

# ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

visit: [www.LouisvilleItalians.com](http://www.LouisvilleItalians.com)

editor - lou perry

agosto 2008

membership - mary perry

kentucky – indiana sud

## Messaggio di President

My message this month will be short but urgent. The inspiration for this message can be traced to me just a few days ago during a visit to Detroit last week for a family reunion picnic. While shopping in a local Italian neighborhood grocery store, the cashier saw my Festa Italiana tee shirt and commented that she did not know that they had any Italians in Louisville. I told her that we had a very active Italian American club that put on a very successful Italian festival. She seemed to be curious about our club and festival and proceeded to ask me a few more questions while other customers were waiting in line behind me. I answered her questions as briefly and completely as I could, since I could feel the eyes of the other customers on me, and gave her the link to our web site and instructions on how to see the photographs of last year's festival. She smiled and seemed pleased that Louisville had a strong sense of its Italian heritage. By the way, if you have not seen the fabulous photographs from last year's FESTA, go to [www.louisvilleitalians.com](http://www.louisvilleitalians.com) and click on "FESTA ITALIANA" link.

This total stranger's interest and sense of pride in the IAA's efforts to promote the Italian heritage made me realize even more so about how important the FESTA ITALIANA is in helping us to make people aware of the past and present contributions made by the Italians to this community. For the FESTA to continue to succeed in its mission of providing the most visible representation of the Italian heritage in this area, the **IAA needs your help as a volunteer**. In this newsletter please see the volunteer schedule - contact Lou Perry (231-7702), director of volunteers for the Ticket Booth, Gate Admissions, and IAA Information Booth, about serving as a volunteer. Please be generous with your time as a volunteer. I would also encourage you to invite other family members and friends to volunteer with you. Volunteering at the FESTA is a great way to introduce the young adults in your family, as well as your friends, to the Italian community by asking them to help with you. There is nothing more enjoyable than sitting at the festival with family and friends after you have worked your shift and feeling a sense of pride in knowing that you have helped to preserve the memory of your Italian roots in this city for future generations to come. In addition to volunteering, there is also the opportunity to honor your family's memory with a yard sign memorial at the festival through the **Festa Italiana la Famiglia Sponsorship** for only \$100.00. You can find out more about this program by seeing the details in last month's newsletter or by contacting me directly by E-mail at [bcarducc@ius.edu](mailto:bcarducc@ius.edu) or phone at 812-282-3938.

I look forward to seeing all of you at FESTA ITALIANA.

Warmest regards,  
Bernardo Carducci, President

## Next Events

**St. Joe's Charity Picnic – Sat. August 2**

(see p. 2 for details)

**also FESTA HELP Needed (p.5)**



## FERRAGOSTO

August Holidays

### ITALY IN AUGUST

August 15, the feast of the Assumption, is a national holiday in Italy and marks the peak of the holiday season. The Italian name "Ferragosto," comes from the Latin "feriae augustae," meaning "August holidays". Italian cities become ghost towns, as families and groups of friends flock to the coast, mountains and lakes. In fact, most factories and businesses close down. During the Italian summer 73% of the Italians (32 million) will go to the Italian seaside, 46% will go to the same beach they went the year before (and most likely the year before that), and 70% of Italians go on holiday in the same month - August.

Now, don't worry if you've got a big trip planned to Rome or Venice in August - the touristy cities are not deserted. Shops and restaurants are open, and hotels are doing a brisk business. But if you look closely in any non-touristy area you'll find that there are also plenty of stores and markets that are shuttered up tight for the entire month of August. In some parts of the country, although you might think August in Italy is still the high season, you may see a slight drop in things like hotel rates in August.

## AMERICAN STUDENTS TO ITALIAN UNIVERSITIES

American students, residents of Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee and **Kentucky**, who wish to be admitted to Italian Universities, either as regular students following a full program leading to a degree, or as special students taking only a few courses (Corsi Singoli) for only one year, must apply through the Italian Consulate (Detroit), and NOT to the Universities directly.

