

MRS. MARGARET BERTOLINA

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An Interview By

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THE FOLLOWING IS AN INTERVIEW CONDUCTED WITH MRS. MARGARET BERTOLINA ON JULY 12, 1974 AT SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH. THE INTERVIEWER IS PHIL NOTARIANNI.

PN: Mrs. Bertolina, when and where were you born?

MB: In Italy.

PN: Which year?

MB: March 21, 1894.

PN: Which province were you born in?

MB: Province Susterine(?).

PN: What did your parents do in Italy?

MB: Farmer.

PN: They were farmers.

MB: Yes.

PN: What kind of crops did they produce?

MB: Just about everything almost, except orange or lemon or olive. We couldn't grow that. Otherwise we grow just almost everything.

PN: Did they grow grapes?

MB: Plenty.

PN: Did your father make his--I guess he made his own wine every year.

MB: Oh, yes. A lot of wine.

PN: About how many gallons did he make?

MB: I can't remember. We used to go by the brenta(?) over there, you know, big container, but we had big --?--. I can't remember exactly but a lot of them.

PN: Was any of your family involved in any politics in

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Italy?

MB: My father was.

PN: What was he? Was he a mayor?

MB: He was a councilman for many years, and also he was a superintendent. He was quite an educated person for a small town in Italy.

PN: About how many people were in that town?

MB: I would say about 1200.

PN: About 1200 people.

MB: Yes, small town.

PN: How many years did he go to school? Can you recall?

MB: I can't recall, but I know he was educated in a private school under a priest.

PN: Under a priest.

MB: Yes.

PN: Did anyone in your family become priests or nuns?

MB: My brother wants to be a monk, but by accident one morning they went hunting and the gun exploded and cut off his right ---?--- and it could be ---?--- so he change his mind. He come to this country.

PN: Your father then was a farmer?

MB: Yes.

PN: Did he bring his crops to a market? Did he sell them at the market?

MB: Yes. We sell it to the market, yes. We had to take

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everything in near town where there is a big community where they got textile and manufacture.

PN: This was actually in Tovino?

MB: No, no. It was in called Conya(?). It was quite far from Tovino.

PN: So when did you decide to come to the United States?

MB: My oldest brother came to this country in my early age and then he send for my other brothers, Robert and then Barny. I was the only one left there with my parents. And then in 1913 my mother passed away, and my brother, Mike, from Helper, Utah came over to Italy, and we sold our property and come over together, myself, my father, and my brother.

PN: When did your brother come over, Mike?

MB: You mean from the beginning?

PN: Right. When did he first come to the United States?

MB: I hardly remember. I was a very little girl. Probably was at the early age I might say eighteen or nineteen years old when he left Italy.

PN: That would have been about what year? It was probably in the late 1890s or was it in the early 1900s?

MB: I hardly remember. It was in 1890-91.

PN: Did he come straight to Utah or did he stay for a while in New York? Did he ever tell you?

MB: I think he came to Sunnyside if I am correct or

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Castlegate, one or the other. Castlegate, yes.

PN: And then he went to back Italy and brought you back with your father.

MB: Well, the only thing he didn't come back. I didn't see him until 1913 when my mother passed away.

PN: So you came straight to Utah?

MB: Helper, Utah, yes.

PN: You went straight to Helper.

MB: Helper, yes.

PN: Who did you live with there?

MB: My brother. I had two brothers then and my father. And my brother and his wife and the rest of the family. My sister-in-law's mother and father were there, and I had a little niece, my brother's little daughter.

PN: Where was your home at at Sunnyside?

MB: Helper.

PN: Helper. Where was it at?

MB: I forgot the address. I know it was on Main Street.

PN: It was on Main Street?

MB: Main Street, yes, right across from the depot. They had some houses where all the railroad men used to stay. I forgot the name. It is so many years I kind of forgot different things, but that's where my brother had that big business there by the name

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Double Rock Store.

PN: Your brother had that store?

MB: Yes, my brother had that store.

PN: It was called the Double Rock Store.

MB: Double Rock Store, yes.

PN: So did your--what did your father do then when he went to Helper with you in 1913?

MB: Well, he stayed there with us and help us around, but he never did like Helper.

PN: How come?

MB: Well, because he left a beautiful farm and beautiful country and losing his companion. He was quite lost, and he was kind of old to learn the language. He wasn't too happy.

