

SUMMARIES OF ORAL INTERVIEWS DONE BY CLAIR VILLANO 3/18/04

✓ CIAPA.OH.042

Mary (De Luzio) DeBell interviewed Jan 26, 2004 and re-visited March 12. daughter Virginia Pattison was present.

Mary's oral tape recounts her memories (she is 91) of growing up in a large Italian family (both grandparents came over as well as her parents) in the farming community of Welby. She married the son of an immigrant from Potenza, and has a chart showing the family tree from her husband's side. A digital photo was taken of that and of her. She has loaned two albums: one full of Coviello and DeLuzio family photos from Welby, taken by her sister-in-law, Louise Coviello Diluzio, wife of Dominic and the other an album of wedding photos from the extended family. The first has been copied and in March, Mary identified almost every photo and people captured in the pictures. Mary lived briefly in North Denver until she and husband moved back out to the "family compound." Her recall is detailed and excellent concerning work, schooling, family traditions and recreation.

These project notes are property of History Colorado. If any portion of these document are used, cite as CIAPA.OH.# summary, 2014.150, History Colorado.

**Colorado Historical Society
Preserving Colorado Communities: The Italians of Denver
Interview with Mary DeBell
Interview by Clair Villano
January 26, 2004**

Interview transcribed by Brian T. Brooks (student of Jarz Worral
November 12, 2004 @ University of
Northern Co.)

Mary DeBell
Clair Villano

1

19

Question: Well... What is your earliest memory? You were one of how many children?

Answer: One of five children...

Interviewer: Five children, so you have four siblings...

A: Yeah, I was the only girl Dominic, Carmen, Joseph, and Anthony, and myself.

Q: And were you the youngest, the oldest, the middle one?

A: No, no, my brother Anthony was the youngest, I was next to him. We were four and a half or five years older than me. __+

Q: Do any of your siblings... are they still alive?

A: My brother is 92, Anthony.

Q: Does he live in the area?

A: He lives in Welby on his home place.

Q: And where was that x place?

A: Well, I think there was no address at the time. Now it's on York, but then we built a new home on what they called Copeland ~~Copen~~ Ranch, and we bought 24 acres there, and improved it and we raised vegetables.

Q: And Anthony still lives—

A: At the home. He build the home in 1925.

Q: Well, you have told me earlier that your birthday was 1906. So in 1925 you would have been about 19 years old. So you remember that very well don't ya?

A: Oh sure.

Q: Tell me first a little about the house before that or the farm before that.

A: Oh, well we lived in almost like a little shack I guess it was. It just was kinda put together and then as we accumulated some money. Because when we first came from the old country, my Mother and my Dad, they homesteaded. My uncle had homesteaded this little property that was near the Platt River in Welby, and then they had the clear the ground to raise their vegetables year by year and then they had this _____? Then in 1913 is when we built the big house, and that's when my Dad and brother Anthony and Angelina—Angela—Angelina—it was like a two party home... you know what I mean? [Interviewer: Like a duplex--]. There was fourteen rooms with the attic, basement, and six rooms, and there was three rooms in the attic.

Q: And so William or Bill and his brother Anthony and their families all lived on that property in this house and they all farmed?

A: They all farmed in there. We only had about five acres at the time and then as we made money on this little acreage, we just bought 24 acres and of course we couldn't pay for it cash, but little by little, we got it paid off and we had to do the same thing with that ground because it wasn't— it was never cultivated... never cultivated, so we had to use that ___ and worked to pull out rocks—there was a railroad coming through there, halfway through the property and it was built up and that's where they left it—they ran out of money—and ^{they} the left it just about halfway in the property so it was all built up with big rocks and it was about four of five feet higher than the property of course, and then we had to tear that all down and carry all this rock out and put it on this longest little road just _____.

[Tape is stopped to check on recording quality]

Interviewer: So you had to--so the family literally had to tear down this preparation for railroad track that never was finished.