### Che Passa!

(What's Happening)

**St. Joe's Charity Picnic – Sat. August 2.** The 158th Annual Picnic is the principal fund raiser for the children's home and helps to support their residential program, child development and their therapeutic foster care and adoption program. Again the Italian American Association will **sponsor and operate** a prize booth called "Four-in-a-Row". We invite you, your family and friends to spend part of the day visiting the picnic. You can enjoy their famous home cooked chicken dinner, take a chance on winning one of the many prizes offered at one of their 56 game booths or take some chances on one or all four of their Capital Prizes. The Italian American Association is proud that we continually support the picnic. On behalf of the children served by St. Joseph Children's Home thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you on August 2nd.

#### IAA FUTURE – Mark Your Calendar

- September 12-14 IAA's FESTA ITALIANA
- October – Italian Heritage Month
- November 4 – Fed. & St. Election Day: Obama or McCain ..??
- November 19 – IAA Elections and Dinner
- December – IAA St. Joe's Kids Christmas Party
- December – IAA Members & Friends Christmas Party

### FEATURED USA FESTIVAL FERRAGOSTO 2008 Salt Lake City, UT

August 16

Opening Ceremony 12:00 noon  
Family Event; Live Entertainment; Italian Food & Craft Booths; Colosimo's Sausage Eating Contest; Italian Wine & Italian Beer; Italian - American Karaoke, Italian Car & Motor Scooter Show; Historical Photo & Art Gallery; Italian Movies; and a Bocce Tournament.

**Dedicated to spreading the best of Italian arts, culture, & education!**

Check out the Feast of San Gennaro in Kate's Holiday Traditions and Travel link in IAA's website.

### TRY IT – YOU'LL LIKE IT

Lifelong Learning Classes

Take time for a little leisure learning thru one of the many, many adult classes offered by Jefferson County schools. The Fall schedule of classes just came out..... go to: [www.lifelonglearning4u.com](http://www.lifelonglearning4u.com). The offerings are so diverse that there is something for everyone. With my Italian slant to the classes, there is "Opera 101" taught by an individual from the Ky Opera Association. There are 3 sessions on Wednesday evenings at the Arts Space that includes the preview of *Otello*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, and *Werther*. Then there are the "Italian for Beginners" classes, a level I and a level II, each 4 sessions at Ballard H. S. Others include: career skills; sports, like fly fishing, golf, and tennis; computer-related skill building; creative arts; photography

### BIRTHDAYS .... AUGUST COMPLEANNO FELICE !!



- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Grisanti, Michael 8/10  | Mazzoli, Helen 8/1  |
| Mascagni, III Frank 8/3 | Waters, Robert 8/2  |
| Melillo, Barbara 8/9    | Benassi, James 8/13 |
| Rosencrans, Sylvia 8/20 |                     |
| Pollard, Debbie 8/25    |                     |

### MARCELLO'S Authentic Italian Restaurant

(to open about mid-August)  
2280 Bardstown Road  
Near the Douglass Loop

Marcello is unpacking his most trusted item – his pasta making machine. His "authentic" Italian dishes are from the freshest, healthiest ingredients, and his spaghetti is homemade everyday and fresh.

When I was with him recently, he was sporting his remodeling du-rag. Marcello, the "Smiling Chef" misses the Italian dialogue. He said "I offer a free dessert to those who can have a conversation with me in Italian". Marcello said my "ciao's" and limited Italian were not good enough to earn a free dessert. So, to those who think they can converse in Italian .... the dessert menu awaits you. We'll have to hold him to that.

### TRIVIA – ITALIAN STYLE

Born in Florence, Italy in 1826, Carlo Collodi was a journalist by profession, but became more known as the author of which children's fairytale about a little boy whose nose grows longer with each lie he tells?

Answer: Pinocchio.

### Conclusion - Con't from p.7 – Vacarro's Trip to Italy

Vaccaro relatives who still farm that parcel of land. Afterwards it was on to Bella and then lastly to the Vaccaro Compound (farm). The main structure was built in the early 1600's by the same construction crew who built a nearby castle for the king's visits to the area. The feelings and emotions that ran through my mind are difficult to articulate. To think that I was walking on the very land where my grandfather and his family walked was almost unbelievable.

As we were leaving, Enza, who had been such a blessing and had worked so hard for two days trying to translate our conversations, perhaps said it best, "Know that what we have been saying through our brain and mouth has really all come from our heart. We are family and now everyone knows that. Our hearts are as one."

