DR. J. J. DALPIAZ

Helper, Utah

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An Interview By

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THE FOLLOWING IS AN INTERVIEW CONDUCTED WITH DR. JOE DALPIAZ ON FEBRUARY 5, 1972 AT HELPER, UTAH. THE INTERVIEWER IS PHIL NOTARIANNI.

PN: Dr. Dalpiaz to begin with where were you born?

JD: I was born in Helper, Utah.

PN: Which year?

JD: 1904.

PN: When did your father immigrate to the United States?

JD: Well, he came in September 19, 1896. He came directly to Castle Gate.

PN: Why did he come directly to Castle Gate, do you know?

JD: Well, his brother was here. His brother was two years older and he was already here. And so he just came directly here.

PN: Was he working in the mines at the time?

JD: Yeah.

PN: Was he working for the Utah Fuel Company?

JD: Utah Fuel Company, Castle Gate, which is a subsidiary, was at that time of CF9, Colorado Fuel 9 Company, I think.

PN: When did your father become affiliated with Stella D'America?

JD: Well, he was a founder member and this one here, I guess, when it was founded. It was founded in Castle Gate originally. It went on till the strike in 1903 in Castle Gate and that is when they moved to Helper.

PN: Why did they move?

JD: Well, you couldn't get in camp or have anything, the records of the lodge were all up there. In fact, they went up and stole the records at night to get their old records out. Because of the strike they weren't allowed--most of the members were on strike and they couldn't get to the--

PN: Were forced out of Castle Gate.

JD: Yeah, Castle Gate.

PN: Did your father ever relate any of his experiences during that 1903 strike to you?

JD: Oh, yes, lots of them.

PN: Could you relate some of those to me, please.

JD: Well, when they were just--a lot of the miners--a lot of the people owned their own homes, but it was on company property, see. The homes were theirs but were on company property. So when they chased them out the company confiscated the homes. They never got paid for them or nothing.

PN: They didn't get any compensation at all?

JD: No, nothing at all. It was just to have furniture along the road down there. In fact, one instance I can remember well was I had a cousin who died. My great grandmother is buried in Castle Gate. That would be my mother's grandmother is buried in Castle

Gate. When one of my cousins died they wanted to bury her up there and they wouldn't let them go through up the canyon. It is up Willow Creek Canyon there, the cemetery. They wouldn't let them go through the barrier. The guard stopped them right on the--they had ties and that across the road. They stopped them there. They wasn't going to let them go through, anyway. They finally went to the superintendent at Castle Gate. I don't remember who he was. I don't remember who he was, his name. Well, he said that the buggy that carried the casket was the only one that could go through and enough people to bury her, see. So they drove the one up there and buried her at Castle Gate right next to my great grandmother. They had quite a time. Then I don't know who the hell was the head of the militia when he came down there. He went to the miners and he said that he didn't want any trouble and he didn't expect any trouble and for them to go on home. What did they have? They had cabins, they built dugouts all the way down from Castle Gate and got out of camp on the side of the hill up there. So the miners came down, and before the militia came down, the miners had sentries out at nights so the company guards couldn't come down and raid them, see. When the militia and head of the

militia--

PN: General Cannon.

JD: I don't know whether he was Cannon or not.

PN: General John Q. Cannon is what I have here.

JD: Well, when he came down there he told them that he didn't want any trouble and as long as they'd--that there would be none. Well, about the next night what would they do? They went out and rounded all these miners up at night. Of course my dad had quit the mine just before that. In fact he had a little business there. Old Heiner or halfway house, they called it. He wasn't in the mine at all. My mother and my dad were staying up to her father's farm just northwest of Helper, and they were staying up there at the farm and they rounded them all out. In fact, my dad heard this racket outside of all these miners and there was quite a few of them on the farm up there. They were just living in tents. My dad heard this racket and he went out and he found out what it was all about. He said, "Well, god, you just as well take me. I belong to them, too!" They got them down here in Helper. Rounded them all up and put them in cattle cars and sent them to Price and had a bullpen out there with just a fence around it. Just a fence around the damn place and kept them there for awhile.

Not very long. Finally let them all go. In fact, some of them were given jail sentences, you know, or some damn thing. And one I remember my dad telling me about Jim Tedesco. That is Jimmy, he went to Salt Lake.

PN: I am familiar with his relations.

JD: He went to Salt Lake. They wanted to let him go. I think the judge gave him thirty or sixty days. He had to stay in jail. They wanted to turn him loose. He says, "No, no. Stay in, pay me a dollar a day. If I stay in some other organization he belong to it's a dollar a day. That is two dollars a day that I got. That is enough to keep my family." He says, "I am going to stay here until I serve my time. You are going to give me thirty or sixty days and I'm gonna serve every one of them." They wanted him to go and he could go. What he'd do is eat breakfast, and they'd have to feed him, he'd eat breakfast and go downtown and come home for lunch. They wanted to get rid of him, see, but he says, "No sir," he says, "Damn it, I never did anything in the first place wrong except go on strike." And he says, "They give me thirty days and they are going to keep me for thirty days." He served his full time. He wouldn't leave. I think his name was Jim Tedesco. That is

right. I am pretty sure that it was Tedesco. I know his last name was Tedesco, but his first name was Jim, Jim Tedesco.

