

Antonio & Clorinda Gualtieri's History

Here is a little history about Antonio & Clorinda Gualtieri:

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In The Beginning:

Tony Gualtieri was born on September 19, 1900 in the southern part of Italy in the town of Rovito, Cozenza, Italy. He was drafted on March 6, 1918; he was in the Italian Ski Infantry in the Alps. The draft listing has his name as Antonio Mariano Guatieri. After returning from the army he met Clorinda Cicero. She was the daughter of Luigi Cicero and Theresa Chiappetta and was born on February 17, 1902 in Rovito.

They were married on May 25, 1919 at the Santa Barbara Church in Rovito. His father Salvatore did not want him to marry Clorinda since she did not have a dowry. Their first child Salvatore Francis Gualtieri was born on February 17, 1920 in Rovito. Salvatore/Sol/Sammy was baptized in Santa Barbara Church in Rovito.

The political and economical climate in Italy was not very good at the time. Clorinda's father had been to America and told them it was a great country with lots of opportunity for those that wanted to become citizens and work hard. So they decide to take a chance and move to the USA. That decision caused a lot more disagreement between Tony and his father, Salvatore, since Tony was the oldest. He was supposed to stay in Italy and take over for his father as the head of the family and help look after his brothers and sisters. Clorinda's Mom and Dad were already in Chicago.

I was told that one of Tony's jobs, when he was younger, was to crawl into the wine barrels and clean them out when emptied. One was very big and he got very sick / drunk from it and did not drink much wine after that.

Tony was a "wheeler, dealer" from the time he was a kid. I was also told that a few times he would go to one of the farmers a long walking distance from Rovito and buy several pigs. He would then bring them home, feed then and sell them for a profit in Rovito.

The Trip to the USA

Tony, Clorinda and their first son, Sol arrived at Ellis Island on 7/3/1922 on a ship called "Guglielmo Peirce" which departed from Naples. After arriving in New York, they took a train to Chicago and settled in a small area of the city where there were many Italian immigrants from Italy and especially from Calabria sometimes referred to as the "Patch". Clorinda's Mom & Dad lived there also. Her Mom worked in the Pullman Train Laundry across from where they lived.

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Chicago, Illinois

When Tony & Clorinda first moved to Chicago, Tony worked for a company that built seats for the Yellow Cab Company. After a while he opened a Butcher Shop. Hoping to make more money he opened a Maytag Appliance Store on Cambell and Chicago Avenue and sold washing machines. Then we went to work for The Ritz Dye Company. He worked there until he developed lung problems from the dyes and the doctor told him to quite. He was thinking of opening a Dye Company like Ritz but the doctors convinced him it was not good for his health.

They lived in a house on Grand Ave. Salvatore went to school in Chicago and then joined the US Army.

Louis Joseph Gualtieri was born August 05, 1923.

Edward Gualtieri was born August 26, 1924. Eddie was drafted into the armed services but they would not want to take him due to a hearing problem. He did go to work for a company that built some of the bombers for World War Two. He did say at one point that he worked on the bomber that carried the first atomic bomb to Japan.

Rose Gualtieri was born April 13, 1926 in Chicago.

Mario Antonio Gualtieri was born June 27, 1927. While he was a baby they moved to 2650 West Grand Ave. Mario attended Crane Tech High School. After high school he joined the US Marine Corp.

The house on 2650 West Grand Avenue needed a furnace. Tony got to know the people who put it in and they helped him start his own company. After some time, Tony opened Harding Heating, which sold and installed Stokly and Anchor Stokers in Chicago. It was called Harding because they were on Chicago Avenue two buildings from Harding Street. As technology changed he sold oil-burning furnaces from Trane. It was in operation from roughly 1939 until to 1944 when they moved to Bovey, MN.

Anthony Louis Gualtieri (initially called Junior and then called Butch/Butchie) was born October 30, 1942. He was supposed to have a first name of Antonio after this father Antonio Gualtieri and middle name Luigi after his grandfather Luigi Cicero. However, Clorinda's sister, Mary, was with her when the papers were filled out in the hospital and she told them to "Americanize" the name. However Butch never knew that and all the papers he filled out were completed as Antonio. His baptismal name was Francisco. When he had is confirmation in Dallas City he chose Edwardo in honor of this brother Eddie. So today, his legal papers read Antonio Francisco Edwardo Gualtieri. When Junior was born, his brother Louie took his mother Clorinda to the hospital and took them home.

Another interesting point about Junior's birth is as follows. When Junior was born his father Tony was working and when he came home he found his sister-in-law (Clorinda's sister Mary) at home. He asked her where Clorinda was. She said, "At the hospital." Tony said, "For what?" She told him that she was having a baby. Now that is the definition of a Shock! He did not know! Yes, Junior was a "Trick or Treat Baby." Clorinda was in her change of life and a little heavy so not having her period and gaining a little weight did not seem out of the ordinary.

