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Federal Hill Project: Interview with Henry Marciano by Maria C. Iadeluca - June 13, 1978 - TAPE 17

Henry Marciano

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Oral History Interview

with

HENRY MARCIANO

June 13, 1978
C.E.N.O.
Providence, R. I.

By Maria C. Iadeluca

INTERVIEWER: How are you Mr. Marciano?

INTERVIEWEE: Fine, thank you.

INTERVIEWER: Whey you born in Italy?

INTERVIEWEE: I was born in Naples, near the Vomero. My father was working there for the American government. He met my mother, they got married and 9 months thereafter I came into the world.

He lived there for many years. He traveled all over Italy from the North to Sicily. My father knows Italy well. He has a degree in Pharmacy and we then came to live in the United States.

INTERVIEWER: How old were you when you came to the United States?

INTERVIEWEE: I was 2 years old when I came. Then I went back when I was 5 years. I lived with my mother in Genoa for 3 years. Then we returned here and I began my first year of school. In fact, everybody believed that I
was a fool because I could not express myself.

INTERVIEWER: Was this a psychological trauma for you?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes it was a trauma. I felt more Italian than I did American. And I often wondered why we had to come back.

INTERVIEWER: You mean coming back to America?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, in fact we were supposed to come here with the Andrea Doria but because my mother did not want to leave her mother, we waited a week longer and this is why I am here, because the Andrea Doria (which left anyways, as scheduled) drowned on that trip.

INTERVIEWER: What was your first impression? You said that you started the first grade, what did you think then?

INTERVIEWEE: My first impression was that the americans are not civilized people, they think they own the world, and they know it all. Anyone else coming from another place knows nothing. They used to call me "greenhorn", I would hear them while walking on the sidewalks, they would refer to me as a "greenhorn".

INTERVIEWER: What was your reaction to this?

INTERVIEWEE: I used to tell my mother, but she could not speak English too good so she could not come and talk to my teacher. My father then had a different job, he used to work day and evenings, and he, too, could not come to school.

INTERVIEWER: Was there anyone else who could speak your language and could help you?
INTERVIEWEE: No, and this was a real problem. There were many other children who didn't speak English and they were put in a special room called "ungrading room". I wasn't there because I could speak a little bit. Those other children used to ask me "why are we in this special class? we are not fools". I used to reply "may be because you do not yet speak English".

I remember during my 7th grade, the teacher said that Giovanni Cabotta was an Englishman and he sailed for England. I used to tell her she was wrong that Giovanni Cabotta was an Italian. She used to call him "Cabot". So, she sent me down to the director's office. The director was an italo-american lady. The day after I reported to her and I explained to her the reason of my argument with the teacher.

I attended that school for 6 years. The 6 years of the grammar school.

INTERVIEWER: Let's talk about your school friend. Did you associate with italian children for the most part?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, mostly italo-americans. There were no children where I lived who spoke italian, but they did come from italian families.

INTERVIEWER: How come you associated with them? Was there something that kept you together?

INTERVIEWEE: No, not really. But they lived there and where I live there are italians.
INTERVIEWER: Where do you live?

INTERVIEWEE: I live near Eagle Park; the street is Devonshire Street; not too far from Providence College. Over there almost everybody is Italian. I was never one who knows only Italian people, though. I consider myself more 'cosmopolitan'.

INTERVIEWER: You mentioned that you have gone to Italy several times, when did you go last?

INTERVIEWEE: I return there every 2 years for the summer. My uncle is the captain of a ship. When I was younger, he used to come to Boston or New York and he would take me back to Italy with him.

INTERVIEWER: When you return to Italy in what city do you usually stay?

INTERVIEWEE: Almost always in Genoa. From there I then go to La Spezia where my uncle and aunt live. But I have visited all of Italy.

INTERVIEWER: Let's talk about Genoa. From a social and political point of view, how do you find Genoa?

INTERVIEWEE: Economically good. When I was last there things were fine. The only thing is that, it being a seaport, it seems dirtier each time I go. Historically it is beautiful. It's the city where Cristofono Colombo came from; therefore, very important.

