Federal Hill Project: Interview with Maria Pulcini by Peter Pulcini - June 19, 1978 - TAPE 1

Maria J. Pulcini
Oral History Interview

with

Maria Pulcini

June 19, 1978

By Peter Pulcini

Interviewer: O.K. Now, to begin, where were you born?

Interviewee: Where I was born? P , Italy.

Interviewer: O.K. Now, how large a town is it? Is it big, small or?

Interviewee: Well, it's pretty good town.

Interviewer: Had home, school?

Interviewee: Yes. There were school, there were city hall and we had our own hospital, that's it.

Interviewer: O.K. What was the nearest large city?

Interviewee: Rome.

Interviewer: In P what sort of people were there? I mean

Interviewee: Very friendly people. Home people, very, very nice people.

Interviewer: Was it a rich?

Interviewee: No, they were poor but they get along each other very good.

Interviewer: Were there a lot of factories in P or was it farming?

Interviewee: No, no. There were farms but there were small factories.
Interviewer: Small? What kind of factories?

Interviewee: Tobacco factories, ceramic factories/

Interviewer: Did the people, did most of the people there work in the factories or did they work mostly at home in their own business, or?

Interviewee: Well, well the woman usually work in the house but the men work in the factories and some, they work on the farm.

Interviewer: Where did most of them work? And what kind of work?

Interviewee: Well, the tobacco factories, ceramic factories and the farms, that's all.

Interviewer: The people, they did different jobs over there, right?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: Like you just said. Did some people look down on other people or are they like they are here in America where you have prejudice? Were the people in your town prejudiced or were they very friendly with each other?

Interviewee: No. I don't think they were prejudiced. I think they were fair with everybody. Each one, they had their own job to do and that's it.

Interviewer: Now you live in the Silver Lake area?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: Are they, were the people from your home town, do they treat each other the same way as they do here in the Silver Lake area?

Interviewee: Yeah, yeah, I think so.
Interviewer: They're just that friendly, right?
Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: Were they less friendly or more?
Interviewee: No, about the same.

Interviewer: Oh, O.K. The people in your town, did they put the family first or religion first or were superstitions?
Interviewee: No, the family first.

Interviewer: Family first? Then what. Schooling, education, religion, superstition?

Interviewee: Religion.

Interviewer: Religion?
Interviewee: Yeah.

Interviewer: What about the superstitions?

Interviewee: Well, superstition, too.

Interviewer: Is that part of the religion or was is something different?
Interviewee: Yes. It's a part of the religion, yeah.

Interviewer: By the way, when did you come over into this country?
Interviewee: 1953.

Interviewer: And how old were you when you left Italy?
Interviewee: 19 years old.

Interviewer: O.K. What kind of work did you do in Italy? Did you work at all before you came here?
Interviewee: I used to be a dressmaker.

Interviewer: In your town did they have a formal type of relaxation like we do here in the United States, like you have two weeks in July and people go to, you know, they'll go to
Florida here or they'll go to Bermuda or they'll go camping? Did the people in your town do that sort of stuff?

Interviewee: **No, no. We don't** have it.

Interviewer: What kind of rec, they had recreation, right? They didn't just work all the time. What did they do for fun, just to relax?

Interviewee: Just stay out of work for a little while, a week, I guess and that's it. Stay around the house and go in the movie, that's it. Go in the beach sometime.

Interviewer: O.K. Take, let's, for instance the man would mostly work there, right?

Interviewee: Yeah.

Interviewer: Let's say he had his, a week off from work. Who would he spend most of his time with? Would he be alone, with other men, with his wife?

Interviewee: Well, they get together with the men they go in a bar, have a card playing, that's it. You know, I stay home, that's it.

Interviewer: But different times of the day, like during the day?

Interviewee: Yeah, during the day and night.

Interviewer: Did you ever see the insides of one of the bars over there, the pubs?

Interviewee: No. I went sometime just to call my father.

