



LOC {CASTL} M6/129346
FC/3850/I8/F47
C. 1
FERRO, PAUL J.
EARLY ITALIAN BUSINESSMEN

History 216 Term Paper

EARLY ITALIAN BUSINESSMEN

April 27, 1970

by Paul J. Ferro

for Mr. Andrews

LOCAL
FC
3850
T79
I8
1970

This essay was written as a tribute to the Italian Businessmen of the Trail area. To this date the history of Trail's Italian community has gone virtually unrecorded. This paper is intended to recognize Trail's early Italian Businessmen, who have made the Italian community such a proud part of Trail's history.

Since printed matter concerning the Italian people in Trail is very limited, most of the information found in this paper has been obtained through personal interviews. It is easy to conceive that this method of research is not the best means of obtaining factual information since personal bias could easily interfere with an individual's evaluation of a given subject. Also, there have been discrepancies over the actual facts concerning certain events such as the split in the Colombo Lodge. In both cases, I have used my relatively unbiased position, as researcher, in reviewing these bias and discrepancies and decided which view most closely represents the truth.

Not all, but a great majority, of the persons discussed in this paper are deceased. For this reason I have had to base my research upon the qualified opinions of their children and relatives.

My deepest gratitude goes to the people who were kind enough to grant me interviews. To Mr. Mike Landucci, Mr. Oliver D'Andrea, and Mr. Isadore McLaughlin, who provided essential background information for this paper, a special thanks.

In order to understand the forces that motivated Trail's Italian Businessmen, one must realize that each Italian immigrant had characteristics that were common to all. Because their formative years were spent in Italy, the values and morals of the Italian social system became the guidelines for their lives in Canada. Immigration provided a great dilemma for these people because all had very close family ties. The Italian family was invariably large, the children were raised under the firm, but affectionate guidance of both parents. This upbringing cultivated a strong family pride which made it difficult for children to uproot and move to a strange country. In almost every case however, where one or more of the children immigrated there was always a solemn promise to reunite the family, either in their adopted country, or back in Italy.

It must be noted that many of the immigrants who did come to Canada worked as hard as possible, lived cheaply, saving every penny, and returned to Italy with their accumulated wealth. This paper is not concerned with those individuals who exploited Canada's resources and returned home, but rather it is interested in the Camille Laurientes, the Charlie Catalanos, and the Dominique Orlandos; men who worked long hard hours for the Canadian Pacific Railway, for wages as low as a dollar forty a day, and who stayed in Canada. Even at wages as ridiculously low as this, these gentlemen and many like them, managed to save enough money to allow them to aid their families with the financial responsibilities of the journey to Canada.

These family bonds do not stop at mother, father, brothers and sisters. They include all relatives, whether they be aunts, uncles, or cousins. This strong sense of family duty explains two very important features of Trail's Italian community. First, it explains the abundance of certain names such as Merlo, De Rosa, or LeRose, each of these names represents one family. Second, there exists in the Italian community such a feeling of closeness that one would believe that it was "one happy family", and this is exactly the case as the families have become completely interwoven through marriage.

Besides the extremely close family ties there is another peculiarity that binds the Italian people together. This is the keen sense of fellowship amongst people from the same province. The Italians refer to their place of origin, not by town, but rather by province. A person from the province of Tuscany is Tuscano, and one from Lombardy is Lombardi. These regional ties function in much the same way as those of the family, only less intense. Individuals feel compelled to help their "paesano" from their province who are in need. When, for example, the town of Ferugia was struck by a flood, Trail's Freulanos were instrumental in raising funds to assist these people.

When a family without relatives in Canada immigrated they almost always moved to an area where there were Italians from their region, since they could depend on these people to help them settle and to find work. This explains the large concentration of certain dialects in Trail such as Freulanos or Trevisanos.

The Roman Catholic Church was a determining factor in the lives of each immigrant since all were devout Catholics. During the discussion of the Italian Businessmen one must be constantly aware of the fact that each is a sincere Catholic.

The Italian people are simple people with simple amusements. There is nothing they enjoy more than to spend a relaxing day in the country on a picnic. The men take great pride in the making and the drinking of their wine, and other spirits. They have many games whose origin are Italian, such as "tibbets", "boccas" and "morra". All of these games are simple and easily understood, but they are taken very seriously, so seriously in fact that the Italian government banned "morra" due to the number of stabbings which occurred over disputes in the game. It is interesting to note that these Italian games have spread throughout the Kootenays.