## EVENTS IN ITALY

### CORREGGIO AND THE ARTISTS OF ANCIENT

**TIMES**; Galleria Borghese (Rome); until September 14; 10 Major Exhibitions. Anna Coliva has curated this exhibition focused on one of the great Renaissance artists: Antonio Allegri, better known as Correggio. About 60 drawings and paintings, including mythical-inspired pieces such as " Danae", "Jupiter and I" and "The portrait of Ganymede", and religious works such as "Madonna del latte" and the "Four Saints", are shown as part of an exploration of the artist and the greats of Antiquity. Correggio's approach to colour and painting the seemingly impossible is poetic.

**DRAGON BOAT COMPETITION**; Trient - Lake Caldonazzo; August 2008. A tradition started in Trient in 1985, the annual dragon boat competition pits nearby towns against one another in replica dragon boats in a race on Lake Caldonazzo. Ready a team to participate, as both local and international teams now compete in this event.

**VERONA HORSE FAIR**; November 6 – 9. One of the largest equestrian events in Italy, the Verona Horse Fair has been held since 1898 to showcase and celebrate horses and horse riding. Over 700 equestrian exhibitions from around the world are made available to visitors, complete with riding tours and magnificent displays of skill.

**HIP HOP PARADE - ROME**, September 2008. Hip Hop musicians and dancers pack the city of Rome during this event. Street culture is celebrated and talented performers from Italy and around the world put on amazing shows and contribute to lectures and workshops.

**TUSCAN SUN FESTIVAL**, Cortona; August 2-10; Festival del Sole in Tuscany will feature a prestigious roster of artists, the Venice Baroque Orchestra, numerous lectures on the "art of life", and wellness with a focus on Tai Chi – the slow, dance-like speed that creates balance, flexibility and calmness. With an emphasis on deep breathing and using mental imagery, Tai Chi integrates your mind with your body, and is very effective at relieving stress.

**ROSSINI OPERA FESTIVAL**; Pesaro, August 9-23: the ROF is a foundation supported by the Pesaro Town Council, the Provincial government of Pesaro and Urbino, the Cassa di Risparmio di Pesaro Foundation, the Banca dell'Adriatico and the Scavolini Foundation. The Festival relies on the musicological contribution of the Rossini Foundation. **Pesaro**, at the northernmost point of the Marches region, plunges directly into the Adriatic Sea. The town has a historic and artistic heritage, like the new cultural centres: the Centro Arti Visive Pescheria and the San Giovanni multi-medial library. Hospitality in Pesaro offers four star hotels and over forty restaurants and pizzerias in the centre and by the sea. The beach has won a "Bandiera Blu" prize.



## Storming Heaven

### Book Review

**Storming Heaven**, by Denise Giardina, a West Va. native, is supposedly a fictional account of the mine wars in the southern West Virginia and northern Kentucky coalfields in the early 1900's. The story unfolded over a number of years and through the lives and sometimes deaths of the four characters who tell the story. Family and community kept these people together as they endured poverty, land theft, unscrupulous mine guards and harsh treatment from federal troops called in to halt efforts to organize miners into unions.

The novel is not the easiest book to read, but is well worth the effort. Overall, Book Talk rated the novel as a good read and one well worth the time and effort.

The author, **Denise Giardina** was born in 1951 in the Black Wolf Coal Camp near Bluefield, WV. She had more than one connection with coal and mining practices. Her father was a coal company bookkeeper, several uncles were miners, and her immigrant grandfather also worked in various regional mines. Her other writings include: *Good King Harry* (1984) and *The Unquiet Earth* (sequel to *Storming Heaven*) (1992). (review provided by IAA member Rose Isetti).

## BEL CANTRO

The term **bel canto** (beautiful singing), has probably meant different things at different periods in music history, but its origins are shrouded in the past. The vocal works of such Italian composers as Donizetti, Bellini, Rossini, and the early works of Verdi are considered to fall under the rubric of **bel canto**. These composers crafted vocal works with long, often florid, phrases that showcased the singer's vocal prowess and pyrotechnic capabilities. Both long, sustained legato phrases (*sostenuto*) and rapid passages requiring agility (*fioritura*) characterize the **bel canto** vocal line.

Thus, beautiful vocal lines were characteristic of this music; the other half of the **bel canto** equation is that the art of vocal production or vocal technique had been elevated to such a high level of skill and refinement, that **bel canto** was actually a marriage of consummate vocal technique and the beauty of composition. So both the singing itself and the music written for the voice were "bellissimi".

