10-24-1975

Italian Women and Girls: Interview with Irene Gianfrancesco by Carmela Santoro

Irene Gianfrancesco

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.
Return trip to Italy

Impressions of U.S.

Schooling

Recreation

Comparison on U.S. and Italy
Irene Gianfrancesco  
October 24, 1975  
M. Bove School

Q: How old were you when you came to the U.S.?
A: Five.

Q: How many years ago was that?
A: Six.

But I was back there last year.

Q: What did you remember of where you came from?
A: There was a fountain in our town and I remember going for it and hurting my finger.

Q: Is Fonte Grega a small town?
A: Yes.

Q: What do the people do there?
A: They wash the clothes at the fountain and the men feed the animals. There is a place at the end of the city far from my house where all the singers and movies come.

Q: What did your father do there?
A: He worked in the fields.

Q: Your mother?
A: She stayed at home.

Q: How many children were in your family?
A: Three children. My grandmother and grandfather are in Italy. Also my aunt and cousins. It's mostly my mother's family in Italy. My father's family is in the U.S.

Q: So you came here to stay?
A: Yes, I think.
Q: Do you feel that your family is going to stay here?
A: Yes.
Q: Did your parents become citizens?
A: Yes.
Q: Are you?
A: I don't know.
Q: Would you want to become a citizen?
A: I think so.
Q: Did your family go back to Italy with you?
A: Yes, my whole family. My father didn't want to come but we forced him. We stayed the summer. We went to other cities too. We went to Rome and Tivoli.
Q: Did anything strike you there?
A: I remembered my house. It seemed strange. I only remembered my house well.
Q: Did you miss the family?
A: Yes.
Q: You were young when you came here, but what are your impressions?
A: Over here they don't have fountains, but washing machines.
They don't have fireplaces in Italy. It's much more hilly there.
Q: What do you find different here?
A: They don't have lots of lights (Rocky Point?)
Q: Did things seemed strange to you there?
A: Somewhat.
Q: You speak English well, where did you learn?
A: My brother learns fast, but it took me three or four weeks. I heard people and some at school. I was in preprimary.
Q: Did you start school right away here?
A: I don't think so.
Q: Have you gone to this school all along?
A: No, I first went to Vissi Street School?
Q: How many years?
A: One.
Q: How many years here?
A: I'm in sixth. I think I came here first.
Q: Did somebody meet you when you came here?
A: Yes, in Boston. We went by plane.
Q: Where are you living?
A: On ______Street. It's their home.
Q: What does your father do here?
A: He's a carpenter. My mother works at a jewelry shop.
Q: How do you happen to come to this school?
A: My mother wanted me to. I wanted to go to Hopkins.
Q: Are you unhappy that you're not at Hopkins?
A: No.
Q: What do you do here for fun?
A: My homework and then clean the house before my mother gets home from work.
Q: Do you go to movies or dances?
A: We have a place (club) where we go to eat and dance. All Italian people mostly. Sometimes we go to Guiliano's.
Q: What do you like best about school?
A: Art. Math's not that bad.
Q: Do you have any ideas about what you'd like to be when you grow up?
A: I wanted to be a nurse but changed my mind. I might want to be a teacher, but it's hard.
Q: What do you think of Providence?
A: It's okay.
Q: Compared to other places in Italy?
A: I like better in Italy.
Q: What is it about Italy you like?
A: You can have a lot of fun. You can go places. Feed the animals. Wash the clothes. I use to have a cat in Italy, but he's dead. My dog is still living. He didn't remember me.
Q: Are people there more friendly?
A: Yes.
Q: Suppose you could make the decision to come here yourself, would you?
A: Not without my mother and father. If I were older I might go back to my cousins in Italy. My family being there is very important to me.
Q: Where do you plan to go after this?
A: To Classical. My brother goes to Hope. I would rather go to Hope, but my brother said it isn't good over there.

Q: Are you planning on going to college?
A: I don't know.

Q: Are you a good student?
A: Not that good.

Q: Do the children in school treat you differently because you are from Italy?
A: No. Sometimes they ask me what it was like.

Q: Do you like being Italian? Do you consider yourself Italian?
A: Yes.

Q: Do you speak it at home?
A: Yes. My mother doesn't understand American. My father can understand, but mostly Italian.

Q: Is this a dialect?
A: Yes.

Q: Are you studying Italian here?
A: No. I want to, but it's for the upper grades.

Q: What do you like best about the U.S.?
A: Nice things over here. Not many stairs. They have things like Rocky Point and the beaches. They have beaches in Italy though. They have all kinds of parks here. There are lots of animals and gardens.

Q: Is there anything you are disappointed in here?
A: No, not really.