



La Notizia Italiana

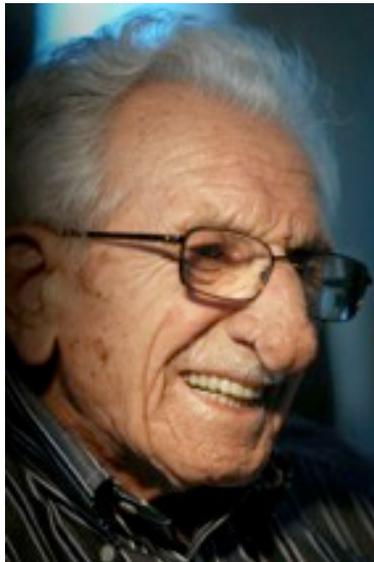


POINTers in Person: Lou Costello Chapter #15

In This Issue:

Ralph Golzio

Last Living Witness to the Paterson Silk Strike



(1909 - 2013)

- *Tribute to Ralph Golzio*
- *Calendar*



Ralph Golzio, Dies at 103
Last Living Witness to Historic Paterson Silk Strike



Ralph Golzio speaking about his memories of Paterson at the first annual History day at Lambert Castle, October 2, 2009.

By Jay Levin
 Staff Writer
 The Record
 Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Ralph Golzio, perhaps the last person with memories of the great Paterson Silk Strike of 1913 — he was there alongside his feisty mother — died Sunday, two days after the kickoff to the strike’s centennial commemoration. Mr. Golzio, a resident of the Totowa section of Paterson and the oldest alumnus of Stevens Institute of Technology, turned 103 in October.

The bitter, five-month strike, a watershed event in [Paterson](#) history and for the U.S. labor movement, involved 23,000 workers demanding improved conditions at the city’s nearly 300 silk mills. One of the strike leaders was a weaver named Carrie Golzio, who was guided by the words of her father, who had been a wool weaver in Italy:

(cont’ on p. 2)

(cont' from p. 1)

“No matter where you go to work, don’t let them step on you.”

Carrie became a picket line captain and was arrested several times. She brought her 3-year-old son, Ralph, to organizing meetings at the residence of an immigrant silk worker, Pietro Botto, on [Norwood](#) Street in neighboring Haledon. The house, a national historic landmark, is now the American Labor Museum.

Mr. Golzio’s daughter, Linda Sous of Mahwah said her father had detailed recollection of the gatherings at the Botto home. Angelica Santomauro, the museum’s executive director, said Mr. Golzio spoke on video about his memories of the 1913 strike.

“I think he was old enough at the time to know there was something going on in his mother’s life that was causing unrest,” Santomauro said.

Steve Golin, the author of a 1988 book about the strike, “The Fragile Bridge,” said Carrie Golzio, whom he interviewed in the early 1980s, most definitely would have brought Ralph to strike organizing meetings, especially on Sundays.

“It was like a picnic atmosphere, with a lot of music and speeches,” said Golin, a retired [Bloomfield](#) College history professor.

Santomauro and Golin said they are sure that, with Ralph Golzio’s death, there is now nobody alive who was present for the 1913 silk strike.

Mr. Golzio, who was born in the family home on Beech Street in Paterson, did not follow his mother into work at the mills. Nor did he become a carpenter like his father, Giovanni.

After graduating from East Side High School, he studied at Stevens Tech in Hoboken, graduating in 1932 with a degree in mechanical engineering.

Mr. Golzio worked at Wright Aeronautical before establishing an engineering consultancy. He retired at 78, but his mind kept racing along.

At 98 — about the time he stopped driving — he took to studying quantum and nuclear physics with the help of textbooks and instructors from his alma mater.

“He had a mind that was timeless and amazing,” his daughter said.

The Stevens Alumni Association’s Old Guard hosted Mr. Golzio’s 100th birthday party. A friend, Rep. Bill Pascrell Jr., D-Paterson, saluted Mr. Golzio on his 101st birthday. And in a Record interview on his 102nd birthday, Mr. Golzio paid homage to his mother.

“I had a very dynamic mother,” he said, adding that she went “toe to toe” with Paterson’s industrialists.

Mr. Golzio could not attend Friday’s opening reception for the American Labor Museum’s yearlong commemoration of the 1913 silk strike. He fractured his hip a month ago and then decided to forgo medicine. Linda Sous said her father concluded that “his meds were becoming his food, and that wasn’t natural.”

In addition to Sous and her husband, Tony, Mr. Golzio is survived by another daughter, Thea Jones. His wife, Betty, died in 1984.

The Silk Strike at 100

The Paterson Silk Strike of 1913 began in late January, when broad-silk weavers at Henry Doherty Silk Co. walked off the job to protest an attempt to increase the number of looms each weaver tended, from two to four. The action spread to other mills, halting silk manufacturing in the city by late February.

The strike lasted five months and resulted in a partial victory for the workers: The two-loom system was preserved, but workers would not win an eight-hour day — another of their demands — until 1919.

The American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark, at 83 Norwood St. in Haledon, is marking the strike centennial with an exhibition through Dec. 28. Go to labormuseum.net for information.

