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# OUR GROUP BULLETIN

Publication of descendants from the  
Village of Seven Brothers in the province of Frosinone, Italy.

Vol. I

June 1947

No.1

## A GROUP BULLETIN

## WHERE WE COME FROM

About 70 years ago a young man left the Village of Seven Brothers in the mountains of Italy to seek his fortune in America. He wrote back to friends urging them to come too. A regular stream of emigrants came from the village, children were born in America and grew up. These boys and girls married and set up homes of their own. Today there are 300 of these families in Stamford, 125 in Manhattan, 150 in Queens and 100 in several other places. There is one in Utah, another in South Carolina and one of our people is in Nevada. All these families make up Our Group.

All of us are reaching forward, some rapidly, others more slowly, in pursuit of happiness in the American tradition. This is a great privilege. This bulletin is published in order to tell a little of who we are, where we come from and of how we are making use of this privilege. You will be surprised. Among us we have butchers, bakers, and candlestick makers. We have doctors, engineers and other professional people. The idea is for all of us to keep informed of progress and to coordinate all efforts toward a better future.

This is not an idle dream. It can be done. This bulletin, published in English and Italian, is proof that it can be done. As for its cost, a Financial Report will be given with each issue. Surely 700 families can get together to make up the small sum it will cost each month. Every effort will be made to send you one issue each month. If you know of any families not getting a copy, send us their names and addresses.

America says to us: Cooperate for your common welfare! Work together to make your lives happier and more fruitful. Let's pull together!

Most of our younger people have heard the older folk speak of the village of their origin. Exactly where is it? What kind of a place is it?

It lies on the top of a hill almost 2500 feet straight up in the foothills of the Apennines halfway between Rome and Naples. Monte Cassino, the monastery that was bombed, is 15 miles southwest of it. People first settled in our village 294 years before Christ was born. It's 2241 years old. That's a long time!

The present pastor of the village, Father Marsella, has written a scholarly work tracing the origin of the shrine to the Madonna of Canneto. This gives many interesting facts about the history of the village and is being translated by Mrs. Claudia Macari. It will be published in later editions of this bulletin.

## WHO INVENTED THE ICE CREAM CONE?

That question sounds silly, doesn't it? Yet someone had to invent it, and whom do you suppose it was? A man from a hamlet called the Ancient Place near our village. His name was Antonio Valvona.

This man went to Manchester, England, about 50 years ago and sold ice cream to kids in the street. In those days they served it in a glass with a spoon. You can easily imagine what happened to those glasses! So Valvona had to find a way to stop his profits from being smashed in the street.

He remembered that when his mother sent him for a penny of salt in the village the store keeper rolled up a piece of paper into a cone and put the salt in it. He also remembered that his mother  
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OUR GROUP BULLETIN

Edited by  
Paul and Claudia Macari

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AN APPEAL

We appeal to all those who understand and sympathize with the aims of this bulletin to join us in this work. The job is too big for two people. We need your help. Drop us a card. Let's get together.

YOUR BULLETIN

This is your bulletin. It will live and grow only if we all give it a little of ourselves. Write in your suggestions, your opinions, your questions. Don't worry about whether you write well or not. That's what editors are for. If you don't want your identity known, don't sign your letter or tell us not to mention your name. If you or your club wish to make an announcement, let us have it. That's what this bulletin is for. We need more people like Onorio Palombo of Queens. He has a wife and 3 children to look after, yet he has volunteered to organize and report sports activities among our group in Queens. That's the spirit we need!

As soon as we can show that we are wide awake and working together, then it will be proper to call upon the professional and business members of our group for the purpose of forming an ADVISORY BOARD that will counsel and guide its activities forward. That's the word, FORWARD. Forward toward the American ideal of a fruitful life for all.

It is in this hope that this bulletin is published. -The Editors

FINANCIAL REPORT

Expenses for this issue:

Paper .....	\$15.00
Postage .....	11.00
Total ...	\$26.00
Bulletin Income .....	\$00.00
Bulletin Outgo .....	\$26.00

ICE CREAM CONE (continued from page 1)

used to make flat cakes of dough on festive days. Why not roll up flat cakes into a cone and put the ice cream in that?

That's just what he did. He started with a little machine in a corner of his room. Later he developed large factories in England and America. Mr. Frank Gentile of Stamford and his brothers worked with him as boys. But it seems that he never got the patent. Someone who knew the legal ropes jumped the gun.

When you eat another ice cream cone remember Valvona!

