Lest, since I was to start to school very soon, but I shall never forget the feeling of sorrow I experienced when we waved goodbye to my grandfather. Life in the country had offered background and experience to me so that even at so young an age, I had profited greatly. Upon moving to the city, I resumed a more natural life, playing with other children, going to movies, and eating chocolate sodas. I can think of no other background or living conditions that I would trade for my experiences in a perfect balance of country and city life.

The Heart of America

Eileen Hoover

Do not allow Pete to deceive you with his modern ideas and speeches. He is really quite a character from out of the old world with all his old-fashioned ways. Italy can boast of the birth of one Peter Galbo about half a century ago. Having been reared there until he was eighteen years old, Pete to this day has the dialect and mannerisms of a true Italian. Surprising, yet true, Pete’s ancestry has never caused him to be partial to his native land. America has never had any truer immigrant. Pete expresses his greatest pride when he steps into the bedroom of his two young sons, now gone to war, and says, “The best of me and my America is in this war!”

Before Pete came to our country, he had learned the cobbler trade. Today there is no more modern and gay, but small and successful shoe shop on the east side of Indianapolis than his. His only assistant is his wife, Helen. Since so many cobblers are, at the present, in service, Pete’s business has picked up so much that he has to work half the night as well as the day in order to turn out his “small production” as soon as possible.

Although quite a dowdy little man, Pete has a snappy step in his limited gait. His bushy hair is streaked with gray in such a way that it looks as if he has run a chalk covered hand through it instead of a comb. His tongue is absolutely tied unless he uses his hands; therefore, he gestures frantically as he tries to make someone understand a new plan he has for post-war-peace or a new type of gun. The quickest way to insult him is to jest about his ideas or to ignore him.

Truly a religious man, Pete attends every church affair besides weekly Mass. He practices what he believes, too. Most important of all, though, is the fact that he has not an enemy.

Since the war began, Pete has spent every Tuesday night plus extra hours in his one big love, a sector wardenship. Someday when this war is over, America will be able to point with pride at a man like Pete and say, “This man was a perfect example of an American on the home-front!”