

LOUIS FALVO
Magna, Utah
Tape No. I-29

An Interview By
Phil Notarianni
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Louis Falvo

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THE FOLLOWING IS AN INTERVIEW CONDUCTED WITH LOUIS FALVO ON JULY 22, 1974 AT MAGNA, UTAH. THE INTERVIEWER IS PHIL NOTARIANNI.

PN: Mr. Falvo when and where were you born?

LF: I was born in Pedivigliano, 1897.

PN: And what did your family do in Italy?

LF: Worked on a farm, you know.

PN: They had a farm?

LF: A farm.

PN: What kinds of vegetables and crops did they grow on that farm?

LF: Oh, they used to grow corn, wheat, potatoes, all kinds of things, they make a living and they get their food and they put away for the winter time to eat.

PN: Did they have olive groves, vineyards?

LF: Yes, they used to have a vineyard, you know, to make the wine and they...

PN: Did they make a lot of wine?

LF: Oh yes, they make about maybe 2-3 hundred gallons every year, each family.

PN: Was it a big community you came from at the time?

LF: No, very much I imagine about 500 people, 400 family ---?---.

PN: Most of them were farmers?

LF: Most were farmers.

PN: Did they raise their vegetables and their supplies basically for themselves or did they take it to the market?

LF: Just for themselves. There wasn't enough to sell to the other

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one, see?

PN: Was your father or anyone in your family involved in politics in Italy? Did any of them hold any kind of office? Did your father own his own property? (Falvo says "No" to all these questions then says the following:)

LF: He worked for somebody else and the percent that they...

PN: Do you remember who he worked for?

LF: Not quite, but you see ---?--- work with the doctor, a ---?--- that now he's passed away, quite awhile ago.

PN: Did this man that your father worked for, did he treat him OK?

LF: Sometimes do, sometimes don't. They had to work like slaves to make a living, and they ---?--- used to lock them up they used to give them...

PN: Was he what they called the "Senore?"

LF: Si, Señor.

PN: It was the Señor, eh? So when did you decide to immigrate to the United States?

LF: I, first I went to the Army, you know...

PN: Oh, you served in the military? There? Why don't you tell me a little bit about that?

LF: And I was in the Army and I was five years, I come, I was fighting against the Germans, in Austria.

PN: You fought in the First World War?

LF: First World War.

PN: Can you remember the name of your unit that you served with?

LF: Ni, I can't remember, it's been so long, it's been over about

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50 years now. So, I went in the Army then in 1917, they imprisoned me in Germany.

PN: Oh, you were a prisoner.

LF: I was a prisoner in Germany for 14 months, ---?--- then I get out of the prisoner camp. I went to my little town in ---?--- and made a ---?---. Stayed for three months then I come to the United States in 1919.

PN: Where were you a prisoner of war in Germany? Where at? Do you remember?

LF: No, I cannot remember the name but I remember it was in Germany ---?--- but ---?--- while prison was the name of it because when you are a prisoner you know nothing, you just stay there, starving to death you work like a slave...

PN: You starved to death ? They don't feed you very well, huh?

LF: Not very well.

PN: What kind of work did you do in prison camp?

LF: Oh, they used to give you a job to work on a farm, they carry the meals they carry the ---?--- all this kind of thing, you know they way to do under German command.

PN: Under German command. Were any of the prisoners in your barracks or the place where you stayed, were any of them mistreated by the Germans?

LF: Oh yeah, every morning they used to come in the barracks to live and they find about 8 or 9 every day dead on the bed...

PN: 8 or 9 prisoners a day?

LF: Dead. But we had over 3 or 5 thousand in the barracks, you know,

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and every morning, eight or nine every day die from starvation.

LF: They used to get one slice of bread and 1 cup, 2 cups of soup every day. One slice of bread and 2 cups of soup.

PN: And that's all they'd give you?

LF: That's all they'd give you. You had to go out and find grain on the ground to eat. That's right.

PN: Were all the prisoners in this camp Italian prisoners?

LF: Yes.

PN: And this was around, what 19--

LF: 1916 and 17.

PN: And you were in that camp for how long?

LF: 14 months.

PN: When were you finally released?

LF: After the war was over they got a stop, you know, it stop in 1918 and after that they set, turn you loose and we all went home.

PN: How long had you been in the service under battle conditions before you were captured.

LF: Oh, it was about 35 months.

PN: 35 months huh? What was your rank?

LF: I was ---?--- top and then you know...

PN: Would that be equivalent to a corporal?

LF: Yeah, and I was, you know, the, I got shot in my leg and I got shot in my arms and then I got away again...

PN: Where were you fighting? On which front?

LF: Trieste. On the, uh, Trieste.

PN: Up on Trieste.

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LF: That's Fuma and Triesta, between Triesta and Fuma fight. Triesta and Fuma fight...

PN: Hmmm what were the conditions like up at that front?

LF: It was pretty bad, you know. Then I was in the correspondence unit...

PN: Correspondence unit?

LF: I was in it for awhile, you know, they give you command ---?--- command, you know, how many people die every so often. How many people get killed, you many they called prisoners, how many people dies. They kill them.

PN: What was your thoughts about fighting in that war? What did you think about fighting in that war?

