

A ship with a cargo full of hopes left the port of Genoa on a misty morning in 1956. That was the year 28,000 Italian migrants left their country with a few worldly belongings and perhaps a vocabulary of one or two dozen common English words. Many had heard of the great opportunities Australia offered.

Some had relatives who had already settled there and found jobs, but some new-comers had no connections at all, only great faith. Little did they know that Australia had suffered the ravages of the Second World War and that Australians knew very little of the bitter deprivations and desolation still experienced by Europeans long after the peace. The older immigrants had already been disillusioned by the 'fifties; their homelands were still crippled, the insecurity and uncertainty persisted, their youth had been lost and they hardly dared dream of what Australia might have in store for them. Dino and Lena Gustin were in their thirties and they knew a lot about lost opportunities and false hopes. They had married in 1940. Often compelled to be apart during the early war years, they had suffered the agony of separation and the lack of security for their then very young family. But the war was soon over and the Gustins, with undaunted spirit, picked themselves up and slowly climbed back into an existence of comfort and regained their dignity. A little collection of oil paintings which they brought with them tells something of their life in those years. There is a framed portrait of their first born at the age of four who died at the end of the war, some landscapes painted by a Russian deserter who was given hospitality in their home after the war.

The Gustins arrived in Australia unceremoniously, with crowds of other Italians, but Dino's natural organizing ability meant they were free agents from the very start. They carried with them papers promising assistance from acquaintances already settled in Australia and that meant a chance of getting a little rented home of their own rather than the hostel accommodation offered by the Australian Government.

During the first week of their voyage the little family had experienced a feeling of disorientation. The children, Rosalba and Roberto, had left behind most of their cherished possessions. . . . Lena too, had to give up many of the little nick-nacks that make a home and most women love to keep. Only when the ship left the Mediterranean did the passengers feel the full impact of the separation from home. Lena had been unable to keep any food down and spent most of her time in the crowded cabin. For months after, she suffered a curdling sensation of sea sickness even on firm land . . . as though foot-paths and floors were forever bumping over the ocean.

The family was anxious to settle; all they wanted was a little room, some warm beds and some hot black coffee. The papers they brought with them freed them from the crowds bound for the hostels, thrusting them immediately into the crude reality of Australian life.

In 1956 it was impossible to buy an espresso coffee; it was also hard with a limited vocabulary to buy a couple of beds. The Gustins went to Bankstown, the Australian garden suburb west of Sydney.

In those post war years, thousands of Polish and Russian immigrants settled in Bankstown. There were plenty of factory job opportunities, but it was a long way from the more cosmopolitan city which would offer some comfort to families in a cultural 'Limbo'.

In the fifties Bankstown was enough of a backward town to maintain an all-Australian facade. It would take twenty years to turn Bankstown into a bustling multi-national place, with bi-lingual shop signs, bi-lingual counter workers, and a place where garlic, salami, espresso coffee and a great variety of other foods could be obtained as easily as fish and chips or pie and sauce.

The Gustins' arrival in Sydney was the result of a first opportunity seized. For Lena, a long, difficult climb to the top based upon a shaky beginning. Many would class their success as a good luck and chance, but it was not so. For the Gustins, it had been a gamble with every scrap of their earliest progress to be lost unless a giant step forward could be gained. They arrived in Sydney, thanks largely to the first of

a series of Australian friends, who would pop up twenty years later in their lives, and meet again on precisely the same footing.

The Gustins had a talent for friendship and, on the crowded migrant ship to Australia, they had tried to ignore the hardships of the crossing, the strange food, and the anguished bleating of their compatriots who feared the unknown. It was easier for Dino than Lena. Lena was homesick; Dino, the organiser, emerged quickly and worked alongside the ship's lone language teacher cum-entertainment officer, to set up impromptu concerts, special English classes and different activities which kept many hearts and minds carefree about the fact that soon they would have to face cold reality.

By the time the ship reached Australian waters the language teacher had recognised that the Gustins were independent and go-ahead people, capable not only of adjusting to new circumstances, but making the best out of them. The officer was already aware that Bonegilla, the massive isolated hostel in Victoria where the Gustins were to be allocated, was not the place for them, for it would have demoralised and destroyed even the poorest of migrants. He took Dino aside and told him about Bonegilla, knowing that Dino was a man who was unlikely to stand the herding, the lack of privacy and deprivation of individuality suffered by most migrants in such hostels. The officer explained that if Dino had connections in Sydney, someone promising sponsorship, perhaps the Gustins would have a better opportunity in that city. Dino heeded the advice and searched through a bundle of old addresses until he came up with someone unknown to him but vaguely related. Within a day Dino had a telegram from Sydney, and his family now had renewed hopes.

When the Gustins arrived in Bankstown any enthusiasm they had for Australia was dampened considerably. Amenities like coffee, veal, pasta, a babble of background conversation that was understandable to them, the ability to simply go out and buy what they needed became a major problem they had not considered. All their life, these were things they had taken for granted. Dino was dispatched immediately to buy some beds. They had managed to rent half a house along with a German family. The situation was quite funny at the time: the two families were to share cooking and bathroom facilities, but the rooms were bare, there was no furniture and because Dino was considered to have the best knowledge of the English language, he was sent to purchase some beds. The German occupants of the house could not speak Italian, and the Italians could not speak German, but with a lot of goodwill on both sides they were able to communicate and soon became friends.

In Italy, Dino had been a journalist and few journalists have ever practiced their craft successfully in a second language. His professional skill had little chance of emerging in Australia and he was happy to find a factory job to provide the cash for his family's new life. This would have been just the beginning and he had high hopes of perhaps improving in later years. He bought the beds, thanks mainly to gesticulations which characterised his communication in those early days. Like thousands of educated Italians, Dino spoke other European languages, but unfortunately not enough English.

For Lena, at first, life in Australia was painful and humiliating. Her bitterest experiences were in shops where she was forced to gesticulate, point and wag her head madly to make herself understood. Despite her generous faith in human nature, she came to believe that the shop assistants did not want to understand. On dozens of occasions she went home tearful and empty-handed. One day she thought she had a minor victory in a butcher's shop and triumphantly brought home what she believed was a nice chunk of beef of the very same quality she used to roast every Sunday back in Italy. When her husband returned from work and the family was seated around the table, all eyes on that lovely juicy meat, roast potatoes and carrots . . . all anticipating a nice good Italian meal, Lena's attentive eyes caught the expression on her husband's face as he tried very hard to conceal his disappointment; almost at the same time the children burst out crying. Curiously, Lena herself swallowed a morsel and winced! She seemed to have swallowed the whole Pacific Ocean! Later Lena

discovered that she had bought the correct cut of meat, but it was a piece of corned silverside, fresh corned silverside which was supposed to be boiled, and boiled for a long time to get rid of part of the salt.

After that day, Lena decided to learn the English language and Australian customs with a fierce determination rare in Italian women of her generation. At school the children were quickly learning the language, but Dino and Lena insisted they speak Italian at home so that they would never lose the ability to communicate in their native tongue. Years later, Rosalba and Roberto were thankful for their parents' insistence. Rosalba became totally and competently bi-lingual, graduated with honors in Italian, archeology and political science, and moved into a rewarding diplomatic career which called for special skills in the two languages and cultures.

Lena overcame the little difficulties of shopping, sharing the house and making do on Dino's factory earnings, but in recovering her courage and spirit she became aware of a deeper sense of loss, a sense of uselessness. In Europe, a woman could pursue a career, but in Australia she was expected to keep house and rear children. Throughout the war years, Lena had contributed to the family's budget. She had been a teacher and though at the time her children were quite young, she managed to remain involved and active in life outside the home. Her tremendous fountain of energy had returned with her confidence and peace of mind, but there was nowhere for her to expand and use her talents. Many Australians still thought of Italian women as being fat, ignorant, dressed in black and forever screaming at their brood across the road. The intensely aware, vitally concerned, forthright and intelligent women of Europe, were Bohemian to the Australian society of the late fifties. At that time, most suburban women frustrated by their own world in a family, found solace in the simple pleasures in a business place. Even to this day in any city there are hundreds of women who go window shopping just for the pleasure of hearing other voices, seeking other faces, observing the occasional disputes behind the counters, even appreciating the tasteless entertainment, the music, lights and displays some stores turn on for their amusement. Lena had to become part of this world, but her intellect made her acutely observant. It was more than gossip interest in what others were wearing or buying; she was trying to analyse the Australian way and making an effort to comprehend the Australian people. It was on one of these daily shopping excursions that she discovered a tiny coffee shop on the Bankstown railway bridge. The shop was equipped with an espresso coffee machine the likes of which had never been seen in Bankstown. To Lena, this was as exciting as meeting an old friend; she stood staring breathlessly, then summoning the courage to go in, ordered a small cup of black coffee. Disappointment set in when she discovered that the shop owner did not know how to use the machine and gave her a cup of hot water with very little coffee taste!

An Australian abroad facing flat warm beer would understand her disappointment. She then summoned enough courage and asked the shop owner to allow her to make her own coffee. He welcomed the idea and stood there awed as she adeptly made another first-rate brew. Lena was delighted, the shop-keeper tasted the coffee, quickly confessed he did not know how to operate the machine, saw in Lena a chance of improving his business and without any further ado, offered her a job behind the counter.

Lena's main concern now was for her children; she stipulated that she would work only from 10 am to 3 pm, so as to be able to take her children to and from school.

Lena never could have guessed that by the end of the day she would have other job offers that would take her life in a new direction. That day she was the happiest and the 'only' coffee machine operator in town!

1978 - Mamma Lena is called to be part of the "NATIONAL WOMEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL"- popularly known as the "Women's 'Little Parliament'". Lena attended meetings all over Australia.



CANBERRA - The group of the "National Women's Advisory Council" with the Prime Minister M. Fraser and the Minister of Home Affairs Mr. R.J. Ellicott.



MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600

27 AUG 1980

Dear Mrs Gustin,

I am writing to thank you for your contribution to the work of the National Women's Advisory Council during the past two years.

The first Council has I believe set a very high standard for those who follow in the quality of its policy advice, in raising awareness in the community of the roles of women and in promoting communication between women and Government. Its success reflects the hard work and personal commitment of all its members. The Government appreciates your contribution to the collective expertise of the Council.

Again I thank you and offer you my very best wishes for the future.

Yours sincerely,

R.J. Ellicott

R.J. Ellicott
Minister for Home Affairs

Mrs Lena Gustin,
102 South Terrace Road,
BANKSTOWN NSW 2200

Lena - mother to the Italian community

Lena Gustin, MBE, member of the National Women's Advisory Council, the State Ethnic Broadcasting Council and Italian broadcaster, can be forgiven if she looks a little tired.

Her 20-hour day begins at 7.30am when she gets up to cook a bunch of soup, meat and vegetables for her husband, Dino. It does not end until about 1am.

"There is no weekend for me", and there has been no holiday for 12 years. "I only go home and work," she said.

Lena Gustin is perhaps better known as Mamma Lena, one of the old school of radio personalities who broadcast a mixture of music, news and good wishes, amid frantic reports of 'trotting' and greyhound races for two-and-a-half hours four days a week on 2KY.



On air

By ROSANNE ROBERTSON

grants did not exist and people laughed in the supermarkets when she could not pronounce the names of goods. "I cried so many times," she said.

Things changed when she took on a part-time job in a coffee bar, and became a columnist for the Italian newspaper La Finestra.

This led to broadcasting community announcements on 2SM, in November, 1956, and soon extended to a one-and-a-half hours weekly program in which Lena Gustin did her best to encourage her homelick and confused compatriots.

She left for 2CH after 18 months, dissatisfied that the program had to be pre-recorded, but not before she had trained a young woman called Frances Arena to succeed her.

It was on 2CH that her half-hour week-night program broadcast for 14 years con-

1979 CHILDREN'S MINIFESTIVAL

multinational mini-festival KIDS YEAR '79

on
SATURDAY, 22nd DECEMBER, 1979
at
SYDNEY TOWN HALL
at 4.00 p.m.

200 young artists from 20 Countries will bring to the show warmth and colour to celebrate the end of the International Year of the Child 1979.

MAMMA LENA
Cav. Lena Gustin, M.B.E.



St. Finbars School
KING STREET, GLENBROOK 2773 Phone 56 1726

Dear Mr & Mrs Gustin (Mamma Lena)
Congratulations to you both for all you have done for the children during the "year of the child". The Mini Festival reflected greatly to the credit of all involved - the organizing committee, the conductor of the Festival, the children who participated, their teachers, the many "behind the scene" helpers and of course, the proud parents who encourage and assist their children in a practical illustration of how much good can come from involvement and active participation.

Thanking you on behalf of all from St. Finbars School

yours sincerely

J. M. O'Leary
(Principal)

MAMMA LENA
RADIO 2KY
337 SUSSEX ST
SYDNEY

WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS ON THE GREAT SUCCESS OF THE MULTI NATIONAL MINI FESTIVAL STOP THE FESTIVAL WAS THE MOST OUTSTANDING OF ITS KIND YET SEEN IN AUSTRALIA AND GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT TO AUSTRALIANS OF ALL BACKGROUNDS SINCERELY

AJ GRASSBY COMMISSIONER FOR COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Sydney Morning Herald call Lena "ITALIAN MOTHER"

Dream comes true for Mamma Lena

The long-cherished dream of a Bankstown woman will be realised later this year when a child care centre is completed at Fairfield.

Mamma Lena Gustin of South Sydney — affectionately known to her white male colleagues as Mamma Lena — has brought comfort, help and comfort to thousands of her fellow immigrants in the last 20 years.

LOW BATTERIES
Mamma Lena Gustin of South Sydney — affectionately known to her white male colleagues as Mamma Lena — has brought comfort, help and comfort to thousands of her fellow immigrants in the last 20 years.

The Sorrella Radio Welfare Fund organised a dinner for Mamma Lena, to help with the closing side of her long-running radio programme, *Antipodians' Home*. Mamma Lena, who lives in Fairfield, has been the fund's most successful fundraiser.

Thanks to her cheerful nature and ready co-operation, Mamma Lena has managed to raise the fund's total of \$15,000 in 1979. The fund is now in a position to pay tribute to Mamma Lena and for which she, herself, has worked so hard.

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By Francis Sheehan

Young crash victim, whose family raised cash for the body to be sent home to his grieving, widowed mother. Lena's family has always been around her.

Before the incident, Lena was selling the cover for the Sydney railway bridge. She was selling the cover for the Sydney railway bridge. She was selling the cover for the Sydney railway bridge.

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SHAD window GREAT



Lena and Mr. WRAN and his message.



Foundation stone laid for centre

TWO YEARS of hard work and frustration ended for a group of fund-raisers recently with the laying of the foundation stone for a new child care centre at 4 Hampton Street, Fairfield.

The centre, designed to accommodate 40 children "from birth to two years old" is being built through a \$160,000 grant from the Federal Government.

However the concept of the centre, and the additional \$40,000 needed to bring it to fruition were collected through the Sorrella Radio Welfare Fund.

Key spokesperson and ma-

for fundraiser was Mrs Lena Gustin, known best as 'Mamma Lena' whose efforts to the community were recognised with an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Among her staunchest supporters were the executive of the Club Marconi and the Nick Scali furniture stores.

Fairfield Mayor, Ald Janice Croisic trowels the ce-

ment during the official foundation stone ceremony at 4 Hampton Street, Fairfield.

She is flanked by the builder (left) Mr Joe Finn and Senator Peter Baume.

Young helper, Hayden Marchetto, 7, inserts a capsule into the stone to symbolize the buildings association with youth in the International Year of the Child.

Premier of New South Wales
MESSAGE FROM THE HON. N.K. WRAN, Q.C., M.P.,
PREMIER OF NEW SOUTH WALES
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD MINIFESTIVAL

On behalf of the New South Wales Government I wish the Sorrella Radio Welfare Fund my best wishes for the success of your Children's Minifestival.

This Festival marks the closing of the International Year of the Child celebrations - a year that has been most successful in raising awareness of the needs of children around the world.

Tonight will be a gala occasion with "mini artists" all under 12 each representing their country of origin, dressed in their own national costume.

I congratulate the Committee on the organisation of this Festival as a celebration of this kind requires much planning and foresight.

Again I wish you all the best for this Minifestival and wish you all a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Neville Wran
Neville Wran
Premier

1980 - Radio 2KY changes format, Lena changes radio station and starts broadcasting from 2SER-FM. Here is what the newspapers wrote:

1980 - What "Sydney City Monthly" wrote about Mamma Lena.

7 DAYS ON RADIO

A look forward, and a step back to racing

In a decisive bid for a new image, the Labor-owned station 2KY is dropping its Italian programs from August 28 onwards.

The Labor program that it had been broadcasting for 25 years will be replaced by a new racing program, which will be broadcast from 7 pm and 10 pm.

When the Italian program was first broadcast, it was a success. The Labor program that it had been broadcasting for 25 years will be replaced by a new racing program, which will be broadcast from 7 pm and 10 pm.

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2KY loses more than a Mamma

Mamma Lena, renowned for her multi-ethnic dining with Italian music and that is more the fact, time and time again, has been on 2KY, the station, for the last of August and last night, with more than 100,000 people, with her.

However, her new employer is a public broadcaster, the NSW Institute of Technology and University, and advertising is not permitted.

Although this station seems to be a program from a program, it is not the same. The station has lost its name, address and many of the program's features. The station has lost its name, address and many of the program's features.



"Mamma" Lena Gustin

SYDNEY CITY MONTHLY DECEMBER 1980 \$2

So You Want To Open A Restaurant?
Lots Of Advice
Lots Of Ideas
Lots Of Luck!

James Dibble And The Art Of Cool

Every Italian Knows Mamma Lena. Do You?

FESTIVAL OF SYDNEY PROGRAMME FREE

Keith Jackson's Listening Post

ISSUE No. 12 SEPTEMBER, 1980

DESPATCHES

Lena Gustin has been broadcasting to Sydney for 24 years - on 2SM, 2CH, and, more recently, 2KY.

Her week-night programmes on KY have been registering an average audience of 27,000; a statistic that occasionally has made the low-rating KY look very good indeed.

Now, with what *The Sydney Morning Herald* calls KY's "decisive bid for a new image", all that is over.

The new image accords considerable importance to the sport of kings - including the provision of copious amounts of intelligence on pre-post betting and the odds.

So, just a few months short of her silver anniversary on Sydney radio, Mamma Lena had to go.

Lena Gustin's broadcasting and its associated charity work has been recognised by the Italian government (she holds Italy's second highest honour, the Croce di Cavaliere) and by the Australian government (she has been awarded the MBE).

"I hear you and I start to cry," a listener once wrote. "It's like going back to Italy."

We welcome Mamma Lena to SER.

Her programme can be heard on Saturdays and Sundays at 6pm.

And we're really looking forward to that silver anniversary.

A LENA LOVER

Dear Mr Jackson,

For some time now I have longed to write to you to thank you so much for giving Lena Gustin, Mamma Lena, the opportunity to be heard again. We had grown to love to hear her voice on 2CH every evening and we used to feel lost without her.

She is quite a remarkable woman and deserves all our loyalty and encouragement, particularly now when she is trying to endeavour so much in such a little time.