INTERVIEWER: What can you tell me about the people of Genoa: "i genovesi"

INTERVIEWEE: The Genovesi "tengono la mano stretta" (they are rather stingy). They feel superior over the Italians from the South.
INTERVIEWER: Is there "still alive" the difference between the North and the South?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, very much so; because when I was there I talked to several people about this: some where my friends others where just people on the streets. The genovesi claimed that the Southeners have everything. I used to say: "how do you explain then the fact that more southeners have to go to America, Germany, Switzerland, and South America to work?" But the genovesi have their own ideas and it is difficult to change them. I have also talked with those from the South and they say that the Northeners are stingy.

INTERVIEWER: This is a problem which has been in existence for many years!

INTERVIEWEE: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: When you recently returned this problem between North and South was still "alive"?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, but today there is more respect for ideas. The young people of today say that the future will change into better for the South because the South for too many years has been "stepped on" by the North. The North has always had more: industries, better schools...

INTERVIEWER: When you return to Genoa, what do you do there? How do you spend your time?

INTERVIEWEE: I spend my time with my friends and my cousins, Grazia and Anna Maria, my friends, Mario, Riccardo; they take
me around, we travel, we go to the night clubs. Then I spend at least a week in La Spezia, with my relatives and there I go to the beach.

INTERVIEWER: During your stay at Genoa, are there any particular traditional festivities?

INTERVIEWEE: No, there isn't any particular festivities, but often when I go there is a musical festival "Cantagiro"; all the Italian groups and singers perform free for the people. I have been there listening to singers such as, Gianni Morandi, Peppino di Capri, Patty Pravo and many more.

INTERVIEWER: In returning to Providence, do you take with you any traditions or customs?

INTERVIEWEE: Not really, except for the fact that when I go in Italy I always come back with tailored Italian clothes because I like the Italian style. I do not take other things with me because I noticed that the mentality of the American people is very "shut", very "cold", not civil. The American thinks he is the best and you cannot argue with him.

When my mother came here for the first time she arrived in New York.

INTERVIEWER: Did she come by boat?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, by boat.

INTERVIEWER: What was her impression of New York?

INTERVIEWEE: She looked at the skyscrapers and said: "they are geometrically perfect, but they don't talk, they don't hear". This is something I can understand very well.
INTERVIEWEE: In Italy the architecture is part of the art of the whole country. But in this country the art is missing. One can travel anywhere in Italy and find art everywhere; from the small village to the big city.

INTERVIEWER: Are you talking about architectural art?

INTERVIEWEE: Architectural art, sculptural art, painting (art).

INTERVIEWER: You mentioned of your interest in the Italian singers and their songs, do you remember some of the old songs from Italy?

INTERVIEWEE: I remember one my mother used to sing:

"Quel mazzolin di fiori,
che vien dalla montagna......."

INTERVIEWER: Yes, that is a typical one.

INTERVIEWEE: My mother also used to sing:

"Gatto mio, gatto mio,
quanto bello e liscio sei,
ma son bello e liscio anch'io
ne' con te mi cambierei
ma nel mondo non v'è gatto piu' gentile, piu' ben fatto......."

I don't remember the rest of the song.

INTERVIEWER: Very Good!

INTERVIEWEE: I know of another one:

"ninna ninna ninna -o'-
questo bimbo a chi lo do'
lo daro' alla befana
che lo tiene una settimana
lo daro' ad un uomo nero
che lo tiene pe un anno intero

...........

I don't remember all of it.

INTERVIEWER: How old were you when you learned these songs?

INTERVIEWEE: 2 or 3 years old.

INTERVIEWER: I notice, you have been very close to your mother. Let's talk about her. Besides New York what was her first impression here? Did she come directly to Rhode Island?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, she came to Rhode Island but she never liked Rhode Island neither did she like New York nor America. Her dream is to return to Italy to live with her mother and her brother. This is something I can understand because she has no one here except my father and I.

INTERVIEWER: How does your mother consider herself?

INTERVIEWEE: She considers herself to be an Italian, never an American. She told me that when she dies, she wants to be buried in Italy, not here.

INTERVIEWER: How do you consider yourself?

INTERVIEWEE: I feel the same: as my mother!

