

JOSEPH TOME

Sandy, Utah

Tape No. I-31 and I-32

An Interview By

Phil Notarianni

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THE FOLLOWING IS AN INTERVIEW CONDUCTED WITH MR. JOE TOME ON JULY 31, 1974 AT SANDY, UTAH. THE INTERVIEWER IS PHIL NOTARIANNI.

PN: Mr. Tome, when and where were you born?

JT: I was born, 18 September, 1896.

PN: And--

JT: Ayulo Belluno, Italy.

PN: And that is in cual Provinccea?

JT: Yeah, in the northern part of Italy.

PN: Northern part. What did your father do?

JT: My father was a banker.

PN: A banker. And which city did he have his bank?

JT: Not a banker, a baker.

PN: A baker?

JT: Baker.

PN: Baker.

JT: He was a baker.

PN: A baker. Where did he have his bake shop? Did he have it in the village--in the town that you were born?

JT: In the town that I was born, yes.

PN: And did he have quite a good business there?

JT: Well, he was working. He was a head man for a company there, for a big bakers. He was the head man. Yeah, baker and pastry man, yeah.

PN: A pastry--which year did you decide to come to the United States?

JT: Well, I was sixteen years old when I come over here.

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About sixteen and half year old. I decided to come over. I just went back to Italy from Luxembourg. I travel through Switzerland. I work in Switzerland and Luxembourg, and I had it out with the department of the mademoiselle in the northern part of France. I worked there for six months. And then I went back to Italy. I was there for thirty days, and then, of course, there was no industry in the town I come from. I either had to get out. I had to go back to Switzerland, or to Luxembourg or come over to the United States, and I chose the United States, see.

PN: Why did you choose the United States? Was there any particular reason?

JT: Well, Switzerland is the most beautiful country in the world. The only reason I can see my way out for a young man, you know, to save anything for myself, was too much freedom and too much good time there. Luxembourg was a place--iron mine. The work and people, you know, that were pushing from other country, they all crowd in there was quite a rough bunch of people there. So I decided to come over there. I had an uncle here in Bingham and I came over.

PN: Did you come straight to Bingham then from Italy?

JT: Straight to Bingham. Straight to Bingham.

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PN: Can you remember the voyage across the sea?

JT: The what?

PN: Your trip across the sea?

JT: Yeah.

PN: Can you remember that? What was the name of the ship you came over on?

JT: The Turin.

PN: The Turin?

JT: Yeah.

PN: Can you remember coming through the immigration station at Ellis Island?

JT: Absolutely.

PN: What was it like?

JT: Oh, that was pretty good. It didn't bother me at all. In fact, in fact, I came through--there was a fellow older than I am, that he had me in--what do you call it? He was taking care of me because I was a minor. Well, they stopped him under suspicion, but I came right through it without no trouble at all.

PN: They stopped him on suspicion of what?

JT: Well, he was a nice fellow, see, but he had a big moustache, and they asked you a question there if you come over here, ah, with assurance of a job, or if he was looking for a job, or thing like that. I guess maybe he didn't answer the question right, you know,

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and they stop him there for a couple of days, and then they let him through, see. But me, they asked me, you know, what if I was coming over there, if my job was assured, and I said, "No, I'm just going over and look for a job," you know.

PN: And they didn't say anything else.

JT: No, they didn't bother me. I came right through it.

PN: Did they check to see if you had a certain amount of money? I know some of the immigrants they checked to see if they had, like \$20.00 dollars or something.

JT: Yeah, I had about \$30.00 left when I landed--about \$30.00 or \$40.00 dollars left. That's about all I had.

PN: Did they ask you how much you had. How much money you had?

JT: Well, I don't recall, but they probably did, you know.

PN: Because I know in most cases they did. They asked the immigrant how much money he had. Well, how did you find that immigration station at Ellis Island? Was it--?

JT: No trouble at all.

PN: No trouble?

JT: No trouble at all. In fact they give you a--in those days they used to give you a package that cost you a

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dollar, with some food in it, was supposed to carry you through, you know, to your destination, you know. A dollar they used to give you a package of food, charge you a dollar for it, see. Then you get on a train and that's suppose to--

PN: This was what, 1912, when you came here?

JT: 1913.

PN: 1913. Did they check you like to see if you had any disease?

JT: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, and then, of course, you had to have a medial certificate, you know. You have to have a medical certificate. I still have all those papers someplace, you know, and passport, of course.

PN: Passport. Did you come over third class?

JT: Yeah.

PN: On the ship, third class. How was the trip over? Was it a good trip?

JT: Oh, it was pretty good, but of course, in those days they had those ship with caught one on top of the other. It wasn't so--nothing like it is nowadays, anyhow.

PN: What port in Italy did you debark from, Genoa?

PN: Havre, France.

PN: Oh, France! That's interesting. When you came through Ellis Island then, did you get right on a train and



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travel to Utah, or did you go someplace else, first?

JT: No, right on the train to Utah.

PN: You came right to Utah. And did you settle in Bingham?

JT: Yeah.

PN: And where did you live in Bingham?

JT: Right downtown, right in Bingham.

PN: Did you live in a home, did you live in a boarding house?

JT: No, I was ---?--- with my uncle for a little while.

PN: And where did he live? Did he live right on the main street?

JT: No, he lived up in Copperfield.

PN: Copperfield.

JT: Copperfield.

PN: Copperfield.

JT: I stayed two or three months with him, and then moved down to Bingham, you know. 'Course I went up to Highland Boy for a couple of months, you know.

PN: Oh, yeah. In 1913?

JT: In 1913, yeah. I work in the Highland Boy mine there for a couple of months, you know. 'Course the first job I had, I worked for the Boston Conn Tunnel.

PN: The Boston Conn Tunnel.

JT: The Boston Conn Tunnel, there. Then I quit there and

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I went to work for the Kennecott Copper. It was Utah Copper at that time.

PN: Utah Copper at that time.

JT: 'Course I had to lie on my age in order to get a job.

PN: You were what--sixteen?

JT: I was pretty close to seventeen years old. And I tell them I was 21 years old, you know, in order to get a job. Of course, in those days you don't have no social security, no record. They took you word for it, and that's all to it, you see.

PN: So you got a job immediately when you got there?

JT: Oh yeah.

PN: You went to work.

JT: Oh yeah, I went to work for a job. In fact I went up to old Bost Conn. I remember they hired about twelve or fifteen men, you know. And the next day when we were there, you know, I go in with the old-timer, on the line with the old-timer. They give you four candles, see. The rest they have the day before, they send all back. There was no jobs. We happen to have those four candles, you know, showing the four candles there.

PN: Four candles?

JT: Yeah, they used to give you four candles when you go in the mine. They were supposed to light you go eight

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hours. That's you light in the mines.

PN: They gave you four candles, and that was supposed to last eight hours in the mine?

JT: In the mine, absolutely. So I showed the four candles, they took me between the superintendent and the foreman, which was, I do remember--I do not remember the name of the superintendent, but the foreman was Blackjack Caufield.

PN: Blackjack Caufield?

JT: Yeah.

PN: And this was for the Boston Con?

JT: The Boston Con, and they took me in the mine, you know.

PN: And this was up in where? Up in Copperfield?

JT: No, Boston Con.

PN: Oh, okay, yeah.

JT: Then I went to work for a copper--on a track there for a couple of months there, you know.

PN: You were a section man.

JT: The section. Then I quit there and went up to Highland Boy. In those days all we had to do was to look for a job, and you get a job anyplace.

PN: Just traveling around, huh?

JT: Traveling around. Then I went up to Highland Boy, there. I work up there a little while. Then, what the

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heck, then I work for the butcher a little while. A friend of mine had a butcher shop. And I was delivering meat for a little while, you know. Then I got a job on the--

PN: Was he Italian?

JT: Yeah. Then I got a job on the U.S. Mine. They were going to put up an orchestra. I was playing the guitar so we set up an orchestra.

PN: Oh, you set up an orchestra?

JT: Yeah, out there, and I went to work for two years for the old Galena Mine up there.

PN: Galena Mine.

JT: We had that orchestra up there.

PN: Who had that orchestra? It was you and who else?

JT: There was seven of us guys.

PN: Can you remember who they were?

JT: Yeah, it was me, and young Ben was playing the drum, Marco Coletti was playing the lead drum. Socol Geleste was playing the violin; ---?--- was playing the coronet, and, what the heck was his name, was playing the trombone.

PN: Uh huh.

JT: 'Course that guy was professional trombone, too, you know.

PN: When did you start that orchestra, 1913?

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JT: No, 1914.

PN: 1914. And where did you play? Where did you play at?

JT: We play all over, you know. We play for the company once a week up there. They had a golden hall up there. We played for the company every Thursday.

PN: What was the name of that hall?