Would you regard it as a presumption of us, her Radio Family, if we should as you to find and give her more time on air? Is it all possible, Mr Jackson?

Thanking you,

H. TAGLIAPIETNA

THE AUSTRALIAN

One of the good things about a good night's sleep is the last thing it'll get.

Enjoy the Post and enjoy SER.

6.00pm ROCK AROUND THE WORLD

Don't miss back to back with one of Sydney's most popular music programs, screen and great music on 107.5.

6.30pm MAMA LENA

Lena Gustin presents a program of interviews, news and information for Sydney's Italian community, requests, and the occasional "This is Your Life" segment on well-known Italians in Australia.

Mamma Lena, A Rare Italian Rose

BY RAY SUTTON



"The story of Mamma Lena is the history of ethnic radio in Sydney"

Mamma Lena lives in Bankstown. The railway line is opposite her front white house. The drive is quarry-tiled and the front lawn is dominated by a large white fountain topped by a cherub. There are rosebushes, too. Opulent, deep reds and a bush of large pink cabbage roses. "The pink ones were planted by my daughter," she says.

her name, roughly translated, means "rose of the morning". There is a painting of a rose over the mantle in the living-room. "Yes, I love roses," Mamma Lena says, "and violets."

pants, and Dino, her husband, who greets me at the door, wears fawn pants, a brown shirt with a gold chain and a crucifix. He wears a square ring with a diamond "D" on his ring finger.

I have come for Sunday lunch. We start with fusilli in a meat sauce. "We call it fusilli because it is shaped like a screw," she tells me. Then there is the main course. We have two meats, chicken and beef. Mamma Lena is critical of the beef

Mamma Lena, formerly of 2KY, now broadcasts her Italian programs on Saturdays and Sundays on 2SER-FM at 6 pm.

and she says to Dino, "This is not good. We must speak to the butcher."

We have mashed zucchini and a salad dressed with a red-wine vinegar and oil. The salad has bitter chicory hearts. We finish with strawberries and fresh cream in liqueur and lemon juice. Coffee and cream. We have drunk a South Australian white burgundy throughout the meal and although Lena offers an Italian brandy, Dino says no, and we finish the meal with Johnny Walker scotch.

Mamma Lena is Lena Gustin, but she says, "Call me Mamma Lena. Nobody knows who Lena Gustin is. Everybody knows Mamma Lena."

Lena Gustin has an MBE and is a cavaliere, the Italian equivalent to a knight. Dino is a cavaliere, too. She is also a member of the Women's Advisory Council and the Ethnic Broadcasting Council. Dino and Lena settled in Bankstown when they arrived in Australia in May 1956, with their two young children, Roberto and Rosalba. Roberto, like Rosalba, is successful in business in Singapore now. Back in Italy, Dino had been a journalist and broadcaster. Lena had worked as a teacher. She is fluent in French and Spanish, as well as her native tongue. Her Italian is what is called pure - accentless, the classic Italian. All the dialects can identify with her.

The story of Mamma Lena is the history of ethnic radio in Sydney. She tells me of her current radio programme. She broadcasts on 2SER-FM between 6 and 7pm on Saturday and Sunday nights, but for many years she was the voice the punters heard on the Italian programme on 2KY from 7.30 to 10pm Monday to Friday.

The Italian programme on 2KY finished on August 28. "I feel it was discrimination," she says bitterly. Dino says 2KY has lost \$250,000 a year in advertising by dropping the programme. A 2KY spokesman said \$200,000. The advertising on the programme was bi-lingual and cost \$75 for a 60-second spot. 2KY was reportedly trying to attract the same advertisers back at \$10 a spot.

Alan Ireland, the assistant station



Mamma Lena in the studio at 2SER-FM.

manager, admitted the loss of revenue. "I'm expected to make it up," he said. "It's going to take a while. No, it wasn't discrimination. We've become the TAB station and we couldn't do the Italian programme and cover the dogs and trots, too. We had to decide to do one thing or the other."

"When Mamma Lena first started, we were covering one or two meetings a night. Now we cover every race the TAB bets on and,

frankly, that's heavy coverage. We think racing is better for the long-term interests of the station. If we get the ratings, we'll get the advertising and the revenue back."

"I've the greatest respect for Mamma Lena, but when 2CH dropped its ethnic programme it went to the top of the ratings."

Mamma Lena started her radio career on 2SM in November 1956. She broadcast community announcements initially and that led to a

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Mamma Lena and husband Dino were through their mail at home.

one-and-a-half-hour weekly programme. She left 2SM after 18 months to do a half-hour weekly show on 2CH. When she left 2SM she had traced a stand-on to take over her job - Yvonne Aversa.

She stayed with 2CH for 14 years, leaving to go to 2KY in 1971 when 2CH began its Carol Shaw format.

There is a book written about her. It is called 'The Story of Mamma Lena' and is co-edited by an author.

Her meeting with Philip Greaves, then the station manager of 2KY is described in the book. "The man at the helm of this then radical and innovative attempt to reach bilingual, out-cast Italian-speaking audiences was Philip Greaves. He was a compassionate, cultured multi-lingual man, whose religious beliefs have been previous and car in Australia in 1971. He was, moreover, a man who was not afraid to take on the challenge of the Australian society. He did not have a social conscience and a deep respect for the people of Europe, who were deprived of their own culture, were isolated in a country which was still culturally and occasionally intellectually barren."

A little bit later, more so when the not-so-hidden truth is - the very officer of the book and the commission. Philip Greaves are one and the same. But whether Philip is blessing his own triumph or not, it was, nevertheless, as he says himself, a "radical and innovative attempt" to move him in broadcasting for the time, and he deserves more reward than he received for it. Mamma Lena received an MBE for her services to ethnic radio. Philip Greaves is over 40 and similar recognition.

There was a real fear that the act of broadcasting to the community and I can not see the ethnic radio and television that has been set up fills that need.

The community value of Mamma Lena's work on radio is incalculable and she is continuing it with her programmes on 2SER-FM. "It is the old ones I worry about," she says. "The young ones can look after themselves, but the old

she shows up the letters she gets. I have lost 5 pence from the station for our programme. We took the commission for the above services. Dino did the production. Dino has a studio in the front of their house and he would go up in the middle of the night to produce their weekly programme. From Italy so they could present current news on their night's programme.

Mamma Lena spent most of her day helping members of the Italian community with problems. The number of times I've been to the Social Services Department to help someone with personal inquiries, sometimes I've been to Canberra to help people.

She takes off her glasses and I see there are dark circles under the eyes and fine lines in her face. She says her eyes "It's hard being in a strange country. Some have trouble

home understood. Some still cannot speak English.

Some she tells me cannot understand their children. "They are too severe. They want to bring them up in the old ways. It doesn't work. I talk to them. I try to tell them the intellect to understand." She shrugs. "Some don't. When can you do?" She is trying to raise money to fund a child welfare centre in Fairfield. A grant of \$50,000 has been spent and another \$80,000 is needed for its completion. It is her pet project. Mamma Lena's work has been apart from roses to children.

It is ironic that she has become irrelevant to younger Italians. I spoke to a young Italian girl I know. "Don't quote me," she said. "The oldies think the world of Mamma Lena but to us she's out-dated. We'd like to hear something more modern and up-to-date. We don't

get much information on Italian fashion or pop music. It's pretty much middle of the road stuff."

She told me that among themselves the young Italians call Australia "dinos" and refer to themselves in a derogatory manner as "chicos". Chocolate frogs in driving slugs equals wogs. They say to each other, "That's very close" of something they think too old country. Mamma Lena understands the problem of the young and realizes they must make their own way.

She is very Australian and is proud of her new country, but both Dino and she resent the fact migrants who do not become assimilated share the same benefits as naturalised Australians. "They have the best of both worlds. I'm surprised the government doesn't do something about it. There is no incentive to become an Australian."

She has no complaints of her treatment at 2SER-FM. She would like to be able to broadcast advertisements and it does seem unfair that ethnic radio is denied commercial success. There are transmission problems too. 2SER-FM transmits its effective only within a 10-kilometre radius of its Broadcast studios. It's hoping to boost its transmission later on and anyone knowing the station's strength of programs is sure it will. There are no different groups using its access facilities already. This is a problem for Mamma Lena - she would like more time - but there is too much competition already for the available hours.

The station kindly agreed to be more visible than 2SER-FM. There is apparently a real desire for a community in Sydney and 2SER-FM is beginning to tap the groups who want a community voice.

"They run the station with a good staff of six," Mamma Lena says, "but there are more than 100 volunteers. They are so helpful. She would like a rest, she says, but the letters keep coming in. "How can I stop?" she asks. "So many people think of me as part of their family."

Not just family it seems, but Mamma Lena.

CHAIRMAN
DR R. E. KLUGMAN, M.P.

MIGRANT TASK FORCE COMMITTEE N.S.W.

PLEASE ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO:
COMMITTEE SECRETARY
DEPT. OF IMMIGRATION
COMMONWEALTH CENTRE, SYDNEY
TELEPHONE: 20 342

Dear Mrs Gustin,

The Hon. A. J. Grassby, Minister for Immigration has established in Sydney a Migrant Task Force Committee to identify the most urgent problems confronting migrants in their settlement in Australia and to recommend to him suggested solutions.

As a first step, the Committee has decided to seek the views of organisations and individuals who have interest in migrant welfare and knowledge of their problems.

Because of your own knowledge of the migrant situation, the Committee invites you to write to the Chairman concerning any matters affecting the migrants' interests which you feel should be examined with a view to providing necessary help.

The Committee would be grateful if you would outline specific problems which appear to you to need urgent action, and also to give any ideas you may have for appropriate solutions. We should also appreciate details of any relevant studies you are making.

The replies we hope to receive could provide a valuable basis for action. After analysing the responses, it may be appropriate to invite individuals to meet members of the Committee to enlarge upon their experiences and suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

R. E. Klugman

Dr. R. E. KLUGMAN
Chairman

50466 3/73



ETHNIC BROADCASTING
IN AUSTRALIA
1979

The beginning of a new service

When 2CH terminated its nightly foreign language broadcasting in 1972, a sub-committee of the NSW Migrant Task Force set up by the Commissioner for Community Relations, Mr. A. J. Grassby, was established to investigate the need for an ethnic broadcasting service.

Mr. Bernard Freedman, chairman of the sub-committee, in a paper presented to the Public Radio Broadcasting conference in 1974, reported that after talking with representatives of both the commercial broadcasting interests and the ABC, the sub-committee has come to the conclusion that, "The only way in which ethnic groups could expect to have a radio voice would be through the establishment of broadcasting stations devoted solely to ethnic broadcasting."

One of the major difficulties was deciding what type of service was required. Entrepreneurial interests in the Greek and Italian communities in Sydney and Melbourne had been pressing for commercial radio station licences. Their

[MEMBERSHIP SEBAC]

NSW:
Chairman:
Mr Pino Bossi
Vice Chairman:
V. Rev N. Mansour, MBE

Members:
Mr I. A. Buzalis
Mr P. G. Darmo
Mrs H. Ezenberg
Mr R. E. Gonzales
Mrs L. Gustin, MBE
Mr A. Hec
Mr UH Honold
Mrs O. Katchan
Mr G. Messaris
Mr S. Pysachowicz
V. Rev Fr Stephanos
Mr R. Treister, MBE
(Five vacancies at 30 June 1980)

VICTORIA
Chairman:
Mr W. Schauble, MBE
Vice Chairman:
Mr P. Van Hest (now deceased)

Members:
Mr V. J. Alekna
Mr J. S. Attard, OAM
Mrs M. Axidin
Mrs K. Bites
Mr A. Block
Mr H. E. Bogdan
Mrs A. Ceffern
Mrs I. C. Csar
Mr E. Djoumayra
Mr L. Kong
Mr C. J. Lancucci
Mr C. Melendous
Dr N. Mirza
Mr E. Obod
Mr G. Perissomotto
Mr O. Sandrin
(Two vacancies at 30 June 1980)

ETHNIC RADIO - For many years Lena was a member of the various Commissions charged with the formation of Ethnic Radio. Firstly as member of the TASK FORCE and later as a member of the SEBAC Committee which had been entrusted with the co-ordination of the 2EA programmes.

*Replied
27/2/80*



MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION
AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Ref: 79/95313-6312a
ETH/AG

22 FEB 1980

Mrs L Gustin MBE
State Ethnic Broadcasting Advisory
Committee of New South Wales
5 Elizabeth Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mrs Gustin,

I am writing concerning the current role and status of the State Ethnic Broadcasting Advisory Committee of New South Wales.

As you are aware, the Government decided on 24 January 1980 to establish the Independent and Multicultural Broadcasting Corporation (IMBC), which will replace the Special Broadcasting Service, the National Ethnic Broadcasting Advisory Council and the State Ethnic Broadcasting Advisory Committees. The IMBC will be a Statutory Authority, responsible to the Minister for Post and Telecommunications and will appoint State and National Consultative Committees.

The appointments of current SEBAC members were due to expire on 16 November 1980 or upon termination of the life of the Committees. However, in view of the new consultative arrangements to be established by the IMBC, the SEBAC membership terms have been amended. Consequently, I would expect them to continue until 31 May 1980 initially or until the new consultative arrangements for the IMBC become operational, should this occur earlier than 31 May 1980. I would hope that you will be able to see your way clear to continue your membership of SEBAC during this period.

I should like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to you for the dedication that you have displayed throughout your work on SEBAC. The Committee has had a sensitive and difficult role and its success has depended very much upon the sense of commitment of its members.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Ian Macphie

V
BN 209- NCAB127 -
CANBERRA ACT 69/64 2.34P

MRS L GUSTIN
102 SOUTH TERRACE
BANKSTOWN
(L 102)

A RECONSTITUTED SBS BOARD WILL BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY STOP
IT WILL HAVE A NEW ADVISORY STRUCTURE REPLACING NEBAC
AND THE SEBACS WHICH WILL BE DISBANDED TODAY STOP THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ETHNIC BROADCASTING
THROUGH YOUR MEMBERSHIP OF NEBAC STOP

PETER DURACK A/G MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC AFFAIRS
CANBERRA

COL SBS NEBAC SEBACS NEBAC A/G

1983 - Many important functions were organized to collect money to complete the Sorella Radio "Child Care Centre" in Fairfield.



Dear friends,

On behalf of the committee of Sorella Radio Welfare Fund I would like to thank you for being present in such great numbers for this important event at the Marconi Club, the club that has hosted so many of our important functions.

It is with great pleasure and pride that we can introduce 12 very capable and eager contestants to the Miss Italian Charity Queen 1983 Competition. The quest has been organised by our Committee to bridge that essential gap for the running of the Day Long Child Care Centre built at 4 Hampton Street, Fairfield and designed by the architect Gino Volpato.

Sorella Radio had its beginnings 20 years ago as a radio programme to boost morale in Italian families. Subsequently the Association was formed to help the needy with parcels of foods and clothing. More recently the association embarked on the very ambitious project to build the Community Centre/Child Care Centre so as to give something tangible, something useful to future generations.

We live in a changing world where our needs, customs and our whole way of life is subject to constant change. We came to this country with very little except for our determination to work and succeed. When we first arrived there was very little migrant assistance if any but the need for guidance was

there. Step by step we made significant progress. This history in the making was witnessed by the Italian Newspapers and across the waves transmitted by radio stations 2SM, 2CH, 2KY and now by 2 SER-FM. United we have formed a chain of solidarity.

You will remember that since my arrival in Australia in 1956 there have been organized annual manifestations - social, artistic, cultural, recreational, musical, fashion and theatrical, for both young and old. It would be sufficient to remember the Mini Festival in 1979 for the Year of the Child at which over 50 ethnic groups participated but we should also remember the various Italian honours received by those people who have served the community with distinction in various fields.

However, tonight's function at the Marconi Club has particular importance. Primarily because it will be held in the area where the Child Care Centre is located. Secondly because of the contribution made by so many young people which demonstrates their acceptance of the humanitarian aspect and usefulness of Sorella Radio Welfare Fund. The work and sacrifices made have produced their results; we have not worked for our own benefit but for the benefit of our future generations.

As in the past our aim is to keep united so that we can benefit the community. We shall always be grateful to these 12 young ladies who have given their time and energy. They have gained new experiences and as a result of their good work so many young children will grow up in a happy environment. In this regard, all of you present tonight are contributing to the children's welfare.

Certainly Sorella Radio has to labour to achieve its aims. After all it is an organisation made up of average people dependant on the collaboration of everyone.

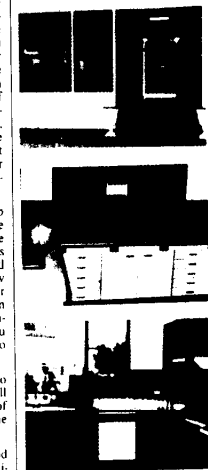
You here tonight have understood our good intentions and the ultimate humanitarian aims for which we have worked.

mate humanitarian aims for which we have worked.

On behalf of the Committee and myself I would like to thank you for your participation and I would also like to thank all the firms which have supported us and the sponsors who have helped their respective contestants. Above all I would like to thank all of you young candidates to the title of Miss Italian Charity Queen, 1983. Without your collaboration this competition could not have been a success.

Finally may I say enjoy yourselves and good luck.

MAMMA LENA



PICTURED above, Miss Italian Charity Queen Grazia Marson is seated between other top fund raisers at the charity night held at Club Marconi.

Grazia Marson wins charity crown

WHO said today's teenagers only care about themselves?

Twelve charming young ladies proved otherwise at Club Marconi on Saturday evening September 17.

They were entrants in the Miss Italian Charity Queen Quest, and between them they raised \$44,915 in aid of the Fairfield Sorella Radio Community and Child Care Centre.

More than 900 people packed the Club auditorium to hear the results and then applaud the crowning of Grazia Marson as Miss Italian Charity Queen 1983-84.

Grazia, who was sponsored by Marson Paving of Fairfield, raised \$11,243.

Other girls also raised substantial amounts.

Francine Mammone, sponsored by the Alpini Association raised \$6004; Paola De

Romanis, sponsored by the Bersaglieri Association, \$5190; and Antonella Mazzilli, sponsored by L P Giordano Real Estate (Puglisi) York Pool, \$4221.

Tonight's function is of particular importance, said president of the Sorella Radio Welfare Association, Mamma Lena.

"The contribution made by so many young people demonstrates their acceptance of the humanitarian aspect and usefulness of the Sorella Radio Welfare Fund."

Channel O announcer George Donikian introduced each of the quest candidates who were presented to the audience by Michela Rupena.

Mama Lena a link to home

A CHEQUE for \$59,390 was handed to Mamma Lena for the Sorella Child Care Centre by State Member for Fairfield Mrs Janice Crosio on behalf of the Federal Government.

FOR LEASE

HIGH POINT SHOPPING CENTRE BASS HILL

Announcing a new, exciting, enclosed one-stop centre now well under construction and due for completion in March, 1984. Strategically located midway between Bankstown, Fairfield and Liverpool, right on the Hume Hwy.

JOIN

TARGET
WOOLWORTHS
FARMERS MARKET
PLUS 60 SPECIALITY SHOPS
SERVED BY
OVER 800 CAR SPACES
LEASING HAS NOW COMMENCED
and applications are invited from proven retailers in the following categories —



Written and Designed
By DINO GUSTIN, J.P.