To properly understand the Italian Businessmen's motivations, one must remember their common background. They judge their achievements not as Canadians, but as Italians.

The Colombo Lodge plays such a dominant part in the lives of all Trail's Italians, it is virtually impossible to discuss the Italian without describing the history and functions of the Lodge.

On April 5, 1905 the Societa Cristoforo Colombo was granted society status under the Society Act of British Columbia. It is a non-profit organization designed to provide mutual aid to the Italian people of the Trail area. The exact number of charter members is not known but it is believed there were either twenty-three or twenty-four. Some of the known founders included, J. Cuiffitelli (the first president), Dominic Priore (the first vice-president), C. Georgetti, and Camille Lauriente. From the original twenty-three or twenty-four, membership in the lodge has risen as high as six hundred and twenty and presently stands at five hundred and fifty nine. This slight decrease may be explained by two factors. First, there has been a high number of deaths amongst the older members of the Lodge, and second, the frequency of transfer of Cominco employees to other cities has forced many Lodge members to move from Trail.

The growth of membership in the Societa Cristoforo Colombo is not the only area in which the Lodge has expanded. The Colombo Lodge is the only Italian Lodge in British Columbia that owns its own hall. In fact the present hall is the second hall. In 1963 the hall underwent complete renovation and now provides some of the best facilities for dances and banquets in Trail. Use of the hall is not restricted to Lodge functions, although they have priority, but rather it may be rented for private or public functions. The Lodge also owns its own picnic grounds, fifteen miles east of Trail, where it holds its annual Dominion Day picnic.

The original purpose of starting the Lodge was to establish a means of mutual aid in the Italian Community. Although the majority of the immigrants had no trouble attaining and maintaining jobs in the Trail area, and the future looked very promising, they did not feel safe in their adopted land. They wanted security, that is to know that a means of attaining help existed should they ever be placed in need of it. In its early years the Lodge provided many important services for its members who were not yet totally established in Canada. Any member of the Lodge who was unable to work because of ill health automatically received sick benefits each month. The Lodge acted as a liaison between the Italian people and Canadian Society. It would help its members find jobs if they were unemployed, act as an interpreter if a language problem existed, help to advise its members in matters pertaining to their legal rights in Canada, or help to arrange the necessary papers to bring new immigrants from Italy. Besides these direct programmes of assistance the Colombo Lodge has helped many needy individuals or families indirectly by sponsoring social functions, such as banquets or dances and donating the proceeds to them.

The constitution of the Lodge has undergone many changes over the years but most important was the by-law that removed the language restriction. Originally to qualify as an applicant to membership in the lodge one had to be a male of Italian birth or origin, eighteen years of age, and able to speak the Italian language. The language requirement presented a problem as time progressed because of the structure of the Italian community and Canadian Society. The interaction of the Italian people is not restricted to the Italian community, the men

must work with people of other ethnic origins, the women must shop in stores other than Italian, and the children must attend public schools. Since a knowledge of Italian is not a prerequisite for survival in Canadian society, the number of children of Italian parents that did not learn Italian grew. The membership of the Lodge realized that these children were being deprived of a right that was designed for them and also that eventually the language restriction would destroy the Lodge. In 1922 the language qualification was removed. To be eligible for membership one only had to be a male, eighteen years of age and older, of Italian birth or origin. Fulfilling these qualifications does not constitute automatic acceptance into the Lodge, but rather one must face a vote of the general membership. Four negative votes constitutes rejection, however, the records of the Lodge never record any instance where a qualifying individual was rejected. Every election or vote is conducted by secret ballot. The method of voting is very interesting. Each member is given a white ball, which represents an affirmative vote and a black ball which represents a negative vote. The member places the appropriate ball in the box depending on whether he is in favor of or against the motion put forward. In the case of a vote on an applicant for membership four black balls constitutes rejection, in an election of officers the person with the highest number of white balls is elected to the position in question, but in all other business there must be a two-thirds majority; that is twice as many white balls as black before the motion is accepted.

