

Jackie Outman
12-2-04

My Grandma

My grandma is Italian and she was born on September 14, 1924, and was raised in Naples, Italy. In Italy the Catholics give everyone that is confirmed two middle names so grandma's full name is Maria Anna Rachela Caianiello (Outman). She had 12 brothers and sisters that played with her in the streets of Naples. She had a cat named Fru-fu. Her dad's name was Giuseppe and her mom's name was Raffaella. Sometimes they would picnic on the sides of Mt. Vesuvius which is a volcano next to Naples. During the summer her Godmother would take them to a special beach called Tories Anuzzisate. Grandma loved these trips to the beach and they went often until WWII started. Some of her brothers went to the Italian army which was led by the fascist and some of her brothers went to the side of the Allies.

In Italy, girls did not go past 6th grade education. Even though Grandma's favorite subject was math and she loved school she did not go on to high school so she used to baby sit her nieces and nephews because she was the youngest in the family. After the war started she was old enough to work in the kitchen for the U.S. Air Force after they entered and set up camp in Naples. This is where she met Grandpa. They both worked in the kitchen that fed the soldiers. Grandpa was a cook

and grandma helped to serve the officers. They were not able to speak to each other much because grandma only spoke Italian but they fell in love anyway. My grandpa did learn a few words of Italian, but not very many. They were married in August 19, 1945, in Naples, Italy, at great grandma's and great grandpa's house. They had their honeymoon on the Island of Capri. After the war ended, Grandpa came back over here with the troops and Grandma came later in April 1946, on a large ocean liner. Her mother had died just before she left to go to America, it was a very sad time for her. It took her two weeks to cross the Atlantic from Naples to New York City and two more days from New York City to Ft. Wayne, Indiana on a train. Grandpa picked her up there.

Grandma's life here was very different from Italy. She spoke a little English and did not like the snow. There isn't any snow in Naples. Soon she was learning the American farmer's life and ended up having six children, three boys and three girls. She was a great cook and housewife. She learned how to make American dishes that my grandpa liked. His favorites were meatloaf and pot roast. She never worked a job outside of the home or learned how to drive a car but she is the best grandma. I love my grandma's accent and the way she cooks pasta. Her favorite color is blue just like grandpa's and she is only 4'11".

When we lived in Florida they use to come down and stay with us every winter for about two months. Grandma and Grandpa were there

when I was born and they have been near me ever since. I wouldn't trade my grandma for anything. She's great.