“PAST & PRESENT”

MARIO AMICI, 2132 W. CLEARFIELD ST. “I RECENTLY VISITED FR. NORBERT WALKER IN BRIGANTINE, N.J. HE’S RETIRED, ALMOST 80 AND IN FAIRLY GOOD HEALTH DESPITE A STROKE WHICH, IN MY OPINION, HASN’T SLOWED HIM DOWN TOO MUCH, AS HE WAS TRIMMING HIS HEDGES. HE LIVES AT 4TH ST. SOUTH WHICH IS THE HOME HIS MOTHER PURCHASED IN 1952. HE STILL SAYS PRIVATE MASS EVERYDAY. I HAD NOT SEEN HIM IN OVER 30 YEARS, BUT HE REMEMBERED ME WHEN I WAS AN ALTAR BOY. HE MENTIONED A FEW NAMES FROM THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD, ONE BEING MARIO DEGREGORIO, WHO WAS OUR SCOUTMASTER. HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THE REUNION, BUT HE GETS TOO TIRED NOW AND GIVES EVERYONE HIS REGARDS AND BLESSING. HE HAS SEEN THE JJ AND THINKS IT IS WONDERFUL TO READ ARTICLES ABOUT ST. MARY’S.”

JOAN WALTERS CROTHMEL, 2966 N. BAMBREY ST., 1954. “MENTIONING MY UNCLE ALBERT CERVONE TOUCHED OUR FAMILY SO DEEPLY. MY MOM CRIED KNOWING SOMEONE REMEMBERED HER LITTLE BROTHER KILLED SO MANY YEARS AGO DURING THE WAR.”

RAYMOND BELLO, 2177 INDIANA AVE. “THANKS FOR THE JJ. NICE TO SEE ST. RITA’S PRAYER INCLUDED. ST RITA HAS BEEN A BIG PART OF OUR LIFE.”

MICHAEL CERVONE, 2817 N. 21ST ST. “BILL FESTA FROM EMBASSY FURNITURE AND CARPETING SHOWPLACE AND ALSO THE GIULIO-CEASARE LODGE OF THE SONS OF ITALY ON TORONTO ST. IS GOING TO BE 94YRS. OLD ON DEC. 7. HE IS DOING FINE AND IS A RESIDENT OF PENNYPACK NURSING HOME 8015 LAWNDALE ST. PHILA. 19111. SOMEONE MIGHT WANT TO SEND HIM A CARD OR VISIT HIM. I AM SURE HE WOULD LIKE THAT. HE IS IN ROOM #B-5.”

MARIO “GOOCH” DELL’AGUO, 2057 W. STELLA ST. “I WAS RAISED ACROSS THE STREET FORM PAT CROCE’S FATHER, WHO’S MOM & MY MOM WERE GIRL FRIENDS IN THE OLD COUNTRY. MY BROTHER DOM “LEFTY”, (DON WILDER IS HIS SHOW BIZ NAME), JUST RETIRED THIS YEAR. HE HAS APPEARED ON NATIONAL TV WITH WALTER MATHAU AND REGIS & CATHY LEE WITH HIS PATENTED THREE LEGS. MY SISTER LIL (DECEASED) WAS A PERMANENT FIXTURE AT OUR LUNCHEONETTE, NEXT TO THE CAMBRIA MOVIES, ONE OF THE LAST SODA FOUNTAINS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. MY BROTHER DOM “LEFTY”, (DON WILDER IS HIS SHOW BIZ NAME), JUST RETIRED THIS YEAR. HE HAS APPEARED ON NATIONAL TV WITH WALTER MATHAU AND REGIS & CATHY LEE WITH HIS PATENTED THREE LEGS. MY SISTER LIL (DECEASED) WAS A PERMANENT FIXTURE AT OUR LUNCHONETTE, NEXT TO THE CAMBRIA MOVIES, ONE OF THE LAST SODA FOUNTAINS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. MY DAD HAD THE RED, WHITE AND GREEN HOT DOG PUSHCART ON THE LEHIGH AVE SIDE OF SHIBE PARK’S 1ST BASE DOOR. OUR STELLA ST. HOUSE’S YARD WAS ADJACENT TO YOUR MOTHER’S YARD ON INDIANA AVE. YOUR UNCLE SAMMY PANICO GOT ME A JOB SETTING PINS AT STEEL HEDDLE’S BOWLING ALLEY AND WHEN I TUNED 16 HE GOT ME A JOB IN THE PLANT. I LATER JOINED AN ELITE GROUP, (BRAGGING A LITTLE), THE “AIRBORNE”, CAESAR MADONA, ERNIE LUCARINI, VINCENT PONGIA, TONY GENTILE, FRED ANTONACCI, ORAZIO DIGIACOMO TO MENTION A FEW. 22ND ST. FOREVER”