PN: Did he ever wish that he had stayed in Italy?

MB: Well, not to be by himself, but he could have Italy move down in Helper with some of the beautiful farm we had. He didn't live very long. He died.

PN: What did you think when you moved into Helper? Here you were a young girl from Italy. What were some of your impressions of Helper?

MB: Well, at my age I liked it. I learned the English language, and I learned the way of the United States because I thought it was a country of opportunity more so than what we had over there. I love it even

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though Helper wasn't a pretty place. You know, in a way it wasn't. But people were nice, and I just loved it, I really did.

PN: Of course, there were a lot of Italian people in Helper.

MB: Every nationality there but a lot of Italians, yes.

PN: Were there any hard feelings between, let's say, Northern Italians and Southern Italians that lived in Helper? Were there ever bad feelings among the two that you could tell?

MB: Not a bit. Not that I notice, no.

PN: Let's say between the Pete Montasi(?) and the ---?--- and ---?---

MB: Not that I recall, in fact, my late husband, he was the best friend of ---?--- Calabراسi(?) or whatever they were from. All they were working at the railroad, all these people. They were all his friends. Calabراسi(?), yes. I can name a dozen people. They were all friends. Same thing with my brother because they were in business. They were all just like a big family. I don't care what nationality. That wasn't--oh, once in a while they might call you because you don't understand their language real good--probably was not Italian but some other people, they call you a funny name because you

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don't understand. But among the Italians, we were really all close, very close.

PN: You were close in Helper.

MB: Very close.

PN: What about the Italians from let's say over in Price?

MB: I never notice really. Seems to be they were all our friend, very friendly people, yes. I lot of people even from different part of Europe they were there. We tried to understand each other. We were all friends. It was beautiful.

PN: You got along okay then with the Greeks and--

MB: Wonderful, with the Greeks, sure.

PN: --the Serbs--

MB: French, Serbs, Canadians.

PN: --Croitians.

MB: Croitians. All nationality. In fact, I was working in the store, I was trying to speak every language to make myself understand because I like people. It was real nice. I work for Greek store. I work for dry goods store, grocery store. I don't care who owns it. As long as it was work I was happy.

PN: So you worked in your brother's store in 1913?

MB: Oh, yes. Not in the store but in the kitchen and help him upstairs, and then I used to come down in the store and try to learn the language. And after I was

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married--

PN: Which year were you married?

MB: 1916. My husband was a boilermaker, mechanic at the railroad, and then in 1919 we got my brother's store.

PN: What was your husband's name?

MB: They used to call him Charley. His name was Floyd Febert Lena(?), but they used to call him Charley. And then the big fire came around in about thirty-five days. We lost everything.

PN: This fire was in 1919.

MB: Yeah, May 19, 1919.

PN: Did they ever find out what caused that fire?

MB: We find out later on someone was making whisky and ---?--- and the fire spread out, and before they can get help for a sturdy building that fire department half of them never make it.

PN: Was this an Italian family that had the still?

MB: I won't say it. That was during the dry probationism, and they was making some whisky or something, and I think that's how it start. When you can prove it you can't.

PN: So what happened after the store burned down? Was everything destroyed? Was it a total loss?

MB: Total loss. Hardly any saving, very few things. Then a good friend of ours, well, we have to give up the

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Carbon Hotel for a downpayment in the store there.

PN: Did your brother own the Carbon Hotel?

MB: No, Albert Richie.

PN: Albert Richie.

MB: Just a minute. Was that Richie? I think so.

PN: Now, where was the Carbon Hotel in conjunction with-

MB: Well, the Carbon Hotel was down by the property that my husband had. They wouldn't give us the money to start.

PN: So then your brother owned the Carbon Hotel and then he sold it?

MB: My brother never owned the Carbon Hotel. He owned the Double Rock. We sold the hotel that building to this Greek fella, and we gave him cash as a downpayment. I think that's exactly how we ---?--- \$12,000. Of course, my brother, he got the money, but he never owned the hotel because the Greek fella owned it. I didn't explain it to you right. It's confusing. It's a long time.

PN: Quite a few years.

MB: Oh, a lot of things happen.

PN: Who is this Mr. Rolando you were telling me about?

MB: Rolando. He married the sister of John and Joe Quelico(?). He used to live across the track. He died. I can't remember his first name.