BASEBALL CHALLENGE

At the recent dance given by the Seven Brothers Social Club of Queens we were talking to Mr. Domenick Macari of 45-09 Park Avenue, Union City, N.J., about the possibility of our group getting together for a big picnic out in the country this summer. Baseball was mentioned and we asked him if he could organize a ball team among our boys in New York to play a team of Stamford boys. This is what he said:

"Sure I can get together a New York Team. We'll play any team the Stamford people can get together. We'll beat the pants off those farmers! What do they know about baseball? They think a baseball is a kind of meatball. I saw them play once up there and instead of running to first base first, they ran to third and the other way round. Those guys think you catch a fly with fly paper! Sure, let somebody get up a team up there and let him write me about it. We'll play them anytime!"

Stamford, how about it?

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Dentist: You have acute pyorrhea.

Girl Patient: Save the compliments for later, doc, and look at my teeth.

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## DO YOU KNOW ALPHONSE VACCA OF STAMFORD?

How many of us know that the Stamford High School Stadium was designed by Alphonse Vacca, architect, a proud member of our group? What is more, the basic idea for its design has its roots in the Village of Seven Brothers. This is how it happened.

Al was the Town Architect in the Stamford Engineer's Office. One day he got a call asking if he could have the plans for a high school stadium ready in a few weeks. He said he'd see what he could do. He sat at his desk for hours trying to figure out a plan, but nothing would come. He gave it up and went out to play cards with the boys.

In the middle of a game at about 11 pm he saw in his mind -- a wall. It was a wall that belonged to a man who owned a parrot in the village, he remembered. Al laid down his cards right there and went home. That wall became the basic idea for the new stadium. He worked all night. At 6 o'clock the next morning he awakened his family to show them the design. They thought it was beautiful. Then came days of painstaking work and finally the job of supervising the construction.

Now there stands the stadium behind the school. It is a tremendous structure of stone and concrete beautifully conceived. It weighs 1500 tons. They had to dig 27 feet below the ground to find support for it. Under the seats there are lockers, showers and there is steam heat. It accommodates 12,000 persons all of whom can get out of the stadium in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  minutes.

As you look at it you feel transported back to the days of knights in armor. It seems as though they'll come out on their steeds at any moment to do battle in the arena. Notice the huge stones on the sides of the road as you approach the entrance. Al got that idea from the roads built by Romans which he saw in Italy.

And that's how our village has left its mark in Stamford!

But best of all, Al likes to invent things. What's more, he's successful at it. His latest is a compact call-

ed the Double Check which throws a light on milday's face when she powders her nose in the dark. He has three patents for this item alone which was judged the best in a contest at Miami, Florida.

Al was born in Stamford. When he was 3 months old his father decided to take his children back to Italy for a while. He felt that in order to know America, his children should understand Italy first. They stayed 9 years. Back in Stamford, Al went to public school, high school, and then to the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. In 1922 he set up business as architect in Stamford.

If you visit Al in his office at 1 Bank Street, you'll see drawers full of blue prints for homes and buildings that have gone up through the years. He designed a home for Guy Lombardo. His latest is an apartment house for 108 families that is going up on Bedford Street. If you'll look up the magazine Better Homes and Gardens for September 1945, you'll find an article about a home that Al redesigned.

So that's Al. If you see a stocky man walking along the streets of Stamford with strong chisled features, he's the one. He'll probably appear to be walking in the clouds thinking of new designs and inventions. Tug at his sleeve, bring him back to earth for a moment and say, "Hello, Al!"

### A WORD OF THANKS

In order to find out the names and addresses of our families for the purpose of sending them this bulletin, we got hold of every list we could find, called upon every family we know, almost, phoned about 60 others, and looked up every familiar name in city directories. We had to have exact names and addresses because the post office people say they can not return too much mail when the postage is only a penny and a half. We had a lot of fun visiting old friends and making new ones. We wish to thank everyone who helped with this big job. We'd like to mention them all but lack the space.

# HINTS

BUSINESS INFORMATION. The idea of our Government is to serve the people. One of the things it does is to give you the best information for starting a business.

You can get information about almost any business. Here are some: How to Select A Store Location, How to Operate a Metal Work Shop, Shoe Repair Business, Grocery Store, Service Station, Automobile Repair Shop, Beauty Shop, A Real Estate and Insurance Business, A Dry Cleaning Business, A Retail Shoe Store, A Hardware Store, A Small Print Shop, An Apparel Store and many others.

If you want this information, write to the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. Just ask for a list of the Small Business Manuals.

VETERANS. Ex-G.I.'s of WW II have many benefits coming to them. If you live in N.Y.C., go to 252 7th Avenue, on 24th Street, to the 2nd floor. Look for the Guidance and Advisement Division. Tell them you want Advisement. Bring your original discharge or a large photostat of it.

