

"PAST & PRESENT"

REV. CONNELL J. MAGUIRE, "WITH DUE APOLOGY, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A SMALL CORRECTION AND AN ADDITION TO A HISTORICAL NOTE IN THE JJ OF MAY 15. FATHER PASTORE WAS GONE SOME YEARS BEFORE THE POPULAR WEASEL BROTHER WON THE NUMBERS BY PLAYING 220 FROM ET CUM SPIRITU TUO. IT HAPPENED AT BILLY DAY'S FUNERAL. THAT WAS HIS BOXING NAME. HIS LAST NAME WAS TRIGNANI. BILLY WAS A BUDDY OF MINE AND I BOTH GAVE HIM LAST RITES AND CELEBRATED HIS FUNERAL MASS. RIGHT AFTER MASS, RECORD TIME, THE HOUSEKEEPER ASKED ME ABOUT A NUMBER RECITED AT MASS. I WAS PUZZLED MOMENTARILY. SHORTLY AFTER THE FUNERAL, I STOPPED TO TALK TO THE GUYS ON THE CORNER OF 21ST AND TORONTO. THE WEASAL BROTHER RECOUNTED TO ME THE STORY OF HIS WIN. I SAID, "SEE! IF YOU GO TO CHURCH YOU WILL HAVE GOOD LUCK." SOME 30 YEARS LATER AT A REUNION, I MET HIM, AND BY THEN HE WAS A VERY ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE CHURCH. THE LORD HAS STRANGE WAYS OF GATHERING US IN. I REMEMBER THE WEASAL BROTHERS WITH GREAT AFFECTION-----EVEN THOUGH I DID NOT GET A CUT OF THE WIN. IF I HAD ASKED, I WOULD HAVE."

ANTHONY BONANNI, 2040 W. CLEARFIELD ST. "I MUST APPLAUD YOUR EFFORT AND SUCCESS IN PUBLISHING THE JJ. I WAS RECENTLY STRUCK WITH THE IDEA OF HAVING A GAME OF HALFBALL. HAVE YOU HEARD OF ANYONE TRYING TO PUT TOGETHER A GAME? PLEASE CONTACT ME, IF YOU

KNOW OF ANY EFFORTS TOWARDS THIS END."
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ELAINE COLASANTI, 2937 N. LAMBERT ST. "MY GRANDFATHER AND UNCLE MICHAEL PICCIONE LIVED ON STELLA ST. MY MOTHER WAS EDITH PICCIONE AND MY DAD IS ANGELO COLASANTI. MY SISTER NINA GRADUATED ST. MARY'S THEN WE MOVED TO CORPUS CHRISTI. MY OTHER SISTERS WHO ARE TWINS AND I GRADUATED CORPUS CHRISTI. WE LIVED AT 3137 N. 32ND STREET ALONG WITH MY BROTHER LOUIS. WE ARE ALL NURSES TODAY EXCEPT LOUIS. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE JJ IT WAS A PLEASURE TO READ AND BROUGHT BACK SO MANY MEMORIES!"

VINCENT CAMPELLONE "I'M JOHN CAMPELLONE'S YOUNGER BROTHER. SURPRISE! HE ONLY HAD 5 YOUNGER BROTHERS. I KNOW I'VE HEARD THAT ALL MY LIFE. ANY WAY MY WIFE, LORAIN LANZA AND I ENJOY READING ABOUT THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD. YOU MIGHT REMEMBER HER AS "LOUIE THE LOUSE" LAFOCADÉ'S YOUNGER COUSIN. IN ANY EVENT, I'D APPRECIATE YOUR CHANGING OUR ADDRESS. ITS GREAT TO READ ABOUT SOME OF THE OLDER CROWD IN THE JJ. YOU KNOW THE GUYS WHO ALWAYS PICKED ON THE YOUNGER BROTHERS AND SISTERS. JUST KIDDING! WE ALWAYS KNEW IT WAS ALL IN FUN."
momanddadcamps@aol.com

RICHEL D'AMBRA, ST. MARY'S 1963, "I ENJOY READING ABOUT THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD, BUT I RARELY READ ABOUT ST. MARY'S CLASS OF 1963. SO FOR MY FORMER CLASSMATES, I WILL START MY TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE AS A VERY