Welcome to
OPEN DAY!



WELFARE FUND
SORELLA RADIO LONG DAY CHILD CARE CENTRE
4 HAMPTON STREET, FAIRFIELD, N.S.W. 2165

OFFICIAL OPENING 28th April 1984

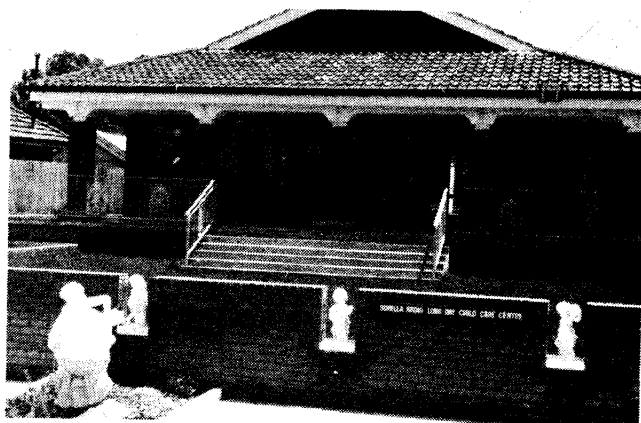
On behalf of the Committee of Sorella Radio Welfare Fund, The Principal and Staff, I have the pleasure in extending to all here present a most cordial and warm welcome to this simple official opening of our Pre-School Kindergarten which has been operating since October 1983.

This is the realization of a dream which goes back 12 years . . . that is, to make a modest contribution to the making and the education of some future citizens of Australia so that this may serve as tangible evidence of the contribution made by our generation and our people.

I'd like to thank all those who have supported and assisted us (and they are numerous) during the years of work and sacrifice and who had faith in the eventual completion of this task.

Many thanks to the Ladies' Auxiliary Committee which was always present and active in every initiative. A special thanks to the teachers and helpers, who have been guided by the Principal, Debbie Watson under the guidance of Emily Ward; to the Department of Social Security for their continued support; to Senator Don Grimes and to the Local Member Dr. Klugman, M.P. and to Dr. Alvise Memmo, Consul General for Italy for having participated at the Official Opening of the LONG DAY CHILD CARE CENTRE of SORELLA RADIO WELFARE FUND.

LENA GUSTIN (Mamma Lena)
President
Sorella Radio Welfare Fund



HONOUR LIST

Dr. ALVISE MEMMO
Consul General for Italy

The Hon. JANICE CROSIO, M.P.

ALITALIA

LUCIANO MARSON

ALDO BREDI

TRIPOLONE BROTHERS

CHARLES BUDA

ADRANO ETNEO CLUB

VILLAGGIO SCALABRINI

MARCONI CLUB

1984 - Lena is invited to Italy where at San Pellegrino (Bergamo) Minister Pandolfi presents her with a plaque in official recognition for her work for the Italian Community in Australia. In her hometown of Azzone (Bergamo) the whole town turned out to greet her and the Mayor presents her with a gold medal, symbol of the town's pride in one of its outstanding daughters.



Back in Sydney Lena is guest of honour at a function held at the Fogolar Furlan. Here is what the Liverpool Champion Newspaper had to say about the event:

Stoddard
TOWN CENTRE
A SHOPPING
EXPERIENCE

LIVERPOOL - FAIRFIELD
Champion
 WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 1984
 Vol. 18, No. 35 PHONE 862 9111

Westfield
LIVERPOOL
WE'VE MADE
SHOPPING
FUN AGAIN

la mamma sympathectica strolls into the '70's



My mother-in-law, Lena, is the guest of honour at the party for the Italian Community in Australia, held at the Fogolar Furlan, last Sunday night.

Lena, who is 70 years old, is a well-known figure in the Italian community in Australia. She has been a member of the Italian Community in Australia since 1950, and has been active in many of its activities.

Lena is a very kind and generous person. She has always been willing to help others in need, and has been a great support to her family and friends.

Lena is a very talented person. She has a great sense of humor, and is always ready to make a joke. She is also a very hard worker, and has been able to achieve many things in her life.

Lena is a very important person in the Italian community in Australia. She has been a great role model for many people, and has helped to make the community a better place.

Lena is a very special person. She is a true mother figure, and is loved by everyone who knows her. She is a true inspiration, and is a great example for all of us.

Mama Lena celebrates

Well-known Italian radio personality Mama Lena celebrated her 70th birthday with a huge gathering at the Fogolar Furlan Club at Lansvale recently.

The party was attended by more than 700 people, including former Minister for Immigration, Mr. Gough Whitlam.

Mama Lena is well-known for her radio program, "Mama Lena Show", which is broadcast on 2SM, 2KY, and 2GB.

Mama Lena is a very popular figure in the Italian community in Australia. She has been a member of the Italian Community in Australia since 1950, and has been active in many of its activities.

Mama Lena is a very kind and generous person. She has always been willing to help others in need, and has been a great support to her family and friends.

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Mama Lena is a very special person. She is a true mother figure, and is loved by everyone who knows her. She is a true inspiration, and is a great example for all of us.

LENNOS CLUB
44 Albert Street,
BELMORE
(Old Masonic Club)
WEDNESDAY NIGHT
DISCO
Starts 7.30 pm
A donation 50c

SENIORS TO MEET
Concord Park Senior Citizens Club will hold a meeting on Monday at the Uniting Church on the corner of Cross and Lansvale Roads, Concord Park.

The dinner of officers will be held at the meeting, which starts at 1.30 pm.

DIABETIC MEETING
The Diabetic Association of NSW will hold a meeting next Monday at 7.30 pm.

It will be held in the Club and Hall near the shopping centre, Liverpool Hospital.

The guest speaker will be Mr. Alexander Lowther.

SELF-HELP
The Self-Help group will meet on Wednesday at 7.30 pm.



The queen of ethnic radio

You'd think that after 26 years as one of Australia's most popular broadcasters, Lena Gualan - better known as Mama Lena - would be ready to pass her baton. Not so! After a two-week hiatus in Italy, her country of birth, the sprightly 70-year-old promoter of ethnic radio is back on the airwaves.

Mama Lena, from the western Sydney suburb of Bankstown, has enjoyed an amazing "on-air" career. As a young wife and mother, she got her first break with 2SM in 1958. "I wanted to help the Italian people settle into their adopted country," Mama Lena said. "She went on to do weekly programs on 2SM and 2KY. When she immediately switched stations, there I was, alone, about 100 radio programs in the contract and feedback from listeners," said Lena, whose husband, Denis, is her program producer.



1984: a swimming pool was prepared to collect the thousands and thousands of letters received from fans of Mamma Lena.

The writing on the wall says: "Best wishes Mamma Lena for your first 70 years from both the Italian and Australian Communities !



A new Association has been created: "THE MAMMA LENA COMMUNITY CENTRE" As first President Mrs.V.FONTANA was nominated.

"MAMMA" HAS NO TIME TO REST

For the past four weeks, like many other Sydneysiders, Mrs Lena Gustin, of South Terrace, Bankstown, has been struggling to throw off the effects of a bout of 'flu and bronchitis.

But unlike most people, she hasn't been able to stay warm in bed to recuperate.

Four nights a week, her voice is the voice of home to thousands of Italian migrants in Sydney and Australia, the voice which soothes jangled nerves after a day wrestling with an unfamiliar language, the voice which brings them news of home, the voice which, in times of stress, brings them sound advice.

For Mrs Gustin is Mamma Lena of 2KY

Radio, the woman who has been honored by both Italian and British Governments for her work for Italian migrants in Australia.

Yet 18 years ago it was she, her husband Dino, and two children, who were struggling to make their way in Australia, unable to speak a word of English, unable to get a job.

It took them six months to get on their feet, and almost immediately Mamma Lena started helping fellow migrants.

She ran an advice column in the Italian newspaper La Fiamma, a job which lasted seven years, and was also editor of another paper, Settegiorni, for a year. She first started

broadcasting on 2CH and built up a huge listening audience over 15 years.

When nearly two years ago the station suspended its ethnic programs Mamma Lena moved to 2KY and during the last 18 months, the ratings on her four nights a week show have pushed the station higher than most other Sydney stations.

A motherly, friendly personality, warmth exudes from her voice whether speaking Italian or English.

And it is this warmth which makes her never refuse to help anyone requesting it, which makes her a marriage guidance counsellor, welfare worker and accommodation finder, all rolled into one.

She receives around 50 letters a day, some with requests for records to be played over the air, some with messages to be broadcast, greetings sent.

Others are problems. "My daughter has run away to Kings Cross, what can I do?"

"My daughter is 18 and has left home. How can I get her back?"

"My father was taken ill while on holiday in Italy — can he claim on his hospital benefits here?"

Many problems she passes on to the appropriate organisation, but

some still pin their hopes on Mamma Lena and refuse to go elsewhere.

There are phone calls at 7 in the morning, at 11 at night, but for all of them, Mamma Lena has a soothing word, advice, and where necessary, her physical presence at a court hearing or acting as interpreter for a difficult interview.

"There are so many problems, this job could drive you crazy," she told me.

Then after a little thought: "But it isn't a job. It's a mission."

Mamma Lena is the voice on Arriverderci Roma, but behind her she has the staunch support of her husband, "Poppa Dino," the organising brain, the journalist.

He gets up at 5.30 a.m. to listen to the news direct from Italy on a powerful short-wave radio in their "laboratory-office," a room lined with boxes of tapes and with hundreds of Italian records.

He selects the news to be broadcast that evening, translates the main points into English.

He chases up sponsors and advertisers, chooses music from the latest Italian hits flown straight from Italy to them.

"Australian announcers just go in and read what is put in front of them, but we have to do the whole program," he says. "and believe me it is a lot of work."

They organise con-



tests which bring in mountains of mail; a few years ago they ran a talent quest with listeners voting on their favorite artists — and produced a best selling L.P. record of the winners.

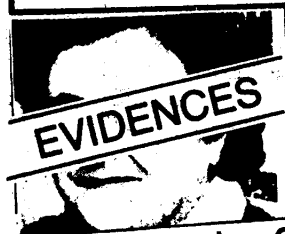
They present an award each year to the Italian person who has done most to promote the Italian community during the year.

Just recently, Mamma Lena presented this year's award to Bruno Buttini, producer of an Italian theatre company in Sydney, Compagnia Teatrale Italiana.

After 18 years in Australia, the couple have no wish to return to Italy to live, and in fact Dino plans to bring his 80-year-old mother to live with them in Bankstown.

Their children, Roberto, "Everyone thinks he is Australian," and Rosalba, have both been educated at Sydney universities and have left

To page 16



Wednesday, October 11, 1967

The mother of all Italians, Mrs. Lena Gustin, of Bankstown, will meet the Minister for Immigration, Mr. Snadden, in Sydney this week.

Mamma Lena, as she is known by her thousands of listeners over radio station 2CH, will discuss with Mr. Snadden the assimilation problems of migrants.

Mrs. Gustin has been broadcasting to the Italian community in Australia for about 10 years. Her programmes include news reports, music, messages between friends and relatives and advice to Italians newly-arrived in Australia.

Mrs. Gustin hopes her knowledge of Italians will prove helpful to the minister.

In June this year the Italian Government honoured Mrs. Gustin with its second highest award —

Pioneer for radio

Member of the Order of the British Empire and awarded Italy's second highest honour, The Cross of the Cavaliere, are two of the many honours bestowed on Mrs. Lena Gustin; or, as everyone knows her best, "Mamma Lena".

She has been nominated as Bankstown's Woman of the Year by a 19-year-old friend, Susan Tassini.

Mamma Lena and her husband came to Australia from Trieste in 1956.

Bankstown has been their home ever since.

Almost as she arrived in Sydney Lena Gustin became involved with the ethnic community.

Eighteen years ago she

pioneered the first radio programme for migrants at 2SM, then from 2CH and now 2KY.

Her programme, Arriverderci Roma, from 2CH ran for a decade and was acclaimed as one of the greatest benefits to the assimilation of migrants in Australia—especially the Italian community.

The greatest and the smallest problems of new settlers are important to

Lena Gustin.

She helped people of all ethnic groups appreciate and understand Australia and Australians, in fact, she was for tens of thousands of migrants, the "bridge" between two worlds.

With the help of her husband Dino, Lena Gustin has made Australia "home" for huge numbers of ethnic people.

She is president of So-



Mamma Lena, pictured at a recent function with producer Bruno Buttini, who was presented with the Premio Italia award, from her radio program.

WOMEN'S WORLD

A SOCIAL day at Club Marconi last week was a smorgasbord of happenings neatly put together by the ladies auxiliary, under the direction of their president Mrs Vicki Fontana.

Among the 450 guests gathered in the club auditorium was the Italian vice-consul, Mr Eugenio D'Auria.

Next month, Mr D'Auria, together with his wife and two children will leave Australia to travel to Cairo, where he has been appointed consul.

Also present was the commissioner for Ethnic Affairs Dr Totaro, and the co-ordinator of the Italian Pensioners Association Mr Livio Benedetti.

More than 100 aged pensioner members of COASIT came from Wollongong to join their friends for the day at Club Marconi.

A topical post budget talk on pension entitlement was presented by Mr Benedetti.

His news, views and advice stimulated a mixed response from his audience of groans as well as cheers but had no effect on their appetite!

A huge birthday cake, marking the first anniversary of the pensioners association was cut by Lena Gustin MBE and Mr Benedetti.

DAffectionately known as 'Mamma Lena', Signora Gustin is regarded as number one on their list of top radio

EVIDENCES



"Mamma" Lena Gustin about to go on air with her 2CH programme. Arrivederci Roma. Standing with her are her husband Dino (left) and 2CH representative Friel Smith.

'Mamma' — their link with Italy

Take a pair of dark, serene eyes, add a motherly figure of small stature and a quiet voice that speaks precise halting English — and you have "Mamma" Lena Gustin.

Who is Mamma Lena?

Try asking a teenager who the Rolling Stones are — you can expect the same reaction from an Italian migrant if you confess ignorance of Lena.

Lena has more than ten hours of radio time each week on Sydney radio station 2CH, and

her programme Arrivederci Roma is heard throughout the east coast of Australia.

She is respected and loved by an estimated 200,000 listeners, old and new Australians.

In her impeccable Italian she dispenses news from the Old Country, gives sound advice, runs "hit par-

ade" sessions, and exudes a warmth all her own.

Mamma Lena and her husband, Dino, who produces all her radio shows, do much of the research and background work at their home in South Terrace, Bankstown.

Each morning at about six, one of the couple tunes a powerful short wave radio receiver installed in their home by 2CH to the evening news broadcasts from Italy.

The broadcasts are regularly monitored for Lena's night-time radio "appearances" five

A large collection of Italian recorded music is also stored in a special reference file at her home.

She takes special delight in presenting the latest pop tunes to her audience.

Mamma Lena is almost a legend among the Italian community — her affectionate nickname grew out of praise by fans that she was "the mother of Australia's Italians".

The compliment is not given lightly.

Assistance and advice

Her assistance and advice to migrants settling into the Australian way of life has earned her a reputation as a real and sensitive person.

Not content with what she can do to help people through her radio programme, Lena often makes personal calls.

In 1967, though then an Australian citizen, she was awarded Italy's second highest honour, the Cross of the Cav-

aliere, for her help to Italian migrants.

She was awarded an MBE by the Queen in the following year.

A strikingly warm personality and quick wit, Lena's interest in her work is full time — for her it is a way of life.

Yet when Lena and Dino arrived in Australia with their son and daughter in 1966, she could not speak a word of English (although during a university course in journalism at Florence she had learnt fluent French and Spanish).

Wrote for "La Fiamma"

Soon after her arrival she began writing for "La Fiamma", Sydney's Italian language newspaper, and before long was organising three

— some weeks I receive hundreds of letters, others thousands.

"The Minister for Immigration, Mr. Snedden, Premier, Mr. Askin, Mr. Whitlam, and Member for Bankstown, Mr. Kearns have been very helpful."

On the tenth anniversary of "Arrivederci Roma", last year, each made his admiration for her work clear.

Mr. Snedden: "She has been untiring in her efforts to promote the welfare of newcomers, and help them integrate more easily into the Australian community."

Mr. Askin: "Her efforts to help Italians become better informed Australian citizens have won wide commendation and the recognition of two nations."

Mr. Kearns: "Without

PAGE TWO FEATURE

women's pages, with advice columns answering readers' problems, and a cookery section.

Then she was invited to run a programme on Sydney radio station 2SM.

Later she switched to 2CH, and in 1969 she started "Arrivederci Roma", which has been on the air regularly ever since.

Nowadays Lena presents a total of 18 Italian radio programmes each week.

"My husband produces the programmes and I do the announcing," she said.

"We are a team really because it is too much to do for one person."

"I receive a lot of letters with problems from listeners to be answered

people like her the problems facing new arrivals to our country would be extremely difficult, if not insurmountable."

Mamma Lena has brought to hundreds of thousands of Italian migrants the one thing our national immigration programme cannot supply: the personality, the music, the day to day news of their former homeland.

For although she is a naturalised Australian, Lena Gustin still thinks and talks as an Italian.

As she told the Observer, "I cannot explain to you by talking, I can tell you by the hands, or you can read it in my face."

It's back to work and after the first break in 12 years

by JAIME PIMENTEL

BANKSTOWN'S best known grandmother, the indefatigable Mamma Lena Gustin, returns to radio after a six-month layoff.

Mamma Lena told The Express she would be back on the airwaves at Radio 2SER-FM by early December.

"I had planned to return shortly after arriving from an overseas holiday, but work on a book I'm writing has forced a delay," she said.

"A book about my work in Australia is scheduled for distribution in December."

She and husband Dino collaborated on writing the book, and both are now looking anxiously to its launching next month.

Meantime, Mamma Lena said she was glad to take her holiday after working for 12 years without one.

"But it was hectic," she was quick to add.

"I went overseas for an important conference and to renew family ties in Italy and at least two countries in Asia."

In Italy, Mamma Lena attended a conference of newspaper journalists which dealt with the rights and needs on immigrants.

She made a sentimental journey to her alma mater, the university of Ca' Foscari in Venice, met her old classmates and was interviewed on national television about her work in Australia.

"I also went back to the town where I was born and raised in Azzone di Scavie, Bergamo province near the Swiss border," Mamma Lena relates.

"There I met my nephews and grandchildren — I have no other relatives there any longer."

And while there, the grand lady set aside a special moment to visit the grave of her first-born who had died in 1946, 10 years before the family emigrated to Australia.

after the first break in 12 years

The overseas trip was not a long one: the couple had left on June 16 and returned on July 2.

"I had anticipated going back to work on my radio program immediately," Mamma Lena says.

"But there were other things I had to do, the book being one of them, so I asked for an extension of my leave."

"Besides, I needed more time to relax a bit — to reflect on my work and my life."

Indeed, the grand lady

of the airwaves had been tirelessly working with little time for relaxation over many years.

And she hadn't been back to her place of birth for 18 years.

Mamma Lena deserved a rest long enough to recharge her spirit.

Now she's ready to make her return — with renewed energy and full of stories to tell from her holiday experiences.

Over to you, Mamma Lena.

ITALIANS IN AUSTRALIA ~ A Special Supplement



Mamma Lena and Dino

HER VOICE is as familiar to Italians as Ken Howard's was to punters.