LF: Well, nothing to think about-won the war or kill or they kill you. So we had no choice, we had to fight, or else the command officer you know, stay behind the day you don't go ahead fight, we gonna kill you. That's the ultimatum we had all the time. We can't get away.

PN: Were there any bad feelings on that part of let's say southern Italians fighting up in north Italy? How were you treated by your own people up in the north Italy? How were you treated by your own people up in the north, because you were from the south, you were from the...

LF: Well, they had, they had a kind of ---?--- all right, but we had no choice. We had one reason to fight or as the commander always say, "If you don't go ahead and fight we gonna kill you." So we were all scared and we had to go and fight.

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PN: What was your reaction to the Serbs and the Crocians and the people that made up Yugoslavia at that time? It wasn't Yugoslavia until after but...

LF: When we had nothing against them and they weren't against us, too but we had ---?--- fight each one and we had to fight ---?---.

PN: So then your experience in World War I, you spent most of your time then, as a prisoner of war.

LF: Right.

PN: Did they have any kind of activities in that prisoner of war camp that you could do?

LF: Oh yeah, oh yea. They ---?--- get good food they give you dance you know, people come in dancing and we had quite a ---?--- to make us happy.

PN: This was while you were in the prisoner of war camp?

LF: No, no, no, no. When I was in the ---?--- when I was in the prison camp we never had no choice. Work and go in to bed.

PN: But they didn't have any crafts...

LF: No, no, nothing at all just a prison like you be in jail. That time used to be bad. Now nobody, ---?--- used to be like now, those times it used to be bad.

PN: Then when were you, how long after you were released did you go back to your village?

LF: After they release me, you know, I went back to ---?--- and met this Francis Burs and then we fell in love each one and married and stay three months in ---?--- and then I came to United States.

PN: I see. Just for the record, how does your wife spell her last

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name? Her last name.

LF: Uh, her last name was Franciscena (?) Burs.

PN: And that's spelled how? The last name.

LF: Name, B - U - R - S, and then in the Italian Government they send me the gold medal for the 1918, to be brave, you know, in the army so they sent it to me to the United States. Gold Medal sent to me.

PN: What's it called, what's it called in Italian?

LF: ---?--- (in Italian).

PN: Medal of Gold and Medal of Silver.

LF: Right, right.

PN: And this is for what? It's for bravery.

LF: For the brave, you know, to be in the army for 50 years ago, see.

PN: How many people from ---?--- went into the service, went into fight...

LF: I imagine about 100, 125 went to fight.

PN: 100, 125 men went. How many men in the village?

LF: About 500, 600 altogether.

PN: So most of the men that were old enough went in, huh?

LF: Right from 17 up to the, up, you know. They get up ---?--- to a man, boy from 17 up to 21 or 22. Then if they have 3 or they had 2 in the family, they take one and leave one to support the family.

PN: Was it like being drafted? You had to go, huh?

LF: Well you had to go and leave one in house, to support the family.

PN: Did most of the people, to get back to the village life in ---?--- Did most of the people have to rent their land from people, from a Senore?

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LF: Si. They had to have land because we didn't have any people, poor people, they never had no land by themselves, you know, and naturally they had to go to the Senore, big people but they had lots of land to lease to work under them and the food they use to make, wheat or corn, ---?--- half to go, they had to split half and half. Half of it was to go to the laborer and the other worker and the rest to the land, the Senore.

PN: That's interesting. Were most of the people treated well by the Senore or did they sometimes...

LF: Sometimes treated very good and sometimes they used you like a slave, you know. But they had to say so, see? Because they had their money and they had their land, they had everything and they had a right to do what they want to.

PN: What about the church in this village? Was the church strong?

LF: Well, the church, you know, the people on Sunday, they stay home you know. Some people they were, do they stay home. Go in to church and they let people, the slaves, you know they had nothing to go. They had to go to work to make a living.

PN: What did the people think of the Priest?

LF: Well, some people they like the priest, they go to church, you know, and some people they hate him.

PN: For instance, did you, did the people of the village have to give the priest so much as, as far as vegetables and things, to keep him going along?

LF: Well, the priest, you know, every fall, you know, they used to go down, house to house and ask the people to give some, you know,

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some food like, you know, some salami or some lard or something that they needed for home. And they used to give equal share to the priest. Then they use to go to the farm, you know, and they give him wheat and they give him corn and they give him food, what they had, the rest of the poor people so he eat well ---?--- to the church to help the priest to keep along 'cause they didn't have no money. So they give him food instead of money.

PN: That's true. Was it the case at the San Pietro was the name of the church?

LF: Yes, like that at San Pietro, ---?---.

PN: I see. What kind of social activity, what kind of social life did they have did these people of the village have?

LF: At that time, well...

PN: Yes.

LF: Well at that time they use to have...

PN: Did you get together for, I guess you had fiestas, or well, they don't call them fiestas, they call them festas.

LF: Every so often like, you know, between twenty nine of June, they had a San Pietro, San Pietro parlor, a big celebration. Then they had another one, about three or four every year, you know, Festa where they make big celebration, drink lots of wine, eat lots of spaghetti and they'd dance on the street and...

PN: Did they march in the village with the statue of the particular saint?

LF: Oh yes, they statures, they go ahead. Then the band would follow and the people oh they sing on the way they go to it. Sing about

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it, pray to God, man...

