

The journey from Trentino to Alaska
By Tam Agosti-Gisler

In September 2021, my 24-year-old daughter, Gabriella, and I headed to the Big Apple for a 72-hour visit. Our primary objective was to arrive by ferry to Ellis Island on the morning of September 16, 2021. Why was that date significant to us? It was the centennial anniversary of the arrival of my grandparents, Serafino and Ebe Agosti, and my 20-month-old father, Lino, in America!

My grandfather, Serafino Giovanni Agosti, was born April 13, 1893 in the village of Scanna di Livo. Val di Non is located in the Italian-speaking province of Trentino and was then a part of the Austro-Hungarian empire. He was the youngest child of seven. Serafino attended school until the mandatory age of 14 and did well in his studies as his transcript attests. He then learned the profession of cheese making and is reputed to have traveled to nearby Switzerland to sell his products.





Serafino played accordion in a band with his brothers, and as a part-time musician, he may have traveled with his music group up and down Lago di Garda on the ferryboats that plied that Italian lake. It is speculated that he met his future wife, Ebe Aldina Pedroni, while playing at a dance.





Serafino and Ebe

Serafino was conscripted to fight in the Austrian army in the “Great War” - WWI. One can imagine how it would have been emotionally conflicting to be on the opposite side of Italy in this conflict. Serafino also suffered the trauma and hardship of surviving in a Russian POW camp. He was released in 1917 before the hostilities ceased and returned to his village an emaciated figure of his former self. Shortly thereafter, in February 1918, he was engaged to his Italian sweetheart, Ebe, and on December 1, 1918 they were married. He settled in Acquafredda, located in the province of Brescia, not far from her hometown of Remedello Sopra. He found work as a cheesemaker in a 25-family farm factory with adjoining living quarters. Serafino would soon no longer be an Austrian citizen, but an Italian, as

vanquished Austria was forced to cede the South Tyrol and Trentino territory to Italy post-war.



Ebe and Serafino on their wedding day

Provincia di MANTOVA

Comune di CASALMORO

Certificato di Matrimonio

L'UFFICIALE DELLO STATO CIVILE

ispezionato il Registro degli atti di matrimonio dell'anno 1918 e specialmente
l'atto segnato col progressivo N. 3

CERTIFICA

che il Sig. Agosti Giovanni di Davide - casaro
si unì in matrimonio colla Signora Pedroni Ebe d.
Giuseppe - casalinga dinanzi a quest'Ufficio il
giorno primo dicembre mille novecento diciotto

Il presente Certificato si rilascia al Sig. Agosti
Giovanni in seguito a sua
domanda per uso privato

Dall'Ufficio Municipale, li 21 Febbraio 1919



L'Ufficiale dello Stato Civile

Benedetto

Ebe and Serafino welcomed their first-born, Lino Davide Agosti, in January 1920 but were neither settled nor content with their lives.

..... Reg. Certificati

Comune di ACQUAFREDDA

Provincia di Brescia

UFFICIO DI STATO CIVILE

CERTIFICATO DI NASCITA

L'UFFICIALE SOTTOSCRITTO

dichiara che AGOSTI Lino Davide

figli.o di Serafino e di Pedroni Ebe

è nato in questo Comune il giorno sei

del mese di gennaio dell'anno 1920

e che l'atto relativo venne iscritto nel registro dei nati nello stesso

anno al N. tre Parte prima Serie -----


Il presente si rilascia in carta libera per gli usi

acconsentiti dalla legge.-----

Dal Municipio, li 28 Aprile 1941 - X IX°

L'Ufficiale dello Stato Civile

.....





Lino Davide (John) Agosti, born January 6, 1920

Serafino's older brother, Daniele, had immigrated to Ohio in 1913 and found work in the coal mines. He wanted them to join him before the growing anti-immigration sentiment "closed the doors" to America. In addition to Serafino's challenges to return to full health, there were likely financial and post-1918 Spanish flu pandemic economic stresses affecting the young family. The growing uneasiness with the Fascist movement in Italy may have also been factor in their decision to emigrate from Italy. They obtained passports, medical tests, and visas in May 1921 just as the U.S. Quota Act was signed into law. This Act set monthly quotas that limited admission of each nationality to three percent of its 1910 Census representation.