Ms. DeBell: Just runed out of money and just stopped there and the people we bought it from had homesteaded oh I would say about 2—over 200 acres in there and then he just divided it into parcels for as much as a farmer wanted to buy, and we bought 24 acres, and my uncle⁹ which was Dad's brother Anthony⁹ bought 10 across the way... and they built their house about—maybe four of five years later.

Q: After 1925?

A: umhuh (ph)

Q: But the families were close by?

A: Oh yeah, they were always close by.

Q: What kind of vegetable did they raise?

A: You name it we had it... we raised em'. And what I was just a little girl, I was only about three years old and I could name every vegetable that we raised. I remember my aunt telling me that and I went with my mother even when I was four years old, and she taught me the difference between the seeds of the vegetable that ^{when} growing and the weeds—²⁵ Taught me how to pull weeds... which were the weeds. And then we had of course horses and sleds to carry our vegetables... when we harvested them we used to put everything on this sled and bring it up to a shed that we had and bunch it up for the

market. [Interviewer: So that was the family job? Getting them partially ready--] For the next day.

Q: Which market did they take it to?

A: It was the city market down on—well near the Auraria campus—I don't know, down in that area. _____ [Interviewer: Denargo (ph) was more north of the city market area.] That was right off of North Broadway or something.

Q: Yes, it was more north, but the original was way down—

A: Yeah, down there—Speer Boulevard or down in that triangle like I remember because I was just a little girl. I don't ____... I think I went once with my dad to the market, but I barely remember that because they went horse and buggy and they used to go about three o'clock in the morning with the load of vegetables and then—Daddy didn't read or write, but he knew all his money--and he sold all his vegetables by dozens or bunches or whatever people wanted.

[Interview stopped by request of Ms. DeBell.]

Q: ^{You} had a memory or recollection of some special customers that would come to the market.⁷

A: Oh yeah, it was all the grocery stores down in North Denver and the grocery stores were all over, they were all individual stores at that time and—[Interviewer: and they would come and buy--], yeah.

Q: Would people come to buy for their own homes or—

A: No, hardly. Just all these little grocery stores that come and buy whatever they needed, and there were some big grocery stores... oh one big one was the Archer Brothers down on 15th Street—I don't know what street it was, but it on 15th I remember—near the ^{Loop} ~~?Luke?~~ Market, and then they used to have a great variety—they even had ~~fruits~~—you know they had the whole thing. They had everything, they even had a—I don't remember if they had a meat market, but I think they did... it wasn't theirs, but it was in this ~~?Luke?~~ Market because it was like they had everything in there. Everything, a little deli, and stuff like that, bakeries, but ~~?everybody?~~ called it the ^{Loop} ~~?Luke?~~ Market, and I don't know, I don't think it was a block square but it was big size.

Q: I believe they have some pictures of the old files of that ~~?Luke?~~ Market. You mention sometimes that the nuns would come down.

A: Oh yeah. The nuns would... they'd come down, even Mother ~~?Cabrini?~~ [Interviewer: For the orphanages?] Yeah, they used to come down—see she-- Her nuns were at St. Clair Orphanage—no ^{Queen} ___ of Heaven Orphanage—and when she was here, I had a cousin who was at the orphanage and she met her personally. [Interviewer: What an honor--] Yeah, but I don't know if she went down to market, but she might have. She went all over. Mt. Carmel, she's been at Mt. Carmel Church, Mt. Carmel when they had their grade school, and stuff like that.

Q: Yes, Mother ~~?Cabrini?~~ Was... was really in the community wasn't she?

A: I had a neighbor, Dan, his folks knew her too. ___+

Q: Now you told me that you were one of five, and the sister died right after she came over from Italy.

A: I wouldn't have known her at all

Q: But did your brothers all work on the farm?

A: Oh yeah, they all worked—in fact after we were married my husband... went to work for ^{them}—he tried to work just jobs, you know, ___ because he wanted to get off the farm because they did the same thing we did, and it didn't work out, so then my brothers said, "Come work with us, we've got 24 acres and there'd be enough money if we had good seasons for all of us." So then we moved down in our original house—where I was born—we moved there and then we stayed there for about 12-13 years and then we got our own place in Arvada.

