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THIRD ITALIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

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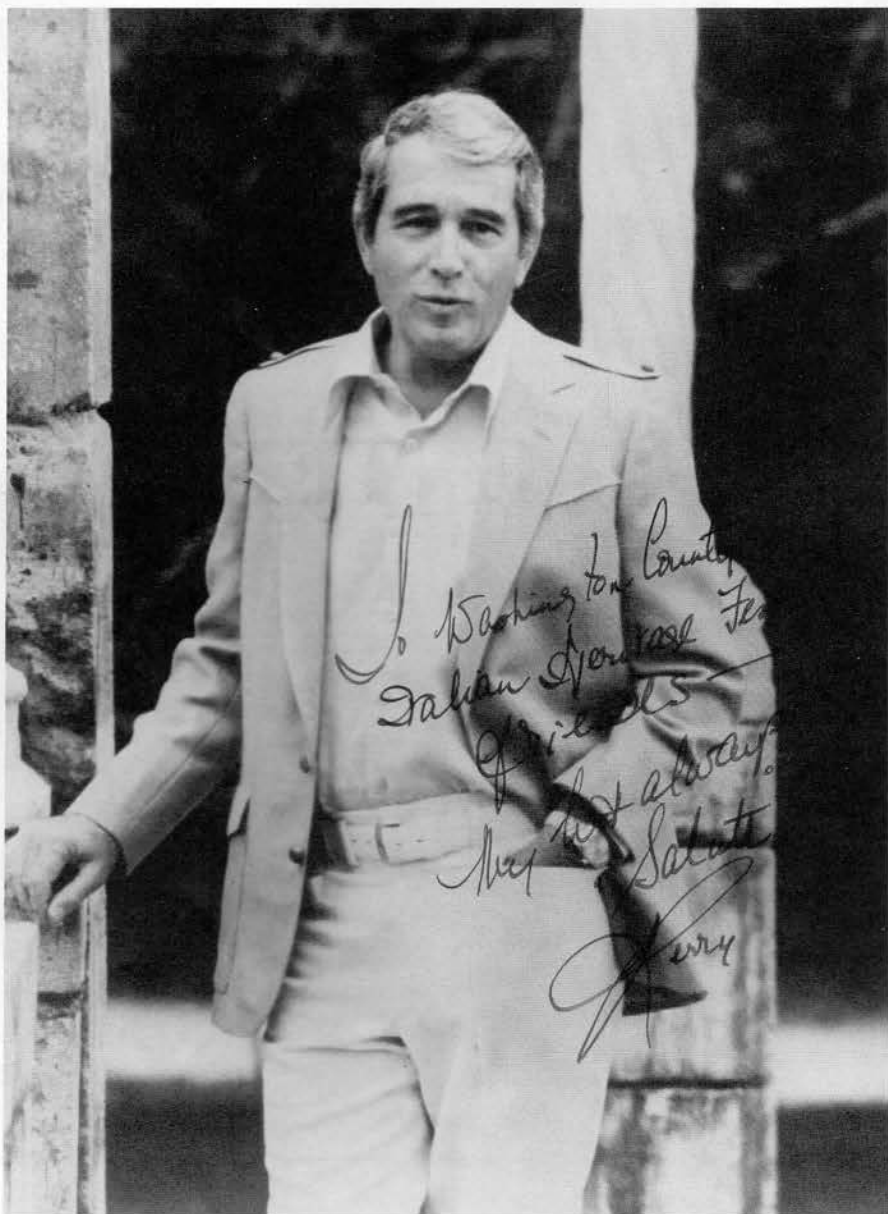
*BUONA
FORTUNA*

FALCONI ENTERPRISES

ANGELO & PHILIP FALCONI

Dedication

The relatively young Washington County Italian Heritage Festival dedicates our book this year to the young-at-heart Canonsburg, PA native son, Perry Como, in honor of his 50 year anniversary last year as a professional entertainer.



"The qualities that go into the making of a great pop singer are so changeable, so subject to the whims of fashion, that it is difficult to pin them down . . . Even within the context of a given period and a given style, the great pop singers are a complex mixture of voice, personality, sensitivity, and taste — to mention just a few of the ingredients . . . Some singers find the key early and maintain it throughout their careers, as Bing Crosby did and Perry Como does . . ."

John S. Wilson
The New York Times
Sunday, June 5, 1983



Third Edition - 1984

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On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Washington County Italian Heritage Festival, I wish to welcome one and all to the third annual festival. Buona Fortuna!

A sincere thank you to the following people who helped raise money for this year's celebration by selling raffle tickets.

Richard Barnes
Dorothy Capo
Mary Consolmagno
Richard Celani
Joe D'Amico
Richard Esposito
Cathy Fonda
Gem Distributing

Mario Julian
Angelo Musto
Joe Nicoletta
Dominick Pacilla
Joseph Porcaro
Debbie O'Dell Seneca
Mary Steratore



Joseph Nicoletta, Chairman of the Board
3rd Annual Washington County Italian
Heritage Festival

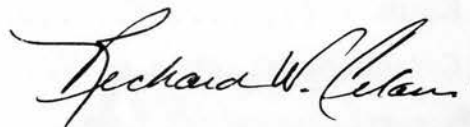
Vi Salutiamo!

"Actions speak louder than words," according to the old saying. It took a lot of action by a lot of people to make last year's festival a success. Let me extend my sincere appreciation to each of you.

The following entertainers have graciously volunteered their services for the 1984 festival:

Rose Chiazza's Oglebay Dancers
Bill De Fabio, MC
Joyce Ellis Dancers
Jeanne Insana
Louise Vella School of Dance

Molte Grazie,



Richard Celani, President
Washington County Italian Heritage Festival

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1984 Italian Heritage Festival Committee



BOARD MEMBERS

Standing left to right: Amon Trapuzzano, Joe Porcaro, Angelo Musto, Dorothy Capo, Joe Nicoletta, Mary Consolmagno, Mario Julian, Lou Gadani. Missing from picture: Richard Celani, Tony Mirisciotti, Sec'y Cathy Fonda.

In Memoriam

Joseph A. Alampi — An individual who contributed much to the fullness of living until his untimely death on July 11, 1984.

Joseph A. Alampi was an Executive Board member of the Washington County Italian Heritage Festival Committee since its inception. Joining in with a group of Italian Americans interested in preserving their heritage, Joe helped plan and execute the first Italian Festival which came into being in July, 1982. He was a familiar figure who participated actively in the work of the festival, as well as devoting a part of his life to civic and patriotic endeavors in the community. The absence of our board member Joe will be keenly felt as the Festival Committee continues in the work of preserving our heritage which meant so much to him.

Chairman of Board/Joe Nicoletta
President/Richard Celani
Vice President/Dorothy Capo
Treasurer/Amon Trapuzzano
Secretary/Cathy Fonda
Executive Board Members/
Mary Consolmagno Angelo Musto
Lou Gadani Joe Pintola
Mario Julian Joe Porcaro
Tony Mirisciotti

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Pageant

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Lisa D'Amico
Diane Mowl
Joe Nicoletta
Jean Popp
Donna Shriver

Parade

Chairman/Ralph Ruscello
Float/Joe D'Amico

Program Book

Chairman/W. Bryan Pizzi II
Financial/Frank A. Cargiene, Jr.
Joe Pintola
Robert Russo
Editor/Nancy A. Razvoza
Text/Mary Consolmagno
Sunda Cornetti

Publicity

Chairwoman/Debbie O'Dell Seneca

Refreshments

Chairman/Tony Mirisciotti

Souvenirs & Organization

Chairman/Joe Pintola
William Dinello

Special thanks to Don Kotula/Photographer who took the pageant photographs and will photograph the festival free. Don will be at Bassettown Square so that anyone who wishes to purchase pageant pictures or to contract with him for festival photos can see him or his assistant there.

