

Interview with George Bilionis by Christ Wright  
(Check for spelling words)

CHRISTINE WRIGHT: This is...

GEORGE BILIONIS: "What's the date today?"  
Tape starts

CHRISTINE WRIGHT: Hi. This is Christine Wright, July 31, 2002. Christine Wright, interviewing George Bilionis. And hi to George?

GEORGE BILIONIS: Hello Christine, oh, (over talk)

CHRISTINE WRIGHT: It's nice to get a chance to sit down and talk with you finally. (Over talk)

GEORGE BILIONIS: Oh I've seen you over the years, very informal and personable you are.

CHRISTINE WRIGHT: Oh, oh, thank you.

CHRISTINE WRIGHT: We'll start with the first question. What is your Greek name?

GEORGE BILIONIS: Ah, I suppose (can't spell) Bilionis. Uh

CHRISTINE WRIGHT: OK. Question 2. What was life like in Greece? First time to talk as much as you like. (GEORGE BILIONIS: Oh) Oh (Soft laugh). That's a big question, isn't it?

GEORGE BILIONIS: What? Talk about there when, when I was, when?

CHRISTINE WRIGHT: When you were young?

GEORGE BILIONIS: When, before we came?

CHRISTINE WRIGHT: And what your perceptions are and maybe how it's changed. And what it's like from now when you go back.

GEORGE BILIONIS: Well, when I was small, I used to, I went to high school, I was, my dad had a car. Things were, we were kind, when we didn't have all the modern things that we experience here in the United States or other things they have now, we didn't have TV, we didn't have a car, oh, what like?

CHRISTINE WRIGHT: How did you get around?

GEORGE BILIONIS: Not all the convenience.

CHRISTINE WRIGHT: Did you walk, or did you have a bicycle? Oh...

GEORGE BILIONIS: Ah, we just took the bus, or most of the time we took the bus. Ah, we had a house, we had a farm. My folks had a farm, we had a horse. We had a donkey. (Laughs) A couple horses we had. Sometimes we had a taxi, or ah, that's about it.

CHRISTINE WRIGHT: So, did you feel poor? Or did you not know because everybody else was in the same situation?

GEORGE BILIONIS: Ah, well, everybody was a little different, in general. You, no some kind, we weren't starving, but.

CHRISTINE WRIGHT: (Over talk) you weren't starving. Oh.

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OBJECT ID	Bilionis, George (BC)
OBJECT NAME	Oral History
OBJECT COLLECTION	Berrien County Historical Association Oral History Collection (OH2) (is part of)
OBJECT DESCRIPTION	<p>- Last Names: Bilionis - Village/City: - Sites/Neighborhoods (in Greece): - Region/Areas: - Transportation: ship, Silvitika (sp?) - Occupations (in Greece): farm - Occupations (in US): grocery store; bus boy, Tosi's Restaurant; House of David, picking cherries; Assistant Manager, Hilltop Foods; Mr. Gyro; Assistant Manager of Customer Service, D &amp; W; - Sites/Neighborhoods (in US): - Historic Events: World War II - Church/Parish: St. John the Acrucible (sp?); Annunciation Church in Benton Harbor; St. Andrews in South Bend - Locations (point of entry): New York - Locations (the "spread"): Toronto, Canada; South Bend; Sodus, Michigan; Red Arrow Highway; Stevensville Cemetery; Crystal Springs Cemetery - Residences ("current"): - Year/Decade of migration: 1963 - Organizations/Affiliations: Chanter of the church, Alter Boy, Basalte, Choir; Parish Board, treasurer, secretary; Lake Michigan College; Western Michigan University; AHEPA; Goya</p>
CITATION	<p>Berrien County Historical Association Oral History Collection (OH2), <i>National Hellenic Museum</i>, <a href="https://hellenic.whirlhost.com/Detail/objects/">https://hellenic.whirlhost.com/Detail/objects/</a>. Accessed 05/03/24.</p>