

STANLEY V. LITIZZETTE

Helper, Utah

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An Interview By

Kent Powell and Phil Notarianni

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Mr. Stanley V. Litizzette

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THE FOLLOWING IS AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. STAN LITIZZETTI ON DECEMBER 18, 1971 AT HELPER, UTAH. THE INTERVIEWERS ARE KENT POWELL AND PHIL NOTARIANNI.

PN: Mr. Litizzette when did your father first come to Carbon County?

SL: Well, my dad was born in Carbon County. The family story is that August Litizzette who was my paternal grandfather, came to Castle Gate probably in the summer of 1890. To relate that date, the railroad was completed through Price Canyon and that would put them in Castle Gate about 7 years after the mining town opened up. So, I place this date because my uncle John Batista Litizzette, they called him Tist short for Batista, was born in March of 1890 in Gallop, New Mexico. I remember my grandmother Lena Litizzette saying that they were going to go to Washington or Oregon and buy a fruit farm. The train, the DR&G that they got on to go to Oregon stopped at Castle Gate, and my grandfather got out and met a Paesano from Torino and he told my grandfather to get off the train, the mine was booming and that he would make a lot of money. So my grandmother said that my grandfather came in and told her to get off the train this is where they were going to stay. My dad was born in Castle Gate September 10, 1891. So, that would be eight years after the railroad was built and it is my firm conviction that Carbon County was settled not by anyone else, but the coal miners and the railroaders. There were a few farms in the Wellington area, and there is a man by the name of Rhodes, Gale Rhodes who has published a recent article on the Caleb Rhodes Gold Mines area. He alleges that there were a few cabins in or near Wellington or near Price on the Price River. From

whatever I have been able to gather and I don't do this pre-
mediately, but Carbon County was settled by coal miners and
railroaders. That is the Castle Valley section of the county.
Of course there was the area in Scofield which was settled earlier
than this, but as far as the Castle Valley section of Carbon County
is concerned I am convinced that its genesis was in the constru-
cti^on of the DG & G Railroad.

PN: Which company did your father work for? Utah Fuel?

SL: This I have never been able to check. You should be able to
check it through the Secretary of State's office and try to find
when the Pleasant Valley Coal Company was purchased by the Denver
and Rio Grande Western Railroad Company. Because the Pleasant
Valley Coal Company built the office in Castle Gate. From what I
have been able to gather that was the original coal mining com-
pany. Whether its capital was supplied by the railroad in order
to acquire coal to burn in their steam engines and was later ex-
panded by the Utah Fuel Company which was a New Jersey corporation
The only way to check that is check the corporate records in the
office of the Secretary of State. They probably would have them
there.

PN: They were all syndicated under the Gould system as from what I
understand.

SL: Pleasant Valley then was just the original small company I guess.

PN: It was separate on paper, but--

SL: Controlled by the same stock holders.

PN: Controlled.

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SL: But it was called the Pleasant Valley Coal Company.

PN: Yes it was.

SL: Now I forget his name, just a second. The only source material and I don't know how valid it is...Shut her off for a second. A good source material is The Book of the American West, prepared under the direction of J. Monaghan, consultant to the Wyle's collection of Lincolniana and Western Americana, University of California. It was published by Julian Messner, New York. On pages 181-183 he states that , "during the construction of the DR & G Coal veins were exposed in the Castle Gate area," And that is how coal was found in that area. So it is a good narrative description.

PN: Now your father was here quite early. Did he ever relate to you any experiences of his first experiences that he encountered in this area?

SL: He wasn't here, he was born here. Yeah, certain incidents were related to me. For example my grandfather August worked in the coal mines and he was evidently a foreman type or headed the crew because he got a stake together and in April 17, 1893, which would be two years after my father was born in Castle Gate, and possibly three after my grandfather got there, they bought 40 acres in Emery County in the vicinity known as Cleveland and that deed record is still available. Incidentally, while we are talking about deed records, I searched the county recorder's office and am unable to find any deed records which predate the deed records of the rail-

road. In short, the first book in the county records office starts out with the Denver and Rio Grand Railroad Company right away which further I think collaborate the fact if there were settlements here they were transient and temporary and non-permanent and the actually the first land transactions go back to the rail road. My father related to me that he used to, remembers being on the farm and they sold the 40 acres on May 10, 1896. Then they went back to the coal mines. Now they left prior to selling the 40 acres in question. Incidentally, at the same time, there was an Italian family already there by the name of the Bonaccis. They were Calabrese, that is from Southern Italy, so it is certain that while the majority of the Italians were Northern Italians there were also Southern Italians here in Carbon County. There has always been that conflict, the north vs. south, as you know, Mr. Notarianni, so there has been an integration of the role of the Southern Italian in Carbon County because he was in a minority position and because of the old country prejudices that were brought over to this country.

