

ETTORE PORRECA di ciufielle – Accomplished Photographer and Musician

Ettore Porreca is Torricellan because he was born in Torricella Peligna on December 9, 1920, but he is now thoroughly American. He is 90 years old, but he is still very busy, mainly as a musician. Ettore is part of the large “Ciufielle” branch of the Porrecas. The Ciufielle patriarch was Grandpa Fedele, the blacksmith whose workshop was on Bellini Street in Torricella. Ettore is the third of four children of Giuseppe (Joseph) Porreca (1889-1966) and Romilda Teti (1889-1967). In December



Parents wedding photo in Rome in 1915, Giuseppe Porreca di ciufielle and Romilda Teti

of 1929 Ettore immigrated with his family to Buffalo, New York, where he still lives. He has been married to Louise Nazzarett for sixty years. Louise’s family is from the region of Basilicata, south of Abruzzo. They have four children and eight grandchildren. Ettore began to play the trumpet in sixth grade, and he studied photography at Seneca Vocational High School in Buffalo. He would go on to become



both a professional trumpet player and a professional photographer. Ettore’s musical career began when he was about fifteen old. He played in various bands and eventually he performed in prominent night spots in Buffalo. He went on the road with a band, and played such nationally famous venues as the Arcadia Ballroom in New York City. Ettore loved music, but the demands of his growing photography business required that he suspend his musical career. For thirty-two years Ettore and his partner, Ralph Winter, ran the Ettore-Winter Photographers studio in Buffalo. As a photographer, Ettore achieved national recognition. He won many awards and much acclaim. The Professional Photographers of America granted him the prestigious titles of “Master of Photography” and “Craftsman of Photography” for the outstanding quality of his work and for his contributions to the profession. These contributions included conducting seminars at professional photography conventions in eleven



different states and the province of Ontario, Canada. Fellow photographers in various parts of North America often honored him as a judge of print competitions at their conventions. During World War II Ettore served in the United States army as a motion picture combat photographer. Immediately after the war he was stationed in Japan where he borrowed a still camera and took photographs that have been published and exhibited over the years. They now appear on: ettoreinjapan.com. After Ettore retired from



photography in 1982, he returned to playing the trumpet and singing professionally. He performs popular music and jazz with various bands in the Buffalo area, mainly with the Sentimental Journey Band (SentimentalJourneyBand.com), which features swing music of the 1930’s and 1940’s. For a sample of Ettore vocalizing with this group click here: YouTube.com/watch?v=Em07kXkUb5k. Ettore and his wife visited Torricella in 1984. They stayed with uncles Carlo and Vittorio Porreca; their wives, Emilia Teti and Maria Anna Cherubina Conicella; and cousins Silvio, Camillo, Anna and Fedele. Now it will be up to the descendants of Ettore to maintain the bond with Torricella. In March of 2009, Ettore’s children, Joe and Mary Beth, were in Torricella for a Porreca family reunion. They have not forgotten the thrill of that occasion, and they hope to return soon.



Grandfather Fedele di ciufielle (1864-1953), the blacksmith, with grandchildren Fedele, Concetta, Ettore and Antonio



By Joe Porreca, Ettore’s son, in collaboration with Dan Aspromonte