

After crowded New York, he fights for open space

By BETTY STOLL ANGELO

Horace D'Angelo of Beverly Hills is as busy today as he was as a youngster in his native New York City. He proved it when he proudly announced that he is in the midst of his third career.

"I was born in 1906 and raised in New York," he said. "My parents, Vincent and Francesca, immigrated to this country from Sicily in 1905."

"One of my fondest memories is of when I was a boy. My mother took me and my two sisters to Borgetto, Sicily. We lived there for a year and a half."

He continued, "I remember getting into my grandfather's donkey cart and riding all night to Palermo to visit my aunt who was a nun. It was thrilling going over those mountain roads, I can tell you."

When D'Angelo was in his teens, he took violin lessons. "I took lessons for seven years and organized a four-piece band. We used to play at weddings and other parties."

"Our family lived in a tough neighborhood, Sixty-Third and First avenues," he elaborated. "There was a neighborhood bully who used to call me a sissy because I played the violin. We made a date one Saturday and squared off to fight."

"There was an army of kids watching while the bully and I bloodied each other's noses. He had a greater respect for me from then on."

Unlike today's youth, D'Angelo learned early in life that work is a part of daily life. "In the sixth grade I had a job in a men's suit factory," he said. "I was the last one to leave every night because I had to sweep up the factory."

Later, he said, he worked his way through New York University.

Women engineers on the move

Sixty-six of Michigan State University's spring graduates in engineering have begun making names for themselves as women successful in what has been for decades men's turf.

The women represented 16 percent of the total of 368 earning bachelor's degrees in spring term.

Not only are the MSU women engineers being accepted by employers

THE D'ANGELO FAMILY now lives in a 6.5-acre park-like setting in Beverly Hills. The lovely home into which he and his wife Eleanor moved in 1952 is a huge jump in time and place from his old childhood neighborhood.

When he came to Detroit, D'Angelo said, he brought his first wife and their two children. Donald now lives in Virginia, and Horace Jr. lives in Ann Arbor. At the time he worked for Touche-Ross, a job he held for five years.

In 1941, he continued, he joined the Ferguson Tractor Company, later becoming chief executive officer and general manager of the company. After the merger of the company with Massey-Harris in 1953, he said he retired at the age of 47.

For the next 20 years, from 1953 to 1974, D'Angelo devoted his time to investments, security trading and golf, he said.

However, in 1974 he joined First of Michigan, a stock brokerage.

In 1976 he was elected assistant vice-president of sales, and in 1977 he was elected vice-president of sales. In 1978 he was elected senior vice-president of sales, a position he still holds.

The D'Angelos are most proud of their participation in the fight to keep Beverly Hills a village. They are opposed to being annexed by Southfield, he said.

"When we moved here, this was all open country. There were no schools or tall buildings. It was very rural. That's the way we like it, and the reason we fought so hard to keep it from being swallowed up by Southfield."

MEMBERS of Christ Church Cranbrook since 1952, the couple are also

who are "very pleased" with them, they are being offered salaries in excess of those offered to their male counterparts.

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life members of Oakland Hills Country Club. Eleanor D'Angelo has stitched many needlepoint pieces for the church, including pieces for St. Dunstan's Chapel and the church's main sanctuary. Her work is also seen in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

"It took me about a thousand hours to needlepoint a rug for St. Paul's Chapel at Cranbrook," she related. "I also have needlepoint in St. Paul's Church in Detroit."

Horace D'Angelo celebrated his seventy-fourth birthday on July 19 with an Italian gourmet dinner cooked by his daughter Diana.

"She is a great cook," her father announced with pride. "She even makes her own pasta!"

When asked how he views today's economic outlook, D'Angelo said, "I believe the recession has just about bottomed out. I expect the economy to start picking up in the next 90 to 120 days. Car sales will increase when the 1981 fuel efficient models are introduced."

He also predicted that home construction will pick up, "because of," he said, "reduction in mortgage interest rates. As auto production and home construction increase, it will spread to other industries — like a pebble making a ripple in a pond."



Horace D'Angelo grew up on the crowded streets of 63rd and First Avenue when young boys learned early that work was a part of daily life. Now he lives on 6½ acres of Beverly Hills which he is determined to keep from being annexed by Southfield. (Staff photo by Dick Kelley)

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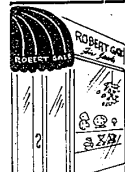
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