JT: ---?--- Hall, and we're up at the U.S. Mines. We played there once a week every Thursday, and then we used to go out and play different places, you know. We used to go up and play a couple of times a month for the Yugoslav right up to Highland Boy.

PN: Oh, you played for the lodge. You played for the Slavic Lodge?

JT: Yeah, when they had a dance up there. They had a dance up there every so often, and we play up there, see.

PN: What kind of music did you play for them?

JT: Just Polka, waltzing, you know, old time music.

PN: That's very interesting.

JT: Then, of course, that orchestra broke 1915.

PN: You were together for about a year, huh?

JT: About a couple of year, yeah. Then I went to Nevada. I worked there for the gold and silver mining company there.

PN: Where at in Nevada?

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JT: Fifty miles out of Winnemucca. ---?--- silver mine.

I work there for them for about six months. In December I came back to Bingham.

PN: And then where?

JT: That was the golden day, and while I used to go in a saloon with a twenty dollar gold piece to have a drink, they used to give you back a ten dollar gold piece, five dollar gold piece, two and half dollar gold piece, and silver. I never see a paper dollar in the wallet in those days.

PN: All gold pieces or silver?

JT: Silver, yeah, olden day. In fact, when I come out, I have about five or six hundred dollar in the bank, when I come out of the desert there. I put them out. They give you all twenty dollar gold pieces.

PN: Did you do any mining yourself out in Nevada, or did you just work?

JT: I was sharpening steel for them out there. Sharpening steel, that's the first blacksmith shop I work in, you know.

PN: Wow! What kind of tools did you use?

JT: What?

PN: What kind of tools did you use?

JT: Oil.

PN: Oil?

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JT: Oil. We had oil foreman there, you know. Yeah.

PN: Oil. It's a long time ago. When you came back to Bingham, then, you went back to work for Bingham? You went back to work for Utah Copper?

JT: No, I came back to Bingham, and I doing quite a bit of traveling. In 1917, I went to Missoula, in a coal mine, work in the coal mine over there, and I come back from there in 1918. I got drafted in the army.

PN: Were you an American citizen at the time?

JT: Yeah...no, no. I got my American citizen papers when I come out of the army, in 1920.

PN: So you were in service approximately two or two and one half years?

JT: No, I was serving seven months, I think.

PN: Oh, seven months.

JT: From July until January of 1919. I got this job I think, the 25th of January in 1919.

PN: And did you go out of the United States?

JT: No, no.

PN: All the time in the United States? Where were you stationed?

JT: Fort Lewis, Washington.

PN: Fort Lewis. What did they have you do up there? Were you in training or something?

JT: Yeah, training, nine hour, nine hour a day.

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PN: Huh.

JT: Nine hour a day. Harder than working in the mine, I tell you. We used to train in those days; go through those gas with the mask on there. Go out, lay down and go in a ---?--- position until you don't have no more breath. Boy, they used to work you to beat hell, I tell you.

PN: Did you learn to speak English in the army?

JT: No, I knew English before I went in the army. I talked good English there than I do now.

PN: Well, let's start talking a little bit about the lodge. When did you join the lodge, NO. 68 Federacion Colombiana.

JT: It was in 1915, '16, I guess, I must have joined the lodge.

PN: Can you remember who the president was in that early period?

JT: Yes, Joe ---?---.

PN: Why did you join the lodge?

JT: Well, it was a nice lodge with the Italian community in there, you know. We were there for the welfare of the people, you know. In fact, every year we collect some money from the businessmen to have a big day on Fourth of July, you know. After all, you know that was--and further more, just like an insurance, they



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take care of you if you was sick or anything like that. You get compensation or it which was a dollar a day anyhow, you know. In those days it's worth more anyway, you know.

PN: Well, it was good in those days because you weren't getting any compensation from the company or anything.

JT: No, we're not getting any compensation. We no have no sick benefit or nothing.

PN: Were most of the men in that lodge--when you joined were they single. Single men?

JT: Well, they was mostly old single men in Bingham in those days, anyhow. It was really a few of them there I can point out.

PN: You didn't have many men with families then, a wife?

JT: I can point out here the only one that had a family was ---?---. ---?--- got married was quite old. 'Course when we joined the lodge, none of these were married, none of them. None of them were; they were all single except Carlo Marcon and ---?--- Santo---?---. that's the two that was married. They were married. That's the two.

PN: They were married, huh?

JT: Yeah, they were married.

PN: What, did the men up there work for awhile, and then

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send for their wives, or did they go back to Italy, or did they just--?

JT: No, no, they mostly just got married here. None of them sent for the wife back to Italy.

PN: Did most of them marry Italian women?

JT: Well, some of them, some of them. Most of them, most of them.

PN: Can you remember any other kind of lodge activity that you had, in that early period? Did they sponsor dances once a month or anything like that?

JT: Oh yeah. We used to have a meeting about once a month, yeah.

PN: You had a meeting once a month?

JT: Yeah.

PN: They had dances too. Didn't they?

JT: Huh?

PN: Didn't they have dances?

JT: Yeah, we have dances quite often, you know.

PN: Where did you use to have these dances?

JT: Up Society Hall. Used to be Society Hall in Bingham, you know.

PN: Was it called Society Hall?

JT: Yeah, I think so. Then it go to be--I think after, was the Society Hall. All the lodges used to hold the meeting in that lodge. All the lodges, not only the

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Italian lodge, all the other lodges.

PN: Did you have an odd fellows hall or odd fellows affair?

JT: Yeah odd fellows used to hold the same meeting in the same lodge. KP used to hold the same meeting in the same lodge, you know.

PN: Uh hum.

JT: Yeah, used to hold the meeting in the same lodge. Society Hall they used to call it.

PN: You were telling me earlier that membership in this lodge was restricted. In which way?

JT: The what?

PN: That the membership, that certain men could not belong to the lodge?

JT: Oh no, you have to be a--you don't have to belong to an organized labor, but nevertheless if you was a scab or anything like that you scabbing someplace, they won't accept you in their lodge, no.

PN: So it was basically a workingman's organization.

JT: Basically, yeah, yeah, yeah.

PN: Did you have quite a mixture of Italians from different areas in Italy. Like you had Petemontasee, you had Cala ---?---

JT: From all over, from all over.

PN: From ---?--- you had all different kinds.

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JT: All different, yeah.

PN: Was there ever any hard feelings in Bingham between the men from different parts of Italy?

JT: No, no, not that I know of. In fact, you know we all respect each other, regardless of what part of the country we was from.

PN: That's interesting because in Carbon County there was a little bit of harsh feeling between some of the men from different parts of Italy.

JT: Well, you know, that is human. Sometimes they have little disagreement from one to the other and things like that, but as a whole, Bingham was really a nice place to live. I tell you the truth.

PN: I was going to ask you that leads into another question. How did the Italian population get along with the Greeks and Serbs and the Croations, and the other groups? And the Finns?

JT: We used to get along pretty well.

PN: Got along quite well.

JT: Quite well with all of them. Yes, in fact, I work up to Highland Boy there. I work up in the shop for twelve years as a blacksmith there.

PN: You worked as a blacksmith there in Highland Boy?

JT: Highland Boy, yes. Twelve years, I worked for twelve years.

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PN: Did you get to meet a lot of Serbian people?

JT: They were all Austrian there. By God I was the only Italians there. I got along with them very nice. We never had a misword one to another, just like brother.

PN: Can you remember some of those Serbian people their names?

JT: Yes.

PN: Why don't you tell me a few of their names?

JT: I was working for John Stephan. John Stephan was the boss, blacksmith boss.

PN: Now did he have his own--he had a shop, huh?

JT: Well, the company have a shop, you see. We were working for the company, and he was boss, see. We were working for the company, and he was boss, see, of the blacksmith shop. It was about three, four, five beside him working there, you know. I run the fire for twelve years. I run the fire for him for twelve year, and they have couple of tool sharpener. One of them I guess still alive. One of them is dead. In fact most of them are dead now anyhow, see.

PN: 'Cause a good friend of mine, his name is Joe Stipanivich; he's a Serb, and he's doing some research with the Serbs up in Highland Boy. The one of the men he talked with lives down there at

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Midvale. And he was able to get the flag. Did the Italian lodge ever have any kind of activity like the Serbian lodge? Did they ever get together and do any celebrating?

JT: With the Serbian, no, no. We used to have the day by ourselves, you know. We used to have a big day on the Fourth of July ---?--- Columbus Day.

XX: Columbus Day was the big Italian day.

PN: I was just going to ask you...that's the big one.

JT: Columbus Day was the biggest day in Bingham, you know.

XX: John Ferraco used to ride the white horse all the time.

JT: John Ferraco used to ride the white horse you know. We all have the--

PN: What did he do? Did he lead the parade or something?

JT: He lead the parade.