Even though I went to school here and I lived here almost all my life I, too, want to return because the Italian life is different. Although now there are many political problems, like "the Brigate Rosse" and so on, Italy for me is always my favorite place in the world.

I remember once in returning to America, I was on
the plane overlooking the mountains outside Milan, I said "Some day I will return here". This is hard to explain to an american, but may be you understand me. Italy is for me like a first mother; America is like a step-mother; it is not my true mother. I think I have been pulled out (like a plant) from my "paese" and I have been re-planted in another country. It is something that hurts very much.

INTERVIEWER: What is the real difference you find here? What do you find hard to adjust to?

INTERVIEWEE: The difference is in the life style. Here one lives like an animal. Life is tough. Here one thinks only about the money, about making money, as the say in Genoa "palanche" (to mean 'money'). In Italy people are different they don't "give a dam" about the money. They think more about "living" rather than "making" money. The difference would be as follows:

(example)

"we have two engineers: one italian, the other american. If the american has to solve a problem (problem-relating to construction) and it is a beautiful day out, he will be there all day long to solve the problem. On the other hand the italian, looking out the window, noticing the sun out would say: well, I'll come back tomorrow"
to solve the problem and today I enjoy life."

This is the difference between an Italian and American.

They could teach the Americans "how to live" and we could teach them how to "organize", because Italy is "scombussolata", messy; it is not well organized like our country (America). But the Italians don't care about organization, they want to enjoy life.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think that the Italians in a sense are.... (interviewer was suddenly interrupted).

INTERVIEWEE: They are more human!

INTERVIEWER: In talking about school, you went to elementary school here in America?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, then I went to a Catholic high school: La Salle, then to Providence College and obtained the B.A. in Political Science. When I was chosen to go to Providence College I studied Medicine.

INTERVIEWER: Quite a change: Medicine to Political Science!

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, because after a while I "got sick" of always having to cut up cats, and other animals. I wanted the study the human body and I "was sick" of doing these things on the bodies of the animals; so I decided to change and took on the studies of Law and Political Science. After Providence College I was chosen to go to George Washington University
to study law to become a lawyer, but after that
my father took an heart attack and I didn't go.
Thereafter, I received my B.A., but there was no
jobs so I went back to school.

INTERVIEWER: What school did you return to?

INTERVIEWEE: Providence College; and I took a B.A. in Education
to teach History, American History and now I still
go to school for the Master Degree. I started my
M.A. courses to become a Director of the School, but
again, there is no jobs, so I took interest in the
Advertising field.

INTERVIEWER: How come you attended private institutions? Such
as La Salle and P.C. Why this preference?

INTERVIEWEE: For no reason, really. When I entered High School,
to attend La Salle a test was required and because
so many of my friends went there, I thought of
going with them. I could also have gone to Classical
but I chose La Salle with the idea that a catholic
school would teach me better. Classical, being a
public school, might have had those students who didn't
really want to learn. But in a catholic school if one
doesn't want to learn he will be expelled.
I then went to PC and not because it is a private
school, but rather because I live near PC and I
wasn't the type to make a long trip to Texas or
California to go to school. I figured, there is an
university here, so I'll go here.
INTERVIEWER: Where you satisfied?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, it was a good school. I've had very intelligent professors and I think they have taught me well.

INTERVIEWER: During the years in school did you meet other italians?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, in some classes there were boys who came from Italy. One of them was an american citizen, but was born in Italy. He participated in the Vietnam war. I don't know how he felt but he had to leave school to go to Vietnam. I was lucky they did not choose me. They then had a system of the numbers, and my number was not picked.

INTERVIEWER: You have not been in the war?

INTERVIEWEE: No.

INTERVIEWER: Did you participate in activities extra-curriculum during your years at the University?

INTERVIEWEE: Only in a club, an italian club; I was the secretary. At the university I liked to study more than to do social things. Instead in high school I was a member of different sport groups.

INTERVIEWER: Which is your favorite sport?