## Mama Mia, Italia!

"Mamma mia," spelled and pronounced with the accent on the first syllable, is an *Italian* phrase. Mamma mia! literally means "my mother"! Today, it's the name of an Abba song of "long ago", and a Broadway play (and now movie) comprised of a storytelling collection of Abba songs. To me, it's always been a reflection of astonishment; sometimes an expression of shock.

## CAFFE TACI

### Greenwich Village, NYC

**Caffè Taci** has thrilled audiences with its World-Famous OPERA NIGHTS. Get your fill of pasta and opera every weekend as they continue their mission of bringing you great music in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere! Enjoy your favorite opera arias and ensembles, plus songs from the Classical and Broadway repertoire. From budding professionals to established performers with international careers, **Taci** is proud to present these young artists in an informal, relaxed showcase.



## BALCONY GARDENS

Balcony gardens are common in places where many people live in apartments or condominiums. Italy is just such a place as are many parts of Louisville. Throughout Italy, you can see colorful, vibrant, charming balcony gardens that bring life to city landscapes all summer long.

**Benefits** ..... For the people inside the apartments, condos, balcony gardens have many esthetic and healthy virtues:

1. reduction of noise that enters through windows, open and closed,
2. improved views from the windows,
3. plants block city dust from entering apartments,
4. plants cool the air before it enters an apartment, and
5. fresh herbs grown on balconies add flavor and nutrition to food.

**Two Key Features:** 1. Weight and secure fixtures are the two keys to safe balcony gardens.

Keep the weight of your planters low by using plastic planters and special enhanced soils so you can use less soil. Securely attach all balcony pots and planters so there are no accidents with falling objects! Attach as much as possible to the building walls rather than to your balcony itself, reducing the weight load on the balcony. Use plastic plugs in the wall holes to keep the screws from loosening in the wind.

At the **end of the growing season**, usually around October, clip the herbs that are left and put them in glass bottles with vinegar and sliced cloves of garlic. Cork the bottles and within weeks, you have herbed vinegar for use on salads or for use in marinades. It doesn't go bad. The longer it sits, the stronger the flavor, and mellow the vinegar gets.

## ITALIAN LESSIONS – Dialect of Luigi

### VERBS - INDICATIVE TENSES

The Italian word for *tense* is **tempo**, which also means *time*, suggesting that tenses are inflections whose purpose is to suggest at what time actions are carried out, i.e. in the present, in the past, or in the future. As in most Western languages, also Italian verbs are referred to (i.e. in dictionaries, etc.) with their infinitive, called **modo infinito** or more often **infinito** in short.

According to the infinitive, verbs can be divided into three main groups, called **coniugazioni** (= *conjugations*):

1. verbs ending with **...are**, like **andare** (*to go*), **mangiare** (*to eat*), **camminare** (*to walk*)
2. verbs ending with **...ere**, like **avere** (*to have*), **vedere** (*to see*), **essere** (*to be*), **decidere** (*to decide*)
3. verbs ending with **...ire**, like **dormire** (*to sleep*), **venire** (*to come*), **coprire** (*to cover*)

In conjugations 1 and 3, the infinitive of all verbs carries its accent on the penultimate syllable, thus stressing the verb's inflection (in the following examples, the stressed syllable is shown in *italics style* and in *lighter blue* colour):

**andare** (1st), **mangiare** (1st), **dormire** (3rd), **venire** (3rd), etc.

But in the 2nd conjugation (**...ere**), stress may sometimes fall on the antepenultimate syllable (i.e. one syllable before the infinitive's inflection), so this conjugation may be split into two further groups:

- verbs whose penultimate syllable carries the stress (as in conjugations 1 and 3): **avere**, **vedere**, etc.
- verbs whose stress is carried by an earlier syllable, as **essere**, **decidere**, etc.

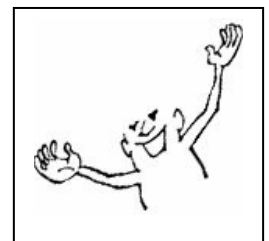
Some grammars classify these verbs as two distinct conjugations, thus mentioning four standard ones (not three).

### Remember ....

**Italians also speak with their hands**

**Ho giocato un grande cavallo a Churchill  
Posa recentemente!  
Ha portato sette cavalli a batterlo**

I played a great horse at Churchill Downs recently! It took seven horses to beat him.





