

Interviewer: Jennifer Haselhorst

INTERVIEW AND TAPE SUMMARY

Name: Richard + Susan Depigian

Date and Place of Birth: Richard May 7th, 1926 - Granite City

Address: 

Telephone Number: 

Interview Date, Time, and Place:

11-17-01, 2:30 pm, Depigian Residence

Interview Summary (attach additional sheets, as needed):

The Depigians provided insight of life in Lincoln Place. As either residents (Richard) or a visitor (Susan) both have very fond memories of Lincoln Place. Also the Depigians then provided pride and thoughts of being Armenian. These two individuals shared traditions, customs, and even food traditions. The Depigians pointed out how the Armenians were so clauish and how this clan were to fit into the diverse ethnic community of Lincoln Place. Richard + Susan's parents were both a part of the Turkish genocide against the Armenians.

Note any special circumstances involving the interview:

Richard Depigian had a hard time trying to remember events of his childhood in Lincoln Place. In the beginning before the interview, he did not want to talk very long.

Depigian's

In my interview with the Depigian's, Richard and Susan, I learned a little taste of Armenian life. Richard Depigian was born in Granite City and later moved into Lincoln Place. In this community growing up Richard shared many memories of the community center and of the lessons he learned growing up in a culturally diverse neighborhood. Depigian had a hard time trying to recall many events in particular to Lincoln Place; however he is extremely fond of the neighborhood. After graduation of high school Depigian enlisted in the army and was shipped overseas. Changing his roles in the military many times, Depigian seemed to be on the higher ranking side. After a few years in the service, Depigian returned home on a ship in New York. Returning to Granite City, Lincoln Place, was Depigian's next mission. Upon his return he was informed that his parents had moved to St. Louis. Depigian went in search of his family. Upon finding his family, Depigian met his wife Susan who at that time was a good friend of the family. The two of them, Depigian's, then went to describe the unique bond that Armenians tend to have with one another.

Richard and Susan gave many innocents where they had actually met a well-known author George Mardikian who was also Armenian. The reason for this meeting was actually only because the Depigian's were Armenian. Without knowing Mr. Mardikian, he came off his plane and walked right up to Richard and Susan and embarrassed them as family. Basically the Depigians showed the unique bond between not only Armenians, but also almost all ethnic cultures.

From there, the Depigians went on to describe the importance of food and the large desire to obtain the best grape leaves. Food seems to be a huge trademark of the Armenian women and with this they take pride.

Both of the Depigian's parents were a part of the Turkish genocide against the Armenians. The two of them decided to tell the stories of their mothers as they could recall. Richard's mother had come to the U.S.A. on a boat when she was 12 years old. Susan's mother had actually found her family a few months before she died. Her family was actually expecting her arrival a few weeks after she passed away.

Both Richard and Susan are proud of their upbringing and heritage of Armenian history. The two of them try to instill the same values in their children as their parents instilled in them.