IMPRESSIONABLE CHILD GROWING UP ON TORONTO STREET. THIS IS WHERE I SPENT THE FIRST EIGHT YEARS OF MY LIFE ALONG WITH MY BROTHERS TOMMY AND RICKY AND MY ONLY FRIEND JIMMY MORTON. I WAS SURROUNDED BY BOYS, UNTILL AT THE AGE OF FIVE MY SISTER DENISE WAS BORN. I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THE TORONTO STREET BLOCK PARTIES. AFTER MOVING TO RINGGOLD STREET ON THE SQUARE IN 1957, WE WOULD ALWAYS SPEND NEW YEARS EVE AT MY GRANDFATHER BILARDO'S HOUSE ON TORONTO STREET. SINCE HIS HOUSE WAS DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM THE SCN CLUB, WE HAD A FRONT ROW SEAT WHEN THE ACTION BEGAN AFTER MIDNIGHT. ALONG WITH MY COUSINS THE D'AMORES, STUFFOS AND BILARDOS WE WOULD WITNESS THE INEVITABLE FIGHTS THAT WOULD BREAK OUT. THERE WOULD BE FIST FIGHTING AND THE COPS WOULD ALWAYS BE ON THE SCENE. OUR PARENTS WOULD ALWAYS RUIN THE SHOW AND GET US INSIDE THE HOUSE. FROM THE STEPS, (WHERE MY MOM JOSEPHINE AND VERA RAVENNA SPENT MANY NIGHTS), OF OUR HOUSE, ON THE SQUARE, DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM MAUREEN RAVENNA I WOULD STUDY EVERY DETAIL ABOUT HER AND HER FRIENDS. WHEN MAUREEN'S FRIENDS JOANNE TRIGNANI, NANCY GANGI, VICKI VITALE, VIRGIL PROCACCINO, LOUIS NATALE, PAT SCOLES, JIMMY MARTOSELLA AND JOHN DIODATTI WOULD STOP OVER I WOULD MAKE MENTAL NOTES OF WHAT THESE OLDER KIDS WERE ABOUT. I'D HEAR THE MUSIC THEY WERE PLAYING, HOW THEY WORE THEIR HAIR AND MAKEUP AND HOW MANY BOYFRIENDS THEY HAD. THEY

DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I EXISTED, AS I SAT QUIETLY AND STUDIED THEM AND FANTASIZED THAT I WAS PART OF THE CROWD AND I COULDN'T WAIT TO GROW UP. I WAS ALWAYS LEARNING FROM MY MOTHER WHO WAS AN ENTREPRENEUR IN HER OWN RIGHT, FROM HER BEAUTY BUSINESS TO HER CLOTHING BOUTIQUE. I WILL NEVER FORGET HOW I WOULD HEAR THE GIRLS TALKING TO MY MOTHER ABOUT GOING TO ELIZABETH ARDEN IN CENTER CITY AND HAVING A DAY OF BEAUTY. I COULDN'T WAIT UNTIL I TURNED 17 AND GO TO ELIZABETH ARDEN'S FOR MY DAY OF BEAUTY, FACIAL MASSAGE, MANICURE, PEDICURE, ETC. THE GIRLS WOULD RETURN FROM THEIR DAY OF BEAUTY, BUFFED AND PUFFED TO ATTEND THEIR PROM, OR GO ON A SPECIAL DATE AND OF COURSE WHEN THEY GOT MARRIED. THEN THE FASHION SHOW BEGAN. OUR REGULAR SATURDAY WAS GOING TO ST. MARY'S TO SEE WHO WAS GETTING MARRIED, WHAT THEIR GOWN LOOKED LIKE AND HOW EVERYONE WAS SO BEAUTIFULLY DRESSED. AT THIS POINT I WAS IN SEVENTH GRADE, JOEY CAIRONE AND MYSELF WE WERE THE PARTY PLANNERS OF OUR GRADE. ALWAYS PLANNING WHAT OUR CLASS WOULD DO AND BOTH OF US ALWAYS HOSTING PARTIES AT OUR HOMES, OF COURSE CHAPERONED. WITH THE HELP OF JOEY'S SISTER FRANNIE, (SHE WAS A BIG HELP), JANET DILACQUA, CONCETTA PICCARELLO, EILEEN LIGNELLI, MARIANNE MCDADE, ANTOINETTE DIBENEDETTO, MARGIE CRESTANI, LIBBY PARIS, DELORES MEGILINO WE STARTED ON OUR OWN ADVENTURES; GOING TO THE MOVIES, SITTING NEXT TO THE BOYS IN CHURCH, RUNNING

INTO MUSHIES, OR GOING TO SHARKEY'S FOR A CHEESE STEAK. NO ONE WILL EVER FORGET THE GREAT PIZZA THAT EMILY MADE, ESPECIALLY ON FRIDAY NIGHTS. SHARING OUR INTENSE SECRETS OF THE BOYS WE WERE CRAZY ABOUT AND VISA-VERSA. JOEY AND I ALWAYS MANAGED TO ARRANGE COINCIDENTAL MEETINGS OF THE OPPOSITE SEXES. WE WERE CREATIVE AND IT WAS VERY SERIOUS AND INTENSE TO US. SPIN THE BOTTLE, SOON LED TO 7 MINUTES IN HEAVEN AND OF COURSE YOU ALWAYS PICKED THE PERSON YOU WANTED TO BE WITH. THE BOYS WERE PAUL GATTO, LOUIE IOBBI, GERRY MORESSI, BOBBY MANGINI, JOE BONES PALLOTTA AND PAT LAVANGA. MANY NIGHTS WE SAT ON THE SQUARE, SINGING DO-WOP AND HARMONIZING. THEN AFTER THE 8TH GRADE DANCE AT ST. MARY'S WITH THE CRYSTAL BALL SPINNING FROM WHEN OUR PARENTS WENT TO THE DANCE, SOON FOLLOWED WITH THE SOPHOMOPHS, THE JUNIOR AND SENIOR PROM AND GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL. ST MARY OF THE ETERNAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL WAS THE LIFE FORCE OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD ALL OF THE WONDERFUL MEMORIES THAT SURROUND IT. WE CAN NEVER FORGET WONDERFUL FATHER BUSCO AND THE OTHER PRIESTS AND NUNS THAT WERE PART OF OUR FAMILIES. I RECENTLY MET FATHER MAGUIRE WHO REMARRIED MY AUNT CONNIE AND UNCLE PHILIP D'AMORE ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY. WE TALKED ABOUT THE WONDERFUL MEMORIES AND ESPECIALLY THE BEAUTIFUL MAY PROCESSIONS. SODALITY NIGHT FOR THE WOMEN WAS SO SPECIAL WHEN WE WENT WITH OUR MOTHERS AND MET ALL OUR FRIENDS."

