

**GRANDPA ANTONIO MASSA AND  
GRANDMA PHILOMENA CASACCIO MASSA  
MASSA HISTORY**

Written by Manfred C. Massa,  
son of Emilio Massa,  
son of Antonio Massa

My Grandfather Antonio Massa, who died in 1894 in Campolattaro, Italy (was also born there), married my Grandmother Philomena Casaccio. She came from Pontelandolfo, Italy was born in 1834 and died in Philadelphia on November 24, 1930 (96 years old). She is buried in the Holy Cross Cemetery in Philadelphia.

They had two sons and one daughter, Samuel, Theresa, and Emilio (my Father).

**(1) SAMUEL MASSA FAMILY HISTORY**

**Samuel Massa** was born in Campolattaro, Italy on December 19, 1864 and died in Philadelphia and is buried at the Holy Cross Cemetery. He married Concetta Orsillo who died in Italy about June 1905.

Samuel came through New York City and then in 1902 went to Falls Creek, PA, to work as a stone cutter at the Harvey's Run Quarry, and lived by himself. His arrival and name of the boat is not known, but I have his passport book.

He had left his wife Concetta Orsillo Massa and his five children with Philomena Casaccio Massa (she was a widow) our Grandmother in Campolattaro Italy. About the middle of the year 1905, while Samuel was in Falls Creek, PA, his wife Concetta died in Campolattaro. Samuel returned to Italy to get his five children: Elisa (19), Leticia (18), Malvina (15), Anothy (11) and Armando (8), and they all went to Falls Creek, PA., where Samuel was working in the quarry. My Mother, Maria Libera Fusco came to America with Samuel and his family, on the boat "Napolitan Prince" which arrived in New York City on October 16, 1905. I have a copy of the ship's list. Grandma Philomena Casaccio came from Italy to Falls Creek in 1908 to take care of Samuel's family. Samuel worked as a stone mason on the Botte family on Fifth Avenue.

Grandma Philomena Casaccio, her son Samuel and his children, Leticia, Anthony and Armond moved to Christian Street in Philadelphia, about 1915.

(A) **Elisa**, who was born in Campolattarra Italy in 1886, married Joseph Greco in Falls Creek, PA about 1906, and they had six children all born in Falls Creek, PA: Mary, Nilda, Bias, Samuel, Joseph Jr., and Philomena. Joe Sr., who was a foreman at the Falls Creek Quarry, died and is buried in the cemetery in DuBois, PA. Elisa and family moved to 1423 South Juniper Street in Philadelphia, across the street from the Paoletta home, and later moved to 1533 South Juniper Street. Elisa and all of the children were all buried in Holy Cross Cemetery. Elisa died in 1951.

Mary was born in 1907, married Pat Cordino in Philadelphia. They had two children: Sebastian and Regina. Mary worked as a seamstress in ladies clothes. Mary died in 1955 and she and Pat were buried in Holy Cross Cemetery.

Nilda was born in 1908, remained single, and died on October 13, 1979. She also worked as a seamstress in ladies clothes.

Bias was born in 1910, married Rose Pitone in 1938 and they had four boys: Joseph, Richard, Ronald and Robert. Bias was a stone cutter and also worked in Rose's sister's garden nursery. Rose worked in her brother's office who was a medical doctor. Bias died and was buried in Holy Cross Cemetery. Bias and Rose gave me a lot of old snapshots of the Massa family.

Samuel was born on November 24, 1917, married Rita Fedildia, on May 17, 1941, and they had two girls: Joanne and Elisa. Sam worked as an electronic engineer at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. He developed the first electronic heart cardiogram instrument and tested the original seven astronauts for the NASA Space Program! Quite a record! Sam died in 1993.

Joseph Jr., was born on April 4, 1914, married Anne Valente on September 2, 1933 and they had two children: Joseph and Elisa. Joseph Jr., was a stone cutter and he owned a granite cemetery stone shop in Philadelphia. Joseph Jr., died on June 5, 1991.

Philomena was born in 1916, remained single, and died on May 16, 1992. She worked for the Federal Government in Philadelphia.

**(B) Leticia** (born in 1887 in Campolatarro, Italy) married Joe Marinucci in Philadelphia. They had eleven children: Mamie, Concetta, Gage, Rocco, Marge, Samuel, Richard, Arthur, Rita, Edward and Joseph. Richard (Margaret Marinucci's husband) died on August 8, 1980, and was buried in the St. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Springfield, PA. All other are buried (except Rita who is alive) in the Holy Cross Cemetery. Joe, Senior, had an automobile repair shop next to their home on 1118 Dickinson Street. Mamie and Concetta had a beauty shop at the family home on 1118 Dickinson Street. Richard was a lay out technician at a ship building plant in Chester, PA. Margaret and Richard lived at 1527 South Twelfth Street and then they moved to Beaver Falls, PA. to work for Massa Brothers as the chief estimator. He moved to Youngstown, Ohio and then to Philadelphia and worked as an estimator. Samuel was a building contractor in Philadelphia.

**(C) Malvina** (born in 1890 in Campolatarra, Italy) married Antonio Paoella, a stone cutter, in Falls Creek and later moved to 1426 South Juniper Street in Philadelphia. They had seven children: Lawrence, Angelene, Concetta, Florence, Samuel, Rita and Gloria. Malvina (died on May 15, 1983) and Antonio were buried in Holy Cross Cemetery.. Samuel was a partner in a mailing company in Philadelphia.

**(D) Anthony (Senior)** who was born in 1895 in Compolatarro, Italy and died on

February 26, 1951 in Miami, Florida, married Grace Gilento in Philadelphia who died on May 10, 1941. Since Anthony was the last to marry, Grandma Casaccio Massa lived at 6932 Dicks Avenue with him. Grace and Anthony had five children: Samuel, Eddy, Albert, Marie and Anthony. The children all moved to Florida except Anthony, Jr. who lives in Philadelphia. Anthony, Sr. and his wife were buried in Holy Cross Cemetery and Samuel was buried at Our Lady of Mercy Cemetery in Miami, Florida. Anthony, Sr. was a superintendent at a granite shop in Philadelphia. Anthony, Sr. went to Florida, stayed at Eddy's, and died there.

Samuel, who was born on September 10, 1916 and died in Florida in 1993, married Yolanda Barbarie (who was born in 1919), in Philadelphia on January 10, 1936. They had four boys: Anthony, Robert, Larry and Richard. Samuel worked for Eastern Air Lines for 27 years.

Eddy, who was born on December 25, 1919, married Jerry Owen (who was born on September 29, 1928) in Florida on October 12, 1947. Eddy (single) came to Miami in October 1945, who worked at a service station and grocery store and met Jerry at the grocery store. Eddy's father Anthony and brother Albert came to Miami for the wedding. In 1951, after Eddy's father Anthony died, Eddy went to Philadelphia and brought Samuel, Yolanda and their three children (Anthony, Robert and Larry) to Miami in Eddy's 1950 Ford Convertible. Eddy worked at the Allison and Diplomat Hotels where he met a group of well-known baseball players, managers and football players. Eddy and Jerry had three children: Edmund Jr., Brenda and John.

Albert, who was born on December 5, 1922, married in Philadelphia on April 10, 1947, his first wife Kay D'Oraizo who was born on October 11, 1922, and died in February, 1977, had three children: Nancy, Christina and Albert Jr. Albert, Senior, served in the Navy in World War II and visited Koppel, PA. with father Anthony in 1946. After Albert's first wife died; he married Mary Cuellar (who was born on October 7, 1942), on September 29, 1978. Mary's sister Grace Begley who worked as a receptionist at the Fairfax Hospital in Fairfax, VA., asked me "if I had a relative in Florida named Albert." I said "Yes he is my second cousin!" She then told me that her sister Mary married Albert! What a small world! Grace and husband, Mary and Albert visit us when Albert comes to Virginia. Grace lives near Wolf Trap Center in Fairfax County in VA.

Marie, who was born on April 10, 1929, married Jim Vivone (who was born on August 22, 1928) on October 16, 1954. They had two children: Angela and James.

Anthony, who was born on October 31, 1933 who lives in Havertown, PA, married Louise (Dolly) Gagliard (who was born on May 7, 1934) on June 12, 1954. They had two children: Anthony and Maria. Anthony Senior worked for Bell Telephone Co.

**(E) Armond**, who was born on August 5, 1896 in Campolatarro, Italy. (I have his birth certificate), married Victoria Meraolio in Philadelphia. They lived at 1505 South Twelfth Street in South Philadelphia. Armond owned a granite stone shop in North Philadelphia. Anthony Paoella, Bias Greco and Joe Greco, Jr. worked at Armond's shop as stone cutters. They had six children: Concetta, Jenny, Samuel (died young), Viola, Jean and

Rita. Armond and wife were buried in Holy Cross Cemetery. Jenny married Sam Rondinelli and they lived on 1138 Tasker Street in South Philadelphia. Sam worked in Armond's granite shop and after Armond died he ran the shop. He sold the shop, retired and was employed as Chief of Facility Equipment at the Fox Chase Hospital in Northeast Philadelphia. I met Sam at the hospital where the Cancer Institute funded an expensive "proton generator" to destroy cancer cells. What a small world!

## **(2) THERESA MASSA CAIAZZA FAMILY HISTORY**

**Theresa** Massa Caiazza (My Father's sister) with her husband Anthony, their two children: Betty and Nick, Grandma Casaccio Massa and Nick Fusco (my Mother's brother), came from Italy to Falls Creek, PA in 1908. The Caiazza's moved to Koppel, PA. Son Gerald was born in Falls Creek. Frank Gioffre (called Zepepp) and family came on the same boat and also went to Falls Creek and later moved to Koppel.

The Caiazza's in 1915 bought a house on Sixth Avenue in Koppel. The father and daughter both worked at the Koppel Car Plant during World War I. Anthony was a painter.

The Caiazza's built a grocery store on the first floor with sleeping rooms on the second floor on Sixth Avenue in Koppel around 1921.

The Caiazza's in 1929 moved to 1134 Dickinson Street in Philadelphia. Theresa Massa was born in Campolatarro, Italy in 1876 and died on October 2, 1944 in Philadelphia. She married Antonia Caiazza in Italy, who was born in Campolatarro in 1868 and died in 1956. They were both buried in Holy Cross Cemetery. Theresa and Anthony Caiazza had three children: Bernadetta (Betty), Nick and Gerald.

- (A) **Betty**, who was born in 1901 in Marcone, Italy, married Bernardino (Benny) Pietroangelo (who came from Cufiano, Italy) in Ellwood City, PA., in 1922. Betty was my Sponsor for Confirmation. They had two children: Mary and Ralph. Betty and Benny were buried in Holy Cross Cemetery. They all lived together with Betty's Father and Mother in Koppel and Philadelphia. Betty worked at the Philadelphia Reading Railroad Terminal and Bennie worked at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.
- (B) **Nick**, who was born in 1907 in Marcone, Italy, married Mary Nash (who came from Ellwood City) in 1929. They had one child: Anthony. Nick and Mary are buried in Holy Cross Cemetery. They also lived together with Nick's father and mother in Koppel and Philadelphia. Nick visited the Massa family in Koppel every year from 1948 until 1966. Nick worked at Litt Brothers Department Store in Philadelphia. Nick was in the Army Engineers in the Pacific Arena during World War II.
- (C) **Gerald**, who was born in 1914 in Falls Creek, PA. married Mary Ferrera in Philadelphia. He died in the Veterans Hospital. Gerald was in the Army Band during World War II. He arranged to have the large portrait of our Father Emilio painted. Gerald was a barber for some time and then went into the Photography business. Gerald had no children.

### **(3) EMILIO MASSA FAMILY HISTORY**

**Emilio**, our Father, was born on April 24, 1878 in Campolatarro, Italy and died on December 16, 1940. His first wife Josephine Fusco was born in 1882 at Morcone, Italy. They were married at the Fusco's home in 1898. They had two daughters: Sylvia and Candida, who both died at an early age in Campolatarro, and one daughter Philomena (Minnie) who was born on June 6, 1903 in Morcone.

Our Father Emilio joined the Italian Army and was awarded a medal as a sharp shooter on July 6, 1899.

My Mother Maria Libera Fusco was born in Morcone, Italy on May 2, 1889.

Mother's mother Philomena Steffanelli Fusco and father Francesco Fusco lived in Fusco, Italy and they had four sons and five daughters – Josephine, Thomas, Maria Libera, Michele, Angelina, Nichole, Adelina, Ernest, and Luigia.

Our Father, with his first wife, daughter Philomena, and Mother's cousin, Luigi Fusco, arrived in New York City on March 30, 1904 on the boat "Palatia." (I have a copy of the ship's list). On April 15, 1905, my Father's first wife (Josephine Fusco Massa) died in Falls Creek during child birth (both Mother and child died) and both Mother and child are buried in the Catholic Cemetery in DuBois, PA. It was her dying wish that my Father marry her sister, Maria Libera Fusco (16 years old) who was in Italy, in order to have his daughter, Philomena (Minnie), raised by someone she knew.

Our Mother, Maria Libera Fusco came to Falls Creek with her future brother-in-law Samuel and his five children. They came on the boat "Napolitan Prince" and arrived in New York City on October 16, 1905. I have a copy of the ship's list. Our Mother and Father were married in Falls Creek, PA., on October 23, 1905. Our Father, Mother and my brother Samuel (who was born on July 28, 1925 and died on July 23, 1930 was first buried in the St. Theresa Cemetery in Hoytdale, PA) are buried together in the Saint Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Beaver Falls, PA.

