



**Pictures of the Past:  
Images and Descriptions  
of Italian Immigrant Life  
in North Judson, Indiana**

Produced by  
North Judson-Wayne Township Public Library  
North Judson, Indiana

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I would like to express my appreciation to all those who participated in this project and those who gave so freely of their photographs and time. Clearly, without the cooperation and support of a multitude of people of North Judson, this project would not have been possible.

The purpose of this project was to identify, preserve and acquire descriptions of photographs of Italian immigrant life in North Judson. These pages do not present a comprehensive representation of the history of Italian immigrant life in North Judson. The pages are not presented in a tight chronological form. These pages are a edited version of hundreds of photographs that were copied and cataloged.

I feel compelled to state that this document is not intended to chronicle the history of the area. I am not a qualified historian. The town of North Judson was founded decades before the arrival of Italian immigrants. North Judson is a very unique place. I hope that this document offers additional proof of this fact.

This project is a personal one for me. I grew up in North Judson in an Italian-American family. For those who know me, the number of photographs and details of my family may appear numerous. I did have unlimited access to my family's photographic collection as well as their insight. For this, I make no apology.

Finally, you should be aware that this document is available in two forms: print and electronic Adobe PDF (portable document format). The Adobe PDF format will allow you to print out individual pages. This will allow for additional comments, descriptions and corrections.

In time, I hope to: 1.) place all or a portion of these pages on the World Wide Web, 2.) translate portions into the Italian language and 3.) add audio and video files.

If you have questions, comments or would like to become involved in some way, please e-mail through my web site [www.eBoilini.Com](http://www.eBoilini.Com) or contact me through the North Judson Library at [www.njwt.lib.in.us](http://www.njwt.lib.in.us).

Edward Boilini 2001

Note: Most of the images on the following pages were created from Photo CDs that are the result of this project. Images taken from Photo CD are labeled, for example, *IMG0041.PCD3122;1.tif* reflects image 41 on Photo CD 3122. The images that are not labelled were created via conventional scans prior to this project.

## **Meaning of this project**

In his introduction, Ed Boilini wrote that this photographic project was personal and not intended to chronicle the history of Italians in the North Judson area. Ed was right about the personal project since family members appear here, but he was modest when appraising the project's historical significance. As an historian whose broad research interest is the ethnic and religious history of Indiana, I find that Ed has collected interviews and pioneered the collection of photographic evidence documenting a unique group of Italian immigrants and their descendants.

1) Indiana attracted comparatively few European immigrants in the 19th and 20th centuries. Italians who settled in the state congregated in Marion, Lake, Allen, St. Joseph, Elkhart, Vermillion, and Lawrence counties to sell produce, make steel, work in factories, maintain the railroads, mine coal, and quarry limestone. Nationally, only 12 per cent of Italian immigrants settled on the land.

2) Starke County was a predominantly agricultural county criss-crossed by several railroads. Census data shows that 115 Italian-born and 69 American-born with at least one Italian-born parent resided there in 1930. This agricultural enclave was unique in Indiana and distinctive nationally.

3) Most Italian immigrants in the North Judson area of southern Starke County were natives of the provinces of Modena and Lucca. Many had experienced the lifestyle of ethnic Chicago and decided to return to agriculture and small town life. They marketed their farm and dairy products in the big city made close by the railroad. Photographs illustrate the agricultural productivity and good hunting in the area.

4) Business ownership, self-employment, and government service were always viewed as economic advancement in the Italian community. So we find here photos of Italian-run ice cream, cigar, and hardware stores — and a milk delivery truck. Others operated farm and lakeside resorts so that Chicago Italians could find summer relief from urban existence among their own people. And we find photos of an Italian mailman and policeman.

5) Family life and a sense of hospitality were important (shown by returning hunters and social occasions). Making music, swimming, and card playing were major activities. Religion had a growing impact (shown by marriage and First Communion photos, groups with the Catholic church in the background). Service to the new country was freely given (shown by proud men in military uniforms during both World Wars).

6) Becoming part of American society through sports is also shown here. Older men play bocce, a young woman plays baseball.

This photographic collection documents the period 1920 to 1950. Time and economic change have altered the ethnic and demographic conditions around North Judson substantially. So I join Ed in thanking the North Judson library folks, Indiana Humanities Council, and the Indiana Historical Society for their support in remembering this bit of state and local ethnic heritage.

James J. Divita  
Marian College

## Evolution of this project

This project actually began when the photos contained in these documents were taken. Many, I dare say, most of them have never been seen by the public before. This stands to reason, as most are family photos.

So why take the effort to record and preserve these images? Dr. James J. Divita, professor of history at Marian College, has written extensively on the Italian community and is widely considered to be an authority in this area. He wrote the chapter devoted to the history of the Italian experience in Indiana for *Peopling Indiana: The Ethnic Experience* published by the Indiana Historical Society. From Dr. Divita's writing and numerous discussion with him, it is clear to that:

The extraordinarily large proportion of persons of Italian origin that settled in North Judson in the first half of this century is unique to Indiana.

Within the broad historical context of the history of the state of Indiana, the immigration of Italians to the North Judson area is unique.

Compared to other small towns in Indiana, there was an extraordinarily large proportion of persons of Italian origin that settled in North Judson in the first half of this century.

The Italians that settled in North Judson represent the largest enclave in the state of Italians per capita that derived their living from agriculture.

Since one of the largest industries in the state is agriculture, it is important to preserve this era of the history of Indiana.

