

**Back From the Philippines With a Record for Unimpeachable Conduct  
From The Buffalo Evening News  
August 11, 1902**

**ONCE WAS A NEWSBOY**

**Joined the Famous Fighting 13th  
and Was With It In Its Hardest Battle**

**(From the Sunday News)**

Charlie McCarthy is back in Buffalo-- the same warm-hearted, intelligent Charlie, but so changed that few of his most intimate acquaintances of former years recognize him at first glance. Indeed there is little in common between the present fine-looking well-dressed young man of soldier-like bearing and the swarthy little newsboy who used to cry papers on the corner of North Division and Main streets and whip a bully or two once in a while by way of relaxation.

Charlie McCarthy is back from the Philippines after three long years of absence and, though modest as ever, he is showing as fine a discharge as was ever issued to a private of the 13th Infantry-- a record of faithful service under the most trying conditions and of absolutely unimpeachable conduct.

"I was never tried, never in the guard house, and more important than that, I was not even once reprimanded by my officers" he is saying to his acquaintances.

Charlie McCarthy is the name everyone knows him by and that is the name under which he served in the army and Charlie McCarthy is the name under which he probably will live and die. Charlie is no descendent from the Emerald Isle, as his name would signify-- but an Italian, whose real name is Angelo Buscaglia. He was the only Italian soldier in the 13th infantry, and one of the very few in the whole army.

**ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE**

The history of this young man is interesting as showing the possibility of even a little poor little Italian street gamin, if he has the right stuff in him. Charlie was born in Sicily and was brought to this country on an immigrant ship, when 10 years old, by a padrone who thought to make money out of him when he grew to be a little older. In some way he drifted to Buffalo and began the life of a newsie-- selling papers on the street and blacking boots between editions. Finally he attracted the notice of some kindly disposed people by his bright manner and good disposition and he was placed in the Newsboy's Home where he lived for five years. It was not long before he became well known both to members of his own fraternity but also to the business men downtown, for he acted as one of Moxie's lieutenants for a number of years.

When the Spanish American war broke out Charlie felt the fighting fever stirring in his veins, but it was idle to think of enlisting, for he was evidently too young. But a year later, in 1899, he determined to make a try for it and so presented himself to the officers at Fort Porter for enlistment. He was then under 17 years old but he was large for his age and so he forgot just when he was born and told the officers that he was 19 years old. He was accepted and went with the regiment to the Philippines, entering Captain Paul B. Malone's company H.

McCarthy served with his regiment all through that terrible rigorous campaigning in the island of Luzon and that he was where the fighting was hottest is evidenced by the fact that in the first engagement in which he participated, that of San Pedro Macate, he received an ugly wound, a Filipino's bullet passing through his left hand where the thumb joins the back and severing the large artery there. This kept him quiet for some time but he was before long back on the firing line and was rewarded with a wound in the left arm which was fortunately of no very great consequence.

**THE FIGHT AT SAN FABIAN**

McCarthy participated in that fearful fight at San Fabian, when the 18th boys lay in the trenches for two days and two nights without a mouthful of food or a drop of water, and men were falling all around not alone from bullets but from exhaustion under the intense heat.

All the education which young McCarthy ever had was what little he acquired at the night school of the Working Boys Home, but, nevertheless he studied Spanish while in the Philippines and became so proficient in this tongue that he

was official interpreter for the 13th infantry. That he is otherwise a fine young man is shown by the fact that the first \$200 he earned as a soldier he sent to Mr. J. A., who placed it at interest for him in the Marine Bank.

aCharlie McCarthy's return home was marked by an incident that was it once pathetic and joyful. His father had come to Buffalo before his departure for the Philippines, but he had never seen his mother since he left her in Sicily a boy of 10. A soldier returned from the Philippines a few weeks ago and spread the report through the Italian colony and among his acquaintances generally that McCarthy was dead.

### MOTHER THOUGHT HIM DEAD

His mother was overcome with grief and went to Mr. J. A. Butler with her trouble. Mr. Butler sent a dispatch to Washington inquiring about the young soldier. He received the following reply:

"Washington DC, August 2 1902" J. A. Butler. Buffalo evening news Buffalo, New York:

"Replying to telegram, private Charles McCarthy Co H, 13th infantry, was discharged March 2, 1902, expiration of service Manila P.I. No record of reenlistment, Passenger list United States Army transport Sheridan, arrived at San Francisco Cal., 19th ultimo., shows that McCarthy was a passenger on that vessel and arrived on that date. No further information. GREENE, "Assistant Adjutant General."

Even this failed entirely to reassure his anxious mother who had better evidence before long of her son's safety.

