

J. Tulipani of Ridgefield, Conn.

A: he said-- through my mind -- he said you live ~~xxxx~~ there.
I never that house. He said, you live there. I never use
that house. You live there, better you should own it. I said, Well,
I wouldn't own it. He said, All right, I didn't
live there. You live there, he said. . Said,
thank you very much and so I gave/get the deed.

Q: How old were you then about?

A: I think I got the house probably 25

Q: But meantime you'd become quite active in Ridgefield--when did you
start the Italian-American Club?

A: Oh, that was a long time--I was 30 years the president and that was
about a year or two that I joined it. I joined it--I remember I
was working . ~~xxxxxxx~~ 30 years I
was president. I never expected because I loved it. I loved to
do--the boys liked me, you know. And I liked them. Served 30 years.
Finally I had to give it up. Said somebody else
take care I don't want to die with it. I had a
good time. They liked me woman
at home said I was keeping their husbands down at
the club. I didn't. I used to go down there and nights we used to
play the game like the Italian people the hands, you know.
And sometime, you stayed

Q: What kind of game is that?

A: With the fingers.

Q: Now, I know. I don't remember the name of it though.
Head or tail?

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Q: Wasn't that when you played for a drink?

A: Yes, we played for drinks.

Q: I remember my grandfather used to play that.

A: Did he? He was Italian?

Q: Yes, my grandfather was. My mother and father both were.

A: Yes, that was an Italian game.

Q: What was the name of that?

A: Morla---you play with your fingers. You can play one side and the other--two, a pair--and two this side. Numbers-- you call numbers--three, four--up to ten. More than ten---

Q: When I was a little girl my grandfather used to take me to the Italian club during the day. My sister and I--that's how he got us out of our mother's hair. We'd go over there and there'd be some other older men with him. And they'd play a game and we'd just stay around and he'd buy us a soda. I remember that game.

A: And then lots of times the wives, they said---
and they want to play friend, maybe 8 or 10,
we stay there late playing this, you know. But then they go home
and they said--the women used to say--
he talks to us, we listen to him--

Q: You have a good time--time flies.

A: I used to enjoy it. I never thought I could run 30 years there.
Really, I enjoyed it but

Q: When did you become interested in politics? When did you--?

A: That was about 25 - 30 years--I never -- somebody
said, you run for selectman. I said
I got a farm to take care of. After all, those people, they're

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paying me. So I told Mr. . Oh, sure, he said, you go ahead. I'll be glad. It'll make me happy to have you as selectman. So I said, don't mind-- glad to do it. You do it. Glad to pay you the time you're there. That's what I did.

And that was

I did mostly a little of everything, you know. I just loved it.

Now it's different. Now different people

some they got against

They're different-- laws.

It's nice, you do--you have a friend--you talk--

I was Second Selectman. When they wanted me to run for 4th year,

I said--No, it takes too much of my time. People pay me, after all, the work is done.

I love Ridgefield. Everybody knows you. The Italians mostly came from one little town Italy, mostly. There was very few there from the south.

Mostly from a couple of small towns--the little town I came from-- most of the people in Ridgefield.

Q: Suppose one came and then he wrote, the others came--

A: Right. Like my brother came over and then he wrote to father

send me to America. The other ones did the same thing.

They came

Lot of those are lost now--are gone. Not here no more. The young generation--their children.

Q: Have you ever been back?

A: Oh, yes, I've been back. Three times. Took my wife once. Two times I went myself.

Q: Things have changed there, too, haven't they?

A: Yes. I donated a crucifix for the church.

I had an old house I bought from my Pa over there. And it was all right when I bought it. He died. His second wife and the house

so I wanted to do something over there--something that belonged to me, you know. So a friend of mine--a cousin, I think. I was talking to him . I said, I want

Well, Julius, he said, you do whatever you want

got and nobody uses it. Another thing, I think crucifix on the church.

I said, Listen, do what you think. So he sold the house and I gave a hundred lire (a lire is 20¢, not much) to my sister--not my sister, my niece. And I gave 100 each, and the rest I gave for the crucifix.

went to see and they beautiful.

It made me happy.

Q: What's the name of your town? Is it Rippa?

A: Rippa. State of Mancona.

Q: Now this group that's going to Italy, will they visit Rippa?

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A: Yes, mostly they came from there--from the state. There's about a couple of states--they go into the other soon--they travel around. The people that are here, they mostly come from towns in Mancona---cities around. Most come from there. Very few there from the south.

Q: How large is

A: It is a little not too -- They got a couple of banks there, they've got two churches. I don't know now--I haven't been there--I heard they did some renewing over there==somebody who had been over there. They're going to go now--over there. I wanted to go but I said

Q: Maybe

A: Well, I don't know. Maybe I could

Q: Do you still do gardening? You have a small vegetable garden? Is that right?

