



**Sacramento Ethnic Communities Survey -
Greek Oral Histories
1983/146**

Oral interview of
Dr. Stratis Zampathas

March 11, 1984

Conducted by Diane Holt

Transcribed by Lee Ann McMeans

Center for Sacramento History
551 Sequoia Pacific Blvd
Sacramento, CA 95811-0229
(916) 264-7072
cs@cityofsacramento.org

© Center for Sacramento History, 1984

This is Diane Holt on behalf of the Sacramento History Center's Ethnic Community Survey interviewing Dr. Stratis Zampathas at my home near American River Drive in East Sacramento. Today is March 11, 1984. Dr. Zampathas is a prominent member of one of Sacramento's oldest and most actively involved families in Sacramento's Greek community. He will tell us some of the incidents experienced by his father, one of the first Greek immigrants to arrive in Sacramento and a little about life then in the Greek community of the early 20th century and some views on the political interaction between the local Greek community and Greece.

Diane: Stratis, what does the name Stratis stand for?

Dr. Zampathas: Well, my name comes from Efstratis, the diminutive, the shortened version of Efstratis and people call me Stoggie also, and Stoggie comes from Stygo, my uncle's name was Stygo, so when I was born and I was a little kid, my dad tried to call me little Stygo and the kids in the neighborhood picked it up and they, from Stygo they came up upon with Stoggie and Stoggie I remained. The people that really know me and when I was a kid they always called me Stoggie.

Diane: Oh, I see.

Dr. Zampathas: So Stratis is something that I didn't use too much, now that I'm older, yes I use it, that's my name.

Diane: What was your father's name?

Dr. Zampathas: Chris.

Diane: Chris Zampathas?

Dr. Zampathas: Yes.

Diane: And when did he first come to this country?

Dr. Zampathas: He came to Sac – to Cali – to the United States about 1898, and he went to Chicago and his first job there I was told was putting telephones together. And from there he came out to the West Coast, he was told about virgin opportunities, virgin land and employment opportunities. He told me Sacramento was a place of 21,000 when he got here, and had boardwalks. They had wooden walk ways for people to stay out of the mud and so forth.

Diane: Down at the embarcadero, around that area?

Dr. Zampathas: Well, he was between

Diane: 2nd Street?

Dr. Zampathas: 4th, 5th, 6th, and K, and he knew two words – “you okay” “me okay” and he sold peaches and nectarines and things like this to start himself out. He was about 17 or 18 years

old at the time. He got, my uncle was stronger and heavier and older, Uncle Harry was put to work on the railroad. Dad spent his time going back and forth to see his brother up in Antelope, Roseville, on a bicycle. He would take a bike and he would ride up there and see him and come back. Well, then they got together, pooled their money and started a candy store. The store, the candy store began with, called Excelsior Candy Kitchen. It was interesting because it had wire chairs and wire back chairs and marble little tables and things like this, and they made their own ice cream and they made their own candy downstairs in the basement, so 1904 comes along, and Dad decides to venture into the beer business. So he got together with six or seven other guys and they opened up the place which now B. F. Hastings Building on 2nd and J and they made a saloon out of it and they had a big thing going there, made quite a bit of money.

Diane: Was he forced out of it by the mass manufacturing of candy, or the candy shops moving into the theaters?

Dr. Zampathas: No he left it in charge of my uncle.

Diane: Oh.

Dr. Zampathas: He left it. That's all, because he figured that Harry would do well there, and he would go off and do something else. So in the meantime, he made all of this money, and got a bowler hat and he got himself a gold toothpick and the whole bit, his watch with a fob and everything and he went back to Greece.

Diane: Was this his first trip back?

Dr. Zampathas: In 1907. Big deal. He went back to Greece and they grabbed him of course, to make him serve his time in the service. He bought his way out.

Diane: Uh huh, for how much, do you know?

Dr. Zampathas: I think it was \$300. So he came back to the United States to Sacramento and he worked for a while more in the candy store and he left the candy store to go back to Greece to get married, in 1912.

Diane: Just before the Balkan wars then? He wasn't –

Dr. Zampathas: When he got there, they grabbed him again and put him in the service and he stayed for two and a half years in the Greek army. So he fought up in different places. The one thing that I remember, the place he told me was, oh heck, I was young and I –

Diane: Is this the picture we have of him in our collection now?

Dr. Zampathas: Right, he was a soldier there, yes. He, they carried, in those days in the artillery; you were a group that pulled the artillery pieces up the mountain sides and through the valleys with ropes.

Diane: Oh my.

Dr. Zampathas: And it was manpower. So Dysinee [spelling] is the name of the place. So he got the place up there and he said they were fighting there and somebody shot at him and creased him and he slept, he was unconscious for 24 hours. Anyway, but the Greek king commemorated him and gave him a battalion battle citation so forth, and we, the kids, we ragged him [speaks in Greek, counter 48] the guy who was given a, the commendation by the King of Greece and so forth and so on.

[Counter 50]

Dr. Zampathas: Well he was mad for America with money in his pocket, so he took money out of his pocket many times where they had parties most of the fellows there in the army with him, and they had barbecues. He was, he would put the money up for it. When it was over, they finally ended that war in 1914, and he got a discharge and he decided to get married and he went back to his home. Before that [hard to hear, counter 053] came along, a good friend he had in Sacramento and he was trying to have Dad marry, I think his sister, who became Mrs. Bouteris by the way. Dad didn't cotton to that idea. He wanted to marry someone from his own area, so he went back to Tripolis and he told them he wanted to get married. They said "we have an orphan girl here, orphaned by her father in 19, 1897, and she is working as a domestic and she is 18 years old, we'll ask her, to see if she wants to go with you." So that's the way they arranged their marriage.

Diane: Oh my.

Dr. Zampathas: And then in April of 1914 he brought Mom with him to Sacramento.

Diane: Did he see a picture of her, or had he met her before or – ?

Dr. Zampathas: No, he had never seen her before, no. So they married and we, I'll give you a picture of that sometime, it is really cute. But, he, they decided to have a family and so forth, they talked things over, and oh – one of the guys he brought over on the boat with him, was named -- can you cut that off -- as proxy for one of the young men coming with her and said it was her, he belonged to her and as a result this boy ended up with 60 years in Bakersfield and he was my mother's foster son.

Diane: She brought him with them as a relative, with her?

Dr. Zampathas: She just accepted this fact and took him along.

Diane: Oh.