CECILIA DIBRUNO, 2000 BLOCK OF STELLA. “I JUST READ A COPY OF THE JJ, I ENJOYED IT VERY MUCH. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO SEND ME THE JJ WHENEVER IT IS PRINTED. I HAVE MY 6TH GRADE GRADUATION PICTURE AND THE NAME VINCIGUERRA STRIKES A NOTE.”


BEEN PRACTICING DENTISTRY IN FOXCHASE FOR 41 YEARS.”

BOB FRIES, 2900 BLOCK OF 25TH ST.
“THERE IS NO CHECK TO DEFRAY SOME OF THE EXPENSES AND HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE YOUR FINE WORK. OUR YOUTH WAS ONLY A SHORT PERIOD IN OUR LIVES, YET IT IS SO VIVID.”

TRUDY GIUSTI, UND ST. “CHUCK LAURENZI STAFFIERI CALLED ME AND TOLD ME ABOUT THE JJ. I AM NOT ORIGINALLY FROM THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD, BUT I MARRIED “RUDY RICH” AND LIVED THERE FROM 1949 TO 1952. WE THEN MOVED TO ETTING ST.”

EILEEN CAMPOLEI KEANE, 2958 N. JUDSON ST. AND MARTY KEANE, 2944 N. BONSALL ST. “MY SISTER MARGUERITE HOOVER HAS BEEN SHARING THE JJ WITH US. WE TRULY ENJOYED THE SUMMER EDITION. WE LIVED ON THE CORNER OF J&I NEXT TO CAPRIOTTI’S GROCERY STORE AND THAT SAME FIREPLUG. OUR MOTHER EDITH IS 86 YRS. OLD AND LIVES IN NORRISTOWN. THE MEMORIAL DAY MEMORIES WERE ESPECIALLY NICE, AS YOU MENTIONED NICK MARCELLINO, WHO IS MY MOTHER’S 1ST COUSIN. WE BROUGHT COPIES OF THE JJ TO A FAMILY REUNION AT HIS BROTHERS HOUSE. HIS BROTHER AND SISTER TRULY ENJOYED READING IT. MY HUSBAND MARTY KEAN ALSO WAS PART OF THAT CORNER CROWD. WE HAVE 4 SONS AND A DAUGHTER AND 2 GRANDSONS. ENCLOSED IS A DONATION FOR YOUR EXPENSES.”

ALBERT MANDIA, 3000 BLOCK OF HEMBERGER. “THANKS SO MUCH FOR THE JJ. I REALLY ENJOY READING ABOUT THE “OLD NEIGHBORHOOD.” ENCLOSED IS A CHECK TO HELP WITH THE COST OF THE JJ.”

CANDY MOY MCCOURT, 2125 W. SOMERSET ST. “THANKS SO MUCH FOR SENDING ME THE JJ. IT BRINGS BACK SO MANY NICE MEMORIES OF ALL THE PEOPLE I KNEW AND ALL THE PLACES I REMEMBER IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. I HAVE BEEN MARRIED TO DOC MCCOURT FOR 30 YRS. WE HAVE 2 CHILDREN AND 2 GRANDCHILDREN. THANKS AGAIN FOR THE MEMORIES.”

MARY BUONVISO MCPEAK, 2042 W. INDIANA AVE. “FIRST OF ALL, I WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOU & THE “COMMITTEE” FOR WHAT I HEARD WAS A BEAUTIFUL, BEAUTIFUL REUNION THIS PAST SUNDAY. I ONLY HOPE I AM STILL AROUND TO GO TO THE NEXT ONE AT THE RIPE OLD AGE OF 83. I FEEL KIND OF ANCIENT AND SOMETIMES I THINK THIS BUSINESS OF “OLD AGE” IS FOR THE BIRDS. I AM ENCLOSING A CHECK TO COVER THE COST OF SENDING A BOOKLET OF THE AFFAIR TO BASIL DECINA. SHE IS THE FORMER LORETTA PIRACCI WHO LIVED AT 2030 W. INDIANA AVE. I WISH YOU CONTINUED SUCCESS WITH MUCH LOVE AND MANY FOND MEMORIES.”