INTERVIEWEE: I would like to know how to play soccer, but because I do not live in Italy, I cannot play it too good. The american sport I like is football. I don't like baseball because it takes so many hours before someone throws the ball and someone else hits it--it never ends.
Now that I'm older, I like to swim, to play tennis or skiing because there is not too much competition. I never liked too much competition.

INTERVIEWER: During your years in school did you work?
INTERVIEWEE: Yes, I worked in a hospital because as I said before I wanted to become a doctor.

INTERVIEWEE: Which hospital?
INTERVIEWEE: It is no longer an hospital but the name of it was Chafen hospital; it was an hospital for "mentally disturbed people".

INTERVIEWER: What was your duty there?
INTERVIEWEE: I was a nurse's aide.

INTERVIEWER: Did you like this work?
INTERVIEWEE: I didn't like what I had to do; but I liked talking to the sick people. Because I learned so many things which happen to those people; why they become ill. I noticed that those who become mentally ill are intelligent people or those people who work to help others. For example, teachers, policemen, school professors, doctors because they are always worried about helping others and after a while these worries become too heavy, too serious and this affects their brains.

INTERVIEWER: What else have you done as far ad jobs are concerned?
INTERVIEWEE: I worked for Father Concordia, a priest; I worked there after school, helping black children.

INTERVIEWER: Was the majority of the children black?
INTERVIEWEE: Yes, they were all black. This was a community combined of black people. This is another thing I
noticed about this country. As I said before, this country is not too civilized. (I remember even when I was younger), they always talk about democracy, freedom for all. I used to say, "is there freedom for the indian, is there freedom for a black". The indian is a true american and yet he is not part of the american life, he is kept away, he is on a "reservation", as they say it. One day, I remember the teacher got mad. The teacher in school would say that this was the country of "opportunity". I used to say "no", the teacher would look at me and say "why do you say no". I would reply "the opportunity is where you find it". Can we say that this was a country of opportunity for the indian, for the black, and for so many others who have sacrificed their lives like Sacco and Vanzetti who were innocent and they were killed. For me this is not a country of "opportunity". Then they would say "this is the best country in the world", I would contest that. Well, it is the best country in the world for an american, but for an italian, Italy is the best country in the world, for a german, Germany is the best, for a Spanish, Spain is, for a frenchman, France is and so on. This is something relative. They would look at me as if I was the fool; I would think that they were the fools (my teacher and the classmates).

INTERVIEWER: I think that the answer relies in the fact that, Italy
(geographically speaking) being closely surrounded by other countries has more of an opportunity to know those people from the countries around it, whereas America (geographically) appears to be more isolated.

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, but America is a country where there is so much hatred; not only for the blacks or for the indians but also for the italians, for the polacs, for the frenches, for the irishes, for all. For example, on TV when they show an irishman they symbolize him as being always drunk and as a policeman he is dumb; an italian is always shown as a gangster. The audience will get the idea that all italians are crooks or gangsters. This is not true, many of them came here as honest working people, and many of them have contributed so much to this country. I can now think of Enrico Fermi. If it wasn't for Fermi americans could have not won the war against Japan, Italy and Germany. So many people who built Washington, D.C., are italians. For example, the monument to Abraham Lincoln was built by an italian. The churches in America, too were built by italians; the marble came from Italy. But they want to make everybody think that italians are a group of "riffraffs" mafiosi who want to kill and steal from everybody. This is not true. Regardless of my being italian, I think that if one takes away the history of Italy from the pages of
history books, today we would be in the time of the Middle Ages because Italy has contributed so much to the history of the world. The Romans have given the laws which say "a man is innocent until proved guilty".

INTERVIEWER: You are talking about the contributions of the Italians to the United States and the world. More specifically speaking are there particular communities in Providence where this feeling of "being Italian" is greatly elevated? For example, I live in Federal Hill and I noticed that you have been very active in the community of Federal Hill, in fact you have been director of the Tutorial Center. Talk about this Tutorial Center, of its aim, its function in the Federal Hill community.

INTERVIEWEE: Before working at the Tutorial Center I worked for a center which name is C.E.N.O. There I used to help children, boys and girls who had failed in school. I tried to help them. The reason why I did this work is because Federal Hill is an Italian community, those are people of my same blood, and because I am Italian I don't want to see those people mistreated. I know that many from Federal Hill do not have a high education.

