

A Brief History of the

*Bozzini, Crosetti
& Martelli Families*
in Italy and America



by Joelle Steele

A Brief History of the
Bozzini, Crosetti & Martelli Families
in Italy and America

Researched, written, edited, and illustrated by Joelle Steele
with content and editorial assistance from Chris Martelli

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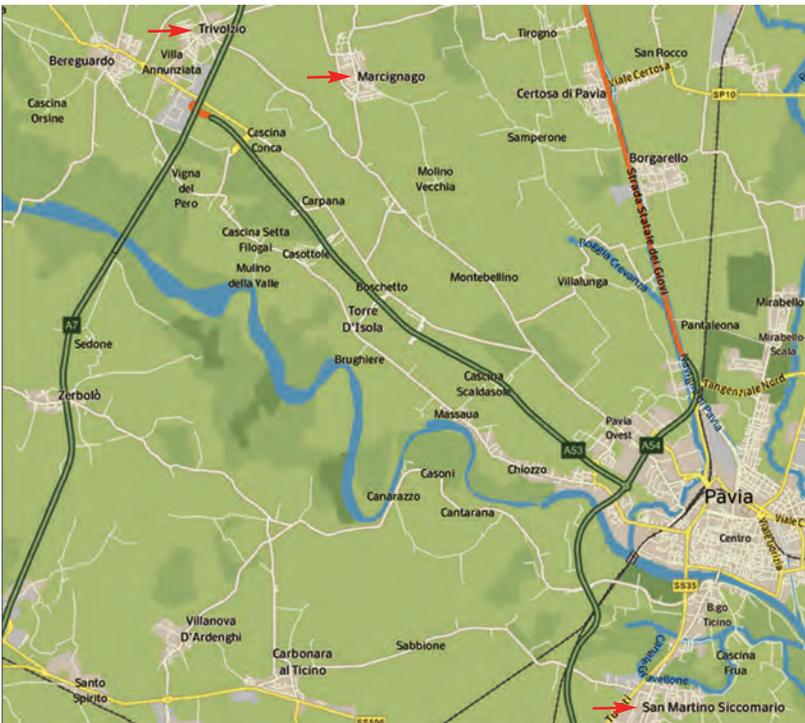
Book design by Joelle Steele.

Photographs from family archives, edited and restored
by Joelle Steele.

Cover photo: Painted photograph of Trebbiano [Trebbiano Nizza], Pavia, Lombardy, Italy, ca. 1920s-1940s, photographer and artist unknown, digitally restored by Joelle Steele. It was left to Lee Martelli by Remo Pelvus (1892-1988) who emigrated to the U.S.A. and lived for a time in Santa Cruz, CA. Remo and Lee's father, Basilio Martelli, were both orphans given to families to raise in Trebbiano, a very poor village where many made their livelihood by taking in orphans and getting paid by the government until the children were old enough to pay for their room and board. As an infant, Basilio was first raised by a family in Croce, just south of Trebbiano until he was 8 years old. He then went to work for a family in Trebbiano, until he finished the equivalent of 8th grade. After that, he left for the tiny village of Casa Cucchi near Cecima, where he lived for the remainder of his youth.

Electronically Published in the United States of America
by Joelle Steele, Joelle Steele Enterprises, Lacey, Washington, U.S.A.

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Trivolzio and surrounding areas (above).



The areas of Italy where all of our known ancestors came from (above).



Casteggio and surrounding areas (above).



Varni and Bogli and surrounding areas (above).

Bozzinis and Crosettis in Varni and Bogli



Varni

Many of our known ancestors came from Varni, Italy, a village located within the township (municipality) of Gorreto, in the Liguria region, in the Genova province. Varni is about 60km (37 mi) from Genoa. It is in the Val Trebbia (Trebbia Valley) on the slopes of Monte Carmo (Mt. Carmo), a 1,642m (5,387 ft) mountain in the Ligurian Apennines, whose top is at the Ligurian and Emilia-Romagna



Varni

boundary. It is covered in part with trees and near the top is mainly grass. Much of Monte Carmo is in the natural park of Antola, and is populated by deer, fox, and wild boar. At the top of the mountain is a 3m (10 ft) high cross called the Cross of Carmo. From this point, the sea of Genoa is always visible.

There is a legend that says that Varni was originally a hide-out for bandits because it was hidden by mountains and thick vegetation and was not highly visible. But today, Varni is a popular tourist destination for nature-lovers thanks to its close proximity to the Parco Naturale Regionale dell'Antola (Natural Regional Park of Antola, or simply Antola Park). The park boasts 270km (168 mi) of paths, and offers many outdoor activities, including hiking, horseback riding, kayaking, mountain biking, paragliding and hang-gliding, sport fishing, and cross-country skiing.

According to old interviews with a long-time resident of Varni, Renato Crosetti, for many years prior to the automobile and better roads, people

who wanted to visit their friends or go to market in neighboring towns often had a six-hour round trip walk. If a doctor was needed, it was often a two-hour trip to fetch the doctor and another two-hour return trip with the doctor riding on horseback. Women doing laundry had to walk for a half-hour one way with clothes in a basket on their heads down the road to a fountain.

Bogli

A few of our known ancestors came from another isolated village, Bogli, on the Rià de Buj (Buj River). It is located in the Alta Val Boreca (Upper Boreca Valley, also known as the Val Burech), an area with a proliferation of edible mushrooms and chestnuts, and popular for hunting wild boar.

The valley is created by the Boreca and Trebbia rivers, and shares its south border with the Trebbia Valley and Mt. Carmo, where Varni is located. The Boreca River flows down from Mt. Carmo.



The bell tower of the church in Varni.



Varni in the snow.

Bogli is in the Ottone municipality, in the Emilia Romagna region, in the Piacenza province. Bogli and Varni are approximately 45km (28 mi) apart as the crow flies, but it takes about an hour and a half to get from one to the other by car along the long and winding roads.

Camps for Roman soldiers were located in Bogli and the neighboring town of Suzzi (formerly Scusse, pronounced Shooze and later Souza) during the Roman period, as has been determined by archaeological finds and ruins of Roman outposts nearby. Bogli has been the seat of an autonomous parish, St. Marziano (St. Martianus, patron saint of Tortona), since 1655 when the church was built by the Doria family. The church still stands in Bogli. At the time it was built, Bogli had 32 households. As of 2014, it has a permanent population of 4 people.

In 1970, when Lee Martelli first visited Bogli, he met a very old priest there who was amazed to hear Lee speaking in the Bogli dialect. It had almost completely died out in that area about 50 or so years earlier, but had apparently continued on through Lee's grandmother who brought it with her to

America and passed it on to her children.

As of 2025, there is only one full-time resident of Bogli and they do not speak this mountain dialect of the Ligurian-Italian dialect. Both dialects sounded very different from classical Italian, but the Bogli dialect varied even more. In fact it had an alphabet of 27 letters that includes the cedilla (ç), which sounds somewhat like the French "s."

Examples of differences between classical Italian and the Bogli dialect include the word "focáccia" ("cake"), which was pronounced "fugotsa" in Bogliese instead of "fokasha." The word "figlio" ("son") was pronounced "feezho" instead of "feeleeyo."

The town name "Bogli" is pronounced "Boo-zhee" instead of

"boll-yee," and in the Roman era, Bogli was called "Bouge," pronounced booj or buj, which is the root of its current pronunciation. In general, the Bogli dialect has many characteristics of French and Saxon tongues, the languages spoken by early inhabitants of the area. Most linguists and local historians believe that the name Bogli has Celtic/Gaulic roots, as the Celts/Gauls and Ligurians lived together for about two centuries prior to the Second Punic War (218 BC-201 BC).

Bogli and the Val Boreca were known for their ancient folk dances and their affinity for music. The primary instruments were the



The Bogli River (above) and an aerial view of the town of Bogli (below).



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Apennine fife and the accordian.
And today, Bogli is notable for the fact that it is where the ancestors of 19th/20th century virtuoso conductor Arturo Toscanini (1867-1957)

came from, dating back to Arturo's great-great-grandfather, Simone Toscanini, who was born in Bogli in abt. 1740.



Bogli (above), St. Marziano Church (above right), and the Bogli cemetery (right).



The house of Arturo Toscanini's great-great grandparents in Bogli (right).



Ruins of the house of John Crosutti and Maria Crosetti in Bogli (above).

Bozzinis & Crosettis in Varni

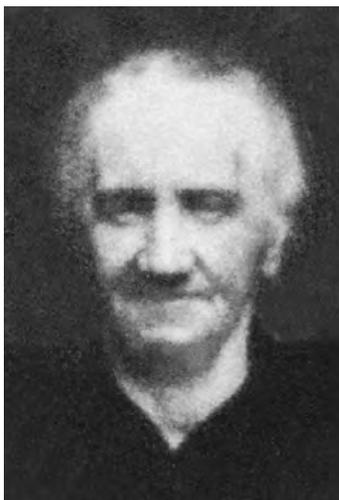
Most of our ancestors came from Varni and were grape growers. Our earliest known Bozzini ancestor was Francesco, born about 1790. His son was Giovanni Battista ("Giobatta") who was born in 1817. Giobatta was not married in Varni, if at all, but the woman who was the mother of his five daughters and two sons was Maria Bavoso, born ca. 1820. Their oldest son was Francesco Bozzini (b. 4/3/1846).

The earliest known Crosetti ancestor was Stefano Crosetti (b. ca. 1775). He married Margareta Zanardi (b. ca. 1780). They had a son named Nicola (b. 1808). Nicola first married Magdaline Guerini with whom he had a son, Giuseppe (b. 1838). She and her son may have died in childbirth. On June 19, 1843, Nicola married Maria Crosetti (b. 1819), possibly a cousin since they shared the same last name. Her parents were Giovanni Crosetti (b. ca. 1786) and Maria Salvi (b. ca. 1790).

Nicola and Maria had three sons, Carlo, Pietro, and Bartolomeo, and a daughter, Maria Luigia "Louisa" Crosetti (b. 4/22/1855).

On June 5, 1874, Louisa married Francesco Bozzini (b. 4/3/1846). They had four daughters, three of whom apparently died at birth or in infancy. Their surviving daughter, Maria Bozzini (1888-1963), married Giovanni Batista "Giobatta" Crosetti (08/09/1881) from Varni, and they had two sons, Nino (1907-09/01/1989) and Luigi (b. 1912). Nino married Victoria and they had two children, Andreano and Vilma. Vilma married Guliano Loreto and they had a son named Maurizio Loreto.

At some time, Maria and Giobatta moved to Lucca, where they both died. Maria's brother, Giovanni Battista "Giambattista" Bozzini (05/24/1876-06/21/1949), went to America.



John Buzzini's sister, Maria Giuseppina Bozzini (1888-1963), mother of Nino and Luigi Crosetti.

Bozzinis & Crosettis in America

Giovanni Bozzini (05/24/1876-06/21/1949), later known as John Buzzini, married Rosa Maria "Rosina" Crossetti (03/04/1884-01/18/1934) in Varni, Italy on October 7, 1901. Rosa was born in Bogli, and her parents were Giovanni Crosutti (b. ca. 1855) and Maria Crosetti (b. ca. 1860), both born in Bogli. Crosutti is probably a variant spelling of Crosetti.



After John and Rosa were married, he came to San Francisco, California by himself in 1903. Rosa was pregnant at the time, and the story goes that her father worked her so hard that she miscarried.

In 1904, Rosa arrived in America. In 1905, she gave birth to non-identical twin daughters, Mabel Louise (03/08/1905-02/12/1977) and Enes L. (03/08/1905-10/27/1968) in their house at 2290 Lombard Street on the corner of Pierce in the San Francisco neighborhood known as "Cow Hollow."

The twins' birth records were destroyed in the fire following the 7.8 to 8.3 earthquake on April 18, 1906 at 5:14 a.m. Mabel said that her mother Rosa sheltered with the twins in a cupboard at 2290 Lombard Street during the quake.

Cow Hollow sustained very minimal damage, even though the ground shook for 28-45 seconds. Fires broke out immediately all over the city, and insufficient water resulted in the fires burning out of control for three days. There was major devastation of property and an estimat-

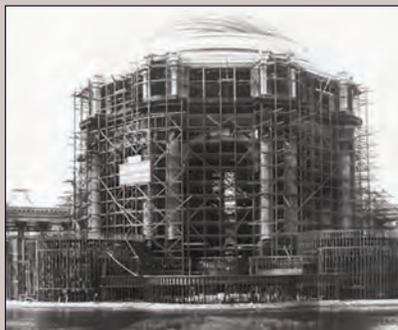


Giovanni Bozzini (John Buzzini) and Rosa Maria Crossetti (Rose Buzzini) ca. 1909. John had a birthmark under his right eye, as is noticeable in his photo.

The Palace of Fine Arts



Exposition site pre-construction, 1913.



Construction scaffolding, 1914.



Dome under construction, 1914.

The Palace of Fine Arts was originally built as part of the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition, which ran from February 20, 1915 through December 4, 1915. The Palace was designed by Berkeley architect Bernard Maybeck, and was constructed by the J.D. Hannah company for a total cost of \$621,929. The original Palace on which John Buzzini is said to have worked was built in 1914 and was 148,000 sq. ft. on approximately 17 acres. It was demolished in 1964 and the rotunda was rebuilt according to Maybeck's original plans using concrete castings from the original structure. In 1975, the colonnades were rebuilt as well.



After completion, at left, 1915. The reconstructed rotunda and colonnades, above, 1976.



ed death toll of more than 700 people. The mayor at the time, E. E. Schmitz, issued a now-famous proclamation authorizing looters or other criminals to be shot and killed.

In the 1910 census the twins are listed as Inez and Amalia, age 5. In the 1920 records they are listed as Inez and Emelia.

The twins were John and Rosa's only children, thus ending the use of the names Bozzini/Buzzini and Crosetti/Crossetti in this line of ancestry. In addition, John changed

the spelling of his last name to Buzzini. This was done because there was another John and Rosa Bozzini in the same neighborhood and they were not paying their grocery bills on time. This was in the days when you signed for your groceries and paid the bill at the end of the month. John needed to make sure that Rosa could shop for food for their children, so he changed the spelling to avoid confusion.

The Buzzinis lived at 2290 Lombard Street from about 1905 to

at least 1920 or so. That building is no longer there. They were living at 1689 Greenwich Street by at least 1926. It was a 4-unit building numbered 1683, 1685, 1687, and 1689. Several family members lived in these units over the years.

John was a successful contractor and among his projects was doing some of the carpentry for the original Palace of Fine Arts. This cannot be verified as no mention is noted of individual workers in the records of architect Bernard Maybeck.



John and Rosa Buzzini and their twin daughters, Enes and Mabel, ca. 1908,

John and Rosa were also investors in real estate, and John's construction loans were personally negotiated by A.P. Giannini.

In September 1931, Rosa Buzzini was diagnosed with carcinoma of the cervix by the family physician, Emile D. Torre, MD, following a biopsy. She was nursed by her daughter Mabel until her death at home from the metastasized cancer at 9:20 p.m. on January 17, 1934.

Rosa's funeral arrangements were by Valente, Marini, Perata & Co., and she was interred in the G. Buzzini and B. Martelli family mausoleum, Plot 137, in the Italian Cemetery in Colma.



Lombard at Steiner ca. 1940. 2290 Lombard was on the right a block further down at Pierce.



John Buzzini and Mary Franzoni, Fairfax, 1942.

John did not remarry after Rosa died, but he lived with Maria "Mary" Franzoni from at least 1939 until his death in 1949. According to Lee, Mary was very nice, took good care of John, cooked for him, entertained his friends, and attended Lee's wedding with John.

John's Will specified that Mary could continue to live in his flat at 1838-1840 Greenwich until she died, but according to Lee, Mabel was so nasty to Mary that Mary moved out. When she died, she was buried at the Italian Cemetery in Colma.

John was diagnosed with cancer of the stomach by family physician Emile D. Torre, MD, on June 15, 1949 at Saint Francis Hospital, where he died less than a week later at 12:50 p.m. on June 21, 1949 of coronary thrombosis as a result of arteriosclerosis.

John's funeral arrangements were made by Valente, Marini, Perata & Co., and he was interred with Rosa in the G. Buzzini and B. Martelli family mausoleum. Plot 137, in the Italian Cemetery in Colma.

A.P. Giannini

Amadeo Peter or "A.P." Giannini was born in San Jose, California to Luigi Giannini and Virginia DeMartini, who were born in Favale di Malvaro, near Genoa, Italy. They owned a 40-acre orchard. When A.P. was seven, he saw his father murdered by a laborer over a \$1 debt. His step-father, Lorenzo Scatena, a produce broker from Lucca, Italy, introduced A.P. to his business. At age 19, A.P. purchased one-third of that business with his own earnings.

A.P. was 6'2," a good judge of character, and was considered ruthless but fair. In 1904, at 34, he founded Bank of Italy for "people who never used one." He was known for his personal service to the customers, and his desk was always near the front of the bank so he could personally greet them.

During the 1906 earthquake, his employees went to work. It took A.P. five hours to get to The City from his home in San Mateo. He laid planks across barrels for desks, and worked on the streets.

A.P. also financed silent films by the likes of Douglas Fairbanks, Charlie Chaplin, and Cecil B. deMille. In the 1920s, he opened a branch in Monterey, California after three years of trying to convince the fishermen to keep their money in a bank instead of under their mattresses.

By 1929, the Bank of Italy had many branches. It was renamed Bank of America. A.P. suffered from a painful disease called polyneuritis, an inflammation of multiple peripheral nerves, resulting in damage and dysfunction. . In 1945, he resigned as chairman of the board to become "founder-chairman." In 1949, he died at 79.



Rosa and John Buzzini, 1918.



Rosa and John Buzzini, abt. 1928.



Rosa Buzzini's funeral flowers, 1935. She was the first to be interred in the family mausoleum.



Mary Franzoni, John Buzzini, and Mabel and Basilio Martelli, June 2, 1948.



Mabel and Enes Buzzini, ca. 1914.



Mabel and Enes Buzzini, ca. 1923.



Enes and Mabel, ca. 1940s.

Enes Buzzini

Enes Buzzini, and her non-identical twin sister, Mabel, were born on March 8, 1905 in San Francisco, California.

Enes was married three times: First, to a grocer, Emilio "Emil" J. Varni (ca. 1926 to ca. 1933). They lived at 1040 and 2034 Greenwich until they divorced. Then she married a teamster, Frank E. Columbo (ca. 1939 to ca. 1941). They lived at 25 Paradise Avenue until they also divorced. Then Enes married a

teamster and milk man, Stanley E. Davis (04/18/1909-02/08/1969), who she met at a dance hall. They were married from ca. 1947 until their deaths in 1968. They lived at 3996 23rd, then at 1428 Florida, and finally at 159 Hearst.

Enes never had any children. Stanley had at least one child, Stanley Paul Davis, from a previous marriage. Stanley was from an Irish family and was an all-around "great guy," according to Enes' nephew Lee Martelli. Lee and his wife

Norma played "Pedro" (a card game, pronounced pee-dro) regularly with Enes and Stanley, who also babysat their daughter Joelle in San Francisco and Daly City.

Enes and Stanley owned a home at 159 Hearst Avenue in San Francisco, along with some mineral rights in one of the Dakotas. It appears that the mineral rights were Enes' individually-owned property, as on her death, they went directly to her sister Mabel and her nephews Ray and Lee.

Enes was a quiet, soft-spoken, cheerful, well-mannered, and very sweet woman. She died of a heart attack or stroke in 1968, and Stanley died just a few months later



Mabel and Enes with mother Rosa (center), ca. 1924.



Basilio, Mabel, Stanley, and Enes, June 1948.

in 1969 of a heart attack or stroke. They are both buried at Olivet Memorial Park in Colma.

When Stanley died, Mabel was bequeathed an interest in the Hearst Avenue residence and was named executrix for Stanley's Will, executed November 1, 1968, just a couple months after his wife Enes had died, and just two months before his own death.

Mabel hired attorney Philip R. Anderlini of San Francisco to file a petition for the probate of the Will, a hearing for which was held on March 19, 1969. The house was sold and a check issued to the estate in the amount of \$22,480.34, which was distributed to the heirs, two of whom were Enes' nephews, Lee and Ray.



Basilio, Ray, Mabel, Norma, Lee, and Enes, June 1948.



Mabel Buzzini, ca. 1944.

Mabel Buzzini

Mabel was generous with her money and belongings, loved her big white cat "Baby," and was a hard-working woman. She dropped out of school in the 8th grade and worked at picking fruit and house-keeping, while also helping with the family real estate business.



She had her first heart attack when she was about 27 years old and providing round-the-clock care for her mother, Rosa, who spent a little over two years at home dying of cervical cancer.

Mabel's son Lee, who was only 6 years old when Rosa died, said that Mabel had a nervous breakdown during this time and that he was sent to live with another family while she recovered. Whether the "nervous breakdown" and her heart attack were one and the same will probably never be documented.

Mabel could be vain and conniving. It is said that she once got her brother-in-law, Stanley E. Davis,

drunk and forced him to sign some property over to her, although no written evidence supports this.

While she was not known for being sweet and friendly, Mabel still managed to find not one, but two husbands: Basilio Martelli and Leo Perrino. She reigned over both men as the family matriarch, a woman who wore the pants in the family, who made decisions for everyone, and with whose wishes everyone complied. According to her son Ray, this was because "essentially her decisions were sound and of good judgment."