Dr. Zampathas: Now at that time, Mom had no family, and there were no kids, and since she was young and probably could handle it, Jim Pappas' mother had died and they proposed having him be adopted by my mother and father. It didn't quite work out, because all of a sudden, I guess Mom got pregnant, and he went to Lincoln and he lived up there, somebody raised him by

the name of Pappas, the name Pappas [spelling] is one of our family names. Anyway from there, he is also Gus [hard to hear, counter 73] so from there why, Mom had a succession of children. First of all she had Georgia, who's 60 and some, and then Penelope came along, and Penelope died during the flu epidemic in 1918. I was born in 1918 and Johnny and then Jimmy and then Manual and then Harry. Of those seven children, Johnny was killed at age 27, he had an automobile accident; Jimmy was killed on his way going to school on his bicycle, when he was 14 years old; Harry had an operation on his ear and he died, they messed that operation he was seven years old; and of course, Penelope died during the flu epidemic of 1918, so there are three of us left out of the original seven.

Diane: Oh my goodness.

Dr. Zampathas: Ha, that's the way it is.

Diane: Oh,

Dr. Zampathas: We grew up with Sacramento, because our first home was at 502 Capitol, which is now the Wells Fargo Bank Building, it's the headquarters. Then we moved to 1215 K Street –

Diane: Did many Greek families live around you?

Dr. Zampathas: Most of them lived by the church, the church came about in 1922. Before 1922, we went to church at 6th Street between K and L where I guess the Goodwill Industries used to have a building there, but we met in this hall and we had a priest come from San Francisco. [Hard to hear, counter 89] I remember his name.

Diane: He was the first Bishop?

Dr. Zampathas: So we went from there into, 1215 K was right by the former Christian Brothers School, which was on 12th and K at that time.

Diane: Was this moving to a little better neighborhood? Moving up each time?

Dr. Zampathas: Well, we moved into a house.

Diane: Oh, into a house.

Dr. Zampathas: We sold the house on 502 Capitol, because my mother, truthfully, couldn't get along with her sister-in-law. Her sister-in-law bossed her around all the time. An older woman, and my mother wanted a place of her own, period.

Diane: Before she lived with you, the sister-in-law?

Dr. Zampathas: At 502 Capitol, yeah.

Diane: How many other people besides your immediate family, besides your brothers and sisters, lived with you, other relatives or patrioti, people from Tripoli?

Dr. Zampathas: No, at 502 Capitol the Ganas, who are nephews of Mrs., my Aunt Mary, Teddy Pappas,

Diane: Lived in your home with you?

Dr. Zampathas: In that house. [hard to hear, counter 99] John Tirologas the old dishwashers and so forth, bootblacks at the time, kids, just came from Greece. My father always helped the people that came from Greece. He was the guy that had been established longer than anybody else so they did this.

[Counter 100]

Diane: I see.

Dr. Zampathas: So then, my Dad decided, he had a falling out with his brother in the candy business, instigated by his sister-in-law, excuse me for saying that. I'm biased about that. Damn dumbbell. But he decided to open up his own candy store, which he did, a block down at 620 K Street. It was next to the then Capital Hotel, it later became the J. C. Penney and Foreman and Clark and so forth and so on. But Dad had a big place, he had 18 waitresses, two or three candy

dippers, you know, they made their own stuff. In the meantime, when he had come back in 1907, he brought his brother, George, half-brother George, with him. His brother George was a little guy, he was about six or seven years old, eight years old at the time, and his father, my Dad's father had given him the brother and said "now you better take him with you because he won't live here, he just can't get enough to eat."

Diane: Oh.

Dr. Zampathas: We just don't have enough to feed him. And the step-grandmother had lost three sets of twins before Georges came along, so this was all, they were all really in poverty.

Diane: This is why your father came over too?

Dr. Zampathas: Oh, they wanted, had to eat. My father started out by being a tailor's apprentice in Peres to a member of the family. He didn't care for that at all. He talked, he caught one to Chicago, but that's where he started. Well, is that thing still running?

Diane: Yeah.

Dr. Zampathas: Well, I'll be darned. What happened was Dad opened up his candy store and it was a big thing and people kept coming by to see the place, to see if it was going to make it or not. They paid off their debt of \$90,000 in a year and a half's time.

Diane: Oh my goodness!

Dr. Zampathas: It cost them that to build. Today it's the wing of the Weinstock's and [hard to hear, counter 122] building, that's the wing right there. Anyway, it was interesting because I was growing up and I got to be about 12 years old and got run over by a truck, my left leg was broken, and a Chinese cook, his name was Walter Fong, and years later, years later when I was a teacher I had a Walter Fong's son in my class, Leroy Fong.

Diane: Oh my goodness.

Dr. Zampathas: Now Leroy Fong is a district attorney aide. He is a lawyer. Also the, oh, Georges was taught to be a candy maker by then, I don't know the last name, Sierra Candy Company who was Dad's candy maker at the time, and taught him well, because he became a damn good candy maker. In fact, he's made a lot, a lot of money, being a candy maker. He's still alive, he lives in Los Angeles.

Diane: Did you ever consider following in their footsteps and going into – ?

Dr. Zampathas: No, I disliked it, I disliked it completely. First of all, my Uncle Harry couldn't write his name. He was, never had, he was completely illiterate. Here I was a kid about 10, 12, 14 years old, and I was doing his books. I counted his money for him. I paid his bills for him, and I helped him. He was a magnanimous guy, he gave me \$20 working all summer one time.

Huh! But I ate a lot of milkshakes and I had an awful lot of banana splits and ice cream sundaes. I made them myself, they were beautiful, real creations. [laughs]

Diane: Then you worked after school, and during the summer?

Dr. Zampathas: Oh every summer, oh year, [hard to hear, counter 140]

Diane: Did spend your time on football teams or baseball teams?

Dr. Zampathas: Too small, too small, I played baseball, I weighed 124 pounds when I finished high school, a little bitty guy.

Diane: And you went into business in that newspaper article in the Bee talked about you selling, was it magazine subscriptions?

Dr. Zampathas: Oh, we had a, we had a Jim Koumyotis, not Steve, Steve never did play with us, but we had teams and we'd play the Greeks against the Americans, [laughs] in the sandlot right there by our house. The baseballs, we'd put them together by wrapping friction tape around them to make them baseballs, they were worn out balls, but we played, this guy came along and he's uh, he was head manager selling Liberty Magazines and so forth, in the area, so he got us to sell Liberty Magazines. We started from nothing and sold 375 Liberty's a week at a nickel a copy that was pretty good.

Diane: How old were you?

[Counter 150]

Dr. Zampathas: 12, yeah, 12, or 13 years old. But there was Jimmy and I and Manuel did the work, but Johnny would never, oh forget it. But we went out and we sold these magazines and then we expanded, we sold Country Gentleman, we sold about 25 of them, sold 150 Ladies Home Journals. Then I kept seeing this guy deliver Greek newspapers downtown, Nick Anastacelo [spelling], I said to myself “ I could do that” so Nick Anastacelo told me he was going to give it up, I said “good,” and went down to see Mr. Kantargis about delivering the paper and I took over for him.