INTERVIEWER: Excuse me please, by "education" do you mean "scholastic instruction"?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, I do not mean "civil education" but rather "scholastic". I take in consideration the fact that
these children's parents did not go very far in school, so I would like to make sure that the children have more opportunity to better themselves, more opportunity than their parents had.

Many people feel that Federal Hill is and has always been a "bad place", a place for the mafia, a place where there is only gangsters. I must say that Federal Hill is a civilized place; a place where one can walk on its streets without worrying about being assaulted, robbed or mistreated. On Federal Hill one can still hear the italian language spoken among the older people; not too often among the younger people, although some of the young people speak it, too. This makes me very content. Federal Hill is also one of the few places where one can buy the italian newspaper and learn of what happens in Italy, because this information about Italy cannot be obtained from the TV or radio. On Federal Hill there is Leo where one can obtain italian papers.

INTERVIEWER: Which italian newspaper are you referring to?

INTERVIEWEE: As a newspaper: Il Progresso, then there are magazines, such as, Oggi, Epoca, and also Quattroruote (when they have it), this is a magazine which features italian sport cars and italian cars are my passion.

INTERVIEWER: Federal Hill is said to be a community for older italians, first generation italians. How do the
young people consider Federal Hill?

INTERVIEWER: I think the young generation was trying to get away from it to go to places such as California, Boston, New York because Federal Hill had nothing to offer them. I think that now things will change: things are changing on Federal Hill. For example: Atwells Avenue is under construction; there will be open-markets selling vegetables and fruits just like when they had the "push-cars" years ago.

There are houses which have been re-built by an organization: New Homes for Federal Hill. This organization has had success in building new houses and repairing old ones. I notice that some young people want to come back to live on Federal Hill. This leads me to believe that things will change for the better for this community.

We now have Mayor Cianci. He has some "feeling" for Federal Hill. During the Doorley administration, he wanted to ruin Federal Hill. I had some friends who lived on Spruce Street. Their house is no longer there. Where their house used to be, there is now "un grande buco" (an empty lot). They have destroyed these houses because a highway supposedly will be built there. This highway will be 10 years late. To think that all those people are no longer there.

INTERVIEWER: These people, where they forced to leave?
INTERVIEWEE: Yes, they forced to leave. Now, though I see much construction taking place and I trust things will change and Federal Hill will have its period of "Renaissance".

INTERVIEWER: You talked about organizations such as, New Homes for Federal Hill and C.E.N.O. What is C.E.N.O.? What do the initial stand for?

INTERVIEWEE: C.E.N.O. stands for Congress of Ethnic Neighborhood Organization.

INTERVIEWER: What is its function?

INTERVIEWEE: The function changed. At the time of its beginning C.E.N.O.'s aim was to organize those who live on Federal Hill such as tenants against landlords who own houses on Federal Hill but do not live here. They let the houses go un-repaired therefore making the tenant's living conditions difficult. Now, C.E.N.O. still maintains this function but it has directed itself toward the cultural field, too. Also, toward gardens and crops planting; it also directs the italian page of the Echo which material is supplied by children attending Kenyon Street School, bilingual class.

INTERVIEWER: What is The Echo? Is it an italo-american newspaper?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, it is an italo-american newspaper. It presents news about Providence. More than any other italian community, Federal Hill maintains "il sentimento italiano". But it is nothing like before. If one would really like to see "il
sentimento italiano", I think he should go to Boston in the North End. There young people talk italiano. The North End is like Federal Hill used to be when I was young.

**INTERVIEWER:** What are the differences between before and today. According to you, what has changed?

**INTERVIEWEE:** When I was a young boy on Federal Hill the italiano language was spoken more often. There were more boys and girls of the same age who came from Italy and would talk italiano with one another. Today the italiano race is not like that of those days, I'm talking about 10-15 years ago. Now people from Italy come to Federal Hill, they stay, but then they move away to other areas. I knew someone who lived on Federal Hill, he moved to Valley Street, which is not too far from Federal Hill, but he moved, too, I do not know why.