Mabel first married Basilio Adamo Martelli in 1926. Basilio and Mabel separated twice, first in 1944, at which time she moved with their two sons to her duplex at 1840 Greenwich Street. She and Basilio reconciled shortly afterwards, but in September of 1950, Mabel established residency in Reno, Nevada, where she hired attorney Charlotte Hunter to represent her in divorcing Basilio.

At that time, Mabel and Basilio had already executed a Property Settlement Agreement resolving their respective property rights, and it was included in the decree, which was entered on October 19, 1950 and became final on that date. Mabel appeared in court, and Basilio filed a written appearance.

Mabel was granted her divorce based on the grounds of "extreme cruelty, entirely mental in character." According to her son, Lee, his father was too old-fashioned for Mabel, and he drank too much. His favorite breakfast was supposedly a shot of whiskey and a raw egg.

Mabel did not ask for any support or alimony and she paid for all costs and fees in connection with the divorce. She was also awarded sole custody of her minor child, Ray, with reasonable visitation rights for Basilio.

State of California
City and County of San Francisco) **MARRIAGE LICENSE** No. 2118

These Presents are to authorize and license any Justice of the Supreme Court, Justice of the District Court of Appeals, Judge of the Superior Court, Judge of the Police Court, Justice of the Peace, Priest or Minister of the Gospel of any denomination, to solemnize, within said county, the Marriage of

Basilio Martelli (WHITE) and *Mabel Buggini* (WHITE)
aged 26 years and past, resident of City and County of San Francisco, State of California, and aged 19 years and past, resident of City and County of San Francisco, State of California,
said parties being of sufficient age to be capable of contracting marriage as appears by affidavit of record in my office.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the City and County of San Francisco, this 3rd day of June, 1926.

SEAL R. J. MCGREY
County Clerk and ex-officio Clerk of said Superior Court

State of California, City and County of San Francisco) ss. **This Certifies that** By **HARRY J. GOUGH** Deputy

Basilio Martelli and *Mabel Buggini*
the parties in the above license, were joined in marriage by me on the 27th day of June, A. D. 1926, in said City and County and State;
that *Pietro De Martini*, a resident of City and County of San Francisco, State of California, and *Dalma Rossi*, a resident of City and County of San Francisco, State of California, were present as witnesses of said ceremony.

Witness: Name *Pietro De Martini* No. 1730 Golden Gate Ave. Street
Name *Dalma Rossi* No. 2241 Tomford Street

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, this 27th day of June, A. D. 1926
Oreste Trinchini
CATHOLIC PRIEST

Filed for Record at the request of *O. Trinchini* on June 29, 1926



Basilio and Mabel's wedding party, 1926.

PLATE OF MARRIAGE
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE
THIRD COPY OF ORIGINAL

CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
1926 Index No. 2118
LINE NUMBER 2118

STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

GROOM		BRIDE	
1 FULL NAME <i>Basilio Martelli</i>	1 FULL NAME <i>Mabel Buggini</i>	1 FULL NAME <i>Basilio Martelli</i>	1 FULL NAME <i>Mabel Buggini</i>
2 RESIDENCE <i>1653 Greenwich St.</i>	2 RESIDENCE <i>1629 Greenwich St.</i>	3 COLOR OR RACE WHITE	3 COLOR OR RACE WHITE
4 AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY <i>26</i>	4 AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY <i>19</i>	5 NUMBER OF MARRIAGES <i>1</i>	5 NUMBER OF MARRIAGES <i>1</i>
6 PLACE OF BIRTH <i>Italy</i>	6 PLACE OF BIRTH <i>Italy</i>	7 OCCUPATION <i>Accountant</i>	7 OCCUPATION <i>Accountant</i>
8 NAME OF FATHER <i>Pietro Martelli</i>	8 NAME OF FATHER <i>Jose Buggini</i>	9 NAME OF MOTHER <i>Angela Braga</i>	9 NAME OF MOTHER <i>Rosa Bossette</i>
10 PLACE OF BIRTH OF FATHER <i>Italy</i>	10 PLACE OF BIRTH OF FATHER <i>Italy</i>	11 PLACE OF BIRTH OF MOTHER <i>Italy</i>	11 PLACE OF BIRTH OF MOTHER <i>Italy</i>

12 I HEREBY CERTIFY that *Basilio Martelli* and *Mabel Buggini*
were joined in marriage by me in accordance with the laws of the State of California, at
City and County of San Francisco, State of California, this 27th day of June, 1926
Signature of Minister of the Gospel
Oreste Trinchini
Official Position
CATHOLIC PRIEST

13 FILED
June 29/26
R. J. MCGREY
County Clerk and ex-officio Clerk of said Superior Court



Basilio, LeRoy, Ray, and Mabel, abt. 1945.

Mabel and Basilio's marriage license.



The family in Fairfax, 1948.
Left to right: Basilio Martelli, Norma Martelli, Mabel Martelli, Lee Martelli behind his brother Ray, Stanley Davis, an unidentified man, and John Buzzini.



Basilio, Ray, Mabel, Joelle, Enes, Norma, and Lee, in San Francisco, 1951.

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No. 13233-4 Dept. No. 2
 IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA
 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASHOE
 CHARLOTTE HUNTER
 Attorney for Plaintiff

MABEL MARTELLI,)
 Plaintiff,))
 vs.))
 BASILIO MARTELLI,)
 Defendant,)

H. L. Henderson

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND DECREE

THIS CAUSE, came on regularly for trial on the 19th day of *October*, 1950, before the undersigned Judge of said Court, sitting without a Jury; plaintiff appeared in person and by her Counsel, CHARLOTTE HUNTER, and defendant filed his written appearance; certain evidence was adduced by the plaintiff and the case was submitted to the Court for decision.

WHEREUPON, upon said last named date, all of the law and the evidence being considered, the Court rendered its decision in favor of the plaintiff and against the defendant and ordered that Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decree be drawn in accordance therewith.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Court finds as matters of fact that this Court has jurisdiction of the subject matter and of the parties hereto; that the plaintiff is a bona fide resident of the State of Nevada, and that each, every and all of the allegations of plaintiff's complaint are true.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Court concludes as a matter of law that the plaintiff

is entitled to the judgment and decree of this Court for an absolute divorce from defendant on the ground of extreme cruelty, entirely mental in character.

DECREE

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the plaintiff be, and she hereby is, granted an absolute divorce from the defendant; that the bonds of matrimony now and heretofore existing between the plaintiff and the defendant be, and the same are fully, completely and forever dissolved, and that the parties are, and each hereby is, restored to the status of an unmarried person.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that plaintiff be awarded sole custody of the minor child herein, with reasonable rights of visitation in the defendant.

DONE IN OPEN COURT this 19th day of October, 1950.

H. L. Henderson
 DISTRICT JUDGE

4/11/51
 4113 491-2
 E. H. Deemer
 By H. L. Henderson

Mabel and Basilio's final divorce papers. She filed in Reno in September 1950 and it was finalized on October 19, 1950.



Mabel with an unidentified man she was dating in 1950-51 until she met Leo Perrino in 1951.





Mabel, ca. 1946.



Mabel, 1947.



Mabel, 1948.



Mabel, 1948.

During and following her divorce from Basilio, Mabel was dating an unidentified man for about a year starting in 1950 and ended in about mid 1951.

In late 1951, Mabel met Elio "Leo" Perrino through the Italian Family Club in San Francisco. On September 11, 1952, she entered into an antenuptial (prenuptial) agreement with Leo, and they were married in 1954.

Mabel had at least two plastic surgeries in her life, one to reshape her hooked nose, and the other to reduce her breasts. Her two grandchildren, Chris and Joelle remember her for her blonde wig, knee-high leather boots, short skirts, and fur coat. According to her grandson Chris Martelli, she "embodied the urge to live, be your own person, be different, and enjoy things while you have them."

Mabel died of cardiac arrest at 6:30 p.m. on February 12, 1977 at Kaiser Foundation Hospital in San Francisco, where she had been hospitalized for three weeks following a stroke in mid-January. A contributing factor in her death was a congenital heart defect.

Mabel's funeral arrangements were by Halsted & Company, where her bronze casket and funeral costs were \$5,000. She was interred on February 15, 1977 in the G. Buzzini



Mabel, 1946.



Mabel, 1946.



Mabel, ca. 1946.



Mabel, 1948.



Mabel, 1948.



Mabel, 1948.

A Brief History of the Bozzini, Crosetti & Martelli Families in Italy & America

and B. Martelli family mausoleum, Plot 137, in the Italian Cemetery in Colma, California. Her previously deceased and embalmed cat, Baby, was placed in her casket beside her.



Ray, Norma, Stanley, Enes, and Mabel and Basilio, June 1948.



Basilio and Mabel, August 1948.



Mabel and granddaughter, Joelle, 1952, at the Palace of Fine Arts.



Mabel, on stairs at house on Capra Way, April 1959.



Mabel with her grandchildren, Joelle and Chris Martelli at the Palace of Fine Arts, March 8, 1959.



Mabel and Leo in the sunroom at Capra Way, June 1961.



Mabel with Leo and Ray, location unknown, 1968.

Leo Perrino



Elio R. "Leo" Perrino (4/28/1922-3/02/2004) married Mabel in 1954. He was a classically trained artist from Framura, Italy, 18 years Mabel's junior, and just five years older than her oldest son, Lee.

Leo had also been formally trained to be a waiter in a trade school, and he spent most of World War II in Havana, Cuba, where he waited tables in the restaurants and casinos. In fact, he was working in Havana



Leo in Havana, ca. 1944.



Mabel and Leo, 1954.

at the time that his future stepson, Lee, was stationed in Havana while in the U.S. Maritime Service.

In the prenup with Mabel, Leo waived and relinquished all rights and interests as husband or widower of Mabel in any real property she currently owned or that she might later acquire. He additionally relinquished



Leo at his desk, surrounded by some of his paintings, 2001.

any rights to inherit those properties or the proceeds from those properties after Mabel's death, and that all such real property would pass him by and descend directly to her heirs. The agreement also gave Mabel the right to invest and in all ways financially manage her own individually-owned

properties and investments as she saw fit. All other property owned by either Leo and Mabel was specifically not included in the agreement and was to be governed by local law. Lastly, Leo had to agree to support Mabel financially from his own resources or employment.

Leo was suspected of being a "gold-digger" when he married Mabel and she did nothing to discourage this belief. She made a point of reminding him that he was no one and had nothing when she married him, and she told everyone else that she had made him the



Julius Castle restaurant, one of the places where Leo worked.

wealthy man he was: "I made you what you are today," is what she often said.

However, in her own words, she felt he was a good husband, and as an expression of her gratitude for their years of marriage, she eventually put him as a tenant in common with her on the building she owned at 2695 Greenwich.

However, when Leo's mother died and he went to Italy and then came back without any money from her estate, Mabel changed her tune. She had assumed that there was money in that estate, and she felt Leo should have shared it with her since she had shared so much with him, including the money that was sent



Leo carrying a tray of glasses and wine bottle at Orsi. It appeared in local newspapers back in November 1963.

to support his mother in Italy. Mabel believed that the woman had banked it all, when in reality, the story was always told that his family was very poor, and so the money was probably well spent on necessities.

To punish Leo for not coming through with an inheritance from his mother, Mabel stopped paying down the mortgage on the 2695 Greenwich building (on which he was a tenant in common) and instead began paying down the mortgage on the 2340 Francisco building (which was her separate property) with monies from the Greenwich building.

At first, the family did not welcome Leo with open arms. But if he



Leo and his longtime companion, Rosalie Boyd, 1991.

married Mabel for her money, he certainly worked for it. He helped her manage all her rental properties until her death in 1977. He also worked at Julius' Castle, probably as a waiter, and also as head waiter at Orsi Restaurant on Bush Street, which was owned by his best friend, the late Oreste Orsi.

Leo was an excellent grandfather to his stepson Lee's children, Joelle and Chris. Both loved and respected Leo, and he spent a great deal of time with them, leaving them both with many fond memories of him. This was especially important to Chris and Joelle since both of their biological grandfathers died when Joelle was a young toddler and before Chris was born.

After Mabel died, Leo was living just a few blocks away at 3465 Pierce Street, in the same building as the owner, Rosalie Boyd.

Rosalie was a charming woman, kind and loving, and they entered into a longterm relationship that lasted until his death on March 2, 2004. Leo was a much-loved grandfather to Rosalie's grandchildren as well as Mabel's. His artwork decorated the walls of their home.

Leo was interred at Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma, California, ASM, Row JE5 Crypt 513.



Crosetti Cousins

There are far more Bozzini and Crosetti cousins than are covered in this family history. Lee Martelli said his kids were the "third cousins" of baseballer Frank Crosetti. He also said he used to spend summers at a farm in Watsonville that belonged to his "cousin" Joe J. Crosetti.

In 1995, Frank Crosetti confirmed in a note to Lee that he and Joe J. Crosetti, were "second cousins," but that he didn't know exactly how he and Lee were related. He said that in 1969, he took a trip to Italy and visited Genoa. He wanted to go to Varni "to see the village where my father was born ... but we could not get to Varni on account of the snow."

In September of 2000, Lee's daughter Joelle Steele wrote to Frank. A few weeks later, Frank called her and told her that he remembered her great-grandmother Rosa Bozzini who was a friend of his mother's. He also remembered Rosa's daughter, Joelle's grandmother, Mabel, and commented, "She had a twin sister, if I remember." He added, "I knew we were cousins, but I don't know how we were related."

Frank said that he was very interested in finding his roots in Varni, and he gave Joelle his daughter Ellen's phone number and recommended that Joelle also contact his son John who was supposed to be

going to Italy and was going to look into their ancestry in Varni. But Joelle was unable to connect with John.

In 1998, Joelle went to Stockton and interviewed Frank for an article in a genealogy magazine. While they talked about their unknown common ancestry, they talked about Frank's life in baseball and as a coach at a local high school.

For Lee to be related to either or both of these two Crosettis, it would have to be through one of the Crosetti lines of his ancestry, but Lee has many Crosetti ancestors from both of his maternal grandparents' lines in Varni and Bogli (about 3.5 miles away from each other).

Lee's maternal grandmother is a Crosetti married to a Bozzini, both from neighboring Bogli, and both with parents from Varni. Frank's grandmother was also a Bozzini.

In 2015, Lee's daughter Joelle hired a genealogist in Italy, coincidentally, the son of the same genealogist her father hired back in the 1980s. This resulted in some additional information about Lee's Crosetti lines, but there was not enough information about Frank's and Joe J.'s ancestors to determine exactly who the common ancestors were. But, a little more information was found for Frank's ancestors in the process.

Frank Crosetti



Baseball player Frank "the Crow" Crosetti was born Frank Peter Joseph Crosetti in San Francisco, California on October 4,

1910, and died on February 11, 2002 in Stockton, California, where he lived at 65 W. Monterey Avenue with his wife Norma Theresa Devincenzi (12/29/1913-11/12/2016), who he married on October 22, 1938 in Manhattan, New York.

Frank died due to complications from a fall. He was 91. He and Norma are both interred at Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma. They had two children: John J. Crosetti (b. October 5, 1943) and Ellen Crosetti (Biggs) (b. October 4, 1941).

Frank's family came from Varni, Genova, Liguria, Italy. He was one of three sons born to Domenico ("Domenic") Giovanni Crosetti, born on April 9, 1882 (per Joel Cole, a genealogist who found the record in Varni). Domenic was killed when hit by a car while walking in a residential neighborhood in San Francisco.

On June 4, 1904, Domenic was married to Rachele Monteverde (8/27/1883-11/29/1974). She was born in California but came from the same region that Domenic did in Italy. After Domenic's death, death, Rachele remained at their Lombard address until her death.

Domenic came to America and was a truck farmer on 12 acres in Los Gatos, south of San Francisco in the hills west of San Jose. In about 1926, he moved the family to San Francisco, where they lived first at 2014 Lombard Street and then at 2016 Lombard as of 1929.

Domenic was described as a huge man and very strong. After farming he became a scavenger (garbage collector). he was the son of Francesco (who possibly had a first or middle name of Stefano) of Varni. Francesco married Maria Bozzini, who may have come from Varni or from the neighboring village of Bogli, as there were Bozzinis and Crosettis in both villages.

In addition to Domenic, Francesco and Maria had two other sons:

- Giacomo Crosetti (1884-1946), who married Catarina M. Fagliano (1887-1968), He was born in Varni and died in Alameda, California. He and Catarina had a son named Frank L. Crosetti, born in America.

- Giovanni "John" Francesco Crosetti (12/12/1889-08/13/1963), born in Varni and died in Alameda, California. He married Ida Rose Armani in 1912 in Gorreto, Italy (about 4 miles from Varni). He and Ida Rose had a daughter, Rose Crosetti, born in America.

Francesco was the son of Domenico Crosetti and Maria Piatarello, both of Varni. Maria's father was Raffaele Piatarello, also of Varni. Domenico and Maria were the great-grandparents of baseball great Frank Crosetti.

Frank was a teenager when his family moved to San Francisco. He frequently cut school to go watch local baseball games and eventually dropped out of school at age 16.

Mabel Buzzini (spelling later changed from Bozzini) said Frank's mother Rachele (who lived only a couple blocks away on the same street (Lombard) in San Francisco would visit Mabel's mother, Rosa. She supposedly used to sit at Rosa's kitchen table and lament the fact that "poor Frankie" was not motivated to do anything but play baseball!

Frankie went to work in a produce market and played baseball whenever he could. Eventually, he was asked to come to Butte, Montana to play semi-pro baseball. In Butte, he worked for the local power company by day and played ball at night. He then returned to San Francisco and played baseball locally until he was signed by the Seals in 1928. He played with them for three seasons as shortstop, helped them win a pennant in 1931, and was then sold to the Yankees in 1932 for \$72,000.



Joe DiMaggio, Tony Lazzeri, and Frank Crosetti at the old Comiskey Park in Chicago, ca. 1936.

Frank's Seals teammate, Joe DiMaggio, also of San Francisco, was sold to the Yankees in 1934, for \$25,000. It was while Frank played with the Yankees that he became known as Frank "the Crow" Crosetti. He and Joe were roommates in New York.

Frank played alongside such greats as DiMaggio, Lou Gehrig, and Babe Ruth. His career with the Yankees was a long one, from 1932 to 1948, after which he was the team's third base coach from 1949 to 1969.

Joe J. Crosetti, Sr.



Joe J. Crosetti, Sr., ca. 1957

Joe Jerome Crosetti, Sr.'s grandfather was Giuseppe Crosetti who was born in Varni, Italy and married Madalena there.

Giuseppe and Madalena had a son, Francesco "Frank" J. Crosetti. He was born in 1874 in Varni, Italy, and died in 1951 in Watsonville, California. At the time of his death, Frank had numerous nieces and nephews in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Frank was married to Margherita M. Crosetti (1888-1976) of Genoa, Italy. He came to California in 1894 and settled in the Pajaro Valley (in the north end of Monterey County) and rented a ranch where he grew berries, string beans, and potatoes, which he sold in Santa Cruz and San Francisco.

In 1906, Frank sent for his wife, and their only son, Joe J. Crosetti, Sr., was born on July 8, 1908 (and died July 26, 1988 in nearby Santa Cruz). They also had four daughters: Mary Madeline ("Mimi"); Irene Elizabeth, Frances Noreen, and Madeline Dora.

Joe J. worked with his father as a child and as a young man. He graduated from Watsonville High and then briefly traveled with an orchestra - he played clarinet.

In 1927, he went to work for the T.J. Horgan Company, a vegetable grower and shipper. He became a field foreman and then was put in charge of their pea-growing operations in Davenport and Half Moon Bay in 1929. He also bought commodities from other growers in the area.

In 1932, Joe J. worked for the Levy Zentner Company, a vegetable shipper in San Francisco, for whom he established a shipping operation in Watsonville.

In a lengthy and detailed interview about agriculture, Joe J. Sr., was quoted as saying that in the 1930s, John Steinbeck worked for him (or for the same company), but that he never met him as he worked in a different area.

Joe J. started his own business in 1935, when he bought Levy Zentner's packing operation in Watsonville to start J.J. Crosetti Co.

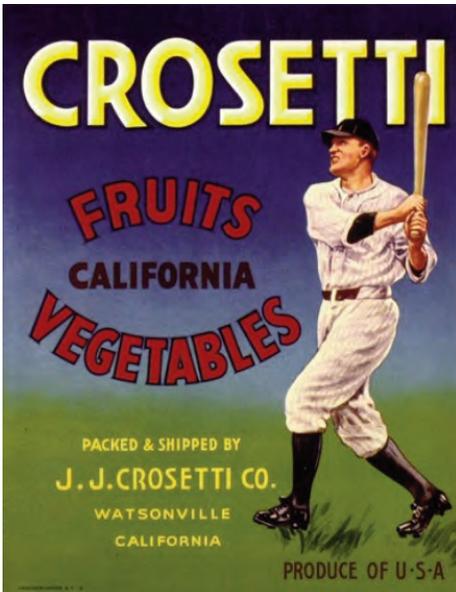
Joe J. married Theresa Madeline Muzzio (1913-2003) and they had three children: Jeanette, JoAnn (1937-1987), and Joe Jerome ("J.J.") Crosetti, Jr. (02/03/1942-01/15/2015).

Joe J. "J.J." Crosetti, Jr.



J.J. Crosetti, Jr.

Joe Jerome "J.J." Crosetti, Jr., was born in Watsonville and graduated high school in 1959 after which he attended UCSF. He worked with his father and then established Crosetti Frozen Foods, later NorCal/Crosetti. He had three daughters: Gina, Josie, and Lea.