Even though Junior had 4 brothers and a sister when he was growing up, they were out of the house working or in the service so in many ways he was an only child. Eddie come back to live with Mom and Dad for a while and many times was like a father to him. Antonio was always busy but Eddie would

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take him to take him to the show, play with him and bought him some nice gifts: bike, electric toy train, record player, etc.

Dad's friends or cousins talked him into moving to Bovey, MN with them and go into business with them. With the depression, it was hard to get boilers and to sell them. So he decided to give it a try.

After Tony & Clorinda left Chicago Salvatore (Sammy) Gualtieri started Perfection Heating, which sold and installed heating and air-conditioning systems. It was open from 1946 to 1965.

Mario returned from the US Marine Corp. and stayed with Grandma Cicero for a few months since Tony and Clorinda had moved to Bovey, MN and then Dallas City, IL while he was gone.

Bovey, Minnesota

Tony, Clorinda and Junior (Butch / Butchie) moved to Bovey, Minnesota in 1944. From 1944 To 1947 Tony ran a Dr. Pepper Bottling and Distribution Company called Bovey Bottling Company. They sold Dr. Pepper Soda along with beer.

While in Bovey Rosie meet John Balen when he came home from the service, they were later married in Chicago. Butch was their ring barrier.

While there a long time friend, Dave Koppes's brother told Tony about the large building on several acres that was for sale just about an hour from Chicago. Tony decided that the location might be a good place to have a Dr. Pepper Bottle and Distribution company so Clorinda could be closer to the relatives. So he bought the building in Dallas City, Illinois, which included a two-store house on the Mississippi River that was divided by the Santfe Railroad tracks.



Before Tony purchased the building it was a buggy factory. It also was used to assemble Burg Automobiles and some Ford cars. One half of the first floor was used to make spring mattress and buggy seats.

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Dallas City, Illinois

After moving to Dallas City, Tony contacted the company to get the bottling equipment. He came to Dallas City and inspected the facilities and found that it only had 50-cycle electric service, which meant that the equipment would not work. So, being an entrepreneur, Tony decided to open an Italian restaurant and a roller rink instead since there were none for miles around. In 1950 Tony and Clorinda open The Italian Village. It was an Italian Restaurant that served all kinds of southern Italian meals and pizza. The Roller Skating Rink with Soda Shop opened first, but the restaurant opened soon after.



The picture shows Clorinda with her granddaughter Angela Gualtieri, Mario and Dorothy Gualtieri's first child in the front of the restaurant. You entered these doors and walked up a set of stairs to the second floor.

The restaurant and roller rink were both on the second floor of the building with the restaurant being on the south end and the roller rink on north end. The Italian Village was opened from 1950 to 1970. ?

At one point Tony rented part of the downstairs to a man who made concrete vaults for burial caskets.

Mario found work in Chicago but he and a fellow Marine, Lee Clark, traveled to Dallas City every other weekend. On one of those trips, Lee took him to Lomax, IL when he met Dorothy Dietsch and fell in love at first sight. They were married on February 10, 1950 in Oquawka, IL and had 4 girls (Angela, Nina, Gina and Leysa) and 1 boy (Mario). Mario and Dorothy lived most of their lives in Dallas City.

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This picture shows Butchie skating in a hula skirt made from parachute cords and the back wall of the roller rink.



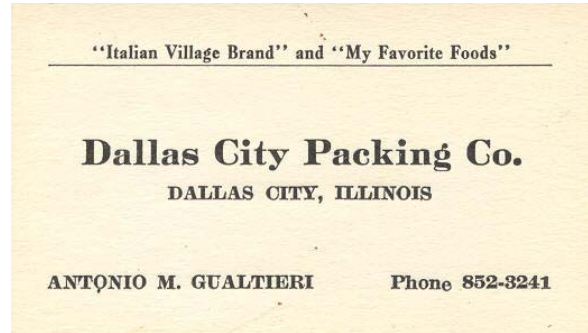
The picture shows the counter, the soda fountain area, Clorinda, Nina, Butch and Dorothy. The door behind Clorinda opened into the kitchen area.

The wall right behind Clorinda has some history also. One day Butch was coming out of the Kitchen and walking along the counter. Mario was going toward the kitchen. Mario said "Get out of my way!" Butch said "Who is going to make me?" At which point, Mario picked Butch up and pushed him toward the wall. Well, it so happened that he hit the wall right between studs, the plasterboard broke and Butch ended up sitting in the wall, and I mean in the wall. Needless to say, Tony was angry and Mario had to fix the wall.

The restaurant was regarded by the locals as having very good food. We even had people driving all the way from Burlington and Fort Madison, Iowa to get pizza and dinners. Butch still remembers Doctor Todd from Burlington, IA that would come in his sports card to get dinners. He would give Butch a 50 cent tip for helping him carry the food to his card. Butch could not get over such a generous tip (like \$5-10 today).