By
KEN SCULLY

She is warm, friendly, humane, concerned, interested and has brains and vigor as well as personality.

No wonder she is known as Mamma Lena.

For four nights a week — Mondays to Thursday — from 7.15pm until 10pm, she advises, informs, gives the news, entertains during 2KY's Italian program during which she has Frank Fraumeni (incidentally a St Vincent de Paul member who was active in the Catholic Youth Organisation) as announcer.

They say if you want a thing done ask a busy person — and Mrs Lena Gustin is a busy person.

In addition to conducting and preparing her radio program, she counsels, interprets, translates, does community work and is a housewife and a mother of two.

Though he stays in the background you sense she appreciates the fact that her husband Dino is her prop.

Mamma Lena has been conducting radio sessions for Italians for nearly 15 years. She began with 2SM, for six months, moved to 2CH where she spent 12 years and has been with 2KY for two.

A naturalized Australian she has made a remarkable impact since she first arrived here from Italy in 1956 — and has made an outstanding contribution to the successful settlement in NSW of many new settlers from Italy.

During a visit to Rome a few years ago Mrs Gustin said 90 per cent of Italian migrants were happy in Australia and when any told her they were leaving Australia for good, she always urged them to obtain permission to re-enter the country.

Almost always they wanted to do this after a short period, she had discovered.

Mrs Gustin and her husband live in Bankstown and attend Mass at St Jerome's Church, Punchbowl. Her daughter Rosalba has an Arts degree (with first class honors in Italian) from Sydney University and is now studying a degree course at the National University in Canberra. Robert, her son, is doing a course in mechanical engineering at NSW University.

In 1967 Italy recognized Mamma Lena's valuable work for migrants and Australia and awarded her its second highest honor — The Cross of the Cavaliere — making her one of the few women to be so decorated by the Republic.

And in 1968, she received the MBE from the Queen for her services to the community — the first Italian-Australian woman ever to become a Member of the Order of the British Empire.

But if success and honors come her way, it was not easy.

Mr and Mrs Gustin know what it is to be "strugglers". They married in 1940 — and you do not have to have many memories of World War II to know what a young couple had to endure in Italy in those times.

When they first came to Australia from Trieste neither she or her husband knew English and could not obtain work for six months. Mr Gustin had to take a job as a laborer, despite the fact that he is a journalist who has worked on journals in Turin and Trieste.

Mamma Lena was no slouch either educationally and professionally. She studied languages at the University of Foscari in Venice (she also speaks French and Spanish fluently)

Incidentally, since coming to Australia she has been an official Italian-English translator for the Immigration Department, a French and English teacher at an evening college, has worked on the Sydney Italian newspaper La Fiamma and until a few years ago, besides her radio and community work, found time to edit the weekly paper Settegiorni.

After speaking with Mamma Lena and her husband and learning of what they had accomplished and were doing, I suggested that the best word to describe her was as "a bridge".

For through her contact is made by children to parents, understanding passes over from one to another, letters come from Italy from people seeking news of sons and daughters and other relatives, advice flows out on a multitude of subjects — and always the friendliness she shows to all, an innate courtesy which is hard to define other than saying it embraces patience and great gentleness.

And it was as a bridge, in 1969, that the present Leader of the Federal Opposition, Mr Bill Snedden, who was then Minister for Immigration, described her.

He said she had "helped build a bridge of understanding between the new world and the old. As a voluntary delegate (she has been its president) for the National Association of Families of Emigrants — Associazione Nazionale Famiglie degli Emigranti — she has also interpreted for new arrivals, taken them to hospital when they have become sick, and helped them in many practical ways."

Mr Snedden added: "She has been untiring in her efforts to promote the welfare of newcomers, and help them integrate more easily into the Australian community."

She has worked in with priests who are chaplains to Italians, putting them in touch with migrants or sending migrants to them, she has informed the Italian community of special Masses and ceremonies and told them of churches where they may attend an Italian Mass.

"The most important thing I try to do is to drive people to learn how to live in Australia. I hope I am guiding people ... even when I'm indicating where they can purchase things they haven't been able to buy. I want to help them to become integrated into the community and to assist them to become Australians. Perhaps I am succeeding in some way, for I constantly receive letters thanking me for what I am doing."

"I think they feel they have a confidant in me," she added modestly. And with equal modesty — as if to apologise — her husband commented: "They trust her."

She has eased that problem of thousands facing life in a new country — the loneliness of being a stranger in a new land. Her advice on Australian laws and customs, some of which baffle even the native-born Australian, has proved vital in the settlement

of many Italian families. She gives counsel on housing difficulties, business, health, taxation ... but many times all that has been required of her is a patient ear and a friendly word.

For the comfort she has given over the air her broadcasts were once tabbed the "voice of an angel".

Though her sessions have brought advertising and revenue to the radio stations she has broadcast from, it is by no means "commercial" ... though without that finance she couldn't continue it.

But it does not begin and end when she goes on air.

Early every morning Mr and Mrs Gustin prepare for the broadcast. He, the producer of the program, listens to the world news, and especially Italian broadcasts from Italy, on the receiver in his home, picks out that which he considers will interest his people here, goes through the local newspapers and translates them, prepares copy for the program, arranges it to format. It takes some six or seven hours preparation for the three-hour session.

News, music, advice, information, travel, a dash of sport and a social, family chat, touch of nostalgia and atmosphere "from home" ... and thousands of eager and receptive listeners.

Then there is the river of correspondence, the simple

requests written in English that the younger generation Italians send in, like will you tell our parents we love them but can't express in the language they understand.

And the telephone. Mamma Lena, snowed under by hundreds of letters which she answers, has hundreds of calls a week. From 7am to 11 at night the telephone rings and the requests come in. Hours off air are spent helping others, doing social work.

The letters and telephone calls come from young and old and the in between. No wonder on her program Mamma Lena plays music that will help people "forget the cares of the day."

Can you find my child who has left home, my daughter who has gone, a husband who has slipped away? Can you contact my parents for me?

And the letters from Italy from mothers and fathers, relatives and friends of those who have come to Australia, but do not write any more.

They might not know where an individual is, or what he or she is doing — but they know where Mamma Lena is and what she does.

These people trust her, especially the poor, the bothered, the concerned, the lonely, the depressed.

All feel she understands them ... and so they call her, with affection and with a hint of filial love: Mamma Lena.

EVIDENCES

TV TIMES

Migrants with a problem write to Mamma Lena

YOU are an Italian migrant living in Sydney. You have a problem of the heart, or of the income tax or of the pension.

What to do? Why, write to Mamma Lena, of course. Lena Gustin (better known as Mamma Lena) presents the Italian programmes, the Programmi Italiani, on 2CH each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evening.

Her sponsors range from Fiat and Piotta Latturo to spaghetti manufacturers and Paddington delicatessens.

Mamma Lena has been with 2CH for nine years. She knows, understands and cares about migrant problems.

"My husband and I came to Australia 12 years ago," she said. "For the first few years it was difficult for us,

I didn't know any English and it was as though I was born in another time. It was terrible.

"I got a job teaching Italian at the Ashfield evening college and studied English by correspondence course.

"Then, because I had completed many radio programmes in Italy, I was given a weekly hour and a half programme with 2SM. I was with 2SM for 18 months before moving to 2CH."

Today, for Lena, the hard times are over. As well as presenting six hours of radio programmes each week she edits the Italian newspaper Sette Giorni.

She works hard. She is not quite sure why.

"The day often begins at 7 a.m. and finishes at 2 a.m.," she said. "We generally have

our evening meal at home at 11 o'clock."

Lena's husband produces her radio programme and helps with the production of the newspaper. Daughter Rosalba and son Robert are at university.

Last year a young Italian, Nino Cavallaro, wrote a pop song titled Mamma Lena in her honour.

In January this year, a few days after the Sicilian earthquakes, Mamma Lena began an appeal for the victims. The appeal was closed last month with more than \$14,000.

On her programme Lena plays the music she likes.

"I don't care if it is modern or opera," she said, "so long as it says something to your heart."

Mamma Lena is successful probably because she also says something to the heart.

— LENORE NICKLIN



OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL MEMBER FOR EVANS

JOHN ABEL M.P.

SECOND FLOOR 1 HOLDEN STREET ASHFIELD NSW 2131 PHONE (02)799 3200
AND PARLIAMENT HOUSE CANBERRA ACT 2600 PHONE (06)272 1211

21st November, 1977

Mrs. L. Gustin, M.B.E.,
102 South Terrace,
BANKSTOWN, 2200.

Dear Mrs. Gustin:

Just a brief note to congratulate you upon your recent appointment by the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Mr. Michael MacKellar, to the N.S.W. State Ethnic Broadcasting Advisory Committee. Your untiring and devoted service to the Ethnic Community in N.S.W. and Australia has been much valued by the Government.

Again my congratulations - I am confident that your contribution to Sebac will be of great assistance to the Government whose but one desire is to see Ethnic Radio Broadcasting established for the betterment of the Ethnic Community. Keep up the good work.

Kind personal regards,

John Abel
John Abel

EVIDENCES



AUSTRALIAN ETHNIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Chairman:
Professor J. Zubrzycki, C.B.E., F.R.A.S.S.A.

4230b

P.O. Box 25
BELCONNEN, A.C.T. 2616 Tel: 641111

Mrs L. Gustin M.B.E.
Member
State Ethnic Broadcasting
Advisory Committee of New South Wales
5 Elizabeth Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

22 JAN 1981

Dear Mrs Gustin

As you may be aware, the Australian Ethnic Affairs Council has been asked by the Commonwealth Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs to prepare a discussion paper on the options for ethnic affairs policies in the 1980s.

In executing this important task the Council wishes to seek the views of community groups and individuals on what such policy options should entail.

The Council would be grateful to receive your views on ethnic affairs policies. The attached list of broad questions on aspects of ethnic affairs could be useful as a starting point for discussion. If you are in a position to publicise the broad questions among your colleagues or friends, the Council would welcome their comments also.

The Council would like to receive responses and comments by the end of February 1981 at the latest. Should you wish to participate, could you please indicate this to the Executive Officer of the Council, Ms A. Smith at the address above or 062-642076 (reverse charges) as soon as convenient.

You are welcome to give publicity to this letter in any way you see fit in order to canvass as many people as possible. Extra copies of the questions are available from the Executive Officer.

Thank you for your co-operation and contribution to our work.
Yours sincerely

J. Zubrzycki
J. ZUBRZYCKI

ITALIAN LEISURE LEARNING CENTRE

LEICHHARDT

P.O. Box 411
Leichhardt 2040.

December 20, 1981

Dear Mamma Lena,

Please let me thank you very much for your wonderful assistance at our pensioners' Christmas Party the other evening. Everyone remarked upon your ability to make things tick along regardless of people backstage pulling out jacks from amplifiers and recorders. They also declared the evening to be much more of a success than that of last year when it was simply not organized at all. Believe me, even this year we attempted to do the minimum amount of organization with regard to our 'show' allowing the individual groups to fill in the time they were given in the way they wanted to. With the exception of the Junior and Senior Choirs who managed two practices, no one else had a chance to get on stage to try out. I have personally liked drawing upon the obvious talent that I have grown aware of during my classes and I would like to see a more serious approach to performances by the choir and individuals in the coming year. As development officer for the Italian Leisure Learning Centre, I have included in our 1982 program time slots for choir practices, for ethnic singing and dancing and other concert requirements, including stagecraft - curtains, lighting and sound. Also, one of the first requisitions that we must obtain is a PA System. It is imperative to have our own because we cannot rely on anything that we hire or borrow. I would like to write to Italian business people in the electronics field to see if they could find it in their nature to be philanthropic towards their kinfolk and donate one to our Centre. It may sound rather pious of me to expect this to happen but if only these people were aware of the happiness and pleasure some of their less fortunate compatriots feel when something special is arranged for them, I am sure Italian business people would contribute willingly.

Many of my students who attend classes in the Earlwood and Rozelle areas want to know more about you. I know you have a book published, but do you also have any pamphlets I can distribute early next year on the Sorella Radio Child Care Centre? Both Anna and I realise only too well the impossibility of opening classes of English, crafts, art, yoga and other artistic activities to mothers of babies and small children in the area because we have no access to rooms for this purpose and no funding to pay a supervisor. It seems to me that we are very backward in being practical. Hordes of young mothers with babies haunt community services everywhere, some on a daily basis, all looking for hand-outs, attention or comfort. I am sure that many of these women would prefer to be doing something more positive with their lives if they were sure their children were being cared for properly for a few hours. Many also would find the self-respect they have lost by giving in to society's impositions only too readily.

Once again our heartfelt thanks for your help and on behalf of the Italian Leisure Learning Centre, Anna and myself, we wish you and your family the Season's best wishes and the realisation of cherished hopes. I would have liked to say this personally to you before you left our party but I was obliged to accompany some children to their homes immediately after the show. A very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Louise Lewis

TELEPHONE: MW 0521



The University of Sydney

SYDNEY, N.S.W.

Department of Education.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE:

16th February, 1968

Dear Signora Lena,

I have the idea of writing to you asking for your help in a matter in which I understand you are also interested. I am approaching you partly because I have enjoyed your sessions on 2CH sometimes

I am employed at the Sydney University, Department of Education. My particular interest is in the educational needs of migrant children. I am looking for information about any migrant children, particularly Italians, aged between 11 years and 15, who have had any particular educational difficulty due to the fact that they are migrants.

Perhaps you or your friends or colleagues might be able to tell me some examples of such problems. I cannot ask you to broadcast asking for such stories yet, because the Immigration Department is working on the problem at present and the question just now is a rather delicate one.

I will be out of Sydney for all of this coming week. If you will allow me, I will ring you at 2CH on Monday the 26th February and perhaps we could have a talk about this matter. Would you also be able to pass on this information to Signora Sarti who may be willing and able to offer some information also.

Thanking you in advance,

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Bennett
Margaret Bennett.

ROLE OF WOMEN TOPIC AT MEETING

"Women In The World of Today" will be the subject of a talk by National Women's Advisory Council member, Lena Gustin, at a public meeting in Griffith tomorrow.

Ethnic Reporting Officer for Griffith and Leeton, Mrs. M. Pascoli, said yesterday she was expecting a lot of women to attend the meeting.

Mrs. Pascoli said Mrs. Gustin was well known in the Griffith and Leeton districts.

She said there were a lot of women who were very interested in their role in the world today.

Mrs. Gustin was a very intelligent and very motherly woman (she is known as Mamma Lena).

She was a radio announced in Sydney and a social worker.

She had done a lot for immigrants and for this work was awarded the M.B.E.

Mrs. Gustin will arrive in Griffith on Friday night and leave on Sunday.

The meeting will be held at the Yoogali Club between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

'Mamma Lena' calls

The well known "Mamma Lena", Mrs. Lena Gustin, was in Griffith last weekend.

She is well known for her radio program and extensive social work among migrants in Sydney.

She has been decorated by both the Australian and Italian Governments for her work and she is known and loved by many especially those in the migrant community.

Mrs. Gustin was guest speaker at a meeting held at the Yoogali Club on Saturday, April 21.

This meeting was attended by many women who expressed interest in the topic, "Women in the World of Today", on which she spoke.

Impressed With Stanthorpe

(By DOT)

Mamma Lena, popular Italian journalist and radio announcer, who visited Stanthorpe last weekend, went away with a lasting impression of the Granite Belt, and she gave a promise that she would be back again sometime.

Her sessions, in both Italian and English, from Radio 2KY in Sydney are well known to Italian members of our community, and she was the inspiration of song writer, Nino Cavallaro, for his song "Mamma Lena."

Accompanied by her friend, Mrs. Marchetto, they were met at the airport at Applethorpe by Mother Gemma, Sister Johnson, Linda Torrisi, Lina Sofia, Mrs. Maria Russo and Mrs. Gino Forrester, and they were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Marcomin of Matthew Street from Friday till Sunday.

On Friday evening over 200 ladies attended a welcome to Mamma Lena at St. Joseph's Hall, with Father Cronin being chairman.

As it is International Women's year, Mamma Lena spoke on a mission, on women, the wife and mother. Present at this welcome was Mrs. Bonarcorsa who is just over 90 years old, and one of the oldest Italian ladies of the St. Joseph's parish.

Mamma Lena was asked to present Mrs. Bonarcorsa with a gift from the St. Joseph's parish. A bouquet of flowers was presented to Mamma Lena by Cornelia Calvisi.

On Saturday morning, Mother Gemma took Mamma Lena and Mrs. Marchetto around many part of our town, including the shopping centre, and they had lunch with Mr. and Mr. Piovesan. In the afternoon Mamma Lena met Cr. and Mrs. Rogers at the Civic Centre and she congratulated Cr. Rogers on the beautiful Civic Centre and the town on the whole, with its modern buildings cleanliness and the friendliness of its people and she hoped Stanthorpe would be one of the selected towns in the Tidy Towns competition.

After coffee at Mrs. Linda Torrisi's home in Railway Street they visited the Biltmore Cellars and she enjoyed her journey through the countryside.

On Saturday night they were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Sorbello of Cornundum Street for dinner.

In the evening they visited the International Club and were welcomed by the president, members and guests. Amongst the guests were Rev. Frs. Cronin, Valente and Mattiazzi. Mrs. N. Giacca presented Mamma Lena with a beautiful basket of fruit, and Mrs. Lina Sofia thanked Mother Gemma for her part in bringing Mamma Lena to Stan-

thorpe, and she thanked all who had helped to make the visit so successful.

Accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Marchetto, left on Sunday for Brisbane.

On Monday night, August 4 Mamma Lena spoke from 2KY of her visit to Stanthorpe speaking very highly of the district and its beauty, and she will make Stanthorpe her theme for her session on Monday, August 11 at 7.15 p.m. from Radio Station 2KY.



1975-Mrs SARINA GIACCA, EMILY MARCHETTO, MAMMA LENA and SISTER GEMMA NAZZARI.



Presented by The Australian Women's Weekly in association with the National Women's Advisory Council

THE VOICE OF AUSTRALIA'S WOMEN

"Until I get home my children have nowhere they can go after school"
"Can't a pensioner have dignity?"
"I am a migrant with little English"
"My husband has taken my baby and I'm desperate..."
"How can I get a home loan?"
"Is the law fair to women?"
"Please tell the Minister..."

These are the voices of Australia's women talking to the National Women's Advisory Council, the new link between women and the Government.

Over the telephone or face-to-face, at public meetings or in private chats over a cup of coffee - sometimes through an interpreter - the complaints, suggestions and opinions are starting to pour in. And the mail brings in hundreds more.

Last July a 12-woman council was appointed by the Federal Government to hear women's views and report on them to the Minister for Home Affairs.

As links in the chains of decision-making by the Government, the National Women's Advisory Council members in each State are working individually and as a group, all around Australia.

Take some examples from this year's diary to date:

February: More than 200 women attend a meeting

and is advising the Government on needs for funding.

• Family Law - the plight of women involved in marriage breakdowns who cannot afford to buy their share of the family house because they have no independent income.

• Civilian widows' pensions - many regard them as impossible to live on with a child.

April: Joyce McConnell (ACT Council member), and Sue Broad (WA) visit Kalgoorlie. They identify the need for a women's refuge and for more assist-

ance for boarding facilities for isolated children in centres closer to their homes.