PN: Were they, how relevant were they here in Carbon County, these antagonisms?

SL: I interviewed Henry Ruggeri who is the district judge now and you should talk to him. He stated that the Italians were in the minority, but there were Austrians and by Austrians I mean Slav es and Croatians. They weren't true Austrians. Yugoslavians we refer to them now a days. When I was a boy they were always called the Austrians. There were some French there and there was

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an Irish Catholic named Frank Caffey who ran the saloon there. He also stated that there were Calabrese too. So while we are trying to relate here I am saying is that my grandfather worked in the mines, got a stake, left and went farming, was unsuccessful in farming, went back to Castle Gate and had again evidently earned enough money to leave Castle Gate before the strike in 1903. He was in Helper at the time of the strike and had purchased in the area some 40 acres on town site here and blocks B&C of Mead Survey, here in Helper. He went into the delivery stable business and farmed also. So, here in Helper at the time was also my grandfather and grandmother on my mother's side, John B. Bottino. My grandmother was a PEssetto and the Pesetto's of course are famous for their hospitality and aid to the strikers of, during the strike of 1903. He owned the farm called the Half Way House which is in the vicinity of what later became HIner.

PN: What type of aid did they give these strikers in 1903?

SL: Well none until they got to HELper I guess you would say. The rooming house that my grandmother Bottino and my grandfather Bottino ran was used as shelter during the time. I think my grandfather Litizzette put some of the refugees up in his barn and livery stable at the time until they got settled. Of course, that is how Helper was founded, as a result of the strike of 1903 even though it is, was the logically the place that would be settled because it was the division point of the Denver Rio Grand Western Railroad Company, you see. I think at that time the DR & G had moved their station from Castle Gate Rock down to

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Helper. They had their yards there and everything. Incidentally, there is a real good picture that I secured on Helper. It is in the City Council room of the City Hall in Helper. If you should try to get a collection of them you can get that off Albert Fossett. What I am saying it is that there were Italians here in Helper at the time of the strike that got out of the mine and begun farming or engaging in business here in Helper.

PN: What kind of a percentage do you say that entailed?

SL: Before the strike?

PN: Well because of the strike they left mining and got into one sort of business or another.

SL: I would say they were in the majority after the strike. You see the buildings were built, mainly the business buildings were built mainly by Italians. You can start from the north end of town and come south you have the Battista Flaim Building. If you look upon the top you will see when it was built. Then the Dalpaz, Celeste Dalpaz built his building there. The bank was built by Joe Barboglio who was the founder of the bank and I think very prominent in the union affairs and that is where he got his start. The Litizzette building. The two blocks in Mean survey were all August Litizzette's buildings. They were all rental unites or homes. Then all the way down the line. I have some names which in addition to those I told you were old Italian families. There was Louis Bonza and Steve Gianotti who his son was later Dr. Gianotti and was mayor of the town. Jim Rolando,

Joseph Cormani, Charlies Ruggeri Sr. of course was also active
Dominic Bergera. ehen there was John Alberto. Then of course
Paul Pasetto I have named Jim Burno. One should not neglect to
mention the name of James Martello who was a Southern Italian
and reputedly was one of the first Italians in Carbon County
because he worked and was a section foreman for the Denver Rio
Grand Western Railroad Company and his wife Philomena was always
reputed to be the first Italian woman to come to Carbon County.
I don't know the town seemed to grow and develop directly as the
result as the entrance into business of Italians, mainly north.
I can't recall any outside of James Martello, Southern Italian who
began being involved in business. Jim of course left the Denver
Rio Grand Western Railroad Company and owned the most success-
ful bar in the area. I believe that it was called the Silver
Dollar, check with Joe Dalpaz and he will tell you waht it is.
Jim Martello was an old timer. So these incidences are the ones
that my dad told me about, but you got to remember that even he
was too young to really tell us what happened in that critical
period between that period what 1883 to oh let's go to about 1910,
the aftermath of the strike of 1903. Because dad would only be
around what, 10 or 11 years old, and I don't know
what you recall is but historical events my recall is almost
nil at that time. That is the problem of course we have.