Dr. Divita's arguments are very compelling. So much so that The Indiana Humanities Council and the Indiana Historical Society supported this project through their joint initiative called the Indiana Heritage Research Project. I appreciate the support. However, as I stated earlier, this project is a personal one for me. Which brings me to point that I feel compelled to make. Personal history is important. Indeed, examination of large historical trends with no personal context can only yield dry, vacuous results.

Time and prevailing economic conditions have inevitably altered the character of small towns in Indiana. North Judson is no exception. Indeed, the ethnic and demographic characteristics of North Judson have changed substantially.

## Geographic Location of North Judson, Indiana



The maps illustrate the location of North Judson in relation to the United States and within Indiana. The map to the right illustrates relative population density as of 1990.



## Early History

Long before white explorers and settlers arrived, the Potawatomi Indians controlled the area around North Judson. What is now known as The Grand Kankakee Marsh was a dominant feature of the region. The Grand Kankakee Marsh was one of the largest freshwater marshes in North America. The abundant fish and game surely was a significant hunting ground for the Potawatomi. The Map below shows the size of The Grand Kankakee Marsh superimposed over a contemporary map.



patterned after graphic from *The Kankakee-River of History* by Marion Isaccs

## White Exploration

Around 1679, La Salle explored the Kankakee River and the Grand Kankakee Marsh. He started his exploration from Fort Saint Joseph which is now South Bend, Indiana. La Salle had to portage from the Saint Joseph River to the Kankakee River. The La Salle expedition travelled the Kankakee all the way to the Mississippi River.

Potawatomi villages were noted on maps of the area in 1810 and 1832. However, in what has come to be known as The Trail of Death, the Potawatomi Indians were forced to move from Indiana to Kansas in the fall of 1838. As the number of traders, trappers and settlers increased, it placed additional stress on the native populations. Indeed, by 1850 the Kankakee area was considered overtrapped. By 1870, there were few Indians left in the area.

## Draining the Grand Kankakee Marsh

By 1871, the La Cross Land Company amongst others, began to dredge the Kankakee River. Before dredging and draining, the Kankakee would travel 250 miles to travel 80 miles. Dredging draining and canalization recovered over 150,000 acres. Channelization and miles of dirt levees changed the very slow moving Kankakee River to a fast flowing, straight channel of 90 miles in Indiana. With the Grand Marsh drained, agriculture claimed the wetlands. With the further development of the railroads and inexpensive land, the town of North Judson continued to evolve.

## Early North Judson

(adapted from [www.njwv.lib.in.us](http://www.njwv.lib.in.us) by Becknell and Lucas Media, Ltd.)

Indiana was admitted to the United States in 1816. The first recorded land entry in North Judson was for Wayne Township in 1845. Town of North Judson was laid out in 1866. As a frontier and semi-frontier community until 1890, the North Judson area has a rich lore of early settlement activities. Reliance upon teams of oxen and the lack of machinery was evident in the predominately agricultural pursuits. North Judson was located just to the south of the Grand Marsh of the Kankakee.

With the coming of the railroads, North Judson grew until it was large enough to incorporate in 1888. Tradition states that the town was named in honor of a railroad engineer, who frequently spent the night here. For a long time, a major portion of the local population made railroad construction and maintenance its livelihood.

## Early Images of North Judson



Early Images of Agriculture in the North Judson Area



Images of Dredging Machine and Bridge





## Italian Connections

There are an immense number of reasons why Italians, often at a very young age, would choose to pull up their roots and move to the United States. At a major level there was the undeniable push of the economic and political conditions in Italy at the time and the pull of the promise of a new life in North America. The risks associated with leaving Italy and building a new life were considerable.

To ease the transition, Italian immigrants established a network of family and friends that offered advice and assistance for new immigrant arrivals. Perhaps the best example of this were the so called 'bordonti', or places that offered the new arrivals a place to eat and sleep. The 'bordonti' offered familiar language, food and guidance for integration into life into the United States. Indeed, the Seghetti family of North Judson originally operated a 'bordonti' in Chicago before acquiring land in North Judson and expanding the concept into what came to be know as The Seghetti Farm.

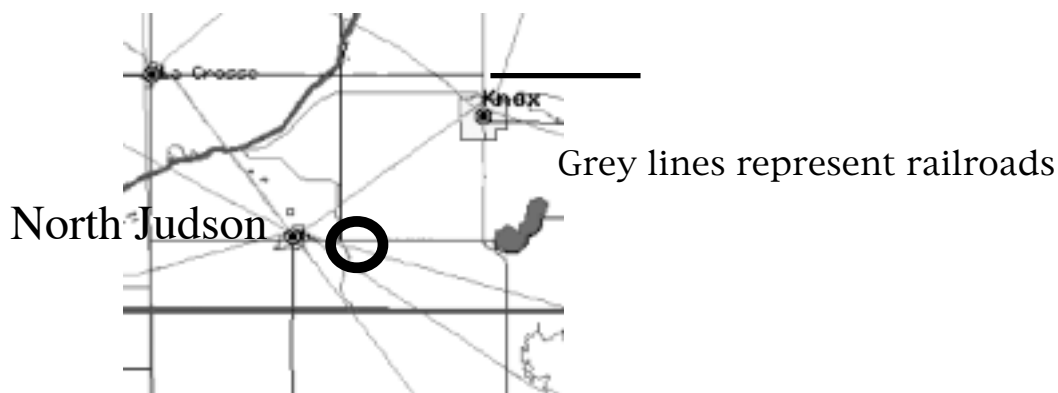
Most of the Italian immigrants to North Judson passed through Ellis Island in New York on their way to Chicago. Most of the Italian immigrants to North Judson were from small towns and villages of the Italian countryside. Amazingly, most of the Italian immigrants to North Judson were from a particular region of Italy.