May: The Council conducts a national conference in Melbourne on Anti-Discrimination Legislation.

And the work goes on... Lena Gustin (NSW) attends a public meeting in Griffith, NSW, of 80 women, half of them Italian. Nearby Leeton gives her a huge reception. (Lena is an ethnic radio personality.)

In Western Australia, Sue Broad (WA member) speaks with women in the north of the State about problems in a mining community.

In NSW, Val Fisher (Vic) addresses 240 members of the View Club at Orange.

Connie Bush (Northern Territory, and the Council's Aboriginal member) and Quentin Bryce (Qld) tour the

top-end of the Territory meeting Aboriginal women and discussing their health, education and employment.

Sue Broad, Judy Roberts (SA) and Connie Bush, visit areas such as Broome, Derby and Kununurra, looking at the problems of women in isolation.

Dee Boss-Walker (of Tasmania) is keynote speaker at a conference in Perth on "The Elimination of Sexism in Education."

Margaret Rosenthal (NSW) is the first woman to address a Rotary District conference in Armidale, NSW.

NWAC Convenor Beryl Beaupaire (Victoria) is on many radio talk-back programmes explaining the Council's role, and meets groups such as the 30,000-strong Catholic Women's League of Victoria.

Letters air special grievances

A vast range of subjects is covered in letters to the Council from women all over Australia, for referral to the appropriate Minister. Topics include social security difficulties, discrimination, the erosion of fixed incomes, child care

uneconomic as well, to have to reduce combined assets when one partner in a marriage died.

The bereaved person, she said, often used up the excess money on, say, a world trip. Otherwise the

towards a retirement home or any future hospital expenses?"

The cost of keeping up her home was greater, she said, when her husband was no longer there to help with the work. Having to pay high



1979-In Griffith, after conference, Lena with friends. Mrs. MARIA PASCOLI is the last on the right.

THE MOST POPULAR RADIO ANNOUNCERS WHO HAVE
CO-OPERATED WITH LENA THROUGH THE YEARS.

EVIDENCES



RADIO 2CH-FRIEL SMITH.



RADIO 2CH-ERROL SILVER.



RADIO 2CH and 2KY-LES MEAD.



RADIO 2KY-FRANK FRAUMENI.

The Australian Institute of Welfare Officers



Certificate of Membership

This is to Certify that Lena Gustin
of Bankstown in the State of N.S.W. having fulfilled all the requirements
prescribed by the Rules and By-laws of the Institute and having satisfied the Board of
Examiners in the areas of training specified, was admitted a Associate Member
of the Institute on the 18th day of May one thousand nine hundred
and Seventy One Given under the Common Seal of the Australian Institute of Welfare
Officers at Sydney this 2nd day of August 1971



Registration No. 330

Eric Lashley President
John Keller Member of the Board of Examiners
John Member of the Executive
W. J. Lashley Secretary

This Certificate remains the property of the Institute

EVIDENCES



MR. N. WRAN.



Mr. M. MAHER.



N.S.W. PREMIER MR. B. UNSWORTH.



MRS. and MR. N. GREINER.

HON. PAUL ZAMMIT



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



Parliament House
Sydney 2000
Tel: 230 2276

Electorate Office
179 Burwood Road, Burwood. 2134
P.O. Box 70, Burwood. 2134
Tel: 747 5142 or 747 5411 (Office)
74 6284 (Home)

PAUL ZAMMIT MP
Member for Burwood

For the past few years RITA and PAUL ZAMMIT have been close friends and have been particularly supportive in relation to social problems.

PAUL ZAMMIT is the N.S.W. State Parliament representative for the Burwood zone.

His wife RITA, of Italian origin, is an Australian school teacher. Both PAUL and RITA speak Italian fluently. They have 3 children.

The following was written by PAUL ZAMMIT, who is of Maltese origin, after Lena re-introduced herself to the community subsequent to her long illness.



PAUL-MAMMA LENA-RITA and DINO.

28th April, 1987.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Gustin,
P.O. Box 145,
LAKEEMBA N.S.W. 2195,

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Gustin,

It has come to my knowledge that you are writing a book about your experiences and achievements following your post-war migration to Australia.

I take this opportunity of wishing you well in the completion of your book which I know will tell the story that needs to be told. My wife Rita and I who are also post-war migrants, having arrived as young people with our families in the mid-1950's, have admired you and Dino for a long time as "living legends" and mere "thank you's" seem inadequate.

If I may be presumptuous enough, I take the liberty of expressing gratitude and admiration on behalf of all post-war migrants who recognise your pioneering work in our new multi-cultural Australia. You are two very special people who have built bridges across different times and cultures and have helped to make Australia a better place for us all.

I wish you both much happiness and contentment in the secure knowledge that you have set an example which will be followed by others. Your work towards a better quality of life for all Australians, irrespective of country of origin, will continue to grow.

In a very small way I am honoured to play my part in our adopted country - Australia - in helping others who arrive as migrants, who have left loved ones behind in an effort to provide better opportunities for themselves and their children. These burdens, pain and suffering experienced by all migrants have been lessened by Mamma Lena and Dino.

We owe you both a deep debt of gratitude.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Zammit

Paul Zammit, MP
Member for Burwood

THE ZAMMIT'S FAMILY.

From Left: RITA-MAMMA LENA-PAUL-MICHAEL e DOMENICO
E LINA DEL RICCIO (Rita's parents)
In centre: their two youngest sons: YVONNE e PHILLIP.



This brief summary in English concludes the first part.

The next section is dedicated to the Italians who, in those days, were the true, but silent protagonists of the story of this COUNTRY!!

1956-1964

COLLABORAZIONE

con

“La Fiamma”

**IL MONDO CHE ABBIAMO LASCIATO,
AUSTRALIA ANNO ZERO,
GLI SCRITTI CHE HANNO FATTO CAMBIARE LA VITA,
APPELLO AL PRIMO MINISTRO MENZIES,
LE PRIME STORIE UMANE SU "LA FIAMMA".**

AL NOSTRO arrivo in Australia nel 1956, in questo Continente vivevano in tutto 9 milioni 530 mila e 871 abitanti ed il programma governativo di allora, era quello di raggiungere in fretta i 25 milioni di abitanti entro l'anno 2000, quindi in quegli anni difficili per l'Italia del dopo guerra con una economia che tardava a svilupparsi, fu logico che, i più coraggiosi tentassero la via dell'espatrio, perciò anche per la lontana Australia e per il Canada, il flusso emigratorio fu enorme.

Nel 1956, io e Lena, avevamo circa 40 anni, i nostri figli Rosalba 9 e Roberto 8. La nostra vita in Italia, ve la presenterò con un "Dossier Foto grafico e giornalistico" alla fine di questo volume. Però il 1956, rimarrà nella nostra memoria anche perché Lena ha vissuto l'incredibile avventura che per poco non è finita in tragedia, e questo solo poche settimane prima della partenza per l'Australia, come ve la descrive la Gazzetta del Popolo di Torino del 12 Febbraio 1956.

In Italia nel 1956 iniziava qualcosa di nuovo che poteva cambiare le abitudini degli italiani, infatti la trasmissione della televisione "LASCIA O RADDOPPIA?" presentata dall'allora sconosciuto Mike Bongiorno, inchiodava in casa davanti al video tutti gli italiani. Il canale televisivo, aveva cominciato, in fase sperimentale, le trasmissioni quattro anni prima ed io nel 1953, ho avuto occasione di intervistare il primo Direttore della televisione italiana Sergio Pugliese di Ivrea.

Sempre in quel periodo la Fiat aveva rilanciato la popolare "500" (Topolino) che è diventata la automobile di massa, al costo di meno di mezzo milione, che permetterà a migliaia di italiani di diventare automobilisti. (Qui in Australia verra' poi chiamata "Bambina").

Nel mondo, invece, ci lasciavano senza fiato, le notizie provenienti dalla Russia, perché il Segretario Generale Nikita Kruscev, denunciava i crimini di Stalin al congresso comunista; sempre nel 1956 scoppiò anche la rivoluzione in Ungheria, che venne domata dalle truppe russe.

In America, c'è il "Boom" del Rock and Roll, sorge l'astro Elvis Presley, che domina con la sua musica, giovani e meno giovani. Sempre nello stesso anno, la bella nave ANDREA DORIA, affonda nell'Atlantico, mentre il Canale di Suez, viene nazionalizzato e gli Egiziani di Nasser, scatenano gli Arabi contro Israele e... fu la guerra!

Intanto sempre nel 1956, verso la fine di Novembre, a Melbourne ha luogo la sedicesima Olimpiade Mondiale.

Questo era il mondo del 1956!

In Australia, arrivano a migliaia gli italiani in cerca di lavoro e di una buona sistemazione e trovano il Governo Menzies!

Assalita da un lupo una maestra a Chialamberto

Nel presat di Chialamberto, nella Valle di Lanzo, una insegnante elementare delle scuole della frazione di Bonzo, la signora Maddalena Morelli, di 56 anni, è stata assalita ieri pomeriggio da un grosso lupo apparso improvvisamente fra il bosco che fiancheggiava la strada.

La signora Morelli, che abita a Mezzanile, stava tornando a casa al termine della sua lezione del pomeriggio e i ragazzi della scuola l'avevano accompagnata fino alle ultime case del paese. La neve abbondante caduta in questi giorni rendeva difficoltoso il cammino che la maestra doveva compiere per giungere fino a Mezzanile; per alcuni tratti, quindi, la signora Morelli si manteneva rasente la boscaglia dove la neve è meno alta.

Aveva percorso due chilometri, superando l'abitato di Chialamberto, quando un lupo, sbucato di corsa dai boschi, le si parò dinanzi minacciandola. La maestra ebbe il primo attimo di sgomento e voltò le spalle alla bestia per fuggire in direzione del paese sperando di raggiungere qualche casa dove rifugiarsi. Il lupo, però, senza decidersi a seguire la vittima e ululando al lanciaio dietro la donna.

Superato il momento di terrore, la signora Morelli si accorse che la fuga era inutile. La bestia l'avrebbe

assalita alle spalle senza più scampo. Decise di difendersi, armata della pesante borsa dove teneva quaderni e libri, prese a rotearla davanti a sé, facendone scudo.

Il lupo, dappnna sorpreso, rimase fermo a fissare la donna, poi si lanciò in ripetuti balzi tentando di mordere la maestra alle caviglie. La lotta era disperata per la maestra, che si trovava nella campagna capota signora c'erano ormai poche speranze di resistere a lungo in quella accanita difesa. Fortunatamente un contadino, Marco Ferroni, di 56 anni, che si trovava nella campagna poco distante ed al termine del suo lavoro si avviava a casa, ha udito le grida di aiuto della donna ed è accorso a vedere cosa era avvenuto. L'uomo quando vide la maestra alle prese con il lupo, lanciò a terra gli arnesi e afferrò un grosso ramo si avvicinò coraggiosamente alla bestia tentando di prenderla alle spalle. Il lupo, avvertito della presenza dell'uomo, si scagliò contro di lui, ma il ramo colpì più volte alla testa e alle gambe facendolo desistere da ulteriori tentativi. Subito dopo, infatti, la ferocia bestia fuggiva nel bosco.

La maestra Morelli, sorretta dal suo salvatore, poteva raggiungere così nuovamente Chialamberto dove veniva accolta in casa di amici che la ricevevano e più tardi provvedevano ad accompagnarla in auto a Mezzanile.

La notizia della drammatica avventura vissuta dalla maestra Morelli ha suscitato molto allarme fra gli abitanti della zona per cui prima che fosse notte è stata organizzata una vasta battuta fra boschi per stabilire se vi fossero tracce di lupo che il freddo e la fame potevano avere spinto a valle. La bestia è risultata infuocata per cui è da ritenere che la bestia che ha assalito la maestra Morelli non facesse parte di un branco.



etia del Canavese

CHIEVE. Il dr. SERGIO PUGLIESE, direttore della "Epreidiese", è stato eletto presidente della "Epreidiese".

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Di uffici assistenziali, allora, quasi non ne esistevano; non c'erano interpreti, così ognuno si doveva arrangiare come meglio poteva e, fu allora che si capì l'importanza del giornale e delle trasmissioni radio (delle quali parlerei in un capitolo a parte) per aiutare i nostri connazionali con consigli e direttive pratiche onde orientarli alla vita di questo Paese. Storia passata e' vero, ma che va ricordata! Infatti, su invito del Dr. Evasio Costanzo, direttore del giornale italiano "La Fiamma", verso la fine del 1956, Lena scrisse le prime corrispondenze; era una rubrica settimanale per le donne, ma dopo qualche mese, visto l'interesse dei lettori, lo stesso Direttore, penso di dare un titolo più appropriato alla rubrica e scelse: INCHIOSTRO SIMPATICO (Lena risponde), rubrica che durò fino al 1964 e gli argomenti ai quali rispondeva non erano soltanto femminili, ma molto vari, come si può constatare da alcuni inserti che danno una panoramica della vastità dei problemi presi in considerazione, trattandosi anche di storie umane che gli italiani vivevano in quel periodo di grandi difficoltà di inserimento.

Poi un anno dopo, il Rev. Padre Anastasio, allora superiore dei Padri Cappuccini in Australia e direttore responsabile de "La Fiamma", invitò Lena ad occuparsi della redazione del giornale cattolico mensile "LA CROCE DEL SUD", in via di estinzione e che aveva il suo ufficio redazionale nella casa adiacente alla Parrocchia. A Lena, oltre alla ricerca della pubblicità, le veniva affidata anche la rubrica per i lettori, sotto lo pseudonimo di "GRAZIA"; così dalle varie rubriche dei due giornali in lingua italiana, nacque la necessità di un lavoro sociale più diretto e maggiormente impegnativo.

Lettera
22-8-57

Cara Lena

Ho ricevuto da pochi giorni una tua lettera. Ho ricevuto la tua lettera e per la seconda volta ho il piacere di leggere la tua lettera.

Se me la fermasti, la più bella, la prima e la più spontanea impressione mi è stata data dalla tua lettera e dallo squallido con cui è scritta.

Ho voluto sapere di più chi sei, che cosa fai, nel proprio di voler pubblicare la tua lettera. Hai certo pensato a molti, che forse ancora non la conoscono.

Ho chiesto anche per una volta una parola a tutti i miei lettori, i quali potrebbero avere in questa pubblicazione un'immagine esatta di un'utile collaborazione all'opera della tua e una pagina istintiva, la tua immagine e sentire una buona più istintiva.

Perché non ci racconti?

La cosa che pubblicare la prima non credo sia il solo a desiderarlo.

Per tutti i miglioramenti che ogni

Amore

ALICE STANLEY

ALICE ANTHONY
BOWLEY POINT - AID
LANSVALE N.S.W.

Domenica, 18 Agosto 1957.

«LA FIAMMA DELLA DOMENICA»



Carti amici

anche con «La Fiamma della Domenica» e val come rubrica speciale dedicata a tutti i lettori. «Il Salotto di Lena» ha lo scopo di riportare i lettori, ogni volta che trocisi dalla vita vera e che nel mondo raccontate. Quindi di pregio tutti gli amici

IL SALOTTO DI LENA

I CINQUE MINUTI PIU' PERICOLOSI DELLA MIA VITA

Lotto settembre ero e l'altra contro il temuto festa. Un giorno durante ancora nei Balcani, qua- Gli ordini superiori di un rastrellamento tedesco, le sergente aggregato ad venivano portati da una Mira mi aiuto a rifugiar- una compagnia di alpo- staffetta. Mira, una zia- mi in una grotta, prima ni, quando scompi- mi, come stava d-

DOVE SARA'?

Da più di un anno fa tempo lombo di terra della patria da Genova con la nostra Madre Patria. — gavo, convinta con un bi- motore Aurelia, verso Addio Messina, addio Ita- giettone da mille lire, un- l'Australia. La nave aveva la — dissi spontanea- mio vicino di tavola a prendere il posto ed il- mente vedendo in lontananza la bella città siciliana di- turno di Marina e lei pos- emigranti verso la speran- luminata da mille luci che venire al mio tavolo. zia di un avvenire miglio- le davano un fascino mi- Ormai per noi era la- role mi fermò. «Non posso dirglielo, non posso dirlo a Luciano, tu mi capisci?» «Ma perché», insisteva la voce della sua amica e compagna di camera, «perché non vuoi dirgli

Parlare di lavoro sociale oggi e' facile; ci sono decine di uffici con impiegati qualificati e con stipendio governativo o statale appropriato, ma allora, chi si prendeva cura delle necessita' altrui, lo faceva volontariamente ed era necessario farlo, perche' le richieste erano molte e di vario genere e sempre piu' assillanti.

Le persone che si recavano dai Padri Cappuccini in cerca di aiuto erano parecchie; se erano problemi morali o spirituali, a dare il loro aiuto erano gli stessi Padri, ma spesso si trattava di aiuti materiali: ricerca di lavoro, di sistemazione per la casa, la scuola, la necessita' di un interprete presso un ospedale o dal medico, o negli uffici legali ed anche richieste di piccole sovvenzioni per le prime necessita'. Allora, molto spesso era Lena che si prestava e, poiche' non disponeva di un mezzo di trasporto e non guidava, quindi doveva recarsi da un posto ad un altro in taxi, in autobus, (rimettendoci di tasca sua le spese) od intraprendere lunghe ed affrettate camminate a piedi. I problemi da risolvere sono sempre stati molti ed aumentavano ogni giorno di piu'.

Fu in quel periodo che Lena comprese la grande necessita' di essere vicina e di aiutare la sua gente, senza distinzione di religione, di idee politiche o di origini e ci si buttava anima e corpo.

Moltissime sono le persone che sono state aiutate da Lena e, se leggeranno queste pagine, certamente si riconosceranno e ricorderanno anche che a Lena bastava un "grazie" e...spesso neanche quello.!

Nell'Agosto del 1957, la Fiamma, comincio' la pubblicazione de "La Fiamma della Domenica" e Lena inizio' una nuova rubrica "IL SALOTTO DI LENA" che ebbe immediato successo. In quel "Salotto", i lettori potevano raccontare un episodio della loro vita, la loro storia umana, una vicenda di particolare interesse, vissuta nel passato o nel presente che li teneva legati ad un ricordo. (Anche di questa rubrica ne parlerei in un capitolo a parte).

Le prime "VICENDE VISSUTE", furono pubblicate il 18 Agosto 1957 col titolo: "I 5 MINUTI PIU' PERICOLOSI DELLA MIA VITA" e "DOVE SARA'?".

Lena quindi ogni settimana portava in redazione le sue rubriche: INCHIOSTRO SIMPATICO (Lena risponde) - IL SALOTTO DI LENA e DI TUTTO UN PO' che venivano preparate durante il Week-end; infatti per anni, il Sabato e la Domenica si stava a casa per rivedere, rileggere le molte lettere e per preparare le risposte per i casi più urgenti ed interessanti, in modo che fossero di aiuto non solo ai richiedenti, ma anche agli altri lettori... e poi c'erano anche le lettere che richiedevano una risposta urgente e privata.

Tali rubriche avevano toccato il tasto giusto e lo dimostravano le moltissime lettere che riceveva ed i molti episodi commoventi in cui Lena stessa veniva coinvolta e che richiedevano tempo e lavoro extra per essere risolti.

