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FALL, BACK IN THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD

THE THIRD SATURDAY OF FALL, CIRCA 1955. Sitting quietly on the front step of Uncle Al's tailor shop, reading the "North Penn Chat". Suddenly! I hear, "Maaaria veniqua, Maaaria veniqua." It is only Sylvia loudly calling for her daughter who often wanders from the 2900 block of Judson St. Returning to reading the article "Catholic Scouts Awarded Ad Altare Dei Cross Sunday." The article names Thomas DiPiero and Armand "Captain Nemo" DeBlasis of St Mary's Troop 245, as two of the recipients. I look up from reading and to my surprise there is my sister Mary, (Sis) and my brother-in-law Ang in their 1934 black Dodge. They invite me to take a ride with them. After getting permission from Aunt Martha, I jump into the Rumble seat and we quickly drive away. That is, if you can call 15mph, (the car's top speed), quick. It is one of those crisp clear early fall days when most people want to be outside. Turning up Judson St. I see Willie Parise carrying his golf clubs, Rodger playing step ball outside his house, and Marion with her sister Loretta sitting on their steps. We cross over Clearfield and continue up Judson St. Sis waves to the Coccia girls. At "Fioavanti's Grocery Store" we turn right going down Fox St. Passing the "United Sports Club", Turk and his brother Diamond Dan out run Ang's car and kid him about his fast car. When we reach 22nd St. Ang turns left and parks outside of "Cooky's Bar". Cooky, Greeny, and Steve all

standing in front of the bar greet us with a very friendly, "Hello!" While Ang crosses over to "Farber's Plumbing Supply" and Sis walks into "Carsello's Hardware Store", I wander over to "Mastroiani's Furniture Store". Looking in the window I read the sign that Larry just hung, "Limited Supply Of 21 Inch Westinghouse Console TV's In Stock". I hear Terri Juliano and Pat DiBenedetto, who were standing behind me also reading the sign say, "That they wished they had one of these TV's for Sunday nights Ed Sullivan Show." I ask them why and Terri replies, "So we can watch Elvis Presley appearing for the first time on TV." I didn't want to sound stupid, so I did not ask, who is Elvis Presley. I see Sis come out of "Carsello's" with a new straw broom and Ang returning to the car with some iron pipe. They get into the car, I jump into the rumble seat and away we go. We didn't get far, because we had to stop at Toronto St. for a funeral procession followed by Tamborini's Band playing. We continue ridding up 22nd St. passing "Hornung Brewery" and turn right at Allegheny Ave. We stop outside of "Steel Heddle" and Ang runs inside to pick up his paycheck. Enjoying the ride in the rumble seat, as Ang makes a u-turn, we pass the "Tioga Diner" and I see Yidi get into his shiney new black Buick. Turning at 24th St., I wave to Dolores Vasso sitting on her porch. At the corner of Clearfield St. we all wave to Dr. Cossa who was entering his office.

Continuing down 24th St. we pass Mayfield St. and I can see quite a few kids playing at the "Square". Approaching 24th and Somerset Sts., I wave to Chic Johnstin who is washing the white wall tires on his car. Turning right at Lehigh Ave., Ang parks in front of "Schillings Bakery". Sis and Ang treat me to a delicious "Cherry Sundae". Sis also gets a dozen of "Crumb Buns" to go and we return to the car. Traveling up 25th St. we pass the "Cambria Movies" the marque reads, "Now Playing, Lana Turner, In The Rains Of Ranchipur". John Stuffo, Stanley Kleinja and Joey DiLarso are playing "2 Hand Touch", as Violet, Alberta, and Anita Saulino are "Double Dutching". Turning right at the corner of Indiana Ave., Dooner, is standing at the door of his family's grocery store. "Joe the Butch" is carrying boxes into his store "The Peoples Market". Scuzzi and his wife Nancy are talking to the Fratini's and I can see Doc Picarello who is behind the soda fountain inside his Drug Store. Returning to my house, I say goodbye and thank Sis and Ang. Aunt Martha asks me about my trip and we spend the afternoon playing "Chinese Checkers". After dinner, (Steak sandwiches from Curcio's), I practice the "Palmer Method" at the kitchen table. Following the TV show "The Hit Parade" I was told to get my "St Joseph's Missile" out for the 9:15 children's mass at St. Mary's in the morning, to take a bath, and go to bed. HAVE AN AUTUMN TO REMEMBER!!!!!!!!!!!!