North Judson was attractive to Italian immigrants for a number of reasons. The land was fertile and not expensive. Since North Judson was the site for the intersection of many railroads, travel and the shipment of agricultural products to Chicago was convenient.

Although the Ku Klux Klan was a powerful political force and Italian immigrants were occasionally harassed, by and large they were welcomed into the North Judson community.

Once the Italian immigrants had enough money, often by working in Chicago, they purchased land near North Judson to farm. It is interesting that many of the Italian immigrants to North Judson decided to purchase farm land on the outside of North Judson in very close proximity to one another. The Platt map below from the 1920's illustrates this fact.





Caesari Picchetti, Caterina, Teresa, Vrosia Santi, Louie and Malfesa  
taken in Chicago in 1912 prior to the birth of Santina

Caesari Picchetti was born in near the town of San Andrea Pelago (which is near Pavullo) in the province of Modena. He immigrated to the United States some time before 1890. He spent several years in Chicago working in the agricultural produce trade. In March of 1899, he acquired property in North Judson. It is believed that Caesari Picchetti was the first Italian immigrant to move to the North Judson area. By the 1900s he purchased several farms and buildings in North Judson. He was instrumental in bringing the first family, the Joe Boilini family, directly from Italy to operate one of his farms. Among many others, he also introduced the Bertucci's to North Judson



The children of Caesari Picchetti and Vrosia Santi outside of the Catholic Church in North Judson around 1960. Left to right are: Santina Shoemaker, Malfesa Mordini, Louis Picchetti, Catherine Brugoni and Teresa Boilini



Busy Bee Ice Cream Parlor on the left is Attilio and on the right is Harry Galleini



*IMG0022.PCD3123;1.tif*

Louis Picchietti and father Ceasari Picchietti in front of their store



Bertucci Family reunion

Bertucci Family- from words of Kay (Bertucci) Landato

Grandfather Ferdinando Bertucci, Sr. was born in 1862 in Santa Anna, Italy. He came to the U.S. in 1899. He lived at 308 West Fulton St. in Chicago. He also lived in Highland Park, Illinois. He worked hauling cement and building materials to various construction sites with a horse and wagon. He worked on the cement work for the Chicago Public Library.

They bought the farm in North Judson from Francesesco, Battista and Luigi Picchietti in 1909.

Grandmother Caterina Bertucci was born in 1862 in Santa Anna, Italy. She came to the U.S. in 1902. She also lived at 308 West Fulton in Chicago. She also lived in Highland Park and moved to North Judson in 1902.

Father Jacob Bertucci Sr. was born in 1891 in Santa Anna, Italy. He immigrated to U.S. with his mother, Caterina. He went to work at a bakery in Des Moines, Iowa in order to pay off the farm they bought from the Picchettis. He also lived at 308 West Fulton St. in Chicago and Highland Park. He married Gina in Des Moines and they both came to North Judson where they reared their three children, Fred Jr., Jacob and Katherine.

Mother Gina Bertucci was born in 1901 in Fumalbo, Italy. In 1916, she went to live with her sister Mazarana Paglini in Des Moines. There she met Jacob Bertucci and they married and moved to North Judson.

Uncle Alphonso Bertucci was born in 1887 in Santa Anna, Italy. In 1899, with his father Ferdinando, he came to the U.S.. He too went to live with his family at 308 West Fulton St. and Highland Park.

Ferdinando, Alphonso and Jacob Bertucci all came to live in North Judson on the farm that they bought from the Picchietti family. They farmed and lived at the farm outside of North Judson all of their lives.





*IMG0028.PCD;1.tif*

Butchering a hog at Bertucci Farm in 1935. Identified from left to right are; Jack Bertucci Sr., Enrico Manfredini and Alfonso Bertucci



*IMG0023.PCD3218;1.tif*

On the right is Alfonso Bertucci with cousins Michael and Jesue Santi. 1912



*IMG0025.PCD3218;1.tif*

Gina Bertucci, Jack Bertucci on their wedding day in 1919 with Gina's sister Nazarana Gaglini



*IMG0036.PCD;1.tif*

Caterina Bertucci at Bertucci Farm in 1935



*IMG0037.PCD;1.tif*  
Fritz Bertucci with work horse team in 1935



*IMG0043.PCD;1.tif*  
Picking grapes  
at Bertucci farm



*IMG0038.PCD;1.tif*  
Alfonso Bertucci at farm in 1935



*IMG0046.PCD;1.tif*  
Jeanne Landato and cousin



*IMG0039.PCD;1.tif*  
After hunting at Bertucci farm are:  
John Landato, Al Landato



*IMG0029.PCD3218;1.tif*  
Gina Bertucci and with  
grandaughter Janet on county  
road in front of home in 1947



*IMG0032.PCD3218;1.tif*  
Bertucci Farm, barn silos and wind-  
mill. Pictured are Christine  
Manfredini and Yolanda Manfredini  
in 1939