Ricordo, ad esempio, un fatto insolito: Un giorno davanti alla modesta casa del nostro primo alloggio in Bankstown, si fermò una "topolino" targata Adelaide. Ne scese una giovane sposa, che espose a Lena il suo problema molto grave e delicato. Nonostante sposata da alcuni anni, il suo matrimonio non era mai stato consumato per colpa del marito. Si scusò per il disturbo e per aver insistito all'ufficio de La Fiamma che le dessero il nostro indirizzo, ma la gravità del caso giustificava anche il fatto che La Fiamma, nonostante il divieto, l'avesse diretta a casa nostra.

La signora, della quale non faccio il nome, per non tradire, anche oggi la solenne promessa, fatta da Lena, di non tradire mai il suo segreto, tra le lacrime racconto la sua triste storia, pregandola di interessarsi affinché potesse ottenere l'annullamento del suo matrimonio.

Dopo mesi e mesi di interessamento, il caso venne risolto e di questo Lena disse grazie per il suo personale interessamento anche al Cardinale Gilroy, Arcivescovo di Sydney.

Abbiamo saputo poi che la signora, ha potuto risposarsi e che è diventata mamma di due bei bambini.

Dopo circa un anno dalla pubblicazione delle rubriche di Lena su La Fiamma, si fece strada l'ipotesi che sotto il nome di Lena, scrivesse una suora od un sacerdote, dato che il giornale, apparteneva allora ai Padri Cappuccini ed è di quel periodo appunto il simpatico episodio del quale io e Lena siamo stati protagonisti. Eravamo stati invitati ad un ricevimento organizzato dalla Flotta Lauro ed il Comandante T. MARENA (ora purtroppo passato a migliore vita), chiese proprio a me chi era... quella Lena che scriveva sul giornale, rubriche così interessanti; secondo lui era senz'altro un sacerdote. Fu facile convincerlo del contrario, perché subito chiamai Lena e gliela presentai. Fu poco dopo questo episodio che in testata alle rubriche venne messa la foto di Lena per non creare altri equivoci ed anche per accontentare i lettori che avevano chiesto di vedere la foto di Lena, come si può constatare dalla lettera che riproduco. Moltissimi furono i casi umani e gravi di cui si venne a conoscenza e che furono risolti. Fra questi ne menziono un altro molto umano che ha suscitato molto interesse durante il 1957. Una coppia di sposi emigrata a Melbourne, era partita dall'Italia con due dei loro figli, lasciando ad una parente in Italia una loro bambina quasi cieca, perché nelle norme dell'emigrazione, non erano ammesse persone menomate fisicamente. Così per la famiglia Biancucci cominciò una nuova vita, ma dopo pochi mesi, la madre della piccola Iolanda, la bimba rimasta in Italia, venne

presa dal rimorso e, rivoltasi a Lena, la prego' di interessarsi perché la bambina potesse raggiungere la sua famiglia, altrimenti disse:-diventerei pazza dal dolore e per il rimorso e non riuscirei più a vivere in Australia.- Il problema era grave e di difficile soluzione, ma Lena non si perdettero d'animo, promise che avrebbe fatto il possibile e, se era il caso, anche l'impossibile, per aiutarli e ci riuscì. Ci vollero, e vero, mesi e mesi di lavoro, di contatti, di preghiere e suppliche alle personalità dei vari Dipartimenti ed anche direttamente all'allora Primo Ministro Menzies, ma il caso venne felicemente risolto ed a prova, pubblico la cronologia del fatto attraverso gli articoli apparsi su La Fiamma:

Fin dalle prime corrispondenze su La Fiamma, gli articoli erano orientati sui problemi sociali, quelli che interessavano maggiormente i lettori, spesso coinvolti loro stessi: la solitudine, le incomprensioni familiari-mariti e spose insoddisfatti in cerca di libertà - figli che fuggivano da casa - pratiche di richiamo in sospeso - richieste di medicinali per coloro che abitavano molto lontani dalla città - problemi derivanti dall'acquisto della casa per colpa di agenti poco scrupolosi, una caterva di problemi, fra i più impensati, che si ammassavano sul tavolo di Lena sempre strazzeppo di carte e, come se non bastassero i problemi degli italiani in Australia, ecco aggiungersi anche quelli di persone abitanti in Italia, anche quelli casi umani, commoventi e talvolta pietosi molti dei quali non si potevano trascurare come quelli di mamme che da anni non ricevevano notizie dal figlio lontano, delle "vedove bianche" che non sapevano dove fosse andato a finire il beneamato sposo, persone che chiedevano un'assistenza finanziaria (in Italia molti pensavano, allora, che qui in Australia il denaro si trovasse per strada) la lista potrebbe continuare. Certo ad alcuni Lena doveva rispondere che non era possibile dare un aiuto concreto, ma la sua bontà ne fece felici molti altri, fra cui una madre che dall'Italia chiedeva una sedia a rotelle per la figlia paralitica, caso risolto dopo qualche mese e, l'articolo che viene inserito nel capitolo delle storie umane, dimostrerà nei particolari come è stato possibile aiutare anche questa mamma in Italia.

Un'altra lettera alla quale Lena non ha potuto dire di no, proveniva dall'Africa: era di una Suora Missionaria che, nella sperduta missione del Sudan, lottava contro la fame e la lebbra. In seguito, come si vedrà dalle documentazioni, Suor Gelsomina Pusterla, venne trasferita a Moroto in Uganda. A questa coraggiosa Suora, Lena non ha potuto dire di no e, per anni, le ha mandato aiuti in denaro e vestiario, coadiuvata anche dalle buone signore Giugni da Blacktown e da Torresan da Leichhardt.

Il problema della fame e della lebbra è esploso anche ora in tutto il mondo, ma Lena lo conosceva da tempo ed è stato uno dei più bei giorni, quando Suor Gelsomina, dopo circa venticinque anni e venuta a Sydney e durante una intervista alla radio l'ha ringraziata per l'aiuto dato, non tanto a lei, quanto a tanti piccoli ed adulti affidati alle sue cure. Anche di questa straordinaria Suora, che potrebbe essere paragonata alla ormai famosa Madre Teresa, ne parlerò in un capitolo a parte.

Gli episodi umani vissuti anche nell'anno 1957 sono stati tanti ed ancor oggi sono vivi attraverso la testimonianza del giornale La Fiamma e dei quali presenterò solo una parte con fotomontaggio dei titoli degli articoli più importanti di quell'anno.

INCHIOSTRO SIMPATICO

Matrimoni in famiglia

ROSELLA C. Fitzroy risana, specie fra il popolo italiano meridionale, che ha la tendenza a conservare la sua antica usanza di sposarsi tra il primo grado. Rosella, che è il bravo di Don Rodrigo sui matrimoni, consanguinei, nel prossimo Sped. di posta. Cara figliola, tu con la tua semplice lettera hai messo il dito su una pia-più purtoppo ancora non esprime una mia opinione.

ma l'atteggiamento della scienza che non lo consideri. Qualunque la storia dell'umanità, specie al caso di matrimoni fra parenti e, nei tempi più recenti, vi siano stati matrimoni del genere fra Case Reali, ormai tutto il mondo scientifico condanna queste unioni.

Le famiglie formate in uno stretto cerchio familiare hanno mostrato un decadimento soprattutto periclitico; non mancano i casi contrari, ma la eccezione conferma la regola. Persino Carlo Darwin ha dimostrato, nei suoi lunghi studi, le anomalie della nascita e diminuzione di vitalità fra le bestie e le piante quando vi era stata una riproduzione di stretta «parentela». Potrei aggiungere, con documentazioni tratte dai testi medici, che i matrimoni fra cugini primi ed altri stretti parenti, hanno dato avvenimenti a tragedia pietosa che hanno impressionato l'effetto della consanguineità. Ho portato a fare mentali appunti. In caso di voluto matrimonio, i ceppi devono essere sani e perfetti da almeno due generazioni perché i figli non abbiano conseguenze pietose; ma questo è difficile da controllare.

Come vedi, cara Rosella, ho cercato di esporvi brevemente quanto la scienza medica dice riguardo a questi matrimoni. Naturalmente il volere dei tuoi parenti in questo caso non potrebbe obbligarti ad un passo simile. — Per ora auguri ed attendo ancora ti faccio i miei migliori presto una tua lettera.

Plastica facciale

UNO QUALUNQUE R. Sydney

Caro signore, nessuna meraviglia se la persona a lei cara desidera perfezionare esteticamente il suo viso. Ogni giorno non è un miraggio impossibile poiché la scienza in questo campo ha fatto dei progressi veramente meravigliosi; lo dimostrano diverse attrici che si sono sottoposte a queste operazioni con un esito veramente brillante. Una fra le tante è la nostra attrice cinematografica Eleonora Rossi Drago che si è sottoposta alla plastica facciale per ridurre il suo naso a proporzioni più adatte al suo viso. Questo è uno dei casi di nostra conoscenza, ma chissà quante altre persone che sono vicine a noi si sono sottoposte ad operazioni del genere. Uno dei migliori Istituti in Sydney per la chirurgia estetica è quello diretto dal dott. H. C. Starr, in Macquarie Street. Però se lei desidera prima parlare con un medico italiano che la possa consigliare e magari farle una lettera di presentazione vada dal dott. Rumore, 763 Punchbowl Road, Punchbowl. Con la speranza di esserle stata utile, le faccio i miei migliori auguri. LENA

Le vicende vissute

Affinché tutti i lettori abbiano una visione completa di tutte le vicende apparse su «La Fiamma» della Domenica nel mese di settembre, faccio un brevissimo quadro perché anche gli indecisi mandino il tagliando col titolo della migliore vicenda contribuendo così alla sorte della premiazione.

1) HO UCCISO MIA MOGLIE. — Dramma umanissimo di un giudice che è stato costretto a condannare a morte la propria moglie che ora vive in un continuo tormento.

2) PRIGIONIERA. — È la rievocazione di un episodio vissuto durante la guerra d'Africa del 1896, dove nella tragica realtà della prigione si svolgono fatti che rasentano la commedia.

3) UNA FIDELLE AMICA. — Rievocazione umana e toccante dell'arrivo in Australia di una delle tante emigranti e la ricerca di una parola amica nella propria lingua e che trova ne «La Fiamma».

4) VOGLIAMOCI BENE. — È un quadro semplice pieno di poesia di un emigrante che lascia la propria Patria portando con sé un bagaglio di volontà e fiducia ed il desiderio di fare del bene al prossimo.

5) GIOVENTU' PERDUTA. — Dopo una vita avventurosa che rasenta la tragedia, un giovane trova in Australia la fiducia in se stesso e nel mondo.

6) HO SALVATO UN'ANIMA. — Ha uno sfondo morale ed in essa un giovane aiuta una ragazza olandese a ritrovare la buona via e la fiducia negli esseri umani.

7) UN ANGELO NERO. — È una vicenda di attualità dopo quanto accade in America a Little Rock. Essa racconta di un giovane che si innamora di una negra che lotta per mantenere la sua famiglia e che poi scompare per sempre.

8) UNA SPIA MI SALVO'. — È la rievocazione della guerra partigiana in Italia, dove un giovane viene salvato dalla sua prigioniera che paga con la vita il suo atto di coraggio.

Poiché dalle lontane regioni ci continuano ad arrivare i tagliandi in ritardo si è creduto opportuno rimandare la premiazione per le migliori vicende di settembre, al prossimo numero.

Cerco la morte

M. PIEMONTESE, W. caro: ma non per questo la vita ci deve divenire insopportabile. La sua donna ormai riposa nella pace eterna e dal Cielo certamente la protegge e la difende dai pericoli, nei quali lei stesso si mette. Lei deve cercare di cancellare quel triste ricordo e deve ritrovare la gioia di vivere indifferenziando il suo pensiero ad il suo lavoro ad un'altra creatura che la sappia amare e rendere felice.

La sua commovente vicenda apparirà su «La Fiamma» della Domenica di questa settimana. A lei i miei più sinceri auguri di bene perché la sua volontà di morire venga delusa; anzi molto spesso si trasforma in volontà di gioia di vivere.

SCRIVETEVI, CONFIDANDOVI LE VOSTRE ESPERIENZE, LE VOSTRE ASPIRAZIONI, LE VOSTRE AMAREZZE, TROVARETE NELLE RISPOSTE DI LENA IL PUNTO DI VISTA DI UNA VERA E AFFETTUOSA AMICA.

La Kelemota e' la cura depurativa che può ridare la freschezza giovanile. e La Kelemota combatte efficacemente l'obesità.

Open letter

A mother begs
Your help,
Mr. Menzies

Una madre implora
il Vostro aiuto,
Signor Menzies

p.c. a S. E. il Ministro d'Italia,
Dottor Silvio Daneo, Canberra

PRIME MINISTER
RIGHT HONOURABLE
MR. R. G. MENZIES
CANBERRA

Dear Sir,

It is on behalf of an Italian mother that I take the liberty of addressing this appeal to You. A mother's grief knows no obstacles, and this mother has knocked at all doors filled with countless applications, connected with Australian and Italian Immigration Officials in a fruitless bid to have her daughter with her in Australia: the wall of bureaucracy has stood all efforts.

Now, after six years of unsuccessful struggle, this unfortunate mother puts all her remaining hopes in this plea believing that with Your personal intervention, her seventeen-year-old daughter may finally be allowed to come to this country.

With all the strength that we mothers gather when one of our children is taken away from us I beg You to consider this plea as sure that the appeal will not remain unanswered like a voice in the desert.

In the year 1951 Mrs. Maria Rando Biancucci disembarked at Melbourne and joined her husband. She was accompanied by two of her three children while the other, namely Jolanda, had remained in Italy. Why she had been left behind is soon explained.

Some time before, one of Mrs. Biancucci's youngest children had become ill. Afraid that her husband would not be able to care for the child again if he had come to worse, she decided to leave Italy at the shortest notice possible. Unfortunately at the time her husband, Salvatore, who had had to pay his fare to Australia without any assistance, could not afford to have all his family in Australia. At once and it was therefore decided to leave Jolanda, who was then eleven years of age, at some relations' until enough money was saved to pay her fare.

A few months after Mrs. Biancucci's arrival, an application was filled for a Landing Permit in favour of Jolanda. When she underwent medical examination, it was found that her eyes were affected by an ailment (retinitis pigmentosa) which is fatally dragging her towards total blindness. For this reason her application was rejected.

For six years her parents fought an unrelenting battle but, at times, passed their grief for the tragic conditions of their daughter increased as hopes faded.

You understand, Mr. Menzies, that a girl in such conditions needs all the care and affections of her mother; You also know that a mother's heart bleeds to death until she has chosen the

most unfortunate of her children. The alternative of leaving Australia has of course been considered, but that would destroy the future of the other two children, now accustomed to the new environment, and bring to a wasteful end years of sacrifices, toil and hard won savings.

Furthermore, on July 27th 1955 the Biancucci's became naturalised (Certificate of Naturalisation No. 2477) bringing up the strange situation in which two Australian citizens are refused permission to be reunited with their own child. How illogical this is I will not stress; it is enough to say that it is very inhuman.

I realise that bureaucracy has to follow a certain path but You, Prime Minister, can personally give a helping hand when a worthy case demands special attention. And such undoubtedly is this case. Not so long ago Mr. Eisenhower, President of the United States of America, intervened in

AL PRIMO MINISTRO
MR. R. G. MENZIES
CANBERRA

Eccellenza,

È a nome di una mamma italiana che mi rivolgo a Voi, di una mamma italiana il cui dolore non ha conteso il suo basto a tutte le porte, ha fatto pratiche su pratiche, ha pregato, supplicato autorità italiane ed australiane che si sono interessate al suo caso, ma ogni tentativo è fallito di fronte al muro della burocrazia.

Sono sei lunghi anni che questa mamma invoca giustizia per far venire in Australia la sua figliola ormai diciassettenne. L'ultimo tentativo è questa preghiera rivolta a Voi Eccellenza!

Con la forza della disperazione che viene nei mamme quando vediamo private di un figlio, io espongo a Voi Eccellenza questo pietoso e umanissimo caso, fiducia che questo appello non rimarrà una voce nel deserto.

Nel 1951 giunse a Melbourne la signora Maria Rando Biancucci per raggiungere il marito Salvatore. Portava con sé due bambini. Era partita all'ultimo in fretta dall'Italia perché uno dei figliolotti era affetto da un deterioramento organico che richiedeva ancora in quella isola di Lipari (dove non si conoscono che miserie e privazioni, e dove ammalarsi è proibito) significava esporlo a morte certa. L'altro bimbo aveva poco più di un anno. Maria Rando Biancucci per poter raggiungere in fretta il marito era costretta a lasciare in Italia la figlia maggiore Jolanda allora undicenne. Essa sperava non appena giunta in Australia di richiamare subito la figlia. (Da tenersi presente che in quel tempo il marito Salvatore avendo dovuto spendere per il viaggio della moglie e dei due figliolotti: tutto quanto aveva potuto risparmiare con anni di sacrifici, non poteva disporre della somma necessaria per il passaggio della figlia Jolanda).

Pochi mesi dopo il suo arrivo la signora Maria Rando Biancucci, iniziò le pratiche per il richiamo della figlia.

IOLANDA BIANCUCCI

similar circumstances and brought to an end the sufferings of an «American» mother. Can't the same be expected from You?

Once the girl arrives in Australia, her parents shall spare no efforts or money in order to have her treated by the best specialists and it is possible that her ailment (which despite its gravity, is not infective) may not deprive her of her eyesight.

Mr. Menzies, all Italian mothers in this country strongly believe that Your heart will be touched by this plea and that they will receive from further proof that Australia has really become a homeland for them and their children.

LENA

Mamme italiane
levate la vostra voce

Il caso pietoso ed umano di mamma Biancucci da Melbourne ci commuove e noi saremo solidali con lei finché non potrà abbracciare la sua disgraziata figliola. Non possiamo essere sordi al suo appello. Certo non potremo fare miracoli, ma dovremo far sentire la nostra voce perché la barriera burocratica venga infranta. Tolstoi scrisse: «Madri, siete voi che avete in mano la salvezza del mondo».

Qui non si tratta di salvare il mondo, ma di salvare il piccolo mondo della famiglia Biancucci. Mandandoci quindi le vostre adesioni di solidarietà verso questa mamma ed io invierò tutte le vostre lettere col nome e cognome al Primo Ministro Menzies affinché Egli comprenda che noi mamme italiane siamo unite e che il dolore di una mamma è il dolore di tutte noi!

Da allora sono sei anni che questa mamma spera invano di riavere la sua bambina. Sei anni di tormento, sei anni di angoscia. Alla visita medica Jolanda fu riconosciuta affetta da grave malattia agli occhi. (Retinitis Pigmentosa) che la sta portando fatalmente alla cecità. Per tale fatto il suo ingresso in Australia le è negato.

Eccellenza, Jolanda in quelle condizioni senza cure e senza affetti abbandonata a se stessa, è diventata una larva umana che si spegne lentamente. Sua mamma, invoca il vostro intervento perché il muro della burocrazia venga superato. Questa fanciulla oggi più che mai ha bisogno della mamma e solo la sua mamma potrà lenire le sue sofferenze. Jolanda ha bisogno della sua mamma e Voi, Eccellenza, avete la possibilità di compiere questa naturale riunione.