PN: And he rode a white horse.

XX: A horse ---?---.

PN: A white horse.

XX: I think it was white all the time, wasn't it?

PN: Did he have any kind of a costume on or just ride the horse?

JT: No, just one of his things on, see.

PN: Oh, a sash.

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JT: That is if he was an officer, see. This is an officer of the lodge.

PN: Yeah, I can see those.

XX: But they had him every year no matter what. He was the ---?---

JT: Yeah, we had a nice time there, on Columbus Day.

XX: Everybody go that ---?---

JT: And a big dance at night, you know.

XX: It was nice.

JT: The company in Bingham, they used to let go the Italian off on that day, you know. You was allowed to be off a day because you know that was your--the company was awfully nice as far as Columbus Day was concerned, you know. That's all ---?---

PN: Why don't you describe to me, a typical Columbus Day celebration. Start with, like what happened in the morning and carry it through the evening. 'Cause this is really interesting. I have done some research into the Italian lodges and fraternal organizations, and I know that in one of the newspapers in Salt Lake it was called El Minatori, and it was published by a guy by the name of Mose Pagii. And he would write up that there was a certain celebration in Bingham on Columbus Day, or there was a celebration in Merquer on Columbus Day. Why don't you tell me?

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XX: Wasn't this taken on Columbus Day?

PN: Yeah, right here. Columbus Day, October 12, 1929.

XX: Gee, yeah.

PN: What did you do to start out in the morning?

JT: Started out in the morning, we used to start the parade about ten o'clock in the morning.

PN: And where, where did the parade start?

JT: Well, the parade start in one end of the town, you know and go up to the other end. And then they all end out in front of the Bingham Merc. And, of course, we all had a big band from Salt Lake.

PN: Can you remember who that band was?

JT: No, no, I don't remember the name of it.

PN: Was it an Italian band?

JT: No, no, American band. Big band, about twenty-five or thirty people. On the afternoon that--the band played all the afternoon there, see, and, of course, people stand around there listen to the band--

XX: Oh, they had races for the kids.

JT: Walking up and down. They had races for the kids, too, you know.

XX: They had a lot of--

JT: Lot of entertainment for the kids, you know. They got the prizes and things like that. They spend a day like that, just up and down. Some people go in a



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saloon and have a drink, you know.

PN: It's just about like our 24th of July?

JT: Yeah, it was an all-day business.

XX: And then they had those miners--remember that. They used to have the fight who'd be first, you know, and sawing wood and all that kind of stuff.

PN: Oh, you had contests.

XX: Contests for different--

JT: Contest for different things like that. We would contest, you know, and that night a big dance down at the Canyon Hall in Bingham. It was one of the biggest halls in Bingham.

PN: Canyon Hall in Bingham?

JT: We had a dance down there.

PN: Did you have--now was this predominantly Italian, or was it like everybody in the town?

JT: Everybody was welcome to this. This was given by the Italian lodge, but everybody was welcome to this.

PN: Did you make--did the lodge make any money on these celebrations to put in their treasury?

JT: Well, not likely, because we used to put out pretty nearly as much if not more than what we took in.

PN: Than what you put in.

JT: We used to put out more than we took in. Anyhow, see-

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PN: Did they celebrate Columbus Day when you joined the lodge in 1915?

JT: Oh yeah, oh yeah.

PN: See because Columbus Day was made legal state holiday, in 1919.

JT: In 1919, yes. Frances Quinn is the one that push it through congress, to become a legal holiday in Central Utah.

PN: Another one, Anselmo, had a lot to do with that too, in 1919.

JT: He probably did.

PN: You see he was the vice-consul.

JT: I know, all I remember is Frances Quinn.

PN: Frances Quinn, did this Quinn, like did he belong to the Knights of Columbus or anything?

XX: No, oh no.

PN: Because the Knights of Columbus--

JT: Probably did because he was a Catholic. He was a Catholic, Francis Quinn. He was a good old friend of mine. He's still alive. He's not too good, his health.

XX: He lives in California.

JT: In California. He was here on the Fourth of July, but I didn't get to see him. I see his wife. The old man was really nice old gentleman. I like old man Francis

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Quinn. Yeah, in fact, I like everybody. The time was in Bingham I didn't see a man by golly that I dislike.

PN: It seems like things were quite harmonious up there.

XX: Bingham, it was the melting pot.

PN: Compared to a lot of the other towns I've studied, Bingham seemed to be--everything seemed to be fairly quiet.

JT: Just like the brother group. Just like I tell you before Bingham was really the cream of the earth, regardless of the nationality, religion, or anything like that. We was all friends, even the Mormon, even the Mormon. In fact, I used to go down and play for the Mormon, you know, in the Mormon hall there, you know. We were all friendly. They were nice to me, you know. Everybody got along fine. I never seen a place like Bingham, I tell you, as far as friendship because everybody knows everybody.

XX: Now, like now, everybody has moved out of Bingham because there isn't a Bingham, but if there's anything going on, everybody is there, and everybody is just a great big family.

JT: There was a day when there was twenty-two saloons in Bingham.

XX: It was really, it's really nice.

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PN: Twenty-two saloons?

JT: Twenty-two saloons.

XX: Bingham people stick together, right now.

JT: Of course, in 1917, things went dry you know.

XX: They sure do.

PN: How was the prohibition in those years up in Bingham. Was there a lot of bootlegging? I know there was--I know a lot of people were--

JT: People were drinking anyhow. You can't stop people from drinking.

PN: Well, I'll tell you why I kind of joke about it is because a lot of those people that were Europeans, and, I mean, wine was a part of their diet. And it's hard for them to come in here and have this prohibition and not have a little bit of whiskey. I know my Dad, he didn't make moonshine, but he did make wine during that prohibition.

XX: Oh yeah, most of the Italians did.

PN: I mean, you know, he had his wine, but do you recall that any of the federal officers came up to Bingham looking for moonshine. They raided all twenty-two saloons?

JT: Oh, they had them in court, by God, in Salt Lake for ---?--- trial, anyhow, see.

PN: Were most of them convicted, or did they get off?

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JT: No, no lots of them convicted. They got thirty days in jail, you know.

PN: Thirty days in jail, and then they came back and started up again.

JT: Sure.

XX: They had to let them know they were coming, huh?

PN: Well, were there anybody that would let you know when these guys was coming up, say, "Hey, the--"? You don't have to mention any names. I just want the stories connected with--?

JT: Some of those guys, I guess maybe they were tipping off, you know, and--

JT: ---?---, you know, but they catch you anyway. They know what you was doing.

PN: I've seen some pictures of Bingham when the federal officers were up there, and the barrels were out, and they had these hatchets, and they'd break into the barrels and let all the moonshine spill out. Do you remember the Ku Klux Klan in 1924, 1925? You know the people that wore those white hoods?

JT: Well, I remember the time--the first year in Bingham. That wasn't the time. That wasn't 1924-25. That was earlier than that when they used to burn the cross on the east side of the hill there, you know.

PN: And can you remember what year? Do you know?

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JT: Not exactly.

PN: Was it, let me say, was it after 1920?

XX: Oh, yes, it was after we was married wasn't it? Wasn't it after we got married when we saw that? Was that--it was '25 when we got married.

PN: It could have been somewhere, like 1921, '22, '23, somewhere around there?

XX: Oh, it was after that.

PN: And did they just--did the Ku Klux Klan very active there or did they just?

JT: Well, I don't see them do anything wrong. They just--

XX: They never done anything. We just saw the fire up there.

JT: They don't do anything wrong. I don't see them doing anything wrong to anybody, you know.

PN: Did they have any parades?

JT: No, nothing.

PN: See, they had a big parade in Magna.

XX: Did they? Well, they didn't have anything up there.

JT: I don't recall a parade or anything. I only say them burning the cross up there a couple of times, up on the east side.

PN: But there was no violence or anything?

JT: No, not a thing.

XX: Not a thing.

JOSEPH TOME #1

PN: That's interesting. See 'cause down in Carbon County, see, they mentioned a negro down there.

XX: Oh, they did?

JT: Of course, I remember the time of the Lopez too.

XX: Lopez.

PN: The what? Oh, Lopez. Why don't you tell me about him. I've heard a lot of stories about him?

JT: Well you know--

PN: I'd like--we'd like to find--we'd like to see the variation, just because, you know, because he's like a folk hero.

JT: I knew him personally, you know.

PN: Oh.

JT: And I know his best friend was Julio ---?---. His best friend, you know, very good friend of mine. Lopez was a good man. He wasn't a bad man. He killed a man in self-defense--the fourth one that he killed, see. Then they'd been hunting him, and he killed several others, see. In fact, he killed Sheriff Grant too and several others. Then they fumigate the mine there, the Apex mine, to try to get him out of there, see. I think the county of Salt Lake must have spend eight thousand dollars trying to hunt him down, but they've never been able to catch him. That guy knows the mine pretty well--better than the superintendent

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did. Nobody tell me by golly different what they were hunting, fumigating the mine. It was out in the mine.

