

## Two refrigerators and no car Family life in Citta Sant'angelo

**United Press Internationa** 

CITTA SANT'ANGELO, Italy -'I heard on television that Americans use these for beating their hus-bands," chuckled Cristina Di Zio, 38, as she raised a rolling pin in the meticulously organized kitchen where she divides her day into

where she drives her easy inclusion. "You can keep homemade pasta for a couple of days but it's best when you eat it fresh," she said, spilling a generous pile of flour onto the table

Scooping out a small crater in the flour, she broke in two eggs, mixed it up, rolled it out and began slicing the flat dough into thin strips of fettucini

Meals are the focal points of the Di Zio family and all six members of the household are always present for the three-course lunches and din-

The television goes on as the table is set and blares on throughout the meal, competing with the animated conversations of Cristina's two sons, Fabrizio, 15, and Silvano, 13.

Fabrizio is gobbling his lunch as he's in a rush to get back to work at

his first summer job — as a waiter in the hotel restaurant down the street

He is exceptionally proud of the job and it takes a great deal of prob-ing before he admits that he is paid in tips only and can count on no more than 4,000 lire (about \$5) at

"In a little town like this, you don't need to gossip to know what everyone else is doing and thinking." Christina said.

the end of his 11-hour workday. "Italians don't tip very much and

we don't get any tourists way up here," he shrugs, glum but stoic. His mother puts her foot down when he offers to demonstrate his newly acquired skill at carrying six

plates of spaghetti at one time. Silvano is also in a hurry — he's going fishing for eel in the lake at the foot of this picturesque hill town that commands a view of the Adria-tic sea on one side and the Apennine

As the boys race out the door, Cristina's husband Cenzino, 46, looks disconsolately down at his

empty plate. "They said after the first few days you wouldn't feel it anymore, but I've been on this diet a month and I'm still always hungry," he

"He has high cholesterol and the doctor put him on a diet that only allows 70 grams of spaghetti (about 216 outpath of the state of the 2-½ ounces) a day," Cristina whis-pered as she cleared away the dis-hes. "I think that's too much so I only give him 50 grams.

Once she's seen Cenzino off to his job as town accountant, Cristina spends the best part of her morning shopping for the fresh foods she ouys every day despite her two re-

At the meat shop she flirts with her butcher to ensure a good cut and at the vegetable stand she squeezes every tomato in the basket before choosing three.

"I've known him since he was born," she said as the stand owner tried to hide his winces behind a smile. "Everybody knows everybody in this town — there are only about 7,000 people here including the farmers who live outside.

Very few people in Citta

Sant'angelo have a telephone and Cristina is not one of them. But she rarely gets together during the day with her women friends for coffee and a chat.

"I just don't have time for that kind of thing," she says. "Besides, in a little town like this you don't need to gossip to know what everyone else is doing and thinking."

mother Maria, kno

The reigning matriarch of family since her husband died

than 30 years ago, The Non

finally ceded control of the ho

hold to Cristina — but only a several major battles and clan

These days, The Nonna sp

most of her time in church or in

town's public gardens chatting

her cronies — among whom she considerable stature for having

ried her youngest daughter t

The priest, Don Guido,

volve around the political issu

Cristina says she doesn't

time to bother with political

Uncle Giv, 54, communicates

very strong opinions in a sign guage the whole village und

stands. Uncle Gigino has been

"Most Italians buy on credi

and go into debt to take fance

vacations," Cenzino said. "W

don't do either - we don't even

Cenzino insists that while his far

ily shares an income and lifestyl

with the average Italian, "we arend

deaf-mute since a bout of mening

when he was a child.

own a car.

sense and just goes along with Cer zino when it's time to vote.

The sixth member of the fan

"I vote the cross,

Nonna

ferences.

the day.

The Di Zios own their own home, a four-bedroom apartment in a renovated 17th-century building near the town cathedral. They moved in seven years ago after Cenzino sold the nearby farm where he and his brother of the cathedral's pries six brothers and sisters had been

stops by after dinner for coffee "My father bought the land with the discussions in the lively di money he earned as an immigrant of the Abruzzi region usua

The Nonna has finally ceded control of the household to Cris-Nonna when asked her opin "The cross" is the symbol of tina - but only after several major battles and clan confer-Vatican-backed, ruling Christ Democratic Party. ences.

worker in Canada," Cenzino explained. "After he died tenant farmers worked the land for 50 percent of the crop. "Then the Communists came and

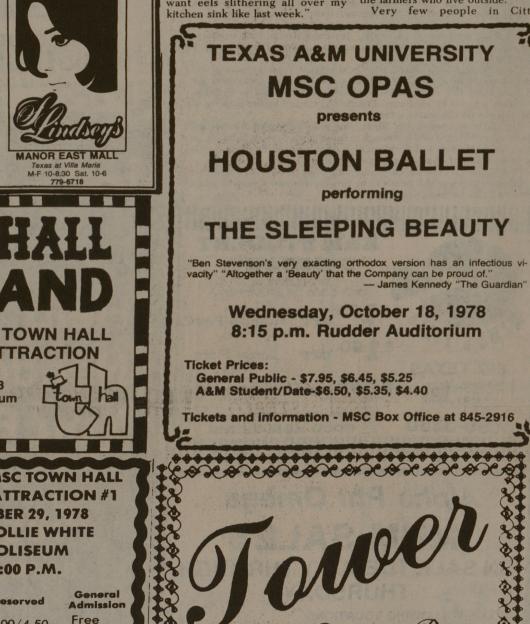
they raised it to 60 percent of the crop and then they wanted to raise it again and it just wasn't worth it any more. So we sold the old house and bought this one.

In the living room, the shine on the marble chip floors attests to the amount of time Cristina spends cleaning and polishing.

A Venetian glass clown and other souvenirs of family trips are dis-played on the massive bookcaseiquor cabinet that covers one wall. The liquor cabinet is filled with gift bottles that are only opened for company, and the bookcase is with gold-embossed, stacked bound-back copies of Cenzino's

typical." "Most Italians buy on credit and go into debt to take fancy vac-tions," he said. "We don't do either favorite magazine, "Illustrated His-tory" — the Italian equivalent of "National Geographic." The biggest bedroom, with its we don't even own a car." "In fact, I hate cars," he adde own panoramic terrace, is the do-

'Now what other Italian could sa main of Cenzino's 81-year-old that?





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frigerators.

Mountains on the other. Just make sure they're dead by

the time you get them home," Cris-tina scolds affectionately. "I don't want eels slithering all over my kitchen sink like last week."

