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible) very bad. Yes. That's right.

INTERVIEWER: I see. And what did that have to do with Mussolini?

MR. VOLZONE: Well, Mussolini, well... He was... I see him once.

INTERVIEWER: Did you?

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah (unintelligible) Solerno. (Unintelligible). He come round once. (Unintelligible). A lot of people wait til he pass by. And then he pass by, oh I don't know what time (unintelligible). And he had nice (unintelligible) salute everybody, (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

MR. VOLZONE: And a lot of people was on the garden and (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, (unintelligible) crowd (unintelligible). When you came back to the United States in 1938, what did people say? What did people used to say at that time about Mussolini?

MR. VOLZONE: Well, at that time, nobody (unintelligible) (laughter) because they were (unintelligible) in the Depression. Yeah, yeah, you know
MRS. VOLZONE:

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

MR. VOLZONE: Nobody like, Hey, he come back here with the family, what are you going to do? What are you going to do? (Unintelligible). (Laughter).

INTERVIEWER: (Unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: Did the best I could.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. Well, what did they think about Mussolini over here at that time? In this country?

MR. VOLZONE: Some people, they was all right I think about Mussolini because Mussolini was all right.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

MR. VOLZONE: And some people, you know, crazy people.

INTERVIEWER: When you came back to the United States in 1938, did you join any of the types of organizations here?

MR. VOLZONE: No. Nothing.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Did you ever, uh, did you know of any organizations in this country, in this area, that supported Mussolini? Were there any fascist organizations here in Wilmington?

MR. VOLZONE: I know I don't know MRS. VOLZONE: But I heard a lot of people (unintelligible).

MRS. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible). But some people.

INTERVIEWER: Did you ever hear of the Fascist League of North America? You never heard of it?

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Now, before you went back to Italy, you went back in 1927.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Saint Anthony's Church had just been built, right?

MR. VOLZONE: That was Father Tucker was (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: What did you think about Tucker?

MR. VOLZONE: Oh, he was alright. He can make you cry and make you laugh.

INTERVIEWER: Did you ever go to the church before Saint Anthony's?

MR. VOLZONE: Oh, yeah, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: I mean before they built Saint Anthony's.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Where did you go to church?

MR. VOLZONE: Up there at (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: No, before they put Saint Anthony's there.

MR. VOLZONE: Oh. Oh, I don't know MRS. VOLZONE: Maybe once a year.

INTERVIEWER: Maybe once a year.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. Once a year.

INTERVIEWER: At Saint Thomas you (unintelligible). But not regularly.

MR. VOLZONE: No, not...

INTERVIEWER: In other words, when Saint Anthony's was built, you (unintelligible) to church.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. Well, (unintelligible) one or the other, you know, (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. Okay. What changes were brought in by Roosevelt?

MR. VOLZONE: Oh, Roosevelt. Was the best man (laughter). (Unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: You think he really changed...

MR. VOLZONE: Changed. Another thing. There was a (unintelligible) that time when I come to this country.

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Right.

MR. VOLZONE: Nobody wants to give me a job. So, let me, let me tell you about this (unintelligible). Mr. Weaver (phonetic), he sold the farm and got no more job for me. So, I go round again and nobody wants to give me a job. So, my (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: (Unintelligible).

MRS. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian).

MR. VOLZONE: So, I went (unintelligible) and don't want to give me a job, so we had to stay here. For two years. After two years, they give you a job. My wife, [1:00:00] she couldn't read and write English, wrote to Roosevelt. After three days, a letter come back and say you go down there and get the job. There was (unintelligible). So I went over there and then, oh, what's your name, they asked me what's your name. I'm Alfonso. Got any job? Says we got a job for you. But not noMRS. VOLZONE: Next month. The second of next month. In January (unintelligible) Christmas and New Years (unintelligible). So I got a job through the (unintelligible), five fifteen a day (unintelligible). And I got a job there. And still I had a job and I had a lot of food and a lot of clothes and (unintelligible), everything. And I went (unintelligible) and I got a job and I went with a bricklayer and (unintelligible). And I found the store and (unintelligible) let me in. He had a (unintelligible). And there was, I forget, twenty-eight cents an hour or something like that. (Unintelligible) forty-nine cents an hour. And I had (unintelligible) so I make a little money.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, that was after Roosevelt came in.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: And now...

MR. VOLZONE: Now, wait a minute. And then, 1941, before the war started...

INTERVIEWER: Okay, wait just a minute, I want to turn this tape over 'cause we're right around...