PN: Why do you begin with 1883?

SL: Because I am convinced that is when Castle Valley was settled.

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The name of the Price River or Price River Valley should be tracked down by some scholar, maybe you can do it, but my understand is that he was an old trapper or mountain man who trapped the head waters of the Price River and in Scofield area. But I have never been able to nail it down. There is another version about a Bishop Price from Payton having an or encouraging colonization of the area in the vicinity of Price and Wellington. Rhodes has that version, Dellenbaugh in his book, what is it called, Second Powell Voyage Down the Green, mentions going pass the confluence of the Price or White River. So it had a man name of Price then. So it had a name then. We were in '72 so I can't relate Bishop Price naming this area story because he would have had to be here in the '70, what Powell is '71 isn't it?

PN: Yes.

SL: 1871 and it bore the name of Price in that book at that time so I lean towards the version that he was a trapper and that he trapped Price River and the area in Scofield and that is how it got its name. Rhodes version would have to put the colonization a few years before the railroad was finished and that is too distant to have Dellenbaugh and Powell naming it the Price or the White. Of course they were suppose to get out of the river a Green River so it must have been named by somebody probably I would say this trapper. You should check that out in my opinion. What I am trying to say is that again leads me to believe that the colonization mainly any intrusions were very slight in so far as the type settlement is concerned.

One should check that Moab settlement by Brigham to see how they got over there. I can't understand how anybody got into this area from the north. It would have to be, I would say from the Sanpete side.

KP: That is where they came from.

SL: Or Salina. The Spanish never got this far north. The Spanish trail of course goes across from Green River to Castle Dale and then down through Salina and I suppose that is how Salina got its name, Salinas. But I don't think that anybody ever went north when they found the impassable nature of the country there. As I have showed you the picture doesn't substantiate any trail what so ever through Price Canyon.

PN: What type of treatment did your father receive in the mines?

SL: My grandfather you mean. My father never worked in the mines.

PN: Your grandfather yes.

SL: Well it is the usual story of great economic exploitation. I remember my grandmother saying that they would go to work before the sun was up and never got out of the mine before the sun went down. This was probably during the winter time. I think that they worked an average of 10 or 12 hours a day. I believe that contract method was used to encourage workers to work long hours because I don't know how my grandfather ever got a stake without that sort of encouragement. Contract work they called it.

PN: Does this refer to the Padrone system in any way?

SL: No, not as far as I know there was Padrone system among the Italians. They were too individualistic to be controlled by a

Padrone so called. You have got to remember that the majority of them came from the north, that the industrialization of Italy occurred from the north and it is still the industrial center and the Northern Italian probably had a good social foundations for industry and unions, etc. Otherwise they couldn't have been sold as rapidly as they were toward unionism. Do you see what I am getting at?

PN: Yes.

SL: It was replaced by the Padrone system with the coming of the Greeks, and was utilized to a great degree by the Greeks. But I know of nobody among the Italians that ever bossed anybody around. What I am saying is that you got to differentiate between the \$5 a day better, whatever figure they quote you at in those days. I don't know if Henry told me or not, he did mention the amount, but you should talk to him about that. I can't relate that to my grandfather's losing his patrimony in Emery county and coming back and within two or three years having enough money again to buy this 40 acres, two blocks in Mead survey unless he was placed in a, he was a contract man. He was a boss, that is, he dealt with the company and come to teams on tonnage of coal mine you see what I mean? He would have undoubtedly would have had to have some ability to get together a crew who would work long hours, etc. in order to do this, but he wasn't a Padrone that is for sure.

PN: Did the company have agents that would go abroad and try to get immigrant labor to come in?

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SL: As far as I know the Italian go this occurred after the strike of 1903, with the Greeks. I never heard anybody mentioned, as a labor agent, among the Italians in Castle Gate.

PN: This doesn't necessarily have to be an Italian himself. I was wondering if perhaps the company itself had someone to recruit labor?