The structure of the Colombo Lodge has two bodies, an executive and a general assembly. The executive consists of: a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Vice-Secretary, a Treasurer, four two-

year Councillors, five one-year Councillors, a five man Sick Committee, a one man Funeral Committee, a Conductor, a Doorman, and a Grand Marshal. The general assembly is made up of all the other members. Besides taking care of the business their offices dictate the executive: discusses motions, sets the agenda for meetings, controls the meetings, and advises the membership of the executives' view on an issue, but they do not pass laws or make decisions. The power of decision in the Colombo Lodge lies with the general membership.

As mentioned the original purpose of the Colombo Lodge was to establish a means of providing mutual aid. This is still true today; in fact the Lodge pays out over \$6,000 annually in sick benefits. But as time progressed the Lodge gained importance in another way. It has become an institution responsible for providing fellowship and maintaining Italian cultural traditions. By sponsoring social functions such as banquets, cabarets, dances and picnics it provides the necessary setting for its members and friends to gather together and keep in touch with each other. These affairs maintain Italian cultural traditions because they are based upon them. For example the food is always Italian, as are the games and activities which take place. By exposing the members to these traditions, interest is maintained.

"MYSTERY" and Maple Leaf Band

William "Mystery" Di Pasquale was known as Trail's music man. Although he was not a businessman in the strictest sense of the word, the contributions to music of this man cannot be ignored. Mystery was born in San Pio Fonticchio, Aquita, Italy in 1903. He came to Canada in 1909 with his family and in 1915, at the age of 12 he began working for Cominco. He retired as foreman of the asphalt crew in 1967, after compiling the longest service record in the history of the company of fifty-two years. Mystery was a great sports fan, he played on many local hockey and baseball teams in his younger days. He was also a member of St. Anthony's Church, the Colombo Lodge, the Eagles Lodge, and the Carpenters Social Club. His greatest contribution however, was his work with the Trail Maple Leaf Band.

The Trail Italian Band, the forerunner of the Maple Leaf Band was organized in 1913. The name was changed in 1919 to the Trail Maple Leaf Band. On June 27, 1969 it celebrated its fiftieth anniversary to become the longest continuing band in Canada. Mystery who joined the band in 1917 was the last active member of the original band. Throughout its existence it has had many financial problems, but it has always managed to overcome them. However, there has never been a problem of supplying the personnel necessary. The members of the band play for one reason, they love music. Besides entertaining the citizens of Trail at every important civic function over the last fifty years, the band has appeared in many other centres in both Canada and the United States. Some of their more memorial engagements include performances at Calgary, Kelowna, Vancouver, and

Spokane. Since the bands inception it has had five bandmasters. They were Mr. Colistro, Mr. Tito Allega, Mr. Carl Friberg, Mr. Adelmo Ghetti, and since 1936, Mr. William De Pasquale. Many of the former band members have gone on to successful professional careers in music. George Watson, Albert Del Bucchia, and Julio Poscente have had very successful careers with dance bands in Canada. Others have entered the music field in a broader scope and are teaching in various Canadian centers. Some of these are Peter Huse at Mc Gill University, Dennis Truant and Richie Di Pasquale in the Rossland-Trail School District. The Maple Leaf Band is not without influence in the military bands across Canada. They have former members Rick Guidone and Bobby Antosick with the R.C.M.P. Band in Regina and Lorne De Giralamo with the Esquimalt Navy Band. The band has played with many guest celebrities during its existence, such as Jerry Colona, a radio and television star, and Rafael Mendez, one of the world's greatest trumpeters. When Mystery took over as conductor in 1936 he also established a Junior Band, designed as an apprenticeship for the young musicians who were not quite ready for the Senior Band. The Junior Band still thrives today and holds the potential for the Maple Leaf Bands of the future. It is a recognized fact that the Maple Leaf Band has had a proud history in Trail and that there have been many fine musicians pass through their ranks but this question is inevitably asked, How did these musicians receive their training and love for music? The answer is simple - Mystery Di Pasquale. For over thirty years Mystery hurried home after his shift at Cominco to give music lessons to as many as three or four students a night. Although he charged for the lessons, the fee was so minimal it could

not possibly compensate for the thousands of hours he gave up. It was this unselfish attitude and devotion to music that made Mystery De Pasquale's contributions to Trail so extraordinary. Although the Band's contributions to the community have been great, what is really most important in discussing its history is to realize the spirit that has existed since its formation and continues today. The spirit is a combination of love for music and a deep pride in the concept of the Band. The men continue to play as long as they are physically able, and the young boys are eager to join as soon as they are musically capable. It is doubtful if one can see anywhere else in Canada a young boy marching side by side with his grandfather as members of the same band.

