

# Basic Detail Report

## **Title Interview with Antonina P. Uccello**

Date 2006 October 23

Medium digitized audio cassette tape

Description Audio cassette tape of an interview with Antonina "Ann" P. Uccello.

She was interviewed on October 23, 2006 by Bruce M. Stave and Sondra Astor Stave at her home in West Hartford, Connecticut. Ann Uccello was born in May 19, 1922 in Hartford, Connecticut. She was the second daughter of five children. Her father immigrated to the United States from Italy and was a shoe maker by trade. Her family lived on Garden Street in Hartford. Her parents spoke Italian, and she and her sisters learned Italian while growing up. The family lived in Italy for a year-and-a-half before returning to Hartford. Ann attended Northwest School, Cathedral School, and St. Joseph Cathedral School. She graduated from Weaver High School in 1940, then attended St. Joseph College. She majored in Political Science and History. She discusses the discrimination against Italians and how she would have a difficult time finding a teaching job. In 1944, she was able to get a teaching position at East Hampton High School and taught World History. Bill O'Neill, a Connecticut governor, was a student at East Hampton High School. In 1945, after a year, she left teaching and began working at G. Fox & Company. She worked at G. Fox until 1968. Her first part-time job at G. Fox was in the Foundation Department. When Ann left teaching, she was hired at G. Fox as the assistant to the supervisor of Unit Control, who was Dan Feldman. Ann volunteered with a number of local organizations, such as the Hartford

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Graduate's Club of Greater Hartford, St. Agnes' Home, the Women's Guild of the Hartford Symphony, the Women's Republican Club, the Pilot Club of Hartford, and Young Republicans. She discusses the Connecticut Republican Party and how she was involved. When she was interested in running for Hartford City Council she asked the G. Fox leadership if they were alright with her running for political office, and they gave her permission. Her friends from G. Fox, George Ducharme and Mary Barry, helped her get enough petition signatures to run for City Council, and Ann won a seat. Ann was elected Mayor of Hartford in 1967. She discusses her relationship with Beatrice Fox Auerbach and BFA's thoughts on being under-sold by other stores. Ann purchased the dress she wore to President Richard Nixon's inauguration at the G. Fox Specialty Shop. Ann discusses how Hartford changed over time. In the 1940s, she felt Hartford was safe. She lived on Garden Street, then Blue Hills Avenue, then moved to Branford Street after becoming Mayor. She states the neighborhood began to change in the 1960s when the riots started. After she was elected to City Council, she came up with the idea of the Infomobile, which was a bus with staff for social services to help people get jobs and refer them to health agencies. The Infomobile was stationed at street corners in the North End of Hartford. She describes the racial discrimination she saw against Black people. She mentions how the welfare system worked. She discusses the Connecticut Room at G. Fox and the staff luncheons with Beatrice Fox Auerbach.

Dimensions Duration: 1 Hour, 32 Minutes, 58 Seconds