Il sottoscritto medico-interno di questo Comune

Certifica

che il Sig. Agosti Serafino Giovanni fu Davide
di anni 28 di Livo (Prov. di Trento) coniugato con
Petroni Ebe Aldina dimorante ad Acquafredda
è di sana e robusta costituzione fisica e non ebbe
mai o soffre di malattie mentali -

Il presente a richiesta dell'interessato ed
in carta libera per uso d'emigrazione

Acquafredda 2 Giugno 1921

H. Lindae

Il Sindaco sottoscritto dichiara che la firma
sopra detta è autentica, ed è quella del Sindaco
del Comune di Acquafredda

Acquafredda 6-6-1921

H. Lindae

Podestà



Serafino's health attestation used to get an American visa

- 1 -

Vidimazioni delle Autorità estere.

- 8 -

Visto dell'Autorità di P. S. di frontiera o del Porto d'imbarco o di sbarco.

USCITA	ENTRATA

- 1 -

Il presente Passaporto è valido per un anno

IN NOME DI SUA MAESTÀ
VITTORIO EMANUELE III
PER GRAZIA DI DIO E VOLONTÀ DELLA NAZIONE
RE D'ITALIA

PASSAPORTO

rilasciato a *Pedroni Ebe Aldissa*
figlio di *Giuseppe*
e di *Maddalena Maria*
nato a *Gridzolo* Prov. di *Mantova*
il *8 aprile 1895*
residente a *Legnanes* Prov. di *Brescia*
Stato civile *matrimonio sposi*
Professione *commerc*
Sa leggere *si* Sa scrivere *si*
Posizione di leva
Paese di *Italia* Località *Mestore*
destinazione Stato *St. Nord America*
Questore
Pedroni

(1) Autorità che rilascia il Passaporto.

No. 1215
AMERICAN CONSULATE MILAN, ITALY
SLEEN
Via Spina
Vice
JULY 2 1921
Fee No. 3587 588
Tariff No. 32-9
AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE \$10 FEE STAMP

- 2 -

Rinnovazioni, modificazioni e vidimazioni delle Autorità italiane.

- 3 -

Vidimazioni delle Autorità estere.

- 4 -

CONNOTATI

Statura m.	<i>1.49</i>
Fronte	<i>---</i>
Occhi	<i>---</i>
Naso	<i>---</i>
Occhia	<i>---</i>
Capelli	<i>---</i>
Barba	<i>---</i>
Altri	<i>---</i>
Colorito	<i>---</i>
Occupazione	<i>---</i>
Altri particolari	<i>---</i>

Firma del titolare *Pedroni Ebe Aldissa*
Visto per l'autenticazione della fotografia e della firma.

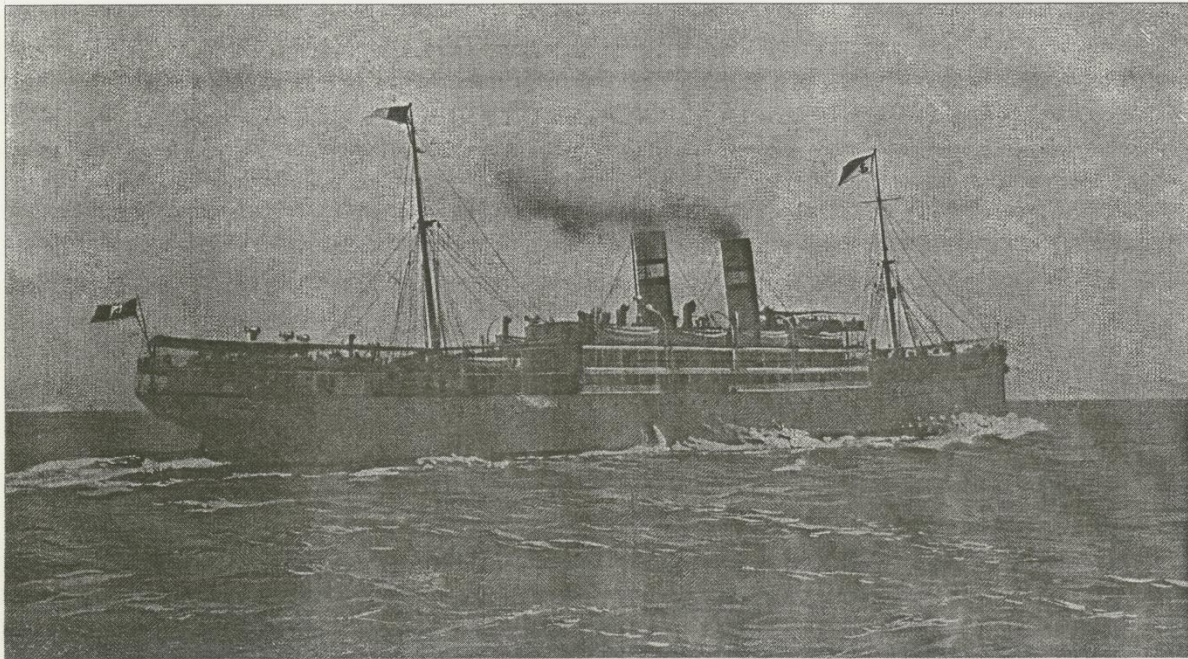
Il (1) *Mestore*

Passaporto rilasciato dalla *Questura di Brescia*
N° del Passaporto *---*
N° del Registro corrispondente *---*
Data del rilascio *25 Maggio 1921*

LIRE DUE 000986

Autorità che fa l'autenticazione.

