

Questions	Rose-Marie	Maria
October 26/2022		
Wife: Rose-Marie Daughter: Maria Pia Prigione		
1. What age group/generation were you in?	1900 to 1924: G.I. Generation	
2. Do you identify with a cultural background and heritage?	My cultural heritage is Italian and English-Canadian. Because my mom was adopted so we don't know if she was English, Irish, or Scottish. Basically my dad taught my mother how to cook so we had both English food and Italian food.	We believe her mother (my grandmother) was English.
3. Were you born in Canada or abroad?	I was born in Guelph Ontario. 47 Willard Avenue.	
4. Did you or your grandparents in any generation emigrate to Canada? And if so, when?	My grandparents on my dad's side. They came in 1906 I think.	We went to pier 27 and we found the ships they came in on.
5. Did you grow up speaking a language or dialect other than English or French at home?	Act home, I spoke Italian dialect but it wasn't my dad's, my dad was Sicilian. I only knew a few words but once I actually grew up, there was this family from the north of Italy who took a couple of us from the community and that's where I learned this dialect. I found out once I started going with my husband, that this lady who taught me the dialect and my mother were first cousins.	The dialect she had learned from the family from Northern Italy was Trevisan from Treviso in the Veneto.
6. How often was the language spoken?	Mostly with the grandparents and during the holidays.	
7. Did you grow up in or live currently within an ethnic community	There was a lot of Polish besides the Italian. Ukrainian as well.	My mother grew up with her own but there were other smaller ethnic groups around.

<p>of your own heritage or of a different heritage?</p>		
<p>8. What first brought Eusebio to Canada?</p>	<p>There was no work in Italy. He was 18, he became a welder. His dad had come three years before, he told his father if he wasn't going to make up his mind if he was coming back to Italy or staying in Canada, he was going to go to Australia or South Africa. This was because he needed work. So his father decided to bring his family to Canada and settle here.</p>	<p>It was after the war.</p>
<p>9. Was Eusebio already acquainted with anyone in Canada before he arrived?</p>	<p>His dad, his aunts, uncles, his cousins and a few friends.</p>	<p>Many people from his small hometown came to Canada.</p>
<p>10. Where and when did Eusebio first arrive?</p>	<p>He arrived in New York, by ship in 1955. Then they went on the train to Niagara falls and from there, they went to the Toronto station. They were then picked up by relatives and driven to Guelph.</p>	
<p>11. How did Eusebio arrive to Canada? Did he arrive with anyone?</p>	<p>He came on a ship. He came with his mother, sister, and his brother.</p>	
<p>12. How old was Eusebio when he immigrated?</p>	<p>He was 18, he came from the town of Fanzolo in the province of Trevizo in the Veneto region.</p>	<p>He was 18, he only brought one suitcase.</p>
<p>13. How did Eusebio describe his journey to Canada?</p>	<p>They arrived in February. He mentioned on the ship he was fine, his brother was only 7 but he was good too. His mom and his sister were very seasick, they never left their cabin. They were also surprised to see people wearing galoshes on their feet. My mother-in-law said that she felt like she was in heaven once she got off the train. She had worked so hard and had nothing</p>	<p>They arrived in New York but weren't allowed to leave the ship. But they were hungry, so Eusebio complained and they were fed Bananas, a fruit they never recognized before. That was a memory he shared. He described how cold it was when they arrived, it was damp and there was lots of snow. They had not been used to it.</p>

	before coming to Canada.	
<p>14. Did Eusebio encounter any obstacles/barriers as a new immigrant coming to Canada?</p>	<p>Eusebio went to night school to learn English with his sister but didn't want to go anymore so he stopped attending. Eventually, he became very fluent in speaking and writing in English.</p>	<p>There was a lot of opportunity here for my family when they came. They were lucky they had relatives here. There were a lot of Italians in the area that they lived in so they helped each other, and he found work right away. Guelph was a good mix of homes and industrial and commercial areas. His first job here was at W.C. Woods which is no longer there and was turned into condos. My grandfather worked there as well. He welded there. He would however mention that there was prejudice and people that didn't like the Italians. They were the newest immigrants in the country and didn't speak English properly so there was prejudice stemming from that. He would tell stories of things that would happen at work. There was one guy who would steal my dad's metal lunch box every day, so my father had to weld the lunchbox shut to teach his coworker a lesson. After working at W.C. Woods, he worked at AMF Canada, in the food service division. At this job, Eusebio and his foreman decided to start their own company, so they started Bev Hatch industries with Bev Hatch, my dad, and Bev's son Wayne. So he had his own successful business, but when he started he had five kids at home and the oldest was 13. Even though he was invested in being an equal partner, he couldn't quit his job at the competitions, so he became a silent partner. This was because he had to feed his family at home. For a year, he didn't take a single paycheque</p>