PN: You think he got out, huh?

JT: I think he got out. I tell you, he killed three men up on three hundred, where the ---?--- come up, and the ---?--- goes down to seven hundred. About a little ways down on four hundred was a hole to get out and through the tunnel there. Through the tunnel there get you out on dry, there, see. And I kind of think he passed through there, you know, and he got away.

PN: Now, this seven hundred and four hundred is this the levels?

JT: The levels, yeah.

PN: In the mines?

JT: There was an inclined, you see. I remember even after--up to the mining mines up there was Charlie--?--- a big contractor. He went up there, and of course ---?--- and got away, you know. He must of went down in the mine, and Charlie ---?--- was looking for a gold list there. I was out of a job at the time, and he says, "Kid, if I find that list, I put you to work." So went through the mine and went in ---?--- through the tunnel and I was surprised--went right through about four hundred level on that



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incline ---?--- from three hundred to seven hundred-  
--?--- go up and down, see. So when I ---?--- up by  
the well, by God, that make me think that's how Lopez  
must have gotten out.

PN: That's how Lopez got out.

JT: That's how Lopez got out.

XX: Well, didn't anybody know that there was that  
entrance?

JT: Huh?

XX: Didn't they know there was that entrance?

JT: I don't know, but they know enough, you know. But I  
know they used to hunt, they used to pay some of  
those guys that wanted to make five dollars a day to  
try and hunt him down, you know. Them guys was  
collecting the money, but they were not looking for  
the-

PN: Has anybody ever heard of what happened to him?

JT: No, no.

PN: That you know of?

JT: No, no, I don't--

PN: You think he got out on the other side?

JT: He got out on the other side. I think, if I recall  
right, that I heard, that they saw him in Colorado,  
and then I don't know if he went back to Mexico or  
what the heck become of him, I don't know.

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PN: What did the people up in Bingham think of that situation?

JT: Well--

PN: What did they have to say about it?

JT: Nothing, everybody don't think anything wrong, you know. The only thing, a lot of people were out of a job. They get put down. They get five dollars a day. Go out looking for the Lopez, you know. Of course, the thing quieting down, then someone see man just to keep their job, you know. I don't think they were looking for Lopez. I think they were only doing it for the five dollars a day.

PN: You mean they were paying those people five dollars a day to hunt him down, and then they would say that they saw his tracks, so that they could keep on looking for him? That's pretty smart!

JT: I think the county I think they spend about thirty thousand dollars to try and hunt him down, you know.

PN: That's interesting.

JT: I know--they all pass in the mine. They got Bill Gomez over here; he's dead now it was about Bingham.

PN: Gorus?

JT: Gorus.

XX: Yeah, Bill Gorus.

PN: I know. I knew a Steve Gorus. Maybe they might be

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related.

JT: Bill Gorus--old man--he was working in the mine at the time, and Lopez went in and got his lunch bucket, you know.

XX: He was hungry, huh?

JT: Sure.

PN: Was this one, you mean, this was when Lopez was---?

JT: When he was hiding in the mine all the time, see.

PN: When he was hiding, huh?

JT: Yeah. Then he got out of it. They fumigated. They stop ---?--- mine ---?--- tried to get. I guess he was out of it. That was a day, Bingham twenty-two saloons and probably six, or seven hundred sporting girls.

PN Yeah, I heard quite a bit about that.

JT: They had quite a few places, you know. They had the old ---?---. They had the union ---?--- on both sides and up stairs. They had the--

PN: Twenty-two saloons and six sporting girls, huh. I can remember that. That's good. I haven't heard it put that way before. That's kind of funny.

JT: Oh was right, all those sporting girls because they had the doctor's examination, you know. Every so often, you know.

PN: Did you ever get together with any of the Italians

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from like Magna or any of the places around there.

Did they ever get together?

JT: No, no, not that I know of.

PN: What about--do you recall did you ever hear a guy by the name of Tony Nicolletti that ran a goat ranch?

XX: Yeah.

JT: Yeah.

PN: Up in ---?---. I was talking with him; he must be ninety-three now.

JT: Is he still alive?

PN: Yeah. Lives on State Street in Murray.

XX: Oh, out here in Murray.

PN: Luiji.

XX: Oh, it is Luiji.

PN: Luiji, is his father. Tony still has the ranch up in

XX: Oh, I was going to say, I thought he had the ranch up in--

PN: Because we go up and get recolta all the time. But anyway, Louis was telling me that he can remember when he used to take his horse and wagon and go up in Bingham and go up in the streets and yell--Forma---?--- and on, you know ---?--- and go on and on and selling things.

XX: Selling everything.

PN: Selling things. Do you remember that? Were there a

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lot of were there a lot of men up there peddling there?

XX: Oh, there were some everywhere.

JT: They used to come up with even with there carps fish there in Bingham too, you know.

PN: Carps! The fish?

JT: Yeah.

PN: They'd sell them, huh?

JT: Yeah. You now it's funny thing there in Utah. You can eat all the carps you want, you throw away, you don't care for it, you know it was 1921, when I was working in a shipyard after the war, you know. The shipyard in Oakland. Well, by God, they were selling those carps. They call them Utah Salmon by God! They were selling them for sixty-five cents a pound then.

PN: Where was this at, over in Nevada?

JT: Oakland.

XX: Oakland, California.

JT: Oakland, California.

PN: Oh, Oakland.

JT: Yeah, I was working on the shipyard at that time, there, see.

PN: Shipyard, huh?

JT: Shipyard, yeah, and they were selling those fish, they called them Utah Salmon down there because, you

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know, they get so fill ---?--- down there, see at  
this ---?--- there see.

PN: Utah Salmon.

JT: Utah Salmon. They were charging sixty-five cents a  
pound then, by God!

PN: And what year was this?

JT: 1921.

PN: Wow! But they sold these carps up in Bingham, huh?

JT: Oh yeah, oh yeah. They sold in Bingham. Carps is good  
meat; they got a lot of bone, you know. But if you  
get them up now, you catch carp up in Deer Creek  
Reservoir there where the water is clean; they are  
nice, you see. You catch them out here they kind of  
smell, you know, because Utah Lake is kind of  
polluted. So is the river.

PN: Yeah, Jordan.

JT: The Jordan River.

PN: There is a question I wanted to ask you, just to find  
out if there were a lot of new men that came into  
Bingham in 1913, when you came in because, of course,  
they had this guy in 1912. Were there a lot of new  
men coming in Bingham in that year?

JT: Well I don't--

PN: Or there wasn't any more than usual.

JT: Not any more than usual, you know. I know there was

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about, let's see, eleven of us that came on the same trip, you know. We all came to Bingham.

PN: How many Italian businessmen did you have up in Bingham, that owned bars, or restaurants, or whatever?

JT: Quite a few. The union saloon was owned by the Italian ---?--- contrato.

PN: The Union Saloon.

JT: Yeah.

PN: What about the Tiboli?

JT: The Tiboli must have been owned by the Italian was, let's see, was Bolonte.

XX: Who?

JT: Bolonte, he had the saloon, you know, and of course he store was by old man's cousin.

[PAUSE, PHONE RINGS]

PN: There is one question I wanted to ask you about, about the lodge Now that I'm thinking about it. Did your organization merge with the lodge in Murquer? Let me tell you why. They had a lodge in Murquer that was Loja numero sesenta y ocho.

JT: Yes, yes.

PN: Was that together?

JT: This was together. This was an old United States. Old Confedera and Old United States.

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PN: Yeah, right, right. Well, the Colombian Federation.

JT: And every state in the United States, where they had the federation.

PN: Well, see I'm in correspondence--

JT: Federaciones Colombiana.

PN: Si, si...I'm in correspondence with the president of that Federaciones, Vincent Massari from Pueblo, Colorado.

JT: Yeah, yeah still on ---?--- still on.

PN: But what I wanted to know ---?--- that Merquer lies--

JT: Absolutely, absolutely, yeah. They all belong--

PN: Well, there not the same number. Did you ever get together with that Merquer bunch?

JT: No, no, no.

PN: Well, how come they had the same number as you did?

JT: Well--

PN: Because usually they have different numbers like the one in Helper was Sor ---?--- numero, sesenta y siete.

JT: Well, I can't tell you.

PN: And the Sunnyside Lodge was numero noventa y ocho, see. And I was just wondering why they had the same number?

JT: They probably, Malcolm Malcolm, Malcolm, or other,



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I'll tell you what might happen.

PN: Okay.

JT: Which believe that--Malcom went out of--you know, was  
dead camp and that was supposed to be broke down from  
---?--- with the ---?---

PN: Can you remember?