TERRY JULIANA MILLER, 3056 N. 25TH ST. “JUST A NOTE FROM JOE AND I TO SAY A SPECIAL “THANK YOU” TO YOU AND THE COMMITTEE FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS IN GETTING EVERYONE TOGETHER AT THE REUNION. IT IS ALWAYS SUCH FUN REMEMBERING THE GOOD TIMES WE ALL SHARED.”


BART MUSITANO, 2947 N. 24TH ST. “MY BARBER WHO IS FROM DUCKTOWN, THAT’S ATLANTIC CITY’S VERSION OF THE “OLD NEIGHBORHOOD”), I’M GOING TO LEND HIM A COPY OF THE SUMMER EDITION OF THE JJ. TALK ABOUT NICKNAMES! REMEMBER ALBERT BEANS, EDDIE ONE EAR, NO NECK, TUBO, TRAINS, JOE TILT, FRANNY S—K (POLITICALLY INCORRECT THESE DAYS), EDDIE “MEDDICAN”, “NUTHOUSE” AL, PUSSYCAT, CATTYUMP, BOMOLO, FUJITAMA, BONEY, LIVIN, JOE PAT, WHIMPY, HAMBONE, YITTY, JIMMY YEARN, SQUID, KATHY WAX, FRANKIE DAGO, JIMMIE “MOON”. I MADE UP A LITTLE QUIZ OF QUOTES ATTRIBUTABLE TO VARIOUS PEOPLE. WHO SAID:

1. “GONE OUT BOY! NONGE YOU GOTTA HOUSE.”
2. “HE WAS KISSIN’ HER ON THE NECK! I SAID, “I DON’T KNOW THIS KID.”
3. “WHO TOLD YOU TO COUNT ‘EM, SACHETTI!!!!?”
4. “TAKE A BATH LADY!!!”
5. “ATS ALL JOSEPH!!!”
6. “ANYBODY TOUCH MY BOY TAC, I CHOP EM UP!”
7. “COME ON YOU GUYS. LET’S GET SOMEDUSTIN DONE!!”
8. “IS THAT BAD OR WHAT?”
9 “RHONDA!!!!”
10 DAM IF I COULD COME UP WITH A TENTH! ANYBODY HAVE ANOTHER.

THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD CREATED MEMORIES THAT OUR KIDS, SADLY WILL NEVER HAVE. WE WERE HELD TOGETHER BY A GLUE THAT WAS OUR COMMON CULTURAL HERITAGE,
ONE THAT TRANSCENDED DIFFERENT EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC BACKGROUNDS. THE PLACES IN WHICH WE LIVE TODAY MAY BE MORE BEAUTIFUL, BUT THEY WILL NEVER HAVE THAT CERTAIN SOMETHING. REMEMBER WHEN YOU DID SOMETHING WRONG FIVE BLOCKS FROM YOUR HOUSE AND YOUR PARENTS WERE WAITING TO CLOBBER YOU WHEN YOU GOT HOME? I DROVE THROUGH ABOUT 15 YRS. AGO. THE STREETS HAD THE SAME NAMES. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK AND PLEASE ACCEPT A SMALL DONATION FOR POSTAGE OR WHATEVER.

ANGELO "AO" PACIFICO, 2013 W. INDIANA AVE. "I GOT A COPY OF THE U AND BOY DID THAT BRING BACK A LOT OF WONDERFUL MEMORIES. I REMEMBER OUR "CASINO A. C. CLUB", PLAYING SOFTBALL AT COLLINS FIELD AND PARKING CARS ON 20TH ST. FOR THE A'S AND PHILLIES; AND OF COURSE ST. MARY'S SUNDAY NIGHT DANCE."

ROSEMARIE ROWE, ACROSS FROM CONNIE MACK STADIUM. "I RECENTLY SPOKE TO SOMEONE FROM PHILA. ABOUT THE JJ. I WAS BORNE AND RAISED IN THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD AND WOULD LIKE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE JJ."