JOHN DIBENEDETTO, 2918 N. 25TH ST. "THE DAYS OF PINK CARNATIONS" WAS A REFRESHING BLAST FROM THE PAST. I HAD FORGOTTEN ABOUT THAT ANNUAL EVENT. YOU CONTINUE TO OUTDO YOURSELF WITH CREATIVITY AND MEMORIES OF CHURCH EVENTS, VISITING THE CEMETERY, SHOOTING POINTS AT CATS, ETC. GETTING THE JJ GIVES ME THE FEELING I REMEMBER FROM "SENDING AWAY" TO BATTLECREEK MICHIGAN FOR THE LATEST WIDGET ADVERTISED ON THE CEREAL BOX, AND THEN IT FINALLY ARRIVED. I SINCERELY APPRECIATE ALL OF YOUR EFFORTS AND TALENTS IN MAINTAINING THIS GIFT TO ALL OF US.

ON A SADDER NOTE, TOMMY LAMBERTO, (MUSCLES), PASSED AWAY LAST MONTH. THEY SAY THE GOOD DIE YOUNG AND IT APPLIES TO MUSCLES. HE WAS ONE OF THE VERY BEST OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD. I CAN'T REMEMBER A CRITICAL WORD FROM HIM AGAINST ANYONE, BUT SEE HIS POSITIVE SPIN ON A SITUATION. HE WAS ALWAYS SOLUTION ORIENTED. WE PLAYED BASEBALL TOGETHER ON THE NORPHIL TEAM COACHED BY RAY WALKER. IT WAS A TRAVELING TEAM, AGES 17 TO 19 AND INCLUDED DAVID CARUSO, PAT DEBELLE (RIP), ALBIE MARTINO (RIP), TOMMY WALTERS (BABY HUEY), JOE CAIRONE, LOUIS IOBBI, MARIO CHIODETTI, BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER THE REST OF THE TEAM. MUSCLES WAS OUR MVP TWO YEARS IN A ROW. HE HIT WITH POWER AND FOR AVERAGE, AND WAS A FABULOUS DEFENSIVE INFILDER. HE WAS AN EXCELLENT PLAYER AND TEAM MEMBER. WE ALSO DOUBLE DATED FOR THE CARDINAL DOUGHERTY SENIOR PROM. HE

TOOK MARYANN DIGIACOMO, (THE FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S DAUGHTER), I TOOK MY FUTURE BRIDE, JOANN RIZZO, AND WE HAD A GREAT TIME AT THE OLD PHILADELPHIA 1776 RESTAURANT & CLUB ON THE WATERFRONT. IT SADDENED ME TO HEAR THAT MUSCLES HAD A DEBILITATING STROKE IN HIS EARLY 40'S AND I AM DEEPLY TOUCHED BY HIS PASSING AT THE YOUNG AGE OF 52. HIS MEMORY AND GOOD WILL SHALL BE LASTING. PLEASE ACCEPT THIS DONATION TO HELP WITH YOUR EXPENSES."

GLORIA GROSSO FELICI, 25TH & CLEARFIELD STS. "I RECEIVED A COPY OF THE JJ FROM A FRIEND AND ENJOYED IT VERY MUCH AND WOULD LIKE TO BE INCLUDED ON THE MAILING LIST. MY PARENTS ROSE AND VINCENT HAD A GROCERY STORE FOR MANY YEARS. I HAVE ONE BROTHER LOUIS. I MARRIED MY WONDERFUL HUSBAND PETER FELICI WHO LIVED ON JUDSON STREET AND WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF ST. MARY'S. I AM AN OB NURSE AT FITZGERALD MERCY HOSPITAL AND PETER IS RETIRED FROM THE POST OFFICE, (HE RETIRED YOUNG!). PETE'S FATHER HAD A TAILOR SHOP ON JUDSON STREET MANY YEARS AGO. WE HAVE 2 CHILDREN VINCENT A DENTIST AND ROSEANN A CPA. WE HAVE 4 GRANDCHILDREN."