SL: No, the whole influx of Italians in this area, according to tradition, was by word of mouth. "Come on to Castle Gate, it is a new mine. They are buying coal like crazy and you can get a job." See what I mean? They are all from certain area. For example, the Lombards here are all from a Province called Turpigo. I am convinced that somebody from Turpigo got here probably worked in the mines in Colorado and sent word, "come on this is a great place." I don't know of any of that occurring until after the strike of 1903. Then that was the rule and not the exception.

PN: Was this rule also pertain to the Italians.

SL: No, I mean the Padrone system and the labor agents occurred after the strike of 1903, not before. I have never heard anything about that, I don't want to be vehement about it, but my grandfather's getting off the train in Castle Gate certainly does not square with somebody recruiting him. The Northern Italian immigration occurred first. The first wave was northern. The western wave was among the Northern Italians and I don't think that there was any recruitment at all. When was the repressive immigration act? It was afterwards, wasn't it? The doors were pretty well open after a while.

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PN: Well 1921 was your first restriction law.

SL: Okay before that it was mostly northern. Nobody rode over.

PN: When was the wave of the Southern Italians in this area?

SL: In the late 19, not the late, wait a minute, I got the wrong term. From what I have been able to see after War World War I from 18, late 1918, 19 and in the early 20's from then they came in substantial numbers and almost equalized the north south Italian complexion here in Helper.

PN: Could there have been a Padrone system with that immigration?

SL: Very possibly, but I have never again heard anyone being mentioned. There are from an agricultural area in Italy. Do you see what I mean?

PN: Yes.

SL: An extremely poor area and if anyone could be recruited through this Padrone system it could be the Southernns. I have never heard anybody saying that they were offered a job and they came over. They just, I think like the Northerns, just flocked over here because it was the land of the free and the home of the brave. Opportunity. Why I don't believe basically the Italians are not, north or south susceptible to the Padrone system.

PN: This is the general answer that I am receiving.

SL: We are too damn independent. You know, they didn't unify Italy until late. How could any labor agent buffalo them? And the Austrians certainly had no Padrone system. The Yugoslavian is just as independent as the Italians. I would say that the Padrone system is the exception and not the rule. It didn't even last very

long with the Greeks.

PN: It broke up in 1912...Skliris.

SL: Yeah, they only had about 7 or 8 years of it. I don't think so. What they did encounter was another great evil. That was economic exploitation by the Eastern banking interests. The entire evils that the industrial revolution brought about were visited upon them. I don't know what difference, there might not be very much difference between the Pleasant Valley Coal Company being the Padrone or what was his name, Stilianos Stauroplous Stillian Staes was the Padrone among the Greeks. It didn't even tell the Greeks to get rid of it so I don't believe so. No tradition or anything I have heard. Nowhere may have been some in Sunnyside or in the Sunnyside area, for a very short time, but I haven't heard anything, so I would say no.

PN: What was the standard way of getting a job then for these Italians coming in? Would they just approach the company?

SL: From what I understand, yeah. They were excellent workers. They were poor and they were energetic and ambitious. They were just raw meat for a company of the character of Utah Fuel or Pleasant Valley Coal to put to work.

PN: Just to get a firm then, you would say. The Northern Italians were there first and worked in the mines. After 1903 they left and then you had your second wave of Italians which were you Southern Italians come in, who got into the mines.

SL: With this the majority of Italians were northerns. The company by 1 would say 10 or 15 percent of Southern Italians and they were, the Southern Italian was a very ambitious and energetic type too like the northerners, because...until 1903--

PN: Now the question of the Italian societies there was the Stella D'America which was made up mostly of northerns. Now what type of membership was consistent in the Sunnyside society which was the Societa Italiani Minatori?

SL: Now as I have said before don't get the impression that there weren't Southern Italians that came over here as soon as the norhterns did in the late 1880's. Both Henry Ruggeri and I know Dr. Delpaz states that there were Southern Italian working in the mines in Castle Gate, but they were in the minority. Okay, but the old antipathies between the north and the south was carried over into this country. So that socially the Northern Italian did not associate on a social basis with the Southern Italian. So the Stella D'American Lodge was a Northern Italian lodge composed mainly of Tyrolese, Peidmontese, and Tombardese. I can remember my grandmother saying and you can check this with Dr. Delpaz that socially they didn't mix. They belonged to the same church and they would go together. They were from the samy country, but it wasn't unified I don't believe in those days. They never had any social commereenne between each other. Now the Italian tradition in the east end is southern in character. There are very few Northern Italians as far as I know settled in that area. It was a southern enclave.