CARMEN RICCARDI, 3042 N. HEMBERGER ST. "IN THE JJ'S AUG. 15 ISSUE FRANK LINARDO'S NAME WAS MENTIONED. THAT BROUGHT BACK SOME PAST MEMORIES. THIS WOULD BE IN THE LATE 30'S EARLY 40'S. ST. MARY'S HAD A YOUNG PRIEST UNDER FR. PASTORE. HE WAS WELL LIKED. I AM NOT SURE IF HIS NAME WAS MANGAN OR MANIGAN. HE STARTED ST. MARY'S DRUM AND BUGLE CORP AND MANY OTHER ACTIVITIES. I CAN GO ON FOR HOURS ABOUT THINGS THAT FR. STARTED AND DID. I WANT TO GET BACK TO FRANK. THIS WAS AT MY VERY FIRST COLLEGE FOOTBALL GAME. SINCE THIS WAS MY FIRST GAME EVER, I WAS NOT PREPARED WITH FOOD, MONEY THAT WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION, (KIDS IN THOSE DAYS NEVER HAD MONEY IN THEIR POCKETS). WELL TO GET TO THE POINT, HERE I AM JUST ABOUT STARVING AND NOTHING TO EAT. FRANK, DID HAVE SOME MONEY AND HAD BOUGHT A PUMPKIN PIE, IT WAS AN 8 INCHER. FRANK SAID, "DO YOU WANT SOME PUMPKIN PIE?" AT THIS POINT I HAD NEVER TASTED PUMPKIN PIE, BUT I WAS HUNGRY, AS I WAS I WOULD HAVE EATEN ANYTHING. FRANK OPENED THE PACKAGE BROKE THE PIE AND GAVE ME HALF. I DO NOT THINK THAT I NEED TO TELL YOU HOW GOOD THE PIE WAS AND EVERY TIME I HAVE A PIECE OF PUMPKIN PIE I REMEMBER FRANK J. LINARDO AND MY FIRST COLLEGE FOOTBALL GAME. I DO NOT THINK THAT YOU CAN EVER FIND A NEIGHBORHOOD LIKE THE ONE WE HAD IN NORTH PHILLY. NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO, IF YOU RUN INTO SOMEONE FROM THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD THEY WANT TO SEE IF YOU KNOW THE SAME PEOPLE THEY KNOW AND YOU BECOME INSTANT FRIENDS."

HARRY "PAT" TRAITZ, 3038 N. HEMBERGER ST. "I WAS BORNE AND RAISED IN THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD. I'M 78 YRS. OLD. I MOVED TO FLORIDA IN 1962, THAT'S 35YRS. AGO, BUT I FLY UP TO PHILLY EVERY YEAR TO VISIT MY RELATIVES AND BUDDIES (WHAT'S LEFT OF THEM). I HAVE NEWS CLIPPING AND WRITE-UPS FROM NAT FLETCHER'S RING ENCYCLOPEDIA THAT BILLS HIM AS , HARRY "KID" TRACEY FROM SWAMP POODLE. MY UNCLE WAS THE SO-CALLED "BIG MAHOF" AT THE TREE YARD AT CHRISTMAS TIME. ANOTHER UNCLE STEVE TRACEY WAS A CEMENT CONTRACTOR. MY COUSIN STEVE TRAITZ, ALSO WAS A "PUG". RIX JOHNSON AND MY UNCLE JIMMY WERE VERY GOOD FRIENDS AND COULD REALLY LIST SOME RAUCOUS AND ROUGH TALES OF THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD, ESPECIALLY AT "CASTELL HUBULANO". WHENEVER YOU WALKED BY 21ST & TORONTO, THERE SAT PAT FELICE OUTSIDE THE GROCERY STORE, ENJOYING A BREATH OF FRESH AIR. ALTHOUGH HIS WEIGHT HANDICAP WAS A MINUS, HE ALWAYS HAD A CHEERFUL WORD FOR ALL. I REMEMBER COMING UP TO PHILA. FOR MY BROTHER-IN-LAWS ANNIVERSARY (HARRY & MARION DIGIACOMO) AND SINCE FLOWERS WERE NEEDED FOR THE TABLES, I WENT TO SEE MY FRIEND HELEN (DAUGHTER OF JULIA'S FLOWER SHOP AT HEMBERGER & FOX). SHE WAS GRACIOUS AND KIND TO LET ME USE HER WORKSHOP TO ARRANGE THE CENTER PIECES. HELEN WHEREVER YOU ARE THANKS AGAIN, AND IF YOU ARE EVER IN FLORIDA STOP IN AND SEE US. MY KIDS?(MEN!) ENJOY HEARING ME TELL THEM ABOUT THE GOOD OLD DAYS AND THE HARD TIMES WE SURVIVED. THEY LISTEN WITH A LOOK OF AWE WHEN TOLD THAT WE PUT CARDBOARD IN OUR SHOES WHEN THE HOLE GOT AS BIG..."
AS A HALF DOLLAR. I REMEMBER WHEN WE HAD 2 TELEPHONE COMPANIES “BELL” AND “KEYSTONE”. WE WERE TOO POOR TO HAVE PHONES. WE HAD TO GO TO LUKOFF’S, (LATER SAM & NATES), CANDY STORE TO MAKE PHONE CALL. A NICKEL! WHEN SOMEONE WOULD CALL FOR A NEIGHBOR, WE WOULD GET A NICKEL FROM THE ONE WE HAD TO WALK OR RUN TO, TO TELL THEM THEY WERE WANTED ON THE PHONE. I REMEMBER WHEN HORNUNGS BREWERY, 22 & CLEARFIELD, HAD A “TAP” DOWN IN THEIR WHERE ANYONE COULD GET A FREE CHILLED BEER. EVEN THE POST MAN, JOE THE COP, GEORGE VORHEES THE COP, AND FR. GUASCO WOULD GET A CHILLED ONE BEFORE HOPPING THE 33 TROLLEY. TALK ABOUT STRANGER THAN FICTION! NO ONE ABUSED THE PRIVILEGE! SO DOMENICO, I’LL END NOW.