Several pages of Ebe and Lino's Italian passport



On September 2, 1921, they boarded the Lloyd Sabaudo 'Regina di Italia' steamship in Naples and began their journey to America.

Regina d Italia

SHIP INFORMATION
Built by Sir James Laing & Sons Limited, Sunderland, England, 1907. 6560 gross tons; 430 (bp) feet long; 52 feet wide. Steam triple expansion engines, twin screw. Service speed 14 knots. 2020 passengers (120 first class, 1900 third class).

SHIP HISTORY
Built for Lloyd Sabaudo, Italian flag, in 1907 and named Regina d Italia. Italy-New York and Italy-South America service. Scrapped in Italy in 1928.

PHOTO CREDIT
Richard Faber Collection



Lino and Ebe

Decades later my grandmother related with disgust the third-class accommodations on the steerage level that all the women and children endured below-deck while my grandfather was assigned to stay above-deck with the men. In the museum at Ellis Island, we saw photos of rooms filled with four and six-berth cabins crowded with personal belongings that allowed no privacy yet offered lots of noise. Although there were meals provided by the steamship company in a dining space, many people brought familiar foods from their own lands which rotted in the heat, and the stench of this mixed with the smells of seasickness and unwashed bodies (due to lack of toilet facilities) were so putrid and upsetting that my 'nonna' never traveled by boat again in her life! Of concern to the healthy were also the infectious diseases that some passengers were carrying.

Two weeks later, on September 16, 1921, their ship arrived in the lower New York Bay where immigration officials normally boarded ships if there was no epidemic raging. They cleared first- and second-class passengers for immigration as they passed through the Narrows headed for the Hudson River piers. My grandmother and father climbed up the steerage docks to join my grandfather on deck for their first glimpse of America. The sight of the towering and impressive Statue of Liberty must have been memorable, and they surely marveled at the Manhattan skyline, although its height was considerably lower in those days.



View of Statue of Liberty on September 16, 2021



Author in New York Harbor, 100 years later, September 16, 2021

We were told most buildings were not taller than the 272-foot towers of the Brooklyn Bridge, which for a while after its completion in 1883, was the tallest structure in the Western hemisphere. The one exception was the Woolworth Building, completed in 1913 and measuring 792 feet, which held the record for tallest building until 1930. Nonetheless, the sights were impressive to these new arrivals who were anxious to disembark and start their new lives. However, the challenges were not yet over for the steerage passengers. Ellis Island's port was too shallow for the big ships, so those third-class passengers had to wait until it was their turn to board ferries to be shuttled over to the immigration station for processing.



View of Ellis Island from ferry, September 16, 2021



Ellis Island ferry dock, September 16, 2021



They were herded into the impressive four-towered French Renaissance brick and limestone building to drop baggage on the first floor and then climb the steep stairs to the great Registry Room on the second floor.



Historic photo of Great Hall



Great Hall in 2021



Tam sits on one of the same benches where immigrants waited for processing.

One can only imagine the cacophony as many languages filled that hall where 5,000 passengers a day were processed. People struggled to understand and translate the commands given to them in English. Inspections began as the hordes moved forward in line. Doctors had only a few seconds to check each person for visible symptoms of disease or disability. They scanned for cholera, scalp and nail fungus, tuberculosis, epilepsy, physical disability, insanity and mental impairments. In particular, they looked for a highly infectious eye infection called trachoma that could lead to blindness and death. My daughter and I were horrified to see the instrument officials used - a buttonhook - to turn the eyelid inside out looking for inflammation on the inner eyelid. This was painful, not to mention trauma inducing, especially for children like my father! Even though the three Agosti family members had all received clean bills of health by an Italian doctor before they sailed, my grandfather was very lucky he passed these medical tests for immigration since his early stages of esophageal cancer were not yet detectable.