Last Tuesday night a well-dressed young man presented himself at the Buscaglia home at 166 Court St. Mrs. Buscaglia answered the door.

"Who are you sir? she asked of this caller.

"Angelo Buscaglia" replied the young man who did not recognize his mother anymore then she recognized him.

The woman looked at him doubtfully but said:

"Come inside."

He did so and was soon greeted with affection by his father, who assured his wife that this was indeed their son.

Then the mother threw her arms around the young man's neck in a transport of maternal love, while tears of joy poured down her cheeks.

"Charlie McCarthy's home-coming was a happy one, indeed.

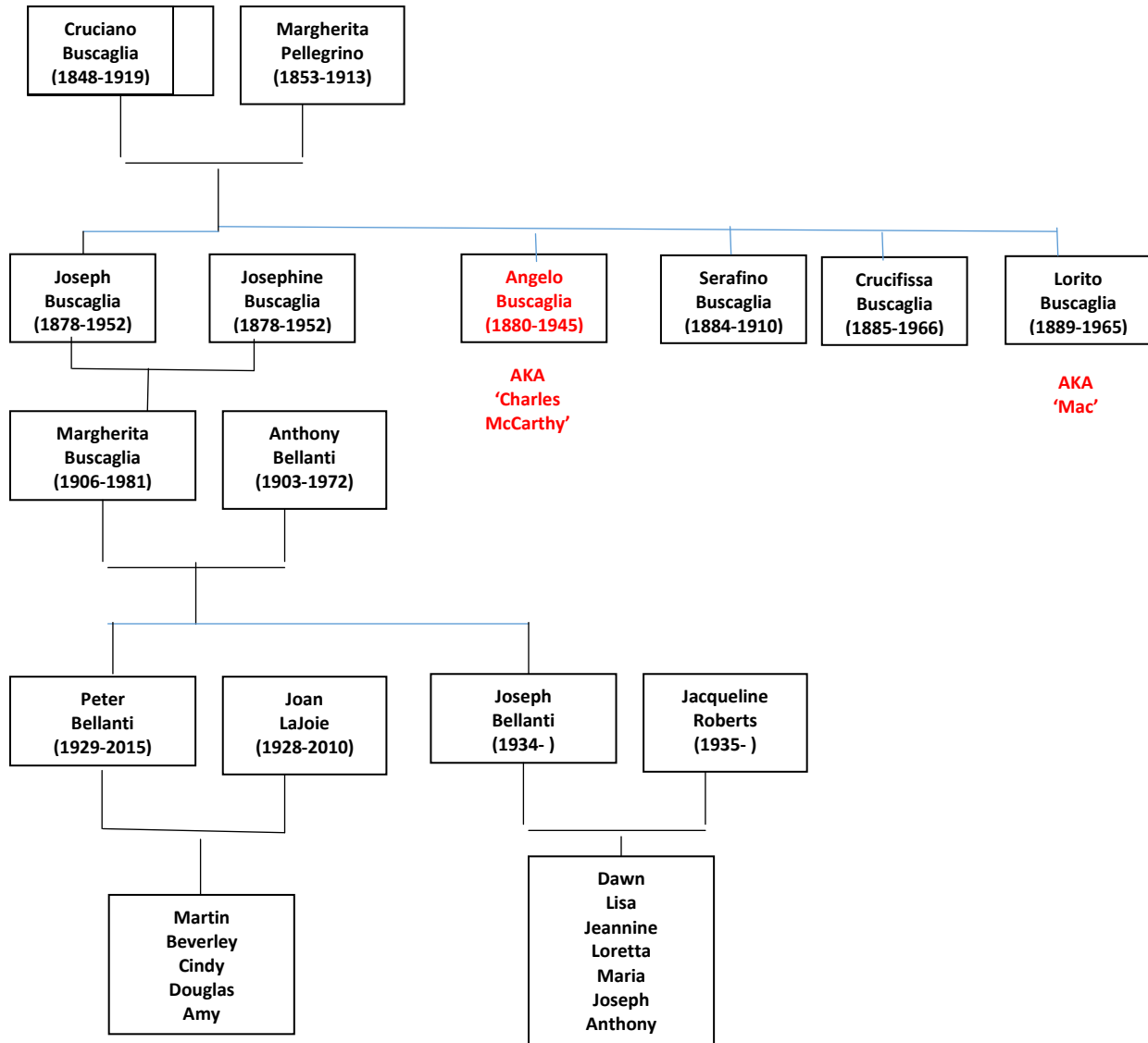


Charles McCarthy (Angelo) and his brother Lorito (Mac) in S Miami in 1920's?