Q: And you ^Y husband who we should introduce on the tape was John Louis DeBell, and his family came originally from Potenza^Z, but he was born here [Ms. DeBell: all the family was born here.], and you have showed me a wonderful family tree of that side of the family. He was born April 19, 1902, and you were married when he was—just before he was 26—because—January 29, 1928 at Welby Assumption Church. What do you remember about your wedding?

A: Oh I remember we had—it was such a beautiful day... it was 70 degrees, and of course the groom and the bride—it wasn't like it is now—the groom was over at the house they went in a different car than we did, but we went in church together and had the ceremony. There was no ^M mass it was just a ceremony and most of the invited guests

came to the church. We were planning to have a big wedding, but John's aunt died, just about a month before we had our wedding, so them days they didn't do things like that, they had to wait a year before they would celebrate a wedding [Interviewer: There would be a mourning]. Yeah... a mourning, and they wore black and they wore bands on their sleeves and they mourned the whole year. When my grandmas and grandpas died, all my uncles and aunts and mother and daddy and all that they all wore black clothes for a whole year. [Interviewer: That's something that has really, unfortunately, I think in some ways gone. I was at a rosary—and Italian family rosary recently and I thought maybe I was at a bowling alley.] Yeah... yeah... Well we—they just don't—then they had bands of black... bands we had to buy all that stuff and the undertaker would usually furnish that, and then when there would be a death, we used to bring a big wreath to hang on your door and it was either purple—for oh, for like younger people, and then black for some coloring in it for older people, and they'd hang that on the door all the while before the funeral for the dead, and they'd pick up the corpse at home and they embalmed it and the body would stay at home until the burial.

Q: No funeral homes?

A: No. ^{a "wake" like the Irish} ___ weight like , and the, ^{family} you know would just take turns staying up with the body maybe three days or so. ___ I've got those folders of grandpa's up there __+. [Ms. DeBell's daughter: 35 years ago when my dad died, you wore black for over a year.]

Q: So here you were ³ a joyous occasion, but because of the death in his family, it wasn't allowed to be such a big celebration. Did you go on a honeymoon?

A: Well, I'll tell you about that story. My husband said, "We're going to California." I said, "No I was afraid to go on a honeymoon." And he said, "I've got this friend of mine who is gonna give us car to go."—he had it-- he had his own car a lil' coup^e, but he said "my friend will give me this Buick, so we can go to California." And I said, "No I don't wanna honeymoon." I said I was "afraid to go on a honeymoon," because I had never been away from home, ya know we didn't date until after I was engaged, although I knew him for five or six years before we were married, but always just wherever I'd meet im', it ~~wa~~ wasn't a doings like it was some kind of celebration or something.

Q: That's such a different concept now where people travel constantly and you see people with babies on planes. You hadn't traveled had you? Away from home?

A: No, I was never away from home ^{we took a (?)} + streetcar to Denver, and we walked from Welby to Riverside Cemetery when we used to go shopping down in Denver because there were ~~now~~ shopping centers, and we used to dress up like we were going to a ball to go shopping—with high heels and gloves, and hats, oh... how miserable, but anyway.

Q: I even can remember some of those days of wearing gloves and hose when we went shopping. But you mentioned Riverside, that's one of the oldest cemeteries and I know there are Italians buried there. Do you have any family buried at Riverside?

A: I have all my family is buried there. My mother and father, aunts and uncles, and cousins, and relatives, yeah.

Q: It's now a national historical place, and they really have fixed it up quite nicely. [Ms.

DeBell: They have tours now see, I've never been able to go because of account of my

age I haven't been able to go on any of those tours, but there are a lot of noted people buried there... the fellow that brought the first water to Denver, and ___ + I think Governor Evans maybe? I don't know, but there are, and I think, I'm not sure, but there is somewhere the baby ^{Baby Doe (Tabor)} ?Does?, I mean... what's his first name? His wife's first name?