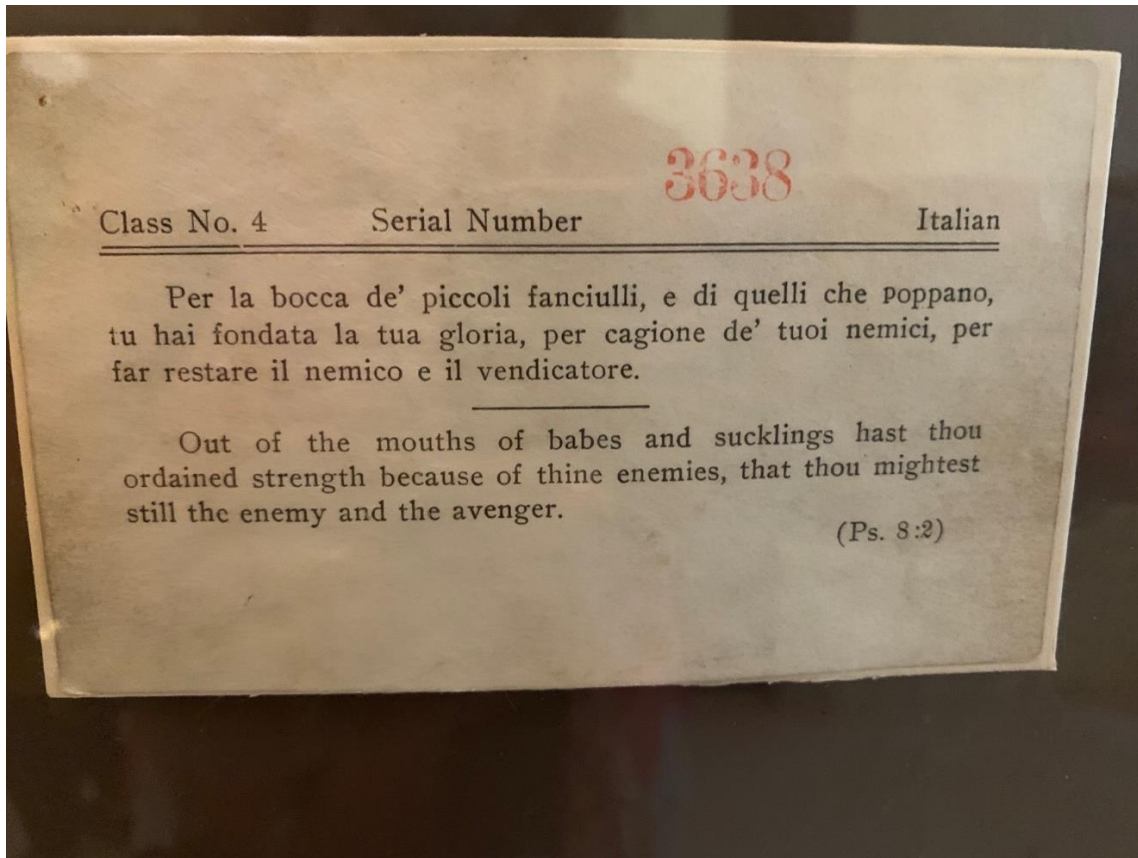
Historic photo of eye lid exam

My daughter and I took the special "hard hat tour" of the parts of Ellis Island not normally open to the general public and learned what happened to those who were marked with blue chalk and detained for further inspection. The sick were taken to the Ellis Island Hospital for care, and if they recovered, could proceed with processing. If they'd arrived with family, those members were given a choice to wait on the island in dormitories separated from the infirmed, or to proceed without them! I can imagine the anxiety of parents separated long-term from their children. The U.S. Public Health Service ran the facilities and put those with illnesses like diphtheria and measles in special wings isolated by the infectious disease. We were impressed with the sanitation standards not dissimilar to those we have all become familiar with in the time of Covid-19. Masking, handwashing, and distancing were the norm as well as daily sterilization of mattresses in 5-level autoclaves while sheets and blankets were washed in hot water. Nurses watched over their wards through large glass windows. The buildings were designed so patients could safely get sunlight and fresh air, considered necessary for healing, without contaminating others. Numerous doctors proficient in dealing with a variety of illnesses and diseases as well as a highly competent nursing staff worked on the island. After a tour of duty on Ellis, those doctors and nurses could write their tickets to the most desirable medical postings in the country. Many doctors came to Ellis Island to watch and learn by observing either the living or those undergoing autopsies in the island's morgue. There was also a psychopathic ward and a wing for those whose illnesses were deemed fatal. Those who recovered were fortunate to have had such good care, while those with incurable or disabling conditions were not. Denied entry to the U.S., they were returned to their port of departure at the full expense of the steamship companies. Those companies were also responsible for all meals of those waiting family members, even if it took months! The companies were additionally fined \$100 (equates to \$1500 today) for every excluded passenger to discourage them from transporting the ill, the physically or mentally disabled, or those "liable to become public charges" in the first place. Of note is that during its 50 years of operation, over 2500 immigrants died on Ellis Island, including 1400 children. 350 babies were born, and three suicides were recorded. It's easy to understand why people nicknamed Ellis Island either the Isle of Hope or the Isle of Tears based on their immigration outcome. Although only 2% were excluded, that added up with the millions who tried to immigrate to the U.S.