		for the new business. The business is still there today, but it was interesting. He didn't care that his name wasn't public anywhere on the company.
15. Did Eubsebio bring any items of importance with him when he came to Canada? Would you be willing to allow them to be studied and made available to the wider community?	Photographs, he brought slingshots. He liked to hunt. He didn't bring it with him but when he got here he ordered a Baretta shotgun. His uncle had sent it. Yes, the photographs we have can be shared.	Pictures. Everybody wanted to buy the special shotgun he ordered. He could hit the ducks further than anybody else. My brother has it now.
16. Did Eusebio exchange letters with relatives in Italy once he was in Canada?	His uncle was a Franciscan priest.	My grandfather was the oldest son, so when he left Italy he was 46 years old to come and make a life for his family. My father was the oldest grandson of all the Sarettas. He stayed in contact with his relatives, he was close with his grandfather but also with his one uncle who he was named after. He would call his relatives all the time, especially his cousin and one of my grandfather's brothers who lived in the same house that my father was born in. We are still in contact with relatives from Italy, sometimes they come here or we go there.
17. Where did Eusebio consider his "home" to be? Italy or Canada?	Half and half, he never really said that he wanted to go back even though many of his friends would talk about going back. She (Maria) was born in July, and his grandfather died in December, so he went back with his cousins right before because Eusebio had heard his grandfather, who he was very close with, was very ill.	And many of his friends did go back. He missed his family a lot.

	<p>Even when Eusebio's mother went back to Italy, he couldn't go with her. He made sure to stay and take care of us here in Canada.</p>	<p>He talked about going back, but he was working two jobs, one in Cambridge and one here in Guelph. My mother told him to go see his grandfather, so the next day he came home with a ticket. We were one of the few Italians in the community who didn't go back as often as they did. I asked my father "Why don't we go back? Why don't we see your family?", and he told me "it's not the same anymore". I didn't understand what he meant when I was young but I know now the Sarettas had three families living under the same roof, they would always help each other and were very connected but at that point, they were not as close as they were when my father lived there. It was similar to when he came to Canada. Eusebio and his family helped each other out when they got here, but as generations continued, they gradually separated and weren't as close as when they arrived. Whenever Eusebio's father called, he would never speak with his brothers, sisters or relatives on the phone. Everyone here would be on phone talking to his family in Italy and Eusebio would stand by us, crying, because he could hear his family but he couldn't talk to them or else he would want to go back to Italy. My dad said that if he went back to Italy, he wouldn't be able to return to his family here where we were.</p>
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<p>18. Did Eusebio ever mention something he might have done differently when looking back on his journey?</p>	<p>No not really. Everything worked out.</p>	
<p>19. How did you and Eusebio meet?</p>	<p>We met at the corner store. It was wintertime, he asked if I could go to St. Georgia's park to skate. So we went there and there were a bunch of the boys from the town there because they liked to go there on weekends. There was a club that used to have dances on Saturday nights. Eusebio didn't want to go to the dance, even though he could dance. Without telling him, I went to the dance with my friend. Eventually, Eusebio found out and was a little upset at me. I let him know that it was okay if he didn't want to go out with me anymore. After that my mother phoned the corner store where Eusebio and his friends liked to hang out and she must've mentioned me because when we and my friends walked by, he called me and told me that my mother had phoned him telling him I was hard to live with since I was so miserable about losing him. From there, we started dating.</p>	
<p>20. What traditions or aspects of his Italian culture did he share with you?</p>	<p>I already knew his dialect. He shared the food. The bocce. I knew all his cousins from his town because a lot of the ladies worked with me at the shirt factory.</p>	<p>Everything. The dancing. The music. The language especially. They shared the same faith as well.</p>