PN: Can you remember, did they celebrate quite a few of those back there, Louie?

LF: I'd say about four or five in a year.

PN: Four and five in a year. Did everybody kind of pitch in a little bit of groceries, a little bit of food?

LF: Oh yes, that time they had more food. They invite people in the house, they would eat and drink and invite friend to go in the house for a couple of days, they had a pretty nice good time. The people never had nothing but they was all happy. No money but lots of food, was working but people were all so nice and we like to see the whole time again, but not to be poor like it used to be 50, 75 years ago.

PN: Did you remember, did they ever celebrate September the 20th in the village?

LF: No.

PN: That's the day, September 20th, 1870, when Italy became a unified country.

LF: I never know that.

PN: You didn't celebrate that particular holiday then.

LF: No.

PN: I see. What about in the evening after dinner, did the people walk in the village or together or go for a walk?

LF: People go ---?--- in the night they try, they go home, eat, they go out to saloon, go out have a drink of wine, worry about ---?--- They all going together and pass the time and so on but nothing to

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do at the time, just people.

PN: Do you remember a guy by the name of Mekaylay Geanini?

LF: Mekaylay Geanini?

PN: Do you remember him?

LF: He used to live in ---?---. He had a big store there.

PN: Did he have his bar at that time when you were younger?

LF: No, no, but now he's got one now. They make a big progressto.

PN: So when did you finally decide to come to the United States?

Which year again?

LF: I decided to come to the United States, 19-- , 1819. And I come here.

PN: You mean 1919.

LF: 1919, oh, pardon me.

PN: That's okay.

LF: Then I come here and I went to New York and I never know how to talk American very much that time when I come over. Went down to the barbershop and the shoeshine shoes of the people they come in the barbershop...

PN: Where was this at?

LF: It used to be in New York.

PN: In New York.

LF: New York. Then when I lost the job then, I went to work with the steel work. And work on the steel work, you know, but I was so weak, you know because I had come from the German prisoner camp, so I can't stand that job so they let me go.

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PN: Well, did you bring your wife on over with you?

LF: No, my wife she come in six years after.

PN: Six years later. Why did you come to the United States? Did somebody send for you or did you just come on your own?

LF: Ni, I just come on my own.

PN: Why did you leave Italy?

LF: Because I was fighting with some Americans, a boy, you know, and they all used to say to me, come to America, you be rich.

PN: You mean when you were fighting in the service you came in contact with the American Soldiers and they told you to come to the United States. What kinds of things did you talk about with these soldiers other than the conditions in the United States?

LF: Well, we can't understand each one very well, but they all say he was talk American never talk Italian and pretty hard to understand each one but, while he always said to me come to America and find me and I'll give you a job. That's all I can remember.

PN: Where did you meet these soldiers at, where at? Did you meet them at Trieste?

LF: Across the Trieste then. They used to help the Italians to win the war then, at that time.

PN: Well, how did you come to the United States? Did you go to Naples and then from Naples take, went by ship?

LF: I went to Naples, I paid my way, you know.

PN: Did you travel third class?

LF: Oh yes, that's the ---?---.

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PN: Can you remember how much it was?

LF: At that time it was about 100, 150 Lire.

PN: 100, 150 Lire at that time.

LF: Right. 100, 150 Lire.

PN: That was a lot of money back in those times.

LF: That time was big money but now, now more.

PN: Do you remember the name of the ship?

LF: Columbus.

PN: Were there a lot of Italians that came over at that time?

LF: Oh yes. ---?--- to United States at that time. You wanted to get out of Italy because...

PN: Because of the war?

LF: The wars...well scare ---?--- so they all come to the United States.

PN: What were conditions like on that boat?

LF: Oh, not so bad. It was nice they feed you pretty good, we stay about ten days on the water and then we finally land at New York City.

PN: Can you remember what it was like when you came through the immigration station that was called Ellis Island? Remember in New York when you came through the immigration station there. What was it like?

LF: Well, it used to be more kind of like, you know, they let you got through the line and they stamp you. They used to put a sign on the back, you know. 'They can't talk American.' So the people know they can't come to me and talk American but we don't know how to talk to us.

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PN: They put a sign on your back that says, 'They can't speak..

LF: American...

PN: American? Or English? What did they say?

LF: No, they can't speak American.

PN: They can't speak American?

LF: American. He's Italian. So they used to be an interpreter, you know. They talk American and they talk Italian. What looking for are we wanted for.

PN: Did they make you take your clothes off and check for diseased or anything?

LF: No, no. Oh yes, if you had disease or some incision on your head or your body, they send you back again. But if your clothes are clean and if you were they let you go through.

PN: Did they check to see if you had so much money? I know that some people I've talked to said you had to have \$20 before they let you get in. Just so that you were not completely poor. Did they ask you if you had any money?

LF: Yeah, we had about \$25 or \$30, but we didn't know who to go to. I had a friend in New York that worked for me. See?

PN: Is he the American friend that was in the service?

LF: Yes, and he worked for me in New York.

PN: So a soldier that you met was waiting for you, huh?

LF: So, we know him very well.

PN: Oh, so he told you to look him up. Who was he? Can you remember his name?

LF: No. I forget now. It was 50 years ago, now and I don't remember it.

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PN: And he was waiting for you in New York?