JT: And set up in Bingham, see that's why--

PN: Can you remember which year that Merquer finally  
folded up?

JT: No, I don't remember. Probably it was in 19--  
probably in 1914-1915.

PN: Because there were a lot of Italians in Merquer.

JT: Yeah, I know, I know. That's what it was probably  
that you had to do that under the Federation  
Colombiana. Marco probably brought him down. That's  
why they got the same number, see.

PN: Oh.

JT: That's more likely, but that's my estimation, see.  
That's more likely to tell you I ---?--- that's why  
you call ---?---.

PN: Joe, I wanted to ask you about--you told me just a  
little while ago that you had an orchestra. Could you  
tell me about--you said later that you had a group of  
three guys. Can you remember who those guys were?

JT: Yeah, I got them right here in the picture. Joe Tome

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with the ---?---, that's me.

PN: Yeah, okay.

JT: Al ---?--- with the guitar. And Albilo Paricente with the guitar.

PN: Who is the last one?

JT: The last one was--

PN: This one here?

JT: No, the last one is not on here, it's not on here. He was an old fellow, Atillo Costa with the bass fiddle.

PN: Atillo. Okay, Joe you played the guitar, Alex played the guitar.

JT: And I played the Mandolin.

PN: Oh, you played the Mandolin.

JT: I played the Mandolin.

PN: And this Atillo played the bass fiddles.

JT: Yeah, that's right.

PN: And who was the other one?

JT: Alex Pridolon.

PN: Al, and what did he play?

JT: Guitar.

PN: He played the guitar. When did you start the group?

JT: Started there in Bingham.

PN: Was this after the orchestra or before?

JT: After.

PN: And--

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JT: After I came back from the Army.

PN: So this was about what, 1920?

JT: 1921.

PN: Twenty one.

JT: 1920-21.

PN: Where did you play?

JT: Well, play every Saturday. We play up to Jim Duchi, up to the finish. He had us alone, up there, see.

PN: Jim Duchi?

JT: Jim Duchi had us along up to Phoenix.

PN: Up at Phoenix.

JT: Phoenix, that's way up between Bingham and Highland Boy.

PN: Sure, yeah, sure.

JT: And every Tuesday we call up at Copperfield candy store.

PN: Tuesday at Copperfield, huh?

JT: Copperfield candy store. I went to the ---?--- both places at little close. Other times we used to play at different places, you know.

PN: Did you play, what, maybe twice, three times a week?

JT: Two times a week.

PN: Two times a week?

JT: Yeah.

PN: What kind of groups did you have, come home? Was it

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just Italians, or was all different kinds of group?

JT: Italians. We used to play some popular songs, but besides.

PN: But you played mostly Italian music.

JT: Mostly Italian music, but we played some of those popular songs, World War I songs, you know, and things like that.

PN: Did the Italian people--did a lot of them like dance the tarrantiada.

JT: Huh?

PN: When you played?

JT: No, no, the tarantella it's more--

PN: Southern.

JT: It's more southern, you see. I never played the tarantella.

PN: Never did, huh?

JT: No, never did.

PN: What was the make-up of the Italians up in Bingham? Were there, what, mostly northern, you know. They used to go out and play together and have fun together, you know. Of course a lot is happening in Italia. We just go ---?--- and go to the Grand Estudio ---?---, you know. But you were able to get along with the Southern Italians okay?

JT: Oh yeah, always, always got along. Never had any

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trouble with them. Never had trouble with them.

PN: What other kind of social activities did they have up there, Joe? Can you remember? Did they--like I imagine they had a lot of weddings that you used to go to?

JT: Yeah, once in a while, you know, when a couple would get married I used to go to weddings, but not too often, you know.

PN: What about like when somebody was baptized or something like that? Did they have celebrations then?

JT: No, no, you know, the colony in Bingham, as far as--?--- was concerned there was nothing much to it. In fact, I used to go ---?--- in Christmas time, see.

PN: Ah huh.

JT: The wife is very religious. The wife goes to mass every Sunday, and I go every once in a while. I don't mind to go to the devotional with ---?---, you know. But the priest they got now is a thief he take the-- he keep the ---?--- and I, you know, and we were shouting, "Hey!" I just--the other day I ---?--- up in the mean, anyhow.

PN: Well, up in Bingham about this time I'd say in the early twenties what was the reason why most of the Italian men didn't seem to be going to church. Was it just because they were working quite a bit?

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JT: They seem not to be too attached to religion as far as that is concerned, you know. It was just a mixed up question that everybody--baptized their own children, but as far as religion is concerned, nobody ---?--- their religion whatsoever, in Bingham, as far as religion goes.

PN: Did they have a Catholic priest up there that you can remember?

JT: Yeah, they did.

PN: What was his name, in the early twenties?

JT: They had Father Jeru a Frenchman.

PN: Father Jeru?

JT: Yeah, he is dead now. Then they had another guy. What was his name? He is dead too. And the last priest that I remember was Father Lane.

PN: Father Lane?

JT: Yeah. He was involved in the ---?---, you know, to the ---?--- cause that guy was a good friend of mine. As far as religion was concerned, we used to go out to the ---?---, you know, just like two friends, you know. And I wasn't too attached to religion, but what I believed in is not to do anything bad to anybody, you know. I don't believe in confession, I don't believe on a lot of ---?--- like that, you know. Not to harm anybody, and I used to talk that

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way Father Lane by God! I used to get along fine with him. Used to get along with Father Lane very good. He is dead too now; poor guy died.

PN: Did the Italian people in Bingham get or--I think I asked you this earlier, but I want to elaborate on it a little more. Did they get along, or did the people from other ethnic groups like the Serbs, Greeks?

JT: Oh yes, yes, yes, we used to meet in the saloon, you know, all the time just like friends, you know, all the time. ---?--- working in the mine together, you know. We used to do our own ---?--- anyhow, see.

PN: What was it like working in the mines?

JT: Well, I tell you I put in about eight in the mine. The sidewalk is underground walk, you know. I wasn't crazy for it, but I always tried. The guy has to make a living in some place, and that's all to it until I start into blacksmith. Tried to keep out of it.

PN: Out of the mines.

JT: Underground as much as I could anyhow, see.

PN: What was it like working in the mines, in those days, Joe? You told me earlier that you had four candles that was suppose to last you eight hours?

JT: Yeah, yeah. You have a candle, and then after the candle died, we had a ---?--- passed it out, see. You used to fill up your lantern when you go into the

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mine and take a tobacco can full of ---?--- to refill at noon, you know.

PN: When did they make that switch from candles to carbide? Do you remember?

JT: Well, yes. When I was working up to the Boston Conn, they used candles. In 1915 when I was up to old Joe's galena mine up there, we had a lamp there, see.

PN: In nineteen what?

JT: 1914.

PN: 1914.

JT: Yeah.

PN: Up in the Galena mines.

JT: Yeah, right, that's right.

PN: You had lamps then?

JT: We had a lamp then, yeah, that's right. They got away with the candle, they got a lamp then. Because the candle doesn't burn in someplace where the air is kind of ---?---, see.

PN: Sure, sure, you have to have oxygen, a lot of oxygen.

JT: Enough oxygen so we had to ---?---. Of course, many lamps don't burn, then it's time for you to get out of there.

PN: Sure.

JT: But the candle, unless you have--when the air is coming the candle don't burn at all.



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PN: Can you remember any accidents that they had up there, any mining accidents?

JT: Oh yes, sure, I remember.

PN: What happened in the particular case that you can remember?

JT: I remember a guy got killed in the mine there, you know, up to the Boston Conn. In fact that was a slaughter house as far as the Boston Conn was concerned. They used to take out somebody injured everyday in that mine up there.

PN: Wasn't it safe at all, or was it something else?

JT: Well, was carelessly--I don't know what the hell it was, but somebody used to get hurt something or another pretty near every day, you know. Of course, I was up to old Jergan. I think it was in 1915, when the mine got in fire. When the mine got on fire up there, and I was way inside there, and we tried to get out of there. We got out of there, and the ---?-- - they call, the Utah ---?--- down in ---?--- fire, see. So the mine was shut down, and the men that were working in there, didn't ---?---, you know.

PN: ---?---

JT: ---?--- to stop, to close the fire in, so it would die out, you see.

PN: Oh, yeah.

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JT: Used to walk about five minutes, you know, and then get out. Another ---?--- about five or ten minute, you know, and then you have to get out, you see. The fire was up to Galena mine.

PN: What were conditions like up there, at the time? Can you remember? Back in the early days, the conditions of the mines were they pretty safe?

JT: They were quite safe, yeah. They were quite safe. Uou know, they they used to keep the timber pretty well up, you know. If you work in the drift they used to keep the sack up with the proper sack, you know. All the time, you know, so the more couldn't get in opposed to the other--

PN: How did they keep the timbers wet? What did they do?