Interviewer: Was it friendly?

Interviewee: Very friendly, they always bring all friends.
Interviewer: Any women in there?

Interviewee: No.

Interviewer: No. Mostly men. What did the women do? What did the women do during the vacation time?

Interviewee: Stay home, sew and clean the house take out the children, that's it.

Interviewer: Did they get together a lot like the men did? Were they more separate with each other?

Interviewee: No, they get together during the day. Sew and take care of children outside and that's it.

Interviewer: O.K. You were 19 when you came over from Italy. Now, do you think that you kept a lot of the traditions of Italy, from where you came from? Things like food, dress, moral standards, you know, things that young lady should act this way and a young man should act another way?

Interviewee: Well, most yes. The food, manners, grew up of children the certain way. Not really clothes because you have to go by the style but most of the things like in the

Interviewer: Change. How did you change, how did you make a difference in raising your children from the way you think you would have raised your children in Italy? If you stayed in Italy and you had the same family now, how would it be different?

Interviewee: Oh, I don't know but I only know we

Interviewer: You said not as close, how would it be different and not as close?

Interviewee: I'm talking about the clothes.
Interviewer: Oh, clothes! O.K.

Interviewee: The children do the same thing. I woulda grow up with my children the same way.

Interviewer: The same way. O.K. I'm sorry.

Interviewee: Me, too.

Interviewer: How did you keep the tradition? Was it hard to stay mostly Italian in your customs and tradition or was it just natural for you?

Interviewee: It's natural.

Interviewer: There were no pressures?

Interviewee: No.

Interviewer: From outside?

Interviewee: No. But usually we live in an Italian community.

Interviewer: O.K. Community!

Interviewee: Community and it's very easy for us to be Italian.

Interviewer: Good I was just gonna ask you that. You gave me the one question. You felt it was important to keep the traditions, right?

Interviewee: Well, for us Italian is important to be Italian and Italian tradition the same way.

Interviewer: Why do you think they were important? I mean

Interviewee: Because I was, grew up like the Italian and I want to be Italian, I want my children to be Italian.

Interviewer: Did you bring a lot of money and clothes from Italy? When you came over were you rich or just average or poor?

Interviewee: No, I wasn't poor but I don't bring nothing from Italy.
Interviewer: When you came to America, did you have trouble getting used to deciding what you were going to have in the house? I mean, in Italy you had certain things and in America people had different items around the house. Did you have any trouble with that?

Interviewee: No, I got adjusted with everything I find.

Interviewer: Was anything surprising to you when you first came?

Interviewee: Yeah. I was surprised you know there were very modern things but I was happy with and I adjusted very well.

Interviewer: O.K. Why did you leave Italy in the first place?

Interviewee: Because I got married and I came this country. I got married with an American guy and I came this country.

Interviewer: O.K. When you left Italy while you were married and you came and you were leaving with your husband for America, did you leave your family behind and come alone?

Interviewee: Yes, yes I left my family in Italy.

Interviewer: How did you feel about that?

Interviewee: I felt very bad but I was waiting them to come in this country because this is a beautiful country.

Interviewer: You had planned on?

Interviewee: Yes, I planned they come over here.

Interviewer: When you first came to the United States how did you feel about that? What did the United States look like to you?

Interviewee: Well, I like the United States but I felt very homesick until my parents come this country and after I was alright.

Interviewer: But once you adjusted, what about the United States was
the best thing about it? What was, did you find to be really a great thing?

Interviewee: Well, I find very, very nice and it was very free and everything was so beautiful and I still like it.

Interviewer: Is it mostly the money things or are the people here?

Interviewee: The people, they're very, very warm very, very nice and I mean we like this country since I came from the old country. They're very, very nice people.

Interviewer: Where did you first live when you first came over from Italy?

Interviewee: In Silver Lake section.

Interviewer: Oh. O.K. What street?

Interviewee: 68 Terrace Avenue.

Interviewer: Oh, O.K. How long did you stay there?