This old label and sign may indicate that the cousin relationship between Frank and Joe J. is solid. But, finding the common ancestor that makes it happen is still a mystery as of 2025.

Sylvia Marie Varni Panetta



Sylvia Marie Panetta

In 1974, Lee Martelli had just returned from visiting Varni, Italy to see where his family came from. He told his attorney, Leon Panetta of Panetta,

Thompson & Panetta in Monterey, about his trip. Leon then told Lee that his wife, Sylvia Marie Varni (b. 03/1940), was also descended from Crosettis in Varni. Many years later, Joelle looked for Sylvia online.

Leon had headed many United States offices, including Secretary of Defense, Director of the CIA. He had retired and was the co-chair (with Sylvia) and CEO of the Panetta Institute for Public Policy, located at Cal State University, Monterey Bay.

Sylvia was also a woman of many accomplishments and work to forward democracy at both the local and national levels. The Board of Trustees of the California State University and California State University, Monterey Bay, awarded her with an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

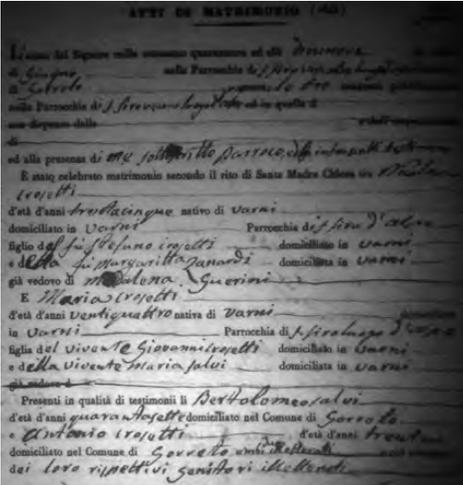
Sylvia's mother was Benedetta Caterina Crosetti (b. 7/19/1918 in San Francisco, and d. 01/08/2009 in Modoc County, California). She was first married to James Eugene Varni (1911-1977) who ran a chicken ranch in Petaluma, California. Benedetta and James also had another daughter, Mary Andreina Varni (b. 20 Sep 1941 in San Francisco, and d. 27 Oct 1987 in Monterey, California). Benedetta's second husband was Melvin Ilg (1916-1988).

Benedetta's parents were Giacomo Crosetti (b. in Varni, Italy). Giacomo married Silvia Crosetti (b. 31 Dec 1889 in Varni and d. August 1968). Not sure if this Silvia's surname is a maiden or married name.

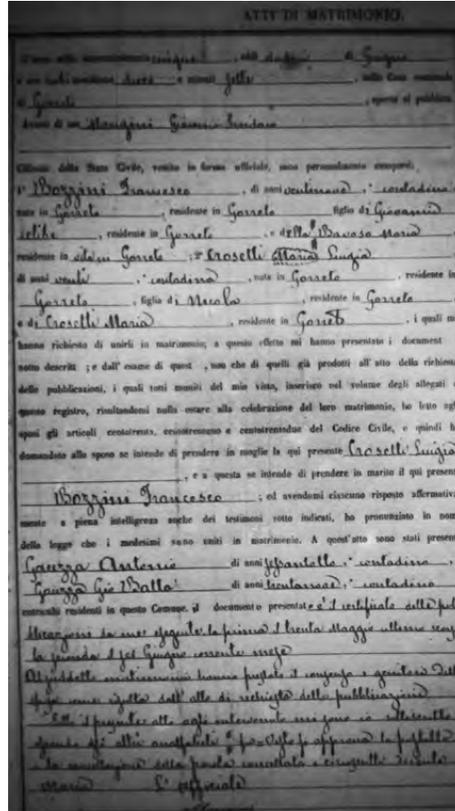
Sylvia and Leon had three children, including Jimmy Panetta, who, as of 2025, has been holding Leon's seat in the U.S. House of Representatives since 2017.

In correspondence with Sylvia Panetta in 2025, Joelle sent her the information she had on the Crosettis in Varni. Like the rest of the Crosettis, Sylvia was interested in her ancestry, but did not know anything about her lineage or if/how she might be related to any other Crosettis from Varni.

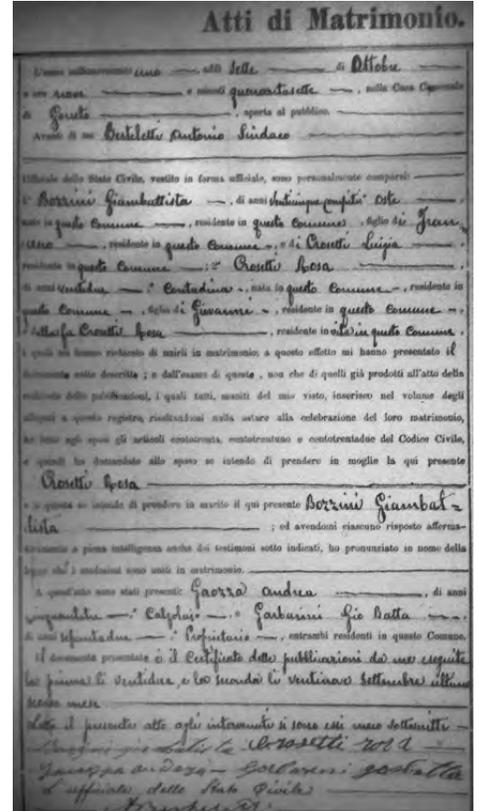
Bozzini & Crosetti church documents from Varni.



June 19, 1843, Marriage Certificate of Nicola Crosetti and Maria Crosetti in Varni.



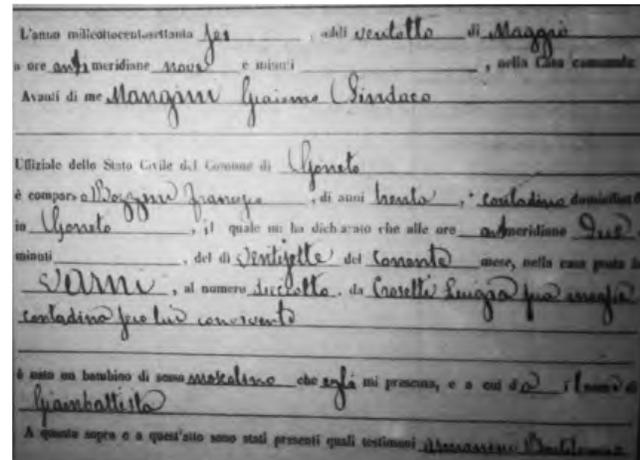
June 5, 1874, Marriage Certificate in Varni of Francesco Bozzini and Maria Luigia Crosetti.



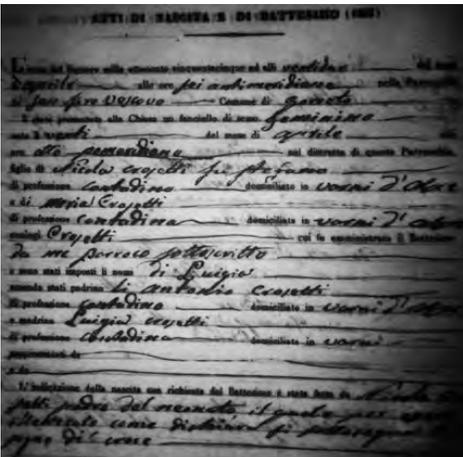
October 7, 1901, Marriage Certificate in Varni of Giovanni Battista Bozzini and Rosa Maria Crosetti of Bogli.



April 3, 1846, Baptism in Varni of Francesco Bozzini.



May 27, 1876, Baptism in Varni of Giovanni Battista "Giobatta" Bozzini.



April 22, 1855, Baptism in Varni of Maria Luigia Crosetti.

Martellis in Trivolzio

Pavia Province

The Martelli and Muggetti lines of ancestry have been traced back nine generations to several small towns in the province of Pavia, in the Lombardy region of Italy. The Martellis are from Trivolzio, but many other ancestors came from that town and other small towns nearby. The following is some background information on the towns where our ancestors were born, married, lived, and died.

Trivolzio

The majority of our known Martelli ancestors are from Trivolzio dating back to at least as early as the mid-17th century. In addition to the name Martelli, other ancestor names from Trivolzio are Cobella, De Amici, De Chiocchi, De Felice, De Sacchi, Muggetti, Stroppa, Tagliacarne, and Villani.

Trivolzio is a small town, only 3.9 sq km (1.5 sq mi), and is situated between Milan and Pavia, being about 25km (15.5 mi) southwest of Milan and about 12km (7.5 mi) northwest of Pavia. As of 2014 it had a population of just a little more



Parrocchia dei Santi Correlio e Cipriano in Trivolzio.

than 1,000, with 922 families and 514 houses.

The church in Trivolzio was built in 1500 by the Franciscans. It is the Parrocchia dei Santi Correlio e Cipriano, and is the final resting place of St. Richard Pampuri (08/02/1897-05/01/1930) whose remains are on display there. The patron saint for the town of Trivolzio is St. Francesco d'Assisi (St. Francis of Assisi).



Country road in Marcignago (above).

Marcignago

This town borders Trivolzio and is 10.1 sq km (3.8 sq mi) with about 2,100 population. It is located 25km (15.5 mi) southwest of Milan and 9km (5.6 mi) northwest of Pavia. Our only known ancestor from this town was Giovanni Antonio Villani, who moved to Trivolzio.

Casteggio

Casteggio is a small town of 17.8 sq km (6.9 sq mi), located about 61km (38 mi) south of Milan and about 25km (15.5 mi) south of Pavia. It has a population of about 6,500. The oldest part of the town is on the slopes of a hill called Pistornile. Our only known ancestor from Casteggio was Basilio Martelli who was born in Pistornile.



Casteggio (above).

Casteggio was originally known as Clastidium, a Ligurian settlement of a tribe called the Marici. It was the site of a major defeat of the Marici by Roman General Marcus Claudius Marcellus in 222 BC. Just a few years later in 218 BC they became independent when the Romans were defeated by Hannibal. But they fell to the Romans again in 197 BC when the city was burned.

Casteggio was annexed to Piacenze until after the fall of the Roman Empire. In 1164 it was assigned to the control of Pavia by Frederick Barbarossa. Beginning in 1441, it was ruled by various dynasties, and was badly damaged during the 15th and 16th century Italian Wars. In 1800, the Battle of Montebello and Casteggio resulted in Casteggio being taken twice by the French who were then driven out.

Calvignano

Bordering Casteggio is the small town of Calvignano. It is 6.9 sq km (2.7 sq mi) with a population of 112. It is 50km (31 mi) (12.5 mi) south of Milan and 20km (12.5 mi) south of Pavia. Our only known ancestors from this town are Maria Rosa Aloysia Brega and her mother Maria Teresa Giuditta Frascini.



Calvignano (above).

San Martino Siccomario

This town is now a part of greater Pavia. It is 35km (22 mi) south of Milan and 4km (2.5 mi) southwest of Pavia. It has a population of about 5,000. It was once a fief of the Beccaria family and other families. It was annexed to the



Church in San Martino Siccomario (above).

Kingdom of Sardinia (Piedmont) from 1743 to 1859. Italy's tricolor flag was first assigned for use in 1848 by King Charles Albert of Sardinia at the Gravellone Stream in San Martino Siccomario. Some of our De Felice ancestors came from this town.

Montù Beccaria

This small town is 15.6 sq km (6.5 sq mi), and is located about 50km (31 mi) south of Milan and 20km (12.5 mi) southeast of Pavia. It has a population of about 1,700. Prior to the 12th century a castle there was owned by the Beccaria family of Pavia. In the late 16th century, Aureliano Beccaria donated it to the Barnabite Fathers who built a convent at the end of the 17th century. In the beginning of the 19th century, Napoleon confiscated the church and convent's



Montù Beccaria (above).

assets. Today only a few buildings remain, and the manor house on the property is now a winery. Some of our Brega ancestors came from Montù Beccaria.

Pissarello

This is a town that no longer exists. It was a resort and a port on the Ticino River near Bereguardo until 1872 when it was literally



Overlay of old map showing buildings that once stood in Pissarello prior to destruction by flooding in 1872.

swept away in its entirety by a violent flood of the Ticino. Our only known ancestor from this town, Angela Maria Ganarzoli, had married and moved to Trivolzio two years earlier. Hopefully, her family and other residents of Pissarello had some warning that the flood was coming and were able to evacuate. The same area flooded again in 2000.

Broni

This town is north of Calvignano, and northeast of Casteggio. It is about 45 km (28 mi) south of Milan and 15 km (9 mi) southeast of Pavia. Broni is on the site of an old Roman town called Camillomagus. Broni came to its height in the Middle Ages, around 1000. It was burned in 1216 and again in 1372. Like Montù Beccaria and San Martino Siccomario, Broni eventually fell under the leadership of the Beccaria family, which was feuding



Broni, Piazza Garibaldi, old postcard ca. 1900 (above).

for control for several other towns with various leaders, including Filippo Maria Visconti, the Duke of Milan, who seized half of the town in 1415. Broni was always an important center. At the beginning of the 19th century, it had a population of 2,700. Today its population is almost 10,000, and is 20.9 sq km (8 sq mi). Some of our Brega ancestors came from Broni.



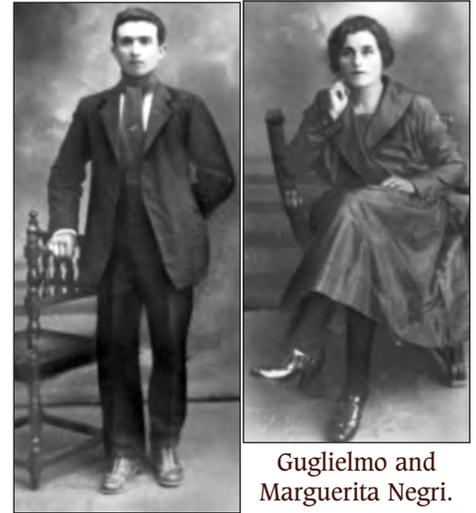
Aerial view of the Negri house in Croce at 13 Strada Provinciale 146 (circled)

Basilio's biological father, Pietro, once came and briefly saw his then three-year-old son. The story goes that Basilio thanked the Negris for raising his son and gave them 15 francs as a gift -- which turned out to be counterfeit. Pietro later remarried and had two daughters, their whereabouts unknown.

Guglielmo Negri was Basilio's best friend. Guglielmo's grandson, Giancarlo Rosina, translated Guglielmo's account of Basilio's life up until he left for America.

Basilio was placed in the care of Guglielmo's cousin, Rosa Malaspina who was married to Giovanni Negri. They lived at 13 Strada Provinciale 146 in the little hamlet of Croce [Località Croce] near Trebbiano. Guglielmo was also raised in that house with Basilio and two of three other Negri sons, Natale and the youngest, Filippo.

Basilio's son, Lee, tracked down the Negri family in the 1970s and kept in touch with them and visited



Guglielmo and Marguerita Negri.

them many times throughout his life up until about 2004.

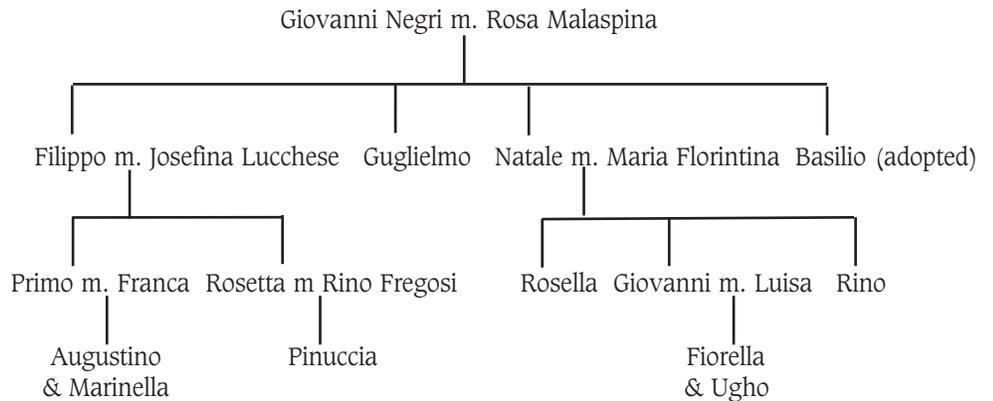
When Basilio was given to Rosa and Giovanni Negri, Rosa had just lost a child at birth. They were paid 100 francs per month by the Italian government to raise Basilio until he reached the age of seven years.

Back in the early 1900s, life was not easy and every family sent their children out to work somewhere. Basilio was eight years old when he

Basilio Martelli

Basilio Adamo Giovanni Martelli (03/22/1898-07/28/1953) was born in Cascina Cappone (which means "chicken farm") near Casteggio (Pistornile), Pavia, Italy, the son of Pietro Martelli (04/26/1859-?) of Trivolzio and Maria Rosa Aloysia Brega (08/10/1867-03/22/1898) of Martinazzo, Calvignano, who were married on 09/08/1887 in Casteggio.

Maria died giving birth to Basilio. Pietro was grief-stricken and left him in an orphanage near Casteggio outside of Voghera until he was adopted by the Negris of Croce, near Trebbiano, and the Negris raised him as one of their own.



The Negri house, Croce, where Basilio was raised. At left 1978; right 2025.



Trattoria Marinella, Via Prendomino, 38 A 27050, Ponte Nizza (in Prendomino, just south of Trebbiano), Pavia, Italy, established in 1955 by Primo and Franca Negri.

was sent to live and work for a family in Trebbiano, the mayor's family there, the wife's name being Ernestina.

Basilio managed to finish what was known as the "lower secondary" level of school (roughly equivalent to American eighth grade) while living in Trebbiano, but it is unlikely that he went to school after that, and there are no records indicating that he did.

After a few years in Trebbiano, he moved to another village called Casa Cucchi near Cecima, where he stayed in the Tarditi household for most of the remainder of his youth.

Guglielmo remembered Basilio as a hard worker and one who was well-esteemed by others. Basilio worked as a "carrettiere," or drayman -- the teamster of that time -- who hauled heavy loads in a "dray," a low and sturdily-built, 4-wheel wooden cart with detachable sides, pulled by horses.

According to Guglielmo, apparently many nice and well-off girls wanted to marry Basilio, but he preferred to fulfill his lifelong dream of leaving Italy and sailing to America. At the time, America was like the Promised Land of the Bible.

But before Basilio could leave, he served in the Italian Army out of Voghera beginning on January 12, 1917. He saw combat in the northern mountains of Italy fighting the Austrians during the years 1917 and 1918. He was known as "Monte Grappa," after Mount Grappa, a 5,825 foot tall mountain in the Venice region where a famous WWI battle was fought. (Grappa was also the name of a popular folk medicine and beverage made from the pressed grape skins left over from the wine-making process.)



Basilio Martelli in his Italian Army uniform, ca. 1920.

The Battle of Monte Grappa was fought against Austria and Germany in November and December of 1917. The mountain was the last line of defense between the Austro-German armies and the Venetians. More than 24,000 Italians lost their lives there, and a mausoleum just below the mountain's top holds the remains of 25,000 Italian and Austrian soldiers who died in the battle.



Monte Grappa, 1917.

Basilio's army job was to drive the horse and wagon that pulled the large guns. At the time, and in that particular area, mules and horse-drawn wagons were the primary method of transport, and they were used to deliver supplies to the troops, who were living in very poor conditions.

Unfortunately, horse-drawn wagons were very slow and ineffective in the rough terrain of the Alps, and this contributed to the Italian army's failure to win battles against the Austrians. The Austrians were always at a higher elevation, and so the Italians had to launch their offensives while climbing.

The Italian campaign against the Austrians ended on November 3, 1918, when the Italians and the allies overwhelmed the Austrians at the Battle of Vittorio Veneto, which resulted in the surrender of the Austrians and the Armistice of Austria.



Italian Army guns carried by mules at the Alpine front, ca. 1918.

Basilio remained in the army until his honorable discharge in January 1921, at which time he had last served as a common field soldier in the 26th Field Artillery Regiment.

A story told by his son, Lee, is that Basilio ran into his biological father, Pietro Martelli, during the war, and told him to go home because he didn't need to be there since his son was already serving in the army, but Pietro said, "I have no son."

During one of the last times that Guglielmo saw Basilio was after he was out of the military and the two worked at harvesting fruit at Guglielmo's small farm. They spoke about going to America together, but Guglielmo's mother forbid her son to go.

According to Guglielmo, he and Basilio went dancing -- to waltzes and mazurkas -- in every little village, usually under a large tent, where many nice girls and young men would gather to socialize, "the girls waving their fans to drive away the heat of summer."

The night before Basilio left for America, he and Guglielmo went to Cecima where all their friends were present, and they sang and danced and then went together to the train station in Voghera. They all hugged each other, hoping to meet again one day, but this never happened, as Basilio never returned to Italy.

Basilio departed Italy from the Port of Naples on May 10, 1921, at age 23 for America. He sailed on



The SS Pesaro, ca. 1919.

the Pesaro, a steamship built in Hamburg, Germany in 1901 and originally launched as the "Moltke." It traveled at 16 knots and carried 333 1st class passengers, 169 2nd class passengers, and 1,600 3rd class or steerage passengers. In May of 1915, the Moltke was



Basilio, ca. 1925.

seized by Italy and renamed the Pesaro. In April 1919, the Pesaro began sailing to New York but by July 1925 it was scrapped.

