



120 Academy Street, Trenton, N.J. 08608
609-392-7188 * www.trentonlib.org

Collection 103
Joseph LoBue Papers, 1978-1979

By John Bednar & Laura M. Poll
June 2021

Biography

Joseph LoBue (8 November 1916 – 5 March 1981) grew up in the Chambersburg section of Trenton. His parents and maternal grandmother emigrated from Palermo, Sicily in January 1916. They came on the *Giuseppe Verdi*, arriving at Ellis Island, and then travelled by train into Trenton where they settled at 42 Poplar Street, the home of LoBue's father's cousin Lorenzo. The family would shuffle between various lodgings in Trenton as they dealt with squalid living conditions such as lack of heat, cramped housing, and no access to gas or electricity. Although hampered by the language barrier, his father was able to become a U.S. citizen in 1924, and worked for the Star Porcelain Company until his death in 1940.

The Lobues lived at 37 Bayard Street in 1924, a home that Joseph wrote about extensively. He attended Centennial Elementary School, Junior High No. 4, and Trenton Central High School, where he graduated in 1934. He went on to become the head of the Foreign Language Department at Trenton High School, where he taught French. He became Director of Bilingual Education for the Trenton Public School System in his later years.

Scope and Contents

The bulk of this collection contains a series of typewritten essays, mostly about the Italian community in Chambersburg, which were written for the *Trentonian* newspaper. They were published posthumously in the book, *Italian American Vignettes*, in 1983.

Series Descriptions

Series 1. Columns 1978-1979

This series contains the columns of Joseph LoBue. Folders contain the handwritten and typed versions, and in many cases a photocopy of the published newspaper column that appeared in *The Trentonian* newspaper. Some were published as part of Bill Dwyer's "Bygone Days" column.

Series 2. Book

This series contains one folder of information that appears to be in preparation for the publishing of his book *Italian American Vignettes*. Edited by Erasmo S. Ciccolella and Mary Nicola Ferri, it was published two years after his death. Some of the information is written in Italian.

Series 3. Personal

This series contains a bound travel journal of LoBue's 117 days-long trip to Paris, France and several cities in Italy, written from March 6 to June 30, 1953. Also included in this series is a typewritten article written in Italian, "Agli Amici del Club Casteltermini", and an introduction to a presentation "Characteristics of the Southern Italian Immigrant". Both are dated September 1979.

Container List

Box 1, Folder 1	Columns - "The Art of Cupping & Bleeding," "Montagues and Capulets," "The Language of the Italian-Americans," "Italians Make Fine Americans"
Box 1, Folder 2	Columns - "Growing Up in the 'Burg"
Box 1, Folder 3	Columns - "Memories of Bayard Street"
Box 1, Folder 4	Columns - "To the Promised Land", "Immigrant Odyssey"
Box 1, Folder 5	Book
Box 1, Folder 6	Personal