My father Emilio Massa and my mother Maria Libera Fusco Massa had twelve children – eight sons and four daughters. Minnie was the daughter of my Father's first wife Josephine.

- (A) **Philomena (Minnie)** was born in Morcone, Italy on June 6, 1909, and died in Koppel on August 19, 1969. Married Nick Fusco who was born in Morcone, Italy on January 27, 1895 and died in Koppel on October 14, 1972. They had two sons and three daughters – Josephine (Dolly), Mary, Edith, Frank, Ernest.
- (B) **Josephine Marie** was born in Falls Creek, PA on August 8, 1906, and died on May 16, 1982 in Koppel (buried in Clinton "Possum Hollow" Cemetery) married Clifford J. Houk who was born in Ellwood City on February 24, 1904 and died in Koppel in 1993. They had one son and four daughters – Clyde, Betty, Dorothy, Myrna and Leona.

- (C) Anthony R. was born in Philadelphia on August 11, 1907, and died in Beaver Falls, PA on April 10, 1994. Married Lena Baroni who was born in Italy on June 29, 1912 and died in Beaver Falls on October 19, 1998. They had one son – Emilio Enrico.
- (D) Henry E. was born in Falls Creek on April 30, 1909 and died in Beaver Falls on January 27, 1954. Married Margorie Clark in 1936. They had one adopted daughter Lynda who lives in Valerico, Florida.
- (E) Sylvia M. was born in Falls Creek on December 17, 1910 and died in Beaver Falls on June 14, 1992. Married Joseph Leopardo who was born in Chewton, PA, on December 31, 1907 and died in Beaver Falls on October 11, 2000. They are both buried in the Beaver Falls Mausoleum. They had one son and three daughters – John, Phyllis, Patricia and Mary Ann.
- (F) Frank Wilson was born in Falls Creek on November 6, 1912 and died in Beaver Falls on January 25, 1978. Married Mary Drugo who was born on September 25, 1918. They had no children.
- (G) Manfred Clarence was born in Falls Creek on February 15, 1915. Married on July 6, 1939 Concetta Corinne Botte of Koppel, who was born on October 4, 1914. They had two daughters and two sons – Joanne Marie, Frances Corinne, John Samuel. They also had another son Henry Emilio who was born on October 27, 1958, but he was stillborn.
- (H) Vincent Charles was born in Falls Creek on February 17, 1917 and died in Beaver Falls on May 9, 2000. Married on July 4, 1940 Nell Gregory who was born on March 23, 1916 and died on May 15, 1997. They are both buried in the Beaver Falls Mausoleum. They had one son – Vincent John.
- (I) Erma Marie was born in Koppel on April 15, 1919, and died on March 26, 2000 in Ashburn, VA. Married John Beatrice of Ellwood City on September 23, 1939, who was born on June 24, 1916 and died on September 23, 2000 in Columbus, Ohio. They had two sons and one daughter – John, Phyllis and Anthony.
- (J) John Samuel was born in in Koppel on March 7, 1921 and died on October 10, 1943 on his third B-17 bombing mission over Munster, Germany in World War II. He is buried at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Beaver Falls. He was single.
- (K) Margaret was born in Koppel on June 5, 1923. Married Richard Marinucci of Philadelphia on October 16, 1948 who was born on December 9, 1922 and died in Springfield, PA, on August 6, 1980. They had one daughter and one son – Marie and Richard Henry.
- (L) Samuel was born in Koppel on July 29, 1925 and died at the age of five years on July 23, 1930. He is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Beaver Falls with his father and mother.

(M) Rudolph Valentino was born in Koppel on September 7, 1927. Married Sherri Cioffi of New Castle, PA, who was born on February 11, 1935 on February 13, 1954. They had two sons and one daughter – Rudolph Lee, Frank Lindsey and Jayne Lynn.

### **1904-1905**

Koppel Car Company bought 350 acres of land from Charles Mount to build a plan to make steel railroad cars and built the town of Koppel, PA.

### **1906**

Our sister Josephine was born in Falls Creek on August 8, 1906.

Dad worked in Falls Creek at the Stone Quarry making building stones for new railroad bridges.

Koppel Car Company built: electric power plant, paving and sewers, hotels, stores, sold lots for \$250 to \$650, houses (single) and row houses. They also donated land for a school and city building.

### **1907-1908**

The Quarry's business went down, so they moved to Christian Street in Philadelphia. Where Dad worked, I don't know. Anthony Massa, our brother, was born here on August 11, 1907. In 1908, they moved back to Falls Creek. The Quarry got some new business.

### **1909-1917**

Dad worked in the Quarry in Falls Creek. Brother Henry was born on April 30, 1909, in Falls Creek. Sister Sylvia was born on December 17, 1910 in Falls Creek. Brother Frank was born on November 6, 1912 in Falls Creek. Manfred (me) was born on February 15, 1915 in Falls Creek. Brother Vincent was born on February 17, 1917 in Falls Creek. In 1917 we moved to Fifth Avenue in Koppel.

About 1912-1917: The street car service started thru Koppel; Route 18 was built; PA Railroad Station was completed; bridge over the Beaver River was built; Koppel School was built and Koppel Car Company Office Building was completed.

## **1918-1920**

While at Fifth Avenue (Old taylor shop) in Koppel, Dad had some small construction projects. Sister Erma was born on April 6, 1919. During Christmas, Dad made some mechanical toys operated by the spigot water in the sink.

Mother opened a candy and ice cream store in 1918. One day in 1920, I ate too much candy and my Father took me to Doctor Shields on Third Avenue.

While the Caiazza's lived on Sixth Avenue, our Mother, Maria Libera, had an ice cream and candy booth in front of their home when ball games occurred across the street. My Mother was hit by a "foul ball" once and she had a screen built around the booth for protection.

In 1918, the U.S. Government took possession of the factory that was shipping railroad cars through Mexico to Germany. After the War ended, the U.S. Government sold the complete property to Pressed Steel Car Company for \$1.3 Million. It was the first foreign owned property sold by the U.S. Government.

## **1921**

On March 7, 1921, John Samuel Massa (our brother) was born at our home on Fifth Avenue. His sponsor for baptism were Libro Fusco (Mother's cousin from Circello, Italy) and Philomena Barile. He was confirmed on May 10, 1934, at the Purification B.V. M. Catholic Church in Ellwood City by Reverend Galiano. No sponsor was named.

In 1921, Mother's cousins, Pepino, Gabriel, and Thomas Fusco moved from White Plains, New York to Green Street in Koppel. They all went back to Italy in 1923.

## **1922**

Anthony's Principal at the Koppel School, advanced him from the Seventh Grade to the Eighth Grade in one year. We were all proud of him!

## **1923**

We moved in Koppel from Fifth Avenue to 351 Third Avenue. Here my Mother had a small store. The Boro closed it down-residential area.

Brother Anthony went to Philadelphia. He received a Diploma in Architecture at the Spring Garden Institute. He stayed at the home of our first cousin Anthony Massa.

Our sister, Margaret was born on June 6, 1923 on Third Avenue.

After my Father finished building the McKee Women's Dormitory at Geneva College in

1923, he built two brick homes on the East Side and porches on Franklyn Avenue in Ellwood City. Dad also built a new brick porch for our home.

Our new home on 351 Third Avenue had gas lights which were replaced with electricity. We had a coal stove in the living room for heating the whole house. During the winter months we would gather around the stove where Dad and Mother would tell us Italian stories and they would also sing Italian songs and duets. Every year during “Carnival” (40 days before Easter) we would gather with friends and relatives to celebrate. Dad would play the piano, guitar, mandolin and violin so he and Mother entertained us. My Aunt Theresa Caizza would put on a man’s suit and hat and sing an Italian song.

Dad later had a central coal furnace installed to provide heat for the whole house which now included a new dining room and a kitchen on the first floor and two bedrooms on the second floor. Joe Leopardo, Sylvia’s husband, installed a circular water pipe in the furnace so we had hot water in the winter. Later on the coal furnace was replaced with a gas furnace, and Dad installed a gas water heater.

### **1924**

In the Twenties, a carnival and a medicine or minstrel show would come to Koppel. They used the vacant lot on Richard Street across from the City Building. They also used the second floor of the Kaplan Building on Fifth Avenue. Here I heard the song “Margie” for the first time. Koppel residents also rented the hall for dances. Henry played the saxophone for a combo.

### **1925-1926**

Our brother, Samuel was born on July 28, 1925. Josephine married Clifford Houk in 1925. Sylvia graduated from Lincoln High School in 1926. Dad built two brick porches and also built a new brick front on our old store on Fifth Avenue. In Koppel Dad bought a 1923 Overland Sedan. We really made good use of our first car. Dad also bought a truck for his work.

On February 5, 1926, my Father Emilio Massa became a U.S. Citizen on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence, Great! Good Citizen.

### **1927**

Anthony, Henry, Frank and Dad started The Company – Emilio Massa & Sons, Building Contractors. Of course I worked too during the summer months as a water boy and laborer. Dad would buy groceries at near-by stores for lunch. What a lunch – bread, cold cuts, vegetables, fruits and cakes – just like a picnic.

Henry built our first radio from a Mother’s Oats round box-called a Crystal Set. We had ear phones and listened to KDKA Music and News.

Dad and his sons worked on the following projects in Beaver Falls – most on Seventh Avenue:

1. Brick store front on lower Seventh Avenue.
2. Jake Weiner's Produce brick building on Sixth Street.
3. White Front Market brick building. Dad designed a new concrete and tile first floor.

Rudolph was born on September 7, 1927.

When brother Frank was in the Sixth Grade he had a part in a Chinese play called "Mickado." He sang a song with a straw hat in his hands that I partly remember-  
"Chip Chop, Chip Chop, Off Goes my Head  
Chip Chop, Chip Chop, I Wish I was Dead  
Something Must be Done Now ---Etc.

Dad bought a cement block machine for our garage on Third Avenue. The Boro closed it down - residential area.

### **1928**

We were going to the Koppel Grade School on Second Avenue. Connie and I were in the same Grades. We had four class rooms in the brick building and four "portable" buildings around the school for Grades One to Four. They used a house on Third Avenue for Kindergarten. The "portables" had coal stoves for heat. Our Principal was Mr. Muder. Our Teachers were - Mrs. McKinley, Miss McKinley and Miss McDaniel.

In the Eighth Grade, I had a song called "In The Red School House" for a play. After Eighth Grade Graduation we had a picnic at Beatty's School on Route 18. Connie and I were there.

In September 1928, Connie and I went to Lincoln High School in Ellwood City. In all the four years in high school, I never went to a study hall class. I went to the Drafting Class and completed a class on Drafting. My instructor, Mr. Schaffer, was very helpful in my study there. I also completed all the courses in Mathematics, Science and Business in high school.

Dad and his sons completed the following projects in Beaver Falls:

1. Underpinned an existing home and installed a new basement on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue;
2. Built a new home for John Gregory on 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **1929**

Things were pretty good in early 1929. My Father bought a new 1930 Buick Sedan and a new 1930 Chevy truck from "Zig" Sahli's Auto Dealer in Beaver Falls. My brothers made good use of the Buick for going to dances (at Morado Park, New Castle) and also for family chores. My Dad used the truck for his business, which was very good at this time.

Then came the Stock Market Crash in October 1929. Sylvia and Joe Leopardo (from

Chewton) were married on November 12, 1929.

### **1930**

Anthony and Lena Baroni were married on August 9, 1930. They had a bedroom in our home which Joe Listorti (a good friend) replastered. How we all slept in the remaining three bedrooms, I will never know.

Employment went down pretty fast. Many people were out of jobs. Hoover was President. Promised a “Chicken in Every Pot and a Car in Every Garage”!

Dad and his sons completed these projects in Beaver Falls:

1. Built a new brick front and remodeled the inside around 11<sup>th</sup> Street;
2. Built a new brick fence on the right side of Geneva College Football Field and added four foot on front.

### **1931**

In 1931, things were going down – Hoover was President. Depression started. Dad had a few jobs.

We had a large vegetable garden. Dad also had four or five bee hives. One hive had a glass window on the rear for seeing the bees work on the honeycombs. I usually made the new bee houses. In the spring Dad listened to hear if the new queen bee would sing at night – a sure sign that they would come out of the box the next day to form a new box. When they would swarm, we would throw ashes and water up to contain them. The queen would land on a branch in our yard and Dad would shake the hanging nest into a new box. In the fall, Dad would light sulfur in the entrance to kill the old box of bees to get the honey, which we gave to neighbors.

### **1932**

In May 1932, Connie and I graduated from Lincoln High School in Ellwood City. Connie was Third Honors and we are all proud of her. Evelyn McCarthy, from Koppel, asked Connie to accompany her to take a competitive test in bookkeeping. Connie decided to take the test too, and Connie received a \$2.00 Award for having the Highest Grade.

Connie was escorted to the high school Prom by Sam Neff, a star football player. Clara Petti, from Koppel, went with Eugene Cavalier. They all had a wonderful time. I was escorted to the prom by Rudolph Petti. My future Best Man! After Connie and I starting courting, we looked at Connie’s dance card and found my name on it! A good hint that some day in the future we would marry. I borrowed Henry’s suit for the Graduation and Prom.

In June 1932, my mother enrolled me to take a home study course in mechanical drafting with the International Correspondence School (I.C.S.). To this day I don’t know where she found the information. The course was complete with mathematics, mechanics,

machine design, and a final examination. They gave you a test at the end of each subject, graded it, and then you continued to the next subject. There were many mechanical drawings (which I saved) to complete and draw on ink tracings. In the wintertime I had my back on the warm chimney when I made my drawings. I completed the course in June 1934, a great achievement for my future positions.