Charles McCarthy in S Miami Beach became known as '**Professor McCarthy**'

## The Family of Giuseppe Buscaglia and Giuseppina Pellegrino



[ALREADY ONLINE]

Contributed by: my brother

Peter M. Bellanti

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My maternal great-grandfather, Cruciano Buscaglia (1848-1919) married Margherita Pellegrino (1854-1913). Cruciano's sister, Angela Buscaglia (1845-1918), married Margherita's brother Vincenzo Pellegrino (1848-1904). The offspring of each of these marriages were, in fact, double first cousins.

Cruciano and Margherita (Pellegrino) Buscaglia had one daughter and four sons. In order of age they were Giuseppe (my grandfather (1878-1952)), Crucifissa, Angelo, Serafino and Lorito.

My grandparents, Guiseppe and Guiseppina were married in Buffalo, New York in 1905. This marriage produced six children that survived. In order of age they were Margaret (my mother (1906-1981)), Charles, Serafino, Frances, Angeline and Jennie. Both the Buscaglia's and the Pellegrino's came from Montemaggiore Belsito , Provenzia de Palermo, Sicily. (Mount Major, Province of Palermo, Sicily). They migrated to the United States during the first mass Italian migration just prior to 1900. The port of entry was Ellis Island, New York City.

Up to that time, in the City of Buffalo, the Irish were at the bottom of the socio-economic ladder and as such had taken their "licks" from the English. With the first Italian migration, a new "pecking order" was established. It was the practice of the Italians to first scrape up enough funds to send the men to the "New World" to establish a new home and earn enough for the passage of the wife and remaining family

My grandfather, Giuseppe Buscaglia, first came to the United States with his father, Cruciano Buscaglia in approximately 1886. My grandfather was about 8 years old As the story was passed down in the family, Giuseppe was somewhat of a "Mama's Boy" and after a few years, languished to see his mother. Cruciano returned to Sicily when my grandfather was in his early teens. Shortly thereafter, Cruciano returned to the United States.

According to reference book "Italians to America-Lists of Passengers" by Glazier and Filby, Cruciano arrived in New York from Palermo on November 8, 1889 on the ship "Iniziata". The listing also indicated he was 41 years of age and a laborer. Although the reference book only listed Cruciano, he must have been accompanied by Angelo one of his other sons. Angelo served in the U. S. Army during the Spanish American War in 1898. Giuseppe remained in Sicily with his mother and brothers and sister.

When my grandfather was 18 years old, he was conscripted into the Italian Army and served his tour of duty. According to his Army records, my grandfather served in the "27 Reggimento Fanteria" (the 27th Infantry Regiment) between 1898 and 1901. According to my grandfather's immigration papers he sailed, after he completed his tour of duty, on the ship "Nord America" from the port of Napoli on November 27, 1901, bound for New York. The papers also indicated he sailed third class. The remaining family migrated to the New World at this time to join their husband and father.

For some unknown reason, Angelo, Serafino and Lorito, within a short time, mastered the English language despite the fact that all were virtually illiterate. They lost all traces of an accent. Giuseppe and Crucifissa spoke as much English the day they died, some 7 decades later, as they did at the turn of the century.

After arriving in Buffalo, the family settled into rented quarters on Court Street next to St. Anthony R. C. Church. This section of Buffalo was commonly referred to as "The Hooks". It was the toughest section of the City.

Typical of the Sicilian heritage, the community was made up of extremes. The community spawned "Mafiosi" and a host of other lower echelon racketeers.

On the other extreme such notables as Dr. Scanio, Dr. Buscaglia, Surrogate Court Judge Christy J. Buscaglia, Mayor Sedita, Councilman Muscari, lawyer William K. Buscaglia, City Court Judge Christy A. Buscaglia, Dentist Dr. George Sciarrino and bankers Alfonso Pepe and Mario Lunghino, to name a few, were also from this same section.

Shortly after the family settled, Cruciano established a saloon located on the corner of Canal (later the name was changed to Dante Place) and Evans Streets. The business proved to be very successful. It was at this time, in

1905, my grandparents Giuseppe Buscaglia and Giuseppina Pellegrino married.

The entire family, including Giuseppe and his bride, moved from Court Street to the newly acquired business property and occupied the second floor as living quarters. Further research revealed that a brothel was in operation on the third floor.

My mother Margaret and my uncle Charles were born to Giuseppe and his wife while they lived above the saloon. Frequently, the "ladies of the night" played with and cuddled the Buscaglia babies during their off hours. The family had high regard for these "ladies" despite their vocations.