Once my grandparents and father passed the medical inspection, they entered a maze of lines delineated by metal railings and waited on wooden benches until their names were called. The immigration inspectors stood or sat behind tall desks assisted by interpreters fluent in many languages. They inspected passports, verified information listed on ship manifests and asked rapid-fire questions to prove moral, economic and social fitness. They also had to ascertain if they were within the immigration quotas for that month.



Tam simulates the processing of Gabriella into the United States of America.



Reading test for Italian immigrants



Due to the Alien Contract Labor Law of 1885 that made it illegal for an immigrant to already have a job arranged in the U.S. in exchange for passage, I imagine my grandfather had to be clever in convincing officials that he was strong, hardworking, and resourceful enough to find a job without revealing that his brother was already planning for Serafino to join him in the coal mines. Due to the 1917 anti-immigration forces that succeeded in getting literacy tests added to the entrance requirements to further restrict new arrivals, my grandparents also had to prove literacy, usually done by reading a biblical passage in the native language. Fortunately, both of my grandparents could read and write. In fact, my grandfather was fluent in three languages - Italian, German and the dialect of Ladin spoken in his Trentino valley. If they had failed to get over any of these hurdles, they could have been detained for a hearing before the Board of Special Inquiry, but fortune was with them that day. Finally, the Agosti family descended from the Registry Room down the "Stairs of Separation," so named since it marked the parting of ways for many families and friends to different destinations and were directed to the railroad ticket office. I'm sure the dread and fear they felt earlier that day gave way to relief and happiness. Since the Agosti family was headed east and didn't plan to stay in New York, they would have been directed to a New Jersey ferry that took them to the railroad station in either Jersey City or Hoboken where they could board a train. After tickets were procured, immigrants had a boldly printed tag pinned to their coat or hats to show conductors what lines they were traveling and where they needed to make connections.



Historic photo of immigrants waiting for ferries

Gabby and I perused railroad charts and believed they probably connected to the Baltimore & Ohio line to end up in Wheeling, West Virginia. There Serafino's brother would have met them for the final 20-mile trip to Lafferty, Ohio where they settled after their 5100-mile journey!

My father had one memory of the train trip, whether it's from stories told to him or his own recollection I do not know. He said the train conductor gave him a banana but having ever before seen that fruit, he bit into it, peel, and all, much to everyone's amusement.

After arrival in Ohio, my grandfather began the hard work of laboring in the coal mines along with his brother and other Trentino immigrants while both he and Ebe struggled to learn English.



Historic photo of Lafferty coal mine



Daniele Agosti and his fellow mine workers in Lafferty, Ohio



Lino and 'Zio' or Uncle
Daniele Agosti in Lafferty, Ohio

Within 16 months of their arrival in America, Serafino and Ebe welcomed their second child to the family, a daughter they named Lydia.



The Agosti Family 1923 Serafino, Lino, Ebe and Lydia

Serafino filed his Declaration of Intention (to become a citizen) with the U.S. Department of Labor in May of 1924 and denounced all allegiance to King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy, a country he'd only been a citizen of for five years. It is unknown if he actually completed this process to become an American citizen. That same year, the national coal miner strike resulted in his unemployment. This in addition to his declining health prompted the family moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Form 2303
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
NATURALIZATION SERVICE

TRIPLICATE
(To be given to the person making the Declaration.)

No. 8034

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof

The State of Ohio } In the Common Pleas Court
Belmont County, } ss: of Belmont County, Ohio.

I, Juan Giovanna Serafino Agosti, aged 31 years, occupation Coal Miner, do declare on oath that my personal description is: Color white, complexion dark, height 5 feet 10 inches, weight 162 pounds, color of hair brown, color of eyes gray, other visible distinctive marks None.

I was born in Livo, Italy on the 13 day of April, anno Domini 1893; I now reside at Lafferty, Ohio, Box 195
(Give number, street, city or town, and State.)