Interviewee: I stay 8 months and we bought a house in 23 Terrace Avenue, 8 months after.

Interviewer: At that time, did you go up to Federal Hill at all?

Interviewee: Yes. I always go Federal Hill and I like Federal Hill all the time and we still go, after 26 years, we still go shopping over there.

Interviewer: O.K. When you first went to the Hill way, all those years ago, what did you think about it? I mean, you went downtown and you were exposed to downtown Providence.

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: You were around the Silver Lake area. There were Italian people around the Silver Lake area. Then you went to
Federal Hill. What about Federal Hill did you like, what didn't you like at that time, not now but then?

Interviewee: I like everything about it. The people they are so nice, make me feel that I was in the old country. Very, very everything just like in the old country. Make me feel like I was home in the old country, Italy. And it still is like that. It's very, very—you can find anything you want if you want something Italian, it's always, you find it there and the people are very, very nice. You can speak Italian everywhere you go on Federal Hill. It make you feel home.

Interviewer: When you went at that time, when you went to Federal Hill what did it look like? I mean, now I know what it looks like

Interviewee: Look like that I was in Italy.

Interviewer: What were the buildings like? Were they old?

Interviewee: They were old but they used to have stands outside, just like Italy. They sell fruit, they sell fish, they sell everything just like Italy. Make me feel that I was in Italy and make me feel very, very good.

Interviewer: Do you think, why didn't you move to Federal Hill? Did you think it was a bad place to live at that time?

Interviewee: No. We don't move Federal Hill because we already had a house over here. But we always go two, three times a week up Federal Hill because it's really nice place to go.

Interviewer: Did you have a lot to say as to where you were going to live with your husband? Did he decide more or less where
you were going to

Interviewee: Live?

Interviewer: Buy the house? Did he just find the house and you said this looks like a good house to buy.

Interviewee: No, no we both would decide. We, like this house. We bought it in the Silver Lake section.

Interviewer: Would it have been, would you have bought the house quicker, would it have seemed like a better house to buy if it were on Federal Hill?

Interviewee: Well, we find this one before. If we woulda find Federal Hill we might buy on Federal Hill, too.

Interviewer: If you found the same house for the same price on Federal Hill would you take it?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: You would've bought it?

Interviewee: Yes, we woulda buy.

Interviewer: O.K. In Federal Hill, what can you find in Federal Hill, being Italian and everything, that you can only find in Federal Hill, that Silver Lake can't give you, that the Charles Street area can't give you? I mean at that time, that many years ago, what in Federal Hill was the one thing, what were those things that only Federal Hill could give you?

Interviewee: Well, Federal Hill give you all the Italian food come from Italy and all the Italian people come from Italy, they all day long talk to the people about Italy. You stop and talk
to the people. We have Silver Lake, too but it's not as much as like Federal Hill. And, I don't know, the atmosphere seem just like Italy and that's why we like to go to there.

Interviewer: How about religion?
Interviewee: Well, they are very religion people.
Interviewer: Yeah, but do you, did you want to go up there for?
Interviewee: Yeah, when we are when they have the feast Federal Hill, we go.

Interviewer: O.K. Was there anything up Federal Hill?
Interviewee: San Giuseppe.

Interviewer: San Giuseppe. Did they help you, the Society of San Giuseppe?
Interviewee: Yes, they do. A lot all the Italian people help the Society of San Giuseppe.

Interviewer: Did the ?
Interviewee: They have a big parade everybody donate, they make the and everything, everybody, all the Italian people help it out.

Interviewer: Did that society do a lot for the Italian people?
Interviewee: Yes, yes they do.

Interviewer: Things like what?
Interviewee: Well, they help it out for the money, the make for everybody goes over there for coffee and and everything—all the Italian people.

Interviewer: What about Italian families that were in trouble? Let's say the man of house got sick.
Interviewee: Oh, I don't know about that.