BUD GIANNETTI, 2948 N. JUDSON ST. "MY WIFE KATHY, (SHE IS A LITTLE FLOWER GRADUATE), AND I HAVE ENJOYED RECEIVING AND READING THE JJ. IT BRINGS BACK A LOT OF MEMORIES. I HAVE TO THANK MY COUSIN ROCKY FOR PUTTING MY NAME ON THE MAILING LIST. I LEFT JUDSON STREET IN JUNE OF '62 WHEN I GRADUATED FROM LASALLE, MARRIED AND MOVED TO

QUANTICO FOR BASIC SCHOOL IN THE USMC. I SPENT 6 YEARS IN THE CORPS AND 25 YEARS WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND WE MOVED 14 TIMES, BUT HAVE BEEN IN THE WASHINGTON, DC AREA FOR MANY YEARS. KATHY AND I HAVE 3 DAUGHTERS AND A SON AND THREE GRANDCHILDREN WITH A FOURTH DUE IN NOVEMBER. I HAVE ENCLOSED A CHECK. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!"

JENNIE FORTUNATO MAIO, 2906 N. 24TH ST. "LEST WE FORGET THE BROWNIES AND THE GIRL SCOUTS FROM ST. MARY'S. I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF WORKING WITH LYDIA LISA AS A TROOP LEADER AND IT IS WONDERFUL TO SEE SOME OF THEIR NAMES IN THE JJ ABOUT THEIR LIVES AND FAMILIES. ST. MARY'S WAS THE ONLY CHURCH TO RECEIVE THE MARIAN AWARDS FOR THE GIRL SCOUTS. I MARRIED LOU MAIO FROM 23RD STREET. THEY CALLED HIM SIX O'CLOCK AND LUCKY LOU AT CATS CLUB. HE PASSED AWAY AT THE AGE OF 67. MY DAUGHTER CHRISTINE PASSES THE JJ ON TO ME. THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES THAT YOUR PAPER CONNECTS US TO THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S! I HEARD JOAN WALTERS CROTHAMER MAKE HER FIRST CRY THE DAY SHE WAS BORN ACROSS THE STREET ON JUDSON. PLEASE ADD MY BROTHER FRANK FORTUNATO TO THE MAILING LIST. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK FOR YOUR EXPENSES. THE BELLS OF ST. MARY SHOULD TOLL FOR YOU FOR YOUR GOOD DEEDS, SOME DAY!"

PAT CARLUCCI MATHERS, 3009 N. LAMBERT ST. ST. MARY'S 1969, "I ENJOY READING ABOUT THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD. MY

PARENTS MARY AND DON "HOTWIRES" CARLUCCI, AND I REGRETTED MISSING THE REUNION. MY DAD WAS IN THE HOSPITAL AND PASSED AWAY MARCH 19, 2001. HE WOULD HAVE LOVED TO GO. HE WAS A REAL TALKER! PLEASE SEND ME 3 PLAQUES AND ONE CALENDAR. I HAVE ENCLOSED A CHECK. KEEP THE BALANCE FOR EXPENSES. I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE NEXT REUNION. MY BROTHER JOHN AND MY SISTER VIRGINIA THOMPSON WILL LOVE THE PLAQUES."

FRAN NOVIA, 2931 N. 22ND ST. "I'M WRITING TO CORRECT AN ITEM IN THE LAST ISSUE OF THE JJ. "HOW CAN WE EVER FORGET?" BIG BEN'S GIVEN NAME WAS JOHN ANGELINI AND HE LIVED ON THE 3000 BLOCK OF CROSKY ST. HE WAS ALL-CATHOLIC AND I BELIEVE EVEN ALL SCHOLASTIC AT ROMAN CATHOLIC. UNFORTUNATELY, ACADEMICS WERE NEVER HIS STRONG SUIT AND ALTHOUGH HE RECEIVED OFFERS HE NEVER PLAYED IN COLLEGE. I NEVER HEARD LOU DORANZO REFERRED TO AS LOUSY LOU. THEIR PROFESSIONAL NAMES WERE: BIG BEN- BERNIE JAY, LOU - LOU DORANT, LEFTY-DOM DELL. THERE WAS A FOURTH TO THAT GROUP, RITCHIE THOMPSON FROM 23RD STREET."

JOHANNE BOCCHI PALERMO, 3000 BLOCK OF 23RD ST. "THANKS TO THE JJ, I RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM A DEAR FRIEND FROM THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD! JEANNE MARIE KACHELRIES AND I WERE INSEPERABLE DURING OUR DAYS AT ST. MARY'S SHE AND I AND LUCILLE DISANTIS SPENT MANY HOURS TOGETHER DURING THOSE YEARS. I WAS JUST SENT A PICTURE BY LUCILLE OF THE THREE OF US

ON OUR 8TH GRADE GRADUATION DAY. IT BROUGHT BACK SOME WONDERFUL MEMORIES THAT WERE DEEP IN THE RECESSES OF MY MIND. JEANNE AND I TALKED NEARLY 2 HOURS AND EVEN MADE PLANS TO GET TOGETHER WITH LUCILLE FOR OUR BIRTHDAYS, WHICH THE THREE OF US CELEBRATE IN SEPTEMBER. THE LAST TIME I SAW JEANNE WAS THE FIRST DAY AT HALLAHAN, SITTING IN THE GYM WAITING TO BE CALLED TO OUR HOMEROOM. BOTH OF US SCARED – THE THOUGHT OF BEING A FRESHMAN IN HIGH SCHOOL, WAS A FRIGHTENING EXPERIENCE BACK THEN. MY LAST NAME STARTED WITH B, JEANNE'S WAS A K – I WAS CALLED FIRST TO GO TO MY HOMEROOM AND THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I SAW JEANNE. SHE MOVED TO ROXBOROUGH SHORTLY THEREAFTER, AND FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON, I HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN HER ADDRESS. I OFTEN WONDERED WHAT BECAME OF JEANNE AND HER FAMILY AND VISA-VERSA. SHE TOLD ME SHE THOUGHT I WAS IN A CONVENT, SINCE I OFTEN TALKED ABOUT BECOMING A NUN."