[Interviewer: Oh. The first wife of Tabor?] Yeah. [Interviewer: Was it Tabitha? I can't remember.] Anyway ___ that's supposed to be buried there.

I believe this was an error + she was referring to 2nd wife

Q: But all your family is buried there, and I know many immigrants were buried without headstones because they couldn't afford headstones in 1900 or so they could barely—

A: You see when my sister died when we first were here, we just had come when she died, I don't know maybe—[Interviewer: Little Angela?] Yeah—she never had a headstone, but my brothers, I never did go, my brothers looked it up they went to the office and they showed them where it was. And I don't know why they never put anything on it when they did find out, but it's down in the lower part right next to the river, they said it's close to the river ___ yeah. And the church bought I don't know maybe a square block or more and the priest blessed that area, and that's a Catholic Cemetery there... the Catholic section and that's where all my relatives are buried.

Q: Good. That's good to know also where for your future generations and such. Well we've got you married and we've got ^{you} ~~ha~~ not going to California on a honeymoon, and you said you and your husband spend about 14 years in Walby ^e then, working in the family business right?

A: Yeah. Well yes, and then we bought our own place in Arvada on about 51st and ~~Hammons~~^{Animons}—it used to be ~~Hammons~~ at the time—now it's a different street—no it's ~~Hammons~~ now, it used to be something else yeah... used to be something else anyway.

There were just First and Second Avenues in Arvada, there were no streets, __ just avenues in Arvada. I remember the boardwalks in Arvada and some of the old places... the old theatre and all that stuff.

Q: Their making—now it's Historic Old Arvada ^{you} ya know and you remember when it was new Arvada with the St. Maria. Tell me about church, did—I know sometimes they say the women went to church and the men didn't. Was that true in your family? Which church did they attend mostly?

A: Well, they didn't go to church when they first came here, but once in awhile they'd go to Mt. Carmel, but when the Church of Welby came, why she went to church there, but mother had gotten so that she never drove and daddy didn't go to church and so... she never went to church hardly, and we walked... us younger ones would walk a whole mile, and I walked from our new place to the church which was about two miles even in the winter time.

Q: Where'd ya go to school?

A: Well we, we had a little school by the name of ?Rankin?, a little white schoolhouse til the fourth grade.

photos of school given by Mary

Q: Was it a one room schoolhouse—

A: umhmm

Q: One teacher?

A: Had four grades with a pot belly stove and we'd haul out water from about a half mile away, and she'd have two children go down after this water, this private home, and there was only four grades there, and the teacher would drive with a horse and buggy on a Monday and come out and she'd stay all week and she stay with one of the farmers there.

Q: It was a female teacher?

A: Yeah, they were all female teachers, yeah. And then we went down to ^{Kline ✓} ?Kline? School. They just tore it down—it was just a historical school,—but since there no money to fix it up and that's where my brothers—cuz my brothers went to school they didn't know how to speak English so they went to school in the little school that's ^{Rankin ✓} ?Rankin? School and then they—and later it was named ?Seapress?... I don't know they used to help around the school I guess. Sacrist

Q: Well lets see, Carmen and Dominico came over when they were four and seven so they had to learn English—I mean as a second language?

A: Oh yeah. They made every grade

Q: But the—another brother was born here, your younger brother?

A: Well, Joseph and Anthony __+--Joseph died when he was 21 [Interviewer: That's sad], umhuh

Q: Did ya think you learned the basics in the school?

A: Oh yes, I __ kids can't learn today... I just don't know I went just to the eighth grade, and I know I got—we learned so much in eight years then they—well of course it ain't

like high school, but I mean for the basics of education you know? [Interviewer: Yes, I think they trained the mind you know—to question and school wasn't meant to be a fun experience... it was a business.] Because when we went in it was the Pledge of Allegiance and exercise. We did exercise I remember—oh yeah just lift our arms up and our legs up like that and put your arms up in the air you know like that and down and we did exercise before we sat down. Deep breathing, yeah and when we went to the schoolhouse—we went to school in the morning real early—I didn't even have any boots or anything, mother just wrapped our feet up in newspapers or sacks and we had—everything came in sacks them days—gunny sacks you know and we went to school... we walked to school the little school—the little school __+ oh I would say maybe about six blocks—six or seven blocks and in fact I would say now--.