I emigrated to the United States of America from Naples, Italy on the vessel Regina D'Italia; my last foreign residence was Livo; I am married; the name of my ^{wife} husband is Ebe; ^{she} ^{he} was born at Italy and now resides at Lafferty, Ohio.

It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to Victor Emmanuel III, King of Italy, of whom I am now a subject;

I arrived at the port of New York, in the State of New York, on or about the 18 day of September, anno Domini 1921; I am not an anarchist; I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein: SO HELP ME GOD.

Juan Giovanna Serafino Agosti
(Original signature of declarant)

Subscribed and sworn to before me in the office of the Clerk of said Court this 28 day of May, anno Domini 192 4.

[SEAL] Lawrence E. Imhoff
Clerk of the Common Pleas Court.

By Freda Thomas, Deputy Clerk.

14-1170

We believe Serafino's poor health began when he contracted pneumonia during his internment in the Russian POW camp, and that his health grew worse during his four and a half years in America. Ebe thought that his starvation ordeal on the journey home from Russia to Trentino was how he developed the esophageal cancer that eventually killed him. Work in the coal mines likely exacerbated the illness and his earlier pipe smoking habit may have also contributed. Sadly, he died on February 18, 1926, at the age of 32 leaving his widow with two small children to support on her own in a country where she was still learning the language and culture.



Serafino Giovanni Agosti, RIP February 18, 1926

My 'nonna' or grandmother struggled as a single mother but succeeded in raising her two children in downtown Pittsburgh. Ebe's pre-marriage employment with the family that ran La Scala Opera House in Milan had introduced her to the finer thing in life and she knew education was the key for social and economic advancement. Both children attended St. Patrick's grade school in downtown Pittsburgh. Ebe and Lino became American citizens in 1932. (Lydia was born in the US and already a citizen.)



Ebe, Lino, Lydia Agosti circa 1928



Mulberry Lane "gang" circa 1928; Lino, far left, Lydia to his right



Lino's St. Patrick's grade school class, 1936; Lino 2nd row, last on right

Ebe worked hard and sacrificed greatly to send her son to St. Vincent's Prep School in Latrobe, Pennsylvania where he excelled not only in academics, but in sports. He played on the basketball and football teams. He graduated in June 1939.



1938 St. Vincent Prep football team; Lino 2nd row, 3rd from right.

Saint Vincent College



Preparatory School

This Certifies That

Lino John Agosti

has satisfactorily completed the Course of Study as prescribed by this Institution and is therefore entitled to this

Diploma

Given at Latrobe, Pennsylvania, this second day of June, in
the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine.

Edmund Ames, O.S.B., Ph.D.
HEAD MASTER

Maurice Costello, O.S.B., Ph.D.
PRESIDENT


Lino's post-high school studies at the University of Pittsburgh in engineering were interrupted by his service during and after WWII in the U.S. Army. Lino rose to the rank of 1st Lieutenant and served as paratrooper in the 11th Airborne Division. He spent two years in Japan during the Occupation. He returned to the States and was honorably discharged on September 30, 1949.





Army paratrooper Lino practice jumping in Japan, 1945

THE
PRESIDENT
OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



To all who shall see these presents, greeting:
Know Ye, that reposing special trust and confidence in the patriotism, valor, fidelity
and abilities of Lino John Agosti
I do appoint him First Lieutenant, Coast Artillery Corps in the

Army of the United States

such appointment to date from the thirtieth day of September
nineteen hundred and forty-nine. He is therefore carefully and diligently to
discharge the duty of the office to which he is appointed by doing and performing all
manner of things thereunto belonging.

He will enter upon active duty under this commission only when specifically
ordered to such active duty by competent authority.
And I do strictly charge and require all Officers and Soldiers under his command
when he shall be employed on active duty, to be obedient to his orders as an officer of his
grade and position. And he is to observe and follow such orders and directions from time
to time, as he shall receive from me, or the future President of the United States of
America, or the General or other Superior Officers set over him, according to the rules
and discipline of War.

This commission evidences an appointment in the Army of the United States, under
the provisions of section 37, National Defense Act, as amended, and is to continue in
force for a period of five years from the date above specified, and during the pleasure
of the President of the United States, for the time being.

