

EI-971
JOSEPHINE NARDONE SCOLA
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INTERVIEWER: MINDY HAPEMAN
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TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY: MINDY HAPEMAN, 12/1997
TRANSCRIPT NOT REVIEWED

ITALY, 1920
AGE 10
SHIP RECALLED AS "THE CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS"

National
Project
20th
Josephine
old.
should
area
I
an
up
your
full name.

HAPEMAN: Good afternoon. This is Mindy Hapeman for the
Park Service. I am a student intern for the Oral History
from Skidmore College. Today is Thursday, November the
, 1997 and I am here in Maplewood, New Jersey with
Scola, who came from Italy in 1920 when she was ten years
Paul Sigrist is also present for the interview today. I
say for the sake of the tape that we are in a residential
and there might be audible neighborhood, traffic sounds.
should also say there are several family members in
another room in the house and their talking might be picked
on the tape. Why don't we begin by having you state
full name.

SCOLA: My full name is Josephine Nardone Scola.

HAPEMAN: Could you spell your maiden name?

SCOLA: N-A-R-D-O-N-E.

HAPEMAN: And your last name?

SCOLA: Scola. S-C-O-L-A.

HAPEMAN: Great. And what is your date of birth please?

SCOLA: 1910.

HAPEMAN: Do you know the day?

SCOLA: 1910. Yeah. 1910. April the 15th.

HAPEMAN: April the 15th, 1910.

SCOLA: 1910.

HAPEMAN: Okay. Where were you born?

SCOLA: In Italy.

HAPEMAN: Where in Italy?

SCOLA: Prodlesera [PH]. (Italian)

HAPEMAN: And, and where is that?

SCOLA: Prodlesera [PH]. It's a, it's a small village
in Italy. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: Okay. Could you spell the name of your town?

SCOLA: I can't tell. (She laughs) Yeah.

HAPEMAN: That's fine. What was the size of your town? What
was the size of it? How big was it?

SCOLA: The what?

HAPEMAN: The town that you grew up in.

SCOLA: Oh, it's a small town. It was a small town.

HAPEMAN: Do you know how many people might have lived there?

SCOLA: Oh, I don't know. To me, it looked like it was
only two block, two block. It's a, it was a small town. Yeah.

do
HAPEMAN: What was the major industry there. What did people
for work?

husband
SCOLA: Well, my daughter, my mother was a widow. Her
died very young and we lived there. My grandfather
had
worked
some property, vegetable property, and my mother
for my grandfather. And, my sister and I, we were
home,
you know, taking care of the house and we had to go
to
the village to carry water. We didn't have water in the
house.

end
And we had to carry water every day. We had to go to the
of the road and with the buckets we used to fill up
the
water and we used to carry them home to cook and
everything.

then
That's how we lived. It was a hard time. Yeah. So,
she
after my mother figured we can't live like this here,
lived
says. So she wrote a letter to my, to her aunt. They
to
in Paterson [New Jersey] and so she sent for my two brothers
here.
go over, over there. She says, I'll get the jobs over

and
In Paterson, there was a cotton company or something
I
two of them worked for the, them. And the other brother,

my don't know what, what kind of work he was doing. So,
aunt. . .

HAPEMAN: Before we get you to America, I'm just going
to interrupt you for a moment and ask you a few more questions
about what it was like to live in Italy. Could you tell me
about the house that you grew up in?

SCOLA: It was a small house. It was a small house. There
was no dining room or, there was just the kitchen and the
bedrooms.
And, we had a fireplace and that's how we used to cook
over there.

HAPEMAN: And how was it lit? What, what kind of lighting
did you have?

SCOLA: What kind of a...?

HAPEMAN: Lighting? For, how, how did you, was there gas
lighting, or candles, or lanterns?

SCOLA: No. The uh, we had candles. Yeah. And we cooked by
a

fireplace, fireplace, you know. We used to bring
the charcoal and that's how we used to cook over there.
There was no stove.

HAPEMAN: What kind of things would you cook?

SCOLA: Most of the time, it was vegetables. Vegetables
and potatoes and stuff like that there, you know. And, it
was nothing luxury like, like over here and so, so we got along
so. Then after. . .

HAPEMAN: Did the kids, did the kids help with the
cooking? Were, was. . .