<p>21. Do you and Eusebio have any children? What cultural background/heritage do they most identify with?</p>	<p>We had 5 (2 boys, and 3 girls).</p>	<p>English and Italian. We grew up with our grandparents in the same house, and they didn't speak English so we learned Italian first. We were entrenched in that culture. My mom was Canadian, so when we went to my Nonno and Nonna's over there we would speak English. But you (Rosie-Marie) spoke Italian as well so we just learned both cultures simultaneously as kids. Even on the street, most of the kids were Italian Canadian so we spoke both inside and outside the house. We didn't really think about it. We all understood each other until you went to school with more English Canadian kids. During high school, they would make fun of your lunch because you would be walking in with a salami sandwich or something similar.</p>
<p>22. What kind of work did Eusebio do back in Italy?</p>	<p>He had to work in the fields at a farm.</p> <p>Even on the farm, the eggs from the chicken needed to be rationed and sold by the workers in order to buy themselves food since they were so poor.</p>	<p>They didn't own the farmland he worked on. The farm was owned by a count. It was somewhat of a futile system. He then went to learn about the trades and learned how to be a welder. There wasn't a lot of work in Italy. While the Italians still considered themselves to be sons and daughters of Italy, they needed to come to Canada for a better life. They had to come because there wasn't really any work there.</p> <p>The town my dad came from</p>

	<p>The kind German soldier once went to a whole other town in order to find medicine for Eusebio's toothache since his family didn't have anything to give him.</p>	<p>had a railway station that went from the north of Italy down to Rome. The house my dad's family lived in, lived next door to the Villa Emo. This Villa was owned by the Count. This Villa was designed by Andrea Palladio, he also designed Venice and many of the Villas around that area. During the second world war, when my dad (Eusebio) was a kid, that was the German headquarters for the town right beside the Saretta's house. The Germans wanted to be near the train stations to see who was coming and going. Eusebio would talk about the bombers he would hear flying over as a kid back in Italy. I asked my aunt about her memories since she was 15 months younger than him and she said that as long as you could hear the whistle of the bombs dropping you knew you were safe from the bombs. This was when my father was around 7-8. My father once sold a rotten watermelon to one of the German soldiers which led to the soldier coming back and locked up my father. There were other German soldiers, however, who were kind to my family who they talked to and helped release my father.</p> <p>My great-aunt would help the German soldiers with repairs on their clothes.</p>
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<p>23. What type of activities/hobbies did Eusebio have during his time in Italy?</p>	<p>He was very involved with the church choir singing with his sister and his cousins. He was very involved in the parish, he was an altar server.</p>	<p>He had so many. He knew how to hunt. He was a kid so he and his friends did lots of mischievous things. There is a neat story I was told of my sister when she was in Italy, her, a cousin, and my dad's younger brother were in a pub and were recognized by a group of men who mentioned that my sister looked exactly like my dad (Eusebio). The man mentioned that he grew up with Eusebio and shared stories of different types of stories of activities and trouble they used to get into growing up. It was nice because my dad had never shared these stories with his kids before this.</p> <p>He was into a lot of sports, he loved soccer and bike racing very much.</p>
<p>24. Are there any Italian traditions of his that you hope are passed down in your family's future generation?</p>	<p>The language, the music, the dancing.</p> <p>One of my sons still makes his own salami today.</p>	<p>The food, Eusebio made his own homemade wine and salami. That was part of the culture in Italy making things homemade.</p> <p>He made his own stainless steel winepress. He also made his own stainless steel grinder. He made many of the machines used to make his homemade food adding things like motors onto the machines as opposed to doing things by hand like we used to. This was because as he and his family got older, some of the tasks in order to make the salami became more difficult with old age so my father improved the machines to make things easier. We have a book</p>

		<p>that my uncle started called the Saretta salami company, so every year, they would mark information like how big the pig was, where it came from, how much fat was produced, and how much we got out of it. After my father died, the house got sold, so we lost access to the cantina to make salami. We found a cantina here to continue the tradition. My brother and my uncle take care of that but mainly specialize in sausage today. There are lots of traditions around the holidays like Christmas and Easter. Even though these traditions are a big part of our culture, we don't think about them very much because it's all very normal for us, it's how we grew up.</p>
<p>25. Is there anything else you would like to add to Eusebio's story?</p>		<p>To get a little glimpse of him, you'd have to go through his obituary. The important thing to him was his family and ensuring all his kids had more opportunities than he did. He wanted us to have success. I'm forever grateful for him letting us know that as long as we wanted to go to school and he could pay for it, he would do it. My other siblings and I never had to worry about tuition and things like that because my dad took care of it. He wanted to make sure we had a good life. One of the things he always said was "Never forget where you came from because that's who you are and you're no better than anybody else". He never forgot to preach kindness. I remember when Eusebio had his business, it was a time when many Vietnamese people were immigrating here and many people here would refer to them</p>

		<p>as “boat people” but my father hired quite a few of them. My father would do everything he could to help the Vietnamese immigrants to make their new lives in Canada a little bit easier. He would show them the Canadian way of living and give them rides home and such. Wherever he could help someone, he would.</p>
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