LF: Then ---?--- we can't talk American very well so we go in and they find us a job as a shoeshiner, see. ---?---

PN: Was it just you yourself that came over?

LF: No, there was a bunch of us, ---?--- Nickie Genoti, me and there was your dad too.

PN: Yea, he came in 1920 he says.

LF: Yes, and this ---?--- Noti ---?--- he's in Salt Lake now, see? Just about the same time, and the ---?--- Sam Noti.

PN: Sam Noti?

LF: Yeah, he come ---?--- too.

PN: Where did yo ustay when you got in New York?

LF: We rented a little place, you know. Use tp pay about 5-about \$7 a week.

PN: Where at?

LF: In New York...Italian...

PN: Inthe Italian section?

LF: In the Italian section.

PN: Up in the Bronz or Brooklyn?

LF: Well, New York, I remember.

PN: How about- Does the name Mulberry Street ring a bell?

LF: I imagine.

PN: That's where a lot of Italians were in New York, Mulberry Street. What was it like in New York? What were your first impressions? I know it's been a long time ago, but when you landed at Ellis Island and you came across, you were in New York City, what did you

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think about?

LF: Well, it was beautiful at the time. People were friends to you. And they try to help you out and try to talk to you, but we couldn't understand what they say too well. Lots of people would walk us home. Lots of Italian people to walk us home, but we were strangers, you know, and they tried to help us find a job.

PN: How long did you stay in New York?

LF: Oh, about 6 months.

PN: Did you meet a lot of Italian people while you were there?

LF: Oh, yes.

PN: Could you tell, was there any bad feelings between maybe people from the north and people from the south of Italy? In New York City. Did you run across any of that?

LF: No, the people were very nice people.

PN: They were basically friendly, huh?

LF: Friendly, yes.

PN: What did you do in New York? Were you—did you work, you worked as a boot black, that's a shoeshine?

LF: Shoeshine. I was a shoeshine and then I work on the steel work.

PN: Where at? Do you remember which company was it?

LF: I went out to New Britton Connecticut.

PN: New Brunswick?

LF: No, New Briton, Connecticut.

PN: Oh, Newbridge...

LF: New Briton, New Briton.

PN: New Briton, okay.

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LF: Then I found a paision ---?--- then the family job ---?--- they come out and talked to the ---?--- give them jobs. They use to pay 'em every week. They use to pay by money, that time, no check. Every Saturday they used to give you an envelope with the money inside.

PN: Oh, they paid you by cash.

LF: By cash that time, no check.

PN: Were there any Italians trying to get the Unions established at this steel works?

LF: No, no not at the time. No.

PN: Were there any Union activities at all?

LF: No such thing at the time.

PN: Did you run across any Italian socialists?

LF: Oh yes, quite a few.

PN: Can you remember any of their names?

LF: No. Quite a few ---?--- people were poor, you know, and they were called the communist socialists, you know.

PN: Did you ever listen to any of those Italian men talk?

LF: Oh yes, I listened to them.

PN: Did it sound appealing to you at the time?

LF: Not very well.

PN: Why not?

LF: Well, because they just said if we be communists we going to get the ground from they guy, we going to get a home, we going to get this. A lot of bolony. You can't, you can't, get the home of somebody else who it belong to. That's what they were believing, see? They believed they would get the money from the people for the

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cause, see? And they believed that.

PN: Did you read any of the Italian newspapers in New York? Did you read all of those papers?

LF: Oh yes.

PN: Do you remember a newspaper that was called La Foliea de New York?

LF: La Foliea.

PN: La Foliea de New York.

LF: Well, I can remember ---?---

PN: There's one of the founders of that paper ---?---. Did you ever hear of him?

LF: No. Not at time...

PN: Because he was an Italian socialist and he conducted a lot of what they called--well, we would call them seminars now, they were meetings...

LF: But ---?--- 25 years ago. But we talk now 50 years ago. Now and 50 years ago there's a lot of difference. Between then and now.

PN: Oh sure.

LF: That time nobody was a communist, they were a socialist. It was socialism all right, but they know very much about communists.

PN: Now what prompted you to come to Utah?

LF: I had an Uncle here who wrote me all the time, come to Utah and I'll give you a job. Come to Utah and I give you job. So... finally...

PN: Give you a job doing what? What did they write you?

LF: Oh, they write in 1921. Then I come to Utah.

PN: Excuse me, but did they say that Utah was a nice place?

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LF: Well, they didn't say it was a nice place, no, come over here because...

PN: There's work available?

LF: Yes, that's it. So they found me a job here and I started working.

PN: Where at?

LF: On the Utah Copper.

PN: Oh, you started at Utah Copper, in 1921.

LF: In 1920, then in 1921 they close for one year. Then I went back to Salt Lake again. I lost the job. Then ---?--- the families ---?--- as a section hand the section for where they fixin the railroad, see?

PN: The U.P. ?

LF: The U. P....I think that's the U. P. and I worked for them 6 or seven months. Then Kennecott opened up again and I went back again.

PN: So you came to Utah in 1920.

LF: Right.

PN: Where did you first live? Did you stay with your Uncle? Or did you stay in a boarding house or where did you live?

LF: I stayed in a boarding house in New York. Then I come up here, then I work for a while in New York, then I went to work on the steel work. Then when I lost the job on them...