PN: What were his charges?

JD: Well, I never, god, I never knew what the hell they charged him. Probably everything, I guess. Everything, but what he had done. In fact, then later when Mother Jones the old union organizer came through the country down here, they were all going to lock her--they built a house right over here right toward the east side of Helper out there on the big flat. They were going to lock her up in this house. My dad and a fellow by the name of Angelo Pilatti walked over the hill way back there. They came over that hill way back and come down. They both had a gallon of kerosene, see. They both came down and went over that place. The shingles were not dry. They were still kind of green and it was wet and they spread this thing all over and they set the thing on fire. Then they went over the hill down in and they went around Helper and went back. My dad says, "By the time we got to the hill it was burning pretty good, but he says by the time we got on top it was smoldering out." But they ruined it so that it couldn't be used, see. Then the miners got Mother

Jones and took her down here, Stan's grandmother's place. Stan's grandmother's place. She was down there for awhile till we came down and then she went up and talked to the miners. Heiner was halfway, which they called halfway house. It was halfway between Helper and Castle Gate, see, and they called it a halfway house. It's two miles to Castle Gate and two miles to Helper. It is just right between them. She talked to the miners up there.

PN: Was she able to get the miners behind her?

JD: Oh, yes. They were all behind her. There were a few scabs, naturally.

PN: What in your opinion what was the main grievance between the miners and the company?

JD: The main grievance was the miners wanted a union. That is they weren't fighting for wages or anything. They wanted the right to organize. Of course, the companies refused it, see. There was another one by the name of--one of the best organizers that the union had.

PN: An Italian organizer?

JD: Yeah.

PN: Charles Demolli?

JD: Demolli. Charlie Demolli stayed with my mother and dad.

PN: Really!

JD: Yeah. Charlie Demolli when he was here boarded with Mother and Dad.

PN: Did your father ever tell you what kind of man Charles Demolli was?

JD: He was according to my dad who might have been a bit prejudice, I don't know. Both mother and dad thought that he was a hell of a swell guy. He was more or less a little bit on the radical side. He was kind of an anarchist, you know. But Charlie Demolli was a real fine person and hell, everybody, all the old-timers knew him. In fact, my dad said he had more guts than anybody he ever saw. When he went to Scofield, he was supposed to go up there and talk to the miners up there. They told him when he got up there they were going to throw him in jail. You know how he got into Scofield? He got into Scofield in a bread box. They use to have those bread boxes, maybe you have seen them. Years ago they use to have those bread box. It was about that high. I imagine a little over--

PN: Three feet.

JD: Well, I would say two and a half feet.

PN: Two and a half feet high.

JD: Yeah, and about three feet long. That is the way that

he went into Scofield. He got into Scofield. (laughter) Another time--he died recently. He was not an Italian. Art Hammelreit, he hauled him out of Sunnyside under a load of hay.

PN: They were watching the roads very closely, or very carefully.

JD: Yeah, and he hauled him out of there under a load of hay. He had that farm up there. It is south of Sunnyside. He came out of Sunnyside under a load of hay. Mother and dad thought the world of him. He was quite a guy, Charlie Demolli.

PN: In which way was he kind of an anarchist? What were his tendencies?

JD: Well, now I think that you could call him a goddamn communist more than anything else. In those days you didn't have the communists. Hell, those kind of guys were called anarchists.

PN: Right.

JD: He more or less had communistic tendencies, there is no denying that. But his was all for labor you know. It didn't make any difference to Charlie whether it was a miner or a railroad man, or anything. He was just for organized labor and that is all there was to it. In fact, I think he died in California. He served time in California in jail. He was in jail every

place he went. They had him in jail all over.

PN: Do you know of any family of his?

JD: I don't know, there was a family of Demollis I ran across in Eureka, Nevada. It was on a farm out there. I tried to find out if they were any relation, but they couldn't tell. That is the only family of Demolli that I ever ran across, and they didn't spell it like he did. The Demolli Italian spell it D-e-m-o-l-l-i and these people out there spelled their's D-a-m-o-l-e.

PN: Oh, I see.

JD: So as far as that, it could have been the change.

PN: The change, right.

JD: I don't know. There are quite a few characters that were here at that time. Of course, most of them are dead. I don't think there is a charter member--

PN: Did Charles Demolli ever communicate with your father when he was out of the state?

JD: No.

PN: For instance, he had a paper in Trinidad, Colorado.