Interviewer: Did that society help them?
Interviewee: I don't know, that I don't know.

Interviewer: Any other groups or clubs that you know of that would help an Italian family if they were in trouble?

Interviewee: I don't know.

Interviewer: Or was it mostly friends and relatives?

Interviewee: Well, friends most friends and relatives helped out each other, usually the Italian people do, they help each other. Where something happen with a family everybody goes and help.

Interviewer: Is Federal Hill the same way today as it was that many years ago?

Interviewee: Well, now it changes. Not too many buildings like before.

Interviewer: Oh, there were more buildings?

Interviewee: But the people they are still the same.

Interviewer: Are the same people?

Interviewee: They still well, some people move out but some people, they still over there but they are still the people move out, they still go over there, they still warm people and they are very, very nice. They're gonna build beautiful thing over there so everybody get together again like years ago.

Interviewer: Do you know anything about the Federal Hill House? Have you ever heard of that before?

Interviewee: Inside?

Interviewer: No, the building, the organization itself, Federal Hill House?

Interviewee: No, I don't know nothing about it.

Interviewer: O.K. Now we'll talk about education. How many grades did you complete in Italy?
Interviewee: Five.

Interviewer: Five grades? Did you do any, go to school here when you were married?

Interviewee: No, I didn't. I was married, I had my children, I couldn't go to school. I only work.

Interviewer: Comparing to what the schools were like in Italy and what, your own opinion, what are the schools? Do you think the schools in the United States, what is your opinion of them? Are they good, better than the ones in Italy? Would you like to see some things change in the schools in the United States?

Interviewee: I don't know. I cannot say about that. I only know I think they teach you better over here, that's my opinion.

Interviewer: What kind of schools did you send your kids to?

Interviewee: Parochial.

Interviewer: And grammar Schools?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: And how about high schools?

Interviewee: Well, I went to parochial, Catholic school and public school. I think they're both alright.

Interviewer: O.K. How do the schools help your idea of the Italian family? Are they good or bad for the Italian family?

Interviewee: About what?

Interviewer: Well, I would think that the schools in Italy would tend to keep the Italian, the idea of the Italian family together. In the United States, do you find anything about schooling
that would go against the idea of the family? That they would encourage let's say more loose morals among people? Different than what you would expect they would be teaching your children?

Interviewee: Things that I don't like them to teach them?

Interviewer: That's right.

Interviewee: Yes. In Italy they are more reserved, they are more, they are open the way over here. But they still do a good job. I mean over here, I mean over there I think they're a little bit more reserved.

Interviewer: The teachers here, you've spoken with the teachers, your children's teachers. How did they receive you're being Italian?

Interviewee: They, alright, very good, yeah.

Interviewer: You had no problem with that?

Interviewee: No. I don't have no problem with the teachers. They're very nice.

Interviewer: How important is education to you?

Interviewee: Very, a lot.

Interviewer: And to your family?

Interviewee: Yes, yes the education is the important thing to the children, especially young kids.

Interviewer: Why?

Interviewee: Because someday they can be somebody, they can better themselves. With education they don't have to be, you know, do work they not, they have very hard to do. So at least when they're educated they can have a better job and better
themselves.

**Interviewer:** Does it, do you think education in school is mostly for money, for getting a better job or for the person themselves?

**Interviewee:** Well, for the person themselves, be proud of themselves and for money, too. I mean, it's good for both ways.

**Interviewer:** In the area of work you said now, what did you do in Italy again?

**Interviewee:** Dressmaker.

**Interviewer:** Dressmaker. And when you came to this country did you do the same thing.

**Interviewee:** Part-time, I did, for a little while.

**Interviewer:** For how long? Not for not too long?

**Interviewee:** No. Just for a little while.

**Interviewer:** And you worked but you have worked all the way, ever since you've come here?

**Interviewee:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** What have you done most of the time?

**Interviewee:** Jewelry work.

**Interviewer:** Jewelry work?

**Interviewee:** Jewelry work.

**Interviewer:** Any, did you do mostly one type of job in the jewelry work?

**Interviewee:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** What kind of work was that?

**Interviewee:** I used to do benchwork.

**Interviewer:** All different types?

**Interviewee:** Yes.
Interviewer: What kind of work do you do now?

Interviewee: I'm , I repair cigarette lighter.