Grazie to Chambers Development for providing assistance in clean-up after last year's festival.

1984 Italian Heritage Festival Committee

Program Book

Chairman: Brian Pizzi

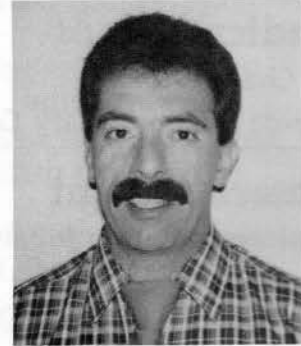
Advertising: Frank A. Cargiene, Jr., Joe Pintola, Robert Russo

Editor: Nancy Razvoza, Mary Consolmagno, Sunda Cornetti

A special thank you for editorial assistance to Joseph DiMaio, Pittsburgh, PA and Robert Brindley, Chairman of Communications Department, W&J College, Washington, PA.



Seated, Front Row: Mary Consolmagno, Nancy Razvoza. Standing: Robert Russo, Bryan Pizzi, Frank A. Cargiene, Jr. Missing from picture: Joe Pintola, Sunda Cornetti.



Joe Pintola

Debbie O'Dell Seneca

Debbie helped with this year's festival in several important ways. She is publicity chairman, pledge chairman and has served since last fall as parliamentarian. An attorney with the Washington, PA law firm of Seneca and O'Dell, P.C., Debbie has served as Assistant Public Defender, as law clerk for the Honorable Judge John F. Bell and as full-time Assistant District Attorney for 4 years. She will tell you that her most important jobs are as wife to her law partner, Anthony J. Seneca and mother to their two-year-old son, Mario O'Dell Seneca. She is active in many civic and professional organizations, serving as first vice-president of Washington Business & Professional Women's Club. She is active in the Daughters of Current Events Club, member of American, Pennsylvania, and Washington County Bar Associations, Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association and sits on the Board of the Western Pa. Trial Lawyers Association.





I would like to thank everyone for a very enjoyable and memorable year as Italian Heritage Festival Queen.

Gina Julian

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Perry Como

Pierino Roland Como was born on May 18, 1912 in Canonsburg, Pa., one of 13 children — the seventh son of a seventh son. His parents, immigrants from the Abruzzi region of Italy, instilled in their children what Perry calls "the true values of life, family, honesty, friendship, marriage, kids." This may account for his "Mr. Nice Guy" image, and also for the fact that Perry celebrated another anniversary last year, fifty years of marriage to his beloved wife, the former Roselle Bellini, childhood sweetheart, and mother of his children, Ron, David, and daughter Terri.



At the ripe old age of 11, Perry went to work in Steve Fragapane's three-chair barbershop where he swept floors, stropped razors, and did odd jobs. Before long, Perry was barbering and shaving. Customers got a bonus with the haircut, as Perry warbled the popular songs of the day. Travelling musicians spread the word about his impressive voice and style and

in 1933 he was offered a job at the magnificent salary of \$28 per week singing with a dance band.

In 1936 Ted Weems stopped in a Warren, Ohio gambling casino, won at roulette, went downstairs and heard Perry Como singing with the Freddie Carlone band. He hired Perry on the spot. Como's years with the Weems orchestra furthered his musical development. Weems

often played back recordings of some of Como's live broadcasts to him. He listened, and learned and continued to improve his voice and style. When the Weems orchestra disbanded in 1942, Perry decided to go back to cutting hair — until he was offered a radio show on the Columbia Broadcasting System. Eventually the Como family moved to Long Island and Perry's career



1926 Taken at Sam Vincent's Barber Shop located under First National Bank, Canonsburg, Pa. (r to l) 1st chair, Sam Vincent; 2nd chair, Perry Como (16 yrs. old); 3rd chair, Nick Tonti.

Perry Como

(continued)

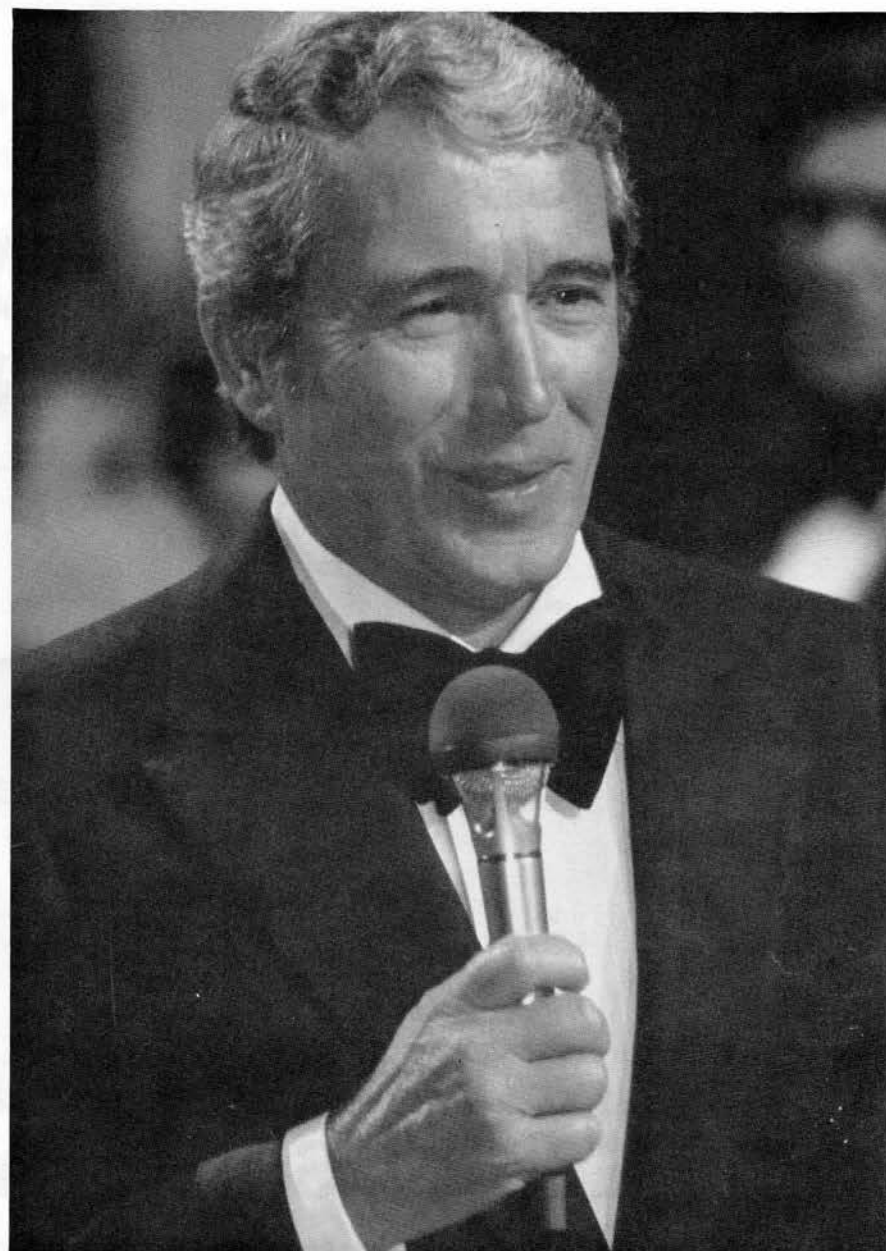
continued to flourish. In 1945 he recorded "Till the End of Time," his first number one hit. During the next four years Como made movies and continued to sing hit records for RCA.

