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## "LEAFING THROUGH THE MEMORIES"

**FRIDAY, FALL, CIRCA 1956:**

Patiently sitting on Dr. Madonna's step on 24th street, inhaling the smell coming from the leaves that are being burned by Mr. Gallo, I begin to wonder why Mom and Aunt Martha are not yet in sight. I am strategically placed, so I can see clear up to Clearfield street, but there is no sight of them walking home from work at "Tasty Kake". I begin to walk back and forth between Benny's Grocery Store, Picarello's Pharmacy, and the Rainbow Cleaners, while I drag my play shoes through the voluminous amount of dried fallen leaves that are everywhere in sight. Angela Peditto waves to me, as I notice Honey Deleo come out of the drug store with her Mom Nancy. I begin to talk to them and follow them up 24th street.

When we reach their house, they say good-bye and I decide to continue to walk up 24th street, continually kicking the leaves. Passing Clearfield street, I see the Cravero's gathering leaves in a neat pile in front of their house. The twins Romilus & Remus are talking to Mrs. Arnone. I wave to all of them and continue to walk and cross Allegheny Ave., as the 60 trolley passes. Denny Natalie and his brother Louis are greeting their Dad Lou who is getting off the trolley. I run over to Benny Juliani, who is pumping gas at his Sinclair Station. Benny greets me with his usually, "Hi Avon calling." Instantly, I turn around and there is Joe Piccardi, the furniture man, driving into the station. He is driving a beautiful new Cadillac Convertible with white wall

tires and skirts over the rear wheels. I think to myself, someday I am going to get a new Cadillac. I shout to Benny, "I'll see you", and continue to walk up Fox street. Franny Fox and Maryann Finn are playing with their cut-outs on the pavement, as Mrs. Pidcock, asks me what I am doing so far from home. I tell her I am going to meet Mom and Aunt Martha. She answers with, "They just got a ride home with Pat Marzielli." I say, "Thank You", and quickly run down Fox and over Hilton St. Turning the corner at 25th St., I see the Voguel's entering their house. Outside the front of the Allegheny Movies, I stand behind, Bobby Risynchock, Bob Fries, Mike Vassallo, and Santo Minghenelli. All of them are admiring the marque showing a huge scene of Randolph Scott in the movie "The Lawless". I better make my way home fast, or else Mom and Aunt Martha will wonder what happened to me. I begin to run down 25th St., as my feet move rapidly through the fallen leaves they make a loud, steady crunching noise. I pass by Joe DeFrancesco's house then Pat the Barber's Shop noticing only Phillip D'Amore who is just leaving the very crowded shop. Cutting over Elkhart St., through the Square, zipping pass Peggy Marzielli who is talking with Josephine D'Ambra. They look at me with surprise, because I did not say hello. I stop suddenly turn around and say, "Hello!" As I begin to run again, I bang heads with Joe Ravena and the

two of us fall to the sidewalk. We are both rubbing our heads, as Joe's sister Maureen comes to our aide. I tell her I'll be ok, but secretly wish I was not in a hurry, because just being near Maureen is worth getting an injury. Getting to 24th St. I am greeted by Jimmie Martosella coming out of Mushie's Store. I hear, "Hey Kid", from Mom and, "Hey Boy", from Aunt Martha. Turning around I see the both of them getting out of Pat's car. With a feeling of tremendous relief, because they will never know that I traveled that distance alone, I help them with their packages of Tasty Kakes. I am happy to see the packages that are neatly wrapped in brown paper and tied with white string. They contain this weeks dessert. I enjoy all the different kinds of Tasty Kakes, but I am particularly fond of the lemon pies. Walking down 24th St. pass Giargiari's Grocery Store, Aunt Martha notices the Cambria Movie's cardboard advertisement in the window and asks if Mom and I want to go see "The Song Of Bernadette" tonight. Mom without hesitation says "Yes!" I on the other hand wish we would go to see Randolph Scott, and reluctantly say "OK". Later that evening, after the movies and a ice cream cone from Dell'Aguzzo's soda fountain next to the Cambria Movie, Aunt Martha hands me my Cub Scout scarf. She reminds me that on Sunday after Mass at St. Mary's, all the scouts will be touring the Airport Compliments of Mr. John Ranieri.  
**DON'T BURN ANY LEAVES!!!!**