PN: When you came to Utah.

LF: 1921.

PN: Did you stay at a boarding house or with your Uncle?

LF: Well, I stayed with Uncle Pete.

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PN: Where did he live?

LF: He lived in Salt Lake.

PN: Where at? On the west side?

LF: On the west side.

PN: Where at about?

LF: 561 South, 8th West.

PN: 8th West. Were there a lot of Italians in that area?

LF: Quite a few, quite a few Italians.

PN: Were there any Italian store over there?

LF: Oh yes.

PN: Can you remember who owned them?

LF: One of them, he died ---?---

PN: Did yougo...can you remember any of the bars over there?

LF: Tony Cosco.

PN: Tony Cosco had his place there.

LF: He had his saloon down there. Then--who was it we brought from ---?--- and we bought a store on 2nd So. in Salt Lake City and served spaghetti, flour, beans, corn, cheese, that's the stuff we ate at the time...milk...

PN: Who owned the store?

LF: ---?--- Pretty hard to remember now.

PN: That's fine. So this is when you first came to Salt Lake.

LF: Right.

PN: Then how did you get a job up at Utah Copper?

LF: Well, they just hired me and I went to work.

PN: Can you temm me a little about working up there? Who was your

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boss? Where did you work?

LF: Well, the boss now used to buy my... Pete Cosenson (?) and they work on the section, then on the section I got hurt one time and when I got hurt through the company then I sue the company and the company paid me the money, about \$3,000 bucks. Then I turned around and opened this store on 7th South and 5th West and then I sold meat, beer and cigar, bread...

PN: What year was this?

LF: 1927.

PN: So in other words, so we get our chronology straight, you came to Utah in 1921?

LF: 1920.

PN: 1920, you worked at Kennecott, or Utah Copper for a year, then they closed. Then you worked as a section hand for the U. P., then you went back to Kennecott.

LF: Right, and then I got hurt.

PN: Which year did you go back to Kennecott?

LF: 1922.

PN: Then you worked at Kennecott another 5 years?

LF: Oh no, no, no oh about a year.

PN: And then you were injured?

LF: Yes, I got injured and then I got the money. Then I went into business.

PN: How did you get that money from them? What did you have to do?

LF: Well, I fell down and hurt my back, you know, and the company, then I cannot work for awhile, I couldn't do heavy work so the

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company paid me then I went into business.

PN: When you were working at Kennecott, how were you treated up there?

LF: Not very well.

PN: Not very well?

LF: You had to work hard or they kick you out. They had a lot of people at that time.

PN: Did you feel that you were mistreated because you were an Italian?

LF: Just about, yes.

PN: Did you? What did they do to mistreat you? Did they...

LF: They just made you work a little more hard. They see you resting a bit they come after you and say come on you let's work, so we had to work.

PN: Was your boss an Italian though?

LF: Oh yes.

PN: And what did he do? I mean did he...

LF: Well, he would drive me to work though, make you work more hard to make the Italian think they...

PN: Did he speak Italian to you most of the time?

LF: Oh yeah, most of the time he talk Italians, see, so make you understand what he mean to me. Then pretty soon these fellows talk a little American ---?--- break loose ---?--- Italian/American, you know.

PN: Do you think that the company hired the Italian foreman just so they make you understand?

LF: Yes, they do that.

PN: What about any kind of union activities? Did you ever hear about

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any union activities?

LF: No, no not at that time. The union come up in 1935, union after Roosevelt they told people to go ahead to organize and then the people 1935, they started organize day by day until now today they become the strongest organization in the United States.

PN: When you worked for Utah Copper then did you live here in Magna or did you live in Salt Lake?

LF: No, I lived here in Magna.

PN: Where at?

LF: Right here in similar location.

PN: Ok, you were telling me that when you worked at Utah Copper you lived here in Magna. You lived right where you live now?

LF: Yes.

PN: In the same location?

LF: No, I was another door beside from here. I used to come here 1940, my location I am here now, see? But I used to live about 2 blocks out of here, from here, see.

PN: What was that old address, can you remember?

LF: Oh, the similar location. Around here ---?---

PN: Can you remember what the streets were?

LF: No, it used to be some name, you know, that time they used to be, name the streets like ---?--- like you know, Spence Avenue, 3rd East and 3rd South.

PN: Were there a lot of people that living here at that time?

LF: No.

PN: In this area?

FALVO 24

LF: Nobody mention Magna at that time. There used to be I imagine about 3 or 4 thousand people all together here, Magna.

PN: Did you ever go down to little Italy down here by the dike?

LF: No.

PN: Did you ever go down there?

LF: On the dike, to work on the dike?

PN: Well, no, not work on the dike?

PN: Well, no, not work, but didn't they have little Italy and Jap Town and Greek Town down there at that time?

LF: No, no ---?--- Garfield that time. That's what they used to call Greek Town, see?

PN: But they had one place, course it might have been...

LF: No, it was used to be Garfield I think.

PN: Yeah, they had one at Garfield but they didn't have one down below the dike?

LF: No, I can't remember that time.

PN: Down here just across 21st South? Across from the Magna Mill and the Flumes? Where the flumes are now, they called rag time? that must have been earlier, yeah.

LF: ---?--- earlier before, before my time, see?

PN: What was life like around Magna back in those days?