JD: Yeah. My dad would hear from him once in a while, you know, get a card or something, but dad never said much about communication.

PN: Did he ever get any letters from him?

JD: Well, I don't know that. I can't--

PN: You wouldn't have such letters in your possession?

JD: No, I don't know that because I was just born in 1904, the strike was in 1903 and I don't even remember Charlie Demolli although he lived in the same house. I don't even remember him because Christ I--

PN: Right, I wouldn't expect you to.

JD: I never did see the man. I don't know. If there is a picture of Charlie Demolli [it] might be in one of these magazines, in this book.

PN: They had a picture of him in the News Advocate during the strike. There was a picture of him in there. According to your father what were conditions like on company property?

JD: Well, on company property they were all getting along all right at the time until they wanted to organize this union, see. That is when the company started this trouble. The miners themselves didn't cause any trouble. They just wanted the right to organize, and the company didn't want them to. So that is what started it all.

PN: Were the company guards really that brutal to the strikers?

JD: Oh, yes. There were some, not all of them. There were some of them that were terrible. There were some of

them that were terrible. They just abused their rights and privileges, that's all. There was no question about it. There are always two sides to everything. That was the big cause and those guards were just nothing but a bunch of cut throats. Some were local from around the area, and some were brought in by the company. The ones that were brought in were usually the worst.

PN: Why, is that? Because they didn't know the people?

JD: Well, I guess they didn't know the people as well and I guess the company just brought them in for that purpose.

PN: Was there much sympathy on the part of the non-Italian population in this area for the strikers since most of the strikers were Italian?

JD: There wasn't too much. You take--I would say very little sympathy because, you know, it doesn't make any difference. You take in those kind of things, you got always--and they were in a minority anyway. What I mean, I don't think they were a minority in Castle Gate only. But in the area, they were a minority and naturally the sympathy was not toward us at all. Most of us settled right here in Helper.

PN: So after the strike then most of them came this way.

JD: Oh yeah, that is what built Helper. There wasn't

anything else. It was the old miners that was kicked out of Castle Gate that built Helper. Now, you had the railroad that was here and all that. But really who built the town and everything else--

PN: So then the miners that left the mines after the 1903 strike that came here, these were most of the men that got into businesses or professions and things of this sort.

JD: Yeah, that is right. Well, you take--Helper was founded. It wasn't founded by them, but they are the ones who made the town what it was. They come down and went into business and developed the area. In fact, they had more to do with it than any other group because here in Helper at the time there was nothing here except the railroad and the depot.

PN: Who were some of the most prominent men that sort of got things going down here?

JD: Well, there is Joseph Barmoillio. Of course, after he left here he went back to Missouri after the strike. He didn't get back here until about 1909 or 1910. Maybe 1906.

PN: Is that when he founded the bank?

JD: He founded the bank in 1910.

PN: 1910.

JD: The bank was founded in 1910. There was Pete Bosone.

Oh, you know when you want to try to think of a name you can't. And my dad, of course. Pete Bosone and my dad.

PN: Stan's father was here then, too.

JD: Stan's father was here I think. They came from Colorado and they went down and they were down in Cleveland, Utah. They were down there in the center of Mormonism [laughter] and then they came to Helper. Yeah, Stan Lozetti's father was one, grandfather, was one of the pillars of the town at that time.

PN: Could you trace Stella D'America then from Castle Gate down to here and sort of fill me in on some of the facets of the lodge activity? For instance, maybe I can ask you some specific questions to help you get started. What were exactly, in your opinion, the main reasons why the organization was established?

JD: Well, it was established to help. See, at that time the miners, none of them were married, very few had any families. This was started to help one another out.

PN: Mutual aid.

JD: Mutual aid, that is what it is.

PN: Mutuo Soccorso.

JD: Mutuo Soccorso is mutual aid. And that is how--see, here it is here. This was founded in 1898, January

the 15th. It was a mutual aid society and anybody that got sick then they helped one another out. If a man was sick, one of the lodge members, they spent an evening, a night with him, they'd take turns spending--

PN: So it built up the security of the immigrant at the beginning.

JD: That is right.

PN: Now, when the lodge first began and after it got rolling for awhile, rather, did they grant a lot of personal loans to certain people?

JD: Yeah, to the members they lent a certain amount. They didn't have too much, you know. They lent it out on interest.

PN: Can you remember how much interest was? I know in 1927 it was 6 percent, but do you know how much it was earlier?

JD: I don't know, about 4 [percent] I would imagine. I don't know because--

PN: I was just hoping that you could relate to some of these things maybe through what your father said.

JD: We still do. If a member comes to us and needs some help that way we still loan some money out.

PN: At that early time probably getting a loan like that was quite beneficial because they probably had a

rough time getting a loan anyplace else.