A: Yes. Not too much, you see. It gives us something to do. She does a little bit. She's not very much a gardener.

Q: Well, everybody doesn't have a green thumb.

A: Well, the Italian--not now, not as a I don't know who comes here. Before you could tell--they there weren't so many Italians--there weren't many of any kind. The town was small. two or three in livery stable---horses. automobile in those days. Finally then come and buy a car but there mostly were horses. It was nice. I loved Ridgefield.

Then the people here--we knew practically home--when we were kids, you see.

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Q: Well, it sounds as though Ridgfield loved you too. They certainly proved it by your dinner last week.

A: Well, fine people. I started with Conleys.

Conley was the most beautiful estate--he had about 500 acres. He had--what do you call it--you put it in the air--make it's own battery--generator--lights the place and everything. There was a big one. Two in the state--in the country---from Canada. And one night I . I could have been pulled to pieces. There was this big wheel, then they had the dynamo--on the bottom there--and they had a belt--wind blow the generator. So I was up to the house, I was single then I was young and up to the house, stay a couple of hours with the girls there. It was about 10:30 and the wind was blowing. I can hear the noise, humming noise--

END OF SIDE ONE

A: ...six, seven dollars extra. I had to go ship.
second class. Nobody wanted

Q: To give up 7.00, huh?

A: So, a friend my father knew that time--15, 16 know many people, so he said, I tell you, Julius, I'll write to your father. they phone or telegram, or something they did. Send me ten dollars, that I could go in second class in another ship. The ship that/^Iwas supposed to go, they only carried the third class, was an old ship. So I had to go to another ship on second class. take the responsibility there because the other one in the same ship.

the ship he was

So, we send telegram to my father and he sent ten dollars. The second day, the money came. So this man my father there, what to do, what not to do. And he was one-- that was his second trip. He said, now we go down to the boat and change the ticket from this ship to another. I had to go second class. And it was all right. When we got in New York,

was on the same ship. They were going to New Haven. And I was going to Ridgefield. The man was my sponsor-- my place -- he turned and looked around and couldn't find me-- he couldn't find me so I'm missing---and the other two went out-- they--Julius, they said, you wait for him because you go to another place, we go to New Haven.

Well, anyway I change your bag-- what you have in your bag. Then the other fellow that were going to New Haven, said, Julius, you wait for your friends, because you go to Ridgefield. And I turned around and I don't see him. I said, what

he thought I was still on board ship. So he was waiting there and waiting there, thinking I was a board ship and coming down. So-- and I didn't because I was outside. I followed the other two from New Haven and they told me to wait for him after because we go to different places. And I looked around and he wasn't around. Not a word of English---

Q: What time of the year was this?

A: March.

So, there was an old gent--I think he had not good --
and he keeps telling me to go with him. I said, no, I didn't want
to go. I wait for my sponsor. So anyway, they there for
an hour before my sponsor came out. Waiting there thought I was
aboard ship. He went up in the ship and didn't find me so he came
back down and there I was. Finally, I said, what am I going to do?

I've got to not a word of English.

Sopretty soon, I was opening the door coming out of the bathroom---
there comes my sponsor. He said, where have you been? I said, I've
been out here since I got off the ship. I didn't see you.
You must because there were five of us together lined up like that.
Closed the bag and the other two got up and started walking and I
followed. I didn't think that the other one

and he went back to the
ship and couldn't find me. The poor fellow was all

Well, anyway I

and there he comes, my sponsor. So that kind of relieved me then.
We come out--the old gent, he was--still was there. So the young
fellow came out--talking--he said, where you people want to go?
We got to go into the other

He said, come on -- you ^{get} beat the hell out

so I don't know what his idea was

I couldn't speak English, I couldn't

So upstairs elevator
running upstairs in New York. The man said, come on, I'll take
you up there

So we got up there. We had to wait for train from New York to Ridgefield. Stopped in Branchville and you had to walk it from Ridgefield. So I was--we were sitting there waiting for the train, and I have to turn. I see some people black. Black--it's--said, Jesus, what is that? The other fellow laughed because he was here before, he knew what it was, and I didn't. I didn't never see a colored person. There was a black lady standing there in back of us in the place. And I turned like that, you know. I see this person black--I said--I didn't know what it was! So the guy--said, don't be scared. You'll see lot of them over here. And that was all right. We came to Ridgefield.

Q: Your sponsor came all the way to Ridgefield with you?

A: Yes, he was going to Ridgefield.