Interviewer: Oh, yeah? At ?

Interviewee: C, yeah.

Interviewer: Well, this is gonna be maybe one of those questions that some people think is sensitive but do you think women should go out to work or should they stay home and let their husbands support them?

Interviewee: Well, I think a woman should stay home but is better if she goes out help out her husband they can have more what they want and they could help the kids more, the way they like it. I think it's better when you have to go your children grown up to go out to work. I think it's nice to go out and help out.

Interviewer: Do you think a woman should have a career? Let's say, let's say a man is a postman, is a mailman O.K.? Let's say his wife wants to be a doctor. Do you think that's right for her to want to become a doctor?

Interviewee: No, I think the husband should be the head. He's supposed to be the, he's supposed to do the big things in the house. The woman's

Interviewer: O.K. Do you mean about money?

Interviewee: About the money. I mean the woman should be housewife. If she can help out just a little bit, go out on a shop work for a little while, that's it. But the husband's the one, the breadwinner, that's it.

Interviewer: So you don't think a woman should have a career, in other words?
Interviewee: No, I don't think so. The husband should be the one, the big boss.

Interviewer: O.K. Well, why shouldn't a woman have a career?

Interviewee: Well, because the woman should be the mother of the house, of the family and she take care of the children. When the children grow up that's the time when she can go out and help out if she have to. Otehrwise, she could stay home, but the husband's the one should be the big chief.

Interviewer: O.K.

Interviewee: Make more money.

Interviewer: Oh, making more money than?

Interviewee: Making more money, because that's what he's supposed to do.

Interviewer: What if he was a doctor and his wife wanted to go to work? O.K. It was her choice. She wanted to go to work and she became a nurse. Is that O.K.? Because now she's not making anywhere near the amount of money that her husband makes. She's not as important, at least not in the eyes of most people, because her husband's a doctor and she's a nurse. Is that, is that O.K. with the way you believe?

Interviewee: Well, if it make her feel good, is she want to. But, if it make her feel good, that's alright. But if she gotta enough money I don't know why she have to go out work. I think she could stay home.

Interviewer: Right. It's better for a woman to stay home and take care of the kids?

Interviewee: Sure, yes.
Interviewer: O.K. What are, what would? Let’s say we have that situation where the man is making the more, enough money and the woman is staying home. Do you think he should come home and help with the housework?

Interviewee: No.

Interviewer: No?

Interviewee: The wife is supposed to take care of the house and the children and the husband go to work.

Interviewer: O.K. What if, let’s say, they both have to go to work?

Now, the wife is gonna come home and if the husband doesn't do anything around the house, well sh's got two jobs now.

Interviewee: Well, if he wanna help, alright. But a man's work is more than a woman's. I think the woman should do more work around the house. Sh'é's got more ability to do things around the house. She's got more ability to do things around the house than the man.

Interviewer: How? I mean, what, just strength?

Interviewee: Yeah, ability to deoeasy, fast, woman.

Interviewer: You mean that she's faster?

Interviewee: She's fast and she knows what to do. The men don't know what to do. It takes longer so I thing the woman should do the housework.

Interviewer: O.K. What about if he just helped you? Let's say?

Interviewee: Just help, that's alright.

Interviewer: O.K. He swept the floor?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: Or maybe helped with the kitchen?
Interviewee: Yeah, some little things that he wanna do that's, but usually the man work more than a woman when he goes out-- heavy jobs and everything.

Interviewer: Where do you think most children learn a trade or what they're going to do in life? From the schools? From going to see how their fathers work? By being employed by jobs that they get at 16 year old and then they decide from that? Where do you think most Italian kids are getting?