INTERVIEWER: **[1:02:08]** Alright, you can go ahead noMRS. VOLZONE:

MR. VOLZONE: So, 1941, (unintelligible). I went to bed at night and I got (unintelligible), and I took sick. I took sick. I couldn't go to work. I had seven, eight days, the boss come around, say what's the matter with you? I was up (unintelligible). So, what's the matter? (Unintelligible). I was sick. (Unintelligible). And I work on the street, I had a dizzy spell, I had a (unintelligible).

MRS. VOLZONE: You shouldn't (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

MRS. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: (Unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: My wife (unintelligible).

MRS. VOLZONE: Yeah.

MR. VOLZONE: We had a dark year when I came to (unintelligible). When the dark can do nothing.

INTERVIEWER: WoMRS. VOLZONE:

MR. VOLZONE: Well, what... Somebody tell me you go see the government. And now (unintelligible). Everything, you knoMRS. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible). You get the letter after about three, four, five, six days. When I come back I got a letter from New York. I had to go there. They said we went, went to (unintelligible) another week. We let you know when you come (unintelligible). And I was (unintelligible). Now, I got another letter from New York that says you go (unintelligible). So, I got a letter from (unintelligible), and that say (unintelligible) at seven thirty, take your shoes and (unintelligible) and my everything and the clothes. We wouldn't be able to (unintelligible) til they come and get you. So I went to there, and lasted about three months. My work never did once so well. And I come home sometimes, you knoMRS. VOLZONE:

MRS. VOLZONE: And he need new shoes.

MR. VOLZONE: So after three months, a lady come around. Said we want to see if you get (unintelligible).

MRS. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible). That's not the (unintelligible).

MRS. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible). (Speaking Italian).

INTERVIEWER: This was the man who was in charge, the doctor in charge of the third point...

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah.

MRS. VOLZONE: Yeah.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah, third point, yes. So, he (speaking Italian). I want to go home. You want to go home? Why? (Speaking Italian).

INTERVIEWER: He would rather kick a can...

MR. VOLZONE: Kick it down to Virginia. (Unintelligible) go home on Friday night and come back on Monday morning. Every week. You get the (unintelligible). Now she tell she want to go home. I asked her what (unintelligible). (Laughter).

MRS. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

MRS. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian).

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah, (speaking Italian).

INTERVIEWER: (Speaking Italian).

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. (Speaking Italian).

MRS. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian).

INTERVIEWER: (Speaking Italian).

MR. VOLZONE: (Speaking Italian).

INTERVIEWER: (Unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah, when he come around and ask me how long I was sick, and what kind of money I had in the family, a whole line of questioning. And I told him (unintelligible) wife, and I got a house. Everything. So, she says we want to give everyone a (unintelligible). After two months, I see (unintelligible) more, one month, I couldn't hear anything. So I say I want to go home.

INTERVIEWER: (Unintelligible) waited one more month and you didn't hear a thing (unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: No. I went over there. The doctor said oh, you know, when you're sick, you say I wanna go home, but whether to go home today or tomorrow or any time. He didn't want to send me home.

So, the next morning, he said I'm gonna go over it again. Said all right, you want me go home? (Unintelligible). They charge me, you know? They ask me there was five, six (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: A board? A board of doctors? And you had to go before this...

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. Yeah, they, they ask me, what you wanna go home and (unintelligible). So I tell him, I don't get anything, I want to go home (unintelligible). So, I try to get home. Nine o'clock, they give me a (unintelligible), and I went around and get everything set, and I was coming home. After fourteen months, (unintelligible) I want to come back, I don't feel good, so much good yet. Eh, I want to come back (unintelligible). Can't take him right away. Put him on a bed and examine (unintelligible) and say well, you sick all right. And I stay there another month. And I never hear anything. Well, the next morning, my wife, she comes down (unintelligible). And says we got back money. What back money? We got two hundred, seventy-three dollars of back money. I had thirty dollars a month in the past six, seven months. (Unintelligible). Are you sure? Yeah.

MRS. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: Well, tomorrow I'm (unintelligible). (Laughter).

[1:00:00]

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah, tomorrow I'll be home. (Unintelligible). Why? Why you want to go home for? (Unintelligible). I wanna go home. I wanna go home. I don't feel right staying here no more. So, they sent me home. Nine o'clock, they give me a receipt, say go around (unintelligible) everything, you know (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Check out.

MR. VOLZONE: Check out. At eleven o'clock, took a train and (unintelligible).

MRS. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: (Laughter). (Unintelligible). Now, I come home, and I'm sick, I'm sure I was sick. In 1947, my wife, she says, do you want to go in to (unintelligible). The air over there was something else. And I went over (unintelligible) 1947. When I went there, I was worth a hundred and thirty-three, thirty-four, thirty-five (unintelligible). And then, oh, I don't know who else (unintelligible), but when I come back after three months, I was a hundred and seventy-two pounds. (Unintelligible) feel pretty good.