Q: Did you—I get the feeling that the parents thought the education was important for the kids?

A: Oh yes, oh yeah...they just couldn't speak our lang^{age}—Italian anymore of course

Mother—we had to speak Italian at home because my grandmas and grandpas didn't speak ^{English} ?Italian? and neither did Mother. She understood but she didn't speak it, but Daddy spoke it.

Q: And your grandma and grandpa came over?

A: Oh yeah.

Q: So they were also living with—

A: No they didn't live with us they were two maybe just about half a block away from their parents—I mean from their children, and maternal gnd parents grandma and grandpa live here and the other lived there and they'd go there everyday and fix their meal at night in the winter time they'd get their wood ^{and} in their coal ^{to bank} in ^{bank?} their stoves put em to bed and the next morning they'd go build a fire for them before they ^{go} up so they house wouldn't be so cold... [Interviewer: The younger people --] mother and daddy [Interviewer: The younger people did it for their parents] my mother did it for her mother and dad and Angie used to do it for the other grandma and grandpa. ^(paternal)

her paternal grandparents

Q: So they lived close by and their children—your parents made sure they were taken care of?

A: Oh yeah.

Q: Morning, noon, and night?

A: They did some work and whatever they needed it came out of their money—they never had any money of their own or—they just supplied them with all the foods they needed or coal or wood... everything they needed.

Q: Do you remember if your grandparents ever talked much about Italy and they old country?

A: Yeah they did, they did, but ya know we weren't interested... ya know we didn't understand what they were saying. I remember daddy used to always tells us they never had much snow, they had snow they had a little skiff where they lived, and he says they'd [?] tow out in the winter time if they had a little plot there, which my dad's folks did because

uhhhh

they were rich considered in them days. They weren't rich, but they had chickens and they had a goat I think ya know for milk, where mother's folks didn't have anything, my dad had this property and they had a house—they owned their house.--and they had chickens upstairs up stairs ya know in the house or maybe they had them downstairs I don't remember __ said that. But anyway my dad—my mother's father worked... they had a little farm too, they used to have to go real far for their little acreage whatever it was for some vegetables, but grandpa worked for some rich people and they treated him pretty good, and mother was a wet nurse for this rich family.

Q: Really? So when they had a baby and needed ~~a~~ nursing? ?

A: Mother nursed her children until they were three or four years old and they ya know... and even in this county she was a wet nurse—

Q: For?

A: One of our godparents, the baby—because they didn't have milk like they do now... formulas—have milk delivered in the day or fresh milk you know, no ice or refrigerators or anything like that.

Q: So your mother, ~~the~~ Columba~~?~~ was a good neighbor in that sense?

A: Yeah...

Q: We forget about they things that people had to do to get along when you didn't have instant milk—Safeways—

A: and these people, they lived... oh almost a block away from us and in the summertime when mother was nursing this baby, either him or her would come down with ?purseall? in the field so my mother could nurse that baby.

*a parasol
(sun umbrella)*

Q: Wouldn't ya love to have a picture of that?

A: Oh yeah...(laughter):

Q: Now you had children—you and John—how many children?

A: Four, and three are living.

Q: and do they all live, do all three live in the Denver area?

A: No, only Virginia lives here, the others live in California.

Q: Do you have a chance to visit them or do they come here?

A: Oh yeah, we were there last April for my daughters 50th wedding anniversary.

Q: You have a daughter with a 50, and I think that's—[Virginia: I'm 53, I had a party two/three years ago.] Wonderful—[Virginia: we celebrated 50 years 3 years ago.] As they would say *"auguri" Italian for congratulations* (ph). [Virginia: And to have her at both of those celebrations was special.] [Ms. DeBell: Oh yeah.] I would think so... [Ms. DeBell: she had a big party, lotta friends and I met 'lot of her friends--because when I was able to travel I'd __ get out there, sometimes I'd go twice a year, but I went there every year... I even went there for their graduation...when they graduated high school.