## FESTA ITALIANA 2008 BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Louisville's FESTA ITALIANA 2008 is on the horizon (Sept. 12, 13, 14), and once again we need your **HELP**. The **GATEKEEPERS (ADMISSIONS), TICKET BOOTH, and IAA INFORMATION BOOTH**

are three (3) critical areas in the success of the festival. Your HELP in facilitating one or several areas of these activities would be greatly appreciated. Please review the "Ticket Booth", the "Gatekeepers", and the IAA Information Booth" schedules (below), and email Lou Perry at [L4Perri@insightbb.com](mailto:L4Perri@insightbb.com); or call him at 231-7702 to reserve your time slot..... first come, first served.

**THANKS \* HELP \* THANKS \* HELP**

20 volunteer slots needed

40 volunteer slots needed

12 volunteer slots needed

| <b>GATEKEEPERS / ADMISSIONS</b>  | <b>TICKET BOOTH</b>  | <b>IAA INFORMATION BOOTH</b>   |   |   |                              |  |   |                              |                               |                               |   |   |                               |  |   |                                  |   |  |
|--|--|--------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|--|---|----------------------------------|---|--|
| <p>Admissions - \$2.00 (teens &amp; adults); stamp hand</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"><b>GATE # 1</b><br/>next to playground</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"><b>GATE # 2</b><br/>tables area</td> </tr> </table> <p>Friday: 9-12 (Volunteers from St. James)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"><b>SATURDAY: 9 – 13</b><br/>(IAA Volunteers)</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"><b>SATURDAY: 9 – 13</b><br/>(IAA Volunteers)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"> <b>1:30 – 4:30</b><br/>*<br/>*                 </td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"> <b>1:30 – 4:30</b><br/>* Ann Moir<br/>* Marie Bukowski                 </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"> <b>4:30 – 7:30</b><br/>* Ange Vaccaro<br/>* Teresa Crocco                 </td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"> <b>4:30 – 7:30</b><br/>*<br/>*                 </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"> <b>7:30 – 10:00</b><br/>*<br/>*                 </td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"> <b>7:30 – 10:00</b><br/>*<br/>*                 </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"><b>SUNDAY: 9-14</b><br/>(IAA Volunteers)</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"><b>SUNDAY: 9-14</b><br/>(IAA Volunteers)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"> <b>11:30 - 2:30</b><br/>*<br/>*                 </td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"> <b>11:30 - 2:30pm</b><br/>* Sylvia Liberati –<br/>Rosencrans<br/>* Richard Rosencrans                 </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"> <b>2:30pm – 5:30pm</b><br/>* Ange Vaccaro<br/>*                 </td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"> <b>2:30pm – 5:30pm</b><br/>*<br/>*                 </td> </tr> </table> | <b>GATE # 1</b><br>next to playground  | <b>GATE # 2</b><br>tables area | <b>SATURDAY: 9 – 13</b><br>(IAA Volunteers) | <b>SATURDAY: 9 – 13</b><br>(IAA Volunteers) | <b>1:30 – 4:30</b><br>*<br>* | <b>1:30 – 4:30</b><br>* Ann Moir<br>* Marie Bukowski | <b>4:30 – 7:30</b><br>* Ange Vaccaro<br>* Teresa Crocco | <b>4:30 – 7:30</b><br>*<br>* | <b>7:30 – 10:00</b><br>*<br>* | <b>7:30 – 10:00</b><br>*<br>* | <b>SUNDAY: 9-14</b><br>(IAA Volunteers) | <b>SUNDAY: 9-14</b><br>(IAA Volunteers) | <b>11:30 - 2:30</b><br>*<br>* | <b>11:30 - 2:30pm</b><br>* Sylvia Liberati –<br>Rosencrans<br>* Richard Rosencrans | <b>2:30pm – 5:30pm</b><br>* Ange Vaccaro<br>* | <b>2:30pm – 5:30pm</b><br>*<br>* | <p>One Ticket = \$ 1.00</p> <p>Friday, 9-12<br/>(Volunteers from St. James Parish)</p> <p><b>SATURDAY 9- 13 (IAA Volunteers)</b></p> <p><b>1:30 pm – 4:00pm</b><br/>* Jerry Giancola *<br/>* *<br/>*</p> <p><b>4:00pm – 6:30pm</b><br/>* Mike Palmisano *<br/>* Lisa Palmisano *<br/>*</p> <p><b>6:30pm – 9:00pm</b><br/>* Sally Spagnolo *<br/>* Walt Carpenter *<br/>* Vicky Carpenter</p> <p><b>9:00pm – 11:00pm</b><br/>* *<br/>* *<br/>*</p> <p><b>SUNDAY 9- 30 (IAA Volunteers)</b></p> <p><b>12:00 noon – 2:00pm</b><br/>* *<br/>* *</p> <p><b>2:00pm – 4:00pm</b><br/>* *<br/>* *Ann Moir (3-6)<br/>*</p> <p><b>4:00pm – 6:00pm</b><br/>* *<br/>*</p> | <p>(information and sales)</p> <p><b>FRIDAY, 9-12</b><br/>* Lou Perry<br/>* John-Pat Lanning 7-9pm</p> <p><b>SATURDAY 9- 13 (IAA Volunteers)</b></p> <p><b>1:30 pm – 4:30pm</b><br/>* Lew Devuono<br/>* Hallie Devuono</p> <p><b>4:30pm – 7:30pm</b><br/>* Paul Lenzi<br/>* Geraldine Lenzi</p> <p><b>7:30pm – 10:30pm</b><br/>*<br/>*</p> <p><b>SUNDAY 9- 30 (IAA Volunteers)</b></p> <p><b>12:00 noon – 3:00pm</b><br/>*<br/>*</p> <p><b>3:00pm – 6:00pm</b><br/>*<br/>*</p> |
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## ITALY TRAVELS - BORBORUSO