Emilio "Curly" Pisapio

"Curly" Pisapio was born in San Stefano Del Sole, Italy on November 20, 1895. He came to Canada in April of 1912. He arrived in Nelson where he worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway. Over the next twelve years he word for the C.P.R. and Cominco.

In 1924 he and his future mother-in-law (Mrs. Rinaldi) bought the old Sick and Heiber Brewery from Bruno Le Rose and Paul Muzzin. They converted the brewery into a boarding house and eventually into the present Kootenay Hotel. The Hotel itself must not be ignored since over the years it has come to typify the spirit of the Italian community. This spirit that exists in the Hotel was not an accident, it was cultivated by the hard work and guidance of Mr. Pisapio. If one walks into the beer parlor on the ground floor he would see the older men of the Italian community sitting around two or three tables, just as their fathers and grandfathers had done in Italy in the wine parlors. The Kootenay has become the gathering place where the men can sit and have one or two beers while they discuss anyone of a thousand topics ranging from politics to the upcoming Colombo banquet. The fellowship and cordial atmosphere of the Kootenay means a great deal to the men of the Italian community. Visitors from out of town and even Trail residents who visit the dining room for the first time are ecstatic over the simple but excellent meal of spaghetti and chicken. They realize immediately that the people working in the dining room have no intention of

trying to please their customers with frilly services but rather choose to let the superiority of food speak for them. This is a mode of behavior that exists in all members of the Italian community, they will not bend and bow to anyone. Some may think that this is not good business, especially in the case of a dining room like the Kootenay, yet it is booked solid throughout the year.

Curly continued the management of the hotel until his death on March 28, 1969. He was extremely active in civic affairs, he was one of the organizers of the local branch of the Red Cross during the Second World War, as well as a member of the Trail Curling Club, the Gyro's, and the Colombo Lodge. He was also one of the original members of the Trail Maple Leaf Band, for many years acting as manager. Curly's greatest contribution to the community was the solid support he gave to Trail athletic representatives. If a team, be it baseball, hockey, basketball or whatever, was in financial trouble, they would go to Curly Pisapio for help. He always managed to give them money for new uniforms, or to send them where they wanted to go. Curly's motives for helping these teams were completely unselfish, he was a great sports fan who simply wanted sports to thrive in Trail and to see his city adequately represented in competition with other areas. Mrs. Pisapio described her husband as "a man who loved being around people". He received his

greatest pleasure from helping others, but he did not want to be in the limelight, in fact he did many things to help others that no one knew about, not even his wife, simply because he believed that being able to help was all the gratification that was needed.

Mrs. Pisapio, like her husband, was very interested in music, She played a large role in seeing that the Italian musical heritage was preserved. Besides singing solo at many banquets, weddings and for the Maple Leaf Band, she was the leader of the St. Anthony's Church choir.

- - - - -

Bruno Le Rose

Bruno Le Rose was the most influential Italian that Trail has ever seen. Bruno's father had been a shepherd and a foreman in an olive grove. He died in 1910 leaving his wife with the responsibility of raising their four daughters and two sons. Bruno's brother had been to America and spoke of the abundance of work there. Bruno decided that it was his responsibility to go to America so he could support his mother and family. He was born in Bacchigliero Consensa in 1885. In 1912 he set out for New York with four friends from his village.

Their ship was involved in a tragic mid-sea collision in which many passengers from both ships were drowned, but Bruno

and his friends managed to get safely aboard a lifeboat and were eventually rescued by an American ship. The five of them headed directly for the coal mines of West Virginia where they knew jobs were available for those willing to work hard. Pooling their money, and managing their affairs as a single unit, they adjusted to their new country quickly. The work in the mines was strenuous and wages did not justify the labour, but in spite of everything things went well for the immigrants until Bruno had his shoulder crushed in a mining accident. Because the injury to Bruno's shoulder was so serious it made further work in the mines virtually impossible. The five friends left for Spokane where they obtained jobs with the Washington Water Power Company. They were not happy in Spokane so they left in 1914 for Canada. They worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway on the extra gang in the Rossland-Trail-Castlegar-Nelson area. After four years of travelling and working together the five friends decided to go their separate ways.