*IMG0041.PCD;1.tif*  
Grain binder at Bertucci Farm in 1939



*IMG0035.PCD3218;1.tif*  
Ferdinando Bertucci Sr. and  
Jack Bertucci in 1935



*IMG0042.PCD3218;1.tif*  
Jack Bertucci Sr. in onion  
field in 1939



*IMG0001.PCD3217;1.tif*





*IMG0040.PCD;1.tif*

Labor Day at Bertucci Farm in 1944. Pictured are: Fritz Bertucci, Louis Givanetti, Angelina Giovanetti, Al Landato, Yolanda Landato, John Landato and Polly Landato



*IMG0007.PCD3218;1.tif*

Genoveffa Dollari in front of John Simoni Sr. farm in 1935



*IMG0008.PCD;1.tif*

A vist to North Judson in 1949. Pictured relatives of Dallari family on the main street of North Judson



*IMG0031.PCD3218;1.tif*

Afternoon swim in the Bogus in 1939. From left to righ are: Fritz Bertucci, Joan Manfredini, Yolanda Manfredini, Kay Bertucci, Chris Manfredini, Joe Manfredini, Rose Manfredini, Al Landato, Louis Pichetti and Gigi Giovanetti

Frank Amidei born Pieavapelago in 1891 came to US in 1903, his wife Lena Montanelli was born in Altopascio in 1894 and came to US in 1902.



*IMG0014.PCD3218;1.tif*  
Marriage of Frank Amedei and  
Lena Amedei. On the right is  
sister of Frank Mary Datillo



*IMG0018.PCD3218;1.tif*  
Lena Amedei



*IMG0012.PCD3218;1.tif*  
Lena Amedei feeding  
chickens at Amedei farm



*IMG0022.PCD;1.tif*  
Lorenzo Amedei in 1917



*IMG0019.PCD;1.tif*  
Frank Amedei (knelling) with relatives in the 1940's  
on the Amedei Farm.



*IMG0015.PCD;1.tif*  
Lena Amedei with Frank Amedei Jr.  
on Amedei Farm in 1928



*IMG0016.PCD;1.tif*  
Frank Amedei 2nd in top row (L to R)  
with relatives

Both of Humberto Dallari's parents were born in Italy. His father, Alexander, was born in 1857. His mother, Adelina was born in 1860. Genoveffa Dallari's parents were both born in Italy. Their family name was Cortesi. Genoveffa's father was born in 1857 and mother was in 1857.

Humberto Dallari bought a farm outside of North Judson in 1914 and sold it in 1957. In 1929, the family went to Calipatria, California for 3 months as the Depression developed. Humberto worked briefly on the Southern Pacific Railroad. During this time, the family spent time in Daley City and with the Italian community in the North Beach section of San Francisco. The family returned to their in North Judson in the middle of the Depression in 1932. The 1930's were rough times but we made it to better days.

Over the years, our main business was in eggs. We also raised corn and other crops. All the farming was done with horses until we bought in the 1950's.

Nello Dallari 1999



*IMG0006.PCD3218;1.tif*

Umberto Dallari with horses at his farm in 1951. He was born in Italy in 1882. He worked as a mailman in Genova before coming to the U.S. in 1909. He worked on coffee plantation in Brazil, was a lumberjack in Wahsingotn State and a coal miner in Ilinois before farming for 30 years in North Judson.



*IMG0005.PCD;1.tif*

Genoveffa Dallari (born in Italy in 1886) with daughter Martha and son Nello in 1927