PN: Which are is that, Sunnyside?

SL: Sunnyside. The Sunnyside are was a Southern Italian enclave and you get if you dealt deep enough a Southern Italian tradition on the east end that is the Sunnyside area.

PN: Did they ever merge together?

SL: Not that I know of. In fact, I think it has been with in my life time that they allowed Calabrese into the Stella D'America Lodge here in Helper. I think it was after Joe Delpaz became president.

PN: Are you familiar with this Italian lodge that I have mentioned in Sunnyside?

SL: No.

PN: Who could I get in touch with?

SL: John Menotti might know, in Price. Then there is a Menotti out the old man is dead, old man Menotti is dead, but his brother John in Price may give you a lot of good information about the lodge out there.

PN: Is it still in existence?

SL: Not that I know of. I think it has been defunct for a long time. I think when the southern were integrated into the Stella D'America it collapsed, but I am not sure.

PN: I think Falsetti was a president of that lodge in 1930 when that vanity publication came out.

SL: Is that right?

PN: Yeah that is what the publication says.

SL: I don't know. That is Falsetti in Price?

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PN: Yeah.

SL: But John Menotti would be about the only one that I know of. If you ask John he would probably give you some leads. But there were mainly southerns and they are still there. You should check with the Esquinta out there. Let me see if I... You get into them with calling Mrs. Pagano in Price. They are old timers out there. And the Menoltis of course. I think it would be Bill or Jim out there. But call Mrs. J. Pagano and she will get you someone to interview out there.

PN: When were you born?

SL: 1920, August 25. I was born in Helper too, incidentally.

PN: What, you were a little too young then, but in fact you weren't born. In 1919 they established what is known as the Italian-Americanization Club. Do you have any familiarity with that organization at all?

SL: Sure I don't. I think that Dr. Delpaz would get you into that area. He is the expert on lodges.

PN: And how about the 1922 strike here? Do you have any--

SL: No recollection, but there should be some here real good newspaper accounts. I do remember about the Greek being killed at the one on the Utah railway.

PN: John Tenas.

SL: John Tenas. I do know that is it was repressed like every other strike with national guard. I remember my grandmother telling me that during the strike the guard would march up and down the sidewalks here in Helper. She was, this was not the strike of '22

the strike of 1903, I should say. That she was walking up and down in Helper and the guards and she was carrying Mary, my aunt in her arms at the time, and they told her to off into the streets with the horses and the cattle, that she wasn't good enough to walk on the sidewalk with them.

PN: This was the 1903 strike?

SL: Yeah, I am almost sure. Because it couldn't have been '22 because I would have been the baby at that time. It had to be in '03, when they came down here. But the guard did come in '22 and I remember my grandmother always pointing out a place where they had the machine guns inplaced with flood lights. My memory is not good at all on that strike.

PN: How was the--

SL: The trouble occured mainly up in the Spring Canyon area as I remember.

PN: Yeah. How was the Italian treat, the Northern Italian then later the Southern Italian in the this area?

SL: Always good because we were in the majority. (laughter) The only trouble we ever had was when the national guards came in, which is why the guard had a bad reputation in this area. In fact, it was a major event when they build an armory at Price I believe in the 40's. It was the first national guard armory that we ever had. It was in the 40's. We always got along with each to the consternation of the extremeists on both sides.

PN: I find some references to Italians in the local newspapers that would convey to me the idea that they were not looked upon the

most deal people. For instance, I would like to quote to you an article in the Eastern Utah Advocate on May 4, 1899 which stated and I quote, "The Chinese section men here are no more. They were let out on the first day of May and their places were taken by white men and Italians." Does this serve as a typical view of the Italians or is this just one man's view?

SL: The newspapers in those days are the same as the newspapers now. As I understand it, Price newspapers were dominated and owned alliance to so called "vested interest" because they did the majority of the advertising in them. So that they were always slanted and they always presented the Anglo-Saxon white supremacy Nordic philosophy that is found all over this country. It would probably be the predominate opinion in Price because Price was settle mainly by Mormons and it was the county seat and the place where the economic interests would control. I have never encountered this in Helper, this business. Although when I was going to school then and even now that philosophy still prevails.