Q: Did he live in Ridgefield? Your sponsor?

A: Yes, he lived in Ridgefield. He was here before, that was his second trip. So we walked from Branchville to Ridgefield, up the railroad --walked to Ridgefield.

Easter Sunday. That was my pride in the trip--buy another-- this fellow knew

my dad--said, Julius, write your father.

he'll send you the money. So he did. They got the money and went to the ship-- New York

I had to try and try all the way over

And on Easter Sunday we walked up from Branchville. They were cooking the dinner, lived in--which was their own cooking. I eat there. My brother was up to the tea house, they called it---rich man bought a lot of land and they were

building roads--all around the . My brother was working there

And I did, I went up there Monday--on building roads--I worked there for five years.

Noise--

A:then we came some from the south of Italy. But they stopped in New York. Very few that were here in Ridgefield south.

Q: Some in Danbury.

A: Cause Ridgefield wasn't kind of work was some rich people from the city--they came for the summer there. What could I tell you? Then in the house, the lady had mostly Irish. Girls. Coachman, they were mostly Irish.

Q: Then you worked on one of the estates?

A: The first estate I worked was Conley. He was Conley--for 69 on the way to Danbury, up on the hill there. I go some for myself. I had a couple, two pair of horses and I did some for the Colonel. After that, I had a misunderstanding with his kind of foreman, you know. He called me up from New York and he said he wanted to see me. He would come up.

So I sat in the big room and he said, you don't want to take charge of ? I said, Should I? Well, he said, I want to get a man. I said, I've got to get out of here. like I'm on trial.

promise I'll do the job you want but I -- I'm mostly a farmer. He had a big farm there. He had cattle and two

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pairs of farm horses. That was here on Danbury Road. That was Conley--the Colonel. Up on the hill. Then they made it into a nursery.

Q: Yes, I remember that.

A: Well, it was before they started the nursery. He wanted me to stay--the nursery, and take care of the other part. I said, no. Two you'll get your nurseryman, I said. I'll get something. So I left there after two years, I think I worked for him.

I came down and then I went in a livery stable. I used to like horses. I liked that.

When I was a little fellow home I used to plow with the oxen. About 15 years old. So I liked that. I didn't stay

Then I went to work at the livery stable. I worked there, take care--I like the horses. I stayed there and then the stable burned down. There were three stables in Ridgefield.

Then one man called me, he wanted me to make a flower garden--rose garden. So I did. It was a lawyer from New York City. He said, can you build me a flower garden -- mostly roses? I said, I know how to plant. So I had two or three men with me -- this flower garden, and then they said, How about you work for me steady? So I said, do you think you want me? Well, he said, I see you know how to do it. So I said, Okay--I went to him. He was a lawyer in New York. Long Island. I stayed there but I didn't like it. He had left his wife--because it was nothing to me--he can live his life. But then he had a woman there -- I didn't like too much. I went

a little place there took me, used to
to cut grass

So one day, he said--he came up, he was working with me, cleaning
the roses. He said, Julius, my Mrs. said she wants you guys to
stay with us steady. I said, I couldn't

I be lonesome working in the city--

I like to stay with you
but, I said, I wouldn't promise you

It was a little place, you know--the pay was just the same, but
still I was getting so--I'd be lost there. Well, all right, I said.
Pretty soon, ~~he~~ come over Mr. . This was his house.
Not the house I lived in. I lived in--even when I worked --

END OF SIDE TWO

A:that's enough, that's enough, he said. He went up to the house
and called this man in Canada--one builder. And he didn't want it
like that. He told them--I don't want it like that. Oh, he says,
that's all right. So, he said, call him up--if you don't come down
this minute, then never come here in my place.

I told you, I said, that I didn't like that. So he came down the
same day he called him. He came down--he said, what happened?

I said I was lucky that I up in the air---

I didn't think that I said, I wouldn't be able to
tell you. Because I would be pulled to pieces. Big 30 foot
wheel--26 foot around. Got a lot of power. My foot
leg .

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A: Well, that was my first job, private job. Conley. Nice family.

chairman

beer empire.

Well, I told you a lot of nonsense, I suppose?

Q: Not a bit. Interesting. Certainly was.

A: Cause then she came and then she tie me up. (

nobody wouldn't have you otherwise.)

(I didn't know if I should marry him or not because if I got married--he's Italian and I'm English--my kids would be mongrels.)

Q: Well, I think you're kids are all very successful.

A: (politics

Q: Maybe just one in the family is enough.

A: (This town, Ridgefield, is very close. If you're not

you're not in it. They used to have grange

and if you didn't belong to the old , you weren't

As proof, I knew in the grange, and I was going to join and they wouldn't put you in because I wasn't American.

