

Interviewer: Eric Bruder

INTERVIEW AND TAPE SUMMARY

Name: Arthur Bedian

Date and Place of Birth: August 28, 1922 . Granite City

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Interview Date, Time, and Place:

11-18-2001, 12:30 PM, St. Gregory community center

Interview Summary (attach additional sheets, as needed):

Mr. Bedian spoke of his mother and father coming through Ellis Island. He also spoke about life in Lincoln Place, at the coffee house and community center with Miss. Prather. He was also on the 1940 state champion basketball squad, but caught diphtheria and couldn't play.

He also spoke about his years of service in the Armenian church, as well as working on "The Monthly Bulletin." He also related as to why the language retention is important to the community.

Note any special circumstances involving the interview:

Just that the interview was conducted in a church hall with several people walking in and out of a very large room we were in.

Biographical Profile

Mr. Arthur Bedian is a second generation descendent of Armenian parents, that found their way to Granite City, Illinois. His father and mother met and married at Ellis Island. He was born on August the 28th, 1922, in Granite City, Illinois.

He now resides in St. Louis, Missouri and commutes to St. Gregory Armenian Church every Sunday for worship services. He attended the church on 7th and Maple in Lincoln Place and also lived in the neighborhood, at several different locations. He lived on Niedringhaus, Maple Street, and Chestnut Street. He and his wife, Mary have one son, 37, and one daughter, 41. They have no grandchildren.

Mr. Bedian was very active within the Armenian Church and is now retired. However, during his many years of working on *The Monthly Bulletin*, he perceived the need for an Armenian/English dictionary of common words. So he spent years in this labor of love, translating and phonetically spelling the Armenian words in English. Although, his work was never published, it was copied and distributed to those individuals who wanted it.

Mr. Bedian worked at American Steel in the scientist's lab until the factory closed. From there, he and his wife moved to Detroit for about five years, until moving to St. Louis and making the 80 mile commute, back and forth to Granite City. Next October 18th, they will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary together.

Mr. Bedian has been a servant all his life, first to his wife, and then to his church. He still makes the drive to Granite City each Sunday, and is a faithful member of St. Gregory Armenian Church.