If you live in Stamford, write to the Manager, V.A. Regional Office, 95 Pearl Street, Hartford 4. Tell him that you want Advisement and he'll tell you where to report.

The laws about your benefits are complicated. Get together with the veterans in your neighborhood and let us know. We'll make a date and talk things over.

COLLEGE FOR EX-G.I.'S. Hunter College has about 400 openings for the term starting September 1947 at the Bedford Park Building in the Bronx. Make application in Room 205, Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue, NYC.

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Some folks can stay longer in fifteen minutes than others do in a week.

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SALESMAN TRAINEE. Mr. Josep Rustici, 35 Sixth Street, Stamford, manufacturer of a special cheese grater, would like to see one of our boys learn the business of selling them. There must be plenty of people especially in New York who need them. If you're interested, write Mr. Rustici.

JOBS IN NYC. The best booklet on where and how to find a job in NYC that we have seen is call An Employment Directory to Jobs in New York City. It is free. It will be sent to you by the Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank, 5 East 42nd Street, NYC. Write them for a copy.

NEW TYPEWRITER JOB. A new typewriter has been invented called the Vari-Typer. You are able to print letters of different sizes with it. Few people can use them, however, and the few that can are in great demand. The company that makes the machine will teach you how to use it. If you want to learn, write to the Training Division, Ralph C. Coxhead Corp., 333 Avenue of the Americas, NYC.

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**TIMES HAVE CHANGED!**

Grandpa: You know son, I remember the day a girl would blush when a fellow told a naughty story.

Grandson: Times sure have changed, nowadays she memorizes it.

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**LEADERSHIP**

Confucius says: Man leads women to the altar, then leadership ends.

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CONSUMERS' GUIDE. This is a U.S. government publication which every family should have. You can get it free or for about 50 cents a year. Write to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

## SOCIETIES AND CLUBS

Social organizations of various kinds exist in our group. The first one was founded a few years after the first immigrant reached America. They have kept alive the spirit of brotherhood among our people for more than half a century and helped to relieve distress among families in the village in Italy after both world wars.

### ALBERICO ANSERICI MUTUAL AID SOCIETY OF SEVEN BROTHERS

This is our oldest organization having been founded in 1891. It is named after Alberico Anserici, a monk who lived in our village in 1201 and who wrote about certain visions that he had. It is believed that Dante got some of his ideas for the Divine Comedy from the writings of this Alberico Anserici.

Members pay \$2.00 per month. In return, they get free medical attention, \$14.00 per week for the first 12 weeks of illness, \$10.00 for the remaining 40 weeks, \$400 upon death of a member and \$100 in case his wife dies. For more information contact the Recording Secretary Mr. Mario Pellicci, 2292 Bathgate Avenue, Bronx, N.Y.

The society is making a drive for new members. For this reason the admission fee now is only \$2.00. There are 100 members. Present officers are:

President .....	Theodore Buzzeo
Vice President .....	Cesidio Tamburri
Rec. Secretary .....	Mario Pellicci
Fin. Secretary .....	Gerardo Vagnone
Treasurer .....	Rinaldo DiPreta

### NURNEY CLUB OF STAMFORD

A social club founded in 1928.

Membership is also open to persons out of the group. The club house and grounds where they have birthday and anniversary parties is the property of the club. Members and their friends play cards there and enjoy themselves in general. There are 41 members. Officers are:

President .....	Jerry Alonzy
Vice President .....	Louis Zezima
Secretary .....	Henry Vacca
Treasurer .....	Florindo Conetta

MOVIES. Have you seen our movies of the village our folks come from? If you would like to see them, get a group together and drop us a card. We'll come over to show them.

### CAPTAIN ALESSANDRO VENTURINI MUTUAL AID SOCIETY OF STAMFORD

This society was founded in 1915. It is named after a Settefratese who was killed in the First World War. For one year before this organization was founded there existed a branch of the Alberico Anserici Society of N.Y. in Stamford, which became part of the CAV in 1916. As its name implies, this also is a mutual aid society. Members pay \$2.00 per month and in return they receive medical attention, \$10.00 per week for the first 6 months of illness, \$3.00 for the next 3 months, \$2.50 for the last 3 months and \$400 in case of death. If you wish to join this society, get in touch with Mr. Antonio Buzzeo of 30 Victory Street. At the present time there are 82 members and the present officers are:

President .....	Michael Zezima
Vice President .....	Cesidio Pia
Secretary .....	Antonio Buzzeo
Treasurer .....	Antonio Carella

### SEVEN BROTHERS SOCIAL CLUB OF QUEENS

This is the newest of our clubs. Last year several of our boys in Corona got together and decided it was time something was done. They've been going like a house on fire ever since! Their aim is to build a recreation hall in Corona. They have already given their first Annual Dance and plan another affair soon. There are about 70 members. Officers are:

President .....	Onorio Palombo
Vice President .....	Domenick Jonetta
Rec. Secretary .....	Anthony Gentile
Fin. Secretary .....	Thomas Terenzio
Treasurer .....	Peter Socci

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If you don't like the title Our Group Bulletin, think up a better one and send it in.