On September 12, 1932, Anthony and Lena's son, Emilio was born, in Koppel. Emilio married Patty Petti on June 2, 1951, and they had three sons. Anthony born on July 27, 1952, Mark on July 17, 1954, and Randy on June 7, 1959. Emilio bought the Botte's Family home, in 1987 and remodeled it for Randy.

### **1933**

Roosevelt became President in March 1933. Many people out of work! Congress passes law to stop Prohibition. Beer brewers started selling beer and some states had liquor stores. Few people got work. Roosevelt states "Work Progress Administration" (W.P.A.), "Public Works Administration" (P.W.A.), and the "Civil Conservation Core" (C.C.C.).

The W.P.A. hired unemployed workers on local town projects as sewer, water, streets and roads. They hired unemployed workers who earned about \$25-\$30 per month.

The P.W.A. funded larger projects such as schools, fire stations, museums and city halls. Craftsmen were paid \$1 to \$2 per hour. I saved a book that lists most of these projects.

The C.C.C. hired unemployed young people to build parks, clean up forests and built camps for their own housing. They were paid \$30 per month.

Koppel, dug sewer lines on Third Avenue and on Sixth Avenue. Many unemployed people got jobs. Anthony, my brother, was the superintendent of all the work and dad was a foreman. Frank worked on the Koppel road to Ellwood, making big stones into small stones with a sledgehammer. You were required to do so many feet in one day! Frank usually finished his area and then helped others to finish.

The Koppel Car Co. got orders for 50 large hopper railroad cars and also had a contract to build steel concrete forms for tunnels and ditches for the Metropolitan District of Southern California to carry water from the mountains to Los Angeles. A P.W.A. project funded by the United States Government. I was hired in the pattern shop to help make the patterns for the hopper cars and steel form at 35 cents per hour. Of course most of my pay went to pay our water bill. I also hauled the coal for the heating stoves in a wheel barrow (about 400 feet from our building).

### **1934**

In June, 1934, I completed my home study course in Mechanical Drawing and received a diploma. I have a copy of the complete subjects and drawings in the course. My whole family was proud of me.

My dad bought the empty “Duntile Block Building” on Mount Street. I started a gasoline station in the front. Anthony and Lena converted the adjacent office building into an apartment.

Vince graduated from Ellwood High School with First Honors and was hired in the Koppel Car Co. office as a bookkeeper.

Frank got interested in boxing and formed the “Koppel Athletic Club. Henry and Frank built a rink and about 3 fights in the evening. We collected money, but the town closed us down - no permit.

Dad bought a large octagonal building shell, that was not completed, in Fallston, PA, and moved it to the “Duntile” lot in Koppel. We wanted to reassemble it and finish it into a boxing and skating rink. Dad and the boys only completed the roof and exterior walls. We now called it the “Massa Bowl.” The Depression was still with us so it was never completed.

### **1935**

Unemployment went down again in 1935.

Koppel Quarry starting making bridge stones. Dad and Henry worked there. I used the air-hammer for dad (no pay). Anthony worked for Cook & Anderson Construction Company.

### **1936**

Erma graduated from Ellwood High School.

Henry and Marge Clark were married and lived in New Brighton.

Connie and I both grew up in Koppel, attended elementary and high school at the same time, but we didn't meet until 1936 at an evening class in Italian where we shared a text book. Our first date was going on a dance boat ride on the Ohio River with Frank and Henry and their girl friends

I was hired at the Koppel plant office as a Draftsman Apprentice. I took this position to be near the Engineering Department.

I was only there about 6 months and left to work at Mathews Conveyer in Ellwood as a mechanical draftsman from September 1936 to January 1937. Charles Nardone talked to the Chief Engineer and I was hired. Charles was a good family friend and worked at Mathews as an Engineer in the Sales Department a long time. Bob Colaizza from Koppel worked as an Engineer at Mathews. Roger Mangerie and Silvia Mangerie, both from Koppel, also worked in the plant. Charles and Bob took me to work in their cars. The Chief Draftsman was Mr. Brodbeck (originally from West Pittsburgh) who was married to our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Koppel, Miss Martha McKinley. Brodbeck's secretary was

Mary Evelyn Christie, a good friend of Connie's who graduated with us from Lincoln High School in Ellwood. I was laid off in December 1936. Mr. Brodbeck told me about the Civil Service Mechanical Draftsman tests for the U.S. Government. I took the test and I made a grade of 95%, so I knew I would get a position somewhere.

Anthony worked for Cook and Anderson on a new school at Thiel College. Frank was a bricklayer on the new City Building in Ellwood City.

Connie was the Maid of Honor and I was the Best Man for Regis Fritz and Mildred's (who lived in Rochester) wedding whose family were good friends of the Bottes.

### **1937**

Connie worked for Western Union at the Koppel Car Co. until Jan. 1, 1937 when it closed. From January 1, 1937 to May 1, 1937, she worked at the Aliquippa Western Union Office. Mr. Jackson from Wampum, who worked at the Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp., picked Connie up at Koppel and took her home at night. From May 1, 1937 to July 6, 1939, Connie stayed at her Aunt Phil's house at 141 Winslow St., East Liberty, Pittsburgh, and worked for Western Union at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Office and downtown Pittsburgh. She left when we got married on July 6, 1939.

Anthony, Franky, Henry and dad built a stone house in Ford City, PA. On February 26, 1937, our mother, Maria, became a U.S. Citizen. I worked four months as a Mechanical Draftsman with the Bell Telephone Company and four months with Pennsylvania Power doing field inventory maps of equipment. My brother, John worked four months with Bell Telephone, collecting field data at the same time.

### **1938**

In May 1938, our brother, John graduated from Lincoln High School in Ellwood.

Anthony and Frank worked for contractors. Henry and Margie went to Washington, D.C. to work on a high school.

On March 1, 2 & 3, 1938, all machinery equipment of the Koppel Car Plant was sold at auction.

Frank and Mary Drugo got married on August 6, 1938 and I was the usher. They had no children.

### **1939**

In April, 1939, I started to work for Alvey-Ferguson Conveyor Co., at Oakley Station, Cincinnati, Ohio. I lived at the L. B. Harrison Club for \$7.00 a week, Room and 2 meals!

On Oct. 1, 1939 I started to work in the 19 ft. Pressure Tunnel Office Building at Langley Field. Our group consisted of Messick, Chief Draftsman, me, O'Brian, Horwith, Lehr, Marcus, Macomber, Snitker and about ten other Engineers and Draftsman. My salary at Langley was \$1800/Year salary when I started in 1939.

My brother, John with guitar and I sang "I Love You Truly" under Connie's window the night before we were married. Connie and I married on July 6, 1939, at the St. Theresa Church in Hoytdale. We had a small wedding. Connie's relatives from Milford, Conn. and (Sam's sister's and daughter) were on vacation at Connie's house. We went to Cincinnati, Ohio the next day, where I worked. We lived at 4015 Allston Street, Oakley Station Apartments.

My dad gave me a list of the Massa family ancestors to about the year 1800. He had a good memory. I have added to this family tree ever since and now have about 900 names on a roll, 2 feet wide and 14 feet long.

About August 1939, I received word that U.S. Civil Service had accepted a position, for a Mechanical Draftsman, for me at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (later NASA) at the Langley Field, Hampton, Virginia. We left Cincinnati about Oct. 1, 1939, and went to Hampton, VA by train.

When we first came to Hampton we lived on the first floor apartment on Elm Street for about a month. Henry was working in Washington, D.C. and Henry and Marge visited us. We had spaghetti – we moved to the Holiday Apartments on Queen Street.

Before Christmas of 1939, we arranged to go to Koppel with a friend, whose family lived in Pittsburgh. We stayed for Christmas and New Year's and had a good time visiting relatives.

## **1940**

In May 1940, I got a raise to \$1920/Year.

When I worked at Langley, we designed a 16 foot wind tunnel with air speeds of 500 miles per hour, two 7x10 foot tunnel at 300 miles per hour, Flight Research Building, Technical Services Building, and a Hanger all for our new Ames Lab in California. I also designed a complete Heating Plant for Langley.

While we were living in The Hampton Holiday Apartment on Queen Street, from Nov. 11, 1939 to Aug. 1, 1940, Connie was a temporary employee at the Western Union office.

In the Spring of 1940, we met Dominic Cutrie, who was in the Army stationed at Fort Monroe. The Cutrie family lived in Koppel, what a small world!

It was about June 1, 1940, that the Engineer in charge, Smitty DeFrance asked me and O'Brien to transfer to The Ames Lab. In Calif. Connie went to Koppel about July 1 and

attended my brother Vincent and Nellie Gregory's wedding on July 4, 1940, I left about July 25<sup>th</sup>. The next week, the Massa family had a nice "going away" picnic in Ellwood Ewing Park. We all had a good time, lots of pictures. We left for California about August 3, 1940, by O'Brien's automobile. We had arranged for Woody O'Brien to pick us up at Koppel.

We took Connie's mother to Chicago with us. We stopped at the Black Hills, saw the Presidents at Mt. Rushmore, and visited Yellowstone National Park. We arrived in Mountain View, Calif., a small town about 3 miles from The Ames Lab, about Aug. 8, 1940.

Here we rented a room at a motel on El Camino Real. We stayed at the motel for about a month. Then we rented an apartment at Mountain View-916 Villa Street for \$29.00/month. Gene and Frances Braig, Mark and June Green lived there too. It had a living room with an in-a-door bed, a dining room and a kitchen. About a month after we came to California, the office had a get together picnic. Somehow I got poison oak and stayed home for 2-3 days.

I was the Assistant Chief Draftsman \$2300/yr salary, under Mr. Snitker. We had about 15 men in our group. John Macomber was in our group. At Ames we were designing the Full Scale Tunnel, largest wind tunnel ever built, that had a 40 by 80 feet Test Section where full size fighter airplanes would be tested. We designed numerous buildings to be built at Ames. We also were designing an Altitude Wind Tunnel for a new research laboratory to be built in Cleveland, Ohio.

The complete staff took a picture in front of the flight research building. You can see me in the picture in the back titled "Adventures in Research" page 28. I am on the Second row behind Smitty DeFrance, our Engineer in charge, about half of the staff came from Langley.

In the Fall of 1940, I was taking night Defense courses in Mechanical Engineering at Stanford and the University of Santa Clara. Connie worked some holidays for Western Union in San Jose. They asked Connie if she wanted a job in Sun Valley, Idaho. No Way!

On December 15, 1940, I received a phone call from Koppel that my Father Emilio Massa had died. Dad was 63 years old.

I decided to go to Koppel for the funeral. Mr. DeFrance, our Chief Engineer, brought me to a local bank in Mountain Vie to borrow \$400.00 to make the trip. I flew on a DC3 United Air Line "Sleeper Plane" out of San Francisco. Very few "sleeper planes" were ever built. We stopped at Salt Lake City, Omaha, and Chicago. We didn't fly very high because I could see the trees and snow from my bunk. I then took another plane from Chicago to Pittsburgh. Dad was kept in our home for the viewing. I got the usual annual flu bug in Koppel and had to stay an extra week. I returned to Mountain View by train and arrived on January 2, 1941. Connie stayed with Gene and Frances Braig in Palo Alto while I was gone.

## 1941

In the spring of 1941, I took three courses at San Jose State – Navigation, Aircraft Engines and Meteorology, to qualify me to learn how to fly an airplane. The U.S. Air Force wanted to train pilots to fly D.C.'s into China. I made one of the three highest grades so I started to fly a Piper Cub at the Palo Alto Airport. I went up three times, got seasick three times, so I quit.

In the summer of 1941, Connie went to Koppel with our landlady and son. They were going to New York to visit relatives. They drove all night, no motels. Connie stayed for a week and they picked her up at Koppel on their way back.

I also applied for a transfer to the new research laboratory being started in Cleveland by the NACA. It was closer to our families in Koppel so we thought it was a good idea. My transfer was accepted and I was to leave on December 15, 1941.

We had gone to church on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> and came home. My friend Mark Green told me “Do you have your gun all ready to go” he said the Japanese had just bombed Pearl Harbor this morning.

We had 8 days before we left for Cleveland. There were many blackouts and rumors about the Japanese were going to invade the San Francisco area. Connie and June Green went to the movies on Monday night and came home early because an air raid alarm was sounded! Those alarms were going on all week.

I went to work at Moffit Field on Monday, all the planes at the Field were scattered all over. Of course the rumors did not turn up but we had a frantic anxiety all week.

We left San Francisco on December 15, 1941 by train to Cleveland. I took 2 weeks leave and went to Koppel. I bought a 1939 Plymouth-2 Door Sedan in Beaver Falls, so had our first car.

John and Margaret worked at the Babcock and Wilcox Tube Co. Anthony, Henry, Frank and John Beatrice work at Kabota Plant near Midland. Kabuta made synthetic rubber.

## 1942

We went back to Cleveland on Jan. 2, 1942 and we rented an apartment in Olmstead Falls. I started to work in the hanger where they had built temporary offices for us. There were quite a few people there from Langley and included all the old office personnel I worked with.

We lived in the apartment for one month and the moved into an apartment on West 159<sup>th</sup> Street in Cleveland. Here Joanne Marie, our first child, was born on July 7, 1942. My Brother Anthony was the Godfather and Margaret Baldovich, our maid of honor, was the Godmother for Baptism. Aunt Lena, Anthony's wife, confirmed Joanne. We had visitors from Koppel and we went to Koppel quite often. Our John and Gerald Caiazza visited

us.

The U.S. Army and England defeated the Germans in North Africa.