Basilio arrived at Ellis Island on May 26, 1921 with \$25. The Pesaro manifest stated that he was 23 years old, came from Pavia, Casteggio, Italy, was previously living with his "uncle," Giovanni Negri. His occupation was stated as "peasant" and he could read and write Italian.

Ellis Island records state that Basilio was going to see a male "cousin," Pasquale Lucchese, who lived at 950 Monte Diablo Avenue in San Mateo, California.

Before coming to America, Basilio had borrowed money from a man in the United States who came from

Trebbiano. It is unknown if this man was his "cousin" Pasquale Lucchese, a relative of Josepina Lucchese, wife of his foster brother, Filippo Negri.

Basilio went to work for this man on his farm in Half Moon Bay, California, just south of San Francisco and not far from San Mateo. But the man did not pay Basilio enough money to pay for his room and board and also pay off the debt. So Basilio wrote home to Italy, and soon a man named Jack Guardia appeared, paid off Basilio's debt, drove him to San Francisco, and gave him a job on a garbage truck.

Basilio had arrived in San Francisco the same year that the City began requiring trash collectors to have permits, and that was the same year that the local trash collectors, the majority of whom were, like Basilio, Genovese Italians, joined together to form Scavenger's Protective Association and Sunset Scavenger Company.

Except for having a bad back from the heavy labor, Basilio lived a good life from his work as a garbage collector.



Basilio and his son Lee, ca. 1934.



Basilio and friend, ca. 1944.

On June 27, 1926, Basilio married Mabel Buzzini. The marriage was officiated by Oreste Trinchieri, a Catholic Priest. On their marriage certificate they each subtracted two years from their ages.

Before the marriage, Basilio lived at 1683 Greenwich Street, and Mabel lived in the same building as her parents in unit 1689. After they married, they moved to 1687 in the same building,

On the 1930 U.S. Census, Basilio again said he could read and write, but it does not say if that was Italian or if he had learned to write in English too.

On June 2, 1930, Basilio became a naturalized citizen of the United States. He applied for a Social Security card on June 22, 1937,



and his Social Security number was 567-05-9700.

According to his voter registration certificate of June 23, 1930, Basilio was living at 1687 Greenwich Street, was a scavenger, 5'9" tall, and was registered as a Republican. In 1932 he was still at the same address. But in 1933, he was living at 69 Cervantes Blvd, was registered as a Democrat, and was still a scavenger. In 1934 and 1935, he was at 1685 Greenwich, was a Democrat, and still a scavenger. In 1938-1940, he was at 1840 Greenwich and was still a scavenger but was registered as a Republican.

On February 14, 1942, at the age of 43, Basilio registered for the draft. At that time, he was working for Golden Gate Macaroni. For years, Mabel complained about Basilio's investment in that failed macaroni factory.

The first time Golden GATE Macaroni Factory shows up is in a list of pasta companies in the Bay Area in 1913. It is mentioned again in a 1989 history of Golden GRAIN Macaroni.

In August of 1941, Golden GRAIN's factory burned to the ground. While it was able to move its operation to a neighboring warehouse, it was forced to buy macaroni products from its competitors, including Golden GATE Macaroni, in order to fill its orders. Unfortunately, In December 1941, Golden GATE was forced to close its doors, as did other pasta manufacturers, due to problems in the economy affected by World War II.

Golden GRAIN then hired Elmo Briasco, the son of Golden GATE's owner, to handle Golden GRAIN's sales from San Francisco to San Jose.

In a 1943 San Francisco city directory, Basilio is still listed as "mgr. Golden GATE Macaroni" at 2930 Octavia, just around the corner from where he and

Mabel lived on Greenwich, and just a block from 2846 Octavia where his son LeRoy and his family lived.

This discrepancy in dating is probably because the city directory hadn't updated Basilio's listing. The following year, he's listed as a laborer in the directory, and the next two years, 1945-46, he's listed as a plumber, the last occupation for him listed in the city directories.

Basilio's driver's license ("chauffeur's license") issued on May 9, 1951, indicates that he weighed 149 lbs, and had brown eyes and gray hair and

was living at 1838-A Greenwich, where he lived until two months prior to his death in 1953. On June 2, 1948, Basilio was issued an American passport, but he never used it.



Basilio in his work clothes, ca. 1948.



Basilio's passport photo, 1948.



Basilio and Mabel after Lee's wedding in San Francisco, March 21, 1948.

Basilio was an old-fashioned man who believed women should be subservient to their husbands, should not hold opinions, etc. But, his wife Mabel was outspoken and controlled her own finances.

Basilio ruled his children like he tried to rule his wife -- with an iron hand. His word was law. His son Lee remembers Basilio swatting him and his brother across the face with the back of his hand if they talked back to him or misbehaved. If he raised his hand to Mabel, no one is aware of it and she certainly never admitted it.

Basilio took great pride in his son Lee's service in the Merchant Marine, and his work as a garbage man for Sunset Scavengers.

Basilio was a very proud man. He used to take his granddaughter Joelle in her stroller to visit all his friends and show her off. But then one day, Joelle cried for her mother and would not stop. Basilio was apparently very embarrassed by this, and he returned her to her mother saying, "She cried for her mother" and never took her out again. He died when Joelle was only 2 years old.

Basilio was a heavy smoker and he was diagnosed with broncho-genic carcinoma (lung cancer) approximately eight months before he died. His doctor was the Martelli family physician, Walter N. Torre, MD.

Basilio was a resident of the California Sanatorium in Belmont, California for two months prior to his death on July 28, 1953 at 4:40 p.m. He was 55.

While he was a resident of California Sanatorium, he incurred a medical bill from Dr. Torre in the amount of \$200, his room rate was \$80 per week, and he received other services for additional fees, such as prescription drugs (e.g., penicillin), blood transfusions, and X-rays. He paid for his stay with his own checks, on which his signature became increasingly illegible up until the month before he died.

Basilio's son Lee was executor of his estate. On July 28, 1953, he paid Valente, Marini, Perata & Co., \$2,185 for his father's casket and other funeral arrangements. Basilio was interred in the G. Buzzini and B. Martelli mausoleum, Plot 137, at the Italian Cemetery in Colma.

The attorneys for the estate were Stephen L. Mana and Lawrence S. Mana of Mana & Mana law offices in San Francisco. They filed a petition for probate of Basilio's Will and Codicil on July 31, 1953. A hearing of the petition was held at 10 a.m. on August 13, 1953.

On April 27, 1954, Basilio's estate was settled by decree. After all expenses were paid, the cash in the estate totalled \$2,962.87, from which was deducted \$870 for Lee as commissions as executor, and \$870 to Stephen L. Mana as attorney for the estate, leaving a balance of \$1,212.87.

Also in the decree, a \$4,000 loan owed by Lee to his father was for-

given and satisfied. The remainder of the estate was to be divided equally between Lee and his brother Ray, and that included a 1947, 8-cyl., 2-door Oldsmobile automobile and the building located at 1840 Greenwich, which Basilio had received as part of the property settlement in his divorce from Mabel.



Basilio and Mabel, June 1948.

A Brief History of the Bozzini, Crosetti & Martelli Families in Italy & America

245
No. 72373

Form 5023-T.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
NATURALIZATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DECLARATION OF INTENTION

Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof

District Court of the United States,
Northern District of California, } ss:

I, Basilio Adamo Martelli, aged 29 years, occupation Scavenger, do declare on oath that my personal description is: Color white, complexion dark, height 5 feet 6 inches, weight 156 pounds, color of hair black, color of eyes brown, other visible distinctive marks none. I was born in Casteggio, Italy on the 22nd day of March, anno Domini 1898; I now reside at 1687 Greenwich St., San Francisco, California. I emigrated to the United States of America from Genoa, Italy on the vessel "Pesaro" (If the alien arrived otherwise than by vessel, the character of occupation or basis of transportation company should be given); my last foreign residence was Casteggio, Italy; I am married; the name of my wife is Mabel (she) was born at Italy, U.S.A. and now resides with me. It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to Victor Emanuel III, King of Italy of whom I am now a subject; I arrived at the port of New York in the State of New York, on or about the 26th day of May, anno Domini 1921; I am not an anarchist; I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein: **SO HELP ME GOD.**

Basilio Adamo Martelli
(Original signature of declarant)

Subscribed and sworn to before me in the office of the Clerk of said Court at San Francisco, Calif., this 30th day of Nov., anno Domini 1927.

W. B. MALING,
Clerk of the United States District Court.

By T. L. Bozzini, Deputy Clerk.

ORIGINAL UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 19700
PETITION FOR CITIZENSHIP No.

To the Honorable the District Court of the U.S., San Francisco, Cal.
The petition of Basilio Adamo Martelli, hereby filed, respectfully shows:

(1) My place of residence is 1687 Greenwich St., San Francisco, Cal.
(2) My occupation is Scavenger. (3) I was born in Casteggio, Italy
on March 22, 1898 My race is Italian (North) (4) I declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States on Nov. 30, 1927 in the District Court of the U.S., San Francisco, Cal.
(5) I am married. The name of my wife is Mabel we were married on June 27, 1926 at San Francisco, Cal.; he was born at San Francisco, Cal. on March 8, 1906
(6) My last foreign residence was Treboiano, Italy I emigrated to the United States of America from Genoa, Italy My lawful entry for permanent residence in the United States was at New York, N.Y. under the name of Basilio Martelli on May 27, 1921 on the vessel "Pesaro"
(7) I am not a disbeliever in or opposed to organized government or a member of or affiliated with any organization or body of persons teaching disbelief in or opposed to organized government. I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy. I am attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the United States. It is my intention to become a citizen of the United States and to renounce absolutely and forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to Victor Emanuel III, King of Italy of whom (which) at this time I am a subject (or citizen), and it is my intention to reside permanently in the United States. (8) I am able to speak the English language. (9) I have resided continuously in the United States of America for the term of five years at least immediately preceding the date of this petition, to wit, since May 27, 1921 and in the County of San Francisco this State, continuously next preceding the date of this petition, since 1922, being a residence within said county of at least six months next preceding the date of this petition.
(10) I have not heretofore made petition for citizenship: Number _____ on _____ at _____ and such petition was denied by that Court for the following reasons and causes, to wit: _____ and the cause of such denial has since been cured or removed.
Attached hereto and made a part of this, my petition for citizenship are my declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States, certificate from the Department of Labor of my said arrival, and the affidavits of the two verifying witnesses required by law.
Wherefore, I, your petitioner, pray that I may be admitted a citizen of the United States of America, and **SO HELP ME GOD.**

I, your aforesaid petitioner being duly sworn, depose and say that I have (read / heard read) this petition and know the contents thereof; that the same is true of my own knowledge except as to matters herein stated to be alleged upon information and belief, and that as to those matters I believe it to be true; and that this petition is signed by me with my full, true name.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
NATURALIZATION SERVICE 14-3818
Basilio Adamo Martelli
(Complete and true signature of petitioner)

0 APR 23 '42

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after February 17, 1897 and on or before December 31, 1921) 101

SERIAL NUMBER 699 1. NAME (Print) BASILIO ADAMO MARTELLI ORDER NUMBER 10246
T. 699 (First) (Middle) (Last) T. 10246

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 1840 GREENWICH ST. SAN FRANCISCO CALIF.
(Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)
(THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL)

3. MAILING ADDRESS SAME
(Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)

4. TELEPHONE WEST 1093 5. AGE IN YEARS 43 6. PLACE OF BIRTH CASTEGGIO
(Exchange) (Number) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)

DATE OF BIRTH MARCH 22 1898 ITALY
(Mo.) (Day) (Yr.) (State or country)

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS
MRS. MABEL MARTELLI 1840 Greenwich San Francisco

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS
Spedon Gate Masonry

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS
3730 Valencia St. San Francisco Cal
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

B. Martelli
(Registrar's signature)

D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 1-1-42) (over) ☆ a-p-o 16-21630-1

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT			
RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION
White	510	135	Sallow
	EYES	HAIR	Light
Negro	Blue	Blonde	Ruddy
	Gray	Red	Dark
Oriental	Hazel	Brown	Freckled
	Brown	Black	Light brown
Indian	Black	Gray	Dark brown
		Bald	Black
Filipino			

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification: NONE

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Beck, Foder
(Signature of registrar)

Registrar for Local Board 97 San Francisco
(Number) (City or county) (State)

Date of registration February 22, 1927

San Francisco County 075

101

1606 Stockton Street,
San Francisco, California

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the registrant shall be placed in the above space)

16-21630-1

Lee Martelli

Basilio and Mabel Martelli were the parents of LeRoy Basilio Martelli, who was born on March 21, 1927 at Saint Francis Hospital in San Francisco, California. Lee and his parents lived at 1687 Greenwich Street at the time.

Lee attended Sacred Heart High School, a Christian Brothers school located at 1044 Ellis Street in San Francisco, and the oldest Catholic high school in that city, founded in 1874. He transferred there in the fall of 1941 from Marina Junior High School.

Because of World War II, young men were encouraged to graduate from high school early so that they could enlist in the military and fight for their country. This early graduation was achieved by attending summer school.

Sacred Heart did not offer summer sessions at the time, so Lee had to go to summer school elsewhere and then verify that attendance so that he could graduate early from Sacred Heart, which he did on July 24, 1943 at 16.



Lee with Basilio and Mabel on the day of his first communion, April 1934.

After high school, Lee enrolled in the U.S. Naval Pre-Flight School at St. Mary's College in Moraga in 1943, but did not complete the first semester. It was a Christian Brothers school like Sacred Heart and one of the instructors was future president Gerald Ford. Lee was on the staff of "The Collegian," the school's weekly newspaper, during the brief time he was enrolled.

During this time, when Lee was 17 years old, his parents separated, and his mother moved him and his younger brother Ray into a 2-flat building she owned at 1838-1840 Greenwich Street (Ray owned this building as of 2025). Lee was upset about the separation and move.

He had just enrolled for the summer session at St. Mary's on May 8, 1944, when it was announced on May 17 that the U.S. Maritime Service was now accepting 16 and 17½ year-olds with parental consent.

On June 21, 1944, with the permission of his mother and father, Lee went to the Regional Enrolling Office of the U.S. Maritime Service, the official training organization for the U.S. Merchant Marines, at 1000 Geary Street in San Francisco.

Lee enrolled as a Merchant Seaman and was enlisted under the specialty mark of Cooks and Bakers

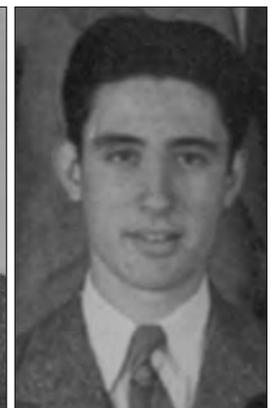


Lee on pony, ca. 1934.

in the Stewards Department, for which he received training as a cook and baker aboard the S.S. American Seafarer at the Maritime Service training center at the Port of Avalon on the island of Catalina, 26 miles offshore from the Port of Los Angeles, California.



Lee (left) 10 months old, 1928. Lee (right), Los Gatos next to chicken pen, July 1930.



Left: Lee as an adolescent, ca. 1939. Right: Lee in high school graduation picture, 1943.

The following short stories were written by Lee Martelli for English class at Sacred Heart High School, and they are reprinted here as written, complete with typographical and spelling errors. His instructor was Brother Frances.

TYPES OF PEOPLE THAT BORE ME

The Case of the White Arab

[Graded A for composition, D for errors, and a C+ in grammar]

The disciples of Allah ride the blazing sands of rebellion to follow the mad trail of a man who is seemingly immortal.

On burning Sahara sands rifles crack and bullets whine -- a British Patrol has been ambushed. The Englishmen see the arab Mu'min, but so far they don't seem to kill him. Mu'min stands up in front of his men and is met with a withering hail of lead pellets, but Mu'min does not fall; suddenly the entire arab horde charges in the wake of their fanatical Mu'min.

As out of nowhere, a plane dives from the sky, its machineguns spewing flame and sudden death. In a few minutes the arab assassins are routed, and their dead are left on the blazing sands of the Sahara.

The plane landed and I stepped out. I was ferrying the airplane along that route and saw what was going on. I told the boys that they were in a Holy War. The British Patrol was very surprised about find out of the Holy War. I told them that a certain Mu'min, or high Moslem chief had been stirring up the tribes. He's also supposed to be immortal. The men on the patrol told me that he did seem immortal, for every man swore that he had hit Mu'min. As we were talking a soldier ran up to me and the captian of the patrol and told us that one of the dead arab's was a white man.

The captian and I ran at once to the spot to where the man was and we had just go there when he said, "I'm Healy ... British Agent ... Important ... watch ... Hoffer Trading Store ... Cairo." Those were the man's last words.

Three days later in Cairo I watched Hoffer trading store from my hotel room. I noticed that Hoffer was doing a rushing business with the arabs --- Especially in selling them guns, but as I was watching the store, out walked a arab who did not buy a gun. There was something about that man that I quite couldn't understand, but I could swear that he had had some military training so when he passed under my window I shouted, "Achtung!" For one fleeting instant the Mu'min froze stock still, His shoulders straighten, and his back stiffened, and relaxed almost as swiftly.

When I noticed that the store was closed for the

night, I left my room and broke into the store. When I was inside I heard voices from the basement. There were two men and one was saying "Hoffer, you are sure der arabs haf enough guns?" "Ja," said Hoffer, "Tonight the chiefs of all the desert tribes meet to hear der "Mu'min" talk. He will instruct dem to make a Holy War on der British. Der English vill need every man to fight der arab army." "Ja," answered the other, "It vill draw men from odder divisions. It vill leave her force in africa weak, and den our army vill easily vin!

Then without warning I fell through the door and a gun crushed against my skull. I was dragged into a barren room, where the men tied me up.

It was some time later when I woke to a throbbing consciousness. I tried to get out my pocked knife, and after straining, shifting, squirming, I managed to probe my pockets with fumbling fingers. Then to my surprise I discovered the men had taken my knife, but they left my hotel key and I still had a chance. Like a barber sharpening a razor, I ground the key against the stone floor. Minutes dragged along and and it seemed like hours, my fingers began to get numb from the strain, but at last the key was sharp enough and I started to saw at my ropes. No sooner had I finished when I heard Hoffer coming into the room so I got up and met him with a right uppercut.

Hoffer like any yellow Nazi was very willing to take me to the desert meeting place.

It was night on the desert. Like huddling shadows given desert Nomads crowd about malignant, frenzied figure, the Mu'min. The Mu'min was saying, "Brothers! It is time! The unbelievers must be driven from the sands! It is the will of Allah! Allah! Allah! When in rode Hoffer and I. I threw Hoffer off my horse and told him to tell the arabs why he was helping them to revolt as Hoffer was saying this, Mu'min took out his sword but I gave him a left and a right into his stomach and that finished him. I ripped off Mu'mins head gear and discovered under it a short German haircut. I then took off his robe and found under it a bullet proof suit.

The native chiefs were very glad and said that I had opened their eyes, and that any nation that used religion for a treacherous cause could not be trusted! Now the tribes will war on Germany, not the Allies.

WHEN I WAS A HERO WITH THE CITY

The Blonde Case

[Graded A for story and C- "for no proofreading"]

I was dozing in my office when I heard a noise and turned around and saw before me, a young, shapely blonde of about 18 years old, who rushed up to me and took out a gun and pointed it straight at me. I practically fell out of my chair in amazement as I look down the ugly muzzle of the gun to the white shapely hand that held it; I noted also that she was as cool as a cucumber and was used to holding a gun, even though she was so young. After a few moment of silence and gazing at each other the girl dropped her gun -- to my happiness -- and said, "I can't do it, but you must help me even if I must force you too." I uttered a sigh of relief and told her I would help her as much as I could, but first what was her trouble and her name, although she seemed quite familiar and I knew I had seen her picture some place before, I could not place her.

I took out my pipe and made myself comfortable and told her to tell the whole story. She introduced herself as Miss Mary Rose Allan -- upon hearing this I let out a long whistle, and thought back to the weeks before where I had read in the papers about the murder of John Welch who was her fiance, I also knew that the night of the murder she was in Welch's apartment and that she had gone into the kitchen to get some hot coffee for him when she heard some loud grunting in the living-room and when she went into the room she found John streached out on his stomach with a knife stuck in his neck, and bloody prints that resembled hands all over the room.

When the police had arrived they let her go because of the fact that there was no possible way in which she could have made the hand prints and stuck the knife into Welch's throat.

When the police questioned the elevator boy they discovered that no one had gotten off at that floor or on; therefore the murderer could not have used the elevator to go to commit his crime or escape from it. Now the only way left that the murderer could have got to the scene of the crime was to go up the stairs to Welch's floor, but the stairs between the 11th and 13th floors were out, and as Welch's apartment was on the 12th floor all avenues of escape were blocked.

It was known that John Welch had many enemies but it was impossible to find out which one had killed him because of the odd circumstances of the loss of means of escape for the Murderer.

As these thoughts were racing through my mind Mary Allan told me that Welch was planning a clean-

up of the city funds, and after this deal was over he was going to go to another country to live. This was known to all his close friends who did not want him to pass this deal and leave the country because they would not be able to leave the country also for their pockets were not so well lined with city funds as was Welch's.

The men who were bound to loose the most were; Roy Hackman the Mayor who would face a prison term, Pat Ryan, Alex Stacy, John Bracco, Albert Regan, Frank Georgie, Jack Harris, and Pat Murphy, the seven Council men who had passed all of Welch's Crooked Appropriations.