PN: Now when the Northern Italians as you stated previously, got out of the mines after the 1903 strike or most of them did and got into business or whatever the ideas of these Italians or the ideas towards them began to change, because they are now out of labor--

SL: Yes, but never completely. Mr. Notorianni, even to this day you encounter...

PN: Why is that?

SL: Oh I don't know because we are not the majority I guess is the

main reason except in Helper. You don't hear much of it in Helper. My grandmother use to say, I believe I told you there an Englishman could get off the boat in New York and be in Carbon County or in Utah three weeks and he was a citizen of the United States, but that an Italian could live all his life here and when he died he was still a dirty Italian son of a bitch. (laughter)

Part of it is the Mores of Utah. Utah is an insulate type of state with the Anglo-Saxons predominating in the dominant faith while during the reign of David O. McKay feeling were considerable softened and they still in the predominate Mormon communities posses this philosophy. I am not criticizing them for it, I'm just saying it is fact that you always have to accept. A Mormon in the city of Chicago would enjoy the reverse side of this philosophy among the Roman Catholics. I accept it as a fact of life. That is all. A Mormon running for office in Chicago would have about as much chance as I would running for the govenor of this state, let's put it that way. Even in Non-Mormon states it is because of I would say the brilliance of the person in volved that he enjoys political success. But you shouldn't take that isolated instance and then make it into a general proposition that Mormons are universally accepted everywhere. Do you see what I mean? So what I am saying basically is this, and I think my boy will still experience it in Carbon County. There is an innate belief of the inferiority of southern Europeans which almost everybody in Utah accepts and believes in. Only very enlightened Mormons who have had cosmopolitan up bringings

in other areas would not experience it. What I am saying is that the press in Price in those days was dominated by capitalistic interests maybe that is the wrong term but it is true. Predominately capitalist interest and Mormon readers. While all of the Europeans were in the majority in Carbon County, yet the people who voted and the people who had the most money were always either Anglo-Saxon in origin in racial origin or a member of the LDS church.

PN: Do you feel that the Italians have fully assimilated into this society here in Utah?

SL: No and never will. I think an Italian would have as much chance as I told you before as a snow ball in hell of being governor of this state. I still think that it is here. It has lessened, but we haven't become that liberal. The exception, the great exception to me and I think a study should be made of it. How in the blazes Simon Bamburger became governor of this state. It would be an interesting study. He was Jew of course. The only other exception was Dern. But what I am trying to say is that nobody should get excited about this or to go to the barracades. When you deal in politics you deal with human emotions, prejudices and economic backgrounds. Utah, I think is still generally placed in a provincial nonegalitarian state. Like I say, I don't care. I accept it. I am here in an area where I am well respected. And I think that the Wasatch front, with the exception of Utah County, is becoming more and more liberal. I

ascribe that mainly to David O. McKay, who was a wonderful Christian gentleman and who always sought to minimize the conflicts rather than maximize them. I won't comment about the president. I think that he represents a conservative era and doesn't seem to have the humility and brotherliness of David O. at least I haven't felt it. Just as Pope Paul represents a retrogression from Pope John is what I am saying.

PN: What the early Italians in this area, what type of social activities did they have, you know?

SL: Well of course the saloon was the center of all social intercourse. Henry Ruggeri tells me that Kathy's Saloon is where everybody went to on a Saturday night. They would go to each other homes. There were picnics at the time. They had baseball games and they played boccia, there were boccia courts I understand all over the place. Church of course, mainly with the women and a minority of the men, provided some social activity. But that is about it. Let me just say now. Even in Helper the Italian mayors are in the minority and I don't believe there was any Italian mayor in Price. In fact, I am certain of it. You see what I mean. But Price has always been anti-union, anti-Helper, and anti-Italian. I think that there has only been one councilman of Italian ancestry that has been elected in the city of Price and he wasn't a good Italian. That is Rachele just lately here too. Guido Rachele. He was on the city council, but that is politics you know.

PN: You mentioned these boarding house. Could you describe them to me, that the Italians lived in.

SL: Well they weren't mainly Italians incidentally. The Italians somehow or another always brought over or had a wife, married early. There were very few north and south, so the boarding houses were just temporary things until they could get a wife from the Old Country or send over and get their sweetheart. There were, I should say, these boarding houses were mainly Austrians who some how or another never a lot of women over here and the Austrian bachelor is kind of a fixture here. There are Greeks too, but they had Greek boarding houses you see. I called my grandmother's house a boarding house, but it was a rooming house which is a different. It was small rooms which they stayed in and then went to restaurant to eat. Among Slavs and Greeks the boarding house, of course, was a fixture because it provided meals and social entertainment and rooms where they could sleep, for unmarried men.