SEVEN BROTHERS SOCIAL CLUB OF STAMFORD

MEN'S BRANCH. One winter day in 1931 a couple of our men were standing and shivering on a street corner in Stamford trying to forget the cold. One of them perked up and said:

"Now look her fellows. What are we doing here freezing in our boots? We need a place where we can be warm and where we can talk and relax. Why don't we form a club?"

They started right then and there by renting a garage. They built a fire in the middle of it and started talking about a club. Money was scarce in those days so they each chipped in a gallon of wine. They played cards for that wine, losers paying up as is the custom and soon they had a few dollars. With this they rented a better place. Later they heard of some property for sale on Virgil Street. Those men who could afford it chipped in a little money apiece and in this manner they got together enough to buy the place.

Today the organization is a prosperous going concern. They operate their own tavern and as soon as building materials are more reasonable they're going to build a large recreation hall. There are 78 members and only Settefratesi may join. Its present officers are as follows:  
President ..... Domenick Campolungo  
Vice President ..... Joseph Pia  
Secretary ..... Anthony Buzzeo  
Treasurer ..... Michael Frattaroli

WOMEN'S BRANCH. The women of our group weren't going to let the men get ahead of them so in 1936 they formed a social club of their own. And quite a club it is! They hire buses which take them on outings where they see something of America and enjoy themselves. We visited them during one of their meetings in connection with getting names and addresses and found them conducting one of the best meetings we have ever seen. They have 45 members and only women of the group may join this organization. Its officers are as follows:

President ..... Rose Pia  
Secretary ..... Bennedetta Aniella  
Treasurer ..... Lena Conetta

MARIA SS di CANNETO SOCIETY OF STAMFORD

This is one of the societies of the Sacred Heart Church in Stamford made up of Settefratesi women. It is particularly active in religious matters. Last winter they organized a meeting where some splendid moving pictures were shown with sound effects and all. One of the films was a very interesting full length film in Italian with American titles showing the life and work of the famous St. Don Bosco.

The society was founded in 1945 and has 100 members. Its officers are as follows:

President ..... Louise Rustici  
Vico President ..... Filomena Carella  
Secretary ..... Julia Wallace  
Treasurer ..... Anna Rustici

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CANCER ---WATCH OUT!

Cancer kills 400 people a day. Watch out for the following signs:

1. Irregular bleeding or discharge from any of the body openings.
2. Persistent and unexplained indigestion.
3. A sore that does not heal normally, especially about the tongue, mouth or lips.
4. A sudden change in the form or rate of growth of a mole or wart.
5. A persistent cough without fever or other known causes.
6. An unexplained persistent hoarsness or difficulty in swallowing for ten days duration.
7. Women: Watch out for a lump in the breast or a bleeding, scaling nipple.

See your doctor at least once a year.

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WELCOME

It goes without saying that when we speak of the Settefratesi (which everybody knows means Seven Brothers) or of "Our Group" or "our people" we also mean all those who have married one of the Seven Brothers (or sisters!) You are all welcome.

**BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

These are all our people in business that we could think of off hand. Listings are made in alphabetical order. They are published without permission. If the information is incorrect or if you don't want your name listed, let us know about it. If you have materials, services, or property for sale or if you wish to buy or exchange items, let us know about that too. We'll advertise on this page.

