

Heritage Newsletter

Oral History Project



The Heritage Committee of the ICF felt that it was important to capture the ideas and experiences of its members through a series of interviews.

This year, 2011, was devoted to interviewing the Past Grand Presidents and others who had worked closely with ICF founder, Luigi Providenza.

In recent months, Larry Marsalli, Dan Petrolino, Tom Poggi, Al Teglia, Sir Robert and Teresa Dianda have shared their experiences with Providenza.

The interviews can be found online at <http://www.icf.org/oral.html>

More Oral History

The following video links can provide you with more interviews with Italian-Americans sharing their experiences.

[Oral History Video: A Sicilian American Experience Part 1 of 2](#)

[The Last Butcher in Little Italy](#)

[Oral History of Italian Club](#)

[The Life of an Italian Immigrant: An Oral History Video](#)

[Oral History Archive: The Italian American Body Politic of New York](#)



ICF DRILL TEAM, 1928



More Oral History Projects

[An Irish American Oral History](#)

[Oral History--Early African American memories](#)

[Oral History - Documentary of Japanese Americans](#)

[Portuguese in California Oral History Project Part 1](#)

[Francisco Y. Perez - World War II Story](#)

THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE FEDERATION: 1930-1932

March of 1930 was the busiest month in ICF history; seven branches were either initiated or installed. Installations in Hollister and Salinas brought thousands by train south from San Francisco and featured parades, processions, and other festivities. In 1930 the San Francisco District was formed, and Federation offices were moved from Boardman Place to 601 Montgomery St. in the financial district. The Mortuary Fund came into existence this year, as did the ruling that rituals could under certain circumstances be performed in English, but meetings had to be conducted in Italian. In November the ICF held its first retreat at El Retiro Retreat House in Los Altos, given by Father P. Roccati S. J. who conducted the event in Italian.

In 1931 Luigi Providenza made his first trip to Reno to explore the possibility of expansion into that diocese. A proposal to increase the Central Council to 36 members was defeated. The Federation opened its first branch in the Los Angeles Archdiocese, with the opening of Branch 37 in Santa Barbara, following a impressive mission given by Father Carmello Tranchese, S. J., and the receipt of an encouraging letter from Bishop John J. Cantwell.

In a piece for a national magazine, Father Bandini wrote in the fall of 1931, "In the ICF, a type of association has developed which may serve as a pattern for a national organization."

The convention of 1932 was held in Gilroy, with 400 people attending the banquet. The ICF set up a special

religious panel of four to visit the various branches and give conferences on the Catholic religion, communism, and the socio-economic condition of Italians in America. At the end of the year, the Federation had 13 districts and had established the deputy program, creating 13 district deputy positions. In 1933, the ICF held its convention in Merced, coinciding with the inauguration of Branch 39.





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