

**[Interview with Vito Cacciola #28]**

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COMMENTS

Paper No. 28

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Interview with

Vito Cacciola

..... by

Merton R. Lovett

.....

“As well as remembered.” [2/28/39?] [??]

INTERVIEW WITH VITO CACCIOLA

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by Merton R. Lovett

. . . . .

(from memory)

“Tony, I wanta you to go to 10 cent store. Geta me there a faucet which will holda two lights.

“What you mean, you don't know how? I wanta faucet like this. In here you fixa one light. In there you screwa another.

“You saya de faucet turna on de water? I don't wanta no water. I wanta de electricity.

“Mr. Lovett, what you calla this thing which holda de lights? Oh, de socket . Ha! Ha! I getta difused in my mind. See, Tony, I drawa it on paper.

“So, now you see whata I wish. Go geta it. Showa to me how smarta you is.

“I believe in mucha light. It maka de work more easy. Beside it say in de Bible, ‘Leta there be more light.’

“Did you know many peoples liva all de time in darkness? I meana darkness of de heart. De electricity helpa them not at all. Only de studies and de blessed Lord maka them see.

“De Italians in Beverly needa mucha more light. Very many of them live in darkness. They go to no church at all.

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“What does I thinka de reason? They has too mucha of greed. They is also ignorant of de Love of God. Besides, there is in Beverly no church for de Italians. They always hava de suspect and dislike for de Irish. De French they do not harmoniza with.

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"Some Italians is maka God of money and houses and de automobiles. It is de mens who first coma here. They prefera money and good times to de religion. De womens they is more righteous.

"Many times I thinka I want to be de missionary. If I hava more education and could geta cooperation from some church, de missionary I woulda be.

"Hello, Mrs. Ryan. I hoga I finda you well. What can we doa for you today?

"So you slipa on de sidewalk. I hoga you did not hurta yourself.

"No, I did not suppose you falla for fun. Ima so sorry you almost breaka your neck. If de sidewalk isa icy I apologize much. But I hava no ashes. De stove burna de oil.

"Yes, it is de mercy you did not get hurta. For that we thanka de blessed Lord. I hava something here that maka you walk safely on ice. See, you fasten de straps on de shoes. De 3 pieca of steel maka bites in de ice. For twenty five cents you can walka with sureness. If you runa you will nota fall.

'No. I supposa you does not wisha to run. I will do what you say, getta Tony to chop off de ice.

"Yes, de shoes is fixa. Looka they is lika new. You has a smarta boy, Mrs. Ryan. He is much lika his mother.

"So your husband is sicka? Mucha do I regret it. Permit me, Mrs. Ryan, to maka suckgestion. Since your husband hava ache in de head and de belly and cannot eata, giva to him some soda from de kitchen in hota water. Also maka him hava de, what does you call it, inemy? enemy? no, enema. That's a it, de enema. That is gooda for him.

"How much is de shoes? Sixty-five cents, if you can spara it.

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“All righta, then. You may paya me some other time. See, I writa it here in de book. Gooda bye, Mrs. Ryan. I hoba your husband enjoya good health quickly.

“Yes, Mr. Lovett, that was gooda advise I giva Mrs. Ryan. I knowa Jim Ryan. Sometimes de booze geta de best of him. And de cure I hava tried it often with success.

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“Does you know, Mr. McKnight? He's sella de gasoline. He's de friend to me.

“One night I seea him walka up de street. He almost falla down. He holda fast to de post. He is paraliz-ed.

“I helpa him home. He is mucha sick. He groana and maka cry. His wife is worry. She say, ‘What I do? Soon he willa die. Geta de doctor faster.’

“I say no, I can cura him, I maka him' drink de kitchen soda. I giva him that enema. De next morning he fella fine.”