SAMUEL PANNELLA, "MY GREAT GRANFATHER AND HIS FAMILY CAME FROM MONTECORVINO IN 1896. THEY SETTLED IN THE SWAMPOODLE AREA. THEY WERE SABATO AND SERAFINA DESIMONE PANNELLA. THEY HAD 4 CHILDREN AND THEY LIVED AT 2125 W. CAMBRIA. MY GRANDPARENTS WERE ANIELO & GIONINNA PUNZO PANNELLA. THEY ALSO HAD 4 CHILDREN AND LIVED AT 3038 N. HEMBERGER ST. MY FATHER SAMUEL PANNELLA LEFT THE NEIGHBORHOOD IN 1952 WHEN HE ENLISTED IN THE ARMY. UNFORTUNATELY MY FATHER DIED BEFORE I COULD FIND OUT

MUCH ABOUT HIS LIFE. I AM SURE GUYS FROM THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD KNOW HIM. ALSO I WAS WONDERING IF ANYONE FROM THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD HAS SUCCESSFULLY TRACED THEIR FAMILY HISTORY TO THE OLD COUNTRY? IF ANYONE KNOWS A WAY FOR ME TO CONTACT THE MADONNA DEL ETERNO SANCTUARY IN MONTECORVINO, PLEASE CONTACT ME AT 215-637-5825 OR FAX ME AT 215-637-2521?"

AL PASTRE, 3055 N. BONSALE ST. "I WANT TO TELL YOU WHAT A GREAT JOB YOU AND YOUR COMMITTEE DID ON THE REUNION. THE CALENDAR WAS A GOOD IDEA. I SHOWED IT TO MONSIGNOR DOOLAN, HE GOT A KICK SEEING IT. HE KNEW EVERYONE IN THE PICTURES. AT THE REUNION I SAW AND TALKED TO PEOPLE I HAVEN'T SEEN IN OVER 20 YEARS. GENE LUCARINI AND HIS WIFE GILDA LOOKED THE SAME. ALSO MARY JULIANI AND HER DAUGHTER TERRI AND HER HUSBAND JOE, MARY LUSCIE SAITTA LOOKED GOOD. DOM CHIODETTI LOOKED THE SAME, HE NEVER CHANGES. MY NEPHEW RON NANNI AND I TALKED TO EMILY LAURENZI. WE ASKED HER IF SHE COULD WHIP US UP A FEW PIZZAS WHILE WE WAITED FOR DINNER. SHE GOT A KICK OUT OF THAT. SHE IS STILL THE SAME, TALKING, MAKING JOKES AND LAUGHING. THE WHOLE THING WAS GREAT. I RECEIVED THE MAY 15TH ISSUE OF THE JJ. IT ALWAYS MAKES ME FEEL GOOD. MY MIND WANDERS BACK TO THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD AND THE GREAT TIMES AND FRIENDS WE HAD. WHENEVER I BUMP INTO SOMEONE FROM ST. MARY'S, WE ALWAYS TALK ABOUT THE GOOD TIMES WE HAD. WE WERE LIKE ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY

AND I SURE MISS THOSE DAYS. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK."

ROSE DELLORUSSO
RICHARDSON, 2908 N. 24TH ST.
"THIS IS A NOTE TO KEEP IN TOUCH AND TO SAY THANKS! THE DAYS OF PINK CARNATIONS WAS FILLED WITH NOSTALGIC MEMORIES OF ALL THE MOTHER'S DAYS WE WERE FORTUNATE TO HAVE. A DONATION FOR THE JJ IS ENCLOSED. I ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT ISSUE."

RONALD ROCCO, "I REALLY ENJOY READING THE JJ. IT BRINGS BACK SO MANY GREAT MEMORIES. COULD YOU ADD MY MOM & DAD, FRANK & NETTIE TO THE MAILING LIST. ENCLOSED IS SOMETHING FOR THE COST OF PUBLISHING THE JJ. KEEP THOSE MEMORIES COMING!"

FRANK SALVATORE, "I ENJOYED READING THE JJ, AND I SEEM TO RECOGNIZE SOME OF THE NAMES, BUT OTHERS ESCAPE ME. NEEDLESS TO SAY IT IS A VERY INTERESTING NEWSLETTER. I AM SURE YOU ARE AWARE THAT MY BROTHER BUTCH DIED 2 YEARS AGO AND ANGELO DIED IN FEBRUARY. ANGELO WAS MARRIED TO VIVIAN LIUGGERI. I DON'T SEE TOO MANY OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD, BUT ONCE IN AWHILE I HEAR, "I KNOW YOU FROM THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD!" KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!"

