

John Venera Interview Outline

* Use any of the spaces to pencil in notes; add pictures or documents.

- I. Introduction- Birth-1916, place-next to Rialto Hall (Bring picture), how long in the area, mom & dad, brothers & sisters
- II What do you know about Battista Venera's family history in Italy?
 - A. Discuss Battista's hometown/ what you remember from your 1968 visit.
 1. Focus on economy,geography/trade importance/ royalty/wars etc.
 - B. Discuss Battista's mom & dad/brothers & sisters. (Matt Venera)
 - C. Discuss Battistas life in old country up to immigrating to America.
 1. Education-- possibly 5th grade/ marriage to Margurite Pecheo
 2. Living conditions- boil alfalfa to live - military service.
 3. How Battista learns about America- letters from brother.
 4. Focus on decision to leave Margurite & family behind.
 - D. Discuss Battistas immigration to America.
 1. How the trip was financed; conditions on the ship/Ellis Island

2. Focus on Battista's search for work-Rock Springs, Wyoming c. 1898- Colorado - Death Valley - Stockton, California - Roslyn, WA. c.1909

III. What do you know about Margurite Pecheo's family heritage in Italy?

A. Discuss location, geography, economy of hometown.(1968 trip)

B. Discuss Margurite's mom & dad/sisters & brothers.

C. Discuss Margurite's life in Italy up to immigrating to America.

1. Focus on education & skills- 5th grade/ works for baker.

2. Focus on hobbies & talents -music/songs etc.

D. Discuss how Margurite's trip to America was financed/ does she travel with other friends/family?

1. Focus on where the family reunites with Battista. Where you live in Roslyn. Have John go into the history of his present home.

2. Focus on Ellis Island/passports/ communication

IV. What did Battista do for a living in Roslyn c. 1909?

A. Discuss the sausage business below barber shop.

1. Focus on market/credit etc.

B. Discuss the decision to enter the dairy business.

1. Focus on buying land/cows and working in No. 5 mine.

2. Focus on Battista's buying out other dairy operations - George Whiteman c. 1918 - Groshell dairy- Bar 41

3. Focus on marketing milk - Cle Elum & Roslyn - Cle Elum Creamery

a. Impact of coal mining economy on the business/ also strikes

b. Size of dairy operations in the area. How many dairy operations?

c. Impact of Great Depression on business.

d. Have John describe in detail a typical work day at Maple Dairy c. 1934

4. Focus on why Maple Dairy ends in 1943.

a. Impact of WW II.

b. What Battista and Margurite do after the dairy ends in 1943.

V. What was life like for an Italian immigrant family in Roslyn?

A. Discuss immigrant traditions.

1. Recipes, home brew, gardening/ woods as a food supply. Impact of Prohibition. Grapes/1 1/2 tons.

a. Stills along Cle Elum River.

b. Home remedies- boil wine, castor oil

2. Entertainment, bocce ball, family & friends.

3. Holidays- Christmas, New Years-1st footing & coin in apple, Easter-priest visits home.

4. Lodges - Druidessa - Odd Fellows - Moose -keeping in touch with family in Italy. Why Matt returns to Italy.

5. Marriage customs- John marries Rose in ----.

B. Discuss family values concerning:

1. Education - bring out citizenship papers-kids and school- English vs Italian.

a. Focus on John's school at Southside School. (Graduation in Rialto Hall)

b. Focus on John's school activities at Cle Elum High School till graduation in 1934. Impact of 1934 strike on school and home.

2. Work ethic/ resourcefulness/ money shortage / borrow for hay

3. Family takes care of the parents- John gives up Boeing job.

VI. After the dairy closed in 1943, what did you do for a living?

A. Discuss your coal mining activities from c. 1943-1953.

1. On maintenance crew for all the mines.

a. Focus on mine timbering methods (Bring picture) Fred Woods

b. Focus on close call in No. 9 mine- John Kuchera; Tony Bailey

✓ c. Focus on close call in No. 5 mine.

✓ d. Focus on No. 3 when trip piles up.

✓ 2. At No. 9 lumber mill.- Ellis Lofstrom / mine wedges/ NWI machine shop builds saw/ Hugh Money/ 7-8 employed/ WW II and close call at mill.

3. NWI mill next to NWI power bldg. (Puget buys NWI Power in c. 1953.)

4. Role of NWI machine shop in mining operations. Relationship to Roslyn Foundry.

5. Reaction to the closing of No. 9 in 1963.

(John mentions working at the pass)

B. After you left the NWI Co. in 1953, what did you do?

1. Buys beer distributorship in Ellensburg

VII. What do you know about the following:

A. Business owners in Roslyn.

- ✓ 1. Emil DeGabrial
- ✓ 2. Bivalaqua
- ✓ 3. Pete Cassasa- labor contractor/hardware
- ✓ 4. John Cassasa - Beer Distrib.
- ✓ 5. Shepardson's saloon- monobell powder
- ✓ 6. ^(son) Percy & Tom Wright
- ✓ 7. Box factory near No. 9 mill -owner sets up LyCol Veneer- 12 to 15 women work
Bardisono
- ✓ 8. ~~Bartisono~~ grocery
- ✓ 9. ^{Jiono} ~~Giono~~ plumbing & hardware
- ✓ 10. Bellesa grocery
- ✓ 11. ^{Berg} ~~Burge~~ grocery
- ✓ 12. Roslyn brewery
- ✓ 13. Roslyn Hotel

B. Business owners in Cle Elum:

- 1. Tony Ballony → *Tevora*
Ballone

C. Business owners in Ellensburg who have root in Roslyn/Cle Elum area. (Barnett- Wipple- Gilmore- Kelleher- etc.)

D. Other

1. Black Church near Rialto Hall
2. Tavern near Rialto Hall
3. Finn Hall
4. Swede Hall

VIII. Closing-- What advice would you give a young person in order to cope with the future? Assume someone is about to visit or move into the area. What should they know about our past in order to understand our community today?