In 1916 Bruno and one of the other men quit the C.P.T. and Bruno started his own butcher shop. On March 17, 1917, Bruno took Paul Muzzin as his partner. Together they ran a very successful business. Paul Muzzin was not the only that Bruno took. In 1918 he married Lilly Magli, a Nelso girl who was living in Trail. In 1921, Bruno and Paul bought the old Sic and Huber Brewery (presently the Kootenay Hotel) and the lot

adjacent to it. They sold the brewery to Mrs. Rinaldi and built the Trail Meat Market on the lot. Over the years the business prospered until it was the largest butcher shop in the interior. There was a staff of fourteen which included a man in Macleod, Alberta whose sole duty was to purchase beef. One would expect that a butcher shop owned by two Italians in the center of an Italian community would depend upon the Italian people to support it, but this was not the case. As well as the Italian people their clientele included the majority of the English, Scotch, and Irish families. It was through hard work and the extra services they offered, such as credit systems and free delivery, that their business grew to its substantial size. After Bruno died on November 25, 1937, Paul continued to run the store. On March 17, 1947, exactly thirty years after Paul had become Bruno's partner, two of Bruno's sons, Geno and Ernest, bought him out. They erected Le Rose Mercantile which is still owned by Ernest.

Bruno Le Rose was a kind, gentle-hearted man who worried more about his friends, neighbors, and fellow citizens than about himself. During the flu epidemic of 1918-1919, he and his wife delivered soup to the ill. They did not worry about themselves, they were only concerned with giving help to others who needed it. Over the years Bruno became the spokesman for the Italians of Trail. In other Italian communities the men were becoming involved in the activities of a socialist pressure group called the "Mono-Nera"

or Black Hand that was very similar to the present day Mafia. However, this group never became established in Trail, largely through the efforts of Bruno. He was a strong believer in the Italian community. He would do anything to be sure that it remained strongly united. He would arrange to have families brought to Canada so they could be reunited. He would help the immigrants find jobs, or lend them money; in short he got his greatest pleasure from helping people. In 1925 he spearheaded a debenture drive that raised the funds to build the Colombo Lodge. Bruno's kind heart and devotion was not restricted to the Italian people, he was a member of the Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce, and Moose and Elks Lodges. He believed very strongly that Trail would be a big city and that it was his duty to do whatever he could to help it grow.

In 1927 he began his career in civic politics when he was elected as an alderman. From 1931 to 1933 he served three terms as Mayor of Trail (until 1935 the term of the Mayor was only one year). Even though his term ran through the Depression, Bruno instigated many worthwhile programs. His most notable project was the raising of funds and construction of the river wall. All his policies were instituted with an eye to the future, he was sure that Trail would someday be a thriving city. He argued with the Knights of Pythias not to locate their cemetery on Merry's flats, he realized that expansion to the flats was the only way to provide for Trail's growth, but his attempts were unsuccessful. Today the cemetery

is located in the center of the Glenmerry suburb. While in office he was never influenced by any group, in fact he had very individual ideas. He did not believe in the party system of government, he thought the people should support the man who could do the most for them. If the City of Trail needed financial aid, Bruno would go to any government or man, regardless of party as long as he received the aid he desired. The growth and powers of the unions upset Bruno deeply. He was not anti-union, but he believed that to have the country split into the two camps of union and management was not the best way to negotiate. He hoped that someday they would find a solution to solving their problems without killing the economy with strikes.

Bruno did not run for mayor in 1934 or 1935, but in 1936 at the height of the Ethiopian War he ran again. There were those in Trail who believed a rising anti-Italian sentiment existed in Trail due to the war. Bruno ran to prove to himself that the people of Trail would not let the foreign policy of Italy influence their votes. He won, with the largest majority ever recorded in Trail until 1967. On November 25, 1937, Mayor Bruno Le Rose died suddenly at the age of 52. S. G. Blaylock, a close friend, described the sentiments felt by every citizen of Trail on the loss of their mayor when he said "... it is seldom that any city suffers so much loss through the passing of one man." On the day of his funeral all schools and stores were closed. Friends, relatives and dignitaries from all over Canada and the United States joined

the people of Trail in paying a final tribute to a man who through hard work and consideration of his fellow man rose from the laborer's ranks to the high office of chief magistrate of the city.