La famiglia Biancucci ha anche studiato l'eventualità di un ritorno in Italia, ma questo significherebbe rovinare l'avvenire degli altri due figli ormai sono ambientati in questa terra, e metterebbe i genitori nell'impossibilità di curare questi e quella; sostenere le spese del viaggio di ritorno significherebbe altrettanto sacrificare quattro soldi raggranelati con lunghi anni di lavoro e di sacrifici.

Il sig. Salvatore ed i suoi figli si sono naturalizzati australiani in città 27 luglio 1955 con certificato No. 2477, nella speranza che questo fatto agevolasse le pratiche per la figlia Jolanda. Ma non è valso a nulla. Ora si domandarsi: un suddito australiano non ha nemmeno il diritto di richiamare vicino a sé una sua figlia?

Comprendo che la burocrazia ha le sue esigenze, ma sono certa Eccellenza che se Voi lo volete lo potete fare!

Il Presidente Eisenhower in un caso analogo al è interessato personalmente, superando ogni formalità, pur di far felice una mamma. Perché non lo posso sperare anch'io da Voi?

È superfluo aggiungere che qui la famiglia Biancucci avrebbe la possibilità di curare la malattia della figlia, grave sì, ma non contagiosa, darle tutte quelle cure che la terapia medica moderna può offrire.

Forse questa povera mamma, nella sua ingenuità ha commesso qualche mancanza; ma ora come rimanere insensibili al suo dolore?

Eccellenza, sono certa che il Vostro cuore si aprirà a questa mia preghiera ed io a nome di questa mamma e di tutte le mamme italiane gliene sarò grata. Compila questo. Eccellenza, Servirebbe a farci comprendere più di mille discorsi che gli Italiani hanno trovato in questo Paese una seconda Patria.

LENA

L'HERALD appoggia l'appello del nostro giornale

Il Min. Townley promette il suo aiuto

Il giornale della sera di Melbourne «Herald» ha giorni fa riportato l'appello lanciato da «La Fiamma», in una lettera aperta al Primo Ministro Menzies, a nome di una mamma alla quale viene negato il diritto di avere la figlia con sé in Australia.

Il giornale australiano ha avuto centinaia di adesioni dopo che la storia ha fatto il giro dello Stato, durante il «week-end».

Il Ministro dell'Immigrazione Townley, che si trova a Melbourne in vacanza, ha richiesto da Canberra tutta la docu-



JOLANDA BIANCUCCI
Diventerà cieca?

mentazione sul caso Biancucci e ha promesso di studiare tutte le possibilità alla luce dell'appello del nostro giornale.

Salvatore Biancucci e sua moglie, attendono insieme ai loro due figli, nella loro casa in Yarraville le decisioni del Ministro.

Il corrispondente de «La Fiamma» da Melbourne in un'intervista concessa all'Herald ha ribadito che le autorità australiane in Italia dovrebbero visitare tutti i membri della famiglia, anche quando solo il capo o una parte della famiglia si reca in Australia: questo allo scopo di evitare brutte sorprese e delusioni.

Nel corso dell'intervista è stato fatto anche presente che il caso Biancucci è solo uno dei molti, in attesa di soluzione e che in certi casi gli italiani attendono che giustizia venga fatta e considerazione venga data a dei casi pietosi.



SALVATORE BIANCUCCI, sua moglie e i figli Pino e Stefano.

Lena
risponde:

Ragazza felice



Luciana Robetti vincitrice di un premio per una «ricerca riuscita» pubblicata ne «La Fiamma della Domenica». chiede E-bri e riviste.

T. A. General Hospital, Townsville (N.Q.)

Finalmente un po' di...

Venerdì 20 Dicembre 1957

Venerdì 31 Gennaio 1958.

Perche' ho scritto al Primo Ministro

Quando mamma Biancucci Maria venne da Melbourne a bussare anche alla mia porta, non immaginavo di trovarmi di fronte ad un caso così pietoso, così drammatico e tanto umano. Essa mi raccontò piangendo che da ormai sei anni stava appellandosi ad autorità, ecclesiastiche ad agenzie commerciali e che tutti avevano immancabilmente promesso, ciò che non avevano, potuto mantenere causa la burocrazia australiana.

Cosa potevo fare io quando erano falliti i tentativi di personalità più influenti di me? Potevo io rimandare a Melbourne questa povera mamma con le solite promesse convenzionali? No, quel grido di dolore non poteva rimanere sconosciuto!

Ma io da sola ben poco cosa potevo fare ed è così che ho tentato di rendere di dominio pubblico questa drammatica situazione appellandomi alla personalità più in vista dell'Australia, ed è così che ho anche pensato a voi tutte mamme italiane, perché se saranno sordi alla voce di una sola non potranno esserlo di fronte alla voce di tutte le madri.

Se con le nostre proteste non riusciremo a far venire in Australia la figlia di Maria Biancucci, potremo almeno

col nostro risentimento far comprendere quale è la via migliore da seguire. E' presunzione? Forse, ma quando si è mamme si ha diritto a sperare che l'umanità diventi più comprensiva e trovi la via giusta aditata da Dio.

Perdono, amiche care, perdonatemi se mi sono rivolta anche a voi; l'ho fatto perché a noi mam-

me si può chiedere qualunque sacrificio, qualunque rinuncia, tutto ci può essere tolto ma non i nostri figli. Non chiediamo molto, ma vorremmo che questa nostra preghiera venisse accolta; e sono certa lo sarà perché in questi giorni la pace natalizia non potrà non illuminare ed aprire il cuore agli uomini di buona volontà.

Legge paradossale

DUE AMICI di Yagoona, Sydney.

Noi in Italia abbiamo delle leggi antiquate e pesanti, bisogna ammetterlo, ma in Australia ve n'è una che, per arbitrarietà e stupidità, supera tutte le nostre messe assieme.

Mi chiede infatti il sig. Angelo S. Yagoona se è vero che in Australia esiste una legge che permette alle Autorità di espellere un individuo, considerato indesiderabile, dopo averlo sottoposto ad una specie di esame di dettatura in una delle moltissime lingue o dialetti esistenti nel mondo. Se l'esaminando non supera l'esame di dettato,

viene senz'altro espulso.

Purtroppo sig. Angelo lei ha perso la scommessa. E' una legge assurda e ridicola, ma esiste. Per confermare quanto ho detto potrei raccontare di quel signore che, chiamato davanti alla Commissione, disse di conoscere 18 lingue. Gli esaminatori, per timore che superasse la prova, sono andati a scegliere un dialetto giapponese. Naturalmente questo signore fu espulso. Se lei, caro sig. Angelo, ha perso la scommessa, lei ha perso la causa di questa legge. L'Australia perde il suo prestigio che vale molto di più. Si consoli e paghi per il suo buon senso. Auguri cari per il S. Natale.

Lena risponde:

INCHIOS

Il ministro ha risposto!

Credetemi amici lettori tutti, ho provato un immenso piacere quando ho letto su «L'Herald» di Melbourne l'articolo che non solo appoggiava il mio appello al Primo Ministro Menzies, ma caldeggiava la risoluzione del caso stesso per permettere alla figlia Jolanda Biancucci di raggiungere i suoi genitori dopo anni di forzata separazione. Mi ha commosso pure l'interessamento diretto e personale dell'Ambasciatore d'Italia Dott. Daneo il quale si è preoccupato di discutere con le maggiori personalità australiane la pratica per una sollecita soluzione. Quando poi il Ministro per l'Immigrazione Mr. Townley, ha promesso ufficialmente di riesaminare il caso Biancucci, la possibilità di una felice riuscita è diventata certezza.

Commossa pure sono rimasta quando mi sono vista giungere una valanga di lettere di mamme da ogni parte dell'Australia. Vi ringrazio mamme tutte, di questa vostra solidarietà e di questa vostra umana comprensione! Sono certa che fino a quando saremo solidali ed unite, non verremo mai meno alla missione che Iddio ci ha affidato.

Ora non resta che augurarci che il caso di mamma Biancucci presto abbia fine e finalmente possa riabbracciare la sua diletta Jolanda e pro-

digiarle quelle cure tanto necessarie per alleviare un poco la sua triste infermità. Noi tutti italiani d'Australia, le saremo vicini finché non la vedremo sorridere. Attraverso queste colonne mando all'Ambasciatore, d'Italia

dott. Daneo, ed a tutte le Autorità australiane il mio più sentito ringraziamento per il loro interessamento con la preghiera di sollecitare quanto più possibile la venuta di Jolanda Biancucci in Australia.

Martedì 1 novembre 1959

Benvenuta Jolanda!

La settimana scorsa ho ricevuto una visita che mi ha riempito il cuore di gioia! Ricordate, amiche ed amici lettori, quella ragazza separata dai suoi genitori e che per un concorso era rimasta in Italia? In data 13 dicembre 1957 avevo scritto una lettera al primo ministro Mr. Menzies pregandolo di prendere a cuore questa particolare situazione. Anche molti giornali australiani avevano riportato allora il caso.

Ebbene, la ragazza, di stralia c'è una famiglia felice in più. (Questo sia di conforto ai molti che hanno ansie del genere).

Quando i genitori me lo hanno comunicato mi hanno dato una grandissima gioia e da queste colonne formulo a Jolanda Biancucci, residente a Yarraville, il mio sincero augurio perché la nuova vita in Australia in seno alla sua famiglia le dia quella serenità e gioia che lontana dai suoi non poteva avere.

Documenti

Lena
risponde:

Il peso della solitudine

Vorrei la benedizione del Papa

Da quando mondo è mondo, la solitudine è stata sempre la peggiore consigliera, quando c'è di mezzo la nostalgia per la casa e la Patria lontana. Infatti un poeta ha detto: «Tutte le malattie dello spirito, che conducono alla più triste rovina, derivano principalmente dalla solitudine».

Il problema dei nostri giovani connazionali, che si trovano in questa terra senza i loro cari è veramente delicato ed è bene metterlo in risalto affinché non li porti verso strade sbagliate. I nostri ragazzi soffrono più di ogni altro di questo isolamento forzato in quanto è risaputo che il nostro popolo, fra le sue più spiccate caratteristiche, possiede quello di una maggiore emotività ed esuberanza ed è quindi particolarmente bisognoso di affetto. Non essere nella possibilità di darne o riceverne porta a volte i giovani a affrettate decisioni nella ricerca della moglie australiana che, purtroppo, non sempre risponde alle loro esigenze per la diversità di ambiente, di lingua e di carattere.

Fra le molte lettere ricevute, quella di un giovane rispecchia appunto, a causa della sua preoccupazione di risolvere quel problema, complicazioni non facili a risolversi.

Ecco quanto mi scrive:

Lesiani G., Melbourne
...Lena, la mia storia è questa: Ho conosciuto la mia fidanzata australiana attraverso un avviso economico di un giornale locale. Ero stanco di essere solo e, mi creda,

è penoso ritornare dal lavoro e trovare un ambiente freddo, prepararsi da mangiare in solitudine; per questo desideravo crearmi una famiglia quanto prima. In pochi mesi ci siamo fidanzati poiché vedevo in lei una buona compagna. Abbiamo comprato le prime cose indispensabili per la casa dopo aver dato un acconto per la nostra futura casetta. Persino la data del nostro matrimonio era già fissata. Tutto sembrava che

mi portasse alla felicità, ma qualche settimana fa, improvvisamente, tutto è crollato. A poco a poco avevo notato diversità di carattere tra il mio e quello della mia fidanzata. Mentre a me sorrideva, con i suoi familiari era insolente, senza rispetto; oserei dire, crudele. Un giorno, mentre assieme passavamo per la via che ci riportava a casa, un bambino, correndo involontariamente la urto'. Lei inviperita

volle piegarlo ma, impossibilitata a farlo, lo investì con parolacce che mi fecero vergognare di averla al mio fianco. Come posso sposare una donna che per modi ed educazione di sentimenti è tanto diversa da me? Come potrei legarmi a lei per tutta la vita se non rispetta nemmeno i suoi genitori ed i bambini? Di conseguenza mi sono sentito in dovere di ridarle la parola promessa e di lasciarle la sua libertà, ma essa mi ha minacciato di denunciarmi per mancato matrimonio. Mi consigli lei...

Il suo caso è veramente triste, ma non infrequente quando la scelta della propria ragazza viene fatta frettolosamente senza il preludio di una reciproca simpatia. Secondo me ha fatto assai bene a lasciarla libera. Per quanto riguarda la denuncia che la ragazza potrebbe sporgere verso di lei, non si preoccupi troppo; è meglio che lei paghi ora un piccolo indennizzo che pagare poi per tutta la vita, con conseguenze molto più gravi. Non si rattristi troppo per quanto le è successo; le auguro maggiore fortuna in seguito e mi permetto suggerirle di frequentare un poco l'ambiente italiano: sono certa che troverà una ragazza adatta ai suoi sentimenti. Con questo augurio riceva i miei più cari saluti.

Lo svolgimento delle pratiche le verrà a costare due o tre sterline.

Questo è quanto lei desidera sapere ed io sono certa che tutto si svolgerà secondo i suoi desideri. Riceva i miei migliori auguri.

Io personalmente ebbi la fortuna di visitare la casa dove nacque nel «dolce paese che non dico» ed in quell'occasione ho conosciuto lo scrittore F. Scavini, di Rivarolo Canavese, il quale fu amico intimo del Gozzano ed ora è un suo fedele bibliografo. Dopo la tua lettera gli ho scritto per avere da lui qualche aneddoto o qualche originale episodio di questo poeta per farlo conoscere ai miei amici lettori.

Saluti cari

Lena

Il Poeta delle donne

Lucilla F., Adelaide.

Questa signorina mi domanda chi era e quando visse il poeta Guido Gozzano, e quali sono le sue opere.

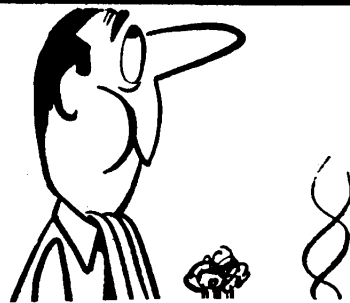
Nella mia rubrica, dove ho trattato i più svariati argomenti, era rimasta una lacuna sulla poesia ed ecco che ora una gentile e giovane lettrice della lontana Adelaide ha pensato di colmarla.

Ti dirò, cara Lucilla, che Guido Gozzano era piemontese, nato ad Aglie Canavese nel 1884. Questo poeta morì giovanissimo da un male incurabile nel 1916. La sua giovane esistenza è stata seminata da tante liriche poetiche che rimarranno eterne nella letteratura italiana.

I suoi immortali «Colloqui», «La via del rifugio», «L'amica di nonna Speranza» costituiscono le pietre miliari della sua poesia.

E' stato il Poeta che si affermò in tutta l'Italia appena vennero pubblicati i suoi versi; la sua poesia delicata e piena di sentimento infiamma subito i cuori, specialmente quelli delle donne e da queste dovette difendersi fino al giorno della sua morte. Fu quindi considerato il poeta del sesso gentile.

**AL CAMPO
SPORTIVO**



Quando si e' buoni si ha diritto alla felicità

Ci sono esseri umani che, avendo commesso nella loro gioventù qualche «leggerezza», divenuti adulti si pentono e si amareggiano fino a diventare vittime di un complesso che distrugge la loro vita.

Mi piace ricordare Ippolito Nievo il quale affermava che la gioventù è il paradiso della vita e la allegria è la gioventù eterna dell'anima.

Pero' questa gioventù, con la sua inesperienza e con la sua baldanza, porta spesso a delle amare esperienze.

E' a lei, cara giovane sposina di Melbourne, a lei, carissima B. A., che indirizzo questa mia lettera per dirle che assolutamente non si deve cruciare così per lo sbaglio commesso a diciassette anni. Lei a quell'età credeva profondamente e sinceramente nell'uomo che il destino fatalmente le ha tolto. Ora è tardi. Rievocare quella triste parentesi della sua vita all'uomo dal quale ora è amata tanto sinceramente, sarebbe come creare un castello di fantasmi che il tempo ingrandirebbe sempre più e che non farebbe che avvelenare la vostra vita coniugale. Questa era una cosa da fare prima del matrimonio, quando cioè lui aveva la possibilità di scegliere fra il sì ed il no: ora, dal momento che vivete felici, è inutile ed assurdo turbare questo vostro amore. Mi creda, amica cara, molti in gioventù o per inesperienza o per fiducia nel prossimo sbagliano ed acquisiscono quella esperienza che serve poi per tutta la vita, e spese volte ci rende migliori. Certo è meglio se si può uscire indenni, ma una volta superata quella dolorosa parentesi bisogna tornare in noi stessi e guardare in faccia

all'avvenire. Crede proprio che suo marito sia immune da tutti i peccati di gioventù? A che vale ricordare se questo non serve che ad inasprire gli animi e creare fantasmi che a volte sono peggiori della stessa realtà? Mi creda, signora cara, quando un passato costituisce colpa come lei mi dice, date le circostanze deve servire a lei sola, alla sua coscienza per renderla

più buona, più umana e più comprensiva verso colui che l'ha scelta come compagna per tutta la vita. Lei ora deve comportarsi in modo che suo marito possa avere completa fiducia in lei, deve cioè essere sposa e compagna affettuosa. Via i

cattivi pensieri; quello che conta ora non è più il passato, ma il presente e l'avvenire. Abbia fiducia soprattutto in se stessa, perché in fondo quando si scrivono lettere piene di sentimento come la sua, significa che l'animo è buono. E quando si è buoni si ha diritto alla felicità. Tanti cari auguri di prosperità e di bene.

NON E' LEI!

BEPI R., H. Hill

Tutte le sue preoccupazioni sono infondate poiché non si tratta della persona da lei menzionata. Le auguro perciò maggior fortuna ed un ritorno felice alla sua amata. Cordiali saluti.

per disintossicare l'organismo: qui non so se esistono in commercio, comunque qualcosa di simile dovrebbe poterlo trovare anche a Cairns.

Per maggior tranquillità chiedo pure al suo medico di fiducia se i suggerimenti che le ho dato possono servire al suo caso. Ricordi però che in tutte le cure ci vuole perseveranza e fiducia e soprattutto non bisogna lasciarsi abbattere; solo così lei potrà migliorare e vedere il suo domani meno nero. Le porgo i miei auguri con la speranza che presto mi riscriva dicendomi che è sulla via di guarigione completa.

* * *

OPERE BUONE

MARIA RACCANELLO

Yenda (N.S.W.)

Ho tanto gradito la sua cara lettera e mi sono molto turbata saperla all'ospedale; se avessi saputo le sarei stata più vicina almeno con qualche parola di conforto. Ho ricevuto pure i 10 scellini che aggiungo al fondo della povera mamma italiana. Sarò felice avere ancora sue notizie e voglia gradire i miei migliori auguri di bene.

* * *

VITTORIO COBAU, Cabramatta (Sydney)

La sua lettera è stata trasmessa alla persona interessata, nella sua ho trovato pure 10 scellini che non avendo alcuna destinazione ho creduto opportuno aggiungerli sul fondo della povera madre italiana.