Diane: Is this the California that came out of San Francisco?

Dr. Zampathas: No, the Atlantis and National Herald.

Diane: Oh from where, New York?

Dr. Zampathas: New York. I’d get it in the mail and I would open them up, well he’d get them in the mail, because he was in charge then, later on I took over and they came to me directly, but I sold 55 of those every day.

Diane: Did people subscribe to the California?

Dr. Zampathas: No, that was something else and they subscribed to that, that came through the mail.

Diane: Oh through the mail.

Dr. Zampathas: I sold some of them too. I sold the Pro –

Diane: Prometheus?

Dr. Zampathas: Yeah, Prometheus, that's right, I sold that also. I sold a magazine for Pacific Coast for Youth or something like that. It was a Greek fellow, Mrs. Chapman's brother-in-law was the publisher of that I sold that.

Diane: Sacramento didn't have its own –

Dr. Zampathas: Pacific Coast Review I think it's called.

Diane: Sacramento didn't have its own Greek publication?

Dr. Zampathas: No, oh no.

Diane: It never has.

Dr. Zampathas: But I what I had was a box scooter or my for a long time went down the street in a box scooter or I had my skates and later I got a bicycle and we won seven bikes, we won seven bicycles on the selling new magazines, and they stole everyone of them from me. I never got one back. I delivered the paper and I realized later that I wasn't bringing in enough money to feed the family, because Dad wasn't making a dime, I kept his books, oh they went broke, the candy business closed up because the town moved.

Diane: And then you went into the beer business you said?

Dr. Zampathas: No he and then he went into the in 1932 he had a little restaurant called Chris' Blue Plate Lunch. He had to learn to boil water. I mean it was a brand new experience for him.

Diane: And of course this was going into the Depression years too.

Dr. Zampathas: Depression it was, we homesteaded our house because we were back to paying \$20.00 a month on the house and we [hard to hear, counter 168] and we had a big garden –

Diane: Vegetables?

Dr. Zampathas: 160 and 120 and I did all of the digging. My mother did the planting and the whole day [hard to hear, counter 182] and all the guys would come home from school and say

“hey Stoggie, come on, let’s have some potatoes,” so we’d dig out a potato and we would slice it and make these dollar size potatoes put them in oil olive and –

Diane: What did she cook? What were your typical meals then, or you cooked?

Dr. Zampathas: For the guys, you know, they would steal the bread from my mother and we’d get them at the bakery, they’d bring us five loaves of bread every other day and Jim and I would eat a couple of those loaves, my Mom said [hard to hear, counter 187] –

Diane: Oh my goodness.

Dr. Zampathas: So years later when I became, when the Army and the Navy and so, I wrote back to her and apologized for stealing the bread. Do you know Fred Dillon, an attorney?

Diane: No I don’t.

Dr. Zampathas: He, Mom, used to chase him out of the house, but he would always come back, he would always come back. He learned a lot of Greek.

Diane: Did your group go to Greek school regularly to learn Greek?

Dr. Zampathas: Oh yeah, went to Greek school you’re right.

Diane: After school?

Dr. Zampathas: I went to Greek school three times a week, and this fellow Cortegis was my teacher he rapped me on the hand one time for something I didn't do and I got mad at him and left and I never went back.

Diane: How old were you when you went to Greek school then?

Dr. Zampathas: 7, 8, 9, or 10, 11, something like that.

Diane: Those ages.

Dr. Zampathas: I was in the Altar for seven years you know, in the church.

Diane: Altar boy?

[Counter 200]

Dr. Zampathas: And every Sunday I gave, I was responsible for reciting the Lord's Prayer and the Creed by myself, you know I did it and there wasn't anybody there, I mean as far as church was concerned, we'd have three, four, five, six, seven, ten people and we would gather around the counter to be a member of board, the canter, myself, the priest, and a few customers, the people, and so –

Diane: So they weren't church goers as a group, your family the members of your family?

Dr. Zampathas: No, no, no.

Diane: They were too busy working or what did they do on Sunday then, wasn't it a socializing place where they would basically get together?

Dr. Zampathas: No the kafenion were full.

Diane: Oh the kafenion was full.

Dr. Zampathas: These guys weren't married you know, all bachelor guys.

Diane: Sure, and that's where they went to exchange

Dr. Zampathas: But Mrs. Theodoratos would bring us bread from the Superior Bakery.

Diane: Was she the mother of the athlete – George?

Dr. Zampathas: Of George, yeah. Mrs. Kaplan is her daughter too, Mary Kaplan.

Diane: Were the organizations important at this time the AHEPA and the Pericles?

Dr. Zampathas: I'll tell you about the AHEPA when we come to that. We I want to tell you the family business, we picked tomatoes and potatoes in the other garden and these guys used to eat, and one time, and these guys would always come up and bowwow, my father was a driver for the [hard to hear, counter 214] well one time we stole these pies and we took off and ran for five blocks away and we sat down at the curb and I'll be damned if he didn't drive up right next to us.

Diane: What did your father do with you when you did something like that?

Dr. Zampathas: Oh we caught hell sure. What are you going to do about it?

Diane: Went out and do it again.

Dr. Zampathas: But you know, delivering the Greek newspaper, I got to know all these guys very intimately and I saw them in their whorehouses and I saw them in their inside their restaurants and their barbershops, in their saloons, in their what do you call it, speak easies, you knocked on the door to get in.

Diane: Before Prohibition?

Dr. Zampathas: During Prohibition.

Diane: During Prohibition oh yeah.

Dr. Zampathas: I remember this guy, Mr. Pantages, he used to make sandwiches for me, gave them to me, I mean as a kid, I was a hungry kid, he used to make roast pork with red onion, ketchup, and salt and pepper [claps his hands] boy I was in business. I had a dog, Vic, and he didn't belong to me, he belonged to the Palmos family, I'd come by on my bike whistle for Vic and he'd come with me and we'd take off and then we put in a good work and I'd get bones for him and things like this you know, "see ya later Vic" and he'd go back home you know that, isn't that something? Yeah, but I delivered 55 papers, I went all the way out to Eleven Bakery which was way out in North Sacramento on my bike, and the some days, wet, muddy, rainy, Christ, how I did I see I don't know, I did them.

Diane: Were people starting to move out of the downtown area then, out to –

Dr. Zampathas: Well see the Eleven Bakery began on 2nd Street, over by the Kantargis brothers, they went from 2nd Street to H Street to North Sacramento, and they had a big business, they had 18 trucks all up and down the valley, and then it folded. Oh no, it went to Roseville first, then North Sacramento.

Diane: And they didn't service just Greek families?