Television beckoned and in 1948 Perry signed with CBS for a TV version of "The Chesterfield Supper Club." This new medium seemed made for him. From 1955 to 1959 he did "The Perry Como Show" which aired on NBC and featured the Mitchell Ayres Orchestra and The Ray Charles Singers. Perry ambled through each show wearing a golf sweater and perching on a high stool to caress the audience with his velvety, effortless voice. As writer John D. Harris said, "He touched the essentially family-oriented spirit of America, maybe like no entertainer had before or has since."

Next in 1959 came a \$25 million dollar contract to do the famed "Kraft Music Hall," a musical variety show that continued far into the next decade. Perry finally slowed down a little in the 70's, though he continued to do at least two television specials and numerous personal appearances each year. He recorded two more hits, "It's Impossible" and "And I Love You So" and was elected to the Grammy Hall of Fame.

These days Como spends much of his time in Jupiter, Florida, near West Palm Beach, although he still maintains his Long Island residence. His golfing and fishing pals can always count on the traditional Italian hospitality. Pasta, salami, cheese and good wine abound at his table. Perry's 11 grandchildren are often there and Perry keeps his hand in cutting their hair. "They're terrible tip-pers," he says.

This former barber from Canonsburg has been the guest of Popes, Presidents, and royalty. Still he has remained unassuming,



warm and charming. In 1983 Frank Sinatra and Como were invited to entertain when President Reagan hosted the president of Italy. "We each did a couple of things alone and a medley together," Como says. "Then we did our routine for Queen Elizabeth in California. Frank said, 'Don't you have anywhere you'd like to invite me?' I said no. Then I told him I was going to Duke University for the 10th year, May 20, 21, and 22. He was there. We raised \$300,000 for the pediatrics department."

Last year Perry celebrated another milestone, 40 years with

RCA Recording Company. A partial list of his million-selling records includes "Prisoner of Love," "When You Were Sweet Sixteen," "Because," "Temptation," "Catch A Falling Star." Five years ago Como renegotiated his contract with RCA Records for another ten years, commenting wryly that he might be in a wheelchair before the contract expired. Fat chance! RCA's well-founded faith in Perry's future with them dramatizes the singer's continued super-star status. "Either you've got it or you haven't." Perry Como has it in the most dazzling sense — all the while appearing to be not really trying at all.



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The American Italian Historical Association

The only regional archive of Italian-American history in the United States is now housed in the San Francisco History Room of the Main Branch of the Public Library in the Civic Center. The Depository in the Library collects the very stuff of an immigrant's life: newspapers, documents, letters, clippings, photos, calling cards and tombola tickets. Because such things are usually disposed of upon a person's death they are as rare as they are illuminating.

Donations of archival materials are invited and all donations will be carefully catalogued and deposited, stored and, if necessary, repaired. All donations will be acknowledged and are tax deductible.

For further information, please contact the Curator: Mr. Andrew M. Canepa, 100 Santa Ynez Ave., San Francisco, CA. 94112, tel. (415) 398-1574.

Did You Know

Population of Washington County in 1980 was 223,899

Population in Washington City, Washington County 17,272

The Italians and American Italians are the largest ethnic group in Washington City according to the 1980 Government Census tract.

The number of foreign born and their children (second generation) are:

Italians	1,506	Polish	749
English	1,238	Russians	105
Germans	1,098	Swedish	105
Irish	753		

Did you know that Venetian glassworkers were confined to the island of Murano? Supposedly this isolation of the furnaces from the city was a fire precaution. But the more compelling reason was to protect trade secrets. The techniques of Venetian glassworkers were so valued that any worker who left the island was immediately placed under a sentence of death in absentia. Nevertheless, the rapid spread of glass techniques through Europe proves that many workers did manage to escape.



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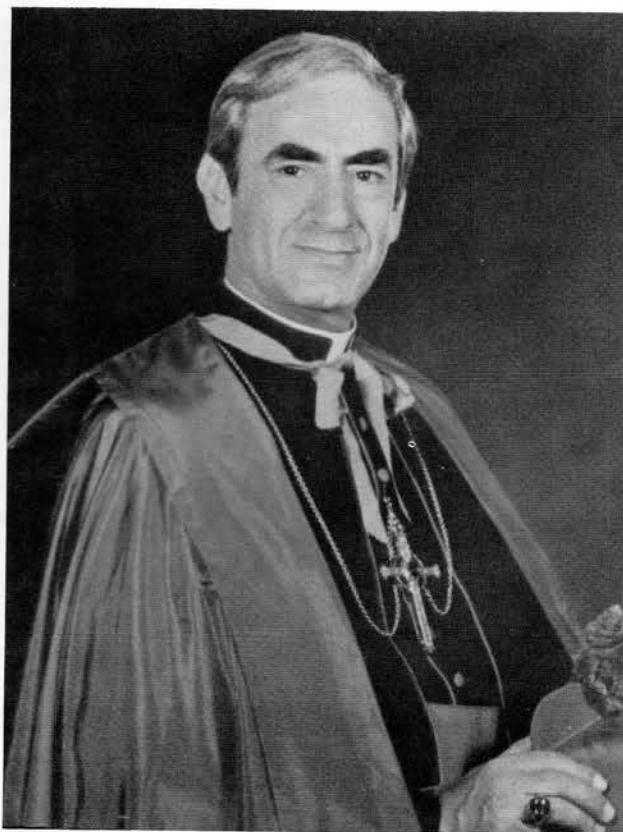
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Outstanding Italian Americans



Most Reverend Anthony J. Bevilacqua

Newly appointed Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, the Most Reverend Anthony J. Bevilacqua comes here from Brooklyn where he served as priest and bishop for thirty-four years. The ninth of eleven children of Italian immigrants, Bevilacqua leads a religious community of 911,421 Catholics in six counties, 321 parishes, 530 diocesan priests, 240 order priests, more than 3,000

Sisters and 165 grade and high schools with 50,000 students.

In a solemn two-hour ceremony at St. Paul's Cathedral in Oakland in December, 1983, Bevilacqua became the tenth bishop of the 140-year-old Pittsburgh Catholic Diocese. Aware of the rich ethnic heritage of this area, he explained that he sees in his role as bishop the need to be mediator, teacher, governor, and sanctifier. Expressing concern for the unemployed, Bevilacqua prays to be a true pastor to all who suffer in any way.

In an effort to get acquainted with his new diocese Bevilacqua makes time to visit hospitals, old-age homes and schools. When asked how he felt about the people of the tri-state area, the Bishop related the following incident. He was travell-

ing from Washington, Pa. to Pittsburgh recently on I-79 when he glanced to his left to see a carload of people in the passing lane pressed against their windows and waving, "Hi, Bishop! "People in Brooklyn don't do that," he commented. When asked what he would like to say to the people of his diocese, Bevilacqua replied, "Tell people the new Bishop of Pittsburgh is on the job."

Outstanding Italian Americans



James W. Gargano

Dr. Gargano joined the faculty of Washington and Jefferson College in 1955 and currently is professor of English at the College. He served for several years as Chairman of the English Department.

A graduate of the University of Buffalo, he served in the Pacific Theater with the U.S. Air Force during World War II. He received his

Ph.D. degree from Cornell University.