Brother John tried to enlist in the Civilian Pilot Program but was rejected because his vision was not – 20-20. He ate carrots for two weeks, again eyes were no good. He enlisted in the Army Air Force on October 17, and was sent to Fort Meade, MD., and then to Miami, Florida. (A family friend, Rockcliff Fritz, Rochester, PA) was with him. On November 6, 1942, he went to Sioux Falls, South Dakota for Radio School. Here he met Bob Kelker also from Rochester.

Brothers and John Beatrice continued to work at Kabuto as bricklayers.

### 1943

The Altitude Wind Tunnel Office Building was completed in early 1943 and Al Young, me and a group of Engineers and Draftsmen moved out of the hanger. In May, a group of recent Aeronautical Engineer graduates, Saari, Perone, Valerino, George Darchuck and many others came to work there. I realized that I would be working eventually under these engineers.

So, in the Fall of 1943, I started to go to Fenn College (Cleveland State University) at night to get a college degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Brother, John finished Radio School at Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He was sent to Las Vegas, Nevada for Gunnery School with Bob Kelker. Then to Pyote, Texas and Dyersburgh, Tennessee for combat training. He returned to Koppel on leave from August 20 to 26. We had many get-togethers with the family and Bob Kelker came to dinner. John went back and flew to England in a B-17 airplane, arriving about September 5<sup>th</sup>. The U.S. Army invaded Southern Italy and defeated the Germans there.

They had some combat training in Framingham, England, and then John went on his first mission on October 4 to Frankfurt and he wrote that he had no injury “to his personal self”! Nine-hour flight.

He went on his second mission on October 8 to Bremen and wrote that it was a rough ride! Three B-17’s lost.

On his third and last mission on October 10<sup>th</sup>, they went to Munster to bomb the important railroad yards there. This was a large raid and a large amount of B-17’s went from all parts of England. John’s plane did not have a name. They delayed the raid a few times and finally left. The Germans by now knew they were on their way and assembled a large amount of ME 109’s that carried a cannon in its front. As the B-17’s flew by, they shot their cannons at the large fleet and it was a disaster. In John’s group of 32 planes, only 3 or 4 returned. After they had dropped the bombs and were on their return to England, at 3:15 pm. John’s plane was hit by a cannon shell in the cabin. The plane

broke in two parts and only the tail gunner – Bob Cole survived. The plane fell in Belgium. We never found out if anyone came down in the plane.

We received a letter that John was buried at the United States Military Cemetery in Neuville-en-Condroz, Belgium.

On December 3, 1943, the Koppel Car Co. sold at auction all the remaining estate that consisted of 3 buildings, 45 dwellings, 384 lots and 343 acres to Greenberg and Lebowitz from Ellwood City for about \$24,000.

### 1944

Mother, Margaret, Rudy and Vince tried to get information about John's last mission. They talked to all parents of the crew but found out nothing.

Manfred still went to Fenn College and the brothers were working at the Kabuta and M. E. Beyer's Plant in Ambridge.

Vince wrote me a letter and said he was classified 2B – Married with dependent children.

Clyde Houk had a physical to enlist in the Army. He was not accepted, his breathing was impaired due to a bent nose. He had an operation, reenlisted and was accepted. He went to Patton's Third Army until the end of the war in Germany.

Rudy had a physical to go into the Army. He was rejected because he had an erratic heart beat.

On June 6, 1944, the allies invaded France at Normandy, and thus started the Western Front.

On August 31, 1944, Abe Silverstein asked me and Mr. Tucker, a physicist to design a Guided Pilotless Aircraft Missile to carry a 4000-pound explosive charge into Germany with a range of about 420 miles. The U.S. Defense Department wanted to mass-produce the missile to bomb Germany. This was to counteract Germany's V-1 Buss Bomb that was bombing England. The Defense Department representatives came to Cleveland and reviewed our design. They were greatly impressed by their review and returned to Washington, D.C. with copies of our design. They didn't go into mass production of the missile because in the end of 1944 they realized that the end of the war with Germany was not far away.

On October 10, 1944, Mr. Silverstein had me design the first original full scale Ramjet Engine. It had a 14-inch inlet and a variable exit nozzle from 13-inch to 20-inch and was nine feet long. We fabricated the engine and tested it in the altitude tunnel with full instrumentation.

About Christmas time 1944 the Germans started the "Battle of the Bulge" in France, against the Allies. They didn't succeed and had to retreat back into Germany. Clyde Houk survived this battle with his friend Joe Molino, from Philadelphia. They

were in Patton's Third Army.

## 1945

In early 1945, John Macomber, Larry Marcus, Seashore and I started to design the 8-foot by 6-foot supersonic wind tunnel for Cleveland. On April 15, 1945, I completed the design of the largest axial flow seven stage compressor for the tunnel. I designed all the turbine rotor and stator blades. The compressor compressed the flow of the air into the tunnel at supersonic speeds. The entrance was 17'-18" inside diameter with rotor and stator blades 2'-3" high. The exit was 16'-2" inside diameter with rotor and stator blades 1'-6" high. The compressor was 19'-8" long.

Gene and Frances Braig moved into a new Government housing project on West 66 Street called "Brooklyn Acres." We rented a townhouse there at 4372 West 66 Street on March 1, 1945.

The Allies and Russia invaded Germany, who surrendered on May 8, 1945.

The U.S. Army in Germany celebrated for a month and then started to train the troops for the war in the Japan area. They built a firing range in a valley, where high-tension electrical cables were above the firing line. A soldier decided to shoot through the cables, but hit one and it fell on the exposed telephone lines on the ground.

Clyde Houk was on the telephone at this time, and received the high electrical shock. He and about 20 other soldiers died. What a tragedy! His friend Joe Molino was not there, but he gave the Houk Family a lot of information of what happened.

Manfred continued his college education at Fenn. Rudy graduated from Lincoln High School in Ellwood in May and started to go to Geneva College in Beaver Falls in September. He selected a three-year at Geneva and a two-year at Carnegie-Mellon College in Pittsburgh to get a Mechanical Engineering degree. Rudy was a "cheer leader" at Geneva for three years.

Japan surrendered on August 14, 1945 after two atomic bombs were dropped on their cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Josephine "Dolly" Fusco (A Wave in the Navy was stationed in Cleveland) and Ray Petti (Navy) were married at the Catholic Cathedral in Cleveland on November 6, 1945. Connie and Manfred were the Matron of Honor and Best Man. Dolly had a beauty shop at her home on Fifth Avenue in Koppel. Raymond worked for Babcock and Wilcox Tube Company in the Purchasing Department in Beaver Falls.

## 1946-1949

Our second daughter, Frances Corinne was born on May 1, 1946. Uncle Paul and Aunt Margaret were her God Parents while we lived on West 66 Street in Cleveland, Ohio. Aunt Rita confirmed Frances when we lived in Chippewa.

In 1946, Anthony, Henry and Frank started "Massa Brothers" Construction Company in Beaver Falls. Business was good. They bought about 4 acres behind the Beaver Falls High School from Joe Blinn. Built an office and warehouse there and sold builder's supplies.

They also bought 7 building lots in West Mayfield. Anthony, Henry and Frank built their houses there in 1946.

The brothers' completed these projects from 1946-1948:

1. Building extension to the German Club in Beaver Falls;
2. A store building across the street from Beaver Falls High School;
3. A new front on the Farkas Grocery building in Beaver Falls;
4. A large soaking galvanizing pit at J&L in Aliquippa.

In 1948, we had the funerals for brother John and nephew Clyde Houk. Bob Kelker came to John's funeral and Joe Molino came for Clyde's. They were both buried at the Veterans Area in Chippewa, in the Beaver Falls Cemetery.

Manfred and Rudy continued their engineering education.

On October 16, 1948, Margaret married Richard Marinucci and moved to Philadelphia.

In early 1948, Abe Silverstein, the Director at NACA had me design the original 16" Supersonic Ram Jet Missile. They tested the missile in the 8-foot by 6 foot Supersonic Tunnel. (I helped in the design of this tunnel earlier) and eventually built about 25 of these missiles for flight-testing. They attached the missile to a new carriage we designed in the bomb bay of a B-29 Bomber Plane. As the B-29 reached a certain altitude, the missile was lowered out of the bomb bay, the ram jet engine was started, and the missile attained a speed of 1500 miles per hour. A very high speed at this time. The testing was done over the NACA Research Station at Wallops Island, VA.

New cars were hard to buy after the war ended. You had to put a down payment to the dealer and wait for a new car. I finally got out 1948 Pontiac.

While we lived in Booklyn Acres, my brothers and relatives came to Cleveland every year to see the Cleveland Air Races at the Airport. We had a great fun weekend. Connie and the children visited in Koppel.

On October 16, 1948, sister Margaret and Richard Marinucci were married at the St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Koppel. It was a beautiful wedding and reception at Joe's Restaurant in Beaver Falls. Many relatives from Philadelphia attended. They moved to Philadelphia. Marie, a daughter was born in Philadelphia on Feb. 19, 1951. She married Mark Segal, M.D. in 1974 and they have two daughters: Sara and Jessica. Marie and Mark graduated from Ohio State University and now live in Columbus, Ohio. Richard, a son, was born in Philadelphia on July 14, 1953. He married Terri Rossi and they have two daughters: Theresa and Mary Ann, and one son Nicholas. They live in Columbus,

Ohio.

In 1948, I bought a building lot at “Riverview Ranches” in Parkview, close to the NACA where I worked. I had a large vegetable garden for several years. Ten members of “Riverview Ranches” all NACA employees bought the original 20 acres and subdivided them into thirty lots, and sold them.

### **1950**

Manfred and Rudy both graduated from college in May, 1950, getting identical degrees as a “Mechanical Engineer,” I went to Fenn College (now Cleveland State) for 7 years. Rudy went to Geneva College and Carnegie Mellon for 5 years. I was 35 and Rudy was 23 years old. Abe Silverstein, Friedman, Rudy, Vince, Anthony and Frank came to our house. We had a big celebration in Koppel and Cleveland. June Marcus, our friend, wrote a poem to Connie “Daddy Goes to College – Mother Stays Home” etc.

Manfred was working at NACA in Cleveland. Manfred had Rudy apply for a job there, and he was hired to do rocket research. Rudy and Mother left Koppel in June and moved to a duplex in the Lakewood area in Cleveland. They rented their house in Koppel.

I started to build our ranch house at 5871 West 217 Street, in Parkview, Ohio in August. Anthony, Henry, Frank, Vincent, Rudy and Nick Caiazza (was on vacation) came on Saturday and Sunday. The basement was completed and we had a good time – all the brothers working together. By Thanksgiving, with a weekend help by Tony Scopellite (Rita’s husband), the rough house shell and roof was completed with all outside windows and doors. Our daughter, Frances, four years old, helped on the roofing!!! The house had three bedrooms, one and a half bathrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen with a breakfast area and a full basement.

### **1951-1954**

Early 1951, Fred Valerino (my friend) completed the plumbing, heating and electrical work after we put in the concrete basement floor, garage and driveway. Connie and I put up all the sheet rock for the plastering. Scopellite made kitchen cabinets. Anthony and Emilio, his son, came on a weekend and did all the stone front and stone chimney. Connie and I put in all the hardwood floor, bathroom tile, linoleum, some doors and oak trim. Joe Leopardo came and finished hanging doors and trim. I started the outside brickwork and built the marble firm floor fireplace. We moved in the house on August 1, 1951.

The Saari’s, Braig’s, Halls, Englishes and other all started building their homes too. Rudy and I built a manhole for the “Riverview Acres Co.,” and Rudy helped others to build their basement and fireplaces.

Rudy and I built other masonry chimneys and brick veneered a home in the Cleveland area.

Marie, daughter of Margaret and Richard was born on February 19, 1951.

Our son, John Samuel (named for our brother whom we lost in World War Two) was born in our new home in Park View on March 10, 1952. His God Parents for Baptism were Uncle Frank and Aunt Rita. Bill Ebersberger (Aunt Mary Lou's husband), was John's sponsor for Confirmation.

I continued to finish the outside brickwork in 1952 and 1953, also was doing a lot of design work at NACA.

In early 1953, Rudy quit the NACA and went to work for a contractor who was building Federal housing in downtown Cleveland.

On July 14, 1953, Richard Marinucci, Junior, was born.

On October 13, 1953, our Mother Maria Libera Fusco Massa died in Cleveland. She was 64 years old and was born on May 2, 1889 in Morcone, Italy. She is buried with our Father and our brother Samuel in the Saint Mary's Cemetery in Chippewa.

During the Fall of 1953, Massa Brothers were remodeling a church and were building a stone front on the Armory in New Brighton.

On January 27, 1954, our brother Henry died in West Mayfield. He was 45 years old and was born on April 30, 1909, in Falls Creek, PA. He is buried at the Saint Mary's Cemetery in Chippewa. He married Marge Clark from New Brighton, in 1936. Henry and Marge adopted daughter Linda who lives in Delrico, Florida.

On February 13, 1954, Rudy married Sherry Cioffi from New Castle, PA. Rudy moved back to Beaver Falls and joined Massa Brothers. Rudy and Sherry's first son, Rudolph Lee who lives in Pittsburgh, was born on June 24, 1955. He married Kristan Haney and they have a son, Jason, born on October 7, 1986 and a daughter, Nina born on April 8, 1988. Frank, Rudy and Sherry's second son, was born on August 24, 1957 and died on January 12, 1994. Rudy's daughter, Jayne Lynn, was born on January 8, 1962, married Michael Koneval on September 7, 1989, and they have a son, Adam Michael, born on June 26, 1990. Jayne lives in Boardman, Ohio.