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PN: Do you remember the name of his store? He owned a store there didn't he?

MB: That's the one we started out. I can't remember if it was Helper Meat and Grocery. I think that's what we went by the name Helper Meat and Grocery, and then after we sold it to a Calabراسi, Charley Sacomano. Yeah, he took over.

PN: You mean this Rolando was in business with--

MB: For himself.

PN: For himself.

MB: Yeah, he had this store.

PN: When did he first have that store?

MB: He had it, I guess, even when my brother had the store there. I mean, then we bought it because Richie had another one. He had a store right next to the Success. It can't be him. Must have been Rolando. That was confusing. Anyway, I know they even give us the money to start a store. He put the money in the till for us.

PN: You mean this Mr. Rolando.

MB: Yeah, Mr. Rolando.

PN: How long did he have that store?

MB: Not long. A couple of years. He wasn't doing too good.

PN: Then what did he do? Did he get out of that business?

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MB: Yes. He just get out and then he went into--some other guy, Peter Lewis I think it is. It was such a mixup and upset affair that, you know, I can't remember exactly, but I don't think it was Richie. It was Rolando because Richie had a store next to the Success Market. It was Rolando.

PN: After the store burned down in 1919 and then you fixed it up again, how was business in Helper?

MB: Everybody, every customer told us, "Open a store. Get another store and we will be your customer." Oh, it was prosperous, and we paid everything. We paid every bill. We work hard, but we paid every bill.

PN: What kind of goods did you sell in that store?

MB: Just grocery.

PN: Grocery store?

MB: Grocery and meat and so forth, you know. Regular grocery store. You can see the stuff there. We had nice meat. There's the meat department there.

PN: Where did you get the meat at or from?

MB: Well, we used to get it from Uintah Basin a lot and some from Emery County. We get turkey, chicken, pigs and everything. And then we used to buy it, and we had a place in the back yard. We used to kill them and feather ourselves. Picker we called them. Boy, we were fast. We were working like crazy, but in about

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two years we paid all those thousand dollars. We paid everybody, and we had a little money left so we build that building that's standing now. I don't know what the name now. At one time it was Pigly-Wigley, and then they made that dry cleaner. I don't know if it is still that or not. I haven't been there for so long.

PN: Do you remember some of the prices in those days of some of the goods? For instance, meat. Can you remember how much you sold meat for?

MB: Brisket two pounds for a quarter, and Saturday special three pounds for twenty-five cents, butter eighteen cents a pound. We used to fix those big boxes that you see in the picture. You know, you can see those big boxes, those great big boxes. Probably all those four boxes they were all you might say seven, eight dollars.

PN: Was business pretty good in Helper?

MB: Was good, yeah. We had a good business.

PN: Did you have a lot of different people as your customers?

MB: We had the railroad men, we had the miner, we had the farmer, we had everybody. They used to come down, and we used to deliver. We had the wagon go out and deliver. Go out and take the order, put up the order

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and deliver it.

PN: Is this the picture I have of the wagon? That's the delivery wagon.

MB: Yes, right there, the delivery wagon.

PN: Did you charge any more to deliver.

MB: No, no.

PN: Free delivery.

MB: Free delivery. And whenever my husband wasn't able, me and grandpa used to go and deliver. He just take care of the horse; I take care of the grocery. I used to go out, and then if grandpa wasn't available or busy in the store for something. We were all working. Grandpa, my son, my husband.

PN: Was it rough in the wintertime delivering groceries?

MB: It wasn't easy, but we don't care. We were happy to delivery the groceries pay the bills, pay the debt. Oh yes. I used to stay up sometimes, especially on payday because everything was credit not cash. Hardly any cash. Unless a stranger come by everything was charge so we just payday once a month. So before payday sometimes there I was until two or three o'clock in the morning had those account see if they were correct.

PN: Then the men would come in and pay you on payday?

MB: On payday they used to come in and pay, that's it,

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and we used to give them a sack of candy for the kids on top.

PN: When they paid their bill.

MB: Yeah. We used to carry the bill all month long and then give them some cooky or candy or something.

PN: Did you have many people that never did pay their bills or were most of them conscientious?

MB: We were very, very good. We lost very little. In fact, we collect great. People were honest. They know we lost a fortune, they know we were working hard, they know they trust us, we were honest, we never tried to cheat it or anything, and they were good to us.