Dr. Zampathas: On no, everybody, everybody, restaurants, candy stores, anything, if anybody wanted bread they bought bread from them, like the modern Wonder bread is, you know the same type, they had the business they had the business corralled.

Diane: And no of the kids went into that business?

Dr. Zampathas: Four girls.

Diane: Four girls,

Dr. Zampathas: Kathy Reitus, Bessie Pappas, I can't remember their names.

Diane: Well it seems to be typical though even of you're, now you went on to higher education and got your doctorate in history right?

Dr. Zampathas: Yeah, well you know —

Diane: It seems typical that they pushed the kids to achieve to get —

Dr. Zampathas: Now George Parrish for instance is a judge, George's father was a saloon keeper on 2nd and K. You never saw George do anything or mix with anyone, he was by himself.

Diane: Studying encouraged to study.

[Counter 250]

Dr. Zampathas: Then George went away to school, well I was older, I went away to school first. But when I went away to school I can remember seeing my father, I worked for the department, I passed the test, the state civil service test, I got on the list to be a junior clerk [he laughs] they gave me \$70 or \$80 a month, I forget, \$70 or \$80, anyway they hired me for the Department of Employment. I wanted to go school I wanted to play baseball that was my big thing was baseball. So I weighed like I said 124 pounds when I finished high school. I played I was on the baseball team the [hard to hear, counter 258]

Diane: Which high school?

Dr. Zampathas: Oh there was only one Sacramento High School but I couldn't play on that baseball team they're were good ball players, I mean these guys were sharp and I was a little bitty guy I remember that the coach came over there and would tell me "Come on Zam, stick around" and I "oh the hell with you I'm going home." He wouldn't let me hit.

Diane: Did your parents encourage you to go to college?

Dr. Zampathas: Nope, Mama did, my mother was taken from her family, from her mother as a young child and raised by this woman in Tripolis who kept her as sort of a domestic person in

the house and she taught her to read and write. So my mother insisted I learn and she would read stories for me, The Count of Montechristo and so forth and so on in Greek and I listened to her.

Diane: Did you learn Greek before you learned English then spoke Greek mainly?

Dr. Zampathas: I must have, I must have. But I was reading wise and street wise I was reading wise I did it all, I was a ten year old kid when I told my dad “I want to go out of the house, I want to work” and I went to work for my Uncle Harry. [hard to hear, counter 276] and all kinds of maneuvers I remember one time getting these watermelons on 16th and C at the farmers market there and coming down the hill and my bike’s wheel collapsed and I slid down the hill with [speaks in Greek, counter 279] but uh well we set this guys place up we divided seven and six, I got the seven you know, so I was a tough little guy. [Tape turned off and starts again with Dr. Zampathas in mid sentence.] called junior college in those days there were 2200 students and it was a big thing around here. I was a 16 year old kid, so after being there a year my counselor called me in by the name of Seldon, Don Seldon called me in and asked me, he said “are you going to go on to school” I said “I am” he said “how much language do you have?” “Zero” “How much science do you have” –

Diane: Zero you knew Greek and you knew English.

Dr. Zampathas: Nothing, that didn’t count then.

Diane: Didn’t count then.

Dr. Zampathas: They didn't even ask me about that no. So I had no science, I had no math, I had no language, so I started taking them. Set it up, set my junior college with 82 units completed and an A.A. and so forth and decided I was going to go to UCLA. It was a new school and the opportunity was there and I would get away from all the guys that I grew up with.

Diane: How did your parents feel about you going so far away? That was –

Dr. Zampathas: Well my father says to me – I was going to tell you. I told my Dad “I'm leaving next week” “Where are you going?” “I'm going to school.” “When did you make up your mind to do this?” “At four years ago” “I'll be damned”.

[Counter 300]

Dr. Zampathas: Of course he wanted us to go on and help with the family see? My mother quarreled with him, she [hard to hear 301] she didn't say anything, but she wanted me to go to school in the worst way. So I left, I went down to school, but I had trouble, I wasn't ready to go to college. I did just a kid for heaven sakes, and what happened was I went broke in about three months. I didn't have a penny in my pocket. So I went in to see this guy George Mannas who was a tailor and I said to him “your name is Mannis” he said “yes” I said “my name is Zampathas” he said “you're Chris' son?” and I said “that's right” and he said uh “you come back and see me in about ten minutes” and I did, he said “I've got a job for you” “doing what?” “I want you to deliver clothes for me” “hell I don't know Los Angeles” I told him “you'll learn it”

so I ended up by being a delivery boy for the tailor George Mannis whom my dad befriended in 1921, here he was repaying the debt, you see? So I want to tell you about the organizations and then

Diane: And you joined a fraternity there?

Dr. Zampathas: Oh I joined Sigma Pi yeah,

Diane: The only Greek boy in the fraternity?

Dr. Zampathas: Oh did you know about that, huh? Well what happened was this, uh Muddy Waters, Charles Waters, Muddy Waters, insisted that I come and live over there at the Sigma Pi house, they were having trouble paying their bills, you know they weren't getting enough customers and so, not getting enough members and so forth. I said "I gotta eat man, I need a job" so they helped me get a job in the sorority house, so I was a hasher and I worked - these gals I was just very, very bashful guy and these gals would wink at me and so forth and it would make me very uncomfortable, but I hung right in there and I lived in the fraternity house and paid \$12 a month.

Diane: What year was this?

Dr. Zampathas: 38. So, no it was 39 because I stayed about six months in Santa Monica before I went broke. So I wanted to play baseball so I went out there one day to get on a baseball team,

the UCLA baseball team and ended up playing with big leaguers. Oh well, so what, I could throw the ball pretty hard and I could [hard to hear, counter 340] baseball but the guy was having trouble getting the ball over, the pitcher so the coach said “Zampathas go on in”. I was playing against these big leaguers, pitching against them. So I remember one guy I through him two balls right by him, pretty fast and then I threw him a curve, it was the last time I saw it, it disappeared over the fence. [they laugh]

Diane: What did you major in, in college?

Dr. Zampathas: History.

Diane: History?

[Counter 350]

Dr. Zampathas: Yeah, it was very interesting because my professors were LeBoneuf who was a White Russian Count, he taught European History and English History uh, European History, and Kiwau was Japanese born, American born Japanese guy excellent professor, and Bjork who was a Norwegian these were my professors, I had some interesting, Koontz, old man Koontz, I used to write poetry to him. You know I learned to write poetry, reading this stuff the doggerel on the wall at the back at the ball park you know, the baseball players used write about each other.

Diane: Were there many Greek students down at UCLA that you chummed around with?

Dr. Zampathas: No I didn't chum around with any of them, no. I didn't have time for that. I met a guy by the name of Vassilopoulos who was from Brooklyn, who had an accent, he had a big long nose. He insisted I go take, go to this Greek class, he was taking classical Greek

[Tape one, Side one ends]

[Counter 368]

[Tape one, Side two begins]

Diane: The people from Psari?