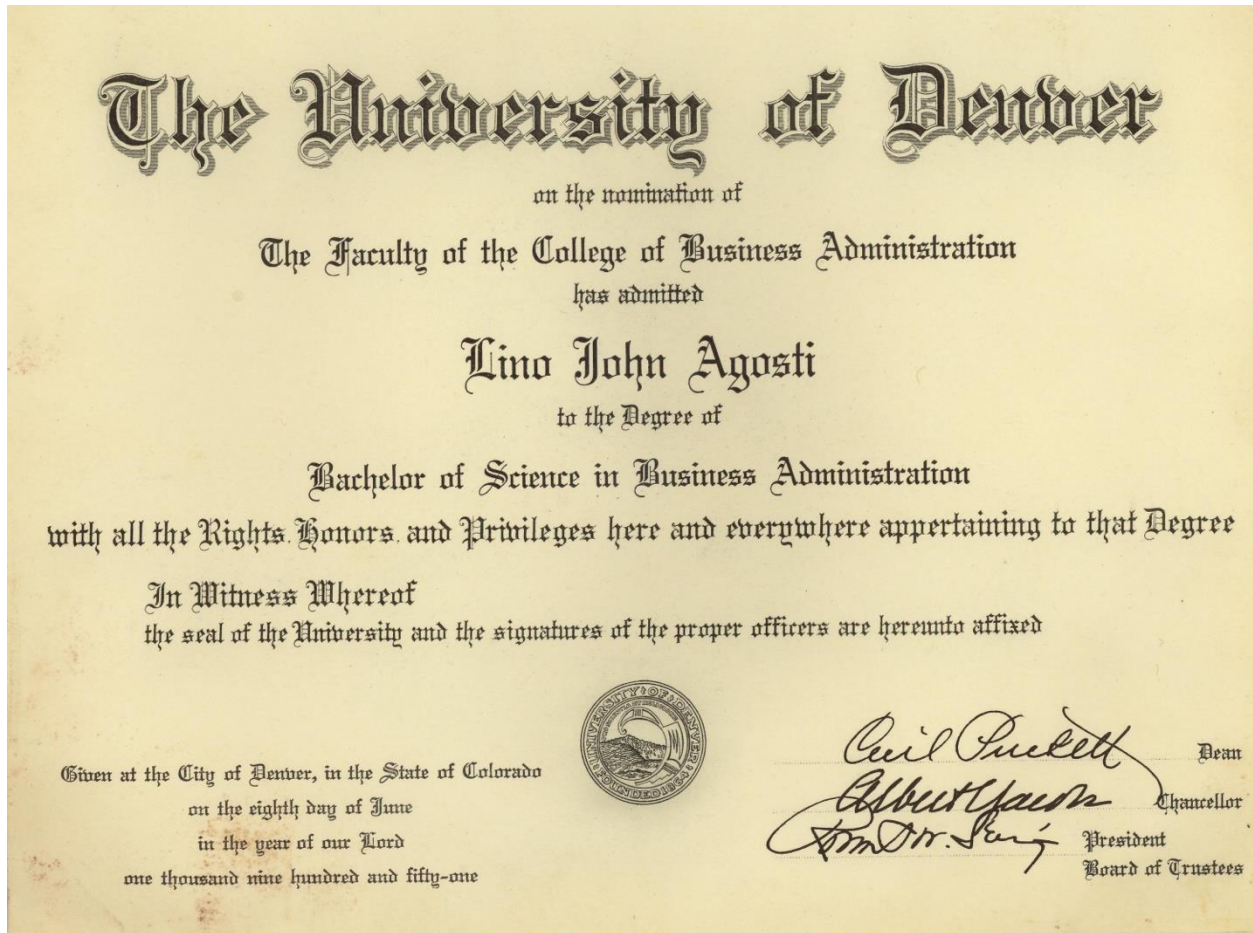
Done at the City of Washington, this thirtieth day of September
in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and forty-nine, and of the
Independence of the United States of America, the one hundred and seventy-fourth.

By the President:

Edward D. Wisner
Major General
The Adjutant General



After coming home, he redirected his studies from engineering and graduated with a B.S. from the University of Denver, School of Business in 1951. He then completed his M.B.A. studies at the University of Chicago in hotel and restaurant management in 1953 before returning to Colorado to manage the food service program for a women's college in Loretto.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FACULTY
AND BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN THEM
THE TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY HAVE CONFERRED ON

LINO JOHN DAVID AGOSTI

THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

AND HAVE GRANTED THIS DIPLOMA AS EVIDENCE THEREOF
GIVEN IN THE CITY OF CHICAGO IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-THREE
ON THE TWENTIETH DAY OF MARCH

Hairo Bell
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

William E. Scott
Registrar

Lawrence A. Kimpton
Chancellor of the University

Salvatore Amabile
Dean

On March 9, 1954, Lino met my mother, Dona Marie Wolking, a Minnesota girl who had relocated to nearby Evergreen, Colorado. They were engaged by April 1st and married on June 5th – a short courtship, but a marriage that lasted 55 years!

