

Lucy (Annunciata) BIANCUZZO

JAN 7, 1913

Place of birth: Belmont, NY Allegany Co.

# of years in County: All Life.

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doing laundry by hand: what's the process? How long would it take to do a load? How did you dry it in the winter time? Electric iron? Pick up & deliver? How would the girls help → what exactly could they do? Did you just do clothing or linens too? When did you get washing machines?

Did you always set the price for the laundry? Did you have regular weekly customers? Were you aware of other women doing laundry when you started?

Were you aware of any jobs in town (clerk, ~~wait~~ waitress, etc.) that you could have applied for?

~~Do you think that if you had transportation (car) would you have considered looking for employment in Wellsville?~~

Mother worked in Hotel doing laundry → how old were you?

How old were you when you worked at Hotel? What exactly did you do there?

Besides selling dandelions, strawberries, etc. did mother have any other way of earning money to support family?

Did cousins (Marion & Theresa) ever work to help support family?  
during school or after graduation?

Cleaning Houses: age 18. How did you get the jobs? Start of Depression →  
did you have any problems finding work? Did laundry business fall off?  
Did you set the wage (35¢/hr.) or did they? When you started how  
many houses were you cleaning in a week? Did you get paid different  
wage at different houses? Were the women you cleaned for at home?  
Were other women doing the same kind of work? Were married women?  
How did you feel about married women working? ~~Did anyone give you meals?~~  
~~Did you have to organize~~  
How did you get those jobs?

During 1930's also cleaned at Phone Co. (days), the Hotel & Dr. Schwert's  
Office (nights). Do you remember wage at each place? When did  
minimum wage go into effect? Did they pay minimum? What did you  
do at Phone Co? Hotel? Schwert's? Can you tell me what a typical day  
was for you? When you were out working did Mother stay home alone?  
How did she feel about you ~~being out~~ working away from home? Did

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you ever feel any conflicts about this?

When you cleaned in homes what exactly did you do? If you did extra work (Spring Cleaning) did you get paid extra?

Did you clean Business establishments every day? once a week? Were private homes once a week?

When did you clean for the electric Co.? How'd you get that job?

Were there people you wouldn't consider working for?

Do you remember the Klu Klux Klan activity in the 1920's? Did you have any idea who was in the Klan? What did they do? Did you ever feel job opportunities were closed to you bec. you were Catholic? Italian? Were you aware of any conflicts bet. religious or ethnic groups?

Aga. 17: Willkes-Barre, Pa. Relatives. Were you going to be paid for helping

them w/ baby? What were you expected to do? How long did you stay?  
Did you want to go?

1942: Wulets in Summer - 3 days wk. Did you do laundry? All laundry or just personal? Did they have washing machine? Did you do ~~laundry~~ ironing? Could you set the days & time you worked, or did they? Did anyone supervise you? What did you do in winter time (pick up more jobs to compensate for this one?)

WAR → industry hiring women → did you ever consider getting a job in war plant (Wellsville for ex?) Why not?

1946: McKenzie's: 8/day. How many days a week? Summer/winter?

↓  
1954 Still doing Schwert, phone Co. Laundry at Home → any other private cleaning? Did primarily laundry; Spring/Fall housecleaning → any other responsibilities? Were you supervised or could you organize own work? (Head Housekeeper?) Did you prefer 1 steady

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Was the person who got upset a Telephone Co. employee? Was he upset about the name difference? Why do you think that was? Were you concerned that you might lose your job bec. of the name discrepancy or get in trouble.

Did you ever not work for someone because they wouldn't pay you a fair wage? If people unfair or ~~it~~ took advantage or didn't pay you what would you do? If you quit did they have trouble hiring someone else? Did you have trouble finding another job? How did you feel?

At Hotel: were you supervised? Could you organize your own day?

At businesses: were you supervised? Could you organize your own day?

Mentioned you liked it better when people you worked for weren't home? Why was that?

Do you think there were advantages to the type of work you were doing rather than factory work or 9-5 job.

Did you ever think you could earn more money if you (+ mother) moved to a larger town or a city? Do you think there would have been more job opportunities?

Would you ever have preferred not to have worked?

What did you like about living in a small community in a rural area?

Was there any entertainment? What did young people do? Did most of the people you grew up w/ stay in this area or leave?

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job like McKenzie's or various houses? Why/why not?

Did McKenzie's & Willets pay more than other people in town?  
Did they provide meals? Did they pay SS, etc.? Did they hire married & single women?

1953: Acme Electric: What made you decide to apply for job there? Do you remember what you were paid? Do you remember what you did there? Worked 3-11 pm → did you choose those hours? Would you have preferred different hours? Did you get a break? Were there men & women working? Were you closely supervised? Was the supervisor a man? Did you like the work? Did you like working there? Why/why not? Did you prefer doing housework/laundry? Why/why not? When you were laid off how much notice did you get? Do you know if men & women were earning the same amount? Did you give up your cleaning/laundry jobs when you went to Acme? Were you worried about supporting yourself when you were laid off?

How did you build up your business again? Do you think you were treated fairly by Alma? Why / Why not?

During your illnesses ~~at~~ when you couldn't work how were you able to support yourself? Did the people you were working for hold your job or did you have to find new places of employment? Did you ever have trouble finding work? Do you know if the other women who cleaned house were paid the same as you? Were you friends w/ any of them? Did you ever discuss wages? Was there any agreement among you that you'd all charge the same amount

Telephone Co → wanting to work as operator → do you know what training was necessary? Who was working there? Married / Single? How'd they get the jobs? Do you know how much they made? Did you ever apply for a job there? During the war why did you have to show birth certificate? Did other employees? Who did you have to present it too?