JD: It helped a lot of people. Of course, they never had much, maybe four or five hundred dollars and that is probably what they needed to tide them over, you know. We have never lost any money on loans because what they do, the way we require them to do is now, if a lodge member needs some money he can go to some other lodge member as long as a couple of co-signers, see.

PN: Right. In fact, I think the rules and regulations say two.

JD: Yeah, two co-signers. That is the way that it was done all the time.

PN: Once the lodge began and getting back to the rules and regulations, the list of the founding members there were fifty-seven. There was quite a few.

JD: There was quite a few. We have got about fifty-five now. We have dropped down to about fifty-five at the present time. This was--why, I wish somebody had my hands and I had theirs. My hands are so numb that I can't--.

PN: Now, once the lodge got going did it ever extend its activities outside of the Italian community? Did it participate in any civic affairs?

JD: Oh, just on celebrations usually.

PN: Well, I can remember making reference to the fact that they were doing some work in the cemetery around here.

JD: Well, they went up and probably cleaned up the cemetery or something like that.

PN: In your opinion then, based upon your experiences in the lodge, do you think that perhaps this lodge helped the Italian to adjust himself to American life a little bit more easier than he would have done?

JD: Well, I think so. Any organization as long as the members will take part is bound to help. Now, we got members that, I think, a couple of them have only been there twice since they have been initiated thirty years ago. Hell, all they do is pay their dues and get what they got coming for health and accident benefits, and outside that they attend the annual party. We have a Columbus Day party every October.

PN: When did they start that?

JD: Well, they started right when it was first organized.

PN: They have always had a Columbus Day celebration?

JD: Well, they always--they've had it for years. Maybe one or two years they didn't have it. The money that the lodge had was made at the Fourth of July celebration at Castle Gate years ago. When the members went up and cut the goddamn timbers and

everything, made a float and they called it the bowery.

PN: When was that, which year? Do you recall?

JD: I don't know. About 1902 or 1903, I guess.

PN: Oh, really, that early! That is interesting.

JD: Just before the strike anyway.

PN: They participated in the July 4th celebration?

JD: Oh, yeah. See, they had the three days. They had a three days celebration up there at one time and my dad says he never took off his shoes for three days and three nights. Well, they sold I don't know how much beer and everybody was invited, of course.

PN: Did they have a lot of participation from the non-Italian community?

JD: Oh, yeah, pretty near the whole town was there.

PN: Well, then this lodge was able to sort of foster good will between the two factions weren't they?

JD: The people up there were very, very friendly in Castle Gate. Sunnyside was different. Sunnyside there was a killing or a murder every other--. I mean either Italians were killing one another or somebody else was in on it. My father-in-law was at Sunnyside. My wife was born in Sunnyside and my father-in-law--that is where he got into trouble. They have never seen him since. My wife, she just barely remembers

him.

PN: Well, what was it with Sunnyside?

JD: It was just a different element of people.

PN: Italian element?

JD: Yeah.

PN: Southern Italians?

JD: Well, there was southern Italians, there was quite a few of them up there, see. That is where the trouble broke out, not because of northern Italians. There wasn't too many up there at Sunnyside. They were all southern Italians, most of them. Oh, there were three or four families naturally of northern Italians, but not very many. They were mostly southern Italians.

PN: Later on did you get any of these Italians to come up here and belong to your lodge?

JD: No, because they had a lodge of their own, at Sunnyside.

PN: Do you remember what that was?

JD: I don't remember the name, but we have got--let's see, we have got old man Pelosso. I think that we had about two when they moved out of Sunnyside, joined our lodge.

PN: Transferred up here. Did you ever have any inter-lodge activity between this lodge and the group down in Sunnyside?

JD: No.

PN: Did you have any inter-lodge activity between the group here in Helper, and the group down in Castle Gate?

JD: No, but the group in Castle Gate was founded later. I don't know what--in fact, somebody wanted to give me a book real long ago that had the founder members of the group at Castle Gate lodge. I don't know.

PN: So in your opinion then the Italian community in Sunnyside stayed pretty well among themselves?

JD: Yeah, you know what I mean, the members of the lodge up there. I never did have much to do or since I became active in it, I never had much to do with it anyway. I know just a couple that were members of the Sunnyside lodge. Finally when they moved down to this area they joined the Helper lodge. The only one that I can recall was a Palottzo. He was a baker. He had a bakery shop up at Sunnyside. He is the only one that I can recall right off hand. There might have been others, but I don't recall.

PN: Was the lodge able to foster some kind of unification between the Italian groups around here or was it--? Exactly how did it function in that capacity?

JD: Well, you know what capacity. Of course, there was--I will tell you the truth. I think that the Italian

lodge here at one time was a little bit one-sided.