INTERVIEWER: So the change of air helped you.

MR. VOLZONE: Change air, yeah, yeah. I guess (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Now, in 1945, uh, '41, when the war started between the United States and Italy, how did this affect the Italian people in this country?

MR. VOLZONE: Eh, I don't know. MRS. VOLZONE: Some, some people that was all right. (Unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: It was a rather difficult thing for you, though, wasn't it?

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: You got people over there, you got people over here.

MR. VOLZONE: Because, because I work on (unintelligible). And then he had to go because, you know, the (unintelligible) everything, until, I don't know how many ships had been destroyed at that time.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible) first to go. The people there, they don't leave. But if you can afford to go, you gotta go.

INTERVIEWER: If you were to look back on your life in this country over, from the first time that you came here and going back to 1906 up to the present time, and you were to pick out the one single thing that you would consider the greatest change to have occurred in this country since you've been here, what would you say that was?

MR. VOLZONE: Well, I would say if they asked you, the First World War, the people started to work and to get a little money.

INTERVIEWER: Was this after Second World War?

MR. VOLZONE: After First World War.

INTERVIEWER: In the First World War.

MR. VOLZONE: I started to work, rented a house, and then, and then, before the war, you know, they lost the house. You know, after they lost the house and then, then buy the house. You know, after the First World War. And that (unintelligible) everything. And then, Depression come, and we lost the house. Some people lost their house. And then (unintelligible) fixed it up an everything, and then they come again. Money come in after me, and me, I don't spend much money. But some people make a hundred and fifty dollars, a hundred and twenty-five dollars, they don't care, they don't save no money. They spend it. Spend with the house and anything they (unintelligible). But I don't know, but because I (unintelligible), I don't make much. But the other people, they (unintelligible), straight clean. But before you know life, you've seen every, every family one or two or three, three machine. See? Because the money come in. That right?

INTERVIEWER: Right. Now, you, you said the biggest change is that...

MR. VOLZONE: Biggest, yeah, (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: ...everybody's making more money and...

MR. VOLZONE: More money and spend...

INTERVIEWER: ...(unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: See, if you make money and spend more than everything to grow up, and everything's...

INTERVIEWER: All right. Let me ask you this question. How about people? Did people change?

MR. VOLZONE: Oh, yeah. They change.

INTERVIEWER: How, how would you say they changed? In what way?

MR. VOLZONE: They change because money.

INTERVIEWER: You think it's because of money?

MR. VOLZONE: Money (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: (Unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: Then some people don't make enough. And then they fight. They might (unintelligible) work for a dollar sixty an hour. And other people, they work two dollars, three dollars an hour. What do you think? Seems all right. But to some people, they don't, they don't care. Fight. Like in New York and someplace else.

INTERVIEWER: Well, how about people now, before, like when you first came to this country, would you say people were friendlier than they are now?

MR. VOLZONE: Yes. Friendly. More friendly no

MRS. VOLZONE:

INTERVIEWER: More friendly than they are no

MRS. VOLZONE:

MR. VOLZONE: (Unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Would you say they're (unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: Because the money... Don't have much money.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. In other words, you think money that there was a lot involved with this.

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. When you've got the money, you, you don't care. It's for you.

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

MR. VOLZONE: I don't care for you; you don't care for me.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. Okay. Let me ask you another question. Have you ever been sorry that you came to this country?

MR. VOLZONE: No. No.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Have you ever wanted to go back to Italy just to stay there and (unintelligible) come back? You ever felt that way?

MR. VOLZONE: I went that time because I would get money and I would stay that time (unintelligible) monies were (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Okay. That pretty much answers that. Okay, then. Mister Volzone, is there anything else you'd like to add to this?

MR. VOLZONE: No, I don't think so.

INTERVIEWER: I want to ask you one more question. Do you ever, did you ever feel that you were discriminated against in any way because you are an Italian?

MR. VOLZONE: Ah, some people in the world, some people, they got no sense. Some people, they do anything. Now, I was back here in the last (unintelligible), before (unintelligible). I was working in the yard (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Right down here.

MR. VOLZONE: Yes. Because kids, they (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: Well, how about when you first came to this country? Did anybody treat you badly because you were an Italian?

MR. VOLZONE: (Laughter). Some people (unintelligible) other people (unintelligible).

INTERVIEWER: (Unintelligible) your name (unintelligible).

MR. VOLZONE: Yeah. A lot of people. Those many people. All their life.

[End 1:17:37]