SCOLA: No. It was just me and my sisters and my brother.
My brother was two years older than us. Yeah, they helped.
They helped a little bit. Yeah. They used to go the, even us,
as small as we were, we used to go to the village there,
where the market was and help my sister, I mean my mother with
the planting the vegetables and stuff like that. The
corn. Yeah. We worked hard. We worked hard as kids. Yeah. You
know,

to when you have a, a, a mother without a husband, and you got
work, so you got to go along to help out. Yeah.

no HAPEMAN: You have, you never met your father? You have
recollection of your father?

my SCOLA: No, no. I don't even know. The only way I know
father is through a picture. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: Do you know what his name was?

SCOLA: Leopold. Leopold. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: What about your mother. What was her name?

SCOLA: My mother was Judy.

HAPEMAN: Judy.

SCOLA: Yeah.

HAPEMAN: What was her personality like?

SCOLA: Personality? Fine. She was a wonderful woman.
Yeah.

In fact, I have a granddaughter here next to my mother. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: What did your mother look like?

SCOLA: My mother was a beautiful woman. Yeah.
(laughing)

Yeah.

HAPEMAN: Okay. Could your mother read or write?

SCOLA: Read or write? No. No.

HAPEMAN: Okay. When you think about your childhood, do you have a special memory that you have of your mother in particular?

SCOLA: Well, when we came here to America, she worked so hard over there. She could of had a better life here because then all of my brothers, they all had jobs. And, we lived on Church Street in South Orange [New Jersey] and then she became sick. She became sick. She was in and out the hospital. In and out the hospital. She had an operation. I don't know what kind of operation it was but anyway, it was until, it was just, well, I was married when

my mother died. I was married a year, year and a half when

Orange mother died. And, she was in and out the hospital at the

Memorial Hospital and so that was it. You know? Okay?

HAPEMAN: Before, you mentioned a moment ago about your brothers

and sisters. Could you tell me their names?

in SCOLA: Yeah. I have my sister, I have my sister right now

my Brooklyn. She got married and she lived in Brooklyn. And, my,

other sister died and Cunzi. Her name was Cunzi.

HAPEMAN: Cunzi.

SCOLA: Yeah.

HAPEMAN: And your first sister. The one that lives in Brooklyn?

What was her name? What's her name. . .

SCOLA: Oh, Margaret. Margaret.

HAPEMAN: Margaret, Margaret.

And, SCOLA: Yeah. Yeah. And Cunzi was, was my other sister.

brother myself. And then I have a, a brother that's Leo and a

Joe and my brother Tony. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: Okay. Do you know any stories concerning your birth?

Do you know any, were you ever told anything about what, what happened the day you were born?

SCOLA: What date that I was born? How can I go back that far, that far back.

HAPEMAN: Not your memory but I though maybe there was a family story that you had heard but if, but if there's not, there's not. We'll, we'll keep going. Okay. What religion were you?

SCOLA: Mm. What religion? Catholic.

HAPEMAN: Tell me about religious life in Italy. Did, where did you go to church?

SCOLA: Sure, we always go to church and even here too.

HAPEMAN: In, in the town. . .

SCOLA: All over. Where ever I went, I went to church.

Italy? HAPEMAN: What was the church like that you went to in

What did it look like?

SCOLA: It was a small church. Yeah.

home? HAPEMAN: What kind of religious practices did you have at

SCOLA: What did I have what?

did HAPEMAN: What did you have, what kind of religious practices
you have right in your house in Italy?

we SCOLA: In Italy? Well, religious. We have candles and
have crucifix. Yeah.

any HAPEMAN: Did you ever experience any religious persecution,
bigotry in Italy?

SCOLA: No.

to HAPEMAN: Tell me about school in Italy. Where did you go
school.

was SCOLA: Well, I was too young I think to go to school. I

too young to go to school.

HAPEMAN: You didn't go to any school at all in Italy.

SCOLA: No, no school at all until I came here, to America.

you
HAPEMAN: As a, as a young girl growing up in Italy, what did
know about America?

we
SCOLA: Oh, I thought America, I, oh, it was great. When
send
heard we were coming to America, my brothers, they
it
for us. We couldn't wait till we came here. And, and
was nice. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: Tell me now, who was in America before you came?

