10-30-1975

Italian Women and Girls: Interview with Gemma Angelino by Carmela Santoro

Gemma Angelino

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.ric.edu/women

Part of the Social and Cultural Anthropology Commons

Recommended Citation

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Ethnic Heritage Studies Project at Digital Commons @ RIC. It has been accepted for inclusion in Italian Women and Girls by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ RIC. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@ric.edu.
NAME OF INTERVIEWEE: Gemma Angelino

INTERVIEWER: 

DATE OF INTERVIEW: October 30, 1975

SUBJECTS COVERED

Life in Italy—school, family

Impressions of America

Education, career plans

Recreation

Expectations about U.S.
Jenna Gemma
Anna Angelino

October 30, 1975
Central High School

Q: How old were you when you came here?
A: I think I was 10½.

Q: How long have you been here?
A: Almost three years.

Q: Tell us a little about your town.
A: Tusscarola. It was a big town. I liked it. Near the city of Naples.

Q: What did your father do? Your mother?
A: He was a farmer. My mother was at home.

Q: How many children?
A: Six.

Q: Tell me about school there.
A: I liked it. There was a man teacher.

Q: Did you come here with your parents.
A: My father came here six months before we did. I came with my mother and the other children.

Q: Was there anybody else here besides your father?
A: My aunt.

Q: Do you know why your father came here?
A: To see how it was. He liked it. He sent for us.

Q: And where are you living now?
A:

Q: Do you remember when you first came here?
A: Yes. It was cold.
Q: You came by plane into Boston, what was your first impression?
A: The houses were smaller. We arrived on Friday and I went to school on Monday. I went to Kenyon first, then ________ then Central.

Q: What do you like about school?
A: 

Q: What do you want to do when you grow up?
A: I want to be a stewardess.

Q: Are you planning to continue in school?
A: Yes. Not after high school.

Q: Do you speak Italian at home?
A: Yes. Dialect. My little brother doesn't speak too much.

Q: What does your father and mother do here?
A: My father works in jewelry. My mother does not work.

Q: Did you have any difficulty when you first went to school here?
A: No.

Q: Did the children treat you different because you spoke Italian?
A: They treated me better.

Q: Would you rather work or go to school?
A: I work after school as a waitress.

Q: What do you do for fun?
A: I do housework, go to work.

Q: Do you go to the movies.
A: No.
Q: Are you happy?
A: Yes.
Q: No clubs?
A: No.
Q: How about politics?
A: Not really.
Q: What things do you like?
A: I don't know. I sew. I cook.
Q: Have you been back to Italy?
A: My mother and father have, everybody is there.
Q: Do you miss Italy?
A: Yes. My friends, my aunt.
Q: What do you like about Providence?
Q: Are you planning to go back?
A: I don't know.
Q: What do you like best about the U.S.?
A: Everything is different. School. It's harder. (in Italy)
Q: Are you a good student?
A: Pretty good.
Q: Is there anything about the U.S. you don't like?
A: No.
Q: What did you expect when you came here?
A: I expected something smaller.
Q: Do you see yourself as Italian or American?
A: Italian.
Q: What does it mean to be Italian?
A: I don't know. Because I was born there.
Because I'm fat.

Q: What does it mean to be American?
A: If you are born here. They are proud.

Q: Do you know what Italians did of importance in the world?
A: They discovered America. They went to war.

Q: Suppose you had to make the decision to come here would you?
A: Yes. If I liked it I'd stay.

Q: Do you like it to stay?
A: Both.