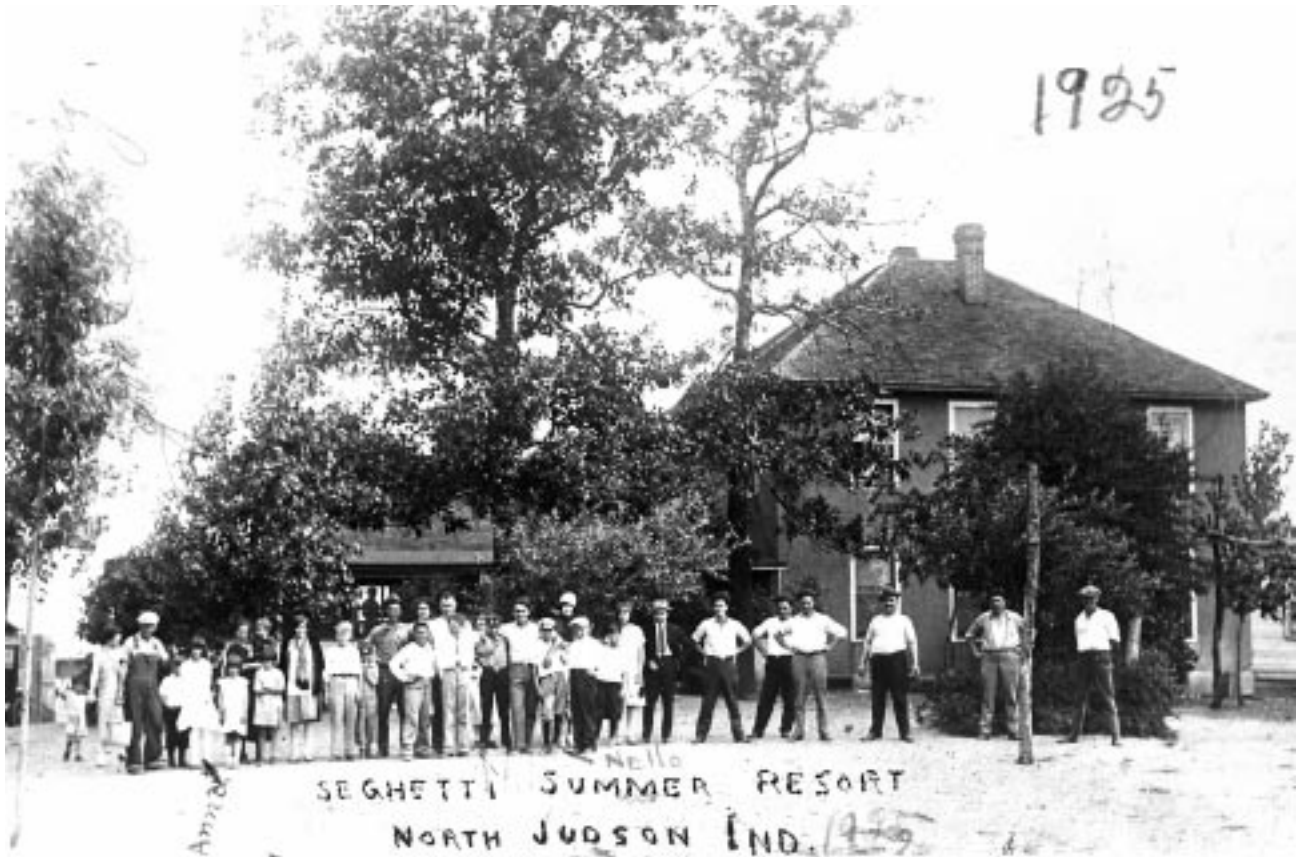
*IMG0002.PCD3218;1.tif*

Umberto Dallari and daughter Martha Dollari in 1951



*IMG0003.PCD3218;1.tif*

Martha Dallari, Humberto Dallari and Marths's daughter, Nella Barsi in 1951



IMG0070.PCD3217;1.tif

Seghetti Farm-adapted from words of Lynn Seghetti

In 1906, Sam Seghetti left his parents, Florindo and Annunaciata (Mei), brother Modesto and sister Eva, in Maggionone, Italy for New York. Upon his arrival Sam acquired a job on the railroad at the age of 15. His grand handle-bar mustache made him appear older than his age of 15. As he traveled across the country to Washington State he saved money to send for his family.

Soon his father crossed the Atlantic making his way to Chicago. Meanwhile his mother warmed silkworm cocoons in her clothing to earn passage to the new world. Crossing the ocean with her were her two younger children, Modesto and Eva and Florindo's brother's son Sasto Seghetti.

Sam returned to Chicago to work at Bambini's Pants Factory as a steamer of felt hats. Many Italian immigrants who worked at the Division Street and Wells factory rented rooms and had their meals at Seghetti's boarding house. The large flat was attached to the factory so many employees lunched there as well. Sometime later the boarding house was moved to 944 Wells for additional space. A lovely young women who caught Sam's eye frequently ate at the restaurant. She admired Sam and noticed he fed the caged song birds each lunch time so she began sitting beneath their cages. And so they met.

Pia Landi, who made way at 19 from San Genaro, Italy brought a huge trunk with all of her worldly possessions. Her six sisters eventually moved to the USA, her only brother, Riccardo Landi continued to live in the family home where his son and wife, Vasco and Luigina still live today.

The Seghetti family at this time worked in the boarding house or tailor shop. Newspaper ads and Erie railroad excursions invited people to visit the Indiana countryside that was affordable for city dwellers. Their first down payment was lost to due misrepresentation, this farm later became the Joe Boilini farm. Though they lost \$50.00, a large amount in the early 1900's, they gained valuable neighbors and friends. The Seghetti's then purchased their farm, two and half miles east of North Judson on the south side of State Road 10.

Pia and Sam were married in 1914 and honeymooned on the North Judson farm and never left. Their only son Bruno, was born that November at the farm. Immediately the family began to build on to the 2 room house. Helen Boilini's father applied the stucco to the new addition.

Meanwhile Modesto, younger brother, met his bride Yole at Bambini's and Eva, sister, met and married a boarder at the Seghetti boarding house, Peter Lazzerini. Soon Lorindo, Annunciata, Modesto and Yole Seghetti moved to the Seghetti farm and the large home outside of North Judson. All types of crops were raised. A barn housed cows. A chicken coop and machine sheds were built.

Life for everyone in 1915 was difficult. Batteries had to be charged during the day so there would be electricity at night. A huge tank of water was pumped from the basement for running water.

People who lived at the Seghetti Boarding House in Chicago began visiting the Seghetti Farm during the summer months and in the fall and winter to hunt. Soon the resort was year round. Seghetti Farm Resort was a working producing farm and year round resort from 1915 to 1965.

Sam and Pia had two daughters, Anna and Lydia, as well as their son, Bruno. Modesto and Yole had Nello and Leo. Eva and Pete, who stayed in Chicago had a daughter, Lorraine, who spent much of her childhood at the farm.

During the resort years most meat and vegetables were grown and prepared at the farm. Cheese, pruschutto, jellies and canned tomatoes and vegetables were made along with dairy and poultry products.

The children began school in a one room school house near the farm. Soon they attended North Judson Public School. Later Sam's children transferred to S.S Cyril and Methodius Catholic School in North Judson.