Miss Allan told me that she thought that the clue for the murder would be found in the "W" Club where all the politicians of the city usually spent their time, and where many deals regarding the grafting of city funds were made out. I there-by made a date to meet Mary's brother John Allan in front of the "W" Club that night.

I arrived there at 8:30 and in a few minutes John Allan arrived. We at once went to the entrance of the Club. Upon knocking at the door, a slot in the door was opened and John passed his membership card through the hole. In a few minutes we were inside a large room filled with smoke and half a dozen men were busy roasting some nice large juicy steaks on the large fireplace that took up half of the room.

John took me aside and told me that the men I wanted to speak too, were upstairs picking out a man to take Welch's place as boss.

While no one was looking I slipped up the stairs until I reached the first floor and headed down the hall to where I heard some loud shouting. As soon as I was opposite the door, I stiped down and looked in, to my good fortune I found all the big men of the city there. They were talking about making John Allan the boss. After listening for a while I got all the information that I needed, so I went down stairs and joined the party.

It was about three in the morning when John and I left the Club. As we were riding home John was telling me that he was quitting his job as doctor to the animals in the Zoo, and how he was offered to take over the job that Welch once had.

It was twelve o'clock when I woke up and headed for my office to meet Mary the next day. On my way I thought of the things that I had found out at the Club the night before.

Roy Hackman I discovered was in the club until ten o'clock and after that he did not say where he was the night of the murder.

Pat Ryan showed up at the club around twelve o'clock and said that he was late because he had to

attend to some important business but what it was he did not state.

Alex Stacy was not there that night, and no one knew where he was.

John Bracco was home all that night in his apartment on the third floor of the same apartment house where Welch was killed.

Albert Regan, Frank Georgie and Jack Harris, were at the Street Commissioners party that night.

Pat Murphy was at Jack Allan's home that night until 9:00. I was thinking this when I arrived at my office.

When I arrived at my office I found Mary there waiting for me. She asked me if I would want to go to the Zoo to visit her brother.

when we arrived at the Zoo I was surprised at seeing nearly all the animal cages except the monkey cages empty. After spending a few hours going over the empty Zoo, I knew I had found the Murderer.

The next day when Mary entered my office I told her I knew who had killed Welch. She jumped to her feet and said, "Who." I said, "Your Brother."

When she heard what I said she demanded of me to

tell her why I believed her brother had killed Welch, and how.

I told her that her brother got a monkey's foot and took the elevator up to the top floor of the apartment and got out. He then went down the stairs until he reached the thirteenth floor, where he hung to the floor and swung under the thirteenth floor and fell into the twelfth floor. He waited outside Welch's room until you left him and then he entered and stabbed him and bathed the monkey's foot in Welch's blood and then made a grunting noise and made prints of the monkey's foot all over the room. When he heard you running back to see what the trouble was he ran out and swung himself out and under the twelfth floor.

John had the best motive for killing Welch, he knew of Welch's trying to pass a certain deal, this deal was the stealing of the Zoo's money for getting new animals. John knew if he did not get the new animals he would be bound to face prison and disgrace. So there was only one thing for him to do and that was to kill Welch.

The fact that he was later picked to take Welch's place was just by accident.



The S.S. American Seafarer.

The Seafarer shipped out of San Francisco and was formerly known as the S.S. Allegheny, built in 1923. It was decommissioned January 22, 1946, and placed in reserve at Suisun Bay, California, until it was scrapped in 1949.

Lee never saw combat, and was assigned to two training vessels during his two-years of service. During his first year, he was aboard the S.S. American Seafarer, and in his second year, he was aboard the S.S. American Mariner out of St. Petersburg, Florida.

While in the Maritime Service, Lee traveled to other ports, including

Havana, Cuba, where he just missed crossing paths with his future step-father, Leo Perrino, who was then working as a waiter in the local restaurants and casinos.

Lee's first posting on October 19, 1944, was as a Steward's Mate 2nd Class. Just two months later, on December 16, 1944, he was tested for his "ability, cooperation, responsibility, and general condition and appearance," scored an average grade of 80%, and was advanced to Steward's Mate 1st Class. One month later on January 5, 1945, based on merit, he was made Captain of the Galley Watch.

Two months later, on March 16, 1945, Lee was advanced to Ship's Cook 3rd Class, again scoring 80% in his tests. Three months later, on June 16, 1945, after scoring 85% on his tests, he was advanced to Ship's Cook 2nd Class. He also remained Captain

of the Galley Watch until one month later, when he was transferred to the Commissary Office to assist the Chief Storekeeper in keeping accounts, purchasing, and inventory.

Due to cutbacks in the Commissary Department, Lee was returned to the galley as acting Chief Cook in charge of the two galley watches, the chow line, the mess hall, the ice boxes, and all commis-



Lee in his trainee uniform, 1944.



Lee at Avalon
on Catalina Island, 1944.

sary storerooms. On September 16, 1945, after passing his tests with a score of 87.5%, he was advanced to Ship's Cook 1st Class, although he was still working in the capacity of Chief Cook.

On November 1, 1945, Lee was again placed in the Commissary Office, this time to assist the Chief Commissary Steward and to learn the duties of that position so that he could replace the Chief Commissary Steward on January 3, 1946 and then two months later be advanced to Chief Commissary Steward.

Unfortunately, the Seafarer was scheduled for decommission on January 22, 1946, so Lee was never advanced to Chief Commissary Steward, and he remained acting Chief Storekeeper until he was honorably discharged and released from active duty "at the convenience of the government" on November 4, 1946 in St. Petersburg, Florida, from where he was returned to San Francisco by the USMS.

According to Lee's son Chris, Lee had originally wanted to join the U.S. Army or the Marines, but his mother would not give her consent, and due to his poor eyesight, he was not a good candidate for either of those services.

However, Lee said he was very proud of his years with the Maritime Service, and his ability to rise quickly in the ranks through promotions based on merit. Lee also said that he "grew up" in the Maritime Service, that he made friends there, socialized and dated, and proved his ability to work in and run a ship's galley and manage a ship's stores.

Shortly after leaving the Maritime Service, Lee went to work for Bank of America where he received training to become an installment credit loans analyst. It was while he was still in training at Bank of America that he met his wife-to-be, Norma Elisabeth Steele (02/24/1922-08/27/1986).

On March 21, 1947, Lee's 20th birthday, he went with some friends



Lee (right) enjoying some
shore leave, ca. 1945.

Merchant Marine

The Merchant Marine was responsible for putting armies and equipment on enemy territory and maintaining them there. The service was established under The Merchant Marine Act of 1936 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who did so when it had become evident that a second World War was imminent. Joseph P. Kennedy (father of President John F. Kennedy) was appointed as first Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission in 1937, and he laid the groundwork for the United States Merchant Marine, which officially began operations in 1938.

At first, the Merchant Marine fell under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Maritime Commission, then it was under the U.S. Coast Guard, and ultimately it came under the direction of the War Shipping Administration as of 1942.

The Maritime Service was the only racially-integrated service at that time. Merchant Seamen were never afforded the legal status of any other military personnel, even though many of them were seriously injured, disabled, or died alongside their enlisted or conscripted Naval counterparts.

to the El Patio Ballroom at the corner of Market and Van Ness streets in San Francisco (which became the legendary rock music venue, the Fillmore West, in the late 1960s). It was there that he met Norma, a bookkeeping machine operator for San Francisco Bank. Norma was of Swedish-Finn descent, was five years older than Lee, and had



Lee's 1947 Pontiac Streamliner, in front of his mother Mabel's building at 2340 Francisco, with his 12-year-old brother Ray in the driver's seat.

moved to San Francisco from rural Washington state in 1942 when she was 19 years old.

Lee had been dancing with another girl for some time, and when he asked her for another dance, she recommended that he ask Norma to dance, and they danced the rest of the evening. When the dance was over, Lee asked her to go for coffee, but she was with a friend who was leaving and so she asked Lee if he was going to take her home. He replied that he would, not knowing that she lived in the Sunset District and he lived clear across town in Cow Hollow. He did not have a car and had to take her home by streetcar.

But he obviously felt it was worth the effort, and he asked her for a date the next evening. According to



Lee, 1945.

Norma, it was not until their fourth or fifth date that he kissed her.

That same year, Lee bought a car -- his first -- a midnight blue 1947 Pontiac Streamliner. He drove and Norma didn't. By the early 1950s, it was almost impossible to start the Pontiac some mornings, and when Lee and Norma lived in Daly City, they would have to push it out of the garage, up the driveway, and onto the street, and then it would start as Lee let it coast downhill on his way to work well before sunrise.

The Pontiac took the family to many a drive-in movie, and daughter Joelle remembers sleeping in the back window shelf -- in the days



Lee and Norma at a Bank of America picnic at Mission San Jose, June 1947.

before seatbelts, of course. Lee had the Pontiac up until about 1956, at which time it was probably sold, and the family then spent the next two years driving around in the old dark green 1952 Chevy pick-up truck.

Some years later, Lee bought a pale metallic blue 1958 2-door Buick Custom Supreme, and that was the family car until he traded it in on a used white 1962 Lincoln Continental.

From then on, it becomes difficult to keep track of all the cars Lee has owned. There was a Mercury Monarch and at least two other white Lincolns, a white pick-up, a



Lee and Norma at their wedding dinner at Lucca Restaurant, March 21, 1948.

metallic green 1965 El Camino pick-up truck, a yellow pick-up -- probably a Chevy -- and after that a white one, and who knows what else.

On December 20, 1947, Lee went to Kay Jewelry Company and put down a \$50 deposit on a \$166 diamond engagement ring, payable in installments of \$5 per week to Bank of America. He was still living at 2340 Francisco, a building his mother owned.

In March 1948, Lee and Norma took out a marriage license in San Juan Bautista (San Benito County), and on the marriage license, Lee listed his employment as an installment credit loans analyst with Bank of America.



Stanley and Enes Davis with Mary Franzoni and John Buzzini, after Lee and Norma's wedding, 1948.



Mabel and Basilio after Lee and Norma's wedding, March 21, 1948.

Lee and Norma were married at 4:00 p.m. on March 21, 1948, exactly one year after they met, by Pastor R.B. Wiederanders at The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd on Lawton Street at 28th Avenue in San Francisco. They had a wedding dinner that evening at Lucca Restaurant at 405 Francisco Street (building vacant but still standing as of 2015).



Lee at the Grand Canyon on his honeymoon, 1948.

Aside from his time in the Merchant Marines, Lee had never lived in his own apartment or house. Before he and Norma married, he was living with his mother at 2340 Francisco. He and Norma first lived at 1400 Tenth Avenue #4 in San Francisco, which was Norma's apartment for two years prior to their marriage, but they soon moved to a flat at 2846 Octavia Street.



Lee and Norma on their honeymoon in Victoria, British Columbia, at the fountain in front of the Parliament Building, 1948.



Lee and Norma with Norma's father, Joel Steele, clamming in Anacortes, Washington, 1948.



1400 10th Avenue at Judah, where Lee and Norma lived in #4, Norma's former apartment. Still standing as of 2022.

After a month-long honeymoon, they returned to San Francisco, and Lee began working as a garbage collector for Sunset Scavengers, a job at which he felt he could make more money than he had at Bank of America.

In 1949, Lee was especially saddened when his grandfather, John



2846 Octavia (door on right) where Lee and Norma lived when daughter Joelle was born in 1951. It is a block away from where Golden Gate Macaroni was in 1942 when Basilio worked there. Both buildings still standing in 2024.

Buzzini, died. He and John had always been close, and John was always supportive of Lee. Lee inherited one-fourth of his grandfather's estate, another fourth going to Lee's brother Ray, and the other half to his mother and her sister Enes.



The house at 180 E. Vista Avenue in Daly City, 1953.

On April 19, 1951, Lee and Norma had their first child, Nancy Norleen Martelli (Joelle Steele), born at Saint Francis Hospital in San Francisco. Norma's pregnancy and delivery were difficult, and she did not want to have another child. However, she ultimately gave in to Lee's pleas to try for a son. She told him that if the second child was a girl, she would try only one more time for a boy. In May of 1952, she miscarried in the middle of her first trimester.



Norma, Leo, Mabel holding Joelle, Enes, and Stanley, Christmas in Daly City, 1954.

On October 14, 1952, Lee and Norma began the purchase of their first house at 180 East Vista Avenue in the Edgewood Terrace tract of Daly City in San Mateo County, California. They purchased the house from Chester R. and Betty A Tyner, and the grant deed was issued on December 2, 1952. Lee

and Norma put down a deposit of \$4,000 against the total purchase price of \$12,810.22.

The East Vista house was a two-story home near the top of a very steep hill. Like many houses in Daly City, it had only a small front yard and a very long and narrow back yard. Lee set up his model trains in the back portion of the garage and planted a vegetable garden at the far end of the back yard.

Lee and Norma both lost their father's within six months of each other. Both men were heavy smokers, and died from complications of their dangerous habits. Lee's father, Basilio Adamo Martelli, died on July



Lee and Norma, 1955.



Chris and Joelle, 1961.



Leo, Mabel, Norma, Lee, Joelle, and Chris, Christmas at the house on Lassen Street, Seaside, California, 1957.

29, 1953, and Norma's father, Joel Steele, died on February 5, 1954, in Anacortes, Washington.

In another six months, on August 8, 1954, Lee and Norma's mutual losses were eased by the birth of their son, Chris Adamo Steele Martelli, at 7:34 a.m. at Saint Francis Hospital in San Francisco. Chris was named for the two grandfathers he would never know.

When Basilio died, Lee, who was still working for Sunset Scavengers as a garbage collector, inherited a half interest in the 1840 Greenwich Street



Mabel with Joelle and Chris at the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco, 1959.



877 Madison Street, Monterey.

building, and his brother Ray, then a minor with mother Mabel acting as his guardian, inherited the other half interest. Some time shortly after 1957, Ray purchased Lee's half.

In 1954, Lee was planning to start his own garbage business in the city of Seaside, California, about 100 miles south of San Francisco, and on August 17, 1955, Lee and Norma purchased a house at 1624 Waring Place in Seaside from Harold and Hilda Lynch. (They continued to own their Daly City house, which they rented out until selling it on April 4, 1956.)

The total price on the Waring house (a corner lot with the former address of 1780 Grant Avenue), was \$16,250, and it was financed



Lee at Cypress Bowl in Monterey, 1965.

with a small downpayment and the assumption of an existing loan with First Western Bank & Trust Co. of Burlingame, California.

The Waring house was small and not in one of the better neighborhoods of Seaside, but it had dark hardwood floors and a beautiful flagstone patio in back. The front yard was a small hill covered with pink iceplant that attracted a lot of bees, one of which stung 4-year-old daughter Joelle when she decided to sit in it one day.



Lee with his boat in Moss Landing, California, 1966.

In early September 1955, Lee, Norma, and family moved from Daly City to the Waring House in Seaside, and on January 1, 1956, started Seaside Disposal Service.

The Martelli family lived less than a year on Waring Street before they purchased the house at 2080 Lassen Street in the Ord Terrace development in Seaside.

The house on Lassen was a nice 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch house with open-beamed ceilings. It was in a good neighborhood and was only two years old. However, Lee and Norma wanted to move to



(Jim Carmichael photo)

Crushing Blow

Mr. and Mrs. Leroy B. Martelli of 887 Madison St., Monterey, inspect damage caused by a falling tree which landed on their automobile, camper truck and 22-foot houseboat in front of their residence. The city tree was toppled by high winds at 4:15 p.m. yesterday and city crewmen removed it. Damage from the accident has not yet been estimated.

Monterey, and in December of 1965, they moved with their children to a house at 877 Madison Street in Monterey.

The Lassen house was rented out until 1969, when it was sold in June of that year to Harold and Faye Snow for a total of \$23,000, resulting in net proceeds to Lee and Norma of \$4,992.28.

The "house in the hole" on Madison Street was purchased in November of 1965 by first refinancing the house at 2080 Lassen Street. The purchase price for the Monterey house was \$38,000 secured with a \$5,000 downpayment and a \$30,000 first deed of trust by Security Savings & Loan, and a \$3,000 second deed of trust by the



Lee with pigeons in front of St. Mark's in Venice, 1977.

A Brief History of the Bozzini, Crosetti & Martelli Families in Italy & America

sellers, Kenneth and Beatrice Williams, who had moved to Hawaii.

The house on Madison sat more or less in the middle of the three-quarter acre property consisting of seven lots. The land was a deep canyon with a creek running through it that often flooded the



Lee's home office, 1991. He was never known for being neat or organized.

downstairs of the house during the rainy season. There were always deer visiting, as well as raccoons, possums, gray tree squirrels, and many birds. There were lots of fruit trees, including apples, crab apples, apricots, plums, kumquats, and pears. There were also blackberry vines and wild strawberries.

The house itself looked cute from the outside, and it probably had some charm to those who appreciat-



Lee on a camel in Egypt, 1978.

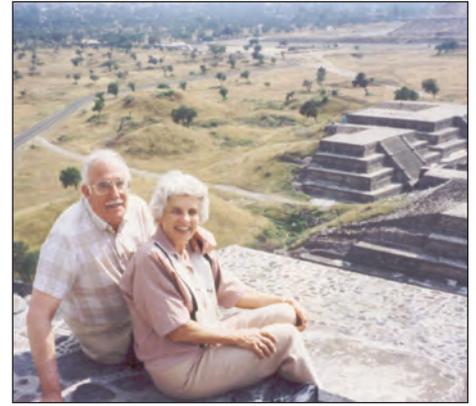
ed the quasi-colonial style. Originally built in 1872 as a four-room gothic style cottage with no bathroom or plumbing, it was eventually condemned but was later refurbished by the Donaldson family that owned the St. Charles Hotel in Monterey, now known as the Estrada Adobe.

Over the years through the 1920s, the house had been added to -- one downstairs bedroom and bath beneath a large living room at one end, and another bedroom and bathroom off the kitchen. It was quite a hodgepodge from a design standpoint, and it was never really in good repair, but it was a serviceable house.

In 1966, Lee bought a used 26' boat, and took a few boating trips to the delta in Sacramento. In the summer of 1966, the family went to Washington, towing the boat behind them. The boat was put in the water in Olympia, and the family motored out to Jarrell's Cove Marina on Harstine Island, where they stayed with Norma's sister Elsie Ness and her husband, Ted, who had a home, apartment rentals, gas station, boat dock, and store there.

Unfortunately, the boat was destroyed in March 1973, when an oak tree fell on it during a storm while it sat on a trailer in the driveway. It made the front page of the Monterey Herald.

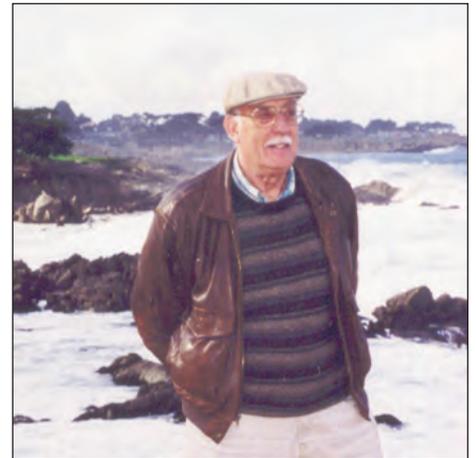
Over the years, Lee was active in service clubs such as Lions and Rotary, and he also served as the director and, in 1960, as first vice president of the Seaside Chamber of Commerce. On behalf of the Seaside Lions Club, he oversaw the placement of 25 public garbage cans throughout Seaside, and additionally disposed of the trash in those cans at no charge. He had many plaques hanging on the wall from various clubs and organizations that



Lee and Gundy in Mexico, 1992.

recognized his contributions to the community.

Lee liked to bowl and he played in several leagues over the years. He also enjoyed reading, especially ancient history. He also liked to walk, and often took long walks in the woods of Pebble Beach with the



Lee, near Lovers Point in Pacific Grove, 2000.

dogs that belonged to Gundy Dobransky, his office manager.

Lee and Norma both loved to travel, and they spent every year planning their next trip, whether they were going somewhere together or individually, or on two separate trips after which they would join up and go somewhere else together. They frequently visited Europe, where they spent time with their families in Italy and Finland. They also went sight-seeing in other parts of the world as well, and made



In Salinas at Lee's 80th birthday lunch, 2007. Left to right seated, Chris Martelli, Lee Martelli, Gundy Dobransky; left to right standing, Gail Martelli, Joelle Steele.

various short trips within the United States.

Lee went to Egypt and Israel in the late 1970s, and Norma went to Russia and Morocco in the early 1980s. and to Hong Kong in early December 1985. Just prior to her death from metastasized pancreatic in 1986, she made a final trip to Finland to see her cousins.

Norma worked with Lee in the garbage business from the very beginning. They did reasonably well for themselves, and in the end, Lee made \$900,000 from the sale of the business and the Tioga street property in Sand City.

During his lifetime, Lee also received cash inheritances totaling \$561,020 in addition to 1/4 of his grandfather's estate, 1/2 of his father's estate, Sunset Scavengers shares from his father, and mineral rights in the Dakotas from his Aunt Enes. And, between 1948 and 1967, his mother gifted him at least a known total of \$31,500.

Lee was not around a lot, as was typical of fathers in those days, but his son Chris remembers that he "picked up some very helpful lessons from Dad over the years, some of which took me many years to realize were true."