After Henry died, the Massa Brothers wanted me to join Massa Brothers. I was granted a 1 ½ years of leave from NACA, and moved to Beaver Falls. Connie and the children stayed in Cleveland. I went back to Cleveland every two weeks.

## **1955**

The Massa Brothers Company was formed. Anthony was President, Frank was Vice President, I was Second Vice President, Vince was Secretary and Rudy was Chief Engineer. Margaret and Richard Marinucci purchased a home in West Mayfield. Richard was our Chief Estimator. Dan Nicely, our Chief Superintendent was an uncle to

Arnold Palmer, the best golfer for a long time. Dan took us to the Mellon Rolling Rock Steeple Chases once a year. We visited Arnold Palmer's home, but he was out on a golf tournament.

Anthony, Frank, Rudy, Vincent and Richard did all the estimating. My duties were to sign all sub-contractors, assign men to projects, order material, solve construction problems and defend Massa Brothers in court. Anthony and Frank co-coordinated the construction and visited the projects. Well-balanced company!!!

I resigned my position at NACA Cleveland in early 1955. We sold our house in Cleveland and rented a house in Beaver Falls about August 1, 1955. We purchased two lots on Blackhawk Road in Chippewa from Hay Lockeridge and we built our ranch home 95 feet long, on one lot. We moved in on May 1, 1957 at 558 Blackhawk Road, Chippewa. I contracted out all the exterior work including electric, plumbing and heating. Connie and I and Joe Leopardo (sister Sylvia's husband) did all the interior construction.

Massa Brothers Company had plenty of construction projects from 1955 to 1965. We built banks, churches, schools and office buildings. We hired about 6 or 7 superintendents and totally employed about 50 people. Nick Fusco was our Chief Laborer Foreman. Most projects were in New Castle, Ellwood City, Beaver Falls, Rochester, Monaca and Aliquippa. Our largest projects were a complete elementary and high school in Green Township (new Midland), a Five Star apartment building in Rochester and a new Rochester Hospital. We also did all the masonry work at the First New Civilian Atomic Energy Plant near Midland.

### **1956-1963**

In 1956, the brothers and sisters formed a Massa Club. We had several meetings, with meals, at rotating homes every month. We had big celebrations on holidays and often had dinners out with visits to baseball and football games. We also sponsored an annual Massa Reunion, usually on the last Saturday of July. We furnished all the food for lunch and dinner. We had as high as 200 people at one reunion. Our relatives all came from Philadelphia and Bellaire, Ohio. We played "Boci," poker games and the sisters always had an act for entertainment. I was in charge of the annual group pictures, which I took with my press camera. Bias and Rose Greco, the Marinucci's and Mike Massa (from Bellaire, Ohio) were our regular visitors.

In 1956 I bought my first Cadillac Seville Sedan, a beautiful car.

In 1956, Connie and I went to Florida for two weeks. Josephine and Joe Botte stayed with our children at our rental home in Beaver Falls. We stayed at the Allison Hotel where Eddy Massa worked. We went to the Greyhound Race Track. On the final race a horse named "Connie's Pal" was a long shot and Connie only bet a few dollars on it, and to everyone's surprise, the horse came in first!!! Connie said that she should have placed a larger bet on the horse!!! We had a good time with Eddy and Jerry, his wife, and we saw a lot of beautiful areas there at Palm Beach, Disney World and Venice, Florida.

On Oct. 27, 1958, our mother, Connie bore her last child. His name was Henry Emilio. My dad saw him and he said that he had dark hair just like his. That sweet little baby was never able to see the light of day, but he will remain in our hearts forever. He is especially remembered on the day of his birth and death. He will always be a part of our family. He is in the "Angel Cemetery" section of St. Mary's Cemetery in Beaver Falls, PA. (Written by his sister, Frances).

From 1957 until 1971, Frank, Anthony and I went fishing in Eagle Lake in Ontario, Canada. We caught a lot of Muskies, Bass and Walleys, but Frank always caught the most and largest fish. Frank was an expert on fishing. In the early years, before refrigeration, they cut blocks of ice from the lake and stored it in their sawdust building. They also made wooden fishing boats.

In 1960, I took a course in Civil Defense "Fallout Shelter Analysis" and was made the Beaver County Engineer for Civil Defense. We surveyed sites for shelters and stocked them with water and supplies in case of a war.

In 1961, I was elected President of the Beaver County Chapter of Professional Engineers.

In 1961, Anthony and Lena, Frank and Mary, Manfred and Connie, Vincent and Nellie, Rudy and Sherry all went to President Kennedy's Inauguration and Ball in Washington, D.C. We had a great vacation together for one week. We were on television and some of our relatives from Koppel and Beaver Falls saw us.

## **1964**

Our first daughter, Joanne Marie started 1<sup>st</sup> Grade in Cleveland – St. Angela Merici Catholic School in 1948 and finished Seventh Grade in 1955. For Eighth Grade she went to Saint Mary's Catholic School in Beaver Falls and then went to Mt. Gallitzin Catholic School for her freshman year in high school. She then went to Beaver Falls High School for her Second to Fourth year and graduated in 1960. Joe Nameth was the quarterback for the football team. Joanne worked for Massa Brothers for one year as a secretary. She then went to Washington, D.C. on Veteran's Day, November 11, 1961 to work for NASA. She lived with "Pepsie" and Helen on Connecticut Avenue. Here she met Rick Pinette from Fort Kent, Maine, who was visiting a friend from Fort Kent. Rick was in the Army from 1960-1963 and was living with the Fern and Sam Myers family in Oakton. Fern's son (by her first marriage) Jim Pifer was a friend of Rick's while he was in the Army. Rick worked for Trovato Electric for one year and then he started to work for Bowden Electric Company in 1964, where he is still employed in Centreville, Va. Joanne and Rick were engaged in 1964.

In 1964, the Massa Brothers, wives and children took group pictures at a studio in Beaver Falls.

Ineke van Engelen, a foreign exchange student from Holland, lived with us from August of 1963 until May of 1964. Our Frances and Ineke graduated from Beaver Falls High

School in 1964 and went to the Senior Prom with dates. Frances's date was Tom Skabo and she still keeps in touch with him and his family. He just became a "grandfather" for the first time almost two years ago. Ineke has visited us every 2 to 3 years for the Thanksgiving holiday and for her class reunions.

Our son, John, in 1964, built a racing car to compete in the Beaver Falls Soap Box Derby and received a really nice trophy for coming in "Second." He also competed in 1965 and received a trophy that year too. Ineke and Rick attended the 1964 races. The car had "Massa Brothers" painted on its sides. We took pictures of John and his dog "Rusty" with John in his racing car. "Rusty" was taught many tricks. When we moved to Vienna, Connie and I both worked. Actually, Connie started working in 1970, when John was attending Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. So, that's when we gave "Rusty" to a farmer, so he could have more room to "roam around."

### **1965**

About April 17, 1965, we had a beautiful wedding shower in our home for Joanne and Rick Pinette. All relatives were invited. Richard and Margaret (my sister) decorated a water can and an umbrella. The night before the wedding, Joanne was serenaded. Joanne and Rick were married on April 24, 1965 (same day as Grandma and Grandpa Botte were married) at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Beaver Falls. Our Frances was Joanne's Maid of Honor and Rick's brother, John was his Best Man and our John was the altar boy. We took video pictures of the whole wedding. Relatives from Bellaire and Philadelphia were invited as well as Connie's relatives from Pittsburgh. June and Larry Marcus and the Marty and Toni Saari came too. It was a beautiful wedding with cocktails and dinner at the Caravan Restaurant in New Castle. They lived at the McLean Gardens Apartment in Washington, D.C., until 1966. Then they moved to an apartment in Vienna, VA.

Here their first daughter, Michelle, was born on March 20, 1967. Joanne worked at NASA until 1967 when she bought a home in Manassas, VA. Their second daughter, Denise, was born there on September 24, 1969, and their only son, Philip, was born on December 1, 1976. Rick and Joanne bought six acres in Delaplane, VA., and built a house. They moved into their home in August, 1987. Joanne started to work for the U.S. Social Security Administration in 1983 in Manassas and then in 1995 transferred to Winchester, VA, which was closer to her home. Rick's electric company had electrical contracts in Africa, Europe, Russia and Asia, so Rick did a lot of traveling once a month, from 1995 and is still traveling.

In 1965, my cousin Gerald Caiazza, had a painted portrait of our Dad. This is an excellent painting.

### **1966-1967**

I had mentioned earlier that Massa Brothers Construction Company had lots of projects from 1955 to 1965. Well, in 1965, it seemed that there weren't any more large projects in construction. Vincent, Rudy, Anthony and Frank bought a large amount of business property, and we left Anthony and Frank to manage the real estate. Vincent and Rudy

went to work for developers in Youngstown, Ohio. Rudy later went to work for Aluminum Company of America, where he worked for 20 years before he retired.

I wanted to return to the U.S. Civil Service, so I accepted a Mechanical Engineer position with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland on or about July 1, 1966. We moved to a rental home for one year at 206 Yeonas Drive in Vienna, VA and then in 1967 we bought our home at 1110 Lakewood Drive in Vienna where we now live. My first position at NIH was for engineering and monitoring Federal construction grants to medical schools who built health research facilities, nursing schools and dental schools. I also was assigned to do all of the engineering reviews for construction projects in all of the extramural; thirteen or so, institutes of N.I.H. I made engineering reviews, cost estimates and design reviews. On one of the projects, I was the Construction Officer for an "Artificial Heart and Test-Evaluation Facility" built in Salt Lake City, Utah. I had to approve the land purchase, cost and design. This was for the Heart Institute. This was a heavy load, but I survived. I was made Chief of the Mechanical Engineers Section in 1967. I traveled to most of the medical schools in the United States. In 1970, I was assigned to the National Cancer Institute for the "War on Cancer." Here we did work similar to before, but we reviewed cancer facilities only. My projects at the medical schools and others were Dartmouth, Brown, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Harvard, Yale, Tufts, Columbia, Rosewell Park, University of Pennsylvania, Temple, Jefferson, Fox Chase, Rockefeller, Ohio State, Saint Anthony's Hospital, Penn State, University of Alabama, Duke, North Carolina State, University of Florida, University of Texas, M. D. Anderson, Texas Medical Hospital, Tulane, Baylor, University of Michigan, University of Nevada, University of Washington, Oregon State, University of California/Los Angeles, San Diego), Salk Institute, University of Southern California, and Saint Jude's where I met Danny Thomas and the opera singer Margaret Piazzzi. Who sings the National Anthem at the Liberty Bowl Football Game.

Connie took a typing and shorthand course at night in Fairfax County, VA. She passed a Civil Service test and was hired in December 1970 at the NIH Cancer Institute by Janie Barkley. She retired in 1976. Mrs. Barkley and Connie have been good friends for a long time.

In my work at NIH I met four Nobel Prize Winners in Medicine: Dr. Salk, Dr. Laury, Dr. Watson and Dr. Baltimore. They are worldwide winners known around the world.

I also had a project as the Contract Officer for a new cancer research center. The U.S.A. funded, at the World Health Center in Lyonne, France. I made two trips there in 1978 and 1980 with Mr. Simpson. Connie came with me in 1980 with Mr. and Mrs. Simpson.

In June 1967, Connie, John, Frances and I went on a three weeks vacation to Europe. We flew from Washington/Dulles Airport to London.

In London we visited the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square and many other sites.

We then flew to Holland to see our Dutch student, Ineke Van Engelen and her family. Mr. Van Engelen, Ineke's Father, a chief cook at a large restaurant, made a delicious dinner

for us of Dutch food. We met Ineke's boyfriend, Ruud. We also visited Amsterdam.

We left Holland and flew to Paris. Here we had a bus tour of Paris and saw many sites. We had lunch on the Champs d'Elysie, visited a beautiful church, Sacre Coeur and a close park where we saw many artists painting and selling their wares. The park is called "Mont Martre."

From Paris, we flew to Milan, Italy, where the largest train station is located. We had a bus tour and saw many beautiful old churches and cemeteries.

From Milan we flew to Florence, where signs were still visible for the damage done by the Arno River flood in 1966. We visited many beautiful old churches, one had the coffin of Puccini (the write of opera's – La Boheme, Madam Butterfly and others) displayed in a wall, and one new church built of marble on the outside. We visited the Medici Museum where hundreds of old paintings were displayed and the statue of "David" by Michael Angelo. The Museum was the original home of the Medici's who were a very rich family, with a beautiful large home well decorated. From Florence we went to Pisa with a bus and saw the Leaning Tower, The Baptistery and Church. We only went there for a day and returned to our hotel in Florence. We had learned previously that there was a Massa Restaurant on the outskirts of Florence. We called them, made reservations and they sent a station wagon four our trip to, and back. It was a beautiful old mansion out in the suburbs and we had an enjoyable dinner.

From Florence we flew to Rome where we had a bus tour of the beautiful city. We saw the Spanish Steps, the Victor Emanuel statute, the Trevi Fountain, Rome Aqueduct, The Forum, The Coliseum, and the Old City of Rome. We also spent a lot of time at the Vatican where we saw the interior of the Saint Peter's Church, The Michael Angelo statue of "Mother and Child," Saint Peter's Tomb and Chains, and the beautiful church altar. We were highly impressed with all these beautiful artifacts, well preserved.

From Rome we flew to Naples where we hired a driver and car. We went to Pompeii, Mount Vesuvius (John went to the top of Mount Vesuvius), down the Amalfi Drive to beautiful Sorrento. We had a bus tour of Naples and saw many different areas of interest. We had a dinner on the Naples Bay where all of our relatives boarded the ships to America.