JT: What do you mean wet?

PN: Didn't you say that they kept the timber wet?

JT: No, they kept the ---?--- timber up; kept the fresh--?--- timber up, you see. And they stop the ---?--- and they stop, you know, as you go up, you know, so you're safe to--as the ---?---, you know, just like a house in there. Pretty safe, you know, as far as that is concerned. Try to walk safe as possibly as you can, see. Of course accidents happen.

PN: Sure.

JT: Just like anyplace else, you know. The only thing in





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you see. I'm talking about the early days, the early days wasn't so good.

PN: You mentioned the boarding house. How long did you live in a boarding house?

JT: Well--

PN: You told me when you first came over you moved in with your uncle?

JT: Yeah, yeah. Then we used to live in--they had family you see, was a boarding house, but was about maybe ten, twelve men there in the house, you see. You had your room with all ---?--- in there every three, four ---?---, you know.

PN: You mean a family lived in the house?

JT: Yeah, yeah.

PN: And then they would rent out rooms to the miners?

JT: No, we had the room in there, you know. That ---?--- a room like that ---?--- half dozen of ---?--- in there. One across the other, just to sleep, you know.

PN: Uh hum.

JT: And the only heat you had was the coal stove and the kitchen.

PN: Coal stove and a kitchen, but were these boarding houses run by a family?

JT: A family, yeah, a family. Maybe a man was married and he had his wife there and--

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PN: And then--

JT: He had a few boarding, a few boarding.

PN: You had a few extra rooms that they would rent out.

JT: That's it, yeah.

PN: How much did they charge you at that time?

JT: Well, I tell you--

PN: A month?

JT: When we used to live in a place like that--that was  
economy we used to--

[END OF TAPE]

JOSEPH TOME INTERVIEW BY PHIL NOTARIANNI ON JULY 31, 1974  
AT SANDY, UTAH. TAPE NO. 32.

PN: So you were telling me, Joe, that in the boarding houses everyone shared the expenses.

JT: Yeah.

PN: What about this boarding house up at the U.S. mine?

JT: Oh, that was owned by the company.

PN: That was a company boarding house. And how much did you pay for that?

JT: Twenty-four dollars a month.

PN: \$24?

JT: Uh huh. We had a steam heated room, shower, hot and cold water, a washhouse, you know, where everyone goes out and wash, and one of the best feeding kitchens there was all over Utah. It was Japanese chief cook there.

PN: Can you remember his name?

JT: No, I don't. Was a kind of heavysset guy.

PN: I was going to ask you about that. Were there a lot of Japanese people up at Bingham at that time?

JT: Well, the kitchen was all Japanese workers in there. The chief cook was a Japanese and a waiter and the dishwasher and everything. They were all Japanese guys.

PN: How did you get along with the Japanese up there?

JT: Oh, fine. They were nice, awfully nice.

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PN: I guess they had their own section of the town that they lived in didn't they?

JT: Well, they had their--I guess they had their ---?--- among themselves. They weren't up in the bunk house with us, no. They had lodging by theirselves.

PN: When you lived in the U.S. Mine owned boarding house were there mainly Italians in that bunk house or were there all different nationalities?

JT: Different nationalities; though quite a few Italians.

PN: Quite a few Italians. Were those Italians at that time mostly--?

JT: From the North.

PN: Pemontasia(?). Cause there were a lot of Pemontasia(?).

JT: No, Venity(?). Mostly Venity(?). And the superintendant was Mr. Bernard, and the general foreman was Mr. Thomas, old man Thomas, and his boy Thomas who got to be a foreman afterwards, he was a boss of mine. In fact he was my chief boss in there.

PN: This was what 19--?

JT: 1914-15.

PN: Boy! What about later on like in the twenties and the thirties. Did everyone still seem to get along fairly well in Bingham?

JT: Oh, yeah, always. 'Cause, you know, there's always



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one who gets in trouble with one sometimes, but nothing to speak about, you know.

PN: Did you find that there were a lot of Italians that went to war in World War I? Were there a lot of Italians from Bingham that went to the service?

JT: Quite a few of them. Quite a few of them. They got drafted.

PN: Did any of them go and fight with the Italian army?

JT: Well, I'll tell you, some of them did, you know, because you have a choice, and in those days the Italian army was alive and you had a choice. In fact, Mr. Lanchari(?) would make out a ticket to go back to Italy or a ticket to go back after the war if you were still alive. You had a choice to go to Italy or stay around in here, you see. And I remember when I filled out my questionnaire, I just filled out my questionnaire that if I had to go I said that I'm a United States Citizen, you see.

PN: They gave you a questionnaire?

JT: Oh, yeah. We had to fill out a questionnaire in those days.

PN: Who issued these questionnaires?

JT: The government of the United States.

PN: And they were given to all the--?

JT: All the people that were subject to go in the

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service. You had a choice to go back to Italy or serve in the United States army. So on the questionnaire I put if I had to serve I'd serve Uncle Sam. That's what I put.

PN: Was there any violence against any of the Austrians in Bingham?

JT: No, no, none whatsoever.

PN: What about any Germans that might have lived up there?

JT: No, no. There was nothing wild at all in there. You had to speak English when you was in the army. You had to speak English. They didn't want you to speak anything else but English. Because there were some Germans in there. Of course, they had a ---?--- in those days and people who were not fit for the army for political reasons or health reasons, people to be discharged in time, they just sent them in ---?--- battalion.

PN: What was the name of that battalion?

JT: Degolo Battalion. They used to send them there and they tried to discharge them or do whatever with them, whatever they do with them. There were quite a few Germans in there. They had some who for some reason or another they couldn't speak English. They couldn't understand nothing. They used to send them

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in there. I know a guy (he's dead now) who couldn't speak English at all. After they gave him the rifle, you know, he used to do the opposite way all the time. A sergeant went up to him kind of ball him out, and I told the seargeant, "Don't ball him out. That guy doesn't understand you." "Oh, don't he?" I said, "No". So the seargeant asked him his name. I spelled his name for him. The seargeant sent him up to the develop battalion. A couple months later he got a discharge and they sent him back home.

PN: Did most of the Italians go to fight for the United States army or did most of them go to the Italian army?

JT: No, no.

PN: Most of them went to fight in the American army. Did they ever encounter any trouble in 1919 and 1920 at the end of World War I that there might have been some anarchists up in Bingham--you know, people who were socialists.

JT: Well, I'm going to tell you they had what they called the IWW. That was a union International Workers of the World. They went around as a union, and most of the people that joined in good faith, you know, to be in a liberal union, you know. But their problem was mostly--I won't say anarchist, but just like the

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Soviet Union mostly, you see.

PN: Communist?

JT: Communists. That's what they were. IWW, International Workers of the World.

PN: Were there any IWW organizers in Bingham?

JT: Oh, yeah, quite a few of them. That's why at the time they organized most of the Bingham workers were IWW because people didn't know what the hell they were getting into, you see. People were getting in to belong to the union, you see. They could understand what the problem was.

PN: What about the Western Federation of Miners? Didn't they have some organizers up there?

JT: Yeah, I belong to the Western Federation for Miners. Yeah, they had organizers too.

PN: Were there any Italians that were IWW organizers? I haven't ever heard of any.

JT: No, no Italians. I tell you, we had Ben Gorgile. He was an organizer for the American Federation of Labor.

PN: What was his name, Joe?

JT: Ben Gorgile. Goggia. He was an organizer of the American Federation of Labor.

PN: The AF of L, huh. Did any of the Italian workers join this IWW?

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JT: Quite a few of them, I guess. You know, it was just a liberal union. That's all there was to it, you see.

PN: And this was aroundg 1919?

JT: 1919-20, somewhere around that, yeah.

PN: did they used to have meetings up there at Bingham?

JT: Oh, yeah. They used to have meetings everywhere.

PN: Where did they used to meet?

JT: At the society hall, you know. Yeah, they had meeting.

PN: Do you know of any Italians that might have been active in the Western Federation of Miners that might have been an organizer.

JT: Ben Goggia was organizer of the Western Federation of Miners. You know, they had the--what the hell you call it?--the CIO. That was another organization.

PN: In the thirties. The Congress of Industrial Organization.

JT: That's the time that I went to work. I got laid off by the Kennecott Copper, and I went to work on the Bingham ---?---. Now, they had the CIO there. The initiation was \$3, and me, because I belonged to the American Federation of Labor, they charged me \$10. Penalized me because I belonged to two organizations that were fighting together. They charged me \$10 to get in there.

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PN: Gees. This was right after the CIO was organized?