PN: To get back, how much would you estimate that you lost in that fire in 1919?

MB: Well, I don't remember exactly the price we paid, but my brother, Tony, said, "You've got between \$75,000 to \$100,000 dollars stock." I never forget that. He said, "Sister, you've got a good ---?--- unless heaven fall down on you and you don't make money." And by golly heaven didn't fall down, but the fire. He said, "Unless heaven fall down on you it can help you folks make to a fortune." Isn't that something? I never forget those words. I said, "Let's hope the heavens stay there." The heavens stay there all

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right, but the store went down. We would--because the price went up we would have made a fortune. And then he was good about it.

PN: You didn't have any insurance?

MB: Only \$6,000, only one policy. All the rest were--and they didn't renew it. That was our fault in a way. They were down in Moab looking for oil drilling. Of course, who is pick a fight in thirty-five days--thirty-five days.

PN: That's how long--

MB: How long we had that store. It just went up in a fire.

PN: When you say they were in Moab drilling for oil who were you talking about?

MB: My brothers. I don't know. My husband went down and then he come back. Mike Bagera, Dominique Bagera, Groso, and lot of this Italian people. Monsignor Jornoni(?) had some stock. Somebody gave it to him as a gift. And they thought there was oil there, and I guess they was waiting a few days to renew this policy. What happened I didn't know exactly, and that's where we lost.

PN: They were in Moab when the fire started?

MB: No. They wasn't in Moab, no. It's just that they neglected--my husband was in Ogden the night the fire

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started.

PN: What was he doing in Ogden?

MB: On business.

PN: Oh, he had a business in Ogden?

MB: No, he try to connect some business for the store.

PN: Was he dealing with any Italian people up there?

MB: I don't know. Then they had a lodge. Sometime at night he used to go up to a meeting and so forth, you know. He was a Mason. He belonged to all these lodges.

PN: Your husband did?

MB: Yeah, my husband.

PN: Did he belong to Stella Daneteka(?)?

MB: When he was in Sunnyside. Sunnyside, yeah. He work in the mine. His brother too. Yeah, it was some deal all right. And then my brother built up the appliance, and my husband went in with \$500, and Rolando was another one.

PN: He was also in that?

MB: Yeah, he went in with my brother. But my husband's father was kind of against my brother because he thought he had something to do, which it was just as much his fault as it was their fault. They don't renew the policy. See that wasn't all his fault, so they neglect that. See that was neglected.

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PN: I am sure there were some hard feelings involved.

MB: That's it. When he find out my husband was in with my brother again, oh, he really blew the whistle. Soon my husband pull out and same thing with Rolando.

PN: Rolando pulled out too?

MB: Yes, he pulled out. I don't know why. When my husband--

PN: He pulled out when? Was it just right after it started?

MB: In the same time that my husband come out.

PN: When was that 1920, 1919?

MB: 1920, something like that. So my brother went and talked to the to ---?---. They said they had a hard time to convince those two brothers to go in with him with \$1000, \$500 a piece. So finally they went in, and they split a quarter of a million a piece, and my brother was in Italy. He couldn't come over, so everything was left to them. My brother can't come over during the war, and he died there in Italy.

PN: When did he die?

MB: 1944, the same year as my husband. Yeah, he died over there.

PN: When did he leave Helper to go back to Italy? Did he go back for the--?

MB: 1923 he went over to Italy.

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PN: Why did he go back?

MB: Well, just for a trip because my sister-in-law--he came over when she was seven years old and never went back to Italy, and the father and mother of my sister-in-law were over close to ---?---. They had a big villa. They bought a villa from some of these rich people that went broke, and they were raising flower. They must have had a beautiful place. The mother and father went over a few years before. Then my brother and my sister-in-law they went over. And he was over there for a while, and then they had two years to come back, but they didn't come back in the two years, so they were stuck, and the only people they could have them coming over is the ---?---. The partners wanted my brother to sell his share because he was over there ---?--- and we do the work, but they forget my brother gave them a fortune to both of them. But that didn't mean a thing to them, so they bought my brother's share, and my brother had no way to use this to come over that he had property or some business here in the United States. He couldn't come over without quota or whatever it was that he could.

PN: He wasn't a citizen.

MB: He was a citizen. You betcha.

PN: When did he become a citizen?

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MB: Oh, when very young. When he come over.