SCOLA: Who was here in America. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: Who came before you?

my
SCOLA: Well, we came to, we, we came to Paterson because
send
cousin, my aunt she send for my brothers and she also
and
for us. But then, I had an uncle who lived down the street

there, they made room for us. And because he had a house down
there, and he made room for us for a few days and then next door
there was a two apartment house and we were lucky to get that
apartment and we lived there. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: What did you pack to come to America?

SCOLA: What did I w-?

HAPEMAN: What did you pack?

SCOLA: Packed?

HAPEMAN: Yes.

SCOLA: I don't know.

HAPEMAN: Do you remember having luggage?

one SCOLA: I don't, we had some luggage. I think it was only
luggage. We didn't have too much.

America HAPEMAN: So, your two oldest brothers were already in
when your sisters, and your other brother, and your
mother

were sent to go. That's correct?

SCOLA: Yeah. Yeah.

Did

HAPEMAN: Okay. Okay. How did you finance the journey?

to

your brothers in America send money or did you have money

come to America?

money

SCOLA: Well, my uncle, my grandfather gave us, us some

my

to come over. No, no, no. No, he didn't. It was

They're

brothers. After working a year, they send for us.

the ones who send us the money. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: Okay. The ones that were already in America.

That's

SCOLA: They were here in America. Yeah, that's right.

right.

HAPEMAN: Okay.

I

SIGRIST: Mindy, excuse me. Before we get into America, I know

Mrs.

told you I wouldn't interrupt you but, you might want to ask

Scola about other relatives who lived in Italy.

that
was
mentioned

HAPEMAN: Can you tell me anything about other relatives
lived around in, in the town that you grew up. Was,
there an extended family? For instance, you just
your grandfather. Was he around?

SCOLA: My grandfather was a great man. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: Did he live in the same town that you did?

big

SCOLA: The same town. Lived in the same town. He had a
house there.

remember

HAPEMAN: What memories do you have of that. Do you
going to the house?

used
about
by
to
into

SCOLA: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. Many of times he
to call for us and, you know, what was interesting
him, he lived to almost a hundred years. And, he used to sit
a fire place, would you believe this, you know, I even hate
say this, and every day he would put a whole clove of garlic
the, into the ashes of the

fireplace. Then he would have something that after,
after
that there, I think that's why he lived so long. He, he had
a
whole head of garlic almost every day because once
that's
cooked, you know, it doesn't smell like a, like
a,
you know, a garlic right away. And he used to
go,
sometimes I used to and see him and he used to say
to
me "Just pick it up with, from the ashes" and then
he
used to peel it, peel that garlic and he used to
eat
it like that there. And he lived to a good age,
he
lived a good age. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: Was his house close to the house where you and
your
mother . . .

SCOLA: Oh, yes. Oh, yeah. Like half a block away.

HAPEMAN: Was this your mother's father or . . .

SCOLA: My mother's father.

HAPEMAN: Mother's father.

SCOLA: Yeah.

HAPEMAN: Were there other family members around?

SCOLA: Oh, yeah. I had plenty of aunts. Plenty of aunts.

And my mother, just to keep us off the road, I had two

aunts across the street. They were a seamstress.

They, one aunt used to make a trousseau for the

people that marriage, you know, and she used to

call us over to go over there and to learn how to sew

and stuff like that there. That's why I know so much

about things like that there. I'm very handy myself,

you know. As a kid with a needle in my hand sewing,

you know, the trousseau for them, you know. It was

nice. Yeah. (She pauses) Oh, yeah. There's a lot

of things, you know. I'm living now, I'm eighty-six

I years old and I worked so hard. I didn't think

things would live this long. But I think that the

that you do and you keep on going, that's what keeps

you going. And thank God for that. Yeah. So...

that
HAPEMAN: Are there any other memories, specific memories,
you have of growing up in Italy that stick, stick
out
in your mind that I haven't already asked you about?