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So, being an entrepreneur, Tony decided to manufacture and bottle Italian Spaghetti Sauce and sell it to grocery stores. Louie got out of the service at this time. So he installed large stainless steel kettles and powered them from the steam boilers that were used to heat the building. He named the company the Dallas City Packing Co. Many of the stores did not know what it was in the area. They did not know what Spaghetti was either; you could not find a store that sold it.



Spaghetti Sauce did not sell very well because of the time and region. So a couple of years later they decide to start making personal pizzas upstairs to sell them in grocery stores also. After a while they also manufactured other Italian frozen foods (spaghetti, meatballs, sausage, etc). The operation grew so they moved it downstairs after remodeling it. It was the first company to use boil-in pouches with food: spaghetti and meatballs, Italian Beef, barbecue beef, etc. They ran into problems because the bags kept braking.



The picture above shows Louie cutting pizza crust, Roxanne putting them in aluminum plates. Then Clorinda and another worker are adding spaghetti gravy and cheese. Around the corner are a worker, Butch, a worker, Dorothy, and another worker. You can also see the large kettles in the background just beyond the post. This picture was taken on the first floor, south end of the building.

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It was also the first company to sell 5" pizzas to stores and Wriggly Field (Cubs Park) in Chicago, IL. Mario was the first person to deliver pizza to a professional ballpark on June 10, 1957. We made "Pro Pizza" for a company that was owned by Ron Santo and I believe a couple of other players. The junior pizza was also sold with 5 pizzas in a box. Each box had a picture of a Cub player (baseball) or a Bear player (football) on it. There were 10 different player pictures that we used. The business was then sold to Ron Santo.



The above picture shows Butch putting the finished boxed pizzas in the freezer which Mario made.

About 1-2 years after selling Pizza, around 1956, the Dallas City Packing Co. decided they want to sell Italian Spaghetti & Meat Balls outside of Illinois. However they run into problems with the FDA, in order to sell in other states, you had to have FDA approval. They tried to get approval but the FDA told them they could not approve something call Italian Meat Balls that was not 100% meat – the recipe had breadcrumbs in it. After many discussions Louie convinced them that they were called Italian Meat Balls and not Meat Balls. So the FDA finally gave them the OK as long as the Dallas City Packing Co. made sure that the packaging showed “Italian” Meat Balls in such a way that it was obvious they were selling “Italian” Meat Balls and not Meat Balls. They also had to modernize the building and provide an office for an inspector.

We had to stop using the boil-in-pouches since they kept breaking. So they started putting them into aluminum pans. However, the Spaghetti Sauce would eat holes into the pans.

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In 1969 Louie left Dallas City and moved to El Toro, California. Tony and Clorinda decide to retire around 1972 and they moved to El Toro, California.

El Toro, California

When Louie and Margaret moved to El Toro they opened a Texaco Gas Station.

When Tony & Clorinda first got to El Toro, California Tony would help Louie raise money for various charities. He got a couple of plaque from the Lion's Club with their fund raisers.

Clorinda died April 20, 1979.

After Clorinda's death Tony married Phyllis Nicola Cali on MM DD, 1985 in El Toro, CA at the age of 85. She was born May 26, 1914 in Emporium Pa. Phyllis died in 1999.

Tony died January 06, 1994 from an accident. He fell getting out of his car and hit is head and died of a blood clot.

Children Details

Salvatore Francis Gualtieri, born February 17, 1920, Rovito, Cosenza, Italy. He married Neva Dale (Jo) Spitzer. Jo was born in Elk City, OK in November 02, 1925.

Louis Joseph Gualtieri was born August 05, 1923, Chicago, IL. He married Margaret Cassidy on March 29, 1958 in Las Vegas. Margaret was born on October 11, 1927 in Vineland, NJ.

Edward Gualtieri was born August 26, 1924, Chicago, IL. He married Elizabetha Tropea on April 23, 1961 in Rovito, Cosenza, Italy. Elizabetha was born on December 4, 1933 in Rovito, Cosenza, Italy. Eddie died in Melrose Park, IL on June 26, 1996. Elizabetha died on January 15, 2009 in Schaumburg, IL. (Eddie was married 2 times before he married Elizabetha. His first wife was Betty from Bovey, MN and his second wife was Yvonne from Iowa.)

Rose Gualtieri was born April 13, 1926 in Chicago, IL. She married John Balen on October 5, 1946. John was born on March 30, 1924 in Bovey, MN.

Mario Antonio Gualtieri was born June 27, 1927, Chicago, IL. He married Dorothy Dietsch on February 10, 1950 Oquawka, IL. Dorothy was born on April 21, 1933 in Lomax, IL. She died in Dallas City, IL on August 27, 2005.

Antonio Francisco Edwardo Gualtieri was born October 30, 1942, Chicago, IL. He married Vivian Marie Zahorski on February 6, 1965. Vivian was born on December 12, 1941 in Chicago, IL.