JT: Yeah, so I went to work on the tunnel there, and I told them, "Now, I hope you do what you do for the other guy. Hire me just to get the union dues and then let me work to the day I get out of here. I won't stand for anything like that." "Oh, no," he says, "that's all right." So I went to work in there. Then when I got in there I got familiar with the president of the CIO, and I told him about it. I says, "I've been a union man all my life. Just because I belong to the American Federation of Labor, they charged me \$10 instead of \$3." So he made good the dues I pay there when I pay extra, see.

PN: That's really interesting. Can you remember in the 1920s they used to have the baseball league up there in Bingham, the Copper League baseball? Did you play?

JT: No, I never played baseball. I'm not even a fan of baseball. I used to go out when they used to have a baseball, and they used to give us a three o'clock day to go out and watch the game, but I never was a fan.

PN: You mean they let you out early to go see the game?

JT: Oh, yeah, half an hour early when they had a game. Yeah, they had a Copper team that would play our team.

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PN: Did you ever go up to the R. C. Gimmle Club?

JT: Oh, yeah.

PN: Why don't you describe that for me? What was that like?

JT: Oh, that was a nice place, you know. Everything was free in there. You could do bowling if you want to do bowling. They had three or four bowling alleys there, you know. You could do bowling, and it would cost you nothing. You could go up to the club and read a book. In fact, we used to walk to the club, a bunch of us, and play a sociable game of poker. That was really nice. Yeah, I belonged to the Gimmle(?) Club. That was nice.

PN: Did you have to pay so much a month to belong, or if you were a worker you could belong, or what?

JT: You could belong to it, I think. I don't recall, but I don't think we had to pay any dues.

PN: Oh, I see. Just as long as you were an employee.

JT: You had the right of the use of the club, and they had dinner in there.

PN: During that time when it seemed like people were playing baseball and they were participating in different kind of activity, do you remember if any of the Italian men played that game that they call Botcha(?)?

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JT: Botcha(?). Yes, in the old Italian bar. We had two that used to play Botcha(?). Used to play Botcha once in a while, yes.

PN: That's up at the California Bar? And I'm not sure where that's at.

JT: That's up at the far end of the town.

PN: And they had two Botcha(?) courts. Did a lot of men play?

JT: Oh, sometimes we used to get along and play a game, you know. Not too often.

PN: Did they play for money or what or just for fun.

JT: No, just for a drink.

PN: For a drink.

JT: That's all.

PN: For a beer, huh?

JT: Mostly for fun, you know.

PN: And this was in the twenties?

JT: Yeah, that's right.

PN: That's interesting. Did you ever celebrate? Did the Italians in Bingham celebrate any traditional Italian holidays?

JT: No, no, not outside of Columbus Day.

PN: Because let me give you an example of a while in Salt Lake. The Italians used to celebrate September 20, you know, when Italy became unified.



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JT: No, no, we never celebrated that.

PN: So, it was the 4th of July and Columbus Day.

JT: That's right.

PN: Did they celebrate the 24th of July.

JT: No. I think it was in 1947 that they first started celebrating the 24th of July, you know. 1947 I think was the first one.

PN: In Bingham?

JT: Not in Bingham--Salt Lake. Bingham they never celebrated the 24th of July.

PN: They had their celebrations early for the 24th of July. They had parades.

JT: Well, I don't recall. I tell you the first one I recall I think I still have the book down here. I remember I still have the book with Mrs. Young, the first 4th of July queen they had. She was a beautiful girl, beautiful woman. I think I still got the book down here. I think it was in 1947. I don't know if we celebrated before that, you know. As far as that pageant I do remember. I never pay any attention before or not if they celebrated. Let me see if I can find that book, and I'll show it to you.

PN: Joe, how long did you live in Bingham? You lived in Bingham off and on from 1913 to when?

JT: 1952.

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PN: Then you moved out and came here to Sandy?

JT: I moved out August 17, 1933. We moved out here.

PN: Were most of the people moving out from Bingham at that time?

JT: Yeah. It was time to get out for Bingham was just a thing of the past, you know.

PN: What was life like in Bingham in the 1930s during the depression? Was it pretty tough up there, or what were the conditions like?

JT: Well, Kennecott or Utah Copper whatever it was, they were working ten days a month. I was working black smithing for the American Smelter up there after we finished there. I was working six hours a day then. A limit was there in those days, you know. To hire another blacksmith for the day he had to cut me down to six hours a day. But the Copper men, they were working ten days a month.

PN: So was most everybody working up there, at least a few?

JT: Just enough to make a living, you know.

PN: Did you continue to have the dances and the good times you had in the twenties in the thirties, or what?

JT: No, it wasn't much to it then. There was no fun or recreation whatsoever.

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PN: Were there any more fights and things like that among the men in the thirties?

JT: No, no. No, no.

PN: What about the forties? What was it like up there? Of course in '41 you had the war.

JT: Oh, about the same. Bingham more or less was the same work. They used to leave off now and then.

PN: Did it start to pick up. Did work start to pick up during World War II?

JT: Oh, yeah, yeah.

PN: It would seem logical because they needed the copper for the war effort.

JT: Kennecott Copper, they were working seven days a week then.

PN: How many shifts?

JT: Three shifts a day.

PN: Three shifts a day! During the depression were they working just one shift?

JT: During the depression? Well, I think that's all. They had one shift except the ones they had to require to be at night. But, nevertheless, they were working ten days a month anyhow.

PN: To backtrack, in the twenties, were you working three shifts?

JT: Yeah.

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PN: Then in 1921 they closed down for a year or two didn't they? Didn't the smelter and the concentrators like at Garfield, didn't they close for a year when the price of copper went really down?

JT: I don't recall, but I believe they did. I believe it was closed down for a while there, yeah. In fact, I seen the time when the only thing that was working was the west mine. That was the only mine that was working at Bingham at the time.

PN: Did a lot of men move out of Bingham then, or did they stay and wait?

JT: Well, some of them had to move out, you know. Some of them had to move out, and others they just stayed and worked, I guess.

PN: Did you ever mingle in with the Greeks up there?

JT: Well, I know quite a few fellows that were Greeks and were nice fellows. Usually, unless you meet out of a public place or that, you usually used to mingle with your own people; but, nevertheless, when you meet out you were a gentleman and they were too.

PN: When you were new to this country when you just came over from Italy and you moved to Bingham, did you go into Salt Lake very much?

JT: Christmas and the 4th of July.

PN: Christmas and the 4th of July, that's all? Did you

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take the train in?

JT: Yeah. They had two trains. They had the B&G and the NR&G(?). Two, three days for each one. Down in the morning and back at night.

PN: Do you remember how much they charged?

JT: One dollar eight cents.

PN: A dollar eight cents!

JT: Each way.

PN: Each way. So it was two dollars and sixteen cents round trip. Was that on both railroads? did they charge the same price? The B&G charged the same as the DR&G?

JT: And it got to be about 1916, and they got a taxi in Bingham, and sometimes we used to get five or six together and hire a taxi into Salt Lake, you know, for the day.

PN: Taxi. What kind of taxi did they have.

JT: Well, they had Lou Panos. He died about a month ago. They had the white star taxi and the red star taxi. They had two companies, you know.

PN: White star and red star. And who was it that run that?

JT: One of them was Lou Panos. He died about a month ago.

PN: Panos? How do you spell that name?

JT: P-a-n-o-s. He was a Greek, you know. And sometimes we

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used to rent the car to go into Salt Lake and back, five or six of us together, you know. And I bet he charged us thirty dollars.

PN: Thirty dollars.

JT: Of course, the tire they built in those days were only good for about four thousand miles.

PN: You mean the thirty dollars they charged was for the taxi?

JT: Yeah, right. We used to hire a special taxi and go for a trip to Salt Lake, and they used to charge us thirty dollars.

PN: So you didn't go into Salt Lake very often, just twice a year?

JT: Yeah, twice a year. Once you get a bunch, five or six of us together, and hire a taxi for a day, and come back out, and spend a few hours, and then come back out.

PN: Did you mingle with any of the Italians in Salt Lake? Did you know any of the Italians in Salt Lake?

JT: No, no, no. The older Italians used to go into the Filanda(?). They had a saloon there, you know. We used to meet a few people there.

PN: Who? Filanda? Where did he have his place at, over on the west side?

JT: No, right half a block right of the Union Pacific

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Depot on South Temple there.

PN: They had a bar over on Second West called "Tony's".

Did you ever go to Tony's?

JT: No, no.

PN: Did you ever mingle with the Italians from Tooele?

Did you ever go to Tooele in those days?

JT: No, no.

PM: Never did, eh?

JT: No, you had to rent a special car to go to Tooele in those days.

PN: So you were pretty isolated up in Bingham? You were isolated. You had to stay in Bingham most of the time?

JT: Most of the time, yeah. Like I say, we used to go into Salt Lake for Christmas to spend a couple days there and the 4th of July, and we used to walk in Saltaire.