PN: Right. Well, for instance, all fifty-seven members were all--

JD: All northern Italian. Well, we had two very good members that were southern Italians. One was Pagano and another was--hell, he died back in New York, Redford Hills, New York. Boltala, Donald Boltala. They were brother-in-laws. Boltala right up until the time he died kept his membership. Finally there was a group of people that got into that and they didn't want any southern Italians in the damn thing because they heard about this Mafia started.

PN: Is this in the twenties?

JD: Yes.

PN: The Black Hand.

JD: Well, even before that. This was even before that. So around Castle Gate there was Donald Boltala and old man Pagano. There was only a couple or three. As you notice the name, most of them in here are Tyrols and northern Italians.

PN: Milano, Torino?

JD: Milano, Torino.

PN: Trentino?

JD: Trentino.

PN: Yeah, most of them are northern Italians. Well, when

did you get a few southern Italians in such as the two that you just mentioned?

JD: Well, we have got quite a few boys in there, the younger ones.

PN: So the tensions were somewhat relaxed after awhile?

JD: Yeah, they--oh, there never was any tension, you know what I mean. The northern Italians thought they were better than the southern Italians, and the southern Italians thought they were better than the northern Italians. It has always been that way and it is that way today. It is that way today. Why, hell, you go back to Detroit where they have these colonies. I know Detroit because I have been back there two or three times to the national convention. There will be a group of southern Italians. They are all down there. They have got a regular colony all of their own. The Lombards are up on "Dago Hill" up there in St. Louis. A place called "Dago Hill" where Yogi Berra and that bunch came from. They are up there. Another group of Italians are somewhere else. Anyway, the reason that I went back--my wife's uncle is still living in Detroit. We went back, and Christ, the minute you got back there, you thought you were in little Italy for sure. Well, that's the way they--and they did it for their own health. For their own

benefit. You know, to help one another, they thought they would band together. They had the same little colony in Castle Gate. There was a very few southern Italians up there at the time. I don't think there was ten or twelve families.

PN: You mean this was during the strike?

JD: Yeah, just before the strike.

PN: Most of them were northern Italians then?

JD: Most of them were. But the southern Italians that were there, they lived in one part of the camp from the others, you know. They didn't have much to do with one another.

PN: Do you think lodge activity helped to unite the two people a little bit more?

JD: I can't say so. I don't think it has. I don't think it has, maybe lately there's no Italians left. They are all Americans.

PN: This is true.

JD: That's it. A lot of those old bigotries and everything they had against one another are all pretty near forgotten. Why, my wife is a Calabresa and she is from San Gioanni in Fiore.

PN: You know what? My father is from a little town just east of that, Pedivigliano. Do you know Pedivigliano?

JD: I have heard of it.

PN: That is where my father is from.

JD: Well, my wife's parents came from San Gioanni in Fiore. It is quite a large town, San Gioanni in Fiore. Those bigotries are practically gone. It is around here anyway. Christ, they have intermarried.

PN: This is true. Just looking through some of the lodge activity and the inter-lodge activity I was just thinking that maybe some of these tensions were relaxed a little bit because of the lodge activity.

JD: Well, maybe the lodge had something to do with it, but not a heck of a lot. Because just like I say, you get some of these old-timers, Jesus Christ, they wouldn't, they didn't relax on that idea that they didn't want southern Italians in there. That is what I've always thought. They're still, when I first became active in the lodge, there was still a few, oh, we still had seven, eight, or nine of them, and, god, they was stubborn, hard headed--

PN: You think that basically it was a recent development then?

JD: Well, I wouldn't say recent.

PN: Let's say recently within fifteen years.

JD: Oh, it's longer than that, it is longer than that. Maybe it has been thirty-five or forty years, relax

of tensions. They have relaxed since--you take our lodge, we have got almost as many southern Italians as we have northern Italians now.

PN: So it finally evolved into something--

JD: Yeah, that is right. We have got just about as many southern Italians as northern Italians.

PN: Now, what type of celebrations did the lodge participate in other than the July 4th and Columbus Day? They had a Decoration Day celebration, I know, didn't they?

JD: Well, we always go up to the cemetery every Decoration Day.

PN: As a lodge?

JD: Yeah, we have always done that. We always on May 30th, we always--

PN: Did you ever celebrate the 24th of July?

JD: Well, not--

PN: As a lodge?

JD: I don't think so. We took part in a couple of celebrations, but we really never had nothing to do with it. You know what I mean, took part in something in one or two, but we never really had nothing to do with it.

PN: Why did they take part?

JD: Oh, they would come around and they wanted a parade

and they would come around and ask you if you wanted to get a float in there or something like that. I mean as far as having anything to do with it, we never did.

PN: Do you recall that big Christopher Columbus Day celebration in Salt Lake in 1919?

JD: No, I didn't go.

PN: There were a lot of Italians, from the Sunnyside band went up and there was a lot of Italian participation from Carbon County in that parade.