Dr. Zampathas: Psari, Messinia

Diane: Let's say that again because I just started the tape. The people from Psari –

Dr. Zampathas: Psari, Messinia, had a big influence on and the people from Kefalonia also, had a big influence on the area of Sacramento Church. The Tryphon family, the Apostolos family, the Andrews family, all from there. At any rate, I want to talk to you a little bit about this Church business. You had something else you wanted to ask me?

Diane: Well I felt that if we talked about the organizations that your father and uncle were so influential in starting.

Dr. Zampathas: My Dad was one of the founders of Elpis. Elpis was hope, was the fraternal organization got together to help each other in times of illness to get a doctor for them and medicines and so forth and so on. It was a philanthropic thing where the men took care of themselves, took care of each other. Paid a very small amount. I was a member of that organization. Tony Legatos was the president for 12 years. Nobody wanted to run against him. They let him be. We got along fine. Then all of a sudden a guy, one of the guys, Delores did this, said "I want my money, let's break this thing up." And we did. Broke it up, everybody got \$90 bucks. Big deal, closed up the thing.

Diane: Then they formed the Pan-Hellenic Union?

Dr. Zampathas: No, that was before.

Diane: That was before Elpis.

Dr. Zampathas: The Pan-Hellenic Union had come and gone. They wanted to take care of themselves. Then in 1924 or 5, George Manus and George Zamm got together talking and they read in the paper about the AHEPA being formed back east and decided to ask to do something like that here, which they did. A letter came and they went around and had to get 25 charter members. There are two left, Zamm and Peter Demos of Lincoln. This fellow Chibithes came

over from back east and he was the speaker, a very, very gifted orator, and he spoke at the Hotel Sacramento on 10th and K Street, and it had a sold out audience. That was the beginning of the AHEPA in Sacramento. The people that did not join the AHEPA later formed GAPA.

Diane: And AHEPA was made up mainly of the businessmen and the –

Dr. Zampathas: Oh you don't want to identify them that way. Let's say they had a click of their own, let's put it that way. Because I don't want to differentiate between who's this and that, why bother?

Diane: But they had a certain orientation towards helping people assimilate?

Dr. Zampathas: The important thing with AHEPA was that they started with the idea of helping people become American citizens. That was their chief aim. Because, they were organized in Atlanta, Georgia, to combat the Ku Klux Klan who were throwing rocks and stones through their windows of their restaurants down south.

Diane: Was there any of that here?

Dr. Zampathas: There was some, but it was never identified for me. I was quite impressed with the different number of Greek people who were here with the idea of making money and going back to Greece. It was amazing how many did this. I was amazed at how many shepherders we had around here with sheep, actual flocks of sheep.

Diane: Did they lose out during the Depression?

Dr. Zampathas: They sold and made money, they made big money. Red Lion Inn, you know, as the Red Lion Inn, that was sheep pasture for one of our guys, and so forth and so many places where they brought the things over from Greece and they carried on their traditions over here.

[Counter 400]

Diane: The ones that went back to Greece did they come back again?

Dr. Zampathas: No, not really, not really. We had a priest [the tape is turned off, and then continues with a new subject]. We had a big house, our home was built in 1879 on 24th and X. We had all kinds of trees, all kinds of vegetables, all kinds, cuchi, potatoes, tomatoes, and quince, and figs, and walnuts, in our back yard. We had a barn, in the barn we had 104 rabbits at one time. Forty pigeons.

Diane: Did you raise them for food?

Dr. Zampathas: Oh yeah, you bet, we ate them. Nobody would eat squab, I would eat squab and my mother, oh I enjoyed it. Great! The other guys, the kids, the other part of the family, no sirree!

Diane: When you, you are one of the first members of the AHEPA, your father was one of the originators, but then you joined it at age –

Dr. Zampathas: Not my father, my uncle.

Diane: Oh, your uncle. And how old were you –

Dr. Zampathas: My father never joined. I kept asking him why, but I guess he was broke at the time.

Diane: Oh.

Dr. Zampathas: Being honest about it. I think he was broke.

Diane: What did it cost to join the AHEPA?

Dr. Zampathas: \$20 bucks. But he spent his money on his kids.

Diane: Sure.

Dr. Zampathas: And uh, when the Pan Arcadians began in 1940, 35, or it must have been 40, later than that, my Dad was the first president.

Diane: Now what are the Pan Arcadians?

Dr. Zampathas: Just people from, the one's in Sacramento are called Falanthos because that is sort of the county that they are from up above Tripolis. It is sort of nestled in the hills above Tripolis and down below is the Pan Arcadian hospital. A four and a half million dollar hospital that the Greek Americans of Pan Arcadian decent sent over there and built for the people of Tripolis. How do you like that? A four and a half million dollar – quite a nice, I have been through it. It is quite a nice building.

Diane: Yes, I have seen the picture. A big building. So they, the Pan Arcadians are doing philanthropic type –

Dr. Zampathas: They did, most of these organizations have now come to the point where there is no reason for them to continue in existence except for good fellowship. The people in Oakland for instance have a treasury of \$70,000 or \$80,000 and a fantastic Monkanata every year that everyone loves to go to because the food is great and you get a piece of roast beef and they give you these big macaroni, all you can eat, all you can eat. \$10 or \$12 bucks whatever it is, we tried that here, we were doing all right, but we don't have any men left in the organization, there are only three of us. So, we are down to 39 from 166.

Diane: How about the newer immigrants coming? They don't join or their not –

Dr. Zampathas: No, they want hit and run, you know, go back.

Diane: And your children now, are they involved with the Pan Arcadians and the –

Dr. Zampathas: No, my wife, no, she's an Arcadian, her father is from Methoni, right across Tripoli.

Diane: Yes, so am I.

Dr. Zampathas: Really? Five miles out. I went to his house, I have my wedding pictures on the wall, I took them all from there. Brought them home, it was empty, nobody living there. But uh –

Diane: So there are, and there are other groups too, just as active or other groups

Dr. Zampathas: Now, you see, in Greece, and Diane, you should know this, people leave the village and they are going to Athens, "I'm an Athenian", well, hell, they came from the village of Sparta, the hills of Tripoli, up in the hills of, they're villagers for crimony! They all became Athenians, now we have pretty good size group there that call themselves Athenians. 85 of them! They formed a new club, really.

Diane: Yeah, I've heard that.

Dr. Zampathas: The AHEPA has lost a lot of its flavor because what's the reason for its existence? It

Diane: Well during the World War Two they were they sold war bonds –

Dr. Zampathas: Sold war bonds and everything else.

Diane: Sold war bonds, Greek war relief.