PN: If he was a citizen of the United States he could come back. For some reason they wouldn't let him.

MB: Some reason during the war because the war it was, see, United States they was in war with Italy, so that was something right there, you know. Germany, Mussolini went in with Germany so that's--

PN: When your husband then pulled out in 1920 from business with your brother, what did he do then?

MB: He started working for the Post Office.

PN: In Helper?

MB: In Helper. He worked for years as a substitute, and then--

PN: What was he a clerk?

MB: Uh huh.

PN: Postal clerk.

MB: Postal clerk. And then when the Success Market opened up why--

PN: Who owned the Success Market?

MB: Then it was George ---?--- and John Gemendes(?). They opened up the Success Market. At that time we had the Pigly-Wigley in our building there, but then the Pigly-Wigley was cash and the Success Market was selling credit for the whole month like I told you before. They only paid once a month, so Pigly-Wigley

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went broke. So that's why we turned the Pigley-Wigley store to a dry cleaning so we had a dry cleaner move in. My husband got so that they rented to these people. But my brother was working for the post office, and one day I asked Mr. Sees, I said, "Did you need a good clerk?" He said, "Who wants a job, you?" I worked for him ---?---. I worked for the---?---, I worked for a dry goods store, Gene ---?---, Gordon ---?--- store, I worked for ---?---. They had a grocery store. Anyway, I said, "No. My husband is looking for a job." He look at me, he said, "I know Charley. Tell him to come. I don't want him as a clerk. I want him as a partner." So that's how he come in partner with the Success Market.

PN: And how many years did he stay with the Success Market?

MB: From then until--

PN: This was what, about 19--?

MB: I don't remember exactly when it was. It must have been between '28, '29 something like that.

PN: That's when he got out from the Success Market?

MB: When he went in.

PN: Oh, when he went in.

MB: And then in '39 we move up here, and he was still with the Success, and then he sold his share in '42.

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I think it was '42 when he get out.

PN: He got out in '42.

MB: Yeah, because he wasn't feeling good, but he didn't tell me he wasn't feeling good. And then ---?--- want him back to work for him again, so he went and work for him again when we bought this place here. He was managing the Success Market down here on Temple. He was managing that when he took sick, and then he come home sick with malaria--not malaria, undulant fever in '44.

PN: He died in 1944?

MB: June 24, 1944 when my son was in the Phillipine Island during the war.

PN: Tell me a little bit about life down in Helper in the twenties and the thirties. What was it like to live down in Helper?

MB: Well, everything was fine until they moved the railroad. Everything was going just fine and then they moved the railroad up at Soldier Summit, and then from there they moved down at Grand Junction, and then the mine start slowing down. In fact it wasn't too prosperous really. In fact, we had nice property. It was '42, I think, when we sold it--just gave it away. Business was really bad.

PN: What was the social life like? Were there dances? Did

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the Italian people go to dances?

MB: Oh, yes. They had their lodge. There was dancing. People were happy. Especially when everything was booming there was dancing, they had ---?---, and then they had the ---?--- sister, and then they had --?--, they had--what's the name if the parents died they took care of the children? They had a lodge here-- Moose.

PN: Moose Lodge?

MB: The Moose Lodge. I guess people enjoy it really, enjoy it well. Then when the mine drop down and one thing and another everything just went, but now according to what I hear they are going to prosper again. They are going to start it.

PN: Did the Italians from Helper, and Price, and Suunyside, and some of the other camps ever get together?

MB: Oh, yeah. They used to have their Italian day and they used to go down to Springland on that park, and they used to dance, oh yes.

PN: Tell me a little bit about that celebration. I'm interested in those kind of social activities.

MB: They used to have the parade, the dance. They always have something. They used to have their own band. My son was in the band. They had the band. They used to

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go up across the track. They had the band there. They had a park in Helper. I don't know if they still have it.

PN: Is this an Italian band?

MB: Yes, mostly. Everybody's band in a way, I guess, but a lot of Italian students they were playing on that band.

PN: Do you remember some of the people that played in that band, Italians?

MB: Yes. There was the Critical(?) daughter, there were the Jacolato(?). There were a lot of people that I don't remember the names. A fella from Price. In fact, they are still here, it's Reese. Charley remember him. That's the one that taught the music to him.

PN: Did they play at dances?

MB: Oh, I don't know if they played at dances, but they had the parade. They always had a parade the 4th of July and different things.

