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is pleased to offer Virginia Proia Rea's 2016 memoir
about growing up in a large Italian immigrant family
on South Street in Washington, Pennsylvania.

Virginia Proia Rea (1911-2016) was one of the eight children of Rocco and Giovanna DonFrancesco of Arpino, Campania. Rocco, a poor tenant farmer, ventured to America in 1905 to earn enough money to return to Arpino to marry Giovanna, whose parents were opposed to the marriage. Working double shifts in local coal mines for two years, he reached the goal of marrying his beloved and winning over her parents.

Virginia's 233-page memoir recounts her parents' love story and captures the vibrant family life they created on South Street.



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