About a year or so after Norma's death, Lee and his former office manager and long-time family friend, Gundy Dobransky, became close, and up until about 2004, they often traveled to Germany to visit her family and to Italy to visit Lee's relatives. They also traveled to Finland and visited Norma's cousins.

In 2004, Lee was officially diagnosed with dementia, possibly due to a history of previously undiagnosed small strokes, or possibly due to Alzheimer's Disease. In 2006, he was wandering and was unable to continue living at home. He was moved to a locked assisted living environment called Summerville in Salinas, California. Gundy visited him there every week.

On February 9, 2013, Lee passed away. Following a service in Pacific Grove, there was a grave-side service at the G. Buzzini and B. Martelli mausoleum, Plot 137, at the Italian Cemetery in Colma.

Lee's social security number was 550-30-4017. He was a registered Republican.



Joelle and Lee at Carrow's restaurant, 2001. Lee ate breakfast there every day.

Joelle Steele



Joelle Steele (born Nancy Norleen Martelli), was born on April 19, 1951 in San Francisco, California, the older child of Norma Elisabeth Steele

(02/24/1922-08/27/1986) and LeRoy Basilio Martelli (03/21/1927-02/09/2013). She had her name legally changed to Joelle Steele in 1990.



Joelle first married in 1973 and divorced in 1975. In 1977, she entered into a relationship with an Australian audio engineer, Henry Robertson "Bob" Sargeant, a man 13 years her senior. They married in 1991. He disappeared in early 2016. Unable to find him, Joelle eventually divorced him *in absentia* in late 2017, only to find out in 2021 that he had died in 2016.

In 2019, Joelle began living with Richard Dennis Robles, an artist, photographer, carpenter, and retired professional stage hand who she dated briefly in 1975. He was born in San Mateo, California, had two older sisters, a father who was an artist, and a mother who was a librarian and co-owned an antique store. He has three children and three grandchildren. Joelle and Richard married on December 8, 2023 at the courthouse in Olympia, Washington.

Joelle left home at 19 in 1970, and lived in Hayward, Millbrae, Culver City, Bellflower, back to Hayward, then in San Francisco, Burlingame, West Los Angeles, and Venice Beach - all in California - before returning in 1997 to live on the Monterey Peninsula in Carmel Valley, Pacific Grove, and Monterey. In late 2005, she moved to Lacey, Washington to be close to her large family, including her brother Chris and his family.

Joelle earned vocational certificates in interior design and ornamental horticulture, and is 6 units short of a degree in culinary arts. She graduated from Santa Monica College with an A.A., and then graduated from Cal State University East Bay with a B.A. in Language Arts (a double major in English and Linguistics).

She is a high IQ (186) polymath, and former member of Mensa, Intertel, and the International Society for Philosophic Enquiry.

Joelle loves to work and has no dreams of retiring. She maintains that when you make the right career choices, your work is enjoyable to the day you die.

Since 1973 she has been a home-based writer. As of 2025 she has written more than 65 books (fiction and non-fiction) and 40 additional genealogical histories for her clients. She has also written more than 800 articles, nine advice columns, 100+ contract templates for small businesses, and more marketing pieces than she can count.

Joelle is a genealogist, publisher, photographer, artist, astrologer, landscape designer. She is court-certified as a handwritten forgery expert, an ear identification expert, and in the usual and customary practices of the horticultural industry. She has lectured internationally and has been adjunct faculty at various colleges in California and Washington.

Joelle has also held many part-time and client jobs as an illustrator, editor, proof reader, jingle writer, and legal secretary - plus a very wide variety of interesting temp jobs, including modeling at Macy's, appearing in a student film, singing lead vocals for a fund-raiser band, and soldering printed circuit boards.

Prior to 1997, Joelle owned two publishing companies, a property management company, a photography business, a management and horticultural consulting business, and a landscape design business. She also co-owned a recording studio and a landscape and floral design company.

Joelle's life had a very dark side with health issues that started from birth through age 14 (allergies, foot surgery, allergies, tonsilectomy, uterine polyps surgery). Nine more surgeries occurred between 1979 and 1990. She was also born sterile.

Unable to work after two back-to-back surgeries in 1979 and 1980, Joelle lived in her car on the streets of Los Angeles for eight weeks before a former landlord let her move in without a deposit or first month's rent. Two weeks later, she found a job working in the home-office of a landscape contractor where she worked for five years.

But her health issues continued and ultimately resulted in a medical debt of \$168,000 (after insurance paid). Hospitals and doctors did not carry debt and required credit card payments. So, with credit card interest, Joelle ended up paying a total of \$208,000, the final payment made in 2004.

Joelle embraced the World Wide Web in 1994, with her first website, oellesteele.com, which she still has as of 2025. She has had more than a dozen other websites over the years.

In her spare time, Joelle enjoys mystery/crime and science fiction in

her reading and in international TV and movies. She likes hiking, painting, collecting pottery and etchings, gardening, games, music, singing (until she lost her voice in 2016), and spending time with her cats. She has three cats as of 2025 - the last of a total of 19 cats she has had since childhood.

Joelle wrote about her life in her book "The Garbage Man's Daughter."



Chris in 1955 (above), in 1968 (right).

Chris Martelli



Chris Adamo Steele Martelli was born on August 8, 1954 in San Francisco, California, the younger child of Norma Elisabeth

Steele (02/24/1922-08/27/1986) and LeRoy Basilio Martelli (03/21/1927-02/09/2013). He grew up in Seaside and Monterey, California, and lived in Davis, California, Los Angeles, and University Place, Washington.

Chris enjoys sports in general and golf in particular, which both challenges him and affords him the social camaraderie of playing the



Chris & Gail with Chris' parents at their wedding in 1985 in Los Angeles.

game with his wife Gail and their friends. He likes to read, particularly history, science fiction, and mysteries. He also likes quality TV and movies in those same genres.

Chris graduated from Monterey High in the top ten of his class. He attended the University of California at Davis for two years, and then spent fifteen years in Scientology, which he found personally very rewarding. But he eventually left after becoming disillusioned with the organization's poor and hypocritical treatment of staff and public.

In 1978, Chris married Diana Downs Noeske. They divorced in 1985 and had no children. In 1985, Chris married Gail Ann Leete (07/21/1954-). They had one child, Adrienne Elisabeth Martelli (12/03/1987-).

Chris, Gail, and Adrienne lived with Chris' father in Monterey from 1989 to 1992 while Chris completed college, getting a Bachelor's degree in Management and a Master's degree in Finance from Golden Gate University in San Francisco.



In 1992 the family relocated to University Place, Washington. That same year, Chris began a successful twenty-five year career as a Certified Financial Planner and Investment Advisor.

For ten years Chris and Gail managed all of his father's affairs while he was suffering with Alzheimer's disease and until his death in 2013. In 2016 Chris sold his practice and retired.

Adrienne Martelli



Adrienne Elizabeth Martelli was born on December 3, 1987 in Glendale, California, the daughter of Chris and Gail Martelli.

She grew up in California before her family relocated to Washington state. There she graduated from Curtis Senior High School in University Place, and the University



of Washington in 2010, with a 3.53 GPA and a BS in Biology-Physiology.

Adrienne helped the Huskies capture the NCAA championship in 2009. She was named a First Team All-American by the CRCA before being named a team captain in 2010.

In 2009, Adrienne was with US Rowing, Princeton, New Jersey, as a National Team Athlete and Olympic Athlete. Among her awards, she took an Olympic bronze medal in 2012 in quadruple sculls, and a gold medal in the 2015 World Championships.

In 2016, she joined Northeastern University in the Greater Boston area as an Assistant Women's Rowing Coach and Recruiting Coordinator. In 2019, she joined the University of California at Berkeley in California as Associate Head Coach, Women's Rowing. In the summer of 2024, Adrienne became the Head Coach of the rowing department at Clemson University in South Carolina.

Adrienne likes running, movies, crossword puzzles, travel, speed walking, painting, and music.

On September 17, 2022, Adrienne married Joseph "Joey" Mallen in University Place, Washington.



Adrienne, far right, with her teammates, showing off their bronze medals at the London Olympics in 2012.

Ray Martelli



Raymond John Martelli was born on July 26, 1935 at Saint Francis Hospital in San Francisco. He and his parents and older brother Lee lived at 1685 Greenwich at the time he was born.

As a child, Ray's mother took him to art galleries and auction houses, encouraging him to bid on items. His parents separated twice, the first time in 1944 when he was only 9 years old.



Ray, March 6, 1936.



Ray, March 20, 1936.

Ray was an intelligent child and he paid his way through four years of college at San Francisco State University, where he received a bachelor's degree in physical education and recreation. He was also a licensed real estate agent.

When he 18 years old, Ray lived for a short while in Hollywood, California before returning to San Francisco in 1953, at his mother's request, to manage the family's apartment building at 2340 Francisco.



Ray and Lee at the fair, 1940.

Over the years, Ray held a variety of part-time and short-term jobs, including working as a playground director, a parking cashier, a department store clerk at Liberty House, and a stereo store clerk in Daly City. He also worked in movie theaters, was a handyman, and was a paralegal assistant for an attorney.

When Ray was deposed in the matter of his mother's estate, for which he was a primary beneficiary and executor, he consistently referred to Leo Perrino as his "dad" or his "father," and at one point, while being asked for clarification of that relationship, emphasized that Leo "was my father, not my blood father." He also stated in reference to Leo and his mother, that "I was

very close to my parents," and that he and his dad worked together a lot in managing the properties, sometimes with his mother as well.

Ray also stated that he felt that he was acting on his mother's behalf as executor when he tried to follow her instructions after she died with regard to her estate, specifically that she had always said, "I don't want anybody fighting over my Will," and "I'll come back and haunt all of you if you do."

According to one of Ray's depositions made during the litigation over his mother's estate, he explained how Mabel made her decisions about the Will and her estate. He recalled that she always said to everyone that she wanted him to have the house on Capra Way because he had purchased most of the furnishings in that house at auction, and that "my dad [again referring to Leo] never cared for the furniture." Ray also said, "...my dad always said that money meant nothing to him," and he said that Mabel "wanted my dad to live there with me, and she always said that to me ... that she never wanted me to let my dad bring in another woman, which we had arguments over. I took his [Leo's] side."



Ray, February 24, 1940.

“And she was worried about my welfare ... I was not always regularly employed, and she was worried what would become of me. She also had at times said she wanted to leave all of Francisco to me ... she felt that I would possibly need all the income from that building to take care of myself. She wasn't certain of my future after she left me, and I always tried to assure her that I would be all right.”

While Ray's words sound sincere, according to his nephew Chris, Lee and Leo both said that at Mabel's funeral Ray insisted they would never see any of his mother's estate or any inheritance, or words to that effect.

Despite the wealth Ray inherited from his mother's estate, Ray was not paying his bills or maintaining his real estate. In 2009, the court appointed a financial conservator, Scott R. Hodges, to manage Ray's finances.

Ray never married and had no children. In early March of 2024, when he was 88, he was living in the house at 201 Capra Way in San Francisco that he inherited from his mother, but was also staying at his flats at 1838-1840 Greenwich.

Ray had become a hoarder at both of his residences. He fell at the Capra Way house, was injured, and was first hospitalized at Sutter Health, at which time his niece, Joelle, became his surrogate for health care decisions. He was eventually moved to Transitional Care on Pine in San Francisco, at which time Joelle visited him on March 19, 2024, but he refused to talk to her. A week later he was again hospitalized at Sutter Health.

It had already been determined that Ray could not return to either of his residences due to safety issues resulting from his hoarding, as well as the flights of stairs he would have to navigate in each building.



Basilio and Ray at the Palace of Fine Arts, ca. 1942.



Ray with his father, Basilio, and brother, Lee, 1948.



Ray with Lee at Calistoga, 1947.

So, on April 3, 2024, Joelle had Ray moved into assisted living at Buena Vista Manor, not far from Golden Gate Park. Joelle then petitioned for conservatorship of the person, which was granted in a hearing on May 15, 2024,

Ray was still living at Buena Vista Manor when Joelle visited there (but did not try to see Ray) on September 18, 2025. By that time, a biohazard company had spent more than three weeks cleaning up the Capra Way



Ray, June 1948.

house and were still working on cleaning up the flats in the Greenwich building.

Family Businesses

In the Buzzini-Martelli families in America there were only two businesses: real estate and garbage.



Leo, Mabel, Lee, and Ray, at the house on Madison Street in Monterey, 1968.

Real Estate

John and Rosa Buzzini were two very enterprising people. During their lifetimes, they bought and sold many properties, mostly rentals ranging from single family houses to apartment buildings of varying sizes and descriptions, most located in the Cow Hollow area of San Francisco area where they lived. The Buzzinis also owned a summer home in Fairfax in Marin County.

Prior to the development of San Francisco, Cow Hollow was known as Spring Valley. It was an area with underground freshwater springs and grass meadows. When settlers came in the mid-19th century, dairy farming became the primary industry, giving the area the name Cow Hollow.

The Buzzinis' usual real estate tactic was to purchase a property, make improvements on it, hold onto it for a couple of years, refi-



The 4-flat building numbered 1683-85-87-89 Greenwich Street, still standing in 2025 at the corner of Gough Street.



The 2-flat building at 1838-1840 Greenwich, still owned by Ray Martelli as of 2025.



Mabel's 20-unit building at 2695 Greenwich Street, San Francisco.

nance it, buy another building, improve it, hold it for a few years, refinance it, and buy yet another building. Over time they would sell off the smaller buildings and buy bigger ones.

They kept next to nothing in the way of written records of their transactions, nor did they designate who owned what or how much any owner would receive from the monthly rents. Everything was considered to be owned by John and Rosa and their two daughters. If someone wanted to buy another property, they could just take some of the rent money and do it. There was always plenty of money to go around, so this system worked for them.

John and Rosa themselves did most of the improvements and maintenance on the buildings they acquired, occasionally hiring contractor friends of John's to assist with some of the work they could not handle. Mabel and Enes participated in the family business from an early age by helping their parents with cleaning and painting.

Mabel made her official entry into the real estate business as a very young woman. At age 16, she won two lots in Los Gatos in a lottery from which she bought and sold properties until her death.

Throughout her lifetime, Mabel purchased many properties, including a house in Fairfax, two houses in San Anselmo, a six-unit apartment house on Scott Street, a duplex on Cervantes Boulevard, and two flats on Mallorca Way.

When her father died in 1949, Mabel inherited the 4-flat building at 1683, 1685, 1687, and 1689 Greenwich at Gough, as well as her father's house in Fairfax. She also inherited a partial interest in the house at 159 Hearst Avenue when her sister Enes died in 1968.

Mabel's greatest purchase was the building at 2340 Francisco Street. She always said that the Francisco building bought and paid for everything she had from about 1955 on.

She had bought the Francisco property prior to 1935 (it was built in 1929) and used it to make a chain of real estate purchases, including the house she eventually lived in at 201 Capra Way. She first mortgaged 2340 Francisco to purchase a pair of flats at 1838-1840 Greenwich Street. This was where she eventually took sons Ray and Lee to live when she left her first husband, Basilio, in 1944.

Shortly afterwards, she mortgaged 1838-1840 Greenwich to buy a summer house in Fairfax in Marin County. She then mortgaged that house to buy a vacant lot at 1834 Greenwich, which adjoined her duplex at 1838-1840 Greenwich.

When Mabel and Basilio divorced, the properties were divided, and Mabel took out a \$20,000 mortgage on 2340 Francisco to give cash to Basilio, in addition to the building at 1840 Greenwich Street.

On his death in 1953, Basilio left 1840 Greenwich to his sons, and a few years later, after 1957, Ray bought out Lee's half, and he still owned the building as of 2025.

For the tax year 1947, Basilio, living at 1689 Greenwich Street, had a loss of \$192.46, and owed no taxes. That same year, on April 29, Mabel executed a quit claim deed to Basilio, which he then used that same month to purchase a 4-unit apartment building at 1551 Filbert Street in San Francisco. The purchase price of the building was \$20,000, secured with a cashier's check for \$13,000 and a loan from Bank of America for \$6,000. The final disposition of this building is unknown, but it was not part of Basilio's estate on his death.



Mabel's building at
2340 Francisco, San Francisco.



Basilio Martelli's 4-flat building at
1551 Filbert Street, still standing as
of 2022.



201 Capra Way, still standing as of
2025, and owned by Ray Martelli.

By the 1951 tax year, Basilio's adjusted gross income was \$604.07 and he owed no taxes for that year. In his last tax return, filed for 1952, Basilio's adjusted gross income was \$852.43, of which \$657.43 was his net profit from the 1838 Greenwich Street building, where he

was living at the time, and which he acquired in 1937 for \$11,400. After the standard deduction was applied, his taxable income was a loss of 17 cents.

When Basilio died in a nursing home in 1953 (just two days after Ray's 18th birthday), Lee and Ray each inherited one-half of the apartment building at 1840 Greenwich Street where Ray had been living with his mother.

In 1955, Mabel, now married to Leo, again took out a mortgage on 2340 Francisco to purchase the house on Capra Way in a tract called the Marina Gardens in San Francisco. The two-story, 3,232 sq ft house was built in 1931. And in the 1960s, she again mortgaged 2340 Francisco to buy 2695 Greenwich, the 20-unit building on which she later put Leo as a tenant in common.

She also purchased, supposedly with cash from Leo's salary, a house in Sonoma, which Ray purchased from her in 1961 for \$14,000, of which he repaid \$10,000. However, by 1976, she had waived the balance due and given him the property, which at the time of the transaction was valued at \$30,000.

The 1910 house was a 3,000 square-foot, two-story, three-bedroom house on 1.65 acres of prime real estate at 131 4th Street East. While he stayed there in the beginning, it was never really lived in due to continuing legal problems regarding the development of the property. Ray ultimately abandoned the house and it remained unlive in, being dubbed "Black House" by the locals. It was sold for \$1.5 million in 2011 to a former executive of Dolby Sound, a company that was coincidentally founded by Lee Martelli's wife Norma's distant cousin, Ray Dolby.

Mabel, Leo, and Ray upgraded 2340 Francisco during the 1960s, with the occasional assistance of handymen and other contractors for some of the more complex work. They also spent several years upgrading 2695 Greenwich. Leo and Ray tiled several bathrooms in that building, while Mabel painted, did some plumbing, and cleaned. Leo was working at Orsi Restaurant for some of that time, but he came to the building in between lunch and dinner shifts and also worked there on his days off, later being the part-time manager of the building.

For most of his life, Ray lived with Mabel and Leo at 201 Capra Way. But in 1968, he purchased a home at 915 Alvarado Street in San Francisco for \$23,000, by paying \$2,500 down and assuming an existing loan. He divided his time between this new home and the Capra Way house, which he purchased on November 23, 1984. The house on Alvarado Street collapsed inside during the Loma Prieta quake in 1987. Over time, a tree was growing through it, and it was sold in 2011.

In 1983, after selling his garbage business to retire, Lee purchased the 15-unit Glenn Oaks Apartment building, at 6 Arkwright Court in Pacific Grove, California. A couple years later, he acquired the 6-unit Encina Apartments at 241 Laurel in Pacific Grove. Both buildings were still in the family as of 2025, with Arkwright owned by Chris, and Laurel and a house in Lacey, Washington left in trust for Joelle.

The Estate War

After Mabel Perrino died on February 12, 1977, her three heirs immediately hired attorneys to engage in an incredibly expensive and altogether unnecessary, 14-year-long war over her Will dated May 12, 1976.



Stanley & Ines Davis' house at 159 Hearst Avenue, still standing as of 2022.



131 4th Street East, Sonoma, abandoned by Ray for 40 years before it was sold.



The Glenn Oaks Apartments at 6 Arkwright Court in Pacific Grove, California.



The Encina Apartments at 241 Laurel in Pacific Grove, California.

Leo was working at Orsi as a head waiter, for which his income tax returns in 1976 indicated gross wages and tips of \$5,533 -- plus income from rents. He also had access to joint investments of his and Mabel's. He hired Layman & Lempert to represent him.

After his wife's death, Leo did not wish to continue living at the Capra Way house and three weeks later he moved to the 2695 Greenwich building, which had a vacancy. He stayed there for three months, and then moved to 3465 Pierce Street #1.

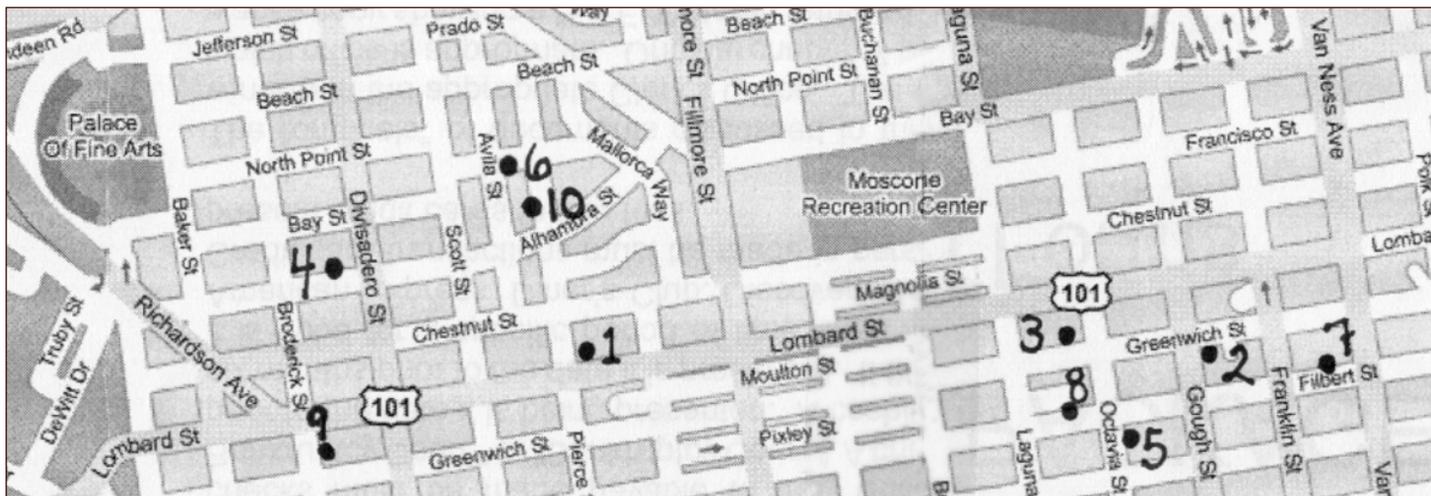
Lee, whose only inheritance was a one-fourth interest in the 2695 Greenwich Street building and a one-half interest in the 2340 Francisco building, immediately hired Walker, Schroeder, Davis & Brehmer in Monterey.