I wasn't a Yankee.

Q: Has that changed any now?

A: Oh, yes, everybody -- the Italians marry the Irish, if an Italian man married an Irish girl that wasn't --

Q: That wasn't the thing to do then.

A: (Everybody intermingles, you know. Even the colored persons marry the white now. good town many years ago. But now--

you used to know everybody but now--you go down the street and you don't -- very seldom you meet somebody you know. Now I don't recognize them anyway because they have the dark glasses on and you

can't see who you're talking to. These are dark when I'm out but in the house they change color.

Q: But you had the best of it, didn't you then? You had Ridgefield when it was? A good place.

A: The first four years we worked -- we camp up north of Ridgefield--some wealthy guy in New York bought -- they had two old people, they got money--they don't know what to do, I suppose, and they got--they hired this lawyer and they have all this land up in Ridgebury--not Ridgebury, this side of Ridgebury--and they are going to develop. They bought this land and they--we were around 50, 60 men. They had 5 pair of mules instead of horses. Build a road through this land. Then he was going to develop. And he never sold one inch.

Q: Why was that?

A: Nobody bought it. He build a road and everything. I worked there four years. About 35-40 people.

Q: What happened to that land?

A: Now they build the houses--now they developed it. They've got houses all over. The road was all--stone, we used to build it--stone, the filling. The dirt was solid. Used to fix it up, you know. We were about 30 working up there. And doing our own cooking.

Q: Is that where your brother worked too?

A: Yes. He was working there when he wrote to me--come there was work there. Mr. Bailey was the superintendent. And he tried to learn to speak Italian. And sometime he would say something to us, you know. I laughed at him. You laugh, he said, don't laugh at me! We were a lot of young--the oldest probably was 35. All young kids.

Four years I worked there.

north Ridgefield.

Q: Did you travel by horse? To the job? How did you get to the job?

A: No, my brother was there.

Q: Did you walk to work?

A: No, they made a camp up there.

Q: Oh, you stayed right there.

A: We stayed right there on the place. They made a camp there and I think we were five in each room. Was a different room, you know. About eight rooms. cook on the other stove. They all had a job. One go for the water, the other--wash the dishes. They all had a job. Four years I worked there.

(

Chautauqua
~~Chataqua~~

--you said--they used to have Chataquas come to town once here? It was in the Yankee magazine not so long ago I read a story about the)

Q: Well, that would be like a spiritual revival--

A: (No, they used to come--they'd set up tents and they had all sorts of last a week. One time they had it by the big--by the Methodist Church big tent they put up. Another time they put it down by the Odd Fellows Hall.

Q: I didn't know what a Chataqua was. It was written up in the Yankee magazine lately?

A: (Not so long--one magazine I had--my daughter gets the Yankee magazine --it was within the last year--story about the Chataquas--how every

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one knew them--used to go to them.

Q: Like a traveling production company?

A: (Stage and people sing or act--

we had there--the Chataqua they used to call it.

They didn't stay here--they just come --

(We used to have to walk. That's why I never learned to drive--
we were so near town.

Q: That's why you're in good health.

A: (I wished I had learned when I was young. It's too late now.

Depend on somebody else now a days. Oh, I could walk--

Daughter-in-law comes up and she takes me in to do shopping.

My legs bother me so now--it's too heavy--and my daughter lives
in the bottom---

Q: Oh, we noticed there's a little apartment upstairs. How nice.

Nice to have someone that handy.

A: (She goes to work. Just got a baby grandson so--he's two months
old today.

Q: You're a great-grandmother then.

END OF SIDE THREE.

Chautauqua: the annual Chautauqua meeting, providing public lectures, concerts and dramatic performances during the summer months, usually in an outdoor setting; any similar assembly, esp. one of a number of meetings in a circuit of communities. Also l.c. chautauqua.

Dear Nancy:

Really enjoyed these tapes--the whaling one especially!!!! On Mr. Tulipani's tapes, I didn't get a lot of the talking. If possible, place the recorder nearer to the person--rather than near to you--I can always hear your voice clearly--but they seem to be too far away.

Also, at the beginning of each tape, perhaps it would be good to give the date, the name of the person (first and last with spellings), the address and whether this is Tape #1, 2 or 3, etc. It would be helpful to me.

Another suggestion on immigrants. Dr. Charles Mauks--he left Hungary during the revolution in the 50's, and I believe went to South America before coming to the U.S. I'd think he would be quite interesting.

Looking forward to the 22nd.

Isabelle

Enclosed is a statement--don't know if you need something such as this for your records--with income tax time coming, I thought you might need it to verify my listing the donation on my tax form.