<u>BAR SUPPLIES</u> .....	Zeziina, Salvatore	88 Wilson Street	Stamford	3-1712
<u>BAR &amp; GRILL</u> .....	Frattaroli, Joseph Vitti, Anthony Vitti, Lorenzo	130 Frederick St. 194 West End Ave.	Stamford Stamford N.Y.C.	4-5824 Tr-4-7134
<u>CONSTRUCTION</u> .....	Buzzeo, Louis P. Rustici, Achille	105 Pearl Street Dubois Street	Pt Chestr Stamford	857 2-0715
<u>DRY-CLEANING</u> .....	Estivo, Bob Musilli, Andrea Pia, Jerry A.	31-06 54 Street 308 East 29th St. 237 Main Street	Woodside, L.I. N Y C Stamford	3-7773
<u>FLOOR SCRAPING AND FINISHING (10% off your bill if you mention this Bulletin)</u>				
	Buzzeo, Michael	4439 Park Ave.	Bronx	Se-3-3899
<u>FUEL OIL</u> .....	Vitti, Venanzio	15 Dryden St.	Stamford	4-4037
<u>FURRIERS</u> .....	Carella, Pio Pia, Jerry A. Zemo, Don D.	26 Greenwich Ave. 237 Main St. 55 S Main St.	Greenwich Stamford Pt Chestr	1556 3-7773 2236
<u>GROCERIES</u> .....	Conetta Market Conetta & Tripodi Pompa Brothers	98-22 Corona Ave. 474 W Main St. 183 W Main St.	Corona Stamford Stamford	Ha-6-3170 3-6703 4-5930
<u>INSURANCE</u> .....	Bredico, Michael J. Conetta, Cosare Terenzio, Vincent Zeziina, Ermenegildo	40-07 69th St. 100-18 40th Rd. 32 Lines St. 81 Wilson St.	Woodside, L.I. Corona New Haven Stamford	Ha9-7629 Ha-6-3170 8-6586 3-1620
<u>KNITTING MATERIALS &amp; INSTRUCTION</u>				
	Cali, Concetta Mrs.	3775 Whi Plns Rd	Bronx	01-5-5977
<u>LINOLEUM</u> .....	Conetta Brothers	195 Main Street	Stamford	3-6626
<u>LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR</u>	Florito, Anthony	Sheepskill Rd.	Old Greenwich	
<u>LIQUOR</u> .....	Vitti & Terilli	1966 Hughes Ave	Bronx	Lu-3-3284
<u>MEATS FOR HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS</u>				
	Buzzeo, Theodore	25 9th Avenue	N Y C	Wa-9-4622
<u>MEATS, RETAIL</u> ....	Conetta Market Conetta & Tripodi Macari, Benedetto Macari Brothers Macari, Michael Pulicella, Ralph	98-22 Corona Ave 474 W Main St. 37 Stillwater Ave. 45-65 Bowne St. 325 Pacific St. 96 Main Street	Corona Stamford Stamford Flushing, L.I. Stamford New Canaan	Ha-6-3170 3-6703 3-2076 Fl-9-5931 3-9683 9-0230

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BUSINESS DIRECTORY (continued from page 7)

<u>MEN'S FURNISHINGS</u> .. Zemo Brothers	247 Main St.	Stamford	3-6353
<u>PLUMBING &amp; HEATING</u> ... Caporizzo & Rosa	183 Fairfield Ave.	Stamford	3-0155
<u>FOULTRY</u> .....	Frattaroli, Louis	75 Pacific St.	Stamford 3-3981
	Frattaroli, N.A.	10 Virgil St.	Stamford 3-2435
	Frattaroli, Nick	188 W Main St.	Stamford 4-3592
	Vitti, Cesare	109 Purdy Ave.	Pt Chestr 2963
	Zeizima, Mario	Hazel Blvd.	Babylon, L.I. 632M
<u>SURVEYING</u> .....	Frattaroli, Edward J.	5 Brincherhoff Av	Spgdle 2-1814
<u>STATIONARY &amp; CANDY</u> ..	Macari, Louis	82-22 Nrthn Blvd Jk Ht,	L.I. Ha-9-9626
	Tamburri & Danza	40-21 108 St.	Corona
<u>TAILORING</u> .....	Carella, Pio	26 Greenwich Av:	Greenwich 1556
	Pia, Jerry A.	237 Main St.	Stamford 3-7773
<u>TRUCKING</u> .....	Fuligno, August	35 East Avenue	Stamford
	Socci, Jerry	108-57 52nd Ave.	Corona
<u>UPHOLSTERY, CUSTOM MADE</u>	Macari Brothers	35-29 102 Street	Corona Il-8-6921
<u>WOMEN'S DRESSES, TAILORED</u>	Vagnone, Cipriano	9 East 53rd St.	N Y C Pl-5-8079

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Seven Brothers Social Club of Queens is giving a Beef Steak and Beer Party on Saturday, June 21, 1947 at the Two Towers Sporting Club, 104-38 47th Ave., Corona, L.I. The boys suggest that you fast the day before and all day Saturday then make up for it that evening

and be in the company of your old friends at the same time. It'll cost you \$2.25, but with the cost of living what it is today you'll probably save money! If you wish to go it would be wise to let them know so they'll have enough food for everybody. Call Peter Socci at Il-7-3837.

Macari  
4260 Barnes Ave.  
Bronx. 66, New York

Is this your correct  
name and address?

If not, send us the  
correct one!