JD: Well, when they dedicated Hotel Utah when that was first opened they weren't all lodge members, but there were a lot of them that played in this band we had here years ago. They went up--

PN: The Helper Band?

JD: Yeah, they went up to the dedication.

PN: Is that mostly Italians?

JD: The majority of the band members were Italian. The majority because, hell there was mostly Italians around here. There weren't too many outsiders. There was just a few at Castle Gate, they organized a band years and years ago.

PN: When was this?

JD: Before the strike.

PN: Before the strike.

JD: Yeah, they had a band in Castle Gate. That is the ones that played when they built the bowery up there and had the celebration, it was the band members that played for the dance. Oh, at that celebration everybody was a riot and everybody was there.

PN: July 4th?

JD: It was the Fourth of July--three days--the money that the lodge has today, the original money that the lodge has today was from that celebration.

PN: What did they do, operate booths, sell beer?

JD: Sell beer and sell lunches or one thing or another. That is the way they made money. Well, they cleared about five thousand dollars and that was about all.

PN: Yeah, from the financial records that I have been able to look at during the twenties they were able to sustain a fairly good treasury.

JD: Well, we are not broke, that is more than most of us can say [laughter] this day and age.

PN: That is true. Well, you know oftentimes people will attribute the financial success of the lodge as a criterion for the overall success of the lodge. In that capacity this Italian lodge was fairly well-off compared to some of them.

JD: Well, yes. We had a lot of lodges went kaflooey because all they figured was a good time.

PN: Is that local lodges?

JD: Yeah, not belong in any connection with us. But you take the Moose Lodge in Helper that had a terrific membership. They went under for the same damn reason. There was nobody to take--they thought the only thing that the money was going to last forever, you know. It can't be done that way. I don't care. I feel this way about those things. Damn it, as long as I got anything to do with anything and it's for personal health and death benefit or something like that, that is what that money is there for and I don't think that it is just--. Of course there are a few like everybody else, just want to have good times and all that business, but, of course, we are too old to have good times anymore.

PN: From the lodge records I have been able to ascertain that I personally think that the main interest of the lodge was these death benefits--

JD: That's right.

PN: --sickness benefits because the first order of business at all these lodge meetings were the <u>reporti amalati</u>, the sickness reports. And so I, at least in the paper that I am doing for a class this quarter, I have maintained that this was one of the--

JD: That's the whole thing behind it. Where in the heck

can you get for $16.20 a year a four hundred dollar death benefit, and a sickness benefit that pays for six months a dollar a day? Of course, it isn't much. It pays a dollar a day for six months, it don't pay on Sunday. Sundays are excluded. Three dollars, I mean a dollar a day and then fifty cents a day for the next three months and then thirty cents a day for the next three months. It pays for a year, see. Well, where can you get that kind, you can't get those kind of benefits.

PN: At that time, too--

JD: The Italians weren't--.

PN: If an Italian had a long term illness, he wasn't receiving any kind of compensation anywhere else, so this, in my opinion, came in extremely handy.

JD: That was why it was organized, it was mutual help and that they are still paying the same dues practically and they are still getting to the same benefits. It was like an Austrian fellow was talking to me. He says, "How much--?" He says, "We get twice that much." I says, "That is fine, how much do you pay?" He says, "About $25 or $26. I says, "If you want to pay us that much money we will give them. Anybody want to come in and double their dues we will give them that extra."

PN: Nowadays most of them have Blue Cross-Blue Shield and these other insurance, but at the time it served its purpose very well. Did the lodge ever participate in any traditional Italian holidays, that you recall?

JD: Just Columbus Day.

PN: That's it.

JD: That's it, just Columbus Day.

PN: I will tell you something else that I have been able to observe is that especially during the twenties, your father included, not only participated in Stella D'America but also participated in Chamber of Commerce and these other agencies.

JD: The Elks, my dad belonged to the Elks. In fact, one time I think that he belonged to the KPs one time. All right the KPs here, they went belly up like the Moose and they used to be quite a big lodge.

PN: Well, what do you attribute as the reason why the Italian lodge has been able to survive all these years?

JD: I don't know what it is. I attribute this to the few members that want to see it go. The only reason I am still in isn't that $25 or anything. My dad was a honor member and as long as I am living I am going to see this perpetuated.

PN: Is this reason based on the fact that it's just a

traditional thing and you want to keep it going?

JD: Well, that is right. I want to see it go as long as it can, but Jesus, when you can't get anybody out, most of them are there when there's any benefit they'll show up.

PN: I know that the Christopher Columbus Lodge in Salt Lake has but fourteen members. My father belongs to it still. Every year they have a dinner and that is about all the activity they have.

JD: Well, that is right, that is about all they have here.

PN: They are all old-timers. My father is getting up in years.