**INTERVIEWER:** What do you think are the reasons why these people leave Federal Hill. Let's say that we are witnessing two "moves": those who come, they establish here, live here (on Federal Hill) for a certain amount of years and then they go elsewhere; others, instead, come here from suburban areas and would like to live here. How do you explain this phenomenon?

**INTERVIEWEE:** For a long time this community has been considered a "bad place" where the mafia and the bookkies are; many were ashamed of being italians, so they moved away.
INTERVIEWER: Why would they feel ashamed?

INTERVIEWEE: I really don't know; but I can tell you this: in my family (my father's side) my father is happy to be an Italian and feels Italian; but his own brother is ashamed of being Italian, because he says when he was small, Italian children were mistreated, he doesn't want to be Italian; he wants to be considered only an American. Instead, my father who traveled in Italy, who lived in Italy is happy to be an Italian.

Among Italians I noticed that there are those who are ashamed of being Italian and those who are honored to be Italian.

INTERVIEWER: By the way you are talking, I gather that these people decide to feel Italian or not to feel Italian according to the experiences they lived.

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, exactly.

Here on Federal Hill there are some people who were not even born in Italy, and during the festivals they wear shirts saying "I'm Italian", or they wear shirts with the Italian flag to say that they are Italian, but they know nothing of Italy. They only have an Italian name. I'm not talking about everybody on Federal Hill. There are some who know about Italy. Some who were born there, or traveled there. But there is always that small group of people who know nothing, they think they know everything, but they don't.
I think that some people lived here years ago, they succeeded and they didn't want to stay here on Federal Hill, so they moved to Cranston, Warwick, etc., now they hear that Federal Hill is "re-born" so they want to come back here, the place they walked away from!

The reason for this is as follows: people who do not live on Federal Hill, call it the "Italian ghetto" because it is a place where most italian live. According to me, Federal Hill is not a ghetto. It is a community very "close knitted" where the families have known each other for many years, and it is almost like being in Italy because if one goes away from Federal Hill and moves to Cranston most likely he does not know who is his next-door neighbor and does not care about it. Instead on Federal Hill they are all friends. If one has a problem he can go to the other house and talk about his problem because they are friends.

INTERVIEWER: Are they very "uniti"? (meaning 'very close').

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, "molto uniti" like in Italy. Jealous yes, but very close. A strange thing, but true. I noticed that italians are jealous people among their own families, too, but if there is a crisis of any kind, they are always close.

INTERVIEWER: What are the traditions which the people of Federal Hill have taken with them and continue to practice?
INTERVIEWEE: The most important value they took with them is the "value of life". Life for them is more important than money. People who live on Federal Hill are working people: they work in factories. They want to have some "good time". For example, St. John Church will now have the feast of the Madonna. This shows that it is very important for them to party ("festeggiare") and have some contentment in life because without contentment there is nothing.

INTERVIEWER: Are there any associations or italian clubs on Federal Hill?

INTERVIEWEE: There is the club Circolo Giovanni XXIII (Holy Ghost Church Club); there are clubs for those who play soccer; there is the Verdi Club; there is the Sons Of Italy Club on Broadway. Also the Federal Hill House, which many years ago was there to help those arriving from Italy who could not speak the language. Today's Federal Hill House doesn't help the immigrants because there aren't as many now; it now has social functions to help children at "day care centers"; they have gatherings for "older people", etc.

INTERVIEWER: Are you working now? Where do you work?

INTERVIEWEE: When I work, I work as the Director of Federal Hill Tutorial Center; or I work as a teacher. Some time
ago I stopped working for a while so that I may return to school and complete my degree in Advertising. I would then work for an Advertising Agency or a tourism agency. My dream is to work for a tourism agency possibly taking people to Italy so that my dream about returning to Italy will be realized.

INTERVIEWER: How do you spend your free time?

INTERVIEWEE: I go to the beach; it is the only place where I feel tranquil: there, looking at the sea, listening to the sea, the voice of the sea and the seagulls flying over it.