At W & J, Dr. Gargano has become known for his expertise on the works of Edgar Allen Poe. He is a former member of the Executive Committee of the Poe Studies Association of the Modern Language Association and was named an honorary member of the Association in December, 1982. In citing Dr. Gargano, the Association said, "He (Dr. Gargano) has significantly altered the course of Poe studies, moving the subject from misty, dim regions into a position of high art among America's literary greats." Dr. Gargano has published 11 articles on Poe, as well as many reviews and review articles. He is a member of the

editorial board of "Poe Studies" and has given talks on Poe at the Modern Language Convention and the Poe Society of Baltimore. He has edited issues of W & J's "Topic: A Journal of the Liberal Arts" which were devoted to Poe and to Henry James. In 1963-64 he lectured at the University of Caen, France on a Fulbright Lectureship.

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The Italian Wedding



Wedding of Theresa Arena and Tony Julian. Standing left to right: Patsy Arena, Mary DeRose, Joe Julian, Mary Dagostino, Dominick Ruffa, Milly Arena, Tony Julian (groom), Theresa Arena (the bride). Front row (seated): Carmella Ruffa, Louis Dagostino, Nancy Arena.

by Mary Consolmagno

A wedding is a ceremony of marriage; a celebration of custom and tradition handed down from generation to generation. The Italian wedding is no exception. One of the traditions of an Italian wedding is the preparation of the marriage "dowry", which reflects the strong bond of family life and love. The gift of the ring, symbol of the engagement, would be celebrated in Italy with a lunch and supper, at which presents would be exchanged. Today, it is customary for the groom to receive a gold band to indicate that he is engaged.

In earlier times, young Italian girls married at age 20 or above; now they do not wait as long. The marriage was arranged by a go-between but it would not take place unless the bride had a dowry, filled with beautiful handwork and sentimental treasures.

In the villages of Italy, on the wedding day, the young men stretched a ribbon or garland of flowers across the street, and the most

handsome youth offered a bouquet to the bride, after which the bridal party proceeded to the church. Before the ceremony, the bride would ride from her parents' home on horseback or in a horse-drawn carriage. In the smaller villages, the bride would make the trip by foot, as perhaps did Guisepppe DiPhillippo and Pasqualino DeStio of Washington, PA on January 21, 1894 when they were married by Father J. F. Doyle in the Immaculate Conception Church. According to church records this couple were the first Italian-Americans to be married in Washington, PA.

The Catholic wedding is most often celebrated with a nuptial mass. The solemn nuptial mass is the most elaborate of wedding ceremonies. The Mass Cantata is a high mass which takes about 40 minutes, and of course, is usually sung. The low nuptial mass takes 30 minutes and is widely used. As Italian families came to the United States, some settled in areas that did not have a Catholic Church,

therefore, they practiced a religion other than Catholic, as was their constitutional right. Whether Catholic or Protestant, the wedding traditions remained Italian.

In Italy, at the marriage dinner following the ceremony, there would be 30 people at the first table, which typified the marriage as an honorable feast. Often the celebration would last two days, with music, dancing and serenading. Customs have changed over the years and today weddings may range from a large evening reception with plenty of wine, food, Italian cookies and pastries, music and dancing to a small wedding with only family and close friends in attendance. Whatever the size of today's marriage celebration, the traditional customs of the Italian wedding are still maintained, making it a memorable occasion for bride, groom and family.

"The Italian Wedding Customs" was the theme of the I Campognoli's Show at the Pittsburgh Folk Festival held last May at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center.

A special thanks to Cindy Sorice
(continued)



Evelyn Julian and Carmine Ruffa. Married November 28, 1912 at Immaculate Conception Church, Lincoln St., Washington, PA.

The Italian Wedding

(continued)

and the priests of Immaculate Conception Church for their cooperation in making records available for research. Other material obtained from "A Daily Life in Florence — In the Times of the Medici" by J. Lucas Dubreton, and "The Wedding Book" by Frances Birmingham.

A sincere thanks to the families for the wedding photographs.

Wedding of Theresa

and Tony Dagostino. Left to right 1st row (sitting): Lena Iacovitti, Nicky Palmer, Ann Consolmagno. 2nd row (sitting): Mary Dagostino, Rose Arena, Theresa Arena (bride), Mary Fiorletta, Angeline Carlett. 3rd row (standing): Patsy Arena, Vincent Di Bello, Tony Dagostino, Ross Dagostino, Joe Di Bello.



Wedding, November 24, 1921. L-R: Tony Resciniti, Angeline Nicolessa Greco, Antonio Nicolessa (groom), Nicolina Maccherole (bride), Mary Scuvotti Cobucci, Mary Merlo Luongo.

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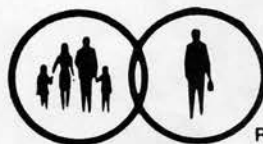


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Sunday Morning Ritual

This poem was written by the sister of James D'Alessandro of Washington, PA.

I look at my hands and remember
 how she mounded the flour on the kitchen table
 with her peasant hands
 cracked the eggs
 one by one
 and counted
 "una, due, tre, quattro,
 cinque, sei, sette, otto,"
 filling the well she channelled down the middle
 and gently beat the eggs to yellow
 with her hands

how she kneaded the flour, yokes and whites
 until they blended and shaped and formed
 a golden ball

how she rubbed it smooth with olive oil
 and rolled the ball across the table
 and patted it flat with a wooden pole
 so that it stretched and stretched
 out from the golden ball
 covering the table

as if by magic to become
 a flour dusted flat and yellow sheet
 that hung
 between the chairs for drying
 and cutting
 with a rippled metal wheel

how the egg noodles lay to dry

until she shook them
 and gathered them
 in her strong, floured hands
 to drop
 and boil
 in a chicken broth
 to feed her ten

I look at my hands
 remembering
 Pat D'Alessandro
 San Francisco

This poem exhibits intensive attention to the tactile world; it makes us know the emotional quality of the experience by speaking through images of concrete experience.

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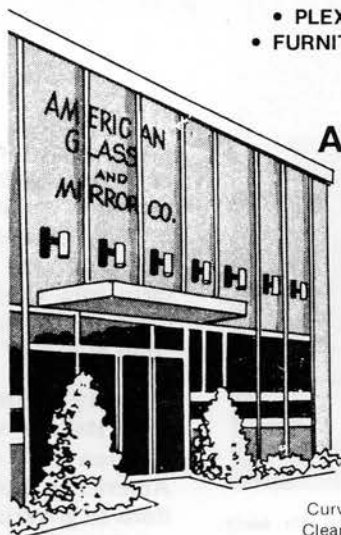
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Opera and the Italian/American Family



Caruso's favorite debut role in his early career as the Duke in Rigoletto.

Prince Metternich, the Austrian statesman, cynically commented that "Italy is just a geographical expression." Italians, he concluded, had no sense of national spirit, no cohesiveness, nor purpose. As chief architect of Austrian doctrine in Italy, Metternich's objective was to keep Italians a divided, subservient group of people and their country a lucrative Hapsburg colony.

Slowly, over several decades of carefully constructed alliances, armed resistance, political intrigue, heroism, and the highest order of personal sacrifice, Italy became one nation. Nowhere is the sense of Italian spirit and pride more obvious than in her beautiful operas composed by men such as Rossini, Donizetti, Verdi, Bellini and Puccini. Their music . . . particularly Verdi's . . . often provided Italians with the urgency, courage and rationale for creating a nation out of a geographical expression.

Opera alone, of course, wasn't enough to give Italians social, political and economic stability in their new nation. Unity and autonomy brought new problems. And despite the best efforts at land reform, southern Italy remained in area of extreme poverty. Many Italians who had been born Austrian or French subjects, and fought and worked to see Italy become a free country, now watched their children leave for a fuller life in America.

