

10-21-1975

Italian Women and Girls: Interview with Antonietta DiGregorio by Carmela Santoro

Antonietta DiGregorio

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COVER SHEET FOR INTERVIEWS

NAME OF INTERVIEWEE Antonieta DiGregorio

INTERVIEWER _____

DATE OF INTERVIEW October 21, 1975

SUBJECTS COVERED

Life in Italy, family

Impressions of U.S.

Education

Recreation

Likes and dislikes about America

Antonietta DiGregorio

Hopkins' School

October 21, 1975°

Q: Tell me a little about your town.

A: I'm 13 now and came here when I was 6. I lived in a little town. Ponte Greco. I use to go to school and my mother went into the woods to the farm. We ate and sat in front of the fireplace and to bed.

Q: Do you have brothers and sisters?

A: One brother and one sister.

Q: What did your father do?

A: He worked the land. We still own the land. They work in factories here.

Q: What did you do for fun?

A: I had friend. We played outside.

Q: How long did you go to school?

A: I started when I was 2.

Q: Do you know why your parents come here?

A: My uncle called, he was a citizen. He said it was much better. My mother said we would try it and come back if we didn't like it. This was my father's brother. We didn't sell everything because we didn't know what we would do. My mother wants to stay here.

Q: How did you come here?

A: Plane.

A lot of funny things happened on the plane. I put sugar in my salad.

Q: Where did you arrive?

A: Boston.

Q: Did someone meet you?

A: My uncle, aunt and their children.

Q: What was your first impressinn of the U.S.?

A: It was hard to play with the children because they didn't understand me. Even my cousin couldn't understand me.

Q: Did you live in Providence?

A: Yes, for six months. My uncle owned the house. We used one of the floors. We moved to another apartment across the street.

Q: How soon before you understoadd English?

A: About a year before I really understood. What I couldn't understand I acted out.

Q: Where did you first go to school?

A: Branch Ave.

Q: Where you in a regular class?

A: Yes.

Q: Did the children poke fun at you?

A: No.

Q: How did the teachers treat you?

A: I had friends help me and the teachers didn't mind.

Q: You felt comfortable?

A: Yes.

Q: What did your life change?

A: My mother wasn't at home anymore when I got home from school.
Everything else was the same.

She works at a shop where a lot of Italains are. For 7
years.

Q: How about yar father?

A: He has worked in a lot of different places.

Q: What does your father do now?

A: He's a janitor.

Q: Do you think your parents are happy?

A: Yes, because they own their house. My mother is happy
because they have their first grandchild.

Q: In terms of your school do you enjoy it?

A: Yes, I like it a lot.

Q: What do you look forward to doing.

A: Being a scientist.

Q: Do you expect to go to college?

A: Yes.

Q: Where are you going after this?

A: Classical or _____.

Q: What about college?

A: Maybe aProvidence College. After RIJC.

Q: You're the youngest?

A: Yes.

Q: Do your parents encourage you?

A: Yes.

Q: You would rather go to school then work?

A: Yes. My brother might get me a part time work.

To save my college money. My mother already started saving
for me.

Q: You're going back to Italy in December?

A: Yes with my mother and cousin.

Q: Do you see yourself as an American?

A: I still feel Italian. I'm still not a citizen. Only my brother is a citizen. I have to wait till I'm 18. My mother is studying for it and then I can take it under her.

Q: Do you speak Italian?

A: A dialect.

Q: Do you have any regrets in coming here?

A: I don't know how it would be there now. I'll make up my mind after the trip.

Q: Are you going back to visit relatives.

A: Yes. My father has 4 brothers and 4 sisters there and my mother has 1 sister.

Q: Do you read any magazines?

A: No, I read books. I like mysteries. I like to buy them so I can take my time reading them.

I watch all the scary movies on T.V. and then am afraid to go to bed.

Q: What else do you do for fun?

A: Play and watch T.V.

Q: Can you go out with your friends?

A: Yes, but it depends with whom I go. They only let me go with some of my friends because some have a fresh mouth.

Q: Does that bother you?

A: No.

Q: Is there anything about...what do you like the best about the U.S.?

A: We have been to N.Y. and Boston. It's...there's T.V., the house's bigger. Next year I hope to get a pool...the beach I like.

Q: Is there anything about the U.S. you're disappointed in?

A: No, not really.

The only thing is that I had to stay back one year. I got straight A's and they still won't let me go ahead.

Q: Does it bother you because you're with younger children?

A: Because I'm losing a year at school.

Q: Are you interested in politics?

A: No.

Q: What kinds of things are you interested in outside of school.

A: School's the most important to me.

Q: What does it mean to be an Italian?

A: Not many are and it makes me feel proud.

Q: What does an American mean to you?

A: It's not my fault you're American.

Q: You look forward to being an American?

A: No, just a citizen.

Q: What's the difference?

A: If you are born in Italy you are always Italian regardless of where you are a citizen. There's a difference.

Q: Do you know of any famous Italians?

A: I don't know much about history.

Q: Do you look forward to learning about Italians?

A: Yes.

Q: If you had a chance to decide whether to come here or not,

would you?

A: I'd have to see Italy before I could say if I would.