- - - - -

Camille Lauriente

Before coming to Canada Camille spent a number of years in South America where he worked at various jobs that ranged from brick-cutting to ranching. His most profitable experience in South America, however, was when he learned the tailoring trade. Camille was one of the first Italians to come to Trail. In 1901 he joined his brothers Tom and Mike on the extra-gang for the Canadian Pacific Railroad, earning only a dollar forty a day.

Camille had the distinction of being the first Italian immigrant to open a store in the Trail area, when he opened Lauriente's Grocery in 1903. The first store was located right beside the smelter in order to accommodate the people working there. The business proved highly successful and in 1908 he decided to expand. He purchased the property where the present Lauriente's Clothing is located and built the Lauriente's Clothing and Grocery Store. The grocery store was more of a general store since it dealt in a variety of objects which included food stuffs, dry goods and hardware. During its formative years Camille's store was involved in fierce competition with Dominic Priore's store. Eventually Priore sold out. The reason for Camille's success was that he was able to stock products that appealed to the Italian people. The business between the two stores was very good, so good in fact that by 1913 Camille was able to

retire and live on his savings. However, he only sold the business and not the buildings in case he ever changed his mind. When his two sons, Fred and Hank, returned from Seattle in 1920, where they were playing professional hockey and working in the shipyards, Camille decided that he should re-open the store and eventually turn it over to the boys. He finally gave them full control in 1932 when he and his wife were forced to move to California because of his wife's failing health. However, they did not like it there and moved to Spokane where they built a home and lived until his wife's death in 1955. Camille moved back to Trail and lived happily with his son Fred until his death at the age of 93 in 1963.

Camille Lauriente was probably the most influential of all the Italian businessmen. He became the unofficial spokesman for the Italian community. The people depended on him for advice and financial help. He was a founding member of the Colombo Lodge and believed deeply in its purpose. He was also an alderman and served two terms in the difficult position of chairman of the finance committee.

The most interesting thing about Camille Lauriente is that he lived such a full life. He was a hard working, broad-minded man, but he did many interesting things on the spur of the moment. For example, he once left Trail and went to Spain in search of a prisoner who had written him a letter promising him a fortune if he could recover the evidence that would free him from jail. On arriving in Spain Camille found that the whole thing was a fraud designed at blackmailing him. This and all the other events of Camille's life are humorously recorded in his autobiography entitled 'The Chronicles of Camille'.

Charlie Catalano

Charlie Catalano was born in Bacchigluro in 1900. He had the rather unique experience of coming to North America twice. The first time was with his father at the tender age of eight. Charlie and his father Bruno, landed at New York in 1908. He and his father, like so many of the immigrants, headed directly to the coal mines of West Virginia. Despite his age he still remembers the long hard hours as a water boy for fifty cents a day. In 1911, Bruno and Charlie returned to Italy. However, Bruno decided once more to make the long journey to North America, but this time they decided to come to Canada. So in 1913, Bruno, Charles, and Charlie's young brother, John, landed in Canada. They came to Nelson and the interior of British Columbia because their friends wrote telling them of the plentiful jobs in Nelson and Trail. From 1913 to 1917 Charlie and his father worked on the extra gang for the Canadian Pacific Railroad on the sections of line between Trail, Rossland, Castlegar, Nelson, and the Slocan. In 1915 they were lured away from the C.P.R. by the promise of higher wages at the Smelter in Trail. Charlie described the Gulch as "just a hole at the base of the Smelter so Trail's three or four hundred Italians could be close to their jobs." He worked in the zinc refinery until the strike of 1917. In 1916 Charlie's young brother, who was only fourteen, began working as a sample boy at the Smelter despite an age restriction of sixteen. Because Bruno and Charlie were Union members the company was reluctant to call them back to work after the strike had been resolved. John, however, was called back immediately since he did not belong to the Union. It was soon after this that disaster struck the Catalanos. As a sample boy, John's job was to