Perhaps Italians were coming to a new country at the turn of the century, but they were bringing a heritage of beauty and grace exemplified in opera. Opera was a close friend, a reliable source of spiritual enrichment, and above all, an "equalizer" in what was very often an unfriendly environment.

Perhaps "la patrone" in America knew economics, law and the stock market, but it was a sure bet he couldn't hum, let alone sing, a single measure of music from *Rigoletto*. Povero lui! What did his money and position mean? It couldn't buy the knowledge and love of opera which was absolutely instinctive to the Italian whose very language was music itself.

The spirited, determined Italian clung to opera as surely and instinctively as he clung to his family. Caruso, Ruffo, Galli-Curci, Schipa, Tetrzinni, Pinza, Toscanini all became house-hold names for Italian/Americans. Arguments in their homes would center on whether Enrico Caruso or Alessandro Bonci was primo tenore with the same heated ferocity of a political discussion.

Record after record would be played to make a point or underscore a position about an opera or a favorite singer. There was never a loser. How could there be? "Good singers," the newly-hyphenated Italo/Americano would boast, "are Italy's natural resource." And it seemed so.

Time brought inevitable change

and some trade-offs for Italo/Americanos. They worked hard and learned the language of their new country. Almost religiously they created those deeply profound pledges . . . so operative in form and content . . . that their children wouldn't grow up to be "figli di servi."

Today's America is brimming with Italians who certainly aren't children of servants. Italian/Americans hold responsible positions in government, law, business, religion, the arts and all other sectors once considered out of bounds to the intense foreigner in the black/brown corduroy suit.

The trade-off? La patrone in America eats linguine with clams, drinks large quantities of Valpolicella wine, and most impressively, cries at *La Traviata* and laughs at *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. In that voyage from immigrant to Italian/American our people learned some new ways and at the same time taught a few things to those who got here a bit earlier.

Italians aren't the new kids on the block now. There's no longer a need to search out "equalizers." We can no longer lay sovereign claim to opera. It's shared and enjoyed by all Americans . . . at least by those who take the time and effort to learn about it. And that's one of the ironies of assimilation; our people have, by necessity and often by choice, distanced ourselves from the immigrant who couldn't pronounce the name of the city where *i due paisani* were waiting to greet his family.

One "piece of luggage" some of us immediately dropped was opera. Many Americans of Italian heritage would be as hard-pressed today to hum a note or two from *Il*

Opera in the Italian/American Family *(continued)*

Trovatore as was the neatly-tailored patrone of 1900. Pervero noi!

Slowly . . . probably in direct relation to our rate of assimilation into American life . . . a beautiful, rewarding art form became the domain of professional musicians, scholars, and a very small handful of devoted music-lovers. That loss wasn't exacted from us by those of other heritages and disciplines; to our discredit, we willingly let the expression become meaningless to our children.

As accessible and broad-based as opera is today, it remains essentially a foreign and mysterious experience for la famiglia Italo/Americano. In a real sense, opera became what can only be described as a casualty of assimilation.

Io spero ancora. The casualty is one of degrees-not finality. All

around us . . . through increasingly frequent television productions, growing regional opera companies, affordable recordings, and a seemingly inexhaustible source of books and special interest publications . . . opera is making itself relevant to contemporary American life with a gentle insistence.

There are many, myself included, who believe we have to stop thinking of ourselves as hyphenated Americans. "Americans" will do. We haven't been absorbed into a homogenous, non-descript bland "oneness." Rather, we've added a dynamic to Americanism. Not a new thought, but one worth repeating here. And opera . . . as the ultimate artistic experience . . . is one of our great contributions to the society we've helped build. Now let's get on with the happy task of learning . . . or in some cases,

relearning . . . about opera.

Read, listen, and discuss. Those are the ways to glean the incredible riches opera has to offer. Make it a family project. Shared opera is absolutely the most rewarding and impressive type.

The Washington County Italian Heritage celebration is a marvelous salute to a remarkable culture. And certainly opera must take a singular position of respect in our experience.

My sincere congratulations to the Italian/Americans of Washington County. Grow and prosper. And make opera a part of your family and community life.



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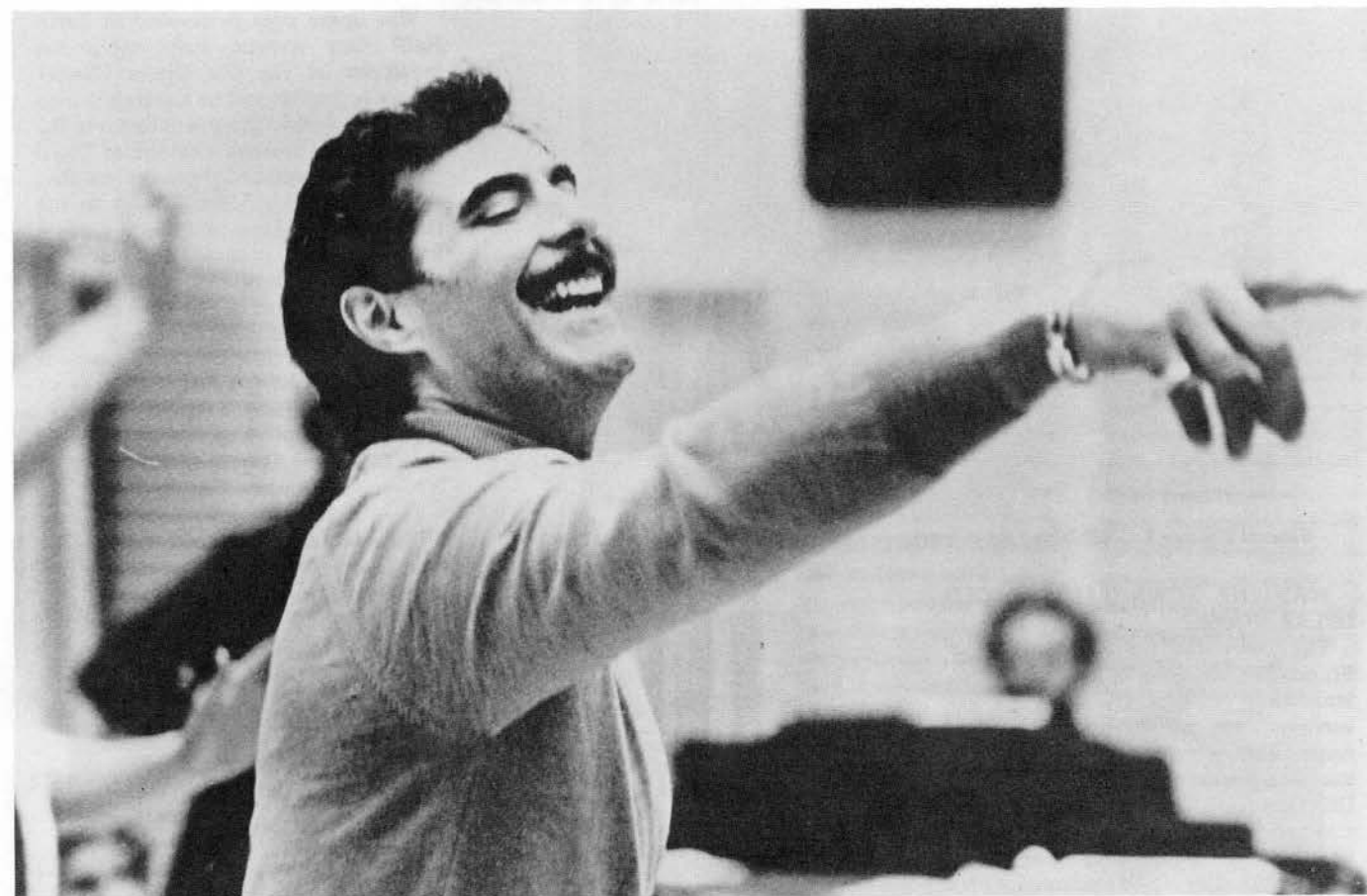
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Tito Capobianco



Tito Capobianco has been General Director of the Pittsburgh Opera since July, 1983. One of the most versatile men in opera today, his reputation is known world-wide. Mr. Capobianco's career began in 1953 in Argentina, his native country. He first came to the United States in 1960 through a cultural exchange program. In 1966 he was selected as director for opening festivities of New York City Opera at Lincoln Center and when the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. needed a director for their opening in 1971, he was selected. In 1978, Capobianco made his Metropolitan Opera debut directing Beverly Sills.