Ray immediately hired attorneys Mullen & Filippi who filed a petition for probate of the Will and for letters testamentary on April 21, 1977. A hearing for that action was held on May 12, 1977 at 9 a.m. in San Francisco, at which Ray was officially appointed executor of his mother's Will.

On June 27, 1977, Lee's attorneys filed a request for special notice, entitling them to receive copies of all documents, filings, petitions, accountings, etc., pursuant to his mother's estate.

On July 7, 1977, Ray's attorneys filed a final inventory and appraisal which lists bank accounts, investments, real properties, and a 1969 Buick Sedan. In addition, they paid \$50,000 in taxes.

In August, Lee's attorneys advised him that they had spoken to Ray's attorneys and that the inventory of the estate had been submitted for valuation by Elizabeth B. Richards, the court-appointed inheritance tax referee.



Some of the properties in this history located in the Marina District and Cow Hollow area of San Francisco.

1. 2290 Lombard Street
2. 1687 & 1689 Greenwich Street
3. 1838 & 1840 Greenwich Street
4. 2340 Francisco Street
5. 2846 Octavia Street
6. 201 Capra Way
7. 1551 Filbert Street
8. 1834 Greenwich Street
9. 2695 Greenwich Street
10. 3465 Pierce Street

Other properties mentioned included 915 Alvarado in the Mission District; 1400 Tenth Avenue at Judah in the Sunset 2 blocks south of Golden Gate Park; 159 Hearst near City College and Balboa Park; and other properties in the Marina on Mallorca Way, Cervantes, and Scott.

Outside of San Francisco were properties in Los Gatos, Sonoma, San Anselmo, Fairfax, Daly City, Seaside, Sand City, Monterey, and Pacific Grove.

On September 23, 1977, Leo's attorneys filed a petition for family allowance of \$1,500 per month, which was granted and ordered to begin retroactively on February 12, 1977 for a period of six months or until the filing of the estate's inventory following the evaluation by Richards.

Also on September 23, 1977, Leo's attorneys filed a creditor's claim requesting compensation to Leo for work performed over the years on behalf of Mabel's properties in the amount of \$87,504. This amount included a \$10,000 claim for reimbursement for community funds taken from 2695 Greenwich (the building on which Leo was a tenant in common) and used by Mabel without Leo's consent to pay down the mortgage on her individually-owned property at 2340 Francisco.

At this same time, Leo's attorneys filed a community property petition and petition for approval of fees, listing property as 201 Capra Way, 2340 Francisco, a list of 25 investments and the number of shares owned in each, and miscellaneous household furniture and miscellaneous property.

In the community property petition, Leo's attorneys stated that everything except the property at 2340 Francisco had been acquired during the marriage and with the joint efforts and funds of both Leo and Mabel. This was confirmed by Ray during his depositions.

However, Ray, thinking he was obeying his mother's Will, denied Leo the money. Immediately, there was a rift between the two men, with Leo refusing to talk to Ray.

On January 27, 1978, Leo's creditor's claim was rejected by Ray and filed with the court, stating Leo had adequate income from real property and investments, which were itemized in Ray's petition to deny the family allowance.

In March 1978, an accountancy firm of Carney & Grasshoff was preparing the 1977 joint income tax returns for Leo and Mabel.

By May 1978, more than a year after Mabel's death, the attorneys had still not received the inheritance tax referee's valuation, and there were numerous letters between all three lawyers about the status on the estate.

As of June 1978, Leo's hearing on the petition for vacation of the order granting family allowance had been continued numerous times by all of the parties for various reasons. Agreement could not be reached as to the value of the estate, which was making settlement of same exceedingly difficult.

In November 1978, Leo's attorneys contacted Ray's attorneys with a letter summarizing Leo's creditor's claim and community property claim, and offering a settlement to which Leo had agreed.

In March of 1979, the estate was still unresolved, Ray had not responded to the settlement agree-

ment, and Leo's attorney took Ray's first deposition on March 26 at Leo's attorney's offices, also requiring that Ray produce any and all documents in his possession that pertained to the estate of Mabel.

Following the deposition, in which Ray refused to make any compromise with regard to settling the estate, his attorney contacted Leo's attorney and said Ray might be interested in purchasing the Greenwich property with Lee, but nothing seemed to come of it.

During the second deposition, Ray's attorney, Anderlini, made an offer to Lee's attorney, Schroeder, for Ray to buy out Lee's interest in the estate, and Schroeder declined. At this point in time, Ray was still financially capable of making such an offer.

On May 30, 1979, Lee's attorney filed an order for issuance of citation, which ordered Ray to appear before the court with a complete accounting of the estate, and a report indicating the condition of the estate and any reasons why it could not be distributed and closed. A hearing was scheduled for June 25 but was continued to July 16, because Ray could not be served. They were also unable to serve him for the July 15 meeting.

Ultimately, Ray's attorneys agreed to receive service on his behalf, which set a meeting in the probate department July 23, 1979.

Apparently an agreement of sorts was reached during the July 23rd meeting, as a stipulation and order for same directed Ray to deliver to the probate court, by September 4, a verified accounting of the estate and to explain why the estate could not be distributed and closed. Ray was further ordered to appear in probate court on September 11 for a hearing on that estate accounting.

Of course, this too was continued to October 5 for submitting the accounting and October 24 for the hearing.

At the hearing on October 24, 1979, Ray did not appear, although his attorney did. The Superior Court judge ordered that Ray's powers as executor be suspended, but not terminated.



The G. Buzzini and B. Martelli mausoleum, Plot 137, at the Italian Cemetery in Colma, California.

Lee's attorney then filed a probate petition for Ray's removal as executor because he had neglected the estate because he had not provided a verified accounting and inventory of that estate; had not filed tax returns or extensions for filing with the IRS or the state of California for the estate; had failed to file a California Inheritance Tax return; that by not paying the taxes he had run up penalties and interest against the estate; and that he failed to keep accurate records for the estate.

Lee requested Bank of America be appointed as executor in Ray's place (to which Bank of America consented), and also asked for attorneys fees in the amount of \$2,000 on his own behalf for having to deal with Ray's non-response.

As a result of Lee's filing for Ray's removal, a hearing was set requiring Ray to appear on December 10, 1979.

On November 28, 1979, Ray wrote a two-page letter to his attorney, Philip Anderlini, in which he reminded Anderlini of his allegiance to the estate and to Ray as the executor. He accused Anderlini of not keeping him notified of what was going on with the estate, and of putting his position as executor in jeopardy by not tending to all the legal matters of the estate that were his responsibility.

Ray demanded that Anderlini provide him with copies of all documents produced and received relative to the estate, and that he cease having undocumented telephone consultations with Lee's and Leo's attorneys, and that he put everything in writing and copy everything to Ray. He especially wanted the paperwork concerning his removal as executor, stating "I am still unaware of what the charges are for my removal..." At the very last, he states that Anderlini's prompt attention to this matter would "certainly help alleviate my suspicions that you have entered into a conspiracy with attorney George Schroeder (at my exclusion) to jointly take over this Estate with the Bank of America Trust Department."

In preparation for the hearing scheduled for December 10, Lee's attorneys filed a memorandum of points and authorities citing case law that pertains to the removal of an executor. They won, and Ray was removed as executor and replaced by Bank of America.

Subsequently, Bank of America brought suit against Ray and Anderlini, and Ray cross-complained against his attorney for indemnity.

Bank of America obtained a judgment against Ray for \$184,000 and settled with Anderlini for \$150,000. Ray's cross-complaint for indemnity was dismissed.

Meanwhile, Lee had failed to pay his franchise fees to the city of Seaside, and city attorney Don Freeman had contacted Lee's attorney, Schroeder, advising him that Lee was between \$17,000 and \$20,000 in arrears, and that the city had agreed to allow Lee to pay \$500 per month on the outstanding balance, with the remaining balance due in September 1980. However, Lee never made a payment and the city of Seaside was threatening to sue.

In response, Lee made a lump sum payment of the past due payments through September, and told the city's director of finance that he would pay the balance out of his inheritance, which he expected to receive soon.

The year 1981 was a busy one. Bank of America was attempting to fight the tax penalties by having their own special tax attorneys deal with it. Both Ray and Lee agreed that the sale price of 2340 Francisco was undervalued. The bank was requesting that Ray turn over some stock certificates to them that supposedly indicated that they were owned by him and not by his late mother. The bank petitioned to invest some cash from the estate in a fund that would earn more money for the estate. One of Ray's attorneys, Neil Eisenberg, quit. The interiors of 2340 Francisco were being painted. The bank filed an amended petition to surcharge Ray and his former attorney, Anderlini, for their mismanagement of the estate.

The bank insisted on the sale of 2340 Francisco, even though the building only had a small mortgage and could have been refinanced, as Ray had suggested. Ray had wanted

to purchase the building but could not manage the financing by this time. Lee could not afford to purchase the building either.

On March 11, 1982, Bank of America filed a notice of intention to sell real property at private sale, that property being 2340 Francisco. The notice explained the process the bank would use in considering bids. The Francisco property was sold on March 1, 1982 to Louis J. Glicksberg, Jr. of San Rafael, for \$752,825.

The Francisco property was described as being a 4-story, 12-unit building, concrete and stucco exterior, tar and gravel roof with deck, on a lot 50' x 137' or 6,850 square feet. The floors were hardwood, linoleum, vinyl, and ceramic tile, there was an entry foyer, seven garage spaces, utility and storage rooms, steam radiator heating, and an interior patio on the second level.

As early as 1979, Ray had wanted to fire his attorney, Anderlini, but whenever he tried to hire another lawyer, and they looked over what had been done to date, they declined to represent him. But Ray did end up with other attorneys during the course of the litigation, including Charles J. Wisch, John Nash, and Michael F. Kelly.

On March 29, 1982, Kelly filed objections to the confirmation of sale of real property stating that the property had been undervalued, that its fair market value was \$1 million, and that the sale price was less than 90% of the true value of the property. The objections also stated that the property did not have to be sold to meet the obligations of the estate and that it produced sufficient income on its own to do so, and that it was therefore not in the best interest of the estate or its heirs to sell it.

But the building was not producing income because the bank had allowed it to sit at half-occupancy while they considered the possibility of converting it into condominiums. At the time of the sale, Francisco was carrying a mortgage of only \$72,000. In the end, by selling the Francisco property to pay the \$300,000 in estate taxes, the sale itself created an additional bill of approximately \$100,000 in capital gains taxes.

Most of Leo's action to claim his property from the estate had been settled by 1982, when the Francisco building was sold and half was distributed to him in the amount of approximately \$725,000; the other half was still being held by the bank. In January of 1983, Bank of America approved and authorized a final payment of \$55,500 to Leo as final settlement of all his claims in the estate.

In March of 1983, Ray's attorney Kelly petitioned the court to order the bank to pay monies to Ray. Later that year, Kelly wrote to the bank and advised them that Ray was opposed to the sale of the Greenwich building, which was now on the table.

In 1984, now being represented by Wisch, Ray filed objections and exceptions to the petition for authority to employ special litigation counsel by Bank of America.

The bank was pursuing litigation against Ray to recover IRS penalties, and Wisch provided full points and authorities as to why the bank should not be allowed to pursue litigation against one of its own heirs for the benefit of its only other heir, Lee. This was clearly a conflict of interest.

That same year, the 20-unit, 4-story (plus basement) building at 2695 Greenwich Street in San Francisco, owned jointly by Mabel's estate and

Leo, was sold by Bank of America in an estate sale via sealed bids.

At the time, the building, located in Presidio Heights, was carrying a mortgage of \$47,000, and Bank of America had just had it appraised by an independent real estate appraiser who gave it a fair market value of \$1,475,000. It was producing a net yearly income of approximately \$80K.

The building consisted of eight 2-bedroom units, eight 1-bedroom units, and 4 studio apartments, was described as a reinforced concrete structure, with 18,228 square feet, hallways and units with wall-to-wall carpeting, lath and plaster interiors, tile floors and wainscoting in the bathrooms, linoleum floor kitchens, a view of the Bay Bridge from the upper floors, a four-passenger elevator, a two-year-old built-up tar roof, five built-in garages, and a 4,557 square foot basement, on a lot approximately 87'6" x 60' (5,250 square feet).

As with 2340 Francisco, Ray was not allowed to bid on 2695 Greenwich.

Ray stated that he felt he was the victim of a "never ending vicious and malicious harassment" by Lee and the bank. In a counter petition for a fair and larger preliminary distribution, which he prepared himself, Ray made reference to being sued for his stock that was gifted to him by his mother as per the codicil to her Will. According to him, the fight over the stock cost more than it was worth, and the bank was still holding stock certificates belonging to Ray.

Ray also filed papers indicating that he felt the bank was wasting the estate's resources by continuing to litigate rather than allowing the heirs to fight it out separately and perhaps manage their own settlement.

Last Will and Testament

I, MABEL PERRINO, resident of the City and County of San Francisco, State of California, hereby revoke all testamentary dispositions heretofore made by me and declare this to be my Last Will and Testament.

FIRST: I declare that I am married to ELIO PERRINO and we have had no children; I have two sons by a former marriage: RAYMOND J. MARTELLI and LEROY B MARTELLI; I have had no deceased children.

SECOND: I have purposely made no provision in this Will for my husband ELIO PERRINO for the reason that I have put property into our names as tenants in common.

THIRD: I give my son RAYMOND J. MARTELLI my real property and residence situated at 201 Capra Way, San Francisco, including all of the contents, and I declare that the furniture and furnishings and other contents except my personal effects already belong to him.

FOURTH: I give all of my personal effects to my son RAYMOND J. MARTELLI and request that he make whatever disposition of them he wishes.

FIFTH: I confirm that I have given my son RAYMOND J. MARTELLI my real property situated in Sonoma, California.

SIXTH: I ask my son RAYMOND J. MARTELLI to take possession of my cat and care for him.

SEVENTH: All the rest, residue and remainder of my estate of which I die possessed or in which I have an interest or right of testamentary disposition, I give, devise and bequeath in equal shares to my sons RAYMOND J. MARTELLI and LEROY B. MARTELLI.

SEVENTH: [duplicated numbering] I specifically disinherit my husband ELIO PERRINO for the reason stated above, and I generally and specifically disinherit each, any and all persons whomsoever claiming to be, or who may be determined to be my heirs-at-law, save and except those mentioned in this Will, and I direct that any claim or contest that may be made against the distribution of my estate by any person or persons be repudiated by my Executor, and if any beneficiary or other person shall make or file any contest to the provision of this, my Last Will and Testament, they shall be barred from receiving any bequest or benefit from my estate, direct or indirect, and shall, in place of any such bequest, benefit or aware receive, if they successfully contest or claim, the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) in lieu of any such bequest, benefit or award.

EIGHTH: I appoint my son RAYMOND J. MARTELLI as Executor of my Will and in the event he cannot or does not act, I appoin[t] my son LEROY BE MARTELLI. My Executor shall serve without bond and shall have power to sell, with or without notice, any property belonging to my estate not specifically bequeathed or devised, subject only to such confirmation as may be required by law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 12th day of May, 1976 in the City and County of San Francisco, State of California.

CODICIL

I, MABEL PERRINO, resident of the City and County of San Francisco, State of California, hereby declare this to be the First Codicil to my Last Will and Testament which I executed earlier on this 12th day of May, 1976.

FIRST: I give and bequeath all of the stocks and securities which I hold in my name alone to my son RAYMOND J. MARTELLI.

SECOND: In all other respects I confirm my said Last Will and Testament.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 12th day of May, 1976 in the City and County of San Francisco, State of California.

[both documents signed by Mabel Perrino and witnessed by attorneys Ruth Church Gupta and Kamini K. Gupta of Gupta & Gupta, 2237 Chestnut Street, San Francisco]

Also, according to Ray, the bank was not maintaining the property at 201 Capra Way, which had not been disbursed to Ray and which had suffered severe damage due to a burst water main. Because Ray did not receive income from the estate, and probably because by this time he was not sure he would even receive the house, no repairs were made. In Ray's own words, the house was the "worst eyesore in its neighborhood."

Ray further described his feelings about the manner in which monies were distributed to Lee and not to him, and that Lee was receiving more money, even though their mother's Will clearly left the majority of her estate to Ray, not to Lee. He puts most of the blame on the attorney for the bank, and draws the court's attention to six or more volumes on the estate which were in the probate office. He also pointed out that the bank and its attorney both made more money on his mother's estate than he did,

Since it was Lee on whose behalf Ray felt the bank was persecuting him, he referred to Lee as "a mercenary, schizophrenic, sociopath ex-brother." Ray further stated that he did not feel that his lawsuit with Anderlini should be a cause for not closing his mother's estate once and for all. He asked the court to consider what his mother would think about everything that had happened to her estate.

Was Ray correct in his assessment of how the bank was handling the estate? Unfortunately, from reading the many filings and letters of correspondence, it appears that the bank did, in fact, favor Lee and Lee's cause over Ray's, despite the fact that the bank was supposed to be acting on behalf of the estate and not for or against any of its heirs.

One of the key reasons for Ray's removal as executor of his mother's Will was his failure to produce an accounting for the estate. However, Bank of America did not deliver a final accounting either. It was not until March 1991, when Wells Fargo Bank had assumed the trust department of Bank of America, that the final accounting was made, all creditors' claims against the estate had been resolved, and final disbursements to the heirs were made.

According to that final accounting, there had been previous orders authorizing preliminary distribution. Lee had received \$500,000 and Ray had received \$200,000. This left remaining assets of about \$350,000 to which adjustments were made for amounts owed the estate and to Ray. The final disbursements were an additional \$54,000 to Lee and \$275,000 to Ray, who also had received the house at 201 Capra Way and its contents.

As of May 3, 2000, the only news of Ray's properties was a notice with the City of San Francisco's Board of Appeals regarding Ray's property at 1844 Greenwich Street. Ray, the appellant, was requesting a rehearing of Appeal No. 00-026 heard on April 5, 2000.

The matter involved the building of a light well, although it is not clear where the light well was to be created or why. Ray said he would agree to pay a portion of the cost, and he also suggested a process for arriving at a fair price for the work. He wanted a rehearing so they could revise the plan. The Board, after hearing the current permit holder state that he had already been held up two years in seeking a permit for the light well, denied Ray's appeal.

The Garbage Business

Garbage collection was a relatively new concept in San Francisco prior to the Great Earthquake of 1906. At that time, there were only a handful of scavengers. However, just ten years later, there were more than 150 of them, mostly Italians, driving their horse-drawn carts and picking up refuse, sometimes from the same block.

In 1921, the year Basilio started working on a garbage truck in San Francisco, the City had just required trash collectors to have permits. As a result, many of the local scavengers -- mostly Genovese Italians like Basilio -- got together and formed two major scavenger operations: Scavenger's Protective Association (which serviced the financial district and surrounding areas) and Sunset Scavenger Company (which serviced the outlying residential areas).

Because all employees were shareholders in Scavenger's Protective and Sunset Scavenger, Basilio became a shareholder early on. Working in the garbage business back then still involved horse-drawn trucks, and Basilio was a skilled teamster. The garbage business offered him one of few employment opportunities available to Italian immigrants.

The two companies, Scavenger's Protective and Sunset Scavenger, drew on their roots as recyclers from the old days, when they would set aside valuable refuse such as furniture and household items, which they either repaired or sold "as is." They also washed wine bottles and sold them back to local wineries, bailed paper and sold it to be made into pulp, and cleaned and repackaged rags, which they sold to Standard Oil for use by gas station service attendants.

In 1935, the two companies formed Sanitary Fill Company to develop their disposal capacity for the increasing amount of refuse that was being generated as San Francisco grew. The two companies grew as well, and during the 1940s and 1950s, they greatly expanded their services.

The early years of World War II, were a difficult time for some Italians living in America because some of their fellow countrymen were promoting Fascism in Italy as a means of establishing a stronger ethnic identity for Italians in general. The United States government responded by putting some Italians in interment camps -- mostly in Missoula, Montana -- the same way they later did with the Japanese.

But the scavengers in San Francisco were pro-America. On December 11, 1941, the day that Italy (along with Germany) declared war on the United States (Italy's former ally during World War I), 500 union garbage collectors from Scavenger's Protective Association -- all Italian aliens or of Italian descent -- delivered sand to every block in the city to fight incendiary fires. One scavenger posed for newspaper photographers in front of a sign that said: "Italian blood is in our veins, but America is in our hearts. We have enlisted for the duration. God bless America. -- Scavenger's Protective Association."