collect samples from the "pachukas" (huge tanks that contain a solution of acid and the roasted zinc) and deliver them to the assay office. Immediately after the strike, at the age of fifteen, John slipped into one of the pachukas and died instantly. Charlie feels that his brother's life was wasted, because "in those days the company cared nothing for human life. There were no precautions taken to prevent accidents on the tanks, no guard-rail, no plank, no nothing." Because the company attitude towards the workers was so cold, and the work schedule so rigid (the men worked three hundred and sixty-five shifts a year) Bruno and Charlie decided to leave the Smelter and Trail. From 1918 to 1919, Charlie was a wiper for C.P.R. A wiper is the first step in the apprenticeship of a train engineer. However, Charlie left this position in 1919 when he was offered an opportunity for a better paying job, through an old friend. His friend had a concentrator at Roseberry on the Slocan Lake. He worked there until the operation closed in 1920. Later that year he purchased a small two acre farm in Nelson. With the aid of his father, and while he was temporarily unemployed, Charlie cleared the land and used the rocks to build a stone house "Italian style". The early Italian immigrants were very reluctant to rent a house or an apartment. Charlie's stone house typifies their compulsion to own their own home no matter what its condition. Bruno and Charlie worked on the railroad construction gang at Princeton on the Copper Mountain line, for a short period in 1920, but by the end of the year Charlie was back with the C.M. & S. in the lead refinery where he worked until 1926. In 1922 he married an Italian girl who had recently immigrated to Canada with her family.

In 1926 he left the Smelter for the last time with seven and one half year's experience. He invested his life savings in the Nelson Grocery Store, which is still in existence today. After two years of successful operations he sold his interest and invested in the Kootenay Garage which was owned by two of his friends. However, the business was in financial difficulty and Charlie's investments was an attempt to save his friends from bankruptcy. Over the next year the situation did not improve despite all Charlie's good intentions. The partners continued to mismanage the business and finally near the end of 1928 the business went bankrupt. Even though he had lost his entire savings he had learned a valuable lesson. He promised "never to enter another business with the sole purpose of helping a friend; to loan money or to give advice is fine, but to become involved is asking for trouble." In 1929 he got his start in insurance. Fred Weber, an old friend from the Roseberry concentrator, was the insurance representative for Confederation Life in Nelson. Fred's business was a profitable one, but there was one major drawback. He could not communicate with the rather large Italian population in Nelson. He very wisely realized that his business would blossom if he could reach these Italian people. He offered Charlie a share in the business since the best method of communicating with the Italian people was through another Italian. Charlie quickly accepted the proposal, because it was a sound business which offered a good chance of advancement, and unlike the ~~Garage~~, all parties concerned; Fred, Confederation Life, the Italian people, and Charlie, stood to benefit from the arrangement. His attempts at selling insurance to the Italian people were very successful and as expected the business flourished. The head office of Confederation Life became aware of Charlie's efforts through the

praise of Fred Weber and the increase in sales. Since Trail had a substantially larger Italian population than Nelson and because the Nelson office was now well established, the company decided it would be to their advantage to have Charlie begin an agency in Trail. In 1929 he opened The Trail Insurance Agency. Business was going well but then the Stock Market crashed and the depression began. During the depression business was shaky but Charlie managed to survive. Arthur Milligan who was the Mayor of Trail in 1929 was not as fortunate. He had an insurance agency which also dealt in real estate and stocks. Mr. Milligan's business losses were so severe he was forced to sell his agency to Charlie in 1932. Charlie's business now included real estate and stocks. The business continued to grow and prosper over the years and when Charlie retired in 1965 he sold it to his son Charlie Catalano Jr. and his son-in-law, Mr. Vic Arcuri. Mr. Catalano was very involved in the affairs of both the Italian community and the city of Trail. He was made a life member of the Colombo Lodge after many faithful years of service. Besides the Lodge he was a charter member of the Trail Maple Leaf Band and leader of the St. Anthony's Church choir, as well as a member of the Trail Male Chorus. From 1935 until 1941 he served as a member of the Trail School Board. In 1940 and 1941 he also served as an alderman on the Trail City Council. Mr. Catalano is presently completing his autobiography and enjoying his retirement.

Conclusion:

It is the combined efforts of all these men in their businesses and in institutions like the Colombo Lodge, the Trail Maple Leaf Band or the Kootenay Hotel that have helped to make the Italian community a respected part of Trail.

Since all the Italian immigrants had little or no education, the only possible means they had of supporting themselves was to work as tradesmen or laborers, or start their own businesses. Italian professionals were non-existent. These men quickly realized the benefits of an education in Canadian society. They encouraged their children to further their education as far as they possibly could. This encouragement is now producing results. Trail's Italian community now has a much broader representation in the professional life of not only Trail but the whole of Canadian society. On these men, the druggists, lawyers, doctors, accountants, teachers, etc., we base our future; but to the laborers, butchers, bakers, hotelmen, we owe our heritage.