In Mexico City, Capobianco presented two unknown Spanish singers in their operatic debuts; the world-reknowned Montserrat Caballe and Placido Domingo. Committed to the training of young artists, he was appointed in 1983 Professor of acting, staging and interpretation of opera at Yale University.

Now our hometown of Washington brings Tito and Pittsburgh Opera to you. We have buses to transport opera fans to and from Heinz Hall at a minimal fee. Opera lectures consisting of musical excerpts and background in-

formation is given at Citizens Library prior to each opera date. Turn your world around with Opera. Join us and enjoy Opera and Tito.

by Josephine Tucci

Schedule: La Battaglia Di Legnano by Verdi
September 20, 22 at 8:00 p.m.

Don Giovanni by Mozart
November 8, 10 at 8:00 p.m.

Manon by Massenet
December 6, 8 at 8:00 p.m.

Madama Butterfly by Puccini
January 17, 19 at 8:00 p.m.

La Traviata by Verdi
February 14, 16 at 8:00 p.m.

Adriana Lecouvreur by Cilea
April 18, 20 at 8:00 p.m.

Washington Town Hall



General Ulysses S. Grant laying the cornerstone of Town Hall, September 18, 1869.

WAS THE TOWNHALL THE OLD OPERA HOUSE?

The Town Hall, a brick edifice of Franco-Italian style, was erected on Main Street in 1870. The first floor was occupied by a post-office, reading room, library room with a fire-proof vault, engine-house and market house. Dr. Francis J. Lemoyne donated ten thousand dollars for the purchase of books for the library, with the provision that the library be equipped with a fire-proof vault.

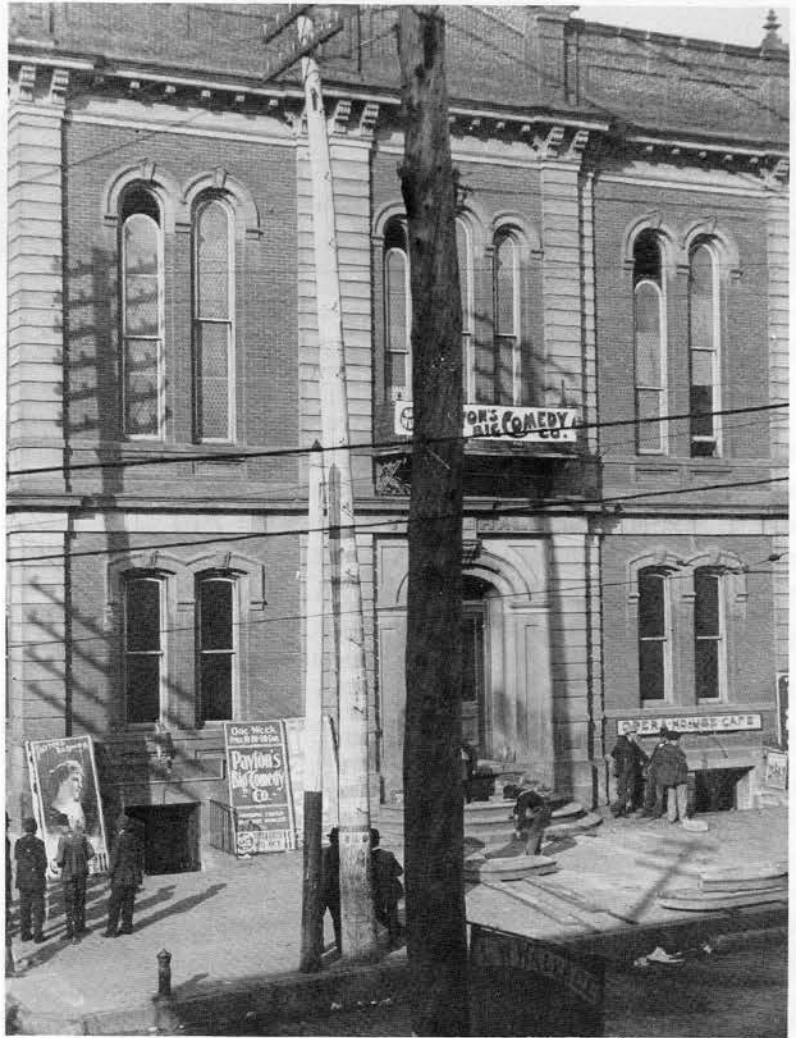
The second floor consisted of the Council Chamber, and auditorium and gallery with a seating capacity for one thousand persons. (Creigh, p. 146) Although the Town Hall was used as a theater for several years, it was not successful because of the small stage and lack of scenery. Later, the auditorium was utilized as a skating rink, but this venture was abandoned as it was not financially successful. (E. Forrest, p. 925) Next, the interior of Town Hall was remodeled, a large stage, dressing rooms, stationary seats, new scenery and a rear entrance being added.

In 1895 Town Hall was moved to its present location, West Cherry Avenue and Brownson Avenue to make space for the new Court House to be erected on Main Street. Two separate historians of Washington County, Earle Forrest and Boyd Crumrine, do not refer to the Town Hall as the Opera House. Earle Forrest describes the old Palace Rink, which stood on the site of the Duane Hotel, opened in 1885, as an Opera House. When attractions were not scheduled, the seats were removed and the auditorium was used as a skating rink.

Was opera ever performed in Town Hall? Can anyone help solve the mysteries of the Old Opera House? Where is the box and its contents which was deposited by President Grant in the cornerstone, northeast corner of Town Hall? Was it replaced when the building was moved? Dr. Alfred Creigh in his History of Washington County gives a list of articles he collected and placed in the box: borough affairs, coins (ancient & modern), currency, general matters, curiosities, and newspapers. (Creigh, p. 144-7) by Sunda Cornetti

Sources: Boyd Crumrine, History of Washington County, Penna., Earle Forrest, History of Washington County, Penna., Alfred Creigh, LLS, History of Washington County, Penna.

The building was occupied by Citizens Library, Police Department and now is owned by S.A. Mancuso Printing Company.



Old Opera House, Washington, PA 1890's. Can you remember when this building was used as an opera house? If you have any information, please contact Sunda Cornetti, 224 E. Maiden St., Washington, PA 15301 or call 222-2246.

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Anna Maria Alberghetti

Anna Maria Alberghetti has been in the limelight since she was six years old. The flashing-eyed Italian beauty, with a voice of matchless quality and acting accomplishments which won her awards on stage and screen, is back in the world she loves — the world of show business. Miss Alberghetti was semi-retired for nearly ten years while married to director-producer Claudio Guzman, believing that her children, Alexandra and Pilar needed her presence at home. Now that her daughters are in school, Anna Maria has plunged back into the entertainment world she knows so well. Her initial appearance in April, 1978 in Parks, Nevada was followed by a triumphant major city tour a few months later as the heroine of "The Sound of Music." Her engagement at Milwaukee's Melody Top Theatre established the largest gross in the theatre's 16 year history.

