

Roscigno Vecchia: the 20th century Pompeii

Roscigno Vecchia is a small old-fashioned village in the Alburni Mountains. It is as a "memory cathedral" among the hills and the wilderness of the Cilento National Park, where the beauty and the sounds of nature mix with the sound of the fountain in the village centre. Everything has remained as it was then: the houses around the



fountain still keep memories, voices, smells. It is a Museum-village, a meditative, calm, and peaceful space. But Roscigno Vecchia could risk to disappear and its old memory kept in the town walls is being destroyed. A team of craftsmen has been able to bring the past to life reconstructing some tottering houses; but many urgent restorations are necessary to save and to promote the 20th century Pompeii.



The warning of Roscigno Vecchia Foundation: "if we don't restore some houses the American Federal Government will end its non-profit status"

On Sunday workshop, Lou Salvatico, the President of Roscigno Vecchia Foundation which collects money to save the old town and to make genealogy researches, maintained the importance to restore just one or two buildings and to provide actual proofs to government by December 2007. If it doesn't happen, the foundation will have no more benefits from the Federal Government. Therefore, both Lou and Tom suggested the Pro-loco and the Mayor to specify a particular project, to make an architectural plan and to fix a house at least so that they can present a project to the Federal Government. They also invited American people to donate funds and to become members of Roscigno Vecchia Foundation.

of directors can decide or not its approval; if the result is positive, a written document should be signed by the Pro-loco, the Roscigno Vecchia Foundation, and the Mayor. *Will they reach an agreement?* We hope, so that by 2007 the old town will be still more alive.

But some projects have been made such as a web site to find ancestors from Roscigno, a festival (this is the fourth edition) to encourage the Americans to visit their original land and to find their roots, and the restoration of two houses thanks to 5,000 Euros given by Alberto Salvatico, and the working of some voluntary craftsmen (see the picture).

Tom and Lou also suggested a scholarship fund for a Roscignolo student to open an



The Mayor promised the restoration of two buildings (he already has specific funds) whereas Franco Palmieri, the President of Pro-loco, suggested to specify a simple project by Friday, in such a way the board

Internet point available for people of Roscigno to keep in contact with the Americans having roots from Roscigno. The project is getting wider so it's important to cooperate to not let it die.