ENCLOSED FIND “A LITTLE BIT” TO HELP COVER YOUR COST OF THE II.”

PAT NICASTRO JOINS LARRY CHIODETTI’48 AS AN INDUCTEE OF ROMAN’S SPORTS HALL OF FAME!


THANK YOU! A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS:

JOYCE VIOLA BELLO
RAYMOND BELLO
JOAN WALTERS CROTHAMEL
BOB FRIES
EILEEN CAMPOLEI KEANE
MARTY KEANE
ALBERT MANDIA
CANDY MOY MCCOURT
MARY BUONVISO MCEPAN
BART MUSITANO
TONY PACIFlCO
HARRY PAT TRAITZ
ADELE Bello TRIFILETTI

THE FOLLOWING EXCERPT FROM “THE TRANSITUS OF ST. RITA” WAS SUBMITTED BY RAY AND JOYCE Bello:

Roses With Strings Attached?

From time to time the comment is still heard, “Better not to pray to Saint Rita, if she answers your prayer, she takes something away!” Perhaps! Though I have not yet received a letter, among the many thanking her for a grace received, in which the complaint is made of something having been taken. Unless, perhaps, the “something taken” is now understood, in the light of the grace received, as better gone. I can think of a few possibilities: peace of heart received- bitterness taken away.

Reconciliation obtained- spite and animosity gone; health restored- anxiety and pain removed. And even some more difficult ones: serenity achieved- addictive behavior relinquished; integrity found- dishonest activity given up; self-esteem attained- unhealthy relationship dropped! The Lord, from whom all graces come, is ever willing to fill us with good things. Saint Augustine well reminds us that sometimes the obstacle to our receiving them is that our hands and hearts are already full of our own lesser “treasures”. For our part, we hold up our patroness. Saint Rita, artisan of peace and reconciliation, pray for us!

Mememto Booklet’s Available!!!!!!!

The 20 page booklet “Pieces Of Our Past” is now available to all who would like to have a copy. The booklet depicting pictures and articles from the North Penn Chat covers the era of the 1930’s, 40’s, 50’s, and 60’s. The booklet was first released to the people attending the Oct 19th Reunion. Please! Send your donation of $6.00 per copy to the Judson Journal address below. The booklet is intended to be the first of a series. All proceeds will be used to cover the cost of publishing and mailing of the Judson Journal.

PRAYER TO SAINT. RITA OF CASIA. MY CONSOLES.

O GLORIOUS ST. RITA, THOU WHO MIRACULOUSLY SHARED IN THE PAINFUL PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, OBTAIN THAT I MAY BEAR THE SORROWS OF THIS LIFE WITH RESIGNATION, AND PROTECT ME IN ALL MY NEEDS.

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