LF: Well, ---?--- people used to work and go home. And no automobile, very much at that time. Very few and...

PN: What did you used to do, walk to work?

LF: We used to walk from here to Kennecott every morning when it was snow or rain, we used to walk it.

FALVO 25

PN: Which way did you walk? Did you go up past where Webster School is now? Up that way?

LF: Yes, up that way.

PN: Used to walk up the hill?

LF: Oh yes, everyday, then when somebody bought a T model Ford, you know, and every couple friends ride together, you know, and everybody helped pay the expense.

PN: You bought the Model T or one of your friends?

LF: Oh yes, I bought it.

PN: You bought it? Where at?

LF: Down at Polisis.

PN: Down at Polisis in Magna?

LF: For \$225.

PN: \$225.

LF: A used one.

PN: A used Model T.

LF: Model T.

PN: What color was it?

LF: All black.

PN: All black, yeah, they were all black. All one color. Where was Polisis's business at?

LF: Just where it is now.

PN: Same place.

LF: Same place. So many years now.

PN: Hmm...then you used to drive up to work every morning?

LF: ---?--- drive sometimes I would drive my truck sometimes ---?---

FALVO 26

we split half and half.

PN: Oh, just like a car pool?

LF: Right.

PN: Do you have any old pictures of that car?

LF: No, I haven't. I wish I had. It would be nice to remember.

PN: You worked as what up there at Kennecott?

LF: Just a laborer.

PN: Did you work for the bull gang or clean up or...

LF: Then I work...after tract I worked on the bull gang, see and the mill, see.

PN: Who was the foreman of the bull gang?

LF: Mr. Barton name is.

PN: Barton?

LF: Barton, he die now.

PN: Were there a lot of Italians, mostly Italians.

PN: Who were the men on the gang? Do you know? Or remember?

LF: Oh there used to be ---?---, and ---?--- and ---?--- quite a few.

PN: Uh huh, what was the attitude of the people in Magna toward Italians that you can recall?

LF: Well, at that time they don't used to like very much foreign people. They had something against them, against the Italians, the Greeks and against the Spanish people. For some reason, they had some kind of prejudice. But we don't care, we don't, we no pay no attention to them, you know, we mind our business, we our family and if you went to work, we don't bother people. But still, people they had a kind of hatred toward foreign people

FALVO 27

at that time.

LF: Well, why because I don't know why ---?--- they must had some kind of, they don't like foreign people then, see?

PN: Prejudice against you.

LF: Yes, that's it. But now, they change a bit now.

PN: Was there ever any violence? Was there ever any fights between...

LF: Oh yes, oh yes, that time there used to be the Ku Klan, very strong.

PN: The Ku Klux Klan.

LF: Yeah, used to be very strong.

PN: Can you tell me about your understanding and your knowledge of the Klan?

LF: Well, they used to be against the foreign people. Especially the Greek people, they use to, they were against. In fact, there was this one in Bingham and they were after him to get out of here from Kennecott. Some people are that way, some of them like you, some of them don't like you. That time the Ku Klan was against all foreign people.

PN: Can you remember anything about that Ku Klux Klan? Can you remember any of the people that were in it?

LF: Well, I remember, you know. Some ---?--- a boy was work Bingham, you know, but I can't recall the name. What it could be...

PN: What did they do to him in Bingham?

LF: Well, they tried to chase him out from the job. If you had a better job than they had they'd go to the boss, tell him to give you the other guys job. Things like that. It was...they wanted the best of everything. They wanted the better jobs. They wanted to keep

FALVO 28

slavs down, see?

PN: Can you remember any of the parades that the Ku Klux Klan had?

Can you remember the cross they burned over here on Webster School?

LF: Oh yes, you bet you. They made a big cross and then they put a match and burn it up all in about a half hour. Oh yeah, they done quite a few that way.

PN: Where did they burn most of them? Over by Webster School? Did they burn them all, where else? I know they burned some at Bingham.

LF: Some of them at Bingham, and some at the State Capital.

PN: Right. Did you ever see any of the parades they had in Magna?

LF: Yes, I've seen them. ---?--- They start fights and all that.

PN: Who did?

LF: Oh, the people from the houses.

PN: The Greeks and Italians?

LF: Yeah, and the Americans too. Some of them too.

PN: They would throw things at these Ku Klux Klan people?

LF: Oh yes, when they pass by. See they had masks you know, and you can't recognize them, you know, and they threw rocks through the windows through the house.

PN: The Klan Klan threw rocks?

LF: No, the people...

PN: The people threw rocks at them. Did they ever start any fights or anything?

LF: Oh yes. Some of them went on and tore their masks off and start a fight with a gun. Oh, they had quite a time sometimes.

PN: Where were these fights? Down on Main Street?

FALVO 29

LF: Down on Main Street in Magna.

PN: Can you remember a story that I've heard, about one of these parades with the Ku Klux Klan. There were some Greeks and there might have been some Italians there too. Followed a couple of these guys down to the ball park, and took their masks off and found out who they were. Can you remember the story?

LF: No, but I remember they done it that way, all right. Take their masks off and found out who the hell he is, the guy. And that's what it was. He was some lawyer, some kind of big shot that dress that way, see?

PN: What was it like to have this Ku Klux Klan? Did it scare a lot of the Italians and the Greeks?

