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MEMORIES OF A CHRISTMAS SEASON PAST

EDITORS NOTE:

Saturday, the third week in Advent, Circa 1955. With my shoeshine box under my arm I preceded to move from the corner of 22nd and Cambria (outside "Goodman's Pharmacy") and walk north on 22nd Street. I just finished shinning a pair of brand new shoes, that were so "pointed", I wondered how the guy was able to get his toes into those small tips. Earlier in the day, I had walked into "Wilby's Shoe Store", and looked at my feet under the X-ray viewer. I wish I could of looked at that guys toes in the machine. I'll bet, half of both his feet were missing. Who would of ever thought, that 22nd Street and shopping areas like it would be replaced by the "Mall". Christmas music, (Perry Como's new recording of, "It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas"), was heard coming from the "H&H's" outside speakers. "Picardi's Furniture Store" was not decorated for Christmas, but every kid knew that, if you stopped in you could get a candy cane. "Altas's Mens Shop Window" had the usual shirts and pants on display, with ribbon and tinsel around them. I shined the shoes of a guy who purchased a diamond engagement ring at "Miroddi's Jewelers". I walked into "Balaban's" and, as usual, Mr. Balaban had 6 pairs of shoes for me to shine. After shinning his shoes, I immediately went to "Novia's Card Shop" and bought the

Christmas Cards I needed. I then spent sometime talking to my Aunt Pansy as she was entering "Waxman's Dry Goods Store". "Deena's Childrens Store", was mobbed with mothers and their daughters who were buying their Christmas Dresses. Bill Festa asked for a shine outside of "Kiddieland". The window display was fantastic. There was a "Schwinn Bike", an "American Flyer Wagon", and a set of "Lionel Trains". Mickey Mouse and Davy Crocket hats were strategically placed for all of us to see. There were so many miniature Cowboy and Indian toys and a life like scale model of a "Frontier Fort". My fantasizing, about what I was going to get for Christmas, was interrupted by my Grandpop. I heard him say, "Air-ron you make-a-me a spit-ta shine". With his Denobli (Italian Stogie), unlit in his mouth and the faint scent of "Half-n-Half" pipe tobacco emanating from his overcoat pocket, he asked me if I was being good. I was always more than happy to see him even though I saw him at least three times every day. I had to cross the street, because the number of people outside the "B&G" buying baccala and smelts from the sidewalk tables was overwhelming; add to that the people looking at Christmas Trees on Indiana Avenue near the Convent, and it was bedlam. Time for a break, so I went into "Cucinotti's Pharmacy", (later became "Tarabbio's"), and had a fountain coke. I forgot to buy

stocking stuffers from "Santaniello's Mens Shop", I purchased a couple of tie pins and cufflink sets and was on my way. I dashed over to "Zitner's" and bought three chocolate covered cherries for a dime.

It was getting late and I needed to be at "St. Mary's" for an afternoon wedding. I liked the afternoon weddings, because they only took about twenty minutes and the Groom always tipped the altar boys very generously.

After leaving the church I passed "Ann Tomassi's Dress Shop", and noticed the Hallahan Girls who were preoccupied with purchasing their Prom Gowns.

I made a quick stop at the "San Marrett", and made a ten dollar deposit, not bad for a Saturday. I didn't have to be home for dinner, because on Saturday night we usually had steak sandwiches, and milkshakes from either "Curcio's or Sharkey's", so I took my time getting home. I had a nickel left, just enough to play the pinball machine at "Lena's".

MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM THE JUDSON JOURNAL
FAMILY.

PAT, AARON, DEBBIE, KAREN,
ERIC, DARIN, BRUCE, TOM,
RACHEL, LAURA, MEGAN AND
AUNT MARTHA!!!!!!

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