Joe and Suzanne Ward  
Calabria

My Grandfather, Francesco Saverio Scalese, left Italy in 1887, when he was 14, and essentially never looked back. He had two siblings who also sailed to America, but it was long after he did, and they settled on the west coast. Grandpa settled in Montana.

So I never heard much about Italy growing up. By the time I got really interested in finding the greater family Scalese in the old country, nobody who knew any names or addresses was still alive. I did know, from conversations with my Great-aunt Rosa, that Grandpa and his brother and sister had come from Borboruso, a village in Calabria, south of Cosenza.

My friends Del and Angelo Vaccaro also were interested in finding family in southern Italy, and we eventually decide to go together. Del discovered that you could look up anybody anywhere where there are telephones in the International White Pages on the Internet. I surfed to Borboruso and plugged in Scalese.



From left to right – My mother's cousin, Angelo Scalese, his wife Yolanda; Suzanne Ward; a distant cousin Natale Palermo and his wife, and me, Joe Ward.

Three names popped up. I also was able to bring up a GoogleEarth map of Borboruso, and that told me it was small enough a place that any Scaleses there were likely some sort of relatives. So I wrote all three, in English translated to Italian for me by IAA's Ann Moir.

Weeks passed. I had fired off a new letter to the mayor of nearby Pedivigliano, to try another approach, when I got two letters back. One was from Angelo Saverio Scalese, who told me that his father, Antonio, was my grandfather's younger brother. Paydirt. The other was from Cinzia Costanzo, who said her grandmother had been married to a second cousin of my grandfather.

*Con't next column*

*Con't from previous column*

So we all went to Borboruso, driving the last 30 miles or so from a hotel in Tonnara, a resort town on the Tyrrhenian coast. The road was asphalt most of the way, but where it twisted and climbed through Pedivigliano on the way, it was cobblestones, and we had to pull in the rear view mirrors on the car to keep from getting them banged up. I had Angelo's address on Via Agosto 13, but the numbers seemed out of sequence to me, so I got out of the car and asked a man on the street for directions to la cassa di Scalese Angleo. He became moderately excited and ran down the street. He opened a gate and knocked on a door, and out came Angelo and his wife, Yolanda, all smiles.

I studied Italian for several months before we left for Italy, but it was quickly clear in Borobuso that I didn't know enough. Angelo seemed frustrated by that. He had assumed I spoke Italian because of the letter I had written. But he invited us in, and we sat around a table looking at a spread of family photos on the kitchen table, while he called around looking for somebody who spoke English. The photos included some I had sent to him after learning he was my mother's cousin. It was a thrill for me to discover among the other photos he brought out that some were copies of the very same old family pictures, sent to him earlier by Aunt Rosa.