We rented a car at Naples and we left to visit Connie's cousins and relatives. We drove through Caserta to Formicola where Connie's Mother Theresa was born on November 24, 1895. It was raining so we didn't stay too long. We drove through the town which was a very small area. We then went to Piedimonte d'Alife where we met Connie's cousin Julia, Sam Botte's niece, who had stayed in Italy. We visited other relatives. One had a tailor shop in town and one lived on top of a hill, where a man in a truck loaded with small pigs was selling them. We then went to Faicchio, the town where Connie's Father, Sam Botte was born on October 12, 1890. Connie's Father always talked about a spring in the center of town, the old castle, the Catholic convent, his school, the orphanage that he donated money to, the nuns, and the convent on the hill that Sam delivered mail to. We saw all these places, and visited the nuns. We had dinner at a

cousin's home who had a drug store in town. In Vienna at a Welcome Wagon dinner, a Mary Lubic asked Connie where her parents came from? Connie said "Oh a small town in Italy called Faicchio. The lady said "That's the town I came from!"

We invited the lady to visit us when Connie's Father and Mother came to Vienna. We had them together for lunch and they all had a good time talking about Fiacchio. Mary Lubic's Father had a gun shop in Fiacchio that Sam visited when he was there. On a visit that Sam went to see his brother, John in New Haven, CT., one year, his brother told Sam that he wanted Sam to meet a friend of his who once lived in Faicchio, and who owned a hotel in New Haven. Well, it turned out that the friend was Mary Lubic's Father, Mother and family, what a small world! They had a nice visit talking about Faicchio. Mary Lubic gave us many pictures of Faicchio when she visited there.

We then left Faicchio and traveled to see our Fusco and Massa relatives. We drove through a town called Pontelandolfo where my Grandmother, Philomena Casaccio Massa came from. Why we didn't stop and inquire about the Casaccio family I'll never know. We continued to drive to a town named "Fusco."

Francesco Fusco (my Mother's Father) and wife Philomena Steffaneli (my Mother's Mother) visited her sister in Ancone, Italy), had nine children: Josephine, Thomas, Maria Libera, Mike (lived in Argentina), Angelina, Nick, Adelina, Ernest and Luigia. The sons and daughters had many children and grand children. Nick Fusco visited Italy two times to see his parents. My Mother and Father never returned to Italy.

On the way to the town of Fusco, we stopped to ask directions from a construction crew working on the highway. They said "your Aunt told us to look out for you" and they gave us directions. On our way, we stopped at a service station to get gasoline. The owner asked us if we were from America? They were relatives of the Rosoretta's (they were friends of Sam Botte) from Beaver Falls. What a small world! We finally arrived at the Fusco residence, where we met my Aunt Angelina. She had added a two-floor extension in front of the old homestead. She lived in an apartment on the first floor and had a store, lunch counter, garage and stock room on the first floor. At the store, very little cash money was used. It was a barter system where people gave my Aunt eggs in exchange for groceries. The Aunt would keep the eggs until she had a truckload to sell in Naples. The old homestead was vacant and very clean but had very little furniture. Three rooms had beds for rent to travelers. We saw many things my Mother always talked about: The old tile stove my Dad built. It was about 8 foot long on a sidewall. They had an opening at the bottom and a hole on top for cooking. They were the same type we saw at Pompeii; the home made trunk; the old wine bottles; the garden; the school; the farm; and the ground that was willed to my Mother. They also had gasoline pumps. We also visited the summer home in Morcone (about 10 miles away) which the Fusco's also used at the birth of their children.

Menine Narcisco married Anthony Paternostre and they had a daughter Angela and two sons Luigi and Lillino. Menine inherited my Aunt's property, in Fusco.

On June 24, St. John's Day we had a big dinner at my Aunt's apartment. They gave John

a bouquet of flowers. St. John's Day is a big celebration in Italy. Beice Narcisco Mobila (her Father Mike married my Aunt Luigia Fusco lived in Australia with his two sons – Ernest and Dominic and her husband Luigi (Luigi's brother Luciano married the sister Algenia Narsico Mobila, who lives in New York City) - two brothers married two sisters - had us over to her house for a dinner. My Aunt Angelina had a bocce court across the road. The town was small but had some row townhouses. My Aunt says some of these people were named Fusco too. Probably relatives from way back in time. My Aunt took us to the Town of Cuiftano to see her sister Adelina (now deceased) husband, Thomas Gioordano. He was the Father of Joe now deceased who was in the Italian Army – was a prisoner in World War II, was confined in Utah and met Beth – they were married and had children in Salt Lake City, Utah whom I visited. I have a complete Fusco Family Tree. Who gave me all the information, I don't recall.

We also had dinner (Aunt Angelina came too) at the home of Marco Fusco and his wife Rossi Columbeo in Frognita. They had two sons, one in the Army and one a Doctor Dominec. Marco came to U.S. around 1923, and only stayed several years. He spoke English. We met the son Dominec, wife and child. Dominec and Family live in San Bartolomeo in Galdo. I always remembered Mark Fusco after he went back to Italy and we exchanged letters. March Fusco's Father Domenica Fusco (and wife Pellegena Ciampone) was a brother to my Mother's Father Francesco Fusco. Marco's brother, Pepino, Thomas and Gabriel moved to Koppel in 1921 after living in White Plains, N.Y. They worked at the Koppel Quarry only 2 years and then went back to Italy.

We later (with Aunt Angelina) went to dinner at Libro Fusco's, his wife Joanne Giodano, and their two sons and a daughter Enzo, Corado, and Nicola. Libro and family live in Circello. Libro Fusco's father Nicola Fusco (and two wives-Dorsala Nardone-Domenica Bilitta) was a brother to my Mother's Father Francesco Fusco. Libro's home was some distance from the main road so he used a horse and wagon to get us. It had just rained and the road from the main road to his house was in bad shape. John rode the family's horse. The son, Corado married Malfaldo and they now live in Cedar Hurst, New York. Libro lived in Koppel for a short time and he and Philomena Barile were my Brother John's Godparents for Baptism.

The Aunt Angelina brought us to visit with Thomas Fusco, his wife Pimella Seina, who have two sons Mario and Romolo, and one daughter, Lina. Thomas is the son of Domenico Fusco who was a brother of Mother's Father – Francesco Fusco. Thomas had a mill that ground wheat into flour.

We visited Campolattaro, with the Aunt. We saw the home of Antonio Massa, my Grandfather, who died in 1890 and is buried in the basement of a church outside of the town. His wife, Philomena Casaccio Massa, my Grandmother, who was born in 1834 in Italy and died in Philadelphia on November 24, 1930 – 96 years old - is buried in the Philadelphia Holy Cross Cemetery. My Grandma and Nick Fusco came to U.S.A. in 1906. We also saw the home where my Father and his first wife Josephine and his daughter Minnie lived. We also saw the home of Theresa Caiazza, my Father's sister.

We saw the home of Samuel Massa and family, my Father's brother. We saw the area where the summer plays were held. The name Campolattaro means "milk area." Evidently the end of the Roman Road was here where the travelers rested from a trip. The town was small built in a circle with the homes forming a wall to ward off the thieves in the old days.

The Catholic Church outside of Compolattaro had crypts in the inside walls. One had the name of Pasquale Massa. Most of his ancestors stayed in Compolattaro, who was the grandfather of Guido Massa and Rudolpho Massa.

Pasquale Massa was a brother of my Grandfather Antonio Massa and also was a brother of Nick and Mike Massa (Bellaire, Ohio) Grandfather. All the Grandfathers were sons of our Great Grandfather Samuel Massa. So, we all had the same Great Grandfather. Our Grandfathers were Brothers.

We had a dinner at Guido Massa's home in Campolattaro with the Aunt Angelina. Guido's family (who was a medical doctor), his brother, Rudolfo's (who was a pharmacist) family, and their sister Filomena and her husband Antonio Molino (who lived in Rye, N.Y., and are retired) lived together in Campolattaro. Guido also has a sister Bice, who was single and also lives in Rye, N.Y. We had a good time with these cousins talking about old times and we had plenty of food. Rudolfo made "Liquore Chromel" in Benevento. A small sample of the liquore was given to me by Carmella Massa (John Massa's wife who lives in St. Clairsville, Ohio) who worked at Rudolpho's factory. Guido and Rudolpho gave me the names of all of the Massa relatives who lived in Campolattaro for our Massa Family Tree.

We had a sorrowful time when we left the Fusco family residence to go back to Naples. We returned to our rental car and flew to Vienna, Austria.

Connie always liked Johann Strauss Waltzes and we decided to go to Vienna, Austria. In Vienna, VA we had a letter by the Mayor Martinelli to the Mayor of Vienna, Austria. When we arrived in Vienna, Austria, the Mayor was out of town, so his Assistant escorted us through the Palace and we visited "The Great Hall" where all the King Coronations were held and also was used as a large dance hall. The Assistant gave us a record gift of Strauss Waltzes. We rented a car and driver who explained the History of Vienna Woods as we drove. The Vienna Woods Park was beautiful and it was one of the highlights of our vacation. We had dinner at the hotel while the orchestra played Strauss Waltzes. Connie loved it! We left Vienna and flew to Frankfurt, Germany. From here we flew back to Dulles Airport. We had a wonderful 3 weeks vacation with John and Frances and we all had good memories of our relatives and cities we visited.

### **1968-1969**

Our second daughter, Frances Corinne went to Saint Angela Merici Catholic School in Cleveland, Ohio for 3 years from 1953 to 1955. She then went to Saint Mary's Catholic School in Beaver Falls from 1955 to 1960. From 1960 to 1961 she went to Highland

Junior High School in Chippewa. From 1961 to 1964 she went to Beaver Falls High School where she graduated in 1964. She went to Point Park Junior College in Pittsburgh, from September 1964 until April of 1965. From 1965 until we moved to Vienna, Va., she worked for Massa Brothers as a secretary. She started in 1967 to work as a secretary for the N.I.H. She got married for the first time in 1969 and was divorced in 1980. In 1970 she transferred to the Health Services and Mental Health Administration in Rockville, MD. She then transferred to the General Counsel's Office of the Food and Drug Division in Rockville, MD in 1976. She left the Food and Drug Division in 1985 and started to work for the Department of Justice, Criminal Division in Washington, D.C. She then left there in 1989 to work for the US Trustees Office, Bankruptcy Court, until 1991. She married again in 1990 and divorced in 1998. She then went to work for the Department of Energy, where she is presently employed. She now works for the Office Director of her Division and is responsible for 27 employees and also supervises one secretary. In September 1997, she started taking law classes at night at Montgomery College in Germantown, MD to become a "Paralegal." She completed her studies in May 2000 and graduated as an "honor student" with a grade point average of "3.68." Mother, Joanne and I went to the graduation. We are very proud of Frances.

In 1968 we bought a Chevrolet sedan.

On August 19, 1969, our sister, Minnie Fusco died. She was married to Nick Fusco in Falls Creek. She is buried in the Saint Mary's Cemetery in Chippewa. Minnie and Nick had three daughters, Josephine (Dolly), Mary, and Edith and two sons, Frank and Ernest.

Josephine married Ray Petti and they had one daughter Christine.

Mary married Art DeSisto and they had two daughters, Linda and Marilyn and one son Arthur.

Edith married Albert Mannerino and they had one daughter, Terry and one son Albert.

Frank married Frances Ortego and they had three daughters – Carol, Debra and Toni.

Ernest married Annabelle Staff and they had two sons – Blake and Mark.

### **1970-1974**

In January 1971, John went on a tour of Russia for 8 days, visiting Moscow and Leningrad (now St. Petersburg).

John said he found both cities and subways very clean, no graffiti, and saw many people pushing a small shovel or broom to clean the snow from the sidewalks.

He visited the Hermitage Museum and saw Pre-Revolution gold carriages, porcelain and paintings. At the Space Museum he saw Soviet Space Capsules, and satellites. At Red Square he saw the changing of the guard at Lenin's Tomb. At Red Square he visited many government buildings. At a 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade School, the baton twirlers put on a show and the class sang in English "If I Ruled the World."

John said the people were friendly and were very curious about the American tourists shoes and clothes. On a flight from Moscow to Leningrad, very hard candy was served as a “snack.”

From 1958 to 1965 our son John Samuel went to Saint Mary’s Catholic School in Beaver Falls. For Eighth Grade he went to Highland Junior High School in Chippewa to play varsity football, and graduated. In 1966 we had moved to Vienna, VA. so he went one year at Madison High School in Vienna, as a freshman, where he also played varsity football and was in the School Band. From 1967 to 1970 he went to a new high school at Oakton. He also played varsity football, in the school band and was in wrestling too. In his Senior Year, 1970, he was elected President of the Student Council. The Student Council also awarded him a relief plaque “The John Massa Award for Outstanding Service”. This award was given to every outstanding student every year thereafter and their names would be inscribed on the plaque. He graduated from Oakton High School in 1970 and gave a speech at his graduation ceremonies. On June 3, 1973, he was invited to be the main speaker at the Baccalaureate services at Oakton High School.

From 1972 to 1975, Frank, Anthony, me and Claire (Frank’s Father-in-Law) went fishing in Fushmi Lake, Ontario. We used a boat for 3 miles to get to the lake. We caught Northern Pike and walleyes for a week. We went about the first of May, after the ice thawed. My son, John, came in 1972. Never caught so many large fish in all our lives. We had a wonderful time, we slept in a cabin and cooked our own meals.

