

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Marjorie Roth

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Immigrant Stories* Oral History project

Interview # IM-A-L-2013-069

Marjorie Roth emigrated from Slovenia to the United States as a child, arriving by ship to Ellis Island, May 13, 1933. Marjorie was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Immigrant Stories* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: September 27, 2012

Location: Marge Roth's home

Date: July 9, 2013

Location: Marge Roth's home

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Carol Esarey, Oral History volunteer

Transcription by: patty Maynor, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: Betty Workman and Rozanne Flatt, ALPL volunteers

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# Abstract

Marjorie Roth, *Immigrant Stories*, IM-A-L-2013-069

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Blass Strukel immigrated to the US in 1929 from Slovenia. The family, consisting of his wife, Maria and children, Amalija, Josephine and Frank, followed four years later in May, 1933, by ship to New York. They went through customs at Ellis Island and on to eventually live in Springfield, Illinois where Blass worked as a mechanic in the Pillsbury plant. Marjorie, then 10 years old, received a new American name in Ellis Island, Marjorie (Marge). Marge grew up and attended schools in Springfield, IL, learning English and adapting to a new life in the U.S. She married Arthur Roth, in 1974.

Marge's ethnic roots and memories of music and singing with friends and family in Slovenia remained strong. Marge has retained her strong ties to the traditions of Slovenia through music all of her life. So strong was her interest, she learned to master playing the button box later in life when her husband gave her an exact replica of her father's button box for her 60th birthday. The Slovenian Strollers (Marge and her sister, Josephine) became a well-known musical duo, performing in many venues in the Midwest.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Rural family life in Slovenia, 1927-1933; immigration process through Ellis Island in the early 1900's; Role of Slovenian music and song in daily life; Slovenian Strollers, Button Box, and "stump fiddle"; Slovenian folk music.

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