Television, motion pictures, and the Broadway stage are on her current and future agenda; her return cushioned by the previous four years as the gracious television hostess for Good Seasons commercials.

Anna Maria was born in Pesaro, Italy, May 15, the eldest of three children of Daniele and Vittoria Alberghetti. Her father, a graduate of the Conservatory of Pesaro, was both a cellist and a baritone. He sang with a number of famous Italian opera companies including La Scala and was concert-master of the Rome Opera Company. Her mother was formerly a pianist with the Scuola Reggia Miscale on the island of Rhodes.

It was on this island that Anna Maria began singing when she was barely six years old. Her father was her only teacher.

The havoc of World War II made it imperative that the Alberghettis leave the island for the Italian mainland, but the country was torn by war and things were far from happy. Anna Maria sang for the American GIs and, after the war, the family, with Anna, her sister, and baby brother Paul, toured the Continent and the Scandinavian countries. During one of Anna Maria's Scandinavian recitals, she caught the attention of an American concert manager. Enthusiastic over the child's talent, he arranged an American concert tour.

Anna Maria made her concert debut at Carnegie Hall. She was just 13 years old. Audiences and critics were enthusiastic over the newcomer, and the New York Times hailed her voice as possessing "Some of the purest, loveliest sounds that have ever been heard."

Appearances with the New York Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Symphony followed. She was introduced to television audiences by Ed Sullivan on his popular Sunday-night TV variety show, and she credits Sullivan for "everything that has happened since."

Every major television network clamored for the youthful singing star who became one of the most popular entertainers in America. Anna Maria made her TV dramatic debut on Ford Star Jubilee's "A Bell for Adano," followed by numerous television starring roles with such world favorites as Bob Hope, among others.

Before her Carnegie Hall appearance, Anna Maria's European concerts drew the attention of author-composer Gian-Carlo Menotti, who signed her for one of the leads in the motion picture version of his opera, "The Medium."

The film brought new and glowing notices of the young singer's talents, and led to "Here Comes the Groom" with Bing Crosby and Jane Wyman. This was followed by "The Stars Are Singing" with Metropolitan operatic great Lauritz Melchior. Other films include "The Last Command", "Cinderfella", with Jerry Lewis and the co-starring role opposite Dean Martin in MGM's "10,000 Bedrooms". Concert tours throughout Europe, Australia and Puerto Rico added to her success.

On the Broadway stage, her starring role in the musical "Carnival" won her the coveted Antoinette Perry (Tony) Award as Best Actress.

In Beverly Hills, Anna Maria shares a garden-landscaped Tudor home with her two daughters. She is one of the top tennis players in Southern California; is a cook extraordinaire with specialties varying from Italian, to French, Chilean, Mexican and American delicacies; she is an avid reader, a gifted linguist and speaks fluent Italian, French, Spanish. She enjoys life to its fullest:

"Everything exciting seems to be happening to me — today is a very wonderful time. I'm working again and loving it."

Anna Maria Alberghetti



Appearing Friday, Aug. 3, 1984 at 8:30 PM
Saturday, Aug. 4, 1984 at 1:30 PM and 8:30 PM

Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, VENERDI, AUGUST 3, 1984

- 2:00 P.M. — 3:00 P.M. Louise Vella Dance Group
3:30 P.M. — 4:00 P.M. AlDilernia and Band
5:00 P.M. — 6:00 P.M. Joyce Ellis Dance Group
7:00 P.M. — 8:00 P.M. Phil Arnone Concert Band
8:30 P.M. — 9:30 P.M. Anna Maria Alberghetti

SATURDAY, SABATO, AUGUST 4, 1984

- 10:00 A.M. Parade
12:00 NOON Dedication Ceremonies
1:30 P.M. — 2:30 P.M. Anna Maria Alberghetti
3:30 P.M. — 4:00 P.M. Jeanie Marie Insana
4:00 P.M. — 6:00 P.M. Janflone Combo
7:00 P.M. — 8:00 P.M. Johnny Bertone
8:30 P.M. — 9:30 P.M. Anna Marie Alberghetti

SUNDAY, DOMENICA, AUGUST 5, 1984

- 1:00 P.M. — 2:00 P.M. Louise Vella Dance Group
2:00 P.M. — 2:30 P.M. Jeanie Marie Insana
2:30 P.M. — 3:30 P.M. Mass at Immaculate Conception Church
4:00 P.M. — 6:00 P.M. Mario DeNardo,
Norma Milazzo,
Mario Martinelli
6:30 P.M. — 7:30 P.M. Rose Chiazza Dancers
8:00 P.M. — 10:00 P.M. Patsy Cimino Band

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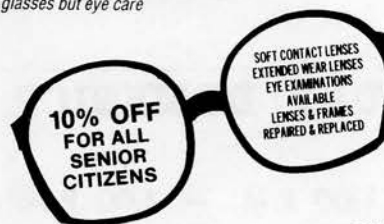
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Bill DiFabio

Bill DiFabio, President of Pittsburgh SportsCall Service, a service that provides interviews and commentaries for a number of stations in the tri-state area, has graciously agreed to be master of ceremonies for this year's festival. A very busy man, Bill is presently employed by ABC, CBS, Mutual and CBC-Canadian Broadcasting System networks. He provides wire and audio services to networks in New York, Kansas City, Philadelphia and Dallas. In late August Bill will produce the Pitt Panther AUDIO line.

Vi Salutiamo, Bill!

Louise Vella D'Amico, owner, director, instructress of Vella School of Dance operates dancing schools in Canonsburg, Washington, Claysville, McDonald, Burgettstown, & Mt. Lebanon. Well known for her Dance Revues each summer, Miss Vella's former students pursue the arts in New York, Las Vegas & Hollywood. Several are dance instructors. She was named "Woman of the Year, 1983" by the Central Chartiers Valley Chamber of Commerce & in 1984 received the Penna. House of Representatives Citation Award for Outstanding Service

to the Community. She is a Director of Canonsburg Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the Italian Heritage Festival Pageant.

Miss Vella's daughter, Donna Grove, conducts the Mt. Lebanon and Great Southern Shopping Center Studios. She is now President of Dance Masters of Penna. #10. Louise is also a Director of Dance Masters of Penna. #10. Louise has also been for several years Co-ordinator of Children's Wildwood, NJ Talent Showcase, handling weekly shows from June to September. Her students performed there the week of July 22-29. For 28 years, Miss Vella's students performed in Tony Grant's "Stars of Tomorrow" at Atlantic City Steel Pier.

Joseph D'Amico, Louise's husband, has been busy designing the Italian Heritage float for the Pageant Queens.

Joyce Ellis, a former student at Vella School of Dance, formed her first dance group in 1979 at the age of 20. Currently she teaches aerobics at the YWCA, and her original Bodazz program at the Cosmopolitan Clubs in Penna. The Joyce Ellis Dancers were known as the "Satellite Performers" when they first formed in 1979. At that time the group consisted of approximately 10 young dancers; it has grown to over 60. "The Little People" who are 4 to 7 years old consistently bring down the house. The Joyce Ellis Dancers have performed in malls all over western Penna. and at banquets, clubs, and parties. They have also performed on the local T.V. station.

Rose Chiazza

Mrs. Rose Chiazza is a prominent folk dance leader of Ogelbay Institute in Wheeling, West Virginia. She teaches singing in many languages and a variety of dances having classes in Fulton during the winter and in the Ogelbay Recreation Hall during the summer.