From 1970 to 1974, John went to Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, where he received a B. A. Degree in Government and History. In 1974, he returned to Vienna and went to work as a Legislative/Press Aide in the U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. until 1976. In 1976 he worked as a Research Assistant in the Anthropology Department at The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. In 1977, John moved to Tucson, Arizona and enrolled at the University of Arizona where he received a Masters Degree in Anthropology in 1979. He then went to the Medical School and published many research papers and where he received a First Place Award at the Graduate Research Forum. In 1986, when he graduated as a Ph.D. in Anatomy. He received an Outstanding Dissertation Award and many others. He moved to Iowa City, Iowa when he finished his Postdoc in Molecular Biology in 1988 at the University of Iowa. In 1990, he received a position as an Associate Director in the Office of the Vice President for Research, Division of Sponsored Programs at the University of Iowa. He also holds a position as the head of Computer Services, contact for U. I. Research Anotechnology Transfer and Sponsored Programs Information Server (SPINFO).

On October 14, 1972, Nick Fusco (who was Foreman at the Koppel Car Co., and later was the Chief Foreman for Massa Brothers), died in Koppel, PA. and was buried in St. Mary’s Cemetery in Chippewa. He was 77 years old and was born on January 27, 1895, in Morcone, Italy. Nick married our sister Minnie and they had three girls and two boys: Josephine (Dolly) (she died in 1981 and is buried in St. Mary’s Cemetery in Chippewa, Mary, Edith, Frank and Ernest.

In 1974, we bought a Chevrolet Sedan with air conditioning. Grandma Botte just had a heart attack 3 months before. Connie and I drove Grandma and Grandpa Botte to Milford, Connecticut to see Sam's sister, Michelina's family and John Botte's (Sam Botte's brother) children.

In 1974, Connie and I put aluminum siding on our home at Lakewood Drive, Vienna. I was almost finished, but I was getting angina chest pains for the first time. This was the beginning of many health problems later on. I stayed in the Fairfax Hospital for 4 days.

### **1975-1981**

I was quite busy traveling for my projects with N.I.H. Cancer Institute. I had two trips to Hawaii and two trips to Lyonne, France. Connie came with me in 1980 and we had many site seeing trips on the weekends in London.

In 1975 Frank, our brother was found to have cancer of the lung. We went to Roswell Park Hospital and a part of his lung was removed. After extensive radiation and Chemotherapy. He died on January 28, 1978, at the Beaver Falls Hospital (Providence Hospital).

About 1978, on a trip to Hawaii, Connie and I rented a car and we traveled all around the Island of Oahu. We visited the National Monument Memorial at Pearl Harbor where the Japanese on December 7, 1941 sunk quite a few battleships, cruisers, submarines, and airplanes and destroyed quite a few military hangers and barracks. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Congress declared war on Japan the next day. We also visited a park in northern Oahu where we found a sugar cane railroad car that was made in Koppel. Small world! One night we danced at one of the hotels that had an open-air dance under the trees. One night we were going to a nightclub in Oahu and we met brother Frank's wife's relatives, who previously lived in West Mayfield but now lived in Los Angeles, California. We met Frank Roser and his wife Anna (Mary's sister) and Ciconne (film star "Madonna's Uncle") and his wife Jean (Mary's sister). Roser was retired and Ciconne worked at the University of California, Los Angeles. I had made complete architectural plans for Roser's home in West Mayfield.

In 1978 we bought a new Oldsmobile "88" Sedan. Connie's favorite car.

On June 24, 1980, John and Jean Florman married at President Washington's hunting home in Mount Vernon, and the reception was there too. Frank Monez (John and Jean's friend from Oakton High School, was Best Man, Jean's sister Mary was Matron of Honor, and Michelle and Denise Pinette were the flower girls. About 30 people attended the wedding including Jean's family, Ed and Mavis Florman of Fairfax, Ed's cousin from St. Louis, all our family including Joanne, Rick, Philip and Frances were there. John and Jean opened their gifts at our home in Vienna, and went to Tucson, Arizona to live. John and Jean have 2 children. Amber Elizabeth, born in Tucson on April 26, 1982 and Brian Edward Manfred born in Tucson on January 31, 1984.

On August 6, 1980, Richard (Margaret's husband), died in Philadelphia. He was born in

Philadelphia on December 9, 1922. He is buried in the Peter and Paul Cemetery in Springfield, PA.

On August 9, 1980, Anthony, our brother, and Lena celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. A reception was held in Beaver Falls. We all had a good time, but quietly due to Richard's death three days before.

On June 6, 1981, Anthony Scopellite (Rita's (Connie's sister) husband died and was buried in the Ellwood City cemetery.

On June 14, 1981, my niece Josephine "Dolly" Fusco Petti died in Koppel. She was the oldest daughter of Nick and Minnie Massa Fusco (my sister). She is buried in the St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Chippewa.

## **1982**

I retired from N.I.H. on January 9, 1982, after 15 years. I had a total of 32 years of U.S. Civil Service.

Our sister Josephine died on May 16, 1982, and is buried in Clinton, PA. Josephine and Clifford Houk had one son Clyde and four daughters – Betty, Dorothy, Myrna and Leona.

Clyde was single and died in World War II in 1945.

Betty married Rudolph Valentino and they had two sons, Rudolph and Gary.

Dorothy married Tony Carozza and they had three sons, Mike, Anthony and Dino.

Myrna married John Cancellire and they had one son Mark and one daughter Lori.

Leona married Tom Saras and they had one son Tom and one daughter Leslie Jo.

Connie's Mother Theresa DelGaudio Botte died on May 17, 1982 (one day after Josephine) and she is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Chippewa. She was born in Formicola, Italy on November 24, 1895.

We made a trip to Philadelphia to see Bias Greco and Family.

In 1982, Ray McConahy and wife Maxine, our Ellwood City High School friends, asked us to go fishing with them to Pigeon Lake, Ontario. We usually went in June and September every year. Connie caught a 45-inch Muskie and I caught a 32-inch. We caught lots of Muskies, Walleyes, Perch and Bass. I had a big Muskie on my line but he broke my line. We stayed in the cabins and ate at the lodge.

## **1983-1985**

After many stays at the Fairfax Hospital for angina pains, my Cardiologist, Dr. Bowen,

decided that I needed a by-pass heart operation. On November 2, 1983, I had a quadruple by-pass operation with Dr. LeFrac, Dr. MacManus and Dr. Spear. I stayed in the Fairfax Hospital for nine days. I took heart medicine and felt pretty good from 1983 to 1985.

In 1983, Connie and I flew to Tucson, Arizona, to see John. John drove us to Tombstone and here we saw the graveyard and the OK Corral. We then went to Bisbee where we visited an open mine and a tunnel copper mine. We went to the Bisbee Museum and to our surprise we saw a number of small side dump mine cars made at the Koppel Car Co., which were used at the copper mines. What a small world!!! We then went to visit Nogales, Mexico.

On September 13, 1984, Lori, Myrna's daughter, was married to Gregory Graff at the Gesu Catholic Church on the John Carrol Campus in Cleveland, Ohio. A lot of relatives attended the wedding and the reception which was held at the Stouffer's Hotel in Cleveland. They have a son, born on March 7, 1994 who was born in Texas. They later moved to Columbus, Ohio and now live in Louisville, Kentucky. Myrna also has a son Mark who lives in Boca Raton, Florida and he has a son Mark II who was born on March 27, 1980.

On September 14, 1984, we left Cleveland to go to Canada to Pigeon Lake to fish with Ray and Maxine McConahy.

On June 6, 1985, my good friend Victor Medure died in New Castle. We were fishing in Canada at the time. Vic and I went deer hunting around Clarion, PA., for about 10 years and we also went fishing on the west side of Quebec, Canada. We had a lot of fun together with Vic's cousins and friends from New Castle. Vic gave me a deer he had shot. Very good friend. I miss him.

### **1986-1989**

In 1986 my hernia became painful so the doctor repaired it at the Fairfax Hospital. On our fishing trip to Pigeon Lake in 1987, our fishing buddies Ray and Maxine were having health problems and decided to quit fishing. They had been fishing in Canada since their wedding in 1938 – Fifty Years. We never went to Canada again.

Connie's Father, Samuel died on March 1, 1987. He was buried in the St. Mary's Cemetery in Chippewa. He was born in Fiaccio, Italy on October 12, 1890. He and his wife Theresa had four girls: Connie, Jean, Rita and Mary and three sons: Fred, Paul and Joe. Connie's Father stayed with us in Vienna, VA for six months in 1986. Sam, Theresa and Aunt Mary Amen came to Vienna several times. We made Italian cookies and bread. We had a good time.

In September 1987, we bought a new Oldsmobile "88." Connie's favorite car.

On November 11, 1987, we drove to Danville, Virginia to attend the wedding of Dr. Cristine Petti (Dolly and Raymond's only daughter) to Dr. John Stoneburner. It was a beautiful wedding and a very formal reception. Raymond was there, but Dolly (she died in 1981) was there in spirit. From Danville, we went to Columbus, Ohio to see my sister

Margaret, Richard, Marie, Anthony and their families. From Columbus we went to Delphose to see my cousin Clarence Massa and his wife and his son. We then drove to Iowa City to see John and family and had Thanksgiving there.

We drove to Chicago to see Ellen Botte (Fred's daughter). We stayed in Chicago for two days and then went to St. Johns to see John Beatrice and family. We then went to see Notre Dame University and then came back to Vienna. A long vacation.

In 1988, our fishing buddy, from Ellwood, Ray McConahy died.

In 1988, my gall bladder was removed at Fairfax Hospital.

On July 6, 1989, Connie and I celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Joanne, Frances and John hosted the dinner at the Laurel Brigade in Leesburg, VA. After the dinner we went back to our house in Vienna, VA. for wedding cake that Joanne's friend made and Joanne had special favors made too. Joanne and family, Frances, and John and family came from Iowa to attend. We took family group pictures at Cook's Photo Art Studio in Vienna. Joanne gave Connie a white bouquet of silk flowers, similar to the one we had on our wedding picture. We took a picture posing as we did at our wedding, with the flowers.

From 1986 to 1989, Connie and I hosted dinners, for the Massa and Botte Family at The Willow's in Vanport, PA. We had our video so we took a lot of pictures. Ineke, our Dutch student came one year. Everyone had a good time together.

### **1990-1994**

I had many fast heartbeat and fibrillation and was in Fairfax Hospital three times. I had atrial fibrillation twice in 1990 and a fast heart beat once in 1991.

Fred, Connie's brother, died on April 2, 1992. Fred married Agnes Duffey in Ireland. They had three children: Ellen, Sammy and Bobby. Fred was born on May 29, 1923.

My sister, Sylvia died on June 4, 1992, and was buried in the Williamsburg Mausoleum in Chippewa. She was born on December 17, 1910 in Falls Creek, PA. Sylvia married Joe Leopardo, Wampum, (who was a foreman at the Ellwood Tube Co. and later a Superintendent for Massa Brothers), on November 12, 1929. They had one son John and three daughters, Phyllis, Patricia and Mary Ann. John married Della Decianno on October 6, 1956 and they had five daughters, Karen, Katharine, Sylvia, Barbara and Elvira. Phyllis married Nick Palagallo (Chewton) on November 24, 1951 and they have two children, Brenda and Lana Jo. Patricia (Patty) married William Skarvala on February 12, 1955, and they have four children: William, Janice, Jeffrey and Joseph. Mary Ann married Donald Perry on May 4, 1963. They have three daughters: Debra, Donna and Deanna.

On Oct. 2, 1992, Connie, Mary Ebersberger, Janie Barkley and I went to Maine to see the autumn fall leaves. We stopped in New Haven, Connecticut to visit Connie's relatives. We visited with Connie Laudano (Sam's niece) and family and also Kay Serevelli (our

Connie's cousin). It was October 4, Connie's Birthday and we had dinner and cake to celebrate. We then drove up to Kennebunk Port, Maine and saw President Bush's home. On the way up we saw many beautiful autumn leaves. On our way back, we stopped at Montpelier, Vermont, Concord, New Hampshire, Dartmouth College (I visited here before for the Cancer Center), Cornell University – Ithaca, New York (where son John went). We then stopped at Penn State University – PA, where we saw Paul Botte and Jodi. We then went to Falls Creek, PA; and saw our friend Loretta Laudatto, a long time resident of Falls Creek. Loretta arranged to have us look on the inside of the Massa home. I took a picture of the bedroom where I was born. Loretta also took us to the Dubois Cemetery where my Father's first wife, Josephine Fusco Massa and child are buried. We then left for Koppel where Mary lived. Drove to Frederick, Maryland and dropped off Janie Barkley and then came back to Vienna. All the girls had a wonderful time.

In 1993, Josephine's, my sister's husband, Clifford died. He's buried in Clinton, PA.

Joanne and Rick's daughter, Michelle, married James Hawkins on April 24, 1993 (Grandma Botte's wedding day) at the Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Warrenton, VA. A beautiful wedding. The reception was at the Fauquier Springs Country Club. Many relatives of Rick's came from Fort Kent, Maine. Connie's brother Paul and wife Gloria came. Mary, Rita, Jean and Richard Calabrese came. John, Jean and Amber and Brian came from Iowa City. Janie Barkley, Ralph and Leslie were there. Jim Hawkins's Father and Mother and their children and wives came. Michelle and Jim have three children: Nicholas was born in Reston, VA., on March 1, 1995. Caroline was born in Ashburn, VA. on June 20, 1997. Laura was also born in Ashburn, VA. on March 5, 1999. Jim and Michelle bought a new home in Ashburn in 1996.

On July 31, 1993, Michelle, Vince Jr.'s daughter (Vince Sr.'s Granddaughter) was married in Cleveland, Ohio to Kevin Owen at the Catholic Cathedral. They have two children: Kelsey Marie born on Feb. 22, 1997 and Emily born in 1999. They live in Bainbridge, Ohio. I had heart problems, we missed a beautiful wedding.