LF: Yeah, they try to scare them. They wanted them to get out of there or we going kill or we going to do this. They used to threaten them bad at night.

PN: Did they threaten anybody individually and let's say burn a cross on their, in front of their house or anything?

LF: No, no.

PN: They didn't pick on anybody individually?

LF: No.

PN: It was more to the group.

LF: More to the group, right.

PN: Were the Italians scared?

LF: Well, naturally, they were scared too. You see somebody against you, they kind of team up on you. They all wanted not to have any trouble.

FALVO 30

PN: In your opinion, what was the social life like around Magna? What did the Italian people do?

LF: Oh, the Italian people at that time, they used to enjoy themselves. They used to go house to house and play guitar and that, and drink a little wine and have a good time.

PN: You mean when they'd go house to house somebody would play the guitar? Would you sing?

LF: Some sing too, you know. Most of the pictures I showed you a while ago. They used to go out and sing and make a good time. Used to go house to house, and make a party.

PN: Did they used to do this once a week?

LF: Once a week, yeah ---?--- Saturday.

PN: Saturday night?

LF: Saturday and you got Sunday you go home and then you stay home.

PN: Did they have dances?

LF: Oh yeah.

PN: Over at the Italian people private homes?

LF: Oh yeah, one had a big house and you drink lots of wine and then start dancing, see?

PN: Were there a lot of weddings? Did you go to any weddings any Italian weddings?

LF: Oh yes.

PN: What were they like the Italian weddings?

LF: Well, the Italian weddings, you know they just like American, you know, but then after every wedding there is a big dinner, they have, you know, wine and whiskey and...

FALVO 31

PN: Would you dance?

LF: And then after a while they dance, you have a nice hall to dance,
oh they had a wonderful time.

PN: Did the Italian people dance the ---?--- around here?

LF: Oh yes.

PN: Did they?

LF: Especially when they have a few drink.

PN: Especially when they have a few drink. Did the men ever play
---?--- ?

LF: No very much here.

PN: They didn't play ---?--- very much huh?

LF: No, ---?--- The only time they played that was when they went down
to the park. At that time they didn't have too much park then.

PN: But did anybody ever play that around here at all?

LF: No, I never seen around here at all.

PN: How about in Salt Lake?

LF: Salt Lake, yes, no, Magna very much.

PN: Hmmm, that's interesting. What else did they do here for social
activities? Was it just basically just visiting each other house
to house?

LF: No, we used to visit each one and go house to house ---?---. Sit
down there ---?--- drink wine. Everybody used to make wine. Now
they got a new guy. They don't want nobody can make wine like
they used to anymore. So people got scared and nobody makes
wine anymore.

PN: Did you make wine?

FALVO 33

PN: You mean they put vinegar in it?

LF: Yeah, some of them they put vinegar in and others they break them loose ---?--- and they sue, they open up and lift them away, the wines.

PN: Did people around here ever hide their wine so the Federal people couldn't find it?

LF: I don't believe it. Maybe some do. I can't remember those that do but I guess some they be very careful when you make wine, see? The wine, they don't bother very much the wine. The only time they bother you with the wine if you try to sell a bottle of wine to somebody. Then they know you do for business then they catch you but if you mind your business and you had at home for your own using, then they don't bother you very much, as I remember.

PN: Did most of the families around Magna just make it for their own use?

LF: For their own. Then sometime if you were good friends they give you a gallon and you take it home. Sometimes they give you glass of wine to some man. Most of the people they be pretty good, you make a wine, you drink home with your family, nobody bother you. But if you make wine and to sell it and make a profit, they catch you for a penalty.

PN: Did anybody did any Italians in Magna ever get caught for making more than just wine?

LF: No, I don't believe so. I never heard such a thing. Not in Magna.

PN: Did anybody ever get caught in Magna making more than wine, Italian or anybody?

FALVO 32

LF: I used to make wine? me and your father, very well ---?--- one time. No more grapes come into Utah anymore like they used and the people they quit making wine.

PN: What was it like around here in the 20's when Italians and, I imagine, Greeks were making wine and yet it was during prohibition nobody could make any kind of alcohol-what was it like around Magna? Was there a lot of bootlegging going on?

LF: Well that time, they don't make- the wine- they- bother very much with the wine, the government ---?--- just a little bit...

PN: It's the moonshine.

LF: ...but it was the ... moonshine, what they used to make whiskey, you know, and at that time there was a lot of bootlegging because the work was very low and nobody can make very much money, the poeple was a gamble to make wine and whiskey so they make a few dollars extra.

PN: You mean they sold it?

LF: They sold it to the saloon ---?---. Now I never hear of bootlegging like I used to.

PN: Did there, did any of the Federal Revenue Officers ever come in Magna and check people for wine?

LF: Oh yes, oh yes.

PN: Can you remember any of the stories about what they did?

LF: Well, they come here and they find a bit quantity of wine, you know, and then they put some vinegar in it or they throw it away or they open up and break them, you know.

FALVO 34

LF: No, no I never heard of any.

PN: So you worked for Utah Copper until about '25?

LF: '25, '26 and then I went into business.

PN: Then you were injured.

LF: Yeah, then I had the money and then I started business in Salt Lake City.

PN: And your Market was where at?

LF: Over on 7th South and 5th West.