INTERVIEWER: You mentioned several organizations. Are you a member of any of them?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, I'm on the Board of Directors for New Homes for Federal Hill. I belong to the Knights of Columbus, of Colombo I shall say because it is Cristofono Colombo and not Christopher Columbus. When I was younger I'd hear the teacher talk about this. If I had an English name or Irish, the pronunciation would be exact: McKenzie, O'Connell but my name is Marciano and they would pronounce it Marsiano: why couldn't they say it right. I always used to get mad at that. May be it was because they did not know the Italian language and because my name is Latin or derives from Latin. This proves how educated they were.

INTERVIEWER: You have much familiarity with the Italian language. Do you speak it often?

INTERVIEWEE: Almost never!
INTERVIEWER: Where did you learn it?

INTERVIEWEE: I learned it when I returned to Italy at 5 years old. I studied the grammar (a little bit) during high school. I also learn it when I return on my trips.

INTERVIEWER: You don't speak Italian with your mother?

INTERVIEWEE: Only when we are alone or we don't want anybody to know it. When my friends come over my house, they do not know how to speak Italian. This is something sad for me because knowing Italian but not being able to practice it enough, I could forget it.

I know I make "big" mistakes with the conjugation of the verbs, but I can talk.

INTERVIEWER: Do you spend a lot of time with your family and friends?

INTERVIEWEE: Friends are rare, I mean those who can be called friends are very rare. Some say they are your friends but they are not.

INTERVIEWER: How is your relation with the people of Federal Hill?

INTERVIEWEE: A very nice one; they know I talk Italian and they appreciate that. Of course, I'm close to the people of Federal Hill.

AT THIS POINT 7 minutes of the conversation are omitted due to the fact that it is impossible to distinguish the words.

INTERVIEWER: What do you think of the Italian man and his religion?

INTERVIEWEE: I think the Italian man believes in God but he does not believe in the Church. The Church has always been mixed with the Italian politics.
INTERVIEWER: Do you go to church regularly?
INTERVIEWEE: I do as Caesar did; I believe in God yes, but the church is a social thing.

INTERVIEWER: Religion for you is of a relative importance?
INTERVIEWEE: I think the priests say one thing and do another. I once wanted to become a priest but when I realized how they do their work I changed my mind. My grandfather when he died he had a monk bless him because he did not like priests.

THE FOLLOWING is a summary of additional 15 minutes of this tape.

INTERVIEWER: In talking about the woman in general, here in America the woman seems to have more than just the role of a mother. Do you find this different in the woman in Italy?

INTERVIEWER: The woman has changed everywhere. I must say that I am a "chauvinist pig". I want the woman to be under the man. There are duties the woman only can perform, such as changing diapers, feeding the baby.

INTERVIEWER: What do you think about raising the children?
INTERVIEWEE: Also, the mother is the one who should raise the children up until they are 12-13 years old. Although both parents could raise them, too. The father can come into the picture when he can take the boy hunting, fishing, etc., and also spend some time with the girls.
However, the woman should dedicate herself to the family entirely, the family should be her reign and the man should be the king of this reign. The man has to feel "the boss".

What if unluckily on his job he has a female boss; he then goes home and his wife is the boss; poor him, if he can be the king of his own reign (meaning his family) what will he be the king of?

INTERVIEWER: According to you a woman should not have other interests but that of a mother and a wife?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, a woman is to stay home; I said before I am a chauvenist pig and I feel that a woman's place is in the house like my mother's place was always in the house and she is a good mother and a good wife.

INTERVIEWER: If both husband and wife work, do you think the husband could help her?

INTERVIEWEE: Yes, but he could never wash dishes. She would have to do that.

INTERVIEWER: Years ago parents decided what the child would become as an adult. Do you think that this would be possible today?

INTERVIEWEE: It was nice that way, but today this does not happen. Although I think that children should be able to decide who to become once they are adults. They should choose a profession or a trade whatever the case may be. The parents though could help in this choice and advise what is best.
I personally think that if my child wanted to become an actor I would probably be disappointed but I could not change his mind or make him become a doctor instead.

I sure hope that the day I will get married my future wife will think as a do.

INTERVIEWER: Yes, it is important that you both agree on important issues such as the above.

Mr. Marciano, I thank you very much for having granted me this interview and I wish you much good luck!