PN: Did they ever celebrate Columbus Day in Helper?

MB: I'm sure they did. They had the lodge and everything, no doubt about it. I have been away from there since '39, really. It's a long time. So I don't know just what they do.

PN: Do you remember some of the dances, like did the

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Southern Italians ever dance the tarentella?

MB: The tarentella at weddings. Oh, they used to have some wedding and--

PN: Can you remember a wedding that you went to down there?

MB: Oh, yeah.

PN: Why don't you explain what happened to me. I'm just interested in getting, you know, these people dancing the tarrentella.

MB: When they had Italian wedding they really used to go out full-scale. They have all kinds of goody, and drink, and dance, and oh yes.

PN: What kind of food did they have at the weddings? Can you remember, Italian foods?

MB: Well, you take when my son got married up at --?-- you never see what a wedding, what a dinner that they put out, and then we come back early and then they danced that night. They had the tarrentella, but we were coming back up to Salt Lake.

PN: Who played the music usually for the tarentella?

MB: I don't know. I really don't remember who. Like I said we were there for the dinner and wedding, but at night--there is my son, he can tell you. It is so long ago. A lot of things is almost a dream for me. But the lodge they had those party, they had food,

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they had all kinds of stuff, imported stuff.

PN: When you talk about the lodge, you mean the Italian lodge?

MA: Well, the Italian lodge and the other, all the rest.

PN: Did the Italian lodge there help you have a lot of activities?

MA: They had their own building. They had a building there.

PN: Where was that at?

MA: It was down on the way to Price before you get to highway. It was almost at the end of the town. They had a beautiful building there.

PN: Can you remember, what did they call the building? Was it just the Lodge?

MA: It was just the lodge. In fact, I still have some metal and things that my husband used to wear. He was one of the--what did they call it?

PN: He was an officer?

MA: Yeah, he was an officer. I'll show you.

PN: Could you tell me a little bit about the Ku Klux Klan activity in 1924, 1925?

MA: During that time people were just frightened. The burning cross up in those hills at night you can see nothing but those big cross and big fire toward Castle Gate and you can see it. And you can even see

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with a telescope or something like that they were moving around there all in those--

PN: White robes.

MA: --white robes. Oh, yes, people were scared to death to stay out at night.

PN: People were really frightened.

MA: Frightened, yes. Especially women and children, they don't let us go out. We were young, you know, still young and keep the kids in and young women, and only men used to dare to go out if they have to go somewhere. It was frightening.

PN: Was there ever any violence?

MA: No, not that I recall, not that I recall. And that's how people started joining different organizations try to get together and get strong in case of something.

PN: This is when your husband joined--

MA: Yeah, they were afraid--

PN: --the Masons?

MA: The Masons.

PN: How many other Italian men joined the Masons during that time?

MA: A lot of them. All those people in Price and Helper. Everyone they were ---?--- that they join it.

PN: They joined primarily just to band together.

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MA: Together. So they had two or three lodges--the Italian lodge and the Mason and all that all together. They try to be strong and that's it. Then when the church burned down just don't know what's happen, really. They didn't have any church.

PN: What church was it that burned down?

MA: The Catholic church up on the hill--the cemetery.

PN: When did that burn down?

MA: I can't remember.

PN: That wasn't the Ku Klux Klan?

MA: No, but somebody must have put fire there because it was so hard--

PN: Was this the same time as the Ku Klux Klan?

MA: I can't recall, but it was the time that people wasn't too safe. This local Klan business got people worried.

PN: Would you say that it was more a case of people being afraid? There wasn't any actual violence though.

MA: No, there wasn't, but see--

PN: But they tried to scare people.

MA: Scare people because according to the big city back east in different places the Klan done a lot of doing, a lot of harm to people.

PN: Well, even in Colorado.

MA: Well, that's why, so you never know what to expect.

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You just don't know. So people were trying to just take care and keep away from them, stay inside.

PN: How many parades did they have down there? When did they march? Did they march quite often?

MA: I never see them march. We only see the cross. You can see it up in the mountain marching around there way up in those mountains. Down from Helper you can see all around those ---?--- toward Keneswork(?) or toward Castle Gate, and sometimes we have it toward the Helper townsite very close. As far as I recall nobody got hurt.

PN: Did you ever see any of these Klanmen with their robes on?