PN: What was the name of the market?

LF: The Falvo Store.

PN: Falvo's Store. What kind of things did you sell?

LF: Tobacco, meat, beer, not very much candy at that time and tobacco and canned peas and beans, milk, that's it. Not very much stuff that time. Everything was loose. Beans were loose, rice was loose, sugar was loose, everything loose and in the bag.

PN: Did you sell any Italian cheese or anything like that?

LF: Oh yes, we had Italian cheese.

PN: Did you sell any Italian candy?

LF: No, not Italian candy.

PN: Not that time, huh?

LF: Now they come here, not but that time no such thing.

PN: Did you have a lot of business?

LF: No very much, but I was making profit all the time. People at that time they didn't say how much? How much? They used to come in buy and what do you have; they give you a price, they go. Now they make a lot of money, people they go shopping now, they

FALVO 35

very careful they watch their panny. They pay more now than used to be in 1925.

PN: Did you allow people to charge?

LF: They do charge at that time, yes and when they charge they don't make people sign their name, that time. People were very honest. If you know that you owe \$25 they come pay day and pay you \$25. Today if you going to charge somebody even for a loaf of bread, you got to make them sign or it is denied to you, they won't pay you.

PN: You think people were more honest than they are now?

LF: At that time people were more honest than they are today.

PN: Did you deal, were there mostly Italians that came to your store?

LF: Oh no, no. It was American and Italian. At that time it used to be most Italians.

PN: Mostly Italians.

LF: But, we don't know to talk Americans at time, very much, you know and they used to come and patronoze me, you know. And they had, oh we had all kinds of people they used to come in ---?--- and buy.

PN: Did you become a citizen?

LF: Oh yes.

PN: Which year?

LF: I became a citizen in 1931.

PN: '31, huh?

LF: Me and my wife together.

PN: When did your wife come back over from Italy?

LF: They come in 1926.

FALVO 36

PN: 1926 she came and you, you hadn't gotten the store yet, though, had you?

LF: Oh yes, when my wife when she come back, came over, I had the store then.

PN: Is that why you decided to go into business for yourself, so you could bring your wife back over?

LF: No, I loaned the business when I was in a prison camp over in German prison camp. I had quite a few stuff taken away from the city where the people run away then we ---?--- I grabbed a lot of stuff and put it in my pockets. Then when I was in Germany, I opened a little store of my own and we sell to the general people for 1 month or 2 months.

PN: You mean while you were in prison camp?

LF: Yeah, we stole that stuff from the Italian City when the people ran away from the city. Like when in Magna the people run away from Magna, the people leave and leave everything open and you can go for yourself.

PN: You had a little black market going?

LF: Yeah, right. So I did that for a while and got some money. Then all at once the German come in, take all my money and everything I had since that time...

PN: You mean after you became a prisoner?

LF: Yeah, I had nothing in my mind except business. That's where I took my ideas.

PN: Then when you came here then, to work, when you first started

FALVO 37

work at Utah Copper, did you have an idea in your mind that you wanted, eventually wanted to go into business for yourself?

LF: Right, right.

PN: And you just wanted to work to make enough money to open up a store?

LF: Right, right, all in my mind. If I good enough to make money with the big men, what can be good enough to make it for my own sake even if I made a dollar a day, I say it was my money and that's what I did.

PN: When you took this, when you were in the service, and you would take all this stuff and sell it, you mean you would have to give the money to somebody else higher up?

LF: No, I just had---?---

PN: But then when you got captured they took everything away from you.

LF: Yeah, everything I had, you see?

PN: Well, it's getting a little bit late, maybe we can continue this another time.

LF: Or you can continue tonight, I don't care.

PN: Well, I can ask you a couple more questions here. Can you remember what was the neighborhood like in Salt Lake where you lived when you opened up your store? There were a lot of Italians there. What did they do for social life? Did they visit too, like out here in Magna?

LF: When I was in Salt Lake and the Indians used to come over there and but cigar there and smokin and talking. On a Sunday we used to go

out, visit each one in the house and talk to the old timer, they talk about the old country. The farmer ---?--- and the kids and we had a lot of fun, each one.

PN: What did people think of the old country? When you were talking you just said that you talked about the old country. What did they say about it? Did they miss it? Were they glad that they came here? Or, what, what was the general feeling?

LF: Well, we wanted to come here, but I left my mother, I left my father, I left my sweetheart, I left my wife there, everybody complaining, but in those days, they had enough money to send their wife to come to this country so they had to sacrifice to make the money send to the wife to make a living.

PN: Tell me Louie, did most of the Italian men that you knew, did they have girlfriends or wives in Italy before they came here, and they came here to make up enough money to send them.

LF: Right, right, that's what it amounted to. They'd come here to make up enough money and they go to ---?--- and buy a piece of land or they make enough money to get married or ---?--- they make money to buy their home. Always come here to the United States to make the money to improve yourself to make a better life than the other guy. We know that this United States is one of the best countries in the world we know that and I hope to God they keep that way.

PN: So you were very happy that you came, then?

LF: I'm very happy to be in the United States. Very, very happy. I got a nice family, established here now. I got three boys and

FALVO 39

three daughters and seven grandchildren.

PN: Well, I think we can end this now and later on I'll come back
and we'll carry

END OF TAPE.