Q: Well you have had a lot of exciting things happen to you. *was* ~~?Were?~~ your husband born in 1902, he wasn't in the military at all was he?

A: No

Q: Because he was in between the—

A: Yeah. He had a brother though that died from the gas of the WWI.

Q: Is that right?

A: He came home, and ya know, he was never well after that 'cause they used that gas in the First World War ya know...

Q: You mentioned that he was one of 14 surviving children—so he had a huge family?

A: There were five girls and ?those? boys.

Q: Did most of that DeBell family, from Potens^za stay in the Denver area?

A: They all stayed here.

Q: That would explain the huge number-- (laughter)

A: Oh, I got so many nieces and nephews and cousins that I don't even know.

Q: Have you ever counted them up?

A: No... it'd be impossible—I should would like to have like a DeBell reunion and, but you wouldn't know, but there would be a lot of cousins, but who know __ descended too, a lot of my nieces, lot of my nieces are gone, and they were 90 years old. My... my— John's youngest brother was younger than his niece... [Interviewer: Yeah, with a big family--] His oldest brother—[Virginia: Danny's niece was your—at your wedding party.] Yeah she was my brides maid. [Virginia: Danny's niece?]

Q: Well spread out, ya know it covered 30 years, it's a generation and a half for sure.

Well, what's the most striking changes that you've seen in your life?

A: Oh gee honey, everything, I just couldn't begin to mention, we got electricity, telephone, cars, airplanes—I'll never forget when the airplanes first flew... and we'd hear that noise and we'd all run out of the house and see them go by from the airport.

Q: So, and you remember when the electricity first came out to the farm in Welby?

A: Well it was the year that ~~Virginia~~ ^{Virginia} was born—when was she born? That's when we got electricity. [Virginia: 1931, oh you got it before then, you had it in your house.] Up the other place, we didn't have it up there we made our own electricity when we moved there. [Virginia: Oh you did?] Well sure, we had our own big motor in the basement to make our own—generator to make our own electricity up there, because I did all my washing by hand until Lillie was born and then Daddy said we ought to get a washer, and we went and bought a washer, but we had to carry our water from a block--with buckets to wash... ya know. [Virginia: and that was in the 1930s.] [Interviewer: Yeah, we take a lot for granted. The cities back east had all those things, but not out in the country, but we forget.] [Virginia: In this generation of mine, I didn't have a toilet until I was a high school graduate... at 18] Yeah, we didn't have—we didn't have our own—

Q: So what year would that be?

A: VIRGINIA: 1947

Q: We forget don't we?

A: VIRGINIA: Yep, and I'm 75, but still. [Mrs. DeBell: I raised all those kids, ya know with dirty diapers, you'd have to run them out in a bucket, and haul all your water.

Q: That was really work wasn't it?

A: Oh, we never, ya know, you say people are busy nowadays, man! Their not busy doing nothing.

Q: Did you have time to—you know today people talk about the clubs or the organizations and such.

A: The only thing we did was visiting. We visited, and mostly on Sat. evenings, and nobody had to call anybody that they were coming over, they would just drop in and visit any time of they day any time of the evening.

Q: They didn't have to set an appointment to see family member or friends?

A: That's right—or even friends, no...no.

Q: How about cooking? Did your family when you were a girl growing up, was it mostly consider ^{ed} Italian fare or did you eat a lot of the vegetables that ^{you} ya grew?

A: Oh we ___+ we ate a lot of our vegetables, yeah vegetables, when... when we were at home with mother we raised our own pigs, and we raised, and we had mostly pork, but the summertime when we'd go to the market and was in town everyday they would come home with steak, which was shoulder steak and hamburger and roast and some fruit, ya know, cause the fruit was only around the holidays; they didn't like year-round now and we had that, but lots of Italian foods. Potatoes, we made our own breads in outside ovens.

Q: Oh, you had your own ovens?