PN: What would have been the Italian counterpart of the Greek coffee houses for the Italians? The bar where they got together?

SL: Yeah, but not the Italian bar. I would say any bar. (laughter)

PN: They did not have anything comparable to that Greek Coffee house?

SL: No, not never. There was never an Italian bar. In fact, my grandfather Litizzette and my grandfather Botlino were great drinking buddies. And they would hit the whole town on a Saturday. They would start at the north of Helper and just go all the way down the street. Not only the Greeks had their own peculiar clan-ish place where the male met and visited. Possibly because the Italian wife wouldn't stand for that complete....There were a lot

of bachelor Greek women, you know what I mean. Greek women that were retiring types. I ascribe it to the Turkish influence. I may be all wrong, but the Italian wife she wouldn't put up with it. A Saturday night okay, but then he would have to come home. But to the Greek, the Greek coffee house was the only social center which they were even to this day which they were accepted. I think more so than any other nationality in Carbon County, that is all I can speak for. They are peculiarly clannish. You know what I mean. Kind of separate and apart. A Greek boy has to marry a Greek girl. They are getting away from it, of course. The Italians never had that sort of thing going. They enjoyed all the bars. In fact, the bar in Castle Gate was Kathy's Saloon, which was an Irish place. They would socialize with the Austrians of course because they were first cousins. There were never any antipathy between them, the Austrians and the Italians. There was in the beginning against the Greeks because they were strike breakers and scabs you see. There was quite a lot of that antipathy. But that gap was closed in the 20's on the strike of '22. But that is again Old Country idscrimination that has been carried over into this country.

PN: Were you at all familiar with the Italian consul here in Utah for many years Fortunato Anselmo?

SL: Only after I began practicing law, did I ever meet Fortunato. Al Veltri can tell you about Fortunato more than anybody.

PN: Right, I have got a little bit from him.

SL: He was an extremely cultured gentleman of great sensabilities and

a credit to the Italian of Utah. I can sum up Mr. Anselmo personally.

PN: When did your father become a citizen of the United States?

SL: He was born here.

PN: Oh that is right. I kept thinking he...

SL: No, no he was born here. That is what always amazed somebody when they talk to me. They say, "when did your father leave the Old Country?" I say, "He was born here." My mother was born near Rockville, Colorado.

PN: Did your grandfather become a citizen?

SL: Oh yes.

PN: Right away?

SL: I have never been able to asxertain it. I will try to get it, but my recollection is yes in the early 1920's. I know that he became a citizen.

PN: I see.

SL: In fact all of the Italians became a citizen. There were very few that did not. Both north and south.

PN: So, a lot of the Italians settled in the East just at first to make their money and then go back, but most of the Italians in this state come to stay, I think.

SL: That is correct and they were all coal miners, essentially, and how they ever got over here I have always speculate on, but some I think that it was just plain correspondence because a lot of them ended up in the Colorado coal fields, you know, before they came here. I think that it is just a question of a writing back

and saying if you want to come, come and I will try to get you a job and there was job opportunities here too, more so than in the East. These people that come here were not from large urban centers in Italy like Torino or Milano or Forence or Rome. In fact I have yet to meet the first native of Torinese or any other city in Italy. They were always from the agricultural regions of Italy. That may appear to be in conflict, but it isn't. Because the families used to go to the large cities in Italy to work you see what I mean. But here they were mostly farmers from that area, both north and south. So all they were looking for was a job and I can't account for it any other way. There are among the Lombards there is a tremendous number from Torino that can only be account for by somebody saying, come on, it's good and having that news circulate there when they wanted to get the blazes out.

PN: That is very noticable among Southern Italians because you have got peculiar villages that there are dozens and dozens...

SL: San Giovanni in Fiore for example.

PN: Pedivigliano, which is where my father is from.

SL: Wait a minute there is another one too, the Eaquinos come from. Let's go off the record and I can get that from you.

PN: I guess that then will conclude this interview. Thank you very much Mr. Litizzette.

SL: You are very welcome. I can't tell you how important I feel and Italian historical quarterly is long over due.

PN: I will drink to that.