we,
SCOLA: Well, I'm going to tell you something, that when
before we came on the boat, when I tell this, I
laugh,
but it happened. And this is really happening.
My
uncles, see in Italy, we used to use only
slippers,
almost like this here (she gestures to her shoes),
you
know, different slippers. So, my uncles says to me,
they
don't wear slippers, the slippers were different
over
Naples
and he bought three pairs of shoes for me, my sister,
and
my brother. And so, he gave us the boxes while,
while
him and my mother through the rail to bring the
luggage
for
in. And so we were waiting and so they were there
almost an hour before we got on the boat, right.
Now,
I'm sitting in between my brother and my sister and
I

for have three boxes of shoes. Now, this is embarrassing
that me to say but it happened. And don't you believe
gate when my uncle and my mother came from behind the
he there to get on the boat and my uncle says to me,
here. says, "Where's the shoes?" My hands were like this
and They robbed three pairs of shoes right in front of-,
they my brother and my sister didn't even see them and
it? took the three boxes of shoes, would you believe
was They couldn't come from the back because the bench
how against the wall. They had to be on the front. And
couldn't they took those three boxes of shoes, I, I, I
cry believe it. So, my uncle says, 'cause I started to
worry. because, you know, I felt bad. So he says, "Don't
"I'm You get on the boat with your mother." He says,
the going to go to the shoe store again" because he knew
"When size because he had gone out to get them. He says,
upper you go, get onto, in the boat, you go up to the
on deck. And when you get up there, you tell the man

to the boat there, I don't know what he called them,
I'll, throw down, down a rope and I'll be downstairs and
and I'll paddle a, you know, boat from the shoe store
them I'll tie shoes to the, to the rope and he'll take
while up." And, of course, it took a while. It took a
and for us to get there and for him to go get the shoes
it all. By the time, we went there and we went upstairs,
my was me and my brother, we went up there, and there was
I uncle on the boat there coming over so the, the, the,
of don't know what you call the man that, that takes care
was the boat, and so he got the shoes for, for us which
back very nice, you know. Well, you know, the boats of
boats then it's not the boats you get today. Now, the
to today are luxury. You know, you sit down by the table
you eat and all and stuff like that there. Over there,
to can't, they don't do that. I don't know if you want
know that.

HAPEMAN: I do.

SCOLA: You want to know that?

before
all,
Italy
leave
HAPEMAN: I do. I'm going to ask you some questions, but
we get into the boat, I want to ask you, first of
how did you get from where you were living in
to where the port was? And which port did you
leave from? You left from Naples?

SCOLA: From Naples. Oh, yeah.

in
HAPEMAN: Okay. And how did you get to Naples from your town
Italy?

my
SCOLA: Oh, I think one of the relatives. Well, my uncle,
uncle. They drove the carriage or something. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: You came by carriage.

SCOLA: Yeah.

the
HAPEMAN: And did this uncle, the uncle that bought you
shoes, did he come with you to America?

SCOLA: No, no, no. He just came along to bring us.

you
HAPEMAN: And was he the husband of one of these aunts that

were talking about or was he a brother of your mother?

SCOLA: My uncle is a brother of my, my mother. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: Okay. Okay. He also lived around you.

SCOLA: Yeah. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: Okay. So, big family.

SCOLA: Yeah. Yeah.

How,
HAPEMAN: Was it hard to leave all those family members?

what did, how did you feel about leaving Italy?

I
SCOLA: Well, I didn't feel bad. I was happy to come because

in
knew that everybody talked about it. You know,

is
America, in America, you know, you live good, which

it.
true, which is true. Nothing like it. Nothing like

said
Of course, now they, after so many years, that they

you
over there they over there they're living good too,

you know. But now, this goes back almost thirty years,

know. It's a long time. Yeah.

safely. HAPEMAN: Okay. So, you're in Naples. You got there

talk What, tell me about the ship. You were beginning to

about it. . .

SCOLA: Oh, the ship, the ship.

HAPEMAN: Do you know, do you remember the name of the ship?

SCOLA: Yeah.

HAPEMAN: What was it.

SCOLA: Christopher Columbus.

HAPEMAN: The Christopher Columbus.

over. SCOLA: Yeah. And it took twenty eight days to come

Twenty eight days to come over.

HAPEMAN: Twenty-eight days. Which, which class were you?

SCOLA: The bottom. The bottom class.

or
HAPEMAN: The bottom. Were you, did you actually have cabins
were you, were you, when you were on. . .

SCOLA: No. We had the one-two-three. (she gestures)

HAPEMAN: Bunk beds.

SCOLA: Yeah. Bunk beds. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: Okay. And what was that like, sleeping like that?

SCOLA: Hmm?

HAPEMAN: What was that like to sleep in those. . .?