LUCILLE SPERA, "I HEARD OF YOUR JJ THROUGH ANITA SAULINO FAHY OF CHERRY HILL, WHO LIVES ACROSS FROM MY SISTER NANCY SPERA NICASTRO. CONSILIA D'ANDREA, MY COUSIN WHO LIVES IN CALIF., TOLD ME SHE WROTE TO YOU AND MENTIONED MY

NAME. ALSO HELEN CARLINO OF N.J. SENT HER THE JJ AND CALENDAR. I HAVE BEEN WANTING TO WRITE TO YOU FOR A LONG TIME ABOUT THAT WONDERFUL PIECE OF HISTORY CALLED 'LITTLE ITALY'. THOSE OF US WHO LEFT THERE WILL NEVER FORGET WHAT A PARADISE IT WAS, BECAUSE IT LIVES ON IN OUR COLLECTIVE MEMORY. SINCE I DON'T KNOW YOUR AGE, I ASSUME YOU MAY HAVE BEEN AMONG THOSE TENDER YOUNG THINGS OF MY AGE WHO WENT TO THE MOVIES AND SCARED OURSELVES TO DEATH WATCHING HORROR FLICKS, SUCH AS FRANKENSTEIN, DRACULA AND THE WOLFMAN. MY SISTER MARY DIBENEDETTO, MY COUSIN, LUCY SPERA AND I WOULD GO SEE THESE MOVIES AND WALK WITHOUT FEAR OF ANY HUMAN FOLLOWING US TO HARM US, BUT IN THOSE DAYS, WHO WAS THERE TO FEAR ON THE STREETS? IN DREADFUL HORROR WE WOULD RUN TO OUR RESPECTIVE HOMES. WHAT A LAUGH WE HAVE OVER THAT NOW! THE CREATURES NEVER DID CATCH US! MY GRANDFATHER WAS VITO SPERA WHO WAS THE FIRST ITALIAN IMMIGRANT TO OPEN A SHOE STORE ON 22ND STREET. THIS MADE HIM A WELL KNOWN FIGURE. HIS WIFE MARY ALFIERI HAD MANY NIECES AND NEPHEWS, AS A RESULT WE ARE RELATED TO MANY PEOPLE. HE WAS ALSO AN AGENT FOR THE FUNERAL DIRECTOR, JOSEPH GRIES, AS MOST PEOPLE DID NOT SPEAK ENGLISH, SO THEY WENT TO HIM WHEN SOMEONE PASSED AWAY. MY FATHER PASQUALE ALSO WORKED IN THE SHOE STORE. MY MOTHER JOSEPHINE CARUGNO'S PARENTS FRANK AND MARY WERE TAYLORS ON 22ND STREET. MY MOTHER'S FATHER WAS AN

ENCHANTING MAN WHO WAS ALSO SECRETARY OF THE ITALIAN BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION. I WENT TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR SISTER MARY JULIANI AND WE OCCASIONALLY MEET AND SHE IS AS DELIGHTFUL AS WHEN WE WERE SCHOOL GIRLS TOGETHER. I'LL CLOSE WITH ALL GOOD WISHES FOR YOUR CONTINUING ENDEAVORS FOR ALL OF THE WONDERFUL PEOPLE WHO HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF EXPERIENCING "LITTLE ITALY". ENCLOSED IS A DONATION!"

ALBERT "AL LONDON" STAFFIERI, 2217 W INDIANA AVE. "IN THE LAST JJ IT WAS GOOD TO HEAR FROM BUSTER MEGLIO WHO LIVED A FEW HOUSES DOWN FROM ME. HE HAD A COUPLE OF BROTHERS AND A SISTER MARIE. I HOPE THEY ARE ALL DOING FINE. ALSO VINCENT PONGIA, WHO I WENT TO NORTHEAST HIGH SCHOOL WITH ALONG WITH NICK DITOMASSI AND GUIDO FESTA. MY WIFE, JOSEPHINE AND I NOW LIVE IN WILLIAMSTOWN, NEW JERSEY AND SPEND THE WINTER MONTHS IN DISNEY WORLD, FLORIDA. IF ANYONE VACATIONS THERE IN THE WINTER, YOU MAY BUMP INTO US WORKING IN ONE OF THE RETAIL SHOPS AT MGM STUDIOS. IT WAS GREAT BEING WITH MARY & JOE CALCI AND MY COUSIN JOHNNY EIGHTBALL STAFFIERI AT THE LAST REUNION. CAN'T WAIT FOR THE NEXT ONE! ENCLOSED IS A DONATION FOR THE JJ."