A: Oh yeah, old brick ovens. [They talk about them in North Denver, but I never— but of course you would have those--] Oh yeah, we had em, we used to bake oh 14 big loaves of

bread like that to last a week ya know, cause our main food was bread, ya know You'd have soup—every meal was bread really.

Q: I wonder what they'd think of today's low carb...diet?

A: Oh yeah, there was no fat people them days either because they all worked... so hard.

Q: When did the family farming business slow down or shut down or—

A: Well, after Daddy died—

Q: Which was...?

A: ^A47, yeah. Then they just start—everybody...everybody was married at that time and well they were all married when we ran the farm together, yeah, but they all got some little jobs... out... part-time jobs, some of them had full-time jobs, Carmin and Tony and Dominic—Dominic worked down at the Coke ovens down in Denver—~~Terracotta~~ ovens.

Q: So then gradually they began to get more the... jobs as opposed to the farming as a way of support?

A: Yeah.

Q: Well it sounds like a very very colorful time...

A: Yeah it was, ya know. It was a hard time, but it seemed like we were all happy ya know... I don't remember us being us un^happy... I don't really—

Q: And yet you didn't have the things that people think they need today?

A: No

Q: And one more quick question... What did—^{about} what when people got sick? Where was—
did you have a doctor that came?

A: Oh, the doctor came at the house, I had a cousin that we had a horse that used to go—
used to just leave him by the barn and he'd go down and get his own water and come
up—when he was thirsty he'd just go down and get—he'd never was haltered, ya know,
he was a slow horse, and my cousin Nick... my cousin Nick got kicked in the mouth
because he teased the dog—the horse with a switch while the horse was eating grass
along the side of the road, and knocked some of his teeth out and he was unconscious.
Took him in and called the doctor, well the doctor had to come ^{from Alaska} ?Uleria?. You know
where ?Uleria? is at? [Interviewer: I've seen that.] There used to be a ?Uleria? pharmacy
down in there by—what they call now--?Ununciation? ^{Annunciation} Church is at, what is that—near
the __ packing house used to be down in there, and the doctor had an office there, and he
came. Well he couldn't come, it rained and it poured, and he had a car, but he got about
half-way there and got stuck with the car—got stuck in the mud, and there was a dairy
farm there where he got stuck. He went in there and got their horse and came out on
horseback at 9 o'clock at night. [Virginia: To tend to Nick.] Uh-huh to tend to Nick, and
fixed his teeth and mended him up whatever he did, give him medication stayed with him
and came everyday for I don't know how many days, but that's the kind of doctor we
had. My brother was sick all those years, before he died. The doctor used to come about
every week or so, really a good doctor, and mother couldn't speak English, and she'd
converse with this doctor—she'd sit like we are now and she'd have served him—she

✓ spelling
w a l g e

always had pizzelles and a little glass of wine he'd sit with her and have some cookies and wine and just stay.

Q: Was he Italian?

A: No [Interviewer: So you remember his name?

Q: What was it?

A: Doctor Dean. [Interviewer: Doctor Dean.] Edward F. Dean... I'll never forget. And then there was one guy who had a car, this was later in years that had a little Ford touring car, and everybody used to call him when they got sick and he'd take them down in Denver to the doctors.

Q: But most of the babies were born at home weren't they?

A: Yeah, most of them.

Q: At least most of them?

A: Virginia was born at home but my others weren't [Virginia: North Denver...that's when she lived in north Denver.] [Interviewer: The two years...] [Virginia: What street?] Osage... 37th and Osage.

Q: Yes and there were a lot of births at home and then you had to go get a birth certificate for all the government regulations...

A: I didn't have a birth certificate somehow, they never could find it, but all my other brothers were baptized in north Denver because there was no church in Welby, and we found them all, but mine wasn't there. We went to all the churches and there was no birth certificate. So then I had to have one made... issued by—witness by somebody who

witnessed

Mary DeBell
Clair Vallano

22

was 10 years older than I, and I was never getting it... called up Golden and they said,
“Oh it’s been here for 6 months.”

Conclusion of Interview