JD: They are old men, what the heck. We got some young members and we can't get them out to the meetings. Just like I say, we initiated a guy, a young fellow just the other day. His grandfather belonged, his father belongs, and we initiated him last Wednesday. I'll bet you that he will never be to another meeting. What are you going to do if these young fellows don't take over when these old ones die off?

PN: How much inter-lodge activity existed between let's say Stella D'America and a society in Salt Lake? Was there any mutual activity?

JD: No, none that I know of.

PN: What was the main reason?

JD: I guess they never did get together, I don't know.

PN: Now, I am of the mind that it is the great distance apart.

JD: Well, years ago--

PN: It was a hardship to go up there and stay for a couple of days or come down here. Were any antagonisms between the Italians in Carbon County and the Italians in Salt Lake?

JD: Not at all--none that I knew. At least I have never heard anything about them.

PN: Just briefly could you tell me a little bit about the Columbian Federation? Just in your own words.

JD: Well, the Columbian Federation, it was organized in Chicago.

PN: For instance, in that 1924 mine explosion here in Castle Gate, did the national federation, did the Columbian Federation send any money to the members here that were involved in that explosion?

JD: They sent the members, they got every dime that was coming to them. That's all I can tell you. Now the federation I'm not saying--anything to tell you. Nobody has ever lost a dime in our lodge.

PN: Wasn't that one of the main reasons of this Columbian Federation to protect against some of these large

groups, miners, or section men on the railroad, or whatever, that were involved in accidents?

JD: Yes.

PN: And then the Columbian Federation could go around to the different organizations and sort of collect.

JD: They can, but they have never done it to my knowledge.

PN: They never have done it?

JD: No, not to my knowledge.

PN: That is interesting because I thought that was perhaps their function.

JD: See, the Columbian Federation was organized in Chicago, October 12, 1893.

PN: They probably have a copyright date in here.

JD: I am wondering if this was since the last convention.

PN: Do you still participate in those conventions?

JD: Oh, yeah. I was back last time.

PN: Where are they held? Are they held in Chicago?

JD: They vary, they vary. In Detroit. The last one was in Green Ridge, Pennsylvania.

PN: Well, you are still paying dues to that national organization?

JD: Oh, yeah.

PN: What type benefits do you reap from that particular--

JD: Here's the benefits--the death benefits: an

individual gets a hundred dollars from the local lodge, that's what we get. And the federation--except for the old-timers--the federation gives two hundred dollars.

PN: So they got three hundred.

JD: That was the old time. Now the local lodge still gives one hundred dollars and they get four hundred from the federation.

PN: I didn't know that. That is pretty good when you consider--

JD: Well, it is pretty good. Criminy, we've had--see, here is the last one. That convention was Green Ridge, Pennsylvania. Right at the bottom of the page. This is the one in Detroit. That was in 1970 and this was in '62.

PN: Were most of the Italian societies around here affiliated with this Columbian Federation?

JD: I think that most of them were.

PN: Except for Sons of Italy.

JD: Except for Figli d'Italia and then most of the Italians right in this area, or the one in Castle Gate or in Sunnyside were affiliated with it. Our national president lives in Colorado, Vincent Massari?

PN: Vincent Massari?

JD: Yeah, he is the national president of the federation. He is the state senator in Colorado. He is a Colorado state senator.

PN: And he is still--

JD: He is still there. He has been there forty-one years, I guess. He is a real fine fellow. In fact, that new gymnasium, and--built some in Pueblo, I think, Southern Colorado College there is named after him. He is the guy that really went to bat for them.

PN: That is interesting, really.

JD: It was Vincent Massari.

PN: Do you think then that during the early activities of the lodge, well, I shouldn't say early, but after it began going, in the twenties, that it helped to relieve tensions between the Italians and the non-Italians?

JD: Oh, yes.

PN: Just because the lodge was getting involved in certain things.

JD: Yeah, I think that the Italians were getting involved a little more. We have always had pretty good relations with them.

PN: What I am maintaining is just, I want your opinion on this before we close, and that is first of all through lodge activities the immigrants were buying

liberty bonds. You were investing in liberty bonds, you were investing in the Helper State Bank. You had notes in the Helper State Bank. The immigrant was getting a little bit, a little taste of American life through the lodge. He was getting a little bit of taste of banking and financing and participating in some civic affairs. Don't you think that this helped him a little?

JD: Oh, it was bound to. It can't help but help. The whole thing is I can remember when, you know, when the war--not the First World War, the Second World War--we would buy some bonds and there were some of these old--we had five or six of them old-timers. You know what I mean--real old-timers, "What do you want to buy bonds for?" I said, "What the hell is the matter with you people? You crazy?" I said, "You might just as well buy bonds as put that money in the bank or anything." I says, "At least you are doing the country some good." Yeah, a lot of them felt, you know, that it would be used against Italy, you know,

PN: This was in World War II?

JD: Yeah, yeah, they, of course, we got along just the same. Here is our last financial statement for the last six months.