SCOLA: Terrible. Yeah. And the food was terrible?

you
HAPEMAN: What was the food like? What kinds of foods did
see?

pasta,
SCOLA: (she laughs) To me, all I could remember was
a
pasta, pasta. And you just go around with a, with
the,
dish and they, they just plop just like they do in
plop,
in the soldiers or something. (she laughs) Just
plop, and just walk around and go over to the, the
bench

or something and you eat it like that there. My
mother

was very sick on the boat. She hardly ate
anything.

Yeah. But we survived.

HAPEMAN: Were you sick?

SCOLA: No. Thank God for that. We, we were kids, you
know.

Ten years old. And my sister was nine. She's a
year

young-, younger than me. Tony's two years older. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: What did people do on the boat for entertainment?
Was

there anything. . .

SCOLA: No. We used to get together, sing. That's about
it.

It's not like now.

HAPEMAN: What kinds of things would you sing?

SCOLA: Italian songs.

HAPEMAN: Do you want to sing one for us?

SCOLA: No. I don't know how, I don't know anything.
(they

laugh)

was
HAPEMAN: That's fine. That's fine. Were you, were your,
your family allowed to stay together or was there. .

SCOLA: Oh, we were always together.

HAPEMAN: Were together.

three
SCOLA: Yeah. We had three uncles, three, not uncles,
good friends of my brother's and . . .

HAPEMAN: They were with you on the boat.

of
And,
and
her.
SCOLA: They were on the boat. And they took such good care
us and especially my mother that was always sick.
you know, they always made sure that they came down
checked on her and they used to bring some food to
And it was like that. They were very, very good to us.

HAPEMAN: Were they from your town as well?

then
SCOLA: Yeah, from the town. They're from the town. And

lived when we came here, they lived around here. One
the over here on Irvington Avenue about a block away and
other two lived down in South Orange. Yeah.

SIGRIST: I do want to pause just for a second. (break in
tape)

are SCOLA: Do you know that when you get off the boat, you
long being checked. I went through that now not too
or ago, which I don't know whether they threw it down
physical something, you know, you have to go through a
by or something like that there? Thank God, they went
very me. They came with up, you know, everybody was
I good. And, I don't know if they do it now because I,
ago went through that Ellis Island not, quite a while
I and they had knocked down the, the physical. Well,
that think you've been over there too. They knocked
but all down. I don't know whether they do it now
they did it before.

HAPEMAN: Now it's a museum.

SCOLA: Yeah. Yeah.

HapeMan: Do you remember when you came into New York Harbor, seeing the Statue of Liberty?

SCOLA: Yeah.

HapeMan: How, how. . .

SCOLA: Yeah. We saw the Statue. Well, that's how we know. It was dark at night and all the sudden somebody hollered out that they saw the sta-, the light. And, oh my God, everybody was so happy because it was twenty-eight days. That's a long time to be on the boat. Yeah. And, yeah, that's it.

HapeMan: And then you went into Ellis Island and that's's what you were beginning to. . .

SCOLA: Then, when we got off, wha-, we got off, see, we came to, we went to South Orange. And my brothers were

they still over my aunt and then after that, you know,
all separated. Yeah.

you HAPEMAN: Did you have to stay at Ellis Island? Were
detained there for overnight? You. . .

SCOLA: No. Oh, no. Oh, no. No.

medical HAPEMAN: But you do remember, or do you remember the
tests, the medical exams or did you have to be
examined by a doctor?

or SCOLA: Oh, yeah. They do check you because if you are sick
something, they don't let you off. Yeah. No.

HAPEMAN: That's what you were saying thank God all your family
members. . . .

SCOLA: Yeah. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: What do you remember about those, those tests?

SCOLA: What do you mean "remember?"

the HAPEMAN: Do you remember any details about what specifically

doctors looked for?

SCOLA: Oh, all they do is, they check your heart (a telephone

rings in the background), to check your heart. You know, that's, that's the most important thing, you know. They, I don't know what they do now but that was the medical thing. They wanted to make sure you don't have a fever, get off the boat with a fever, something like that. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: Do you remember eating at Ellis Island at all?

SCOLA: Eating?

HAPEMAN: Did you have any meals at Ellis Island?

SCOLA: No. (she coughs) Excuse me. (she coughs)

HAPEMAN: Who was waiting for you, you mentioned your cousin, was, was there someone waiting for you?

SCOLA: My brothers. My brothers.

HAPEMAN: Your brothers were waiting for you.