ALBERT TORDELLA, 3029 N. 29TH ST. "THE MAY 15TH JJ IS FULL OF MONTECORVINO THAT I FELT COMPELLED TO WRITE ABOUT OUR HERITAGE AT ST. MARY'S AND THOMAS MAY PEIRCE. THE OLDER PEOPLE HAD TO GO TO

PEIRCE, SINCE OUR CHURCH WASN'T BUILT UNTIL 1911 AND THE SCHOOL CAME LATER. THE OLDER CHILDREN, MY BROTHER AND SISTER INCLUDED, WENT TO SCHOOL NOT KNOWING A WORD OF ENGLISH. AS YOU CAN UNDERSTAND, WE OWE A GREAT DEAL TO THE DEDICATED TEACHERS OF PEIRCE WHO TAUGHT THE ITALIAN KIDS. THE RESULT: OUR FIRST DOCTOR, SEVERINA MADONNA: OUR FIRST DENTIST, ELIGIO CERINO, (SUE CHIARLANZA'S BROTHER), OUR FIRST LAWYER, VINCE PANATI, OUR FIRST ARCHITECTS, FRED CHIARLANZA AND DANIEL SALVATO. THEN ALONG CAME ST. MARY'S WHICH PRODUCED MANY DOCTORS, LAWYERS, ARCHITECTS, ETC. AND THEN OUR FIRST PRIEST, ARTHUR DIGIACOMO, WHO LATER BECAME A MONSIGNOR AND PASSED AWAY MUCH TOO EARLY. SPEAKING OF VINCENT PONGIA'S COLUMN, WE ALL OWE A DEBT TO FR. PASTORE, WHO TOLD ME HE HAD AN EYE ON A YOUNG SEMINARIAN AT ST. CHARLE'S. HIS NAME WAS J. JOHN BUSCO. FR. PASTORE WANTED TO RETIRE AND RETURN TO ITALY, BUT NOT BEFORE HE LEFT ST. MARY'S IN GOOD HANDS. I HAVE SHORTENED THE STORY, BUT NEED I SAY MORE. I SPOKE TO MSGR. BUSCO BEFORE THE REUNION AND HE WASN'T UP TO PAR. HE STILL SAYS MASS IN HIS OWN CHAPEL AT HOLY SAVIOR IN NORRISTOWN. WE OWE HIM SO MUCH! IT WAS VERY NICE OF YOU TO REMEMBER FREDDY'S MOTHER SUE CHIARLANZA. WE LOST ANOTHER OLD NEIGHBOR ABOUT A MONTH AGO - LEO DIGIACOMO - WHO CUT MY HAIR UNTIL ABOUT A YEAR AGO. HE RAN HIS BARBER SHOP IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD FOR ABOUT 80 YEARS. HIS LAST SHOP

WAS ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE OLD CONVENT ON INDIANA AVENUE. HOPE TO SEE YOU IN NOVEMBER AT IHM FOR THE MEMORIAL MASS FOR THE BOYS OF WWII. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK!"

FRANK YANNESSA, 2035 W. INDIANA AVE. "THE JJ WAS GIVEN TO ME BY MY SISTER-IN-LAW JEANNE PICARELLO YANNESSA. SHE WAS MARRIED TO MY BROTHER REYNOLD, WHO DIED LAST YEAR. AFTER I CAME HOME FROM WWII WE STARTED THE SALVIA VFW POST. I WAS THE COMMANDER. OH! HOW I REMEMBER THOSE DOLLAR NIGHTS. THER WERE 10 KIDS IN OUR FAMILY THE OLDEST TANGRED, WHO THEY CALLED TANGERINE. I'M NEXT TO THE YOUNGEST. TWO OF MY SISTERS, ESTHER CORSO AND HELEN HERBERT ARE STILL LIVING. I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM ANYONE WHO REMEMBERS US. WRITTEN BY HIS WIFE DEBBIE, AS HE HAD A STROKE AND CAN'T WRITE."

"HOW CAN WE EVER FORGET?"
By Vincent Pongia

As someone so aptly stated, playing pool in Art Jare's, (Cat's), poolroom was sort of a "rite of passage." We all learned on his tables taking his Marine Corps tough non-compassionate pool-shooting training from him. At one time or another we heard him yell, "Let's go Gypsy", and his little gray mongrel female dog would jump out from her bed beneath the large pool table and spew feeding puppies all the way to the door. Poolroom etiquette required that we not interrupt, "Cat", when he was listening to the Jimmy Durante Show. I can recall Carlo Midora hazarding such an interruption. The argument progressed to the point where Cat asked Carlo, "Are you trying to make an Ass out of me?" Carlo responded,

"I'm sorry Cat, But It's too late!" Even Cat had to laugh at that one. What about the big crap games at 23rd and Indiana across from Guiffrida's Grocery Store?

Among other major events at 23rd and Indiana were the two hand touch football games. These were epic, large in size and hard fought. Starring at quarterback was Sammy Vassallo. His team was usually high spirited and energetic. I hope I don't get into any trouble, but I also believe they usually won.

Besides our good athletes we can be justly proud of other neighborhood accomplishments. At our reunion it was a pleasure to talk to some who became lawyers, doctors, and like myself engineers. There were others who succeeded in other meaningful walks of life. We can be proud and frankly, I Am. We all were the children of largely uneducated immigrant parents, but they all understood the benefits of hard work and education. Because of them and their sometimes, "tough love", we prospered. God love them and keep them safe for us when we meet again in eternity.

TO BE CONTINUED!!!!

HOW SWAMPOODLE GOT ITS NAME!

By Mario Amici

This information was given to me by Mary Olivastro and was told to her by her father, Domenic Deodatti.