Dr. Zampathas: Now they have worn out their reason for existence. As GAPA has too, when they'll see the handwriting on the wall, they will sort of slow down too. What do we have left?

Diane: The American Hellenic Professional Association.

Dr. Zampathas: That is interesting because they have put that together the idea of getting the people that are college people

Diane: College graduates.

Dr. Zampathas: Educated people, people who are in the different professions and who have gone through the rigors of completing their educational training, they are all together. It is interesting, one time we had here in Sacramento 135 people teaching.

Diane: 135 Greek educators in the Sacramento area.

Dr. Zampathas: I was by myself at one time.

Diane: Is that right?

Dr. Zampathas: Lucille came out here, Lucille Volpas came into the picture pretty quick after that, and here and there, but no, I was alone and I wondered how the hell I had got in there because, you know, you always felt that there is a barrier, I always felt it was a barrier I had overcome, and anyway it happened.

Diane: When was the North American Hellenic Professional Association formed?

Dr. Zampathas: The American Hellenic Professional Society –

[Counter 450]

Diane: Late 70s?

Dr. Zampathas: [hard to hear, counter 451]

Diane: Okay, I think in the late 70s?

Dr. Zampathas: Early 70s.

Diane: Early 70s.

Dr. Zampathas: Because it was about 74 or 75.

Diane: And it is growing every year, the membership?

Dr. Zampathas: Uh it uh, needs guidance, it needs its reason for existence shall we say, you can find most of the people a you are in a mix marriage situation, you'll find most people don't adhere to the idea of Greek heritage, you know, as such. Now we have Dean Fotos who thinks that the classical Greek of this and that, belongs to the Greek. The hell it does! He had no part of it, it's a different world, you know. I, way back then, but uh, you'll find him alluding to this sort of thing all the time. Making a big to do over it, you know. Most of them say oh forget it you know.

Diane: But through the Modern Greek Studies Program there is some sort of an effort to maintain the classics.

Dr. Zampathas: If you have the proper teacher. In the proper teaching situation at the State College for instance, it would really refurbish the whole thing. It would really make it bloom. But Chafferty –

Diane: Well it's difficult, I think to appeal to –

Dr. Zampathas: Personality-wise she didn't, she's hard to accept.

Diane: Yeah.

Dr. Zampathas: Really.

Diane: And the probably demand isn't there for the Greek program, do you think there is a big demand?

Dr. Zampathas: The Hellas, the Hellas, of this thing here, the Hellas Club, is big.

Diane: That's the student organization.

Dr. Zampathas: Yeah, there are seventy or eighty students on campus who are of Greek descent. Most of them are from Greece.

Diane: Oh is that right.

Dr. Zampathas: Now if she, if the person teaching that, the Greeks could satisfy their needs,

Diane: Of course they don't need to learn Greek, they all ready know Greek.

Dr. Zampathas: But it would give them a, it would give them an adjustment situation where they could learn from it to help them with what they are doing. It could be very good, very, very, I will not do it. I feel I have done enough. You know, Diane?

Diane: What do you see as the future for the Greek Studies Program?

Dr. Zampathas: Disappear.

Diane: Disappear [laughs] Well they've had the Bacchali, the Classical Greek Programs, --

Dr. Zampathas: I was in Los Angeles, in UCLA Alumni meeting last week, Monday. A woman by the name of Jane Hamilton came up and spoke with me. Her Greek was pretty good! I said "where did you learn your Greek?" She said "I learned it at UCLA, they've got a Greek Program there, Modern Greek Studies there" The Reoues [spelling] is one of the teachers and so forth and so on. I've met him. Gus and I have gone these different places Modern Greek Studies to, and we've run up against some fantastically well educated people who, I took Georgia with me to Chicago, the University of Chicago, one time, fantastic the experience we had in learning and hearing these people talk and what they have come from Amherst, the different colleges up and down the United States, all over, these people are established professors in the different fields, and they are of Greek descent. Women talk about Greek woman's heritage you know. What a tough thing they had to overcome in regards to being placed as second class citizens, and being part of the scene, you know?

Diane: I'll agree to that.

Dr. Zampathas: I know, I know. But we find Greek is an awful hard thing to overcome, to get away from.

Diane: That's changing thought now, isn't? There are a group of Greek girls in town who are lawyers and –

Dr. Zampathas: Oh, there, they've not only become lawyers, but they've gotten you know, my wife for instance, she's a good woman, and a very good teacher. One of the very best. I kept telling her to "get your masters degree for criminy sakes." She wouldn't listen to me. She insisted on taking these doggone methods classes and that ate up her time. We getting ready to quit, a couple of years before she said, "I should have become a counselor." You can't you know without the masters degree. Without your credentials. So she didn't make it. But she should have made it because she was, the kids all came to her to talk to her about their problems. It was just a natural situation for her. They could talk with her.

Diane: There was a time when women were not encouraged though to get too much education, because they might outclass their, the men that they would meet, or they should not go on to become doctors or lawyers, they should be teachers.

Dr. Zampathas: Well they should be child bearers.

Diane: Right.

Dr. Zampathas: That family, the family looked upon it as more important unit at that time.

Now nobody cares, really, as far as I'm concerned the family doesn't mean as much as it used to mean.

Diane: Well values are changing, you need a double paycheck and for security women should have their own careers possibly also.

[Counter 500]

Dr. Zampathas: And you can't become a good helpmate to your husband, not really. Aw it's become too tough. There is a constant pull. Georgia and I, we have a real good pull. We are both in the [hard to hear, counter 502] child business, but she goes her way and I go my way. It has to happen.

Diane: Do you think the Church is losing its members because of, is it still a, although according to you it was never the central.

Dr. Zampathas: The Church, has lost its opportunity, we built towards making a good thing where everybody would use it as sort of a catalyst to do things. This fellow that has come along now, 38, or 39 I think it was, 48 or 49, excuse me.

Diane: 48 or 49 then you were trying to build, buy the new property for the new Church that is existing now.

Dr. Zampathas: I'll tell you about that, because I want you to record this.

Diane: Okay.

Dr. Zampathas: That was a bad seed, because Steve Koumyotis was one of the members of our committee and we got together and we opened, got a big map of the County of Sacramento, we pinpointed all the residences we showed demographically where everybody lived.

Diane: Were they all in one area, or were they scattered all over?

Dr. Zampathas: Not really scattered.

Diane: How far? Elk Grove?