Interviewee: They see where the father works.

Interviewer: You think they go mostly?

Interviewee: I think so.

Interviewer: With their father and

Interviewee: And, not in the school. I think where the father works. If the father's got his own job and then you know they got an idea whether they really want to do it.

Interviewer: What, how important do you think the parents are to, for what a child does in life? Let's say a doctor wants to, a kid wants to become a doctor. How important do you think the parents' ideas on that, on him becoming a doctor would be?

Interviewee: Oh, I don't know.

Interviewer: Important? Do you think that the child will listen to them? Let's say let's say he's 12 years old and he says to his father I want to be a doctor and the father said no, you know, you shouldn't be a doctor, it's bad news. Do you think that kid will still want to become a doctor or
do you think that because his father said it wasn't a good idea, he'll change his mind?

Interviewee: No. Sometime in college he's got a lot to do but when he grows up he might think about it. But, I don't know. I mean I can't answer that. I only know if the parents give him good example, maybe, they say this is no good for you, but if the kid really want to do that, the parents are gonna get along with him.

Interviewer: O.K. So it, they, you think that the child will make up his mind, go his own direction?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: And the parents will usually help?

Interviewee: Yes, they get along with him.

Interviewer: What do you think, well you know what the working world is like, right? You should say something sometimes and be quiet other times. You know when to stay out of trouble and how to stay out of trouble and sometimes speak up when you have to. How important do you think the parents are in teaching the child that before he goes to work? Or do you think that the kids usually pick this up at work, you know, when to keep your mough shut and when to speak up?

Interviewee: Well, I think when they go out to go to work, the best thing is shut up and keep out of trouble, just work, do your work.

Interviewer: But where, where do you, where do the kids learn this? Do parents teach them?
Interviewee: From the house, that's right. From the parents. You just go out to work and what you see, what you know, you just keep your mouth shut and that's it. That's why you go out, just to work and make money to bring it home and that's it. Not to get in trouble and fight and that's it.

Interviewer: No. O.K. So they pick that up from the house?

Interviewee: That's right. From the family--keep out of trouble.

Interviewer: Keep out of trouble? O.K. What do you do for recreation? Do you go to movies, do you go to baseball games, hockey games, do you stay home watch TV?

Interviewee: Oh, we go to movie, we go out to eat and watch television, sit down outside and have a nice breeze and that's it.

Interviewer: How about vacations?

Interviewee: Vacation time we go out Bermuda or we go Florida when we got the money. That's all.

Interviewer: Do you belong to any clubs, to any groups?

Interviewee: No.

Interviewer: No?

Interviewee: Society.

Interviewer: Society?


Interviewer: Why did you join that society?

Interviewee: Well, because I was very devoted to San but he's from the old country and I'm still belong to the society through my church.

Interviewer: Why do you think you were devoted to this society?
Interviewee: Because I believe in him and I pray to him all the time.

Interviewer: O.K. Are your friends mostly Italians or are they Americans and other nationalities?

Interviewee: No. I'm friends with everybody. Italians, most of and other nationalities, too. We get along very, very nice.

Interviewer: O.K. Most of your time though, who do you, what friends do you spend most of your time with? You have friends of all nationalities. What friends do you spend most of your time with?

Interviewee: The Italian, the Italian.

Interviewer: Is that because they have the same customs?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: Are these people from the same town?

Interviewee: No. Some they're not, but we still get along very good and they got their own custom. I think we feel better to be together.

Interviewer: In their families and in yours, from the time that you first came here from Italy have the way the children listen and pay respect to the parents and the way the parents treat the children, has it changed since that time that you came from Italy or is it the same now as it was then?

Interviewee: No, in the Italian family, they always the same. When the father's the head of the house, the kids they always listen to the father and the mother and they got the same respect from the old country.
Interviewer: So it hasn't changed?

Interviewee: No, not Italian family.