After Basilio's death in 1955, Lee inherited some of his father's shares in Scavenger's Protective Association. At that time, Lee was working for Sunset Scavengers and had been a route boss since December 1948, so he had purchased additional shares himself. He was also a member of the Board of Directors for the company from January 1, 1951 through October 1955.

In late 1954, while still living in Daly City and working for Scavenger's Protective, Lee began investigating the idea of buying or starting his own garbage business. One of his friends, either Al Rossi or Donald R. Innes, a commercial truck dealer in Salinas, California, told Lee about possible opportunities in the growing area of the Monterey Peninsula about 100 miles south of San Francisco.

Lee went to the Monterey Peninsula in early 1955 and tried to find out about the existing garbage companies in that area. He hired Salinas attorney John C. Rosendale to make inquiries on his behalf as to the possible purchase of an existing business in that area. No one was interested in selling and word quickly spread that someone from "The City," as San Francisco is often referred, was trying to buy in to the area.

Shortly afterwards, Innes wrote to Lee and forwarded him an article clipping that appeared in the Monterey Herald in mid-March 1955 about the Seaside city council voting on the establishment of a garbage collection franchise.

By this time, Rosendale had already turned his attentions to investigating the garbage franchise that the Board of Supervisors in Monterey County had awarded to Community Garbage Services, a company that had been providing

services to Seaside since the city had incorporated in 1953. Community Garbage Services had a five-year exclusive franchise awarded to them by the Board of Supervisors, and it still had three years left to run.

Lee's interest had evidently sparked some controversy and some



A 1915 horse-drawn garbage truck in San Francisco.



San Francisco scavengers ca. 1940s. Truck is a late 1920s White garbage truck.

action by Seaside city council member George D. Pollock, who was a lawyer, owned the East Monterey Water Service, and was also a co-owner of Community Garbage Services with W.B. and Mary White. At Pollock's suggestion, the city council and the new city attorney, Saul Weingarten, were already in the process of proposing a new garbage ordinance.

By June 15, 1956, the City of Seaside was working on creating its

garbage ordinance and an accompanying bid submission process, and Rosendale was helping Lee to assemble the beginnings of his bid.

The article clipping that Innes had sent to Lee stated that Pollock had abstained from voting on the garbage franchise issue, but he had obtained signatures on a petition to indicate support for the continuation of his company's services, and stated that it would be inadvisable to "take an action which would throw local people out of work and bring in outsiders for the sake of saving a few dollars a year."

Pollock was additionally quoted as accusing the mayor, Jack Oldemeyer, of bringing in his friends from San Francisco to "buy my business," which Oldemeyer denied, and rightfully so, since it was Lee's friend who had told Lee -- and possibly others -- about the franchise.

Pollock was also quoted as saying that there were only two or three large companies that were controlling garbage collection on the West Coast, and that "These companies will promise anything to get a toe-hold in a community but in six months' time they will come into you councilmen asking for adjustments."

However, the council said that while Pollock was valuable to the city council, they should not let that stand in the way of saving money for the city.

There was also a question as to whether Pollock should be allowed to bid on a franchise since council members were prohibited from doing so. However, he relinquished his interest in Community Garbage Service to Thomas Toles when the garbage bids came before the council.

By September 1955, the city council had revised their new ordinance and had finished drawing up the bid specifications and opened the bidding.

Rosendale assisted Lee in completing the bid to Seaside's specifications. Lee's final bid was submitted in October of 1955, and he was awarded the exclusive franchise for Seaside December 16.

On January 1, 1956, Lee started Seaside Disposal Service, and paid his monthly franchise fees to the city of Seaside (20.3% of his gross).

But other contractors continued to pick up garbage as well, including Pollock's company. There was a question as to whether Pollock's existing five-year franchise with the Board of Supervisors (which had three years left to run) should supercede Seaside Disposal's franchise with the City of Seaside.

In April 1956, to establish his exclusive franchise, Lee had attorney Rosendale file a \$25,000 lawsuit against the City of Seaside for failing to enforce the exclusive franchise, and in the same action, sued Pollock and his partners, the Whites and Thomas Toles, for continuing to provide garbage service in Seaside. The \$25,000 was for loss of income and garbage fees allegedly collected by Pollock after January 1, 1956.

At the time, Seaside Disposal was servicing all but 2,545 of the 15,350 combined residents of Seaside and Del Rey Oaks.

Pollock sent Seaside Disposal a letter on April 19, 1956 which stated: "From and after the date of this letter I will haul my own garbage, and you are hereby directed not to pick up the garbage from my premises at 513 Palm Avenue, Seaside."

Pollock had taken his own case to the city of Seaside, asking for compensatory damages in the amount of \$87,265.75 for loss of the city's garbage contract and punitive damages for overriding his franchise awarded by Monterey County's Board of Supervisors.

When Pollock's claim was denied by the City of Seaside, he filed a cross complaint in the amount of \$245,000 against Oldemeyer, current mayor Joe Cota, two council members, city attorney Weingarten, city manager Gordon Howe, and Seaside Disposal.

He stated that the city had no right to give the contract to Seaside Disposal when his company had a five-year franchise awarded by the county before Seaside was incorporated as a city.

Adding fuel to the fire was the fact that the police had, in fact, arrested two of Pollock's employees for collecting garbage in violation of the ordinance, and that issue was still expected to lead to a ruling on the legality of the ordinance. In addition, a news brief in the Monterey Herald stated that Seaside city manager Howe advised residents to pay only garbage bills submitted by Seaside Disposal Service.

Weingarten represented himself and his co-defendants by moving for a summary judgment, claiming Pollock had no issue of fact to be tried, and Superior Court Judge Anthony Brazil of Salinas ruled in favor of that motion. Pollock lost the case in Superior Court in Salinas on October 19, 1956, but then filed an appeal.

The case, *Martelli v. Pollock, et. al.* (1958) 162 CA2d 655 [Civ. 17749 First Dist, Div One Aug., 11, 1958] was won by Lee in a landmark judgment that was also upheld on appeal almost two years later by Judge Fred B. Wood of the District Court of Appeal in San Francisco. This allowed Lee's original case to go forward, establishing his exclusive franchise with the city of Seaside, and earning him a \$25,000 judgment as well. This case is now cited regarding awards of franchises to cities and counties..

As Lee's garbage business grew, it had its ups and downs. From the very beginning, two conveniently-located payment stations had been established at Mitchell's Fremont Pharmacy and Ord Terrace Pharmacy. A few other were added over the years.

But Seaside Disposal's reputation was at stake only six months into business, when an article in a July 1956 issue of the Monterey Herald compared the services of Seaside Disposal with those of Monterey and Pacific Grove disposal services.

Seaside Disposal, the smallest of the three companies, came up noticeably short in terms of the number of loads per 1,000 population going to the dump. But what was far worse was its treatment of its employees: six-day work weeks, no additional pay for working holidays, no sick leave, and no paid vacations.

On July 1, 1956, Seaside Disposal began to pick up garbage in Del Rey Oaks after being awarded a five-year contract in which Seaside Disposal would pay the city 30% of its gross collections. That same month, Lee submitted a bid to provide garbage services in the city of Monterey, but his bid was rejected.

In the first year of service, there was only one truck, a mid-1920s, bright red, White "Super Power" open-container truck. There was no cab on this truck. The driver sat on a seat in the middle where the cab would normally be, and there were steps on either side of the driver leading to the top of the truck where the men dumped their loads.



More of San Francisco's White garbage trucks from the 1920s, still operating in the 1950s.

A year later, Lee purchased a 1940s Garwood "Packer Loader," which had a rear-loading technology that had already given way to the side-loader, but he continued to buy more used rear loaders anyway. That same year, he also purchased a White front loader for picking up dumpsters. His favorite trucks were Whites, Garwoods, and REOs (the latter eventually being purchased by White but still carrying the name REO on them).

During that first year of service, each Seaside and Del Rey Oaks customer was allowed 30 gallons of rubbish per week -- no can was required! It could be placed in a box or a bundle at the curb, and newspapers and cardboard were removed at no additional charge.

Lee, like his former co-workers at Sunset Scavenger, was immediately in the recycling business when he started Seaside Disposal, and was bailing newspaper and cardboard the first year.

During the week of April 1956, Seaside completed its first semi-annual "clean-up week," during which customers could put out as much garbage as they wanted for no additional charge in order to keep their community clean.

The clean-up week resulted in 75 truckloads of discarded items, including mattresses, household furniture, refrigerators, and yard waste. Lee had been shooting for 100 truckloads, but was later quoted in the Monterey Herald as saying "Seaside is now clean except for a few locations where

the people have as yet not cooperated in the cleanup." He added that "the health and fire departments will be and are correcting that."

He further stated that the clean-up weeks were a means of promoting health and safety in the community. The next clean-up week held six weeks later was more successful and warranted a photo in the Seaside Sentinel.

Over the following five years, Seaside Disposal ran full-page ads in the Seaside Sentinel advertising clean-up weeks.

In 1958, Seaside Disposal was awarded the contract for garbage service in neighboring Ft. Ord. Service was to begin in June. This was a bit of a problem for Lee at the time because he needed additional trucks and did not wish to purchase them until he found out the disposition of the appeal in his court case. His mother gave him \$2,500 to help him fulfill his Ft. Ord contract.

In September of 1958, Seaside's city council opted to give Seaside Disposal a five-year contract instead of calling for competitive bids.

On July 31, 1959, Lee had taken out a new fictitious name statement for his recycling service, Peninsula Salvage Company, even though he

had been recycling paper since 1956. That same year, Seaside Disposal began picking up canned garbage only. Weekly service for a 20-gallon can was \$1.25 per month, and a 30-gallon can was \$1.50 per month. However, just a couple years later, the company was offering weekly pick-up of two 30-gallon cans, one at the curb and one at the back door for only \$1.00 per month.

In April of 1959, the company acquired a new truck, purportedly one of the largest of its type in the area and capable of containing 45 cubic yards of waste. This was significant enough to warrant a mention in the Monterey Herald.

It was also in 1959 that George Pollock and Community Garbage Service posted a notice in the local paper stating that they were providing services to the community of Marina for \$1.25 per month and would beat all competitive prices and services, specifically stating that Pollock had "never raised rates and my men are paid a living wage."

On March 9, 1960, a study session was held at the Asilomar Conference Grounds to consider a proposal by Lee that his company take over garbage collection in Pacific Grove, which was currently being handled by city crews.

At one point, around 1962, Lee did not get a renewal of the Fort Ord contract. As a result, he was in danger of losing his entire business, and had to ask his mother to loan him money in order to stay afloat. She instead gifted him \$5,000.

Lee later expanded garbage services to Fort Ord, the Presidio of Monterey, the Naval Postgraduate School, Marina, Castroville, Prunedale, Moss Landing, Del Rey Oaks, Monterey, Pacific Grove, and Pebble Beach -- the entire Monterey Peninsula except for Carmel.

During the first few years of business, the office was located in the dining room of the house on Waring, and later it was in a raised area of the garage of the family home at 2080 Lassen Street in Seaside. By the fall of 1964, the office had been moved into an 800 sq .ft. wood frame building that had been acquired years earlier from Ft. Ord and moved to the property where the trucks were housed at 840 Tioga in Sand City.

At the Tioga Avenue property there was also a shop for the mechanics who maintained the garbage trucks and other company vehicles, and a few years later, a large metal building that housed the Monterey Transfer Facility.

The transfer facility was built by Lee to provide a place for his trucks to dump their loads throughout the day without having to make a one-hour round trip to the dump each time. In addition, the transfer facility was available to locals who likewise did not want to go all the way to the dump to drop small loads. The garbage was then bulldozed and packed into semi-trailer trucks that hauled all the garbage to the dump in just a few big truckloads. Sadly, the transfer facility was discontinued by the company that years later purchased the business and land after Lee retired.

Lee was always looking for better trucks, better packing cans, and any alternatives that would reduce fuel costs, such as "piggy back" dumpster trucks, which were pick-up

trucks with fork lifts in the back, instead of a bed, that could pick up a single dumpster and drop it into the transfer facility. This was all during the 1960s, at which time Lee already foretold of a time when there would be trucks that picked up cans that the driver did not have to get out to lift.

Lee was also one of the first companies in the United States to use Rubbermaid garbage carts on wheels. He did so during a test run by the Rubbermaid company, which provided the carts free of charge to residents in Del Monte Park (in Pacific Grove), where Lee's trucks then picked them up.

The property in Sand City consisted of several lots that had been purchased from various owners, primarily between 1957 and 1959, and all were owned jointly by Lee and Norma. Prior to the sale of the business, the Sand City property was a total of 2.64 acres consisting of Lots 7 through 15 and 32 through 38 in



According to the Seaside News-Sentinel: "It's clean-up time! Setting good example. Three Seaside youngsters help Lee Martelli, operator of Seaside Disposal Service, with city's second clean-up campaign now under way. Shown delivering unwanted items to Martelli's truck are children of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lowery, 625 Cedar. (Left to right), Eddy 4; Johnny 9; and Karen 10. Clean-up campaign started Monday and will continue through Saturday. Residents are urged to put trash and junk in boxes at same place that garbage is picked up. No charge is made for service."

The truck in the photo was the company's first, a 1920s White "Super Power" open-container truck usually referred to by Lee and his workers as "old No. 1,"

Block 26; and Lot 16 in Block 27 of Hot Springs Tract #3.

Lot 16 was on the south side of Afton directly in line with the office building that fronted Tioga. Lots 14 and 15 were always referred to by Lee as "Cox's house," which spanned both lots. Cox was probably the previous owner, because the house was never occupied while Lee owned it.

In the mid-1960s, Lee had become a partner and the vice-president of Monterey City Disposal Service, Inc., and he also co-owned other adjoining properties in that same area with some of his business partners. Almost 20 years later, according to his income tax return for 1982, he was doing very well financially. His adjusted gross income for that year was \$79,452 - a substantial amount for that time.

In 1978, Lee had a minor heart attack brought on by smoking and stress. He quit smoking immediately after pursuing the habit since he was 8 years old. As for the stress, when Chris and his first wife, Diana, were visiting Lee and Norma in Monterey, they went to dinner at Fisherman's Wharf. There, Lee and Norma pitched the idea of taking over the business to Chris and Diana, who were not interested.

So, in 1982, at age 55, Lee decided to retire. Timing was not great on this decision since Lee and some of his partners were being sued by LAR, Inc. (Lar, Inc., a California Corporation, v. LeRoy B. Martelli, et al, Case #78337, Superior Court of Monterey County), thus complicating the sale of Trash, Inc.

But, on February 25, 1983, Lee and Norma sold Trash, Inc., which by this time consisted of the companies known as Seaside Disposal Service, Del Monte Disposal Service, Monterey Transfer Facility, and Del Monte Drop Box Service.



Lee working in his office in the dining room at the house on Waring Street in Seaside, 1955. Son Chris' playpen in front.



Lee in his new Seaside Disposal Service uniform, 1956.



Lee and a couple of his employees show off a new truck for the Monterey Herald in April 1959.

They sold Trash, Inc. to James Carroll of the Carmel-Marina Corporation, for \$500,000, of which \$4,166.67 was a cash downpayment, and the balance was payable via a promissory note, secured by a deed of trust, over a 10-year period in 60 monthly payments at zero interest and 60 payments at 10% interest.

The purchase price was broken down into \$100,000 for the purchase of two capital stock certificates, one for 100 shares in Trash, Inc., and the other for 100 shares of Monterey Peninsula Waste Management, Inc.; 100 shares of revocable stock or bond power of Trash, Inc.; purchase and sale of stock agreements for Lee's shares of Monterey City Disposal Service, Inc. and LAR of Monterey, Inc.; and \$400,000 for the non-competition agreement or "covenant not to compete," that was included in the sale of business contract. There was also a lease option in the contract regarding the property at 840 Tioga.

The Tioga property was sold on June 26, 1984 to James Carroll and James Ratto (who had been leasing the property) for \$400,000. Carroll and Ratto made a downpayment of \$105,567.79 and Lee and Norma carried a note in the amount of \$300,000 secured by a deed of trust. At the time of the sale, the total payoff on the existing mortgage was only \$3,128.65. In 1994 or 1995, Lee received the final lump sum payment on the note.

According to Lee's son Chris, his father took great pride in being "Lee Martelli the garbage man." He always said that despite the hardships at times, he liked the business and felt that he was providing a good service to the community by hauling their garbage away.

In the mid-1990s, Lee was turning up in the local newspapers, pri-

marily after taking out a full-page ad encouraging the city of Monterey to put the garbage collection up for bid, thus encouraging conformance with California's recycling law, Bill 939, which required cities to reduce the amount of garbage that goes into landfills by 25% by 1995, and 50% by 2000. As of 2004, Monterey County had the highest recycling rate in California.



The Tioga Street property in Sand City, home of Lee's garbage companies, including the Monterey Transfer Facility (building at far right). Gone as of 2024.

Where They Lived

Bozzini/Buzzini:

1913-1921 Giovanni Bozzini, carpenter, 2290A Lombard
1929-1935 John and Rose Bozzini, 1689 Greenwich
1937 John Buzzini (widowed), 1689 Greenwich
1939-1949 John and Mary Franzoni, 1689 Greenwich
1942 Mabel Buzzini, 1689 Greenwich

Buzzini, Enes:

1926 Emilio & Enes Varni, grocer, 2040 Greenwich
1928-1932 Emilio & Enes Varni, 2034 Greenwich
1940-1941 Frank E. & Enes Colombo, teamster, 25 Paradise Ave
1947 Stanley E. and Enes L. Davis, salesman, 3996 23rd
1951 Stanley E. and Enes L. Davis, driver, 1428 Florida
1952-1968 Stanley E. and Enes L. Davis, milk truck driver, 159 Hearst Ave

Crosetti (Frank's parents):

1927-28 Dominic & Rachel Crosetti, laborer, 2014 Lombard
1930-1942 Dominic & Rachel Crosetti, 2016 Lombard
1943-1946 Rachel (widow of Dominic), 2016 Lombard

Martellis:

1931-1932 "Bacci" and Mabel Martelli, scavenger, 1687 Greenwich
1933-1934 Basilio and Mabel Martelli, scavenger, 69 Cervantes Blvd
1936 Basilio and Mabel Martelli, scavenger, 1689 Greenwich
1937 Vasilio and Mabel Martelli, scavenger, 1685 Greenwich
1938 Vasilio and Mabel Martelli, scavenger, 149A Jasper Place
1939-1946 Basilio and Mabel Martelli, 1840 Greenwich
1947 LeRoy B. Martelli, 2340 Francisco
1947-1951 LeRoy B. and Norma S. Martelli, 1400 10th Ave
1951-1953 Basilio A Martelli, 1838A Greenwich
1947-1951 Mabel Martelli, 2340 Francisco
1954-1957 Ray Martelli, manager, 2340 Francisco #302
1958 Ray Martelli, student, 201 Capra Way

Perrino:

1953-1956 Leo and Mable Perrino, waiter at Julius Castle, 2340 Francisco #302
1957-1977 Leo and Mabel Perrino, waiter at Pietro's Café, 201 Capra Way

Steele:

1942-1943 Norma Steele, bookkeeper, San Francisco Bank, 720 Jones
1944-1947 Norma E. Steele, bookkeeper, San Francisco Bank, 1747 27th Ave
1948-1949 Norma Martelli, bookkeeper, San Francisco Bank, 1400 10th Ave

A Brief History of the Bozzini, Crosetti & Martelli Families in Italy & America

1741, birth
Carlo Antonio
and Giuseppe
Antonio
Martelli
(both died
within 3 days)

Die 9. Februarii 1741
Antonius filius Antonii Dominici de Martelli et Mariae Antoniae Beroni conjugum natus Triulthy huiusmodi
una hora 2. fuit baptizatus ab obitu et fuerunt suppletis alii. Ceremonia in Ecclesia a P. An. M. Parasio M.
hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M. hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M.
hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M. hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M.

1744, birth
Carlo Antonio
Martelli

Die 15 Martij 1744
Carolus Antonius filius Antonii Dominici de Martelli et Mariae Antoniae Beroni conjugum natus Triulthy
hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M. hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M.
hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M. hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M.

1745, birth
Carlo Giuseppe
Martelli

Die 26 Julij 1745
Carolus Antonius filius Antonii Dominici de Martelli et Mariae Antoniae Beroni conjugum natus Triulthy
hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M. hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M.
hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M. hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M.

1748, birth
Maria
Maddalena
Martelli

Die 7 Aug. 1748
M. Magdalena f. An. Dom. de Martelli et M. An. Beroni conjugum natus Triulthy
hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M. hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M.
hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M. hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M.

1751, birth
Carlo Antonio
Martelli

Die 2. Junij 1751
Carolus Antonius filius Antonii Dominici de Martelli et Mariae Antoniae Beroni conjugum natus Triulthy
hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M. hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M.
hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M. hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M.

1752, birth
Anna Caterina
Martelli

Die 25 Julij 1752
Anna Caterina f. An. Dom. de Martelli et M. An. Beroni conjugum natus Triulthy
hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M. hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M.
hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M. hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M.

1756, birth
Carlo Antonio
Martelli

Die 22. Februarii 1756
Carolus Antonius filius Antonii Dominici de Martelli et Mariae Antoniae Beroni conjugum natus Triulthy
hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M. hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M.
hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M. hora 12. fuit baptizatus a P. An. M. Parasio M.