Yolanda insisted we have a meal of spaghetti with wonderful sauces made with eggs, peas, and meat. We drank espresso and wine and ate brandied chestnuts. Angelo took us to view the house where my Grandfather and his father were born. We visited four other



Natale shows Joe his Grandfather's birthplace

households, all of more distant cousins, and drank more espresso and various wines, and ate cakes and cheese. By the time we left town after eight hours or so, I was nearly sick. But we made contact, and I hope to keep communicating with the Scaleses, and perhaps to go back.

## ITALY TRAVELS - AVIGLIANO

Province of Potenza and the Region of Basilicata.

### Angelo and Del Marie Vaccaro

May 2008 is more that one life time away from Grandpa Angelo Vaccaro, from Avigliano, Italy in the Province of Potenza and the region of Basilicata. Del Marie and I have been dreaming of a trip there and maybe it is just the right time. The Wards, Joe and Suzanne, will be traveling with us. My desire was to find Grandpa's farm and bring back some dirt to spread with the ashes for my mother and father's Memorial Service in July. Finding the Vaccaro Farm would bring some continuity to our family history. For me Grandpa Vaccaro is remembered by his



**Grandpa Angelo Vaccaro**

moustache, glass of wine or beer, a soft touch, and a smile. That moustache was a thing to behold. I wondered how he slept with that, or ate, or drank (I found out later he was best at drinking.)

May 6, 2008 Del woke up this morning and as usual checked her e-mail. I heard footsteps RUNNING, which got my attention. We received a response from our letters to the Vaccaros in Avigliano:

*"Dear Angelo and Marie Vaccaro, we have received your letter, perhaps in delay. It will be a happy to give hospitality in ours one's native country. My father Angelo Vito Vaccaro, is engaged to understand if we have a relationship, but even if therefore he was not, will make it appeal to us equally to have to you to Avigliano here. My grandmother Vita Crescenza Grippa is been born to Buffalo in 1913, with your family. It may be that our families know themselves already. Hope you read my mail before leave for Italy. My Enza's wife a speak a bit English, but I sure that are not problems understand each other.*

*Good travel, Sincerely; Giacomo and Enza Vaccaro*

May 17, 2008. After visiting the Amalfi Coast and having a couple of days to get our "Italian Legs" we went to Avigliano. We searched for Via Vaccaro, a street of our name but even our GPS got confused. So, we went to the Piazza area to ask anyone we saw, "Where do the Vaccaro's live?" We asked this mostly in gestures (not spoken language) as if all Vaccaro's in Avigliano would be related to us.

Through the kindness of an elderly man and a woman with her granddaughter we were led to the Vaccaro's of Avigliano. We met first Donato and Mazzimo, then

*Con't - next column*

*Con't from previous column*

Giacomo and his wife, Enza, and Angelo Vito Vaccaro. Angelo and Donato are brothers. Mazzimo and Giacomo

are sons of Angelo Vito. Enza was the only one who could speak any English at all. By the close of that first day, Angelo Vito, Donato, and I



**Donato, Angelo, Giacomo, and Angelo Vito: the "Vaccaro Men"**

determined that we were probably distant cousins and our great grandfathers had farmed several parcels of land around Avigliano together. To get to that eventual understanding, we had a wonderful day together that started first with an invitation from Donato to coffee on the Piazza.

After our espresso we were taken on a walk through the old city to find the Via Vaccaro, the Vaccaro Chapel (yes a chapel!) and the family crest (located on the exterior



**Vaccaro Compound (Farm)**

of the chapel). Then Angelo Vito offered lunch that seemed to us more like a lavish dinner. During the afternoon we completed our tour of the town with visits to the Bibliotechque and the headquarters for the folk festival. A stopover at the beautiful downtown church was quickly arranged and we attempted to find some evidence of Grandpa in their records. Due to the limited time available we were unable to confirm his baptism records. Angelo Vito invited us to his home and while there suggested that we plan to meet the next day and visit a couple of the farm sites where the Vaccaro family had worked and lived.

On day two we were led first to the mount where the Madonna del Carmine procession is made each year from the downtown church during the annual festival. From that vantage point Giacomo showed me the four areas where the Vaccaros had farmed. They were Ginocchione, Cecci, Bella, and lastly, the Vaccaro Compound. We first traveled to Cecci and met distant

*Con't on p. 2*