Interviewer: Do you, are the younger Italian people paying much attention to the older people? Do they listen to what they say?

Interviewee: Yes, they do.

Interviewer: They do?

Interviewee: They do.

Interviewer: You think so? They take advice and?

Interviewee: Yes. I don't mean they take all the advice but they still respect the old people and they listen to them what they got to say.

Interviewer: A lot of times you hear some of the old people say things that, you know, obviously are

Interviewee: Yeah, but still the young kids they listen and after this decide themselves what they want to do.

Interviewer: And who do you think?

Interviewee: I still think they respect them.

Interviewer: Who do you think usually wins out in which way the kids will go? The advice of the older people or from what they hear in schools or their own friends? Who do you think, which advice do you think is more important to them?

Interviewee: Well, about what?

Interviewer: Let's say about money, for instance.

Interviewee: About money, I think they think the old way is better than--know how to save, instead of spend foolish. I think that
they think about what the old folks tells them—to save
money instead of to spend foolish and the end of it won't
have nothing saved. So they're gonna listen to the old
Yes

Interviewer: The saving the money?
Interviewee: They should, anyway.

Interviewer: Well, do they? Do you think they do?
Interviewee: Well, some they do.

Interviewer: O.K. Do you go to church regularly?
Interviewee: Yeah.

Interviewer: About how often? Every Sunday?
Interviewee: Not every Sunday. Every other Sunday.

Interviewer: O.K. Which church is that?
Interviewee: Saint Bartholomev.

Interviewer: O.K. How important is the church to you? Not religion,
not Christianity but the church? Oh, someone at the door?
O.K. Like I was asking, how important is the church to you?
Not religion, not the ideas of Jesus Christ and whether
you believe in God, but the church—the priests, the pope,
the bishop, what they say? How important are they to you?

Interviewee: Well, I tell you the truth. I go to church because I
believe in God and I listen what the priest has got to say
about God's word. And I try to help, you know, send the
envelope and everything. That's the way I feel, I feel to
go to church just my obligation.

Interviewer: Do you listen to the priest the same way when he talks
about the word of God?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: As when he talks about budget and money?

Interviewee: No, unless when he talks about God word, that's it.

Interviewer: And when he talks about money you listen differently?

Interviewee: Well, when he talks about money I knew give my share and that's it. I don't listen no more.

Interviewer: O.K. How important is religion to you? I mean,

Interviewee: It's very important to be a religion person.

Interviewer: Religion is very important in your life?

Interviewee: Yes, yes. Even if I can't go every Sunday but I'm still very Catholic and I believe.

Interviewer: O.K. Let me turn the tape over.

Good. O.K. Right now, do you think of yourself as being more Italian or more American?

Interviewee: Well, half and half.

Interviewer: Half and half?

Interviewee: I'm still half and half. Half Italian, half from America.

Interviewer: O.K. How, you've been here how many years now?

Interviewee: 25 years.

Interviewer: 25 years. 25 years! Half and half, you're half American and half Italian?

Interviewee: Italian.

Interviewer: Right? There's not one is more that the other, just a little bit?

Interviewee: Well, I think America is a little more because I've been living in this country so much, so long and I still feel a little more America but I will never forget to be an Italian.
Interviewer: Would you ever go back to Italy?
Interviewee: To live?
Interviewer: No, just to visit?
Interviewee: Yes. I would like to go to visit but not to live in there. I would like to come take in the United States. I'm a citizen and I wanna come take over here.
Interviewer: Have you ever gone back to Italy?
Interviewee: Yes, four years ago.
Interviewer: Oh. How was the trip when you went to Italy?
Interviewee: Was very nice and I like it.
Interviewer: Was, were the people the same from when you left?
Interviewee: Yes, the people they were the same. They still warm people, very, very nice people.
Interviewer: What did you feel when you returned? Were you happy to see Italy again?
Interviewee: Yes, I was very happy. Very happy to see all the people, all the things that I remember when I was there. Was very nice.
Interviewer: Did you go back to your own hometown?
Interviewee: Yes.
Interviewer: Or did you go to all the cities?
Interviewee: I went all over. Went to Venice, went to Rome, Naples, Capri, Sorrento. It was very, very nice and I see a lot of old friends. They are really still nice people. They're really nice.
Interviewer: The Silver Lake area changed in the time that you've been here. Houses have been knocked down, houses have been built.