In 1950 the Modesto and Sam Seghetti partnership was sold to Nick and Laura, Bruno and Delores Seghetti partners. More buildings were constructed as business grew. There was a shower house and free standing hotel buildings with bedrooms and showers. Eventually, there were 26 bedrooms total with dorm areas for male and female youth.

Long standing traditions were created. The significance of the farm bell became strong. When meals were ready the bell was rung. At times, it was rung twice due to the two sittings of family style dining. Crowds of 300 people might be fed. Nello was the chef and other family members helped in the kitchen. Even guests helped on very busy days. Bruno, like his father, enjoyed the farm side of the business.

Other traditions fondly remembers by the four generations of Italian speaking guests were the bocce tournaments, swimming at the creek, baseball, gossiping and joking on the benches surrounding the natural spring fed water pumps.

As time went on, the families grew. Leo Seghetti bought 50 percent of the North Judson Hardware with partner Frank Boilini. Nello married Laura O'Malley, the only non-Italian in the family. She immediately learned to speak Italian beautifully.

Bruno married Doris Cheletti and was the first of the 3 boys to be in the family to fight in W.W.II.

Each summer teens were hired from Chicago and locally from North Judson. The teens from the city became family living with the Seghetti's each day. All important lessons of hard work, sharing, cooperation and laughter were gained at the Seghetti Farm.

During the Christmas season of 1969 the annual cards were sent with a special enclosure informing customers that there would not be a 1970 summer season at the Seghetti Farm.

The Seghetti Farm developed into primarily a crop farm and summer resort by 1960 through 1970. At the time of its closing it had established thousands of customers and 500 acres of land. Most of the customers were of Italian decent. At no time was there any advertising other than word of mouth.







*IMG0016.PCD3217;1.tif*  
Unloading hay at  
Seghetti Farm



*IMG0079.PCD3217;1.tif*  
Yole Seghetti



*IMG0027.PCD3217;1.tif*  
Ann Seghetti, and guest  
Fran Albericci



*IMG0041.PCD3217;1.tif*  
Pia Seghetti



*IMG0042.PCD3217;1.tif*  
Sam Seghetti



*IMG0023.PCD3217;1.tif*  
Ann Seghetti, Nello  
Seghetti and Lorraine  
Lazzerini



*IMG0040.PCD3217;1.tif*

Gathering at Seghetti Farm



*IMG0020.PCD3217;1.tif*

Sam Seghetti hunting  
at Seghetti Farm



*IMG0039.PCD3217;1.tif*

Bocce at  
Seghetti Farm



*IMG0089.PCD3217;1.tif*

Nello Seghetti and guest



*IMG0025.PCD3217;1.tif*

Swimming at Bogus Creek



*IMG0018.PCD3217;1.tif*

Pia Seghetti





*IMG0091.PCD3217;1.tif*  
Modesto Seghetti with guests after  
hunting at Seghetti Farm



*IMG0017.PCD3217;1.tif*  
Lorraine Lazzerini, Lydia  
Seghetti, Ann Seghetti at  
Seghetti Farm



*IMG0029.PCD3217;1.tif*  
Ann Seghetti, Leo Seghetti, Lorraine  
Lazzerini, Bruno Seghetti at the  
Seghetti Farm



*IMG0045.PCD3217;1.tif*  
Kitchen activities at Seghetti Farm



*IMG0044.PCD3217;1.tif*  
Family dinner with Sam and Modesto Seghetti families

## Ferretti's summer Resort- Bass Lake, Indiana

Guido Ferretti was born in 1889 in Montecatini, Italy. He immigrated to the U.S. and lived in Chicago in 1906. Guido met Modesto Seghetti in Chicago. They shared a bedroom and bed in a Chicago boarding house.

Guido Ferretti and Veneta Meliani both worked in the tailor shop in Chicago in 1912. Veneta was born in Altopascio, Italy in 1895 and immigrated to the U.S. in 1912. Guido and Veneta married in 1912. In 1914 they moved to Starke County. In 1925 they purchased property on Bass Lake near North Judson that was to become the Ferretti Resort. In 1925 and 1927 and 1929 the facilities were expanded. The dining hall could seat 97 people. Sleeping quarters for more than 50 were available. Numerous recreational facilities were available including bocce ball. Guests often entertained one another with music, singing and dancing. Since the Ferretti Resort was located on Bass Lake the water was the focal point of much activity. The Ferrietti Resort operated from Oct. 1925 to Oct. 1954.



*IMG0054.PCD3217;1.tif*  
Ferretti Summer Resort



*IMG0062.PCD3217;1.tif*  
Mr. and Mrs. Guido Ferretti



*IMG0058.PCD3217;1.tif*  
Mr. and Mrs. Guido Ferretti and children



*IMG0056.PCD3217;1.tif*  
Ferretti Family

## **Words of Frank Boilini**

The Boilini family came from the small town of San Andrea, which is about 30 miles south of Modena, Italy. Although the terrain around San Andrea is very mountainous, they were mainly farmers.

William (Guliamo) Boilini and his brothers moved from their home in Italy to Chicago. They stayed with Caesari Picchietti and worked different jobs. The Picchietti s had land in North Judson and the Boilini s followed.

Around 1910, they used the railroad for transportation and to ship produce and meats. Caesari Picchietti owned a lot of land. The Boilini families farmed it for him. Between 1915 and 1920 the Boilini families bought their own land and continued to ship produce and meats to Chicago and to other points in the region.