Certificate of Marriage
(STATE OF MINNESOTA)

County of STEVENS - ss

I, Berdy Cechly, That on the 5 day of June
 in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and Fifty Four - 1954 -
 at St. Theresa's Church - - - - St. Donnell in said County,
 I, the undersigned, a Roman Catholic Priest,
 did join in the Bonds of Matrimony
 " Edna David John Agosti -
 a resident of the County of Jefferson - State of Colorado -
 and "Hona Marie Wolking"
 a resident of the County of Stevens - State of Minnesota -
 in the presence of
Maria S. Garlin
Joseph B. McAllister Witnesses Rev. Matthias Billinger
Pastor -





Lino and Dona moved to Minneapolis where Lino held jobs managing country clubs and restaurants. In the next three years, their three daughters were born; I am the third. In May 1959, Lino was hired by Northwest Airlines to go to the newest state in the Union - Alaska - to manage their flight kitchens. Northwest provided food for all international carriers passing through Anchorage.



Jan, Tam and Ann, 1959



Later than summer, my father flew back to the Twin Cities to help us pack up for the move north. My parents, two sisters and I arrived in Anchorage on August 15, 1959, on a Northwest flight. Despite my mother's anxiety about the reputed Arctic cold, on that day it was sunny and in the 70's!



Historic photo of Northwest Airlines jet



Our first home was a small Northwest Airlines employee house on the corner of 11th Avenue and L Street. In the next two and half years, Dona and Lino welcomed two boys to the family before we moved to a larger home in the Turnagain neighborhood. The storks brought two more boys to 2324 Loussac Drive by 1964 bringing the family total to nine.



Seven Agosti children in their Turnagain backyard, 1964



The Agosti Family Christmas photo, 1964



The Agosti Family, 1967

Lino and his partners opened Refrigeration and Food Equipment, Inc. offering commercial food facility design and installation services which eventually became a family-owned company, today operated by the Tim, Dave and Jon Agosti.



1986 – Lino working on a design project

Lino was a member of the Food Service Consultants Society International and the Chaîne des Rotisseurs, two groups directed towards enhancing professionalism in the commercial food service industry. He loved good food and wine as well as his linen napkins (never paper)!



Throughout his life, Lino was a member of many organizations that reflected my parents' strong Catholic faith: Phi Kappa Catholic fraternity, the Third Order of St. Benedict, the Third Order of St. Francis, the Crimont Society, the Knights of Columbus, the Christian Family Movement, the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (The Priory of St. George at NY), and a Knight Commander of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. He also served as a lector, a member of the Men's Club and the building committee at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish. He and his wife conducted pre-wedding counseling for the Archdiocese for ten years. He also volunteered with his sons' Little League teams and Boy Scout Troop.

After his family, Lino's great joy was sport fishing. He was an avid angler and taught many of his children, grandchildren, countless friends, and visitors his innate skills which earned him the moniker "the fish whisperer." He began fishing at Russian River in the early 60's, long before many campgrounds were even open. Lino also supported the Anchorage Civic Opera and the Alaska Repertory Theatre.



Lino doing what he loved... fishing!

Ebe came one time to visit Alaska in 1970 and marveled at how much the landscape reminded her of Serafino's Alpine valley called Val di Non. Ebe passed away in Pittsburgh in 1985 and is buried there next to Serafino.



Ebe Pedroni Agosti catches her first salmon!
Dona, Ebe, Jon, Tim, Dave, Tom Agosti, 1970



1994 Agosti Family photo



Lydia Agosti Morello and her brother, Lino, in Pittsburgh, August 2001



Jan, Lino and Tam visit Ellis Island in August 2001



Lino finds his name on the Wall of Honor



Tam makes a wall rubbing.



Dona and Lino on their 50th wedding anniversary, June 5, 2004



Agosti siblings 2018
(Tim, Dave, Tom, Ann, Tam, Jan and Jon)

Dona passed away on March 9, 2010, and Lino followed her three and a half years later on November 10, 2013, at the age of 93. Lino will always be remembered for his jovial spirit, his unconditional love for his family, his steadfast Catholic faith and his strong sense of values and keen intellect. He had a smile and a kind word for all he met.

It's a long way from Trentino to Alaska, but this has been home for Serafino and Ebe's son, Lino, and wife Dona; Serafino and Ebe's seven grandchildren as well as their great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren for over six decades. The positive impacts of my grandparents' decision to immigrate to America with my father continue to have resonance 100 years later and will for many more generations.