The boys, Giuseppe, Angelo, Serafino and Lorito frequently were required to help out in the saloon by tending bar and washing dishes and glasses.

A story that has passed down through the family relates to three lake seamen that stopped in the saloon for a few beers. At that time, the bar was tended by Cruciano alone. The three sailors, after drinking their fill, decided to "stiff" the old man by refusing to pay the tab. When the three became abusive, the old man placed his fingers in his mouth and gave a shrill whistle. His sons, who were upstairs, heard the distress call and raced to the saloon and beat the three sailors within an inch of their lives. During the fight, the three sailors fled the saloon with the Buscaglia boys in hot pursuit. As the sailors were running one lost his shoes, to the delight and amusement of the people in the neighborhood.

Cruciano and his married son Giuseppe worked the bar. Serafino primarily earned his livelihood by hawking newspapers on the corner of Main & Huron Streets in front of the former Buffalo Savings Bank Building, which later changed its name to Goldome Bank and subsequently went out of business. Angelo and Lorito occasionally worked either place depending on their availability and/or mood.

My great-grandfather, Cruciano, was highly respected by both the political/judicial sector and the "other side". He often played the role of liaison between the two factions. He prided himself in that he was trusted by both sides, was able to keep open lines of communication and yet not betray one side to the other.

Frequently Cruciano acted as a bail bondsman. In this role, Cruciano was proud of the fact that, whoever he vouched and posted bail for, gave his word

that he would honor the bond and not "jump bail". This was Cruciano's reputation on both sides of the law.

Selling newspapers was a very difficult existence since the retail newspaper business was monopolized by the "Irish" as were the police department and public transportation at that time.

The three brothers, in order to establish a "toehold" in the newspaper industry and for other reasons, decided to Anglicize their names. They all took the name of "McCarthy".

Angelo was known as "C. M." McCarthy, Serafino as "Sledge" McCarthy and Lorito as "Mac" McCarthy.

Of the entire family, Angelo and Lorito proved to have restless spirits. Frequently they left home and struck out on their own.

Angelo, at the age of 17, attempted to join the Army to serve with Teddy Roosevelt in the Spanish American War. As the story goes, because he was a minor, he was asked for parental consent. He left in frustration. A few days later he approached a second recruiting office and joined using the name of Charles McCarthy, stating that he was an orphan.

During the conflict, Angelo was wounded in the left hand. The "web" between his thumb and first finger was shot out, causing the thumb and finger to somewhat fuse together.

Toward the end of the Spanish American War, Charles McCarthy (Angelo) was reported killed in action to his family. However, Serafino, who was a friend of the editor of the Buffalo Times, asked him to check out the report. Thus, family fears were allayed. When Charles McCarthy was discharged, he returned home and returned to the newspaper business, working for the Buffalo Times. During this same span of time, he also earned a reputation as a strong, local lightweight amateur boxer. His record stood with very few losses.

During World War I (1917-1918), C.M. McCarthy hit the road again and sold trinkets and novelties at the various Army camps - - particularly Fort Dix.

He subsequently moved to Florida in 1919, becoming one of the first settlers of Miami Beach. He took a job as a lifeguard on the beach and manufactured and sold his own concoction of suntan lotion.



According to an undated newspaper article (probably about 1925), "*...in the winter of 1919 McCarthy left Buffalo and went to South Beach, established a gymnasium and inaugurated physical culture classes.... His latest venture soon proved a success and he enlarged the gymnasium and added the now famous hot ocean water baths...*

*Among the people who enjoyed the privileges of his gymnasium were Jack Dempsey, Dave Shade, Jack Renault, and Gene Tunney..."*

Serafino, now known as "Sledge", became a well known boxer on the local Buffalo scene.

According to his newspaper obituary, "...he died at his home, 43 Evans St., after a long illness. Kidney trouble, attended by complications, had resulted in a complete breakdown, and he had been taken to General Hospital, where four operations had proven unsuccessful in saving his life...."

Lorito, or as he liked to be addressed, "Mac", was drafted into the Army and served during World War I. He ultimately was injured in training and received a medical discharge.

Other stories I recall from when I was a boy, tell of my uncle "Mac" in his carnival and vaudeville days. He reportedly teamed up with another "maverick" from the old neighborhood and hit the road. Reportedly, were a dance team in vaudeville known as "Kane and Starr" but subsequently they followed different carnivals and ran various sideshows.

Uncle "Mac" always stressed getting an education to his nephews and grand-nephews. He maintained he would have pursued an acting career but for the fact that he was illiterate and was unable to read script and thus, could not memorize the role part.