MA: No. I see it in movie, but I never see it real.

PN: When did that Ku Klux Klan activity start to ease?

MA: Well, it seems then like it slow down. They don't last like they did back east.

PN: Why do you think they didn't last in Carbon County too long?

MA: Well, because some of the people, they find out who they were. They find out some of the member who they were, and if something happen they know just where to put the blame, and I think that's how they just stop. And then they ---?--- one thing or another, just somebody, they try to frighten somebody.

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PN: Tell me about that about the black hand. What was that like? I have heard a lot about it and I have heard various stories.

MA: Yeah, they said some people got letter, different prominent people. My brother said they had letter. I never know that. I just learned not long ago, but that's why he left and went to Italy. But they said different people had this black hand letter. Either they were given so much or they were taking the children or burn the place down or do this or do that.

PN: They were basically then threats.

MA: Threats, yes, they were threats.

PN: Did they consider that the black hand was probably Southern Italians?

MA: I don't know. They really never did find out. I think that it was just somebody trying to get a few dollars maybe.

PN: Extortion.

MA: Extortion and get away with it because really nothing happened, but you know people, anybody would get afraid if you got a daughter or a son or a business.

PN: Did you ever see a black hand on a door or a window or anything?

MA: No, no, I never.

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PN: Because Claire ---?--- once told me that she saw a black hand on the window of her house when her husband was county attorney.

MA: That's it. Well, that was the reason my brother they thought he had this business. They didn't know, he probably had some money, and if he didn't have he could get some, you know. They trying to get the girl, my niece.

PN: This is what I have heard, that it was basically Southern Italian men extorting money from some of the others that, you know, that had businesses that could get money. That's the way I've heard it.

MA: Well, I heard that when I was ---?---, but I never knew that my brother was threatened. He never told me.

PN: That's one of the reasons he went back?

MA: That's the reason--they told me they wanted to go back because my sister-in-law had never been in Italy, but I was told by a friend from Salt Lake here--she is still living. She told me, "Don't you know. I have your niece here." They hide the girl here in the house of this friend because they were afraid to leave it in Helper. I never knew it.

PN: Do you think that might be the reason why he never did come back?

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MA: That's right, probably could be.

PN: See, I didn't know how strong that that black hand activity was down there.

MA: And then after the ---?--- bought his share, and then they have to wait for the quota and that probably would take twenty years to come back. See, because, I don't know how just exactly.

PN: They had a quota, but, see, he was a citizen. He could come back, even his wife could come back with him even if she wasn't a citizen because he was.

MA: I don't know. I can't figure it out. That's what I was told. They said he can't come back.

PN: How long did that black hand activity last down there?

MA: Oh, probably a few years.

PN: Was it down there when you went to Helper in 1913? Did you hear anything of it?

MA: No, not then. That was later.

PN: Let me tell you, in 1925.

MA: That's probably when.

PN: I was reading one of the papers in Carbon County. I think it was the Eastern Utah Advocate or the News Advocate or the Sun Advocate. I can't remember which paper. But in 1925 there was an article, and it said that there was two black hand suspects released. They

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were suspects--Judge Hammond. And one of the Italian men was named Zakaria. Did you know them?

MA: Sure, I knew him--Zakaria. He was my brother's customer in the store. I'll bet it started probably around 1920.

PN: This article--well, they had in the paper they had Zakario, they had Zakario, but I knew it was Zakaria. But this was in 1925.

MA: Well, what I mean, it probably started around twenty something because my brother left in 1923.

PN: He left in 1923.

MA: Must be around twenty or something when ---?--- either paid or something. I don't know just what it was. Someday if I run into this woman I'm going to-

PN: That's really interesting because I didn't know how strong they were.

MA: She told me. I didn't know.

PN: Was there ever any violence. Did they ever let's say, you know, fight with anybody or beat up anyone that you know of?

MA: Not that I know of.

PN: Not that you know of. That's interesting.