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: Did your hometown in Italy change at all?

Interviewee: Yes, it change a lot. The house, they all change, they got all brand new homes they got a lot of things like in the United States but the people are still the same.

Interviewer: Those people that you saw now in not too long ago, four years ago, in Italy, do they compare to the people in Federal Hill or are the Federal Hill people, Italians different than the Italians in Italy, in your hometown?

Interviewee: No, I think about the same. They're still the same Italian people, yeah.

Interviewer: There's that friendliness in other words?

Interviewee: Yes, very, very friendly, very. They're very warm people.

Interviewer: How did you change? You came here when you were 19. How did you change by coming to America and living here all this time? Do you find any big difference between you and people that you knew in Italy? I mean when you compare yourself to them? Do you think they're different than you a lot, very much different now or do you think now that you're still basically the same people anyways?

Interviewee: No. I might change. I change because I take an America way and the way they do in this country and when I went back I find different but the people who are the same.
It's me that I change. I change in more an America way but the people in the old country is the same way and we over here we more I think advanced and that's why you find a difference, but the people over there are the same.

Interviewer: What are some of those give me examples of some of the differences that, you know, they're more advanced maybe in some things.?

Interviewee: Oh, I don't know. I mean when I was over there, they don't have no cars. Today, they got car. They don't have no frigidaire, they don't have no stove years ago. They got all these beautiful things that's not in the house that when I was over there they don't have it. They got a lot of beautiful things that years ago they don't have it. They change about these things but the people are the same, yeah.

Interviewer: O.K. What did you like best about America? Was it, was it that, the availability of all these things that you didn't have in Italy? Was it the community? Was it the idea of the government, the way things are done here, the mentality? What do you think?

Interviewee: Well, I like America, there's a lot of things. I like the house, first things, the way they are made. They are so different from Italy. I like everything about it. It's so different from the old country. It's something different and I like. I don't know the people are free, the people are, they can do, they can talk about what they want and they are a lot of American people they're very warm
the Italian but they're warm. They're very nice people, that's it. I like it.

Interviewer: If you had it all over to do again, let's say this was 25 years ago when you were just coming over to America. Do you, would you choose to live in Federal Hill now that you know how things?

Interviewee: Yes, that's the first thing I will do. I would go live up Federal Hill.

Interviewer: Really?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: Why?

Interviewee: I don't know. It's something, Federal Hill, it just seems that you live in the old country years ago.

Interviewer: More than this area?

Interviewee: Yes. Silver Lake is Italian but Federal Hill is more close to where we come from, from Italy, yeah.

Interviewer: Do you think Federal Hill is going to always be that way?

Interviewee: I hope so.

Interviewer: Hope so?

Interviewee: I hope so.

Interviewer: Do you think anything might change it?

Interviewee: Well, even if it changes a little bit but I hope all the Italian people there should keep it like that. For the Italian people that's the, the atmosphere is all Italian over there. When you go over there it seems like you just like in Italy. It's so nice for us Italian people.
Well, you know they're gonna put a lot of money into it.
Yeah, I know.
Make a lot more parking. Do you think this is going to make it, keep it the Italian, make it more Italian or make it less Italian because of all the business that'll go through there?
No, no make it more Italian.
More Italian?
Yes.
Think so?
More business, more Italian to go over there, yeah.
Think more non-Italians might go there?
Yes. Other nationality they go over there, too.
That won't hurt it, then, you don't think?
No. I think will be good idea.
O.K. That's it, thank you.