La ringrazio di cuore e le auguro Buona Fortuna!

LENA

OFFERTE PRO

«UNA MAMMA
CHIEDE AIUTO»

Totale precedente: £454.6.
£6/10/48: Otto Italiani di

MATRIMONIO PER PROCURA

MARCO P., Islington, N.S.W.

Questa settimana ho pubblicato il suo Cramma ne «La Fiamma della Domenica» e, se non fosse troppo tardi, vorrei qui consigliarla di non compiere quel passo fatale e strappare la donna dal suo destino. Purtroppo la vita è fatta di sacrifici e di rinunce, ed essere sposa è come una missione: non si può con la leggerezza di chi compra un cappellino tenerlo o buttarlo a proprio piacimento. Non dimentichi che la signora Gina per fare il passo che ha fatto, e cioè sposare per procura un uomo sconosciuto, deve aver avuto le sue buone ragioni e se ha preferito lasciare l'Italia ed andare incontro all'ignoto, ciò significa che doveva averlo bene maturato prima. Se lei non ha trovato poi il marito di suo gradimento, chi mi dice che lui sia completamente soddisfatto della moglie, specialmente ora? Ma si può rompere un legame fatto davanti a Dio solo perché la sua figura esteriore non le piace o perché crede ora di avere incontrato l'uomo dei suoi sogni? La signora Gina non dovrebbe dimenticare che la bellezza fisica scompare con gli anni e con una dura vita di lavoro; quello che resta è la bellezza intima di un uomo e forse suo marito è dotato di virtù morali tali e di bellezza spirituale dalle quali anche il più giovane e bel ragazzo potrebbe trarne esempio. Non si può giudicare dall'esteriorità di una persona!

Lei, caro amico, consideri questa avventura come una parentesi o come un sogno e cerchi una brava ragazza che possa portare fra la gente a testa alta e dimentichi la moglie di un altro. Tanti cari auguri di ogni bene.

INCHIOSTRO SIMPATICO

GLI UOMINI questi mascalzoni

— Che gli uomini fossero cacciatori lo sapevo da tempo — mi scrive Rosaura B. di Melbourne — ma che fossero pure così villi e mascalzoni non lo supponevo. Ascolta la mia storia e giudica, cara Lena, poichè non so a chi rivolgermi per sfogare un po' la mia amarezza e per avere, se possibile, un tuo consiglio. Ho vent'anni e fra un mese dovrò sposare un giovane al quale voglio bene più della mia vita. Egli sembrava la perla dei ragazzi mentre ora sono venuta a conoscenza che mi tradisce con la mia migliore amica. E' una cosa infamante poichè quando sono con me tutti e due mi colmano di sorrisi e di attenzioni mentre, dopo avermi lasciata, si incontrano e passano altre ore insieme. Come si può essere così spudorati ed approfittare della mia fiducia? Debbo sposare un insetto simile? Al colmo della disperazione gli ho fatto una scenata, ma egli per tutta risposta se n'è andato senza darmi soddisfazione. Cosa devo fare? Come devo comportarmi, posso perdonare e ridargli la mia fiducia? —

Cara amica, comprendo

il tuo risentimento e perdono la tua lettera piena di rancore. Per precisare devo dirti che nel tuo caso i mascalzoni sono due e non uno solo. Non so se le mie parole potranno sanare il tuo risentimento e sbollire la tua ira; il tuo non è un caso singolo, ma cose che succedono molto spesso. Cara, anzitutto ti consiglio di calmarti e di considerare la cosa nel suo giusto aspetto. Pensa che la felicità a volte si deve conquistare a duro prezzo. Comunque a parte tutto, se il ragazzo ha scelto di sposare te e non la tua amica, vuol dire che egli ama te e non lei e che tu sola puoi essere la sua compagna ideale. Forse tu vedi più nero di quello che è veramente. Certo che nella vita degli uomini c'è qualcosa di misterioso: chi ha molto e chi ha niente. Hanno una strana natura, ad essi piace assaporare il fiore degli altri per poi ritornare, delusi, all'ovile.

Un proverbio cinese dice che si conquista più con il miele che con la spada e ciò ti deve essere sempre di monito affinché non ti lasci trasportare troppo dalle pa-

role e dalla tua impulsività giovanile se vuoi non perdere il tuo mascalzoncello. Cerca di essere affettuosa e gentile e più vicina possibile al tuo innamorato senza fargli delle scenate che possono a volte creare l'irreparabile e vedrai che fra un mese potrai coronare il tuo sogno d'amore con il settimo Sacramento. Fin da ora ti faccio i miei migliori auguri perchè tu possa trovare quella serenità tanto necessaria per andare incontro sorridente alla tua nuova vita. Abbiti un caro abbraccio

...

Il Vescovo di Palermo

Signorina Catamato, Cairns (Q'ld.).

Cara amica, sono lieta di poterla accontentare comunicandole il nome del Vescovo di Palermo. Si chiama: S. E. Cardinale Ernesto Ruffini, Palazzo Arcivescovado, Via Matteo Bonello 2, Palermo, dove potrà rivolgersi per quanto le necessità. Auguri di ogni bene.

Un viaggio gratis

La Direzione de LA FIAMMA sta elaborando un concorso al quale potranno partecipare tutte le famiglie italiane che hanno dei bambini della età da uno ai sei anni.

Il concorso è stato indetto per premiare i più bei bambini italiani in terra d'Australia. L'am-

SALOTTO DI
LENA

Le vicende premiare

Diversi amici lettori mi hanno chiesto la graduatoria delle vicende apparse ne:

La Fiamma della
Domenica

durante il mese di agosto. Eccovi accontentati:

- 1) I cinque minuti più pericolosi della mia vita (vincente con 103 tagliandi);
- 2) Oltre la morte (66 tagliandi);
- 3) Dove sarà? (52 tagliandi);
- 4) Fontana di Trevi (39 tagliandi);
- 5) Ho sposato un vagabondo (22 tagliandi).

Mentre ringrazio tutti per la loro collaborazione mandando tagliandi e vicende, invito i lettori ad una collaborazione sempre più attiva per il mese di settembre.

Devo informare il signor Di Tullio Leandro, H. E. C., Bronte Park, Tasmania, che i suoi tagliandi mi sono giunti con ritardo. Mentre la ringrazio, porgo a mezzo suo un saluto a tutti gli Italiani della Tasmania. Buona fortuna per il mese di settembre.

L'importanza di un nome

A. Carbonaro, Melbourne.

Cara Amica, perdoni il ritardo nel rispondere alla sua lettera. Le lettere che ricevo sono molte e non sempre posso evaderle con la sollecitudine che vorrei anche perchè a volte sono costretta a dare la precedenza ai casi più urgenti ed alle lettere più assillanti. Comunque non mi sono dimenticata di lei ed oggi spero di accontentarla. Anzitutto congratulazioni per la scelta del nome imposto al suo figlio. Sergio è un nome arabo e significa

PER
L'I
volgete
Sig.ra
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RICHI
To

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INCHIOSTRO SIMPATICO

**Chi
ha vinto
il concorso?**

[illegible]

quando l'ho saputo, so

stionario maschile denota una certa primitività e quando i giornali australiani attaccano gli italiani, perché vestiti con una certa carezza, penso che

reottero bene a guidare
se atarsi. Però anche
loro l'umanità va accom-
rendo, tanto che nell'ab-
biante sociale elevato si
strallano il modo di ver-
re è identico a quello
nostri uomini, e non p-
serà molto tempo che
che l'altra categoria ca-
biaria sistema e trova
conveniente l'uso di que-
l'indumento intimo
quale per il momento a-
ne conoscono l'utilità. Co-
tenta? Ha visto che

spendere su queste col-
me? Saluti cari.
• • •

LETTERE
DALLA TASMANIA

ANTONIO PEZZUTO
Ulverstone, Tasmania
Grazie per le sue o-
gentili parole. La
lettera è stata consegnata
al Direttore e sono co-
che farà l'impossibile
eliminare l'inconveniente.

**Solo al
morte
non si
rimedi**

che edu-
casse in
persone
ineccente
a una suo-

marito che
economie
che occor-
za per la
pona vive-
e dove
te visitare
che decide-
le marita-
e l'archia-
e, lui
tornare la
esso regna
ha fat-

particolare,
le tue
zio
piacere
endi con
de «La
e leggi con
mia rubri-

E adesso desidero ricordarvi alcuni degli episodi che, nel mondo, ci hanno maggiormente impressionati nel 1957 :

L'Unione Sovietica manda nello spazio il primo essere vivente, la cagnetta "LAIKA".

A New York, muore il Maestro ARTURO TOSCANINI, che e' considerato il Direttore d'orchestra piu' bravo e piu' famoso che abbia avuto il mondo della musica.

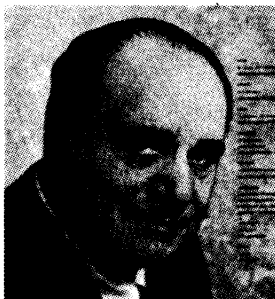
A Roma nasce la "CEE", Comunita' Economica Europea.

Sempre nel 1957, un altro lutto nel mondo musicale: muore il piu' grande tenore di tutti i tempi BENIAMINO GIGLI.



QUESTA E' LA CAGNETTA LAIKA

Mossa spaziale e prima lanciata ufficiale di Laika, la cagnetta che e' stata lanciata nello spazio a bordo di un grande satellite artificiale nel mese di novembre 1957. La cagnetta e' stata lanciata in un'orbita alta di 100 chilometri.



**1958 ANNO DI FIDUCIA NELLA VITA
NUOVE SCOPERTE SCIENTIFICHE RUSSE
LE AVVENTURE GALANTI DI UN MARITO
UN CALZOLAIO DIVENTATO RE
SALVARE UNA VITA
LA FELICITA' FATTA DI NIENTE**

Per Lena il 1958, inizio' con una lettera drammatica rivolta a una madre che, tormentata da una passione, voleva annullarsi uccidendosi. Aveva bisogno di sfogarsi, ed ha fatto bene, poiche' oggi, a distanza di 27 anni, ringrazierà Lena per essere stata dura nella sua risposta.

Sempre nel Gennaio di quell'anno, c'e' stata

una corrispondenza che trattava le buone maniere, come da insegnamento dell'ormai famoso, ma forse oggi passato di moda, Monsignore Della Casa.

Nel Febbraio e' stata messa in risalto la legge entrata in vigore in Australia per espellere gli indesiderabili. Ma quello che maggiormente ha tormentato Lena in quel periodo e' stato il caso di un giovane uomo (oggi possiamo rivelare il suo nome: si trattava di Renato Lizier). Il titolo della corrispondenza diceva: SALVIAMO UNA VITA. Quando questo giovane di 35 anni, scrisse a Lena, era in Australia da soli 6 mesi e da poco aveva contratto una grave malattia, ancor oggi incurabile: LA SCLEROSI A PLACCHE. In quel periodo si era da poco diffusa la notizia che scienziati russi avevano scoperto la medicina "NIVALIN", atta a curare quella malattia. Da quel momento Lena si preoccupò di far giungere a Renato quella medicina sperando lo potesse aiutare, se non a guarire, almeno a fermare il male che avanzava; infatti Lena ogni volta che andava a Fairfield a trovare Renato, lo trovava in peggioramento. Dalle lettere del Console Generale Dott. Carnevali e di Claudio Villa si puo' vedere fin dove arrivasse l'interessamento per questo caso. (Claudio Villa era appena tornato da un giro turistico in Russia ed aveva portato in Italia alcune fiale del medicamento)- Di questo episodio ne parlerò ancora nel capitolo delle storie umane.

In Marzo si presenta a Lena un altro caso commovente che viene messo in risalto col titolo. SEVERITA' NON E' AMORE. Riguardava il giovane FOGLIETTA BRUNO da Orange per il quale in seguito e' stato fatto un appello.

Il tempo cammina, i mesi passano ed i casi da prendere in considerazione, nelle sue corrispondenze settimanali, si fanno sempre piu' frequenti.

In Aprile appare il titolo "STERLINE CHE FOLLIA", con questo si vuol mettere in risalto i sacrifici di una famiglia. Poi e' la volta della corrispondenza che ha per titolo: RITORNI GIUSEPPE! Lettera diretta ad un marito e papa' che aveva abbandonato la famiglia.

Poi c'e' la corrispondenza educativa sugli usi e costumi degli italiani, ma quelle che maggiormente ci hanno fatto meditare, in Maggio, sono state le pagine coi titoli: "DEVO COMPRARE MIA MOGLIE" ed "UN GRAZIE DALL'ITALIA". Quest'ultima era della signora Fiore che ringraziava dell'appello fatto da Lena e che le aveva dato la possibilita' di avere, per la figlia paralitica, la sedia a rotelle che le era stata consegnata da un inviato del giornale "IL MESSAGGERO DI ROMA" e dal SINDACO DELLA CITTA'.

Tra Giugno e Settembre seguono le corrispondenze: "NON E' MAI TROPPO TARDI PER MIGLIORARE" (un invito a leggere ed a meditare sui buoni libri, onde farsi una cultura) mentre l'altra "SULL'INDIPENDENZA DI UNA CASA PROPRIA", metteva a fuoco il problema e la lotta fra un inquilino ed il padrone di casa.

"L'ALTRA CAMPANA", apparve in Ottobre. Lena tratta il problema della casa in affitto, con l'esposizione delle idee del padrone di casa che si lamenta del comportamento degli inquilini. Poi ancora in Ottobre, Lena, ha l'opportunità ed il piacere di intervistare SALVATORE FERRAGAMO, il "RE" delle calzature italiane, che in Sydney aveva fatto un'esposizione delle sue famose scarpe, ormai note in tutto il mondo, lasciando un autorevole insegnamento ai giovani dicendo che: anche un lavoro umile come quello del calzolaio, se e' fatto con passione, puo' portare alla celebrita' e dare ricchezza. Non solo, ma Ferragamo, da

astuto commerciante, con la sua mostra di calzature italiane, nelle città australiane, aveva creato quella campagna promozionale per il "MADE IN ITALY" che ha fatto conoscere i prodotti italiani di classe in tutto il mondo, ma allora si era solo agli inizi. I grandi della moda italiana sono venuti dopo molti anni.

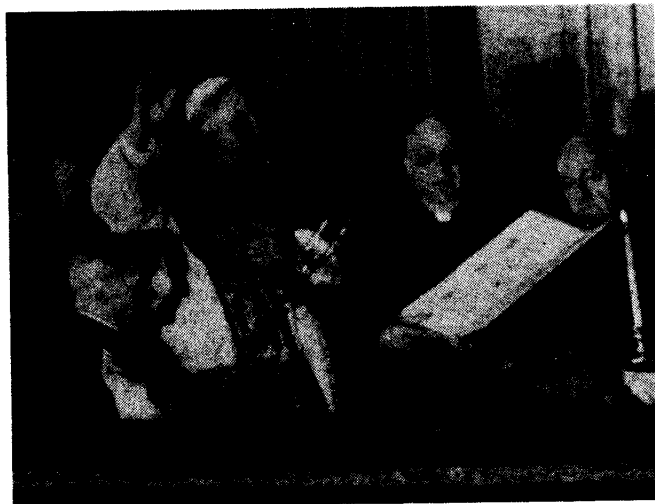
Le rubriche continuano con argomenti di interesse generale e, nel mese di Dicembre, viene dato risalto alla DONNA IDEALE, spronando il sesso "non più tanto debole", a far valere anche in Australia le proprie virtù di donne italiane, che possono vantare qualcosa in più di quelle rimaste in Italia. Nel 1958 la donna ideale era la Signora LAURETTA TONITTO.



E per chiudere quell'anno, la corrispondenza si ferma nel campo di Bonegilla nel Vic., dove l'infermiere ATTILIO DEREANI segnalava il caso interessante e pietoso: quello di ADAMO SABATURA, che costretto a letto da un male inguaribile, desiderava avere una radio, per poter ascoltare, durante le sue lunghe giornate, un po' di musica e le notizie. Come regalo di Natale, Lena accontenta anche il pur modesto desiderio di questo nostro connazionale.

1958 - NEL MONDO:

Muore a Castel Gandolfo PIO XII, gli succederà il Patriarca di Venezia ANGELO RONCALLI.
A Roma viene approvata la legge MERLIN.
A Strasburgo viene inaugurato il Parlamento Europeo.
In Francia il Generale DE GAULLE, ottiene dall'Assemblea Nazionale i pieni poteri per 6 mesi.
A Cuba trionfa FIDEL CASTRO.



Venerdì, 12 Aprile 1958.

"LA FIAMMA"

Venerdì, 20 Giugno 1958.

"LA FIAMMA"

Lena risponde:

INCHIOSTRO SIMPATICO

**SEVERITA'
NON E' AMORE!**

ANSI,
D'IMI
MARI
DO
MIA,
LA
Venerdì

Quarta 8

"LA FIAMMA"

Lena risponde:

INCHIOSTRO SIMPATICO

**Non e' mai tardi
per migliorare**

dimostrato di avere, arri-
verso al traguardo e sa-
prai stare accanto al tuo
solito compagno. Nella tua
missione non dimenticare
una cosa: mostra al tuo
futuro sposo inglese tutto
ciò che di bello e positi-
vo possiede la nostra Ita-
lia, sicché egli, amando
la nostra patria e la no-
stra deliziosa di senti-

Amadeo C. di Marsfield, ha corra corrispondente della oltre ad istruirvi nel cam- nonna anche qualche op- una deliziosa di senti-

Lena risponde:

.....

INCHIOSTRO

STERLINE... CHE FOLLIA

Venerdì 16 Maggio 1958

"LA FIAMMA"

Lena risponde:

INCHIOSTRO SIMPATICO

Due parole ad un padre:

Ritorni, Giuseppe!

TRAS
S. A.
Orsini
LUI par
rentine
di essere
miglia a
te, e a
che la.

Venerdì, 9 Maggio 1958.

"LA FIAMMA"

Lena risponde:

INCHIOSTRO SIMPATICO

**Devo comprare mia moglie?
Amici lettori, consigliatemi e consigliatelo**

Utopia la vita in comune

**L'INDIPENDENZA
NON HA PREZZO**

60

Mercoledì 15 Ottobre 1958.

INCHIOSTRO SIMPATICO

**L'altra
campana**

re agire coloro che abbi-
tano in case di affitto in
modo tale da lasciare
dietro di loro un buon
ricordo. Se così' avremo
ragione di agire, avremo
dalla nostra parte anche
la fortuna.
A lei, signor Scuderi, il
mio affettuoso augurio
per una prossima socie-
tà migliore delle altre e
tanti cari saluti.

Mercoledì, 24 Settembre 1958.

INCHIOSTRO SIMPATICO

Lena risponde:

**TRAGUARDO RAGGIUNTO
E' FINITA LA CARA
DI GENEROSITA'**

Noi Italiani non chie-
diamo che di essere buo-
ni. La gara per aiutare
l'infelice Rosolino lo di-
mostra.

"LA FIAMMA"

Lena risponde:

**DONNINE
ASSENATE**

M.G. - Nth. Richmond, da qualche malattia
dentale (malattia dentaria)
Victoria.
Cara amica, la tua dell'apparato digerente
lettera mi dà l'idea che tu
consultato non ha
osservazione che tu sei una persona