William Boilini and family raised grain, but it was used as feed for poultry and livestock. Since there was a large Italian community in Chicago as well as a growing number of Italian restaurants, there was a market for their labors. Among other produce, the family raised cowpeas and shipped them in the green pod stage. The Boilini family was noted for whole milk cheeses that was shipped by rail express to stores, restaurants and individuals in Chicago.

The Seghetti, Bertucci, Amedei, Simoni, Dollari, Caesari and Boilini families had farms that bordered on one another. It was called the Italian neighborhood. In the town of North Judson were the Picchietti, Galassini, and Bernardi families. In the near by town of Knox and the area around Bass Lake lived the families of Guarrado, Moromi, Zingarella, Pettinanto and Ferretti families.

In the 1920's the KKK was active in the area. A number of Italian families were harassed. The KKK seemed to choose the making of wine as an issue. They would go from farm to farm on horseback looking for wine.

In 1939 Frank Boilini cofounded the North Judson Hardware Store with Leo Seghetti. The store still serves the area around North Judson.

## **Words of Lilia Orlandi Boilini**

Egisto Orlandi was born in Tuscany, Italy, near the small town of Calavorno. He was an artisan, model maker and plaster caster. He migrated to Chicago before the turn of the century. In Chicago he established The Orlandi Statuary, which is still in operation today.

He was very friendly with the Seghettii family (the parents of Sam and Modesto Seghetti) and was very familiar with North Judson and Starke County Indiana.

Over time he sponsored three of his nephews to join him in Chicago and to work with him.

Around 1920 he purchased a farm in North Judson, which one of his nephews (Alceste Orlandi) lived on and attempted to farm. Alceste had developed severe asthma and hay fever and was advised to leave the city. He and his family lived on the farm for approximately six years and then returned to Chicago. Egisto kept the farm for a number of years and the family used it as a summer place.

In 1945 Lillian Orlandi married Frank Boilini, had four children and lived in North Judson.



Louis Danti and William Boilini



Orazio Motto, Louie Picchetti  
and Oreste Bernardi



Postcard of Joe and William Boilini



Teresa Boilini and William Boilini building a new  
building at Boilini farm





Frank, William, John, Richard, William Sr., Lorraine and Teresa Boilini in photograph taken for Red Comb feed.



*IMG0028.PC3123D;1.tif*  
Joe Mordinin and son with wife Malfesa



William Boilini and Ezio Pellegrini



Rock Island Tractor



William Boilini Sr. with horses at Boilini farm



Teresa Boilini at work on Boilini farm



*IMG0023.PCD3123;1.tif*

Louis Picchietti served as a mailman in North Judson



*IMG0017.PCD3123;1.tif*

Louis and Eleanor Picchietti



William Boilini Jr., Joe Mordini, Malfesa Mordini, John Boilini, Theresa Boilini, William Boilini Sr., Frank Boilini at William Boilini farm





*IMG0020.PCD3123;1.tif*

Picchietti Family- sisters and brother



Ann Boilini, Richard Boilini  
and Ronald Boilini



*IMG0054.PCD3123;1.tif*

Louis Picchetti and sisters  
Katie, Malfesa and Sadie



Norman Spoor with wife  
Lorraine Boilini Spoor



Robert Boilini, Tina Boilini,  
John Boilini



Frank Boilini, Shoemaker, John Boilini and Richard Boilini



*IMG0048.PCD3123;1.tif*  
Lorraine Boilini



*IMG0049.PCD3123;1.tif*  
Lorraine Boilini Spoor wedding



*IMG0051.PCD3123;1.tif*  
Norman and Lorraine Spoor and son, Ralph



*IMG0024.PCD3123;1.tif*  
Louis and Eleanor Picchietti





*IMG0056.PCD3123;1.tif*  
Saints Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church-  
1st Communion Class, Father Van Rie Pastor



*IMG0011.PCD3123;1.tif*  
Santia First Commuion



*IMG0008.PCD3123;1.tif*  
Malfesa Mordini and son Joesph



*IMG0017.PCD3123;1.tif*  
Louis and Eleanor Picchietti



Picchietti-Boilini Family Union 1962



Egisto Orlandi at the Orlandi Statuary in Chicago



*IMG0041.PCD3122;1.tif*

Orlandis in North Judson



Egisto and Alice Orlandi fishing



*IMG0032.PCD3122;1.tif*

Ezio Orlandi with his uncle Egisto Orlandi at the Seghetti Farm after mushroom hunting.



*IMG0049.PCD3122;1.tif*

Orlandi family taken in Chicago



Louie Biagi, Ines Orlandi, Alceste and Josephine Orlandi  
Loretta Antongelli and Richard Orlandi. Taken on the occasion  
of the wedding of Alceste and Josephine 1915 in Chicago



Gemmilina 'Honey' Orlandi  
after First Communion with Rene  
Ebner in 1947



*IMG0030.PCD3122;1.tif*

Alceste Orlandi taken in front of his  
home in North Judson



Josephine Orlandi with Aladino Orlandi and  
Alceste Orlandi in front of Aleste's home in  
North Judson. Aladino, brother of Alceste, was  
visiting from Italy.



*IMG0075cd3123. t.tif*

Alceste Orlandi family at farm at North Judson



*IMG0074.PCD3123;1.tif*

Alceste Orlandi family



Alfredino Orlandi on left and Alice Orlandi on right. Alfredino died in 1918 of Spanish Influenza.