Dr. Zampathas: All over the place. As they still are. More so now, but at the time people thought that a lot of people lived around 29th and 30th, which they didn't. We came to a meeting one day and we signed a piece of paper to show that we were present, the old timers put on top of there, on top of our signatures, "The undersigned hereby give permission to buy the property on 29th" and so forth. And that's how we bought that property. Well at that time there were four or

five or six good pieces of property with a size that we had in mind. And these guys, the old timers, wouldn't pay attention to the younger people because, we had no money in our pocket. We had nothing. We had desire, and we had foresight, we could look ahead, but they wouldn't let us buy. And they bought that property. The first thing they were going to do was build the hall, which they did, and then they built the Church, and I remember, like I'm standing here sitting with you, that I went and asked the man who was in charge and I said "what are you going to do about the acoustics of this place?" "Acoustics, what do you mean?" I said "you know, for singing, for choir and so forth and so on, you want to have good stuff in there, what do you think?" Zolliner told him there is acoustically plastic, put it in here. "Hey Frank," he calls the guy over, "Frank what do you think? Put acoustical plaster in there?" "[hard to hear, counter 528] "Yeah put it in". And that's how we built our Church. That's the truth! There was no plan, see?

Diane: Was the priest involved?

Dr. Zampathas: No, the conference was between two men. Legatos and George Johnson.

Diane: Oh.

Dr. Zampathas: They worked it out they were, Legatos had a party, George Johnson had a meeting. Johnson had a party and Legatos had a meeting, so they wouldn't bother each other. They argued -- oh boy -- terrible. And I was on the committee, but they wouldn't listen to me, I had no dough, no money. Niko Simpson from Davis, the automobile man, the automobile

dealer, he was vehement about things done his way. There was Mantis who was the Chicago Hotel owner and he and his two brothers that passed away, they had the two widows that are down here on 42 Street. He was always maneuvering around. He was always the maneuverer, he became the president and so forth and so on. But the Church was built and we owed \$125,000 to \$135,000. Astronomical!

Diane: And of course this was the war time too, then, Strati?

Dr. Zampathas: No, this was after the war!

Diane: Oh this was after the war?

Dr. Zampathas: Yeah, in 52 see?

Diane: Oh, 52, yeah, okay.

Dr. Zampathas: So we moved in 1952. Oh I was one of the guys who helped tear down the old Church. Oh yes, I did! I took down the altar and Portho took the bones out of there, the sacred bones and so forth, got the pictures off the walls, and took the pipes, oh did the whole thing! Mr. Grijalis and I we did a lot of things, there were four or five of us there: Jim Psihopedas, Grijalis and I, we tore that place down. We, oh I was teaching school at Lincoln School at 4th and P and the Redevelopment Agency came along. Gerald Lipp, I guess was his name, and they wanted our property, the Church, and they took the Shiloh Baptist which was Black people at 6th and P,

so as a teacher, as a coach, I asked my kids over there at the school “What did you guys get for that thing?”

[Counter 550]

Dr. Zampathas: “We got 54 months rent, they gave us that plus the money that they bought the property for.” Fifty-four months rent, hey, I told George Johnson who was raising money, “hey, they got 54 months rent.” George got 54 months rent for us! Plus the amount of money, the \$60,000, we got for the property, and we owned the, Liviakis had bought at that time, that was the president, he bought three houses on 7th Street, next to the alley. We went deep, we went 160 feet deep. We had a house behind our church where we had our Sunday School Program. The priest lived upstairs.

Diane: That only housed 250 people though, wasn't it, the first Church?

Dr. Zampathas: Smaller, smaller –

Diane: So they needed a bigger Church.

Dr. Zampathas: The Church was needed, because you'd go to Church and you'd say “ugh” the guys would knock you out with their breath, they had onions, and garlic, and [speaks Greek], you know, you'd be going “what the hell?” But at Easter time they came from everywhere. We'd take the chairs out.

Diane: Did they have pews or just chairs?

Dr. Zampathas: Oh the chairs were theater chairs that had been screwed into the floor.

Diane: Oh.

Dr. Zampathas: There was a little gas heater over on the side and that was it. We pulled the damn things out and cleared the area so that people come in. They were shoulder to shoulder. It was full, and the lighting was so terrible, that it couldn't take it. The power would go off. I remember putting, standing in there [hard to hear, counter 571] in one time. But, they'd, we'd and the [hard to hear, counter 573] was atrocious. My mother was the first Sunday School teacher.

Diane: Is that right?

Dr. Zampathas: She had all the kids like the old time country school, all grades in one. You start from scratch. Like I told you she was self-taught. But she knew these stories, she knew them all in regards to the Church. She went on and on, and of course, Manual Fotos, was one of her first students, she loved him. Thought he was a great kid. But I was the altar boy like I told you for about seven years. I had always wanted to be the head altar boy. And one day Tom Loris, the attorney, and this guy by the name of Kevin Porters, got in a big fight. Oh man what a

fight! In the back room of the Church while the Church service was going on. The priest kicked them both out and I became the head man! [They both chuckle.] Yeah!

Diane: So then you moved to the new Church and George Johnson was running for office then? Or was this later?

Dr. Zampathas: Oh, he became president one time.

Diane: And didn't he run for State Office?

Dr. Zampathas: State Treasurer.

Diane: But lost?

Dr. Zampathas: But he lost, it was a, he put Eppie up there to, he put his son up there, Eppie up there to show that he had been in the Army, you know, and this and that, and um, and Eppie was in his greens. It didn't work out, he came close.

Diane: Yeah. Did many of the Greek boys go into the Army from here?

Dr. Zampathas: Oh yeah. We had the Hellenic American Veterans Club, and I should tell you about that. I was the first president. We had about 30 or 40 of us. We had a good time. We'd

eat and drink beer, and shot, and they would play craps I know, but can't do that around here, I'd leave, you know.

Diane: Were you in the service with other Greek buddies or?

Dr. Zampathas: No, uh, no. I went in the Army in 1941. I got out of college on June 14, of 41. I was called in November of 40, I was cutting the lawn at Sigma Pi, it was my turn to cut the grass. Anyway, this, these guys got their orders the day before. I laughed at them. Ha Ha! The next day I got mine, Jesus Christ! I went down and saw the draft board, and they told me as soon as you finish school, let us know. I finished school and I came in and told, and the next day, I had company there, I got my notice to report for duty. \$21 a month. So I was here. I told my Dad and I said, I got to go in the Army, he gave me \$10. I gave it back to my Mom. I should have kept it. It would have come in handy. But uh, --

Diane: Where did they send you?

Dr. Zampathas: They sent me to Camp Walters, Texas.

Diane: Oh.

Dr. Zampathas: Right out of Fort Worth about 40 miles. I stayed there two, Diane, two, we went, I want to tell you this, this is interesting [Diane chuckles]. I was, me, I want, "God Damn Guys, they put me in the Army, the rotten so and so" and so on and so forth. And the guy was a

terrible talking man, this Sergeant, Oh every third word was “F U” “F U”, I told him “if you can’t talk proper, don’t talk to me at all.” “Zamit, Zamit,” and I said “if you can’t pronounce my name then don’t use it.” So the next morning, oh, he says “I want four guys to move the laundry, you, you, you, and Zampathas, did I pronounce it right?” “Yes, you did.” I put a stick under him, knock it off, or I’ll kill you. Every day he would give me something else to do. I had to try to fight him, he wouldn’t let me. We’d have had a hell of a scrap, believe me.

