INTERVIEW TO AN ELDERLY WOMAN ABOUT OLD TIMES CLOTHES

*In the south of Italy, older people are very available with young people to talk about ancient times, but they are often modest and demure and have not agreed to be filmed or photographed for Internet.*

Interviewers: Concetta and MariaAnna, 4BBS, IIS “Ferrari” Chiaravalle C.le

Interviewed person: Mrs Grazia, about 75 years old, in Chiaravalle C.le

Did you use to buy the clothes you wore?

No, we didn’t. We used to buy the fabric and then we sewed them by hand or we made them at the loom. They families asked me to sew their clothes. I carried the sewing-machine on my shoulders and went to their houses to sew their trousers and their shirts. It was not like now. Today you buy pants that are ripped. At that time it would have been a shame to wear torn clothes or have patches of different colors on them.

Did you have a lot of clothes?

No. We had a few clothes. When I was twelve, I used to have a pair of wooden clogs made by a carpenter. I made some strips and then I gave them to the carpenter to be nailed to the clogs. We would go to the beach on foot and take off our shoes so as not to wear them out because roads were not paved but they were made of stones.

Were your clothes made from local fabrics?

Yes, they were made from fabrics produced in Chiaravalle.

What fabrics did you use to make clothes?

Linen, broom and wool.

Were the clothes you wore mainly homemade?

Yes, we knitted them.

Were ancient fabrics more or less expensive than the ones we use today?

It was all stuff that came from the USA: trousers, shirts and skirts that they sold at the local fair.

What were the prevalent colours?

Fabrics of all colors were imported from abroad and tartan shirts were very popular.

Were ancient fabrics more resistant than today’s ?

Yes, of course. We used more resistant fabrics. Today’s clothes can be easily torn instead.