

## Adoptee finds freedom, then helps others get settled

Innocente Pissocra knew the meaning of helping others through hard times.

"My father never did speak much of the early years," said

Mrs. Edith Bonvechio of Wainwright.

"He kept much of it to himself. I think sometimes it was the custom.

"On the other hand, I think he spoke of it

more to the grandchildren than to his own children."

Innocente Pissocra was an

orphan in Italy. There is a family story which says that he was literally "left on the doorstep," but Mrs. Bonvechio said she could not confirm that.

"I do not even know why the name of Pissocra was retained, because he was adopted in Italy," she said.

It was the Terazzi family which adopted Innocente. "... and when they came to this country and settled in Goshen, my father was with them," Mrs. Bonvechio said. "It was a wonderful thing, but I am afraid that is about all I can tell you."

According to Mrs. Virginia (Tamborini) Terrazzi, 95, of Country Club Retirement Center

at Dover and formerly of Goshen, it was her late husband's father, Antonio Terazzi, who went to an Italian orphanage and adopted Innocente.

There were five children already in the family, two girls and three boys.

She did not know why the adoption took place. Her husband Carlo was only 2 years old when his father, then in Barnhill, sent for his family, including Innocente, to join him.

At age 16, Innocente returned to Italy where he served a required time in the Italian army.

"I know a good part of that time was spent in Africa," said Mrs. Bonvechio, although she knew none of the details.

After his discharge from the army, he returned to Goshen and later sent for his sweetheart still in Italy.

Theresa Cogliati and Innocente Pissocra were married and had four children, Edith (Mrs. Bonvechio), Mary, Inez, and Carl Pissocra Sr. of New Philadelphia.

Innocente's first trade was as a coal miner. "When the Goshen mine closed many of the people moved to Wainwright to work,"

Mrs. Bonvechio said.

"But Dad didn't want to move for some reason. He never left Goshen."

It was about that time (1915-16) that he opened a grocery store in Goshen and bought a store in Wainwright from Ed Pissoni.

Mary worked at the Goshen store while Inez and Elsie operated the Wainwright store.

Customers came from as far as what was called the Indian Hill area outside Uhrichsville.

"Purchases were all credit in those days," she smiled wistfully.

Charles Simonetti Sr. of Wainwright had high praise for Innocente Pissocra.

"I was young then, but I remember and was later told of the many new Italian families which Pissocra helped settle and establish in a new land," he said.



PISSOCRA