Diane: Did they send you overseas?

Dr. Zampathas: No, let me tell you about that.

Diane: Oh.

Dr. Zampathas: So, some guy, one guy runs off, goes AWOL, and he called four or five of us in together, I guess he thought I was a tough guy. He wanted us to beat him up. Because he embarrassed us by going AWOL. “Go to Hell!” I had a big, I grew a mustache to thwart him. He said “you shave that off.” “The Hell I will!” “Take it off!” “No” “You take it off, if you don’t have it off by Monday morning, I’m going to tell the old man.” I started thinking about it, for Christ’s sake, what is the Army, what comes up now? In the meantime, it was a Friday, what’s a guy got to do to, oh damn I shouldn’t be here representing my life [hard to hear, counter 581]. The guy was, just had no physical coordination at all. They put him next to me. Because the other guys were abusing him. They put him in the bed next to me. And so I had a fight with him, and if he had hurt me I would have had to knock him down because Christ it hurt like hell.

You would get, my arms were sore. Anyway, he was really a complete misfit, social misfit, he comes along and he says “Hey Stav, what do you think, should I grow a mustache?” I says “Tony, you know, your face is very thin, if you grow a mustache you will look a lot better, go ahead and grow it.” So this was about Thursday, yeah, so on Friday, it rained like hell like this in Texas, and all of a sudden, brrrrr [attempting to sound like rain} downpour, so we had to stay inside. Here comes my lieutenant, a Texas A & M guy. “I need to talk to you” [Tape stops at 595 and starts up in the middle of a sentence] did I pronounce the word right? Anyway, he looks at Dutra was standing at attention “Who told you to grow a mustache, Dutra?” “Zampathas” “oh the son of a”. He put us in the kitchen [he laughs]. We cleaned all the windows. I have seen him since. It took me 35 years to find him. I found him in Hollister, but I, I shaved my mustache off. He kept his on. Ah well.

[Counter 600]

Diane: So this is the first time they sent you to Europe, first time you took a trip to Europe was going over with the service?

Dr. Zampathas: No, no, I didn't go over in the service at all. No, I was, had orders to Texas and this colonel called us out, about 60 of us. He says “Men, I have personally selected each and everyone of you, we are going to form a new organization.” I wondered what the hell gives now. We became the DEML, we opened up a reception center. We stayed there for two years, couldn't go anywhere. He locked us in. Well after being there about two months in this barracks with these guys, I said to myself, “to hell with this”. A guy comes along and says “I need

somebody who can type.” “I can type” I told him. So I went in and I became the Quartermaster of the organization. I’d did all of the clerical work. We ordered the beds, and we ordered mattress, and this and that. I said to myself “well I helped organize this clothes warehouse, hey I’m going to get a good job out of this.”

Diane: It doesn’t sound like a bad way to spend the war.

Dr. Zampathas: I didn’t get it though.

Diane: Oh.

Dr. Zampathas: I went in there and they pushed me aside and the great stone face who was, who’d been in the Army about 30 years, he took over the head job and I had nothing. In the meantime, I had given Sgt. Lemons was my first sergeant, he says to me “Hey you God Damn Greek”. I told him listen, “if you can’t call me my name, don’t talk to me at all, you understand that?” Oh he was a beaut. He had booze in the ice cooler and he’d drink gin in front of the Captain. The guys wouldn’t know what he had, they’d drink 7-up, he was drinking booze.

Diane: Oh the tape is getting short, maybe you could tell us about your trips to Greece.

Dr. Zampathas: Well that didn’t happen until after I was through with the Army.

Diane: Oh.

Dr. Zampathas: And the way I went to Greece was this, I was working at Ethel Phillips, I was principal. I was tired. I thought “how the hell do you get a sabbatical? I said “I’ll call downtown and see.” “How do you get a sabbatical?” They said “you ask this office.” I’m asking, “okay, we’ll send you papers.” I filled them out and I got them back with an acceptance.

Diane: On one of your trips you managed to get for the City of Sacramento the statue of Poseidon which we know have in our Community Center. Can you tell us how that came about?

Dr. Zampathas: That came after 1971. We’d been talking in Eppie Johnson’s backyard, they’d had a cocktail party for this General who was out checking on the emigrating Greeks, and we were getting ready to build, I think we wanted to show that we were here for 50 years and we wanted to show the community that we appreciated the fact that we were part of the citizenry of the community. So the idea first was, I’d just got back from Onassis [hard to hear, counter 640] and I saw all of this icons, lots of them, that had been brought from all over Greece and put in the Onassis place. I thought we could get one of them. So I said to Eppie, “when I go to Greece I’ll look this guy up and I’ll make sure he gives us something.” I went there and they sent me to all of these different sculptures and places and I went and checked out these painters and this and that, and I went to this guy’s office and by golly, I got no real satisfaction, he said “we’ll send you something”. I came home and the next year, I was getting ready to go to Greece, they told me that we had a package at the Railway Express, it was a big thing they said to me.

[Counter 650]

Dr. Zampathas: Is that right, well I went down there, and I couldn't believe the huge box that was there. I was getting ready to go to Greece, and I said "wait a minute, I can't do anything about it right now, hold it here." So we opened it up and there was old Poseidon. An exact copy of the architectural statues, statues in the Architectural Museum of Greece in Athens. So uh, I came back and I went to see the Mayor, I thought, Mayor Merriott, Dick Merriott. I told Dick, I said "hey, we've got to put this thing up." "We need statutes in Sacramento, we need a lot of them. Damn it all, we've got to find a place for it." So I said, "Where, where," We talked about Capitol Park first, other places, we came upon the idea of putting it at the Convention Center and that's where it went. Well then this man came up and told me it would cost you \$14,000 to put this up. I said "forget it! We don't have any money!" I asked Joe [hard to hear, counter 670], an architect and he said "every time they build a building, a city building, they put part of the money away until they decide to beautify the building, that's what, you get your money from there, you tell them!" So I did, so the money came from there, and we put it up on a pedestal there and we have Poseidon now.

Diane: Oh, it's beautiful. Thanks to you! And thank you very much for a very interesting interview!

Dr. Zampathas: Oh, I didn't brandish anything there. I was on the Church board 25 years. President a couple of years. Oh, I was vice president, that was in the 70s.

Diane: What are you going to do next year?

[Tape one, Side two ends]

[Counter 680]

[Interview over]