PN: Getting off the lodge now. Do you remember any of the

Ku Klux Klan activity in 1924?

JD: Yeah, I remember some.

PN: Could you relate some of those experiences to me? For instance, when they burned the cross on the hill up here.

JD: Well, they had a cross up there every week, I guess.

PN: Was that directed mostly at just foreigners in general or were there any direct--

JD: Oh, I don't know what it was, I think that it was just a bunch of--let's see--

PN: Son of a guns, huh?

JD: That's right--tried to accomplish something--

PN: Excuse me just for a minute.

[END OF TAPE #1]

JD: --most the time when that was going on, see.

PN: Where did you go to school at, by the way?

JD: I went two years at the university and then four years at the University of Southern California. But this Ku Klux Klan, oh, they were a nuisance. Nobody paid much attention to--

PN: Did they pose any real threat to anything?

JD: No, I don't think that they posed any threat. They tried to scare a few people but--

PN: Who comprised the membership mostly? Just some local non-Italians, or local non-foreigners?

JD: Well, there weren't many foreigners of any kind in it.

PN: Yeah, that is true. [laughter]

DR: Oh, it was--four or five guys down, I don't know where the hell they came from at all. I never did find out where the hell they came from. Some of the fellows that belonged to it, we knew belonged to it, were local fellows. And they seemed pretty good guys. We could never figure why they were the ones that belonged to such a crappy organization.

PN: Was there any violence ever between the Italians and the Ku Klux Klan or between any foreign group?

JD: No, there was a few words or something like that, but nothing terrific. Maybe a fight or two that didn't amount to much, but I don't think they posed any threat.

PN: What about this Black Hand activity in Carbon County in the twenties? Are you familiar with that?

JD: Well, a little bit. I am not too familiar.

PN: Was that a very organized group?

JD: Yeah, it was for a while. I don't think it lasted very long.

PN: Did they get involved with this type of activity beginning with prohibition? Was that the main impetus?

JD: Well, I don't know if it was prohibition or what it was. There was a few around that was implicated to be in that, and--

PN: Were there any non-Italian members of that that you knew of, without mentioning any names, but just--

JD: Well, no. If I knew I would tell you. I don't care. The hell with them, I'm not afraid.

PN: Were there any Italians that were involved that you know of?

JD: Italians? Yes, quite a few. Most of them were Italians.

PN: This is understandable.

JD: Most of them were Italians.

PN: Would you want to relate any names to me?

JD: Well, there was one fellow's name, oh, hell he died--what the hell--

PN: There was one man that I know of, his name was Zaccaro. Do you know him?

JD: No.

PN: Zaccario?.

JD: Zaccaria?

PN: Zaccaria, that is it. They spelled his name wrong in, Judge Ruggeri told it and spelled it wrong. Was that one of them?

JD: Well, that is one thing that I can't say, if Zaccaria

was one of them or not, you know. I know there was a guy--Vittorio--what the hell was his name, Vittorio. His last name they called him Prince, Principe. He was one of the worst. I don't know whether his first name was Vittorio or not. But he was in the--. Well, Henry Ruggeri could probably tell you more about it than I can. More than I can tell you about it because Henry was--

PN: He was the county attorney.

JD: He was county attorney at the time. Rosario Principe was his name, this guy, Rosario. In fact, I think that he served some time at the state prison. There was him and there was--Cosomino Rollio was another one. I don't know, there was quite a few mixed up, you know what I mean. Now, a lot of them I didn't--. I know this Zaccaria family, and I don't know of him ever being mixed up much with it. He might have been. his name was--

PN: Well, what type of activities were they involved in? Just bootlegging?

JD: No, hell they--threatening people. They threatened Joe Barboglio. They threatened anybody that had anything. Anybody who had anything they tried--

PN: Like insurance money, or whatever. Extort money from them.

JD: They tried extortion, that had more to do than bootlegging. Because everybody was bootlegging.

PN: How about the prostitution in the area? Did they have, were they involved in that?

JD: Well, no, I don't think so. I don't know. Oh, there might have been one of them. I don't think that they had much to do with prostitution. The reason was--. Now this one guy used to be here, Aquinta was his name. I don't know, they pronounced it Aquinta, that's the way it was known here. I think that it means Giaquinta in Italian, but they say Aquinta. He had a little piece of land up Spring Canyon. He had goats, I think. He got into it. They tried to get him not to become a member but to try and extort money from him. I know that. Then there was--

PN: They were basically thriving on the Italian people, the local Italian people--

JD: Yeah, sure.

PN: --that had the money.

JD: That is right. That's what they--

PN: Well, I think that is about all, and I appreciate your help very much.

JD: Well, that is all right and if there is anything else that I can help you with I will be glad to. The only thing is I don't know what else that I got that I can

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give you.

PN: Well, thank you for the interview.

[END OF TAPE #2]