SCOLA: Yeah. Yeah. They came to pick us up.

HAPEMAN: And where did you go once they picked you up?

SCOLA: We came here, to South Orange. Yeah. We were over
to
my uncle's that lived down the street. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: And how long did you stay there?

SCOLA: We didn't stay too long. We stayed there about four
or
five days and then we got an apartment next door to
where he lives.

HAPEMAN: What was that apartment like?

SCOLA: It was nice. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: How many, how many rooms was it?

SCOLA: We had, we had four rooms. You know, four rooms with
the kitchen. Yeah. That wasn't bad.

HAPEMAN: And, at this point, were the two brothers that were
already in America living with you?

SCOLA: No.

HAPEMAN: It was just your mother and your sister, you and your
brother?

SCOLA: Yeah. Yeah. Up-hum.

HAPEMAN: And what did your mother do? Did she look for work?

SCOLA: No. I told you that before, that she became very
ill.

And most of the time, she was in the hospital. Yeah.

And she died very young, too. Yeah.

END OF SIDE ONE

BEGINNING OF SIDE TWO

HAPEMAN: How about you? Did you go to school?

SCOLA: Yes.

HAPEMAN: Tell me about what that was like.

SCOLA: I didn't, I didn't go too long because my mother
needed

some money and so I stopped going and I had to go to
the Montclair once a month because in between, I didn't
make like, I didn't make like a full, full week of
school. Like, I would go one day or maybe two days and
the other days I had to go, I had to go to work. I
worked very young. I worked in a florist, and seven,
eight day-, seven, eight hours a day. And then, once a

month, I had to go to this, I don't know what they call that, but I had to go to this place for school. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: What other kinds of students were at this school?

SCOLA: What grade? Not too long. Must of been two or three grades. Yeah. I didn't, I didn't go too long.

HAPEMAN: Were there other Italians in the school?

SCOLA: No.

HAPEMAN: Were there other immigrants?

SCOLA: I don't think so, no. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: How did you learn English?

SCOLA: You just learn. You just learn. You go to school. They make fun of you when you can't, you can't spell or you can't talk but then, as you go along, you know, you learn.

fun
HAPEMAN: Do you remember specific examples of people making
of you because you were an immigrant or because you
couldn't speak?

SCOLA: Yeah. They did. They did.

HAPEMAN: Could you tell me about that?

SCOLA: Well, sometimes, you know, like a, the teacher will say, "Well, touch the window" or "Touch the curtain" or something and you're touching the wrong thing.

Naturally, who ever was there, they would laugh. They make you feel like an id-, you know. But, you survive, you know. You cry. You feel bad and. . .It worked out all right. Then, of course, as you grow up, you, then you get married and then you don't worry about school or anything. You worry about raising children. (she laughs)

HAPEMAN: The neighborhood that you lived in when you first arrived here in America, where there a lot of Italians there besides. . .

SCOLA: Oh, yeah, a lot of Italians.

HAPEMAN: A lot of Italians.

SCOLA: The street that I lived, it was all Italians.

HAPEMAN: Were there Italian businesses too or were there businesses that were run by other immigrants?

SCOLA: I don't know but I know that the street that I was on was, they were all Italians and some of them had businesses, groceries and stuff like that. Some go to work and. . .

HAPEMAN: How did you get the job at the florist shop?

SCOLA: Oh, I, I just went over there. I just went over there and would you believe, they were paying you ten, ten cents an hour? Ten cents an hour. I worked hard and especially in the summer-time. It was a florist, a big florist and you had to come out and plant the, the plants and everything. I used to come home sweating, sweating and everything. And, so what are you going to do? It didn't kill me. I worked hard but I survived. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: What were your brother and sister doing at this point?

SCOLA: Well, my sister helped it too. My brother, my brother Tony worked for a construction man and he worked for him. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: How did you meet your husband?

SCOLA: How did I meet my husband? Well, he lived a block after us. He lived on Church Street, I lived on Ridgewood Road. And, and his mother and my mother, they were friends at the time. And, so we just met. No, we met, we, we had to go to a wedding and we were invited to go to this wedding. I had to be a bridesmaid and he was the, the usher of the bride, you know, to go to them and that's how I met him. And after that, and then he called me up and he asked me for a date. And, very nice man. He's a great looking man. I have a picture of him over there (she gestures to a photograph) and so after six months that I went with him, we got married.