On April 10, 1994, brother Anthony died. He was born in Philadelphia on August 11, 1907. He is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Chippewa. He has a son Emilio.

In May 1994 Connie had a left knee replacement surgery at the Fair Oaks Hospital. Dr. Ain was the surgeon. She stayed in the hospital for about a week and then had a machine therapy in bed for two weeks. She later had three months of therapy exercises at the doctor's office.

In August 1994 we (Connie and Manfred) went to Columbus, Ohio to a fabulous Bat Mitzvah for Sara Segal – Marie and Mark Segal's daughter on Friday August 19 at 7:00 p.m. We attended a light (?) dinner at the Embassy Suites Hotel. On Saturday, August 20 at 10:30 a.m. the Bat Mitzvah was held at the Beth Tivkah Kiddush with sumptuous hors d'oeuvres. We then went to the Embassy Suites Hotel from 1:00-6:00 p.m., for cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner and dancing. On Saturday evening at 8:00 p.m., we were invited to an open house at the Segal's home. We had a wonderful time and we saw

a good number of our relatives. Sara has graduated from high school in year 2000 and will attend Ohio State University in September 2000.

### **1995**

I was having fainting spells, so Dr. Bowen said I should have a pacemaker installed. The pacemaker was installed on April 8, 1995 by Dr. Delnegro of Arrhythmia Associates. This didn't solve the problem so I decided to go to the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD. After a thorough ear examination by Dr. Niparko of the Otology Clinic. They had a therapist give me a treatment for the Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo (the Epley and Semont Maneuvers). They said that the dizziness was caused by crystals in the ear canal being displaced. She had me lie on a table and shook my head violently about six times. She said "your are cured." I said, "this must be a miracle." So far to this day, I have not had any dizziness spells!! Thank God.

On August 30, 1995, we bought a 1995 Buick LeSabre Sedan. Connie wanted an emblem on the front of the hood, so we had one installed. Connie, Joanne, Frances, John and I traveled to White Plains, N.Y., to attend Mike Botte's wedding on September 9. First time our whole family went on a trip. John did all of the driving. We had a great time at the wedding and reception. Mike's Dad is Connie's brother, Paul and Gloria is his Mother. We met Jodie Petrillo's(Mike's wife's) family.

### **1996**

On August 8, 1996, Jean's Father, Ed Florman died.

During this period I have had several angina pains. Dr. Rogan did a cauterization test at Fairfax Hospital. He found that two bypasses had a 90-95% blockage and two had an 80-85% blockage. My heart had a 24% efficiency.

### **1997**

In 1997 our fishing buddy Maxine McConahy died.

In July 1997, John Beatrice and Erma came to Ashburn, VA to visit daughter Phyllis, son-in-law Chuck and grandchildren. John had a heart attack. The family decided that Phyllis would make a Parents' apartment and John and Erma would move to Ashburn, VA. They sold their home in Beaver Falls.

### **1998**

In 1998 I was feeling better so we made several trips to Beaver Falls to see Paul Botte and my relatives. We had breakfast together with Paul, Gloria and Mary attended.

From May 18 to 22, 1998, Connie, Joanne and Frances went on a vacation to the Von Trapp Lodge in Stowe, Vermont. John came from Iowa and stayed with me. We had a good time visiting together. Connie said that Joanne and Frances took morning walks

while Connie stayed in her room. They all went to a maple syrup festival and visited the Vermont Teddy Bear Factory. The Von Trapp's granddaughters gave a recital each night. The food was excellent. The girls had a relaxing vacation, Mother and daughters.

In June 1998 Connie and I took a bus to Atlantic City casinos.

On August 12, 1998, we had our 14<sup>th</sup> (66 years) high school reunion in Ellwood. Frances came with us.

On Oct. 19, 1998, Lena, brother Anthony's wife, dies. She is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Chippewa.

On October 1-4, 1998, the Washington Home Office of NACA held our Eighth NACA Reunion at Crystal City, VA. We met many old friends from the Cleveland, Langley and Ames Research Labs. Connie and I stayed at the Marriott Crystal Gateway Hotel. The First NACA Reunion was held in Asheville, N.C. on October 8, 1976. (We weren't notified, so we didn't attend); the second in Williamsburg on Nov. 12, 1982; the third in Cleveland, Ohio on Sept. 6, 1985; the fourth in San Jose, Calif. on August 30, 1988; the fifth in Galveston, Texas on October 18, 1991; the sixth in Cap Canaveral, Florida on April 29, 1994; the seventh at Hampton, VA., on October 3, 1996 (we didn't go, Manfred was ailing); the eighth at Crystal City on October 1, 1998; the ninth will be held at the Dryden Flight Research Base in Oct. 2000, in California (we won't go – too far). We really enjoyed these NACA reunions and always looked forward to meeting our friends.

John came to his annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

## **1999**

On April 31, 1999, Connie and I flew to Notre Dame, Indiana. On May 1, 1999, Kathleen Massa, daughter of Vince Massa, Jr., was married to Andrew Adamson at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame. The priest was from Ellwood City! Also attending were John Beatrice, Jr., and Pamela, Anthony Beatrice and Betty, John Leopardo and Dell, Nick Palagallo and Phyllis and Donald Perry and Mary Ann. Vince Massa, our brother and Kathleen's Grandfather, was ailing and did not attend. It was a beautiful church wedding and a grand reception. We left Notre Dame the next day and went to Iowa City. We took many pictures at the wedding.

On May 1, 1999, Connie and I flew to Iowa City to see John and family. We stayed at the Holiday Inn where we had our breakfast with John. For dinner, John cooked great meals and we went out to eat several times. John took us sight seeing several days. Saw Brian play a soccer game, had cake and ice cream at Jean's home to celebrate Amber's 17<sup>th</sup> Birthday. We stayed for two weeks and had a wonderful vacation.

On July 6, 1999, Connie and I celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. We all got together again at the Laurel Brigade Inn in Leesburg. Joanne, Rick, Philip, Frances, Michelle, Jim and three-month old Laura. John and family did not attend. Joanne and Frances paid for the dinner and Joanne furnished the cake. We had a nice dinner and I'm

sure we were all thankful to be together again. We took many pictures.

In August 1999 we did not attend the annual high school reunion. I had health problems. This was the first reunion that we missed since 1954 (our first reunion). We went to all the 14 reunions before. We had the 60<sup>th</sup> reunion in 1992. From 1992 to 1999 we had small reunions. We had a good time talking about our high school days.

Denise had graduated from Stonewall Jackson High School in 1987 and from the University of Georgia in 1991 with a degree in Psychology, and was working in Athens, Georgia. Here she met Dave Domizi whom she married. They had a rehearsal dinner at the Old Mill Restaurant in Strasburg on Oct. 8, 1999, and we all went including Frances, John and Jean, Brian and Amber. On the early morning of Oct. 9, while Connie, Frances and I were at a Middletown motel, I had fibrillation and a fast heart beat. We called 911 and they took me to the Winchester Hospital where I stayed until Oct. 11. I missed the wedding and reception at the Wayside Inn in Middletown. It was a beautiful wedding. Lots of food and drinks. Michelle was the Maid of Honor and her son Nicholas was the Ring Bearer, and Michelle's daughter Caroline scattered rose petals down the aisle. Denise and Dave bought a home in Athens, Georgia. Denise works at the Univ. of Georgia.

John came for his annual meeting in Washington on November 5. He drove Connie and I to Beaver Falls. On Saturday, the next day we had a wonderful get together with Vincent and Rudy. We talked about old times and John took pictures. Rudy, the Beaver County Engineer, took us down to Beaver to see his new office at the former Cook-Anderson Office Building – we were all impressed with Rudy's command of the County's projects. We had visited the final construction of a new county building in Brady's Run Park for tennis players. John also took pictures of our brother John and Clyde Houk names on the WWII Veterans Memorial at Koppel and at Ellwood City Pittsburgh Circle.

On December 24, 1999, Christmas Eve, we had our annual dinner at Carol and Bob Aronheim's home. We have been invited to an extraordinary dinner of clam soup with linguine, several fish dishes, salads and a great variety of desserts. Frances comes when she can. They also invite 10-15 other friends. We exchange Christmas gifts, sing songs and have a variety of appetizers.

## 2000

On March 26, our sister Erma dies at the Loudon County Hospital. Erma was born on April 15, 1919, in Koppel. Connie and I went to the hospital at 2:30 p.m. The hospice lady told us that Erma was dieing and she would die before "fortnight" (before sunset). I held her hand and placed a rosary in her hand. Connie called the parish at Ashburn and asked the priest to come and give Erma the "Last Rites." He came and we prayed together. About 5:00 p.m. I asked Connie to get us a sandwich at the cafeteria; we had not had any lunch. Erma died at 5:25 p.m. Connie came back with our lunch at 5:30 and I told her Erma had died five minutes before. We called Phyllis and we got no answer, so we tried again, no answer. Connie and I left the hospital at 6:30 p.m. Funeral services were completed on April 1 at the Colonial Funeral Home in Leesburg, VA.

John Beatrice, Jr., Pamela, Michelle, Phyllis McCauley, Chuck, Erma, Bea, John, Jason, Anthony, Betty and Ed came. Vince, Vincent, Jr., and Rudy came from Beaver Falls. John Leopardo, Phyllis, Patty and Mary Ann came. Margaret, Richard and Terry came from Columbus. John Beatrice's family came from Ellwood. Rick, Joanne, Frances and Michelle were there too. Erma and John Beatrice had three children: John, Phyllis and Anthony. John lives in St. John, Indiana, Phyllis in Ashburn, VA. and Anthony in Columbus, Ohio. John married Pamela Puerzer and they have one son Michael and a daughter Michelle.

On April 14-17, Connie, Frances, Joanne and I went to Beaver Falls. The next day we had breakfast with brother Vince. We talked about old times and we all enjoyed Vincent's company. That afternoon we went to see Paul at the nursing home. Mary and Rite also came. We had a nice visit with Paul. The next day we had lunch at the Pondersosa in Chippewa with Vincent, Vincent, Jr., and Georgieann. We had a nice lunch and took pictures. The next day in the afternoon we went to lunch at Christie's and we met Joe Leopardo, Patty and Bill there. We later went to Patty's home and had a nice visit.

On May 9, brother Vincent dies. Vince was born on February 17, 1917, in Falls Creek, PA. His wife Nell died on May 15, 1997. They had one son Vincent, Jr., who lives in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. Vincent, Jr., has two daughters Michelle and Kathleen. Vince and Nell are buried at the Williamsburg Mausoleum in Chippewa. Connie, Joanne, Frances and I went to the funeral. Margaret, Richard and Terry came from Columbus, Ohio.

On May 19, 2000, Frances graduated from Montgomery College at the Rockville, Maryland Campus. She graduated with "honors" with a 3.75 GPA.

On May 28, Amber, John's daughter graduated from high school in Iowa City. Connie and Joanne left on May 24 and returned on May 29, to attend the ceremonies. Frances stayed here and stayed with me, and we had a good time together. Joanne and Connie stayed at John's home. John took them sight seeing and cooked dinner for Jean, Brian, Amber, Connie and Joanne. The girls had a good time and we are very proud of Amber's very high honor graduate student. They saw Brian play in a soccer game.

On June 24, Connie and I attended a wedding. A daughter Kristin was married, of a good friend of ours, Guy and Marilyn Bettarelli who lived in Oakton, VA. And now live in Hilton Head, S.C. The wedding was beautiful at the Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Herndon, VA., and the reception was held at the Dulles Hilton Hotel. Connie and I had a room at the hotel for the evening. Dr. Graziano and his wife were there.

On July 6, Connie and I celebrated our 61<sup>st</sup> Wedding Anniversary. We had our anniversary at the Laurel Brigade Inn in Leesburg, VA. Joanne, Frances, Jim, Michelle and Laura came. Joanne and Frances paid for the lunch. We had lunch there and a piece of cake, Joanne and Frances brought. We took pictures and a good time was had by all.

On July 31, our niece Phyllis McCauley, Chuck's wife, (Erma and John Beatrice's daughter) died in Ashburn, VA. She was born on May 14, 1943, in Eastvale, PA. She

has three daughters: Erma McDonough, husband John and their son Devin; Bea Neukirk, husband Jason and son Jared; and Cristine (single). Frank Fusco, wife and daughter, Phyllis and Patty (Leopardo) and Dorothy, Myrna and Leona (Houk) came to the funeral. John Beatrice, Jr., Anthony Beatrice, Betty and son Ed came too. Anthony will take John Beatrice, Sr., to a nursing home in Columbus, Ohio. John, Sr. had a heart attack a month ago and was in the hospital when Phyllis died.

On September 23, John Beatrice, Erma Massa's husband, died in Columbus, Ohio.

On October 11, Joseph Leopardo, Sylvia Massa's husband died in Beaver Falls.

### **2001**

On July 13, Paul Botte (Connie's brother) died in Beaver. He was buried at the St. Mary's Cemetery in Chippewa.

On August 3, we attended our 69<sup>th</sup> year anniversary reunion in Ellwood. Joanne and Frances were there too. Only 12 people were there.

On August 4, Vince Massa Jr. and wife Georgianne hosted our 31<sup>st</sup> Massa Reunion at their home in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. We had a very delicious meal and a lot of memories of past reunions were discussed. Vince showed a video where Anthony, Sylvia, Vince Sr. and Erma gave a few remarks. There were about 50 relatives there. We plan to make the reunion a yearly event again. Group pictures were taken.