PN: How did you get there?

JT: They had a train to get there. They had two or three trips daily.

PN: What, did you take the DR&G out there?

JT: No, we had a special train to go out there.

PN: Which train was that?

JT: They had a train that went from Salt Lake to Saltaire, an open car, you know. I remember the first

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time I went out to Saltaire was 1914, I guess. The water was five feet high in Saltaire then. They had the beaches there. I'm a pretty good swimmer, and I used to be a pretty good diver, and a bully, he bribed me to dive off from the bridge there, and I did, and when I hit the water I like bust my head. That water is pretty heavy there. It's salt water, you know. And when I got up for about fifteen minutes, you know, my nose, my mouth, and eyes from that salt water, you know, I thought I was going to croak, and everybody was laughing. I didn't know it was salt water or anything. I saw that nice water there, and down I went. Boy, you go down in that water like to bust you head. That water's pretty heavy, you know. I have some pictures you will like.

PN: So they dared you to dive in the water there? So you went there the first time in 1914. Were there a lot of people there?

JT: Oh, yeah. Men and women. They used to take pictures of the groups there. I used to have quite a few pictures of the beach there. I don't know where they are.

PN: Yeah, I've got quite a few pictures of Saltaire. So did you have to go to Salt Lake and then take a train to Saltaire?



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JT: Yeah.

PN: You couldn't get a connection from Bingham?

JT: Oh, no. Salt Lake. I think they still had this depot there. Where the hell was that, Second South? They had a depot there where you met the trains. They had four or five trains a day. It used to go back and forth every hour, you know.

PN: Did you ever ride the trains to Garfield or down there?

JT: Well, the B&G used to go to Garfield from Salt Lake. Bingham and Garfield went to Garfield.

PN: Did you ever go and get together with any of the Italians in Garfield and Magna?

JT: No, no. I didn't know anybody down there at all. I just used to ride through to Salt Lake.

PN: That's interesting.

JT: The first time I stopped in Garfield, to be honest with you, was the time they drafted me in the army. We got on the train and then we stopped in Garfield, see. When we got in Garfield they tried to tell us that they had too many men in the army, and if somebody wants to get out, you know, they had a chance, just to see if people were noble, and nobody left a hair to get out, and we went into Salt Lake. They gave us a nice meal in Salt Lake, and then from

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there we went to Fort ---?--- Washington.

PN: Just to train up?

JT: Yeah, took the train up. That's the first time I went to Garfield when I got in the army. That's the first time I went to Garfield.

PN: Were there a lot of men that got on at Garfield that were going in the service too?

JT: Oh, yeah, quite a few. Quite a few from all over the state of Utah.

PN: Do you know Fortunato Enselmo(?)?

JT: Yeah, very well.

PN: Did he come up to Bingham a lot when he was vice council?

JT: Once in a while he'd come up on business or something. Was a nice guy.

PN: What kind of business did he have up there. What for example.

JT: Oh, in Salt Lake?

PN: I mean when he came to Bingham, what did he have to do? Did somebody need some papers that they had to get fixed, or were they bringing somebody over from Italy, or something that they needed him?

JT: No, no, no. He used to come up for a visit. ---?--- was one of his customer, you know. He had a restaurant there. Buy a lot of stuff from him, you

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know, and take back down.

PN: You mean he bought from Ensalmo, and Ensalmo had the store on Second South in Salt Lake?

JT: I don't know who else he visited. In the old days they had discipline up there. Many disciplines, but they had a brother there. He was kind of an agent for Ensalmo, you see. You could fill out some papers with him, you know.

PN: So this Frank Pitsofani(?) would help Ensalmo?

JT: Domino Pitsofani, he died now. He was here several years ago and come over here to see me and spend some time out here. He was about eighty years old then.

PN: Did they have an Italian store up there in Bingham that you could buy various kinds of Italian food?

JT: They used to--not Bingham is not.

PN: I mean when you lived there.

JT: Oh, yeah, they had Scosso's store. They had Tuggulattie's store, you know. Then they had George Wells's store. It wasn't Italian, you know, but they had all kinds of stuff there. Was a couple, three Italian stores up in Bingham. Disapan(?) had a store, you know. Tuglatti(?) Franko, Buro and Geen Marcetti(?) had a store there, and then Sosco. I used to work for Leo Sosco.

PN: What, did they deliver groceries to the house?

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JT: Groceries to the house.

PN: Did the miners get paid once a month?

JT: Right. You mark down on the book the stuff you bring in, and once a month you collect the money, you see.

PN: When did they pay you? At the end of the month or the beginning of the following month? Can you remember?

JT: I think it was the first of the following month when they used to pay, and then they got so they paid every two weeks. At first was once a month.

PN: Did they ever have any company scrip up there? You know, money that the company printed up?

JT: No.

PN: They paid you in U.S. currency?

JT: You bet. Always.

PN: In cash? They didn't pay you by check did they?

JT: They paid us by check.

PN: By check.

JT: By check always. I remember 1914-15, I was working up U.S. mine, we used to be paid by check and steel wage(?). He had a merchandise store there, and he was just like a bank. We used to go in there and cash the check anytime you want to.

PN: Who was this?

JT: Stevens(?) they call him. He was a merchant, you know. They used to call him the door of the bank.

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"The door of the bank" because you could go in there and borrow money, you could go in there and cash a check, you know.

PN: He did everything there, eh? Were there a lot of Italiin men that were sending money back to Italy to their families?

JT: Well, I imagine those that had families, I guess they did. In those days people used to come over here and fill a campaign of two or three years and then go back to Italy again, see?

PN: Oh, so most of them that came over were just going to come over for a while?

JT: Two or three years and then go back to Italy again.

PN: Go back to live or go back for a trip?

JT: Go back to live.

PN: Did many of them do that or did most of them stay here?

JT: Lots of them did that.

PN: Lots of them went back.

JT: Lots of them went back, yeah. But most of the old families they stay here, see, like me.

PN: You mean it was mostly the older men that would stay here for a couple of years and go back.

JT: You marry. An old man like me doesn't want sea on his back any more, see.

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PN: What about when somebody come over here, Joe, and they stayed here for a while, and let's say they had a wife in Italy, and they sent back for their wife, and the wife come over here, did they have a big celebration or anything when the wife come over?

JT: No, no.

PN: I thought they'd have a party or something?

JT: No, no, not that I know. Of course, you know, I was single, and I mostly live with--except at first I have my own room downtown, down Bingham and I stayed most to myself.

PN: That's when you lived in the boarding house?

JT: No, after I live in the boarding house, I went down to Bingham, and I had my steam heated room for myself. I used to pay \$16-18 a month for the room I owned just to have privacy, you know. Oh, I never used to save any money. I use to live like a priest, you know. All the time, nice and clean, dressed up all the time, you know. I had the reputation of being one of the best dressed men in Bingham.

PN: Oh, yeah.

JT: I was something to see in those days.

PN: Did most of the men dress up on the weekends?

JT: Every night.

PN: They dressed up every night?

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JT: In Bingham, every night. I had four or five suits, you know, and every night I had a clean suit on.

PN: Did most of the other men do the same thing?

JT: Yeah, most of them, yeah. The young people, no. They used to dress up. They used to come home from work and clean up and dress up; put on a nice, clean shirt and collar.

PN: Well, let me ask you why? Why did you dress up every night?

JT: Well, dressed up and go up and down town. Go to the saloon and have a drink, you know.

PN: But you didn't want to go in your old clothes?

JT: No, no.

PN: You wanted to look sharp?

JT: Yeah, that's what took all my money--clothes and meals.

PN: How much did a suit cost up in Bingham?

JT: Well, they had different prices. They had suits from \$40 up to \$125.

PN: Did they have any taylor's up in Bingham?

JT: Yeah, they had Mr. B. He was a merchant taylor. He would make anything for you.

PN: Did they have any Italian taylor's up there?

JT: Yeah, they had young Don Mucinni(?). He was a colobrase(?), a taylor, yeah.

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PN: Do you remember any Italian shoemakers?

JT: Yeah, Talio.

PN: I think my dad knows him. I'll have to ask him.  
That's interesting. To get back to the lodge, Joe,  
when did they break up?

JT: I don't recall the time.

PN: Were they going in the forties? They were going in  
the twenties, then in the thirties.

JT: I think it was still going in the thirties.

PN: 1930 I think it was because John Veitti was president  
in 1930.

JT: Yeah, and I was the secretary one time myself.

PN: Secretary?

JT: Secretary-recorder.

PN: You don't have any old record of that lodge do you?

JT: No, I don't have any of that.

PN: So you don't remember if it was still going in the  
forties or not?

JT: No, I don't remember, no.

PN: Well, I guess that's all I have to say on tape. Thank  
you very much.

JT: You're welcome.

[END OF INTERVIEW]