Oral History

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

Education Department Ellis Island Immigration Museum Statue of Liberty National Monument



Interviewee: KATHLEEN MAGENNIS LAMBERTI

Date of Birth: NOVEMBER 6, 1898

Date of Interview: FEBRUARY 25, 1994

Immigrated from Ireland in 1921 at Age 22

INTERVIEWER: PAUL E. SIGRIST, JR. Ellis Island Collection: EI-439

SIGRIST: Tell me what that first night in America was like?

SIGRIST: So she fed you?

LAMBERTI: She fed, oh, yes, she fed us. (she laughs)
And my Uncle Joe brought in, he brought in a
pizza pie. And I, we looked at that and they
said, "Now, this is pizza pie." And Mother
said, "Oh, what is that?" This dreadful
looking stuff. It was awful. Mother said,
"Mmm." Didn't eat that. Well, we were very
disappointed. When we got his back turned we
put it out. We threw it out. But we didn't, we
didn't know what it was. To eat tomatoes in a
pie. That was dreadful. (she laughs) Then,
but we did grow to love it.