MA: In fact, like I said, I just learned that about five, six years ago on the phone, over the phone. This woman was asking me some question about something

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about Social Security when and how these people in Helper, and we started talking. Then it comes talking, she says "How is your sister-in-law?" I said, "She died in Uruguay." In fact, she died about four years ago down in Uruguay. And she said, "Those poor people." I said, "Gee, I wish they didn't left Helper. They left a fortune to Quiliko(?)." She said, "Don't you know. They have to." I said, "What do you mean. What are you talking." She said, "Don't you know the ---?--- were going to get Margaret?" I said, "No." "You're brother never told you?" I said, "No." On the phone she told me, and I said, "No." And she said, "Well, they brought Margaret here. They come up one night. They left her her and nobody know that she was here with me. She didn't even stay at the hotel with the parents because they were afraid they were watching them. We had her here hiding for almost a week until they were ready to go." So I don't know, I don't know.

PN: Well, I'll be darned. What was your sister-in-law's maiden name before she married your brother?

MB: Scarpino.

PN: Scarpino.

MB: Anna Scarpino.

PN: Anna Scarpino. And she was also from Helper, huh?

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MB: Well, they were all in ---?---, Missouri. That's how they met. They married there, and then they come over here in Utah. And my brother built this building, this store and so forth, then the girl was born in Helper.

PN: There is one thing that I would like to find out a little more about, and that is you lived in Helper for a while and then you moved in Salt Lake. What are the attitudes do you think between the Italians from Carbon County and the Italians in Salt Lake County. Are there any hard feelings or anything that exist between the two people? Or in your opinion what is it like?

MA: Well, I'll tell you one thing, when I was young in Italy they were talking about this Mafia in Southern Italy or something and they were more kind of separate in a way over there than here. In a way you take the military there. My daughter-in-law's father used to tell me, he was stationed in Italy. He said, "Boy they were afraid of us because we were from the north. They were afraid because they were reading the thing about Mussolini and the Mafia and this and that. It was kind of rough in a way." And I remember when they passing by they used to go, the soldier, they were mostly infantry, and they were young, they

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have fun. They used to go, "Rosa Maria ---?---." You know how they go, they just funny. We were just scared to death. We were just running because we just don't know what we were running for. We were running. We don't care who they were. They were soldiers. We didn't trust them. He said, "But they have ---?---. They thought the ---?--- were better." I said, "I don't know. They are all Italiano. We come from the same thing."

PN: That's true. But did the Italians from like Carbon County ever get together with the Italians in Salt Lake?

MB: Oh, yeah.

PN: When? When did they get together?

MB: Well, when they come up to Lagoon. They had Italian Day up there every year.

PN: That started in about 1934.

MB: Yeah.

PN: Do you know very much about the Italians in Ogden?

MA: I don't know much about it. The only thing I know that it is the Mormon. That's the biggest thing there is, but none of them are Italian.

PN: They were against--

MA: Well, some of the Italian--I know some of the Italian people because they are the ones that joined the

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church.

PN: I've had a hard time finding out any information about the Italians in Ogden.

MA: I don't know much about it. In fact, I went only one time, but I had a girl here, the mother, the father was somewhere ---?--- and that girl I don't know what was wrong. She went up to the university and she said, "They are against me. They are against me because the neighbor there is--." I said, "Against you what. What's the matter?" She said, "Oh, you just don't know what these people are going to do to us." I don't know if she was mental. She stayed with me here a couple of months here and then she just took off. She had a check for \$2,000 ---?--- and she would have got \$10,000 because she was brilliant to go to the university, and she quit. She dropped that money because of the neighbor. She said, "You don't know those Mormon next door."

PN: She was an Italian.

MB: Italian and Catholic. So that's all I know about it. I don't know.

PN: That's interesting.

MB: It is. She was afraid even here. She say, "Don't call me up there because there is a lady up there and I don't trust her." I thought it was something funny.

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And I never see her again and she was here about two months. She had that room there, Marie something. There are some Italian up there, but I never heard that they were so--I said, "They are funny. They come around and want you to join the church, but that's about it, and you just tell them that you are not interested, and they leave you alone." I said, "They are a nuisance in a way. They come around, but don't let that bother you."

PN: Did you go to any of those all-state Italian day celebrations at Lagoon?

MB: I used to, but with my legs--

PN: How were they? Were they fun?

BM: Oh, beautiful, beautiful.

PN: Were there Italians from Carbon County and from Ogden there too?

BM: From all over.

PN: All over, huh.

BM: I think I got two or three books from when my son was something in there. ---?--- marriage picture and different things from Carbon ---?---

PN: Well, okay, Mrs. Bertolina. I think it's been a very good interview, and thank you very much.

BM: Your welcome, your welcome.

[END OF INTERVIEW]