— **Jay Levin**

Tribute To Ralph J. Golzio

volume 156, number 148
pages e1886
extensions of remarks
mon, nov. 15, 2010



Rep. Bill Pascrell Jr. D NJ

Madam Speaker, I would like to bring your attention to the extraordinary life of Mr. Ralph J. Golzio. A lifetime resident of New Jersey's Eighth Congressional District, Mr. Golzio celebrates the milestone of his 101st birthday on October 20, 2010. The Italian-American community recognized Mr. Golzio by holding a dinner in his honor on October 17, 2010.

Ralph Golzio was born to Italian-American parents John and Caroline Golzio on October 20, 1909, in my hometown of Paterson, New Jersey. In 1928, his family moved to a larger property in Wayne, New Jersey, where his mother opened the family home to boarders to help make ends meet. Ralph worked at the house, waiting on patrons and hunting to provide food. These experiences inspired in him a lifelong passion for the outdoors.

In 1929, Ralph enrolled at Stevens Institute of Technology. While there, he briefly played lacrosse and baseball for his school before graduating with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1932. He returned to Stevens in 1937 for graduate work in ballistics and internal combustion engines. Ralph went on to found Engineering Associates in 1947, enjoying a long and distinguished career as a consulting engineer until his retirement at the age of 78 in 1987.

Ralph's intellectual curiosity persists to this day, as he continues to study nuclear physics, quantum physics, and astronomy in his spare time.

As a Project Engineer at Wrights Aeronautical Company, Ralph met and married his beloved wife Betty. Ralph and Betty shared many interests and passions together, raising two wonderful daughters in Totowa, New Jersey, where Ralph resides to this day. Ralph and Betty shared 43 happy years together before her passing in 1984.

Ralph has always maintained a sunny outlook and an active lifestyle, truly living up to his motto of "play as hard as you work to achieve balance of mind and spirit." His many hobbies have included hiking, climbing, hunting, archery, skeet shooting, speed skating, and snow shoeing. More recently, he cruised through the Caribbean at the age of

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding; however, I especially appreciate learning about and recognizing individuals like Ralph J. Golzio.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Ralph's family and friends, and the Italian-American community in honoring Mr. Ralph J. Golzio on the occasion of his 101st birthday. His story should be an inspiration for all Americans to live life to the fullest, and he continues to serve as a source of pride and admiration for those who have been touched by him.

The above tribute to Ralph Golzio was given by Rep. Bill Pascrell in 2010 on the floor of the House of Representatives. The occasion was Mr. Golzio's 101st birthday.

Ralph Golzio was 3 years old when his mother, Carrie, brought him to labor organization meetings at what is now the Botto House in Haledon.



Mr Golzio meets Hazel Lambert Spiegelberger at Lambert Castle, October 2, 2009. Also pictured are his daughter, Linda, and her husband, Tony Sous.



POINTers in Person

The POINTers In Person program, an autonomous branch of **POINT - (Pursuing Our Italian Names Together)** was founded in 1992. Our group, Chapter 15, was organized in September 1996. The 21 nationwide chapters of POINTers In Person provide genealogical researchers an opportunity to meet socially, and learn and share information pertinent to Italian research. Each chapter is independent and sets forth its own procedures and schedules of events.

We cordially invite Italian genealogical researchers to attend our quarterly meetings. Membership is open to all. In addition to regular meetings our group takes occasional field trips to genealogical research sites in the New Jersey/New York area.

Membership in our parent organization, POINT, is not a prerequisite to joining our group; however, it is highly recommended

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Volume 12, Number 1

The Lou Costello Chapter

POINTers In Person
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Calendar

POINT Chapter 15 Future Meetings:

Future Meetings:

Elmwood Park Municipal Building, 10 AM

May 4, 2013:

Program: *TBA*

Passaic County Genealogy Club:

February 9, 2013

10 a.m. at Lambert Castle Museum:

Genealogy Club Meeting:

Presenter: Nancy Terhune:

"Finding and Using Original Family Records"

March 9, 2013

Genealogy Club Meeting:

Presenter: Melissa Johnson:

"Descendant training: Finding Your Long Lost Cousins"

Passaic County Historical Society & Lambert Castle Events:

January 23 - April 28:

Message in a Bottle:

The Bottleworks of Dr. Etta Erlich

An exciting new art exhibit at Lambert Castle. Dr. Erlich's unusual and thought provoking works touch on historical and cultural themes, using antique bottles and found objects.

February 6, 2013

PCHS Quarterly Meeting

7PM, Lambert Castle

Michele Cervone, Amelia Earhart Historian, will present the story of Earhart's life.

February 9 & 10, 2013

Valentine's Day Crafts

Lambert Castle Museum

Visitors of all ages are welcome to create their own personalized valentines as part of their regular museum admission

February 22, 2013

The Wedding of Grover Cleveland

2PM, Lambert Castle

Sharon Farrell, of the Grover Cleveland Birthplace Museum, will discuss the wedding of Caldwell native grover Cleveland, the only President to marry while in office.

March 13, 2013

The Erie Railroad

7PM, Lambert Castle

Passaic City Historian Mark Auerbach will discuss the 50th anniversary of the removal of the tacks that connected Passaic, Clifton, and other area towns.

**For more information on
PCHS & Lambert Castle Events:**

973- 247-0085 ext 200

www.lambertcastle.org