"...Prior to the building of the original St. Mary's Church, which was located on Toronto Street between 20th and 21st Streets, people attended services at St. Columba's Church, at 24th Street and Lehigh Avenue.

Our neighborhood, at the time, was largely undeveloped and abounded in vast swampy areas, especially the streets we know today as Clearfield, 22nd and 23rd Streets.

The women in those days wore dresses virtually touching the ground. As they

made their way to Church, their hem lines would become soiled and wet and splattered by other pedestrians making their way through these murky wetlands."

So this area geographically identified as a swampy area full of puddles, became known in the local vernacular, as "Swampoodle."

CONFESSION IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL!

By Sylvester Marsh

Fritz the cop was mentioned in the last JJ. Well, I have a confession to make. When I was about ten or eleven years old, I bet some of the gang that I could throw a snowball from Croskey and Clearfield Streets to 22nd Street. I packed a snowball about the size of a baseball and threw it as high and as far as I could. It took four to five seconds to reach 22nd Street. At the same time, Fritz was walking north on 22nd Street toward Sam and Nates Candy Store. The snowball and Fritz arrived at the exact same point and he ended up being smashed on the left side of his face. It was purely accidental. In fact, I didn't see Fritz when I unloaded. I was afraid to go near 22nd and Clearfield for the next month. The crime has finally been solved. I liked Fritz as well as anyone. I later became a policeman. Fortunately I had no encounters with wayward snowballs. When I was stationed in Germany in the late '50's, I went on leave to Italy. I had stops in Rome, Naples, Sorrento and a week on the Isle of Capri. I surely hope many JJ readers take the trip. I thoroughly enjoyed my stay in Italy. I hope to see many of you at the next reunion.

THE SAGA OF CECIL AND ORAZIO RUNNING AWAY FROM HOME!

By Carmen (Fatty) F. Ricardo 3042 N. Hemberger Street.

We were in the seventh grade at St. Mary's in 1943. It was the end of the second marking period and we had

our report cards to take home to our parents. Cecil, (Whimpy), Palermo of 3100 N. 22nd Street and Orazio, (Mush Mouth), DiGiacomo reviewed their marks at Sam & Nate's Candy Store. The news wasn't good. Cecil said his father would kill him, if he got another report card that looked like that one did. Orazio said his mother would do the same to him. The plan begins, the two decided to avoid corporal punishment by running away from home. Since Cecil and Orazio were my very best buddies that meant that I was going also. Elwood Bullock of 3100 N. Croskey Street, a black kid also came with us, but I can't remember why he was running away. We walked to Fairmount Park, somewhere above Midvale Avenue. The plan was to hop a freight train that ran alongside the Schuylkill River. It was getting cold and we were hungry. We pooled our money as usual I had none. Our total was about fifteen cents. I forget who went to the store and bought a five-cent loaf of sliced American bread and ten cents worth of bologna. We also pulled wild onions and washed the dirt off in the Schuylkill. We made sandwiches and we all ate. At this point I said, "I'm going home! This is crazy! I don't have any reason to runaway from home!" They were very upset. Orazio said, "You could have left before you ate!" Then they warned me not to say anything about there location. Later that day, Cecil's cousin Peter Marzzano of 2100 W. Clearfield Street, came to my house and asked me, if I knew where he was. Naturally I said I didn't know a thing. This is the story I was told about where they were found and sent home. They hopped a gondola coal car and ended up in Milton Pennsylvania in the early morning hours and it was hard to tell who was black and who was white. Wandering around penniless in a strange town, it wasn't long before the local police spotted them and arrested them as vagrants. They were so cold that they were giving each other hotfoots to try and warm up their feet. Needless to say

they were returned home and the proper amount of Italian corporal punishment and love was meted out.

Reunion News!

THE ST. MARY'S CLASS OF 1951 IS PLANNING AN 8TH GRADE REUNION ON OCTOBER 28TH AND IS LOOKING FOR FORMER CLASSMATES. AS OF THIS PRINTING THEY HAVE INFORMATION ON ONLY 21 PEOPLE, IF YOU HAVE NOT HEARD FROM THEM PLEASE CONTACT THEM AND GET ON THE MAILING LIST. THESE ARE SOME OF THE PEOPLE THEY KNOW ARE MISSING, BUT ANYONE FROM THE CLASS OF 1951, OR ANY READER WHO KNOWS THE WEARABOUTS OF ANY OF THE CLASS IS URGED TO REPLY: BILL DIETRICH, LARRY CARNEGIA, LARRY TESSIO, ANDREW RINALDI, PATRICIA BROWNE, PATRICIA SPERANZA, BETTY ANN ROSETTI AND JOAN KEBELNIC. CONTACT EITHER JOANN DILACQUA FANELLI AT 610-356-8328, OR MARIE BASILE ROBERTO AT 215-632-3574. YOU MAY ALSO EMAIL YOUR RESPONSE TO: jfanelli@erols.com, or jroberto11@aol.com.

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YANNESSA

CALENDARS AND PLAQUES ARE STILL AVAILABLE!

PRAYER TO SAINT RITA OF CASIA. MY CONSOLER.

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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