

Summary of Interview - By Hoodo Kayd Abdillahi

Date of Interview: October 25th 2024

Interviewee 1 - Agostino Crescenzi

Interviewee 2 - Alida Tassone (Dauther of Agostino Crescenzi)

1. What age group/generation are you in?

Interviewee 1 - 90 years old, Generation X

2. What first brought you to canada?

Interviewee 1- To see the country. I don't know anything by war, just to see it. I was enaged to the country.

3. Did you know anyone prior to coming to Canada?

Interviewee 1 - Actually i didn't know anyone when i came here. In this country i really didn't know anybody. I was the first one. I only know the people that came after me.

4. Where did you arrive when you came to Canada, and what year was it?

Interviewee 1 - I arrived from the airport in Toronto and then i came to Niagara falls. It was August 1957.

5. Did you apply through immigration?

Interviewee 1 - At first I was in Vanezuela, and then I immigrated to Canada.

Interviewee 2 - He moved to Vanezuela from Italy and lived there for five years. After that, he wanted to get married so he immigrated to Canada.

Interviewee 1 - My goal when I arrived in Canada was to get married.

Interviewee 2 - He didn't know the woman; it was arranged, and after getting married, he obtained immigration status.

6. Did you come alone?

Interviewee 1 - Yes.

7. How old were you when you immigrated to Canada?

Interviewee 1 - I was twenty-three.

8. Which part of Italy are you from?

Interviewee 2 - Near Rome. About 40 minutes from Rome.

9. How was the journey to coming to Canada ?

Interviewee 1 - It was okay.

Interviewee 2 - What were you thinking?

Interviewee 1 - Oh nothing. Because I knew why I was coming over here. To get married. Because I came with the idea to get in the country and start in the country and get the paper and that's it.

10. When did you meet your wife?

Interviewee 1 - I saw her when I was younger in Italy but our families knew of each other and that's when I first met her.

11. Did you bring any items of importance?

Interviewee 1 - No whatever I had.

Interviewee 2 - He brought some presents for his mom and the motorcycle certificate from Italy. He used to race back in Italy.

What was your first impression of Canada when you first came here?

Interviewee 1 - Oh, it was fine. It's a big country, and all the buildings and homes looked different from those in Venezuela. Niagara doesn't have many small buildings because this country is still young. Living there is nice. That's why I stay here.

12. Did you face any obstacles or barriers as a new immigrant to Canada?

Interviewee 1 - No, I never thought about why I came here. For me, it was the same as when I lived in Italy. I left Italy when I was very young, and I was never happy with how I was living. It was terrible right after the war. It was right next door. The bomb used to be set off right next to our house. The planes used to fight in the sky. But that's why I was happy, whether I was going to live in Venezuela or Canada.

Interviewee 2 - I guess the obstacles wasn't as bad compared to Italy.

13. When did the war start in Italy?

Interviewee 2 - In 1938 the war started however 1944 was close to where they lived, it was bombed. That's where my mom was organed and lost her mom and two sisters.

14. I discovered that you are an athlete as well. Could you elaborate?

Interviewee 2 - My father was involved in Junior B Canucks Hockey team. And he was a trainer for the team. A Volunteer trainer. He was always in fitness and bodybuilding and riding his bike but he never put a pair of skates on.

Interviewee 1 - And everybody is looking for me.

15. How did you get into training a hockey team?

Interviewee 1 - It was the method by which I would sharpen the skates.

Interviewee 2 - It helped them skate better.

Interviewee 1 - My foot has never been equipped with skates. Therefore, that is the reason I acquired knowledge of the proper method. Therefore, I devised a method to lower the front of the skates in order to increase their speed. That is the method I would use to sharpen, and every child was anticipating it. I sharpen the skates for the girls who participate in figure skating. I would conduct it throughout Niagara, Ontario, and other states. They would visit me, and I would sharpen their skates.

16. You began by sharpening the skates. If you weren't on the ice, how would you teach the athletes?

Interviewee 1 - The way the kids used to skate gave me the idea to get the skates sharpened. The children gained speed by skating steadily and quickly. I discovered all of that on my own. The concept was to lower the blade relative to the front.

Interviewee 2 - He had always loved hockey, and after working as a carpenter, painter, and welder, he had the chance to pursue it. Professionally, he could do those. In addition to starting them up, he began his other career at a sports store. The kids would approach him as he was shaping the skates and he would figure out how to make them move quickly. We returned to Venezuela when I was ten years old because his parents and family were there. But because he couldn't handle Venezuela, we only stayed there for three years. He appreciated Canada's stability and regulations. There was more crime in Venezuela. Three years later, we returned because he enjoyed the sense of security here. His pals from the area asked him if he could return and assist them. He was therefore off the ice sharpening his skates rather than on it.

Interviewee 1 - Everyone enjoyed it when I started sharpening the skates. right up until my retirement. I was at the shop every morning repairing the skates. Later, they asked me to stay with the boys and train them, which meant that I would have to travel all over. From 1976 to 2013–2014.

Interviewee 2 - He was there every day to make sure their uniforms were cleaned, their restroom supplies were ready, and their juices were ready. He would take care of their towels and luggage. All of the teammates liked him. He didn't have the same relationship with the new owner and franchise after they built a new area, and he retired at the age of 70. He was inducted into the Sports Wall of Fame and was a volunteer for the city of Niagara Falls. Many children and girls will come and express their gratitude to my father for his time and assistance in their athletic endeavours.

17. I understand you participated as a volunteer; what motivated your involvement?

Interviewee 1 - Because I appreciated the sports and the children.

Interviewee 2 - Instill in the children a greater sense of appreciation and respect for things, and always advocate for those values. to uphold the law and treat others with kindness

18. Where is home for you? and why?

Interviewee 1 - I lived in Niagara Falls in this country and we got married and then we went back to vanezula and spent three years there and we came back to Canada. That's the end.

19. Looking back on this experience would you have done anything differently?

Interviewee 1- No really, the way i live now is the best way.