

Notes on conversation with Don Dorflinger

October 5, 2015

Focus: Family home at 413 Mechanic Street, Orange, NJ

413 Mechanic Street/family history

Don Dorflinger's family is of German heritage. He is connected to the home which was part of the delivery operation of his Great Aunt Elizabeth (Aunt Lizzie) Dorflinger Hoch and Great Uncle, John Washington Hoch's, family dairy business, The Orange Dairy. The actual Hoch dairy farm itself was located on Northfield Avenue in Livingston, NJ. John and Elizabeth lived in a two story, three bedroom home at the front of the property, which had a barn for the horses and delivery wagon, and a structure for washing bottles in the rear. As far as I know, they had no children.

John Washington Hoch died abt. 1940. Elizabeth (Aunt Lizzie) Dorflinger Hoch died in January, 1953.

After Aunt Lizzie's death, the property passed to her three nephews Edmund Dorflinger (Don's father), Stewart Dorflinger, and John "Jack" Dorflinger. Jack no longer lived in Orange. After graduating from Orange High School, he attended the University of South Carolina, where he played as a lineman on the varsity football team for three years. After graduation, his job at Bowater necessitated a relocation, first to Fernandina Beach, FL, and later to Cleveland, TN.

Edmund Alfred Dorflinger (12/1/1908 - 3/1/1979); Stewart Dorflinger (2/19/1910 - 4/13/1993); John (Jack) Dorflinger (10/17/1916 - 5/3/2007)

Sophie Dorflinger (9/11/1886 - 5/?/1986)

Edmund and Stewart used the barn and other facilities for their Suburban Roofing Company. After Lizzie's death, they remodeled the house and moved in their mother, Sophie Dorflinger, (**NOTE: Sophie was Lizzie's sister-in law, not her sister. Sophie worked at Edison Industries, not Lizzie. Sophie previously lived in an apartment above the LeDuc Beauty Salon at the corner of Main and Canfield Streets.**) Sophie was one of six sisters of the Werlick family. The others were Olga, Sylvia, Mary, Julia (Honey) , and one other girl who passed as a young child. Sophie's husband was Lizzie's brother (my grandfather), Emil Dorflinger. Lizzie and Emil also had a brother Alfred (Uncle Fred). Emil died abt. 1941 and Alfred (Uncle Fred) passed shortly after the same year. BTW...Aunt Lizzie was born in Alsace while it was part of Germany.

Don is Edmund Dorflinger's son. His mother's name was Viola Krysiak. They lived in Orange at 605 South Center St. Edmund operated the Suburban Roofing Company out of 413 Mechanic Street until 280 came through. His other son, Eddie also joined the company (Robert Edmund died as an infant). After 280 came through, the business moved temporarily to Central Avenue in Orange and then to Brighton Ave in

East Orange until it closed down in 1979. After the property was taken for I-280, Stewart , who lived in Union Beach, NJ, moved Grandmother Sophie to a second house which he owned adjacent to his residence. Don did not work for the roofing company. He went to college (Seton Hall University) and then worked in education for 40 years, including teaching for a time at Seton Hall Prep.

Don is the author of *Orange: A Postcard History of Its Past*, published by Arcadia Books, as well as other postcard books on other towns in NJ. He currently lives in Blairstown, NJ and is married to Marietta Pizzi, who is also from Orange. Her late father, Dr. Mario Pizzi, was Chief of Staff at St. Mary's Hospital in Orange.

Neighborhood

On the east side of his Aunt Lizzie's home at 409 Mechanic was William Monte. On the west side at 415 was Robert Deiulio and Sal Dente (possibly two-family home). Sal's relative (don't know the actual lineage) was Sam Dente, a famous baseball player: <http://www.baseball-reference.com/players/d/dentesa01.shtml>. Don remembers Sam running a baseball clinic for boys at the Central Playground. around 1957. (There was a photo in the Orange Transcript at that time).

Other neighbors (from 1954 city directory, he said he would send me scans of these pages):

- 419 M. St Sal Deiulio/Alessio Toliti
- 421 Anna Dilberto
- 423 Michael Sallette

Mt. Carmel Church originally stood catty-corner to its current location, in a lot now in the highway's path (**when and why did the Church move?** - Large population of Italians in Orange necessitated the construction of a larger Church building)). The former church building was repurposed into a furniture store. Next door to the former on the north side of South Center Street was a separate free standing building which housed the Mt. Carmel Barber Shop (run by Anthony "Tony" Dell'Italia), the Mt. Carmel Beauty Shop, and apartments upstairs. Tony's assistant barber was a young immigrant from Italy, Salvatore Cubeta, who now runs Mr. Sal's on Eagle Rock Ave in West Orange.

Building the highway

Don recalled that after people left the homes that were to be torn down to build the highway, that vandals went through them stealing copper piping, electrical wiring, and anything else worth taking.

Memories

Don remembers that he has/had a couple items in his possession that reflect how people lived in the homes torn down to build the highway. One memory is that his family regularly came together at his Aunt Lizzie's house (at 413 Mechanic Street) for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. He has a picture of one Christmas at this home from 1952.

He also remembered that his Aunt Lizzie was confined to her bed because of illness, and that she had the only room with air conditioning. So, when he would visit as a child, he would love to play BINGO with her up in the air conditioned bedroom using a set she owned. (would you still go to that house for these gatherings after Lizzie died? - Yes, as my grandmother moved in about a year later and continued the tradition of Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners at the house.

Recommendations

look at the homes on the south side of Mechanic street to get a sense of the architecture of the homes lost on the other side of the street.

Speak with Debbie Peluso to learn more about Tony Monica's memorabilia collection

Also recommends Pierson's 3 Vol. *History of Orange*, published in 1921, for pre-1900 history:

<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=13844>