Wedding of Frank Boilini and Lillian Orlandi 1939







Alceste Orlandi, Josephine Orlandi, Romano Orlandi, Ezio Orlandi with son Fabio



Alduina Girolami, Lillian Orlandi, Alice Orlandi and Vivian Arneri



Lillian and Alice Orlandi



Josephine Orlandi, Jemelena Orlandi, Art Ebner, Frank Boilini, Larry Boilini, James Boilini, Eddie Ebner, Alceste Orlandi, Edward Boilini, Bonnie Boilini, Rene Ebner in front of Alceste Orlandi home in North Judson



Aleste Orlandi, Josephine Orlandi, Arlene Orlandi, Romano Orlandi, Alice Ebner, Art Ebner and to the far right is Lillian Boilini. Taken in North Judson on the 25th Wedding Anniversary of Alice and Art Ebner



*IMG0029.PCD3122;1.tif*

Photograph of the Alceste Orlandi Family. Photograph taken at Frank Boilini home on the occasion of the 50th wedding anniversary of Josi and Alceste Orlandi. Lillian Orlandi Boilini, Alice Orlandi Ebner, Josi Moroni Orlandi, Alceste Orlandi and Aldo Orlandi



*IMG0054.PCD3122;1.tif*  
Louis Danti served as a policeman for many years in North Judson



*IMG0058.PCD3122;1.tif*  
Louis Danti



*IMG0065.PCD3122;1.tif*  
Joe Danti, son of Louis Danti



Rene Ebner, Bonnie Boilini, James Boilini and Edward Ebner at Bass Lake outside of North Judson





*IMG0077.PCD3122;1.tif*

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Griffio Jr. and  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Griffio Sr.



*IMG0073.PCD3122;1.tif*

Sarafino Griffio



*IMG0078.PCD3122;1.tif*

Jim Griffio milk pickup and delivery in  
1930's



*IMG0092.PCD3122;1.tif*

Ralph, Thomas and Greg  
Griffio in 1946



*IMG0083.PCD3122;1.tif*

Rose and Dan Musto with  
Tony Musto in uniform



*IMG0080.PCD3122;1.tif*

The Musto Family-Brother and  
Sisters Lucille Musto and James  
Griffio married in 1939



*IMG0088.PCD3122;1.tif*

Thomas Griffo Sr., with grandchild Regina,  
and son James Griffo taken in 1946



*IMG0087.PCD3122;1.tif*

Mary Griffo mother to James and Sara Griffo



*IMG0091.PCD3122;1.tif*

Thomas Griffo Sr. with friends at North Judson farm

## Lillian Orlandi Boilini and the *Rival Dog Food Softball Team*



One of the 15-20 such teams in Chicago. Looking back I realize how little I knew of the organization and running these teams.

The man on the left is George Verden- he was our manager. Two daughters played on the team. The man on the right was married to the older daughter. They were the only people I really know on the team. They lived in the approximate neighborhood that I did. The rest of the team, I hardly remember their names. Most or quiet often a few of the women were married and some had children. We met at the ballfield to either play or practice. We got along well, but nothing social. We were on of the leading teams in the city. We played with a 12 inch ball, used gloves, fast pitch underhand with a 10 man team. The 10th was a short center field.

I played on about 1938 and 39- then I found it much too time consuming. I worked and went to night school and tried to have a social life. After I left I really did not keep track of the team. We had been one of the better teams in Chicago- but none of these people were really friends. Mary, the girl up front with myself- were the youngest team members.

These teams were the forerunners to the teams of the film "A League of Their Own"- but at least 3 years before.

*le parole de Lillia-1995*



**Lillian Orlandi**



Ricahrd Orlandi World War I, U.S.



IMG0011.PCD3218;1.tif  
Fred Bertucci



Frank , William Jr.,  
William Boilini Sr.



IMG0033.PCD3217;1.tif  
Nello Seghetti



IMG0038.PCD3217;1.tif  
Nello and  
Leo Seghetti



IMG0090.PCD3122;1.tif  
Tony Griffo



IMG0035.PCD3217;1.tif  
Ann Seghetti



IMG0033.PCD;1.tif  
Fritz Bertucci home on Furlogh in 1945  
with Louigi Picchetti and Nello Dallari



Art Ebner served in North Africa



Edward Orlandi



Aldo Orlandi



Aldo Orlandi served as a squad leader of anti-tank squad in Europe with 104 Infantry Division "Timber Wolves". A 37mm is shown- a 57mm was used in combat.



*IMG0086.PCD3217;1.tif*  
Nello Seghetti, Lorraine Lazzerini, Leo Seghetti and Ann Seghetti



Edward Orlandi



*IMG0099.PCD3217;1.tif*  
John Simoni



Aldo Orlandi on left in Germany on VE (Victory in Europe) Day





Frank Boilini, Congressman Charles Haliek and Ann Seghetti outside of the North Judson Hardware



*IMG0034.PCD3217;1.tif*

Leo and Genny Seghetti in front of the North Judson Hardware



*IMG0066.PCD3123;1.tif*

Mint distilling at the Bau Farm in North Judson



*IMG0065.PCD3123;1.tif*

Lorraine Lazzerini, Lydia Seghetti and Lori Leonard Schuyler





*IMG0060.PCD3123;1.tif*

Lorraine Lazzerini, Lori Leonardi Schuyler and Lydia Seghetti  
with Catholic Church and Catholic Grade School in background



*IMG0055.PCD3122;1.tif*

Memorial Day Parade in downtown North Judson