HAPEMAN: What was his name?

SCOLA: Anthony. Anthony Scola, that's my name.

HAPEMAN: Was Anthony born in Italy or was he an American?

SCOLA: He was born here.

HAPEMAN: He was born here.

SCOLA: Yeah. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: Where did you live once you were married?

and SCOLA: Well, I lived, I had an apartment on Church Street
after that, I didn't stay too long, and then I, I came
up to Maplewood and then we bought the house and
that's, I've been living here ever since. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: What, what did Anthony do for work?

and SCOLA: He used to work for a paper company in South Orange
he was the, the manager over there and he worked hard.
He worked hard. He, he had to be there very early in
the morning to stack up all the newspapers for the
people to carry the newspapers around. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: Did you continue to work after you were married?

SCOLA: Did I work?

HAPEMAN: After you were married?

SCOLA: No, no.

HAPEMAN: Did you have any children?

SCOLA: Two.

HAPEMAN: What, what were there names?

SCOLA: (she laughs) My, my children? It's a Mary, Mary Josephine and Vincent. Vincent is named after his father and Mary is named after me. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: What kind of religious life did you have in America?

SCOLA: What?

go
HAPEMAN: What kind or religious life? Did you, where did you go to church?

SCOLA: I went to church to Our Lady of Sorrows in South Orange. It's a Catholic Church.

HAPEMAN: Was there a large immigrant. . .

SCOLA: Oh, yeah. Beautiful, beautiful. And, first, when we went, it was a small church and then they built this beautiful, beautiful church. It's a chapel like, you know. And, would you believe that I was the first bride in that, in that church to be married. Yeah. Yeah. It was nice.

HAPEMAN: Have you ever gone back to Italy?

SCOLA: No.

HAPEMAN: Have you ever wanted to go back?

SCOLA: No. No. When I think of it, the, the to-, the town, although a nephew of mine went and said that the town is so much better than it was years back. Of course, everything is improved, you know, and, uh, and no. If I want to make a trip, I will make a trip to a different place. Not over there. No.

HAPEMAN: Did you maintain communication with all the family members in Italy that you left behind at all?

SCOLA: No.

HAPEMAN: What have you done in your life that you are most proud?

SCOLA: What did I do?

HAPEMAN: What are you most proud of-, what are you the most proud of that you've done?

SCOLA: I don't know what you mean by that.

HAPEMAN: Out of all accomplishments and all the things that

you

have done throughout your lifetime, what, what is it that you're most proud of?

my

SCOLA: Well, I'm proud of the way I raised my children and grandchildren. I have three grandchildren and I love them dearly. So, what, what else can I ask? (she laughs) Yeah.

HAPEMAN: Having lived here for as many years as you have. . .

SCOLA: Oh, yeah. I've been in this house for so long. Now they want to move out because, you know, a lot of black people are starting to come in to the st-, on the street. And I told them, I says, especially my daughter. My son is married and he lives in Florida and he comes over once in a while, you know. And, of course, you know, she's, she's afraid, you know when she goes out at night or something. We, we have lights all over the, the house there, all around the house and I says, "But I've lived here for so many years. This is my house. Where am I going to go?" I've got friends and I've got cousins. We get together to play cards. Every Saturday night when I go to church, after church we go to my, my brother Tony lives in Maplewood here, we go play cards. And, I says, if I move, I says, I lose all that. I says, "This is what keeps me going. I want to be active. I have clubs that I go

to. I have a club that I go every Monday night. St. Joseph church and then, once a month, there's a senior citizen club that I go to." You know, you keep on going.

HAPEMAN: How long have you lived in this house?

SCOLA: Oh, my God. So many years. I raised my children here.

Yeah. So many years, yeah.

HAPEMAN: Now that you've been in America for so long, what do you think about America?

SCOLA: Oh, I think America, nothing like it. Nothing like it.

Nothing like it. It's nice. Yeah.

HAPEMAN: Well, I think on that note, we'll finish the interview,

unless (Mrs. Scola laughs) there's something else you'd like to add? Or something else you'd like to add?

(addressing Mr. Sigrist) This is Mindy Hapeman for the National Park Service. Today is Thursday, November the 20th, 1997 and I am here in Maplewood, New Jersey with Josephine Scola and we're now signing off.

END OF INTERVIEW

