
The Judson Journal

SPRING EDITION
VOL. 55, NO. 22
APRIL 15, 1999

“EASTER SUNDAY UNDER THE RAINBOW”

Easter Sunday, 1959: Uncle Al is helping me put the eyelet collar pin through this heavily starched shirt that was laundered by the Tribune. The sun is finally shining brightly, after it had rained the entire Holy Week. Quite a few of the guys have already gathered on the corner of J&I and it is only nine-thirty in the morning. I can see and hear them through our kitchen window. They are all looking up at the sky and talking about a rainbow. Walking outside in my new Easter suit, I immediately look up at the sky and see this fantastic colorful rainbow. The most amazing thing about it though is that it stretches from over the Pipe Yard at 29th St. almost directly over Indiana Ave. to below 22nd St. where it disappears in the curvature of the street. Joe Donato is in his Dad Al's 58 Buick hardtop with his head out the side looking up and admiring the spectacle. Willie "Muscles" Salino pulls up behind Joe in his sparkling Dodge Dart convertible with the top down and the red boot cover glistening in the sun. "Barbells" jumps into Joe's car and they head to the car wash at 19th & Huntingdon Park Ave. which is open only until noon. The Capriotti clan come walking by, all of them decked out in their Easter outfits. Little Pauline is wearing a blue straw bonnet, that matches her blue taffeta spring coat and is holding her mother Marcell's hand. Joe "Balloons" is straightening my skinny charcoal brown tie with the pink splash in it, and asks me why I can't see straight with my four eyes. Jocco lights up a cigarette and Bart

whispers in my ear, "Why did he do that? He knows that us younger guys can't light up here, because there are too many eyes looking at us through the blinds in the windows of the surrounding houses." Trains, answers with, "I'm dying for a smoke." "Petchy" and "Horn" begin to quietly walk away, but before they get too far I bum a cigarette from each of them. Most of the guys are waiting to go to the 12:15 Mass at St. Mary's, but I went to the Easter Vigil services last night. I head toward my Sister's house on Hilton St. to get a piece of "Pizzapiena". Turning at 24th St., I wave to Pat DiBenedetto and her brother Johnny. Both of them are looking exceptional in their Easter outfits. Passing Toronto St. Frannie Perrotti is talking to Joanne Pongia and the light from the rainbow is just adding to the appearance of these two fine looking ladies. Near the new Laundromat at the corner of 24th & Clearfield, Natalie Miluzzo is walking slowly with her very attractive daughter Joanne. Vinny Malazita with his sister Joanne, both of them very fashionably dressed in their Easter outfits are crossing 24th St. Looking to my right, I can see the number of cars outside, and people coming in and out of "Mele's Bakery" are in need of a traffic cop. The smell of the baked goods are making me even more hungry. Ron Cravero and his cousin Bobby are standing on the sidewalk looking up at the rainbow. Continuing up 24th, I stop to talk to Anthony Picarello and his sister Conchetta, who are both sharply

clad in their Easter clothing. When I arrive at my sister's house, no one is there. Unfortunately for me, they must have gone to Mass. I guess I'll walk to my Aunt Pansy and Uncle Hatch's house and meet my sister there after Mass. I walk up Fox St. and turn at the Tip-Top Bakery on Westmoreland St. over to 22nd St., so I can smoke a cigarette without any one seeing me. Arriving at St. Mary's the 10:00 Mass is just over, the people are coming down the steps and gathering outside the church. All of the women are looking absolutely fabulous in their Easter clothing. Ann DiGiacomo and Marianne Coleman are conversing about the rainbow, as they both look up briefly, holding the tops of their very wide brimmed Easter bonnets. Adeline Lezoche, Sara Moy, Antoinette Cianfrini, Amelia Bochniak, Genevieve Columbo, Joanne Bocci, Carol Costello and Eleanor Deasy are all wearing very nice bonnets. I stop in at my Aunt Pansy and Uncle Hatch's house and eat a delicious meatball sandwich, after wishing all the Vassallo's, McDade's, Moccio's, Marcino's and Juliani's a Happy Easter, I make my exit and head back to J&I. Today being a special day Aunt Martha & Uncle Al are taking me to Atlantic City by train. When we arrive at North Phila Train Station to depart for Atlantic City, I notice the conspicuous absence of a rainbow in the sky. I quietly gaze out the window and wonder if the rainbow was meant only for our Neighborhood.
Happy Easter!!!!