Rose makes many guest appearances and helps lead local PTA's, church groups, and others in party games along with Folk Dancing.

She has taught dancing at St. Joseph's Academy, Bishop Donahue High School, YMCA's Camps, and at Notre Dame University.

She was chosen "Citizen of the Month" by the Wheeling Jaycees in 1962 for her unselfish endeavors and untiring efforts to humanity.



Entertainers



Phil Arnone & Band



Mario Martinelli
- and - **Mario DeNardo**

Norma Milazzo

Norma Milazzo is the vibrant and vivacious personality who wins an audience and gives them the fresh, happy kind of musical entertainment everyone likes!

Norma has acted on the legitimate stage — appeared in musical comedy, industrial shows — has been a featured soloist with the Pittsburgh Pops Orchestra — recorded for United Artists — performed at the Holiday House, Twin Coaches and Carnegie Hall in New York.



Entertainers

Johnny Bertone

Radio and recording artist **Johnny Bertone** will be one of the featured entertainers at the "**Italian Heritage Festival**".

A popular banquet and night club personality, Johnny will present an hour long show with your favorite "**Italian and Popular Ballads**". He will be accompanied by band leader and accordian player, **Red Prcida**.



Jeanie Marie Insana

Jeanie Marie Insana, who sings Italian, Country-western and popular music, celebrated her fifth birthday May 30, 1984 and will start kindergarten this fall. Jeanie, whose ambition is to become a professional entertainer, has won 25 trophies in pageants during the past year and a half. Her most recent titles are "Little Miss Italy," "Tot International American Sweetheart," and "Debutante Miss" — overall high point score.

Last year Jeanie performed at several West Virginia and Pennsylvania Italian festivals and has been invited back this year. She has appeared at the Capital Music Hall in Wheeling, WV, Kennywood Park, and the Connellsville Heart Telethon, which was her first TV performance.

Jeanie is the daughter of Richard and Mary Insana of Washington. Both sets of grandparents, Pete and Rose Insana of Washington, and Nick and Jean Kusick of Avella, follow her career closely.



Ann Julian

Ann is the wife of Mario Julian of 44 Crestvue Drive, Washington, PA. She and her husband co-chair the Entertainment Committee for the festival for the third year. Active in charitable organizations, Mrs. Julian was president of the Newcomers Club, Y Wives Club, held two terms as president of the Lions Auxiliary, Christian Mothers Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception Church, member of the Catholic Daughters of America, president of Delta Nu Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi and is now gone Exemplar to Xi Alpha Tau of Beta Sigma Phi. Ann was also "Sweetheart of 1968" for the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. She will participate in the festival performance of Rose Chiazza's Oglebay Dancers and will sing with the Janflone Combo and Patsy Cimino's Band.

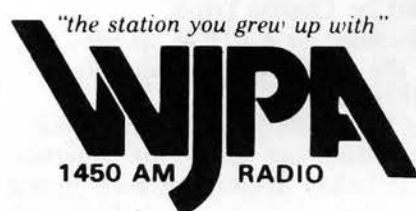


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The Mass

The celebration of mass has been an integral part of the Italian Heritage Festival since its beginning.

In 1982 Father John Casella celebrated mass at Washington Park. In 1983 the mass was entirely in Italian with Father Raymond Cercone as celebrant.

Dr. Nicolas and Mrs. Teresa Cavoti gave the readings, Dr. Charles Tripoli read the announcements, Professor Leonard Colelli was music co-ordinator and Lucia Mirisciotti Hosni was choir director. Carol A. Rossi, soloist, accompanied by Miss Connie Testa, took part in the mass, which was held at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Canonsburg.

Dr. Colelli has moved to North Carolina so this year Robert Natalini has graciously consented to co-ordinate the music. Joseph Walker will be the organist.

Co-Chairman of the mass committee are Father Raymond Cercone and Dr. Charles Tripoli.

The mass is scheduled for 2:30 P.M. on Sunday, August 5th, 1984 at the Immaculate Conception Church, Washington, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Tripoli and his family look forward to the festival every year when they can enjoy the entertainment, delicious authentic Italian dishes and walk through the crowds talking to their friends about their roots and culture.

1983 Mass. St. Patrick's Church, Canonsburg, PA

Four Centuries of Italian-American History

In *Four Centuries of Italian-American History* (1952), Giovanni Schiavo observed in the Forward . . . "that Italianis do not belong to the so-called 'new immigration'. As a matter of fact, the Italians have been coming to, and settled in, the territory that is today the United States of America, before any other national group, with the exception of the Spanish. An Italian discovered America; another Italian gave her his name; still another Italian first planted the English flag on American soil and gave England her claim to North America and the American people their first claim to independence; other Italians explored, or helped to explore, her coasts, from the Atlantic to the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific, as well as her interior, from Florida to the Mississippi, from Arizona to Arkansas, from Minnesota to Louisiana. Later Italian fur traders and missionaries spread Christianity, civilization and good-will among the Indians of the Northwest, thus making American settlements easier and more secure.

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The Italian Grocery Store Molto Bene



Shop in the Italian grocery store at your own risk for you will surely be tempted to buy everything in sight. Large crocks of wrinkled, oil-cured black olives squat beside crocks of pale green olives. A handy ladle hangs directly above them, begging you to "come, try me." If you don't like olives, maybe the pasta will tempt you; it comes in all sizes and shapes from tiny "acini de Pepe" - generally used in soup recipes to large "stovepipes" or "manicotti" - served stuffed with ricotta and smothered with hot spaghetti sauce.

You will also find at Washington Importing, 756 Locust Avenue, known to one and all for years as "the Italian Store", garlic and spices, hanging salamis, the best pepperoni, espresso pots, pizzelle makers, even the famous "Garden Way" Squeeze, the delight of home-canners of tomatoes for many years.

This store has been in business in Washington since 1935, having been established by owner Anthony Yanni, Sr.'s grandfather under a different name in

McKeesport in 1901. A warehouse of more than 13,000 square feet holds the food and materials sold to restaurants, clubs, schools and institutions in the Washington area. "Dry Sausage", as pepperoni is known in the trade, olive oil, imported Romano cheese, and owner Anthony Yanni's own line of fine spices are most coveted by local Italian families.

Another Italian store that has been a shopping tradition for several generations of local families is Rungo's of Washington, PA. For 70 years the Rungo family has operated a grocery store on the same South Main Street block. In 1914 J. A. Rungo opened his first store at 233 South Main. He built and moved to the present location at 217 S. Main St. in 1934. J.A., who claims to be retired, having turned the store over to partners John Parisee and Josephine Rungo, his daughter, nevertheless comes in to work every day, waiting on customers and helping out with the day-to-day business. Father and daughter are two of the oldest grocers in Washington.

John Parisee can tell many a story about the changes he has seen in the Pittsburgh Strip District.

When he first started travelling there with J.A. Rungo in 1939, the streetcars were still running. Asked about the changes he has observed, John says that most people don't realize how the district has shrunk. In those days, the wholesale district, which incidentally lived up to its name and sold only to dealers, covered half-a-dozen blocks, with countless wholesalers in each block. Now, the district caters more to retail trade and is down to about a dozen wholesalers in the 2 block area. He believes that many children of these early-rising, hard-working entrepreneurs have chosen other professions after spending childhoods working long hours and doing all the lifting, loading and unloading from the trains that delivered most produce. Of course, now most of it is shipped in by truck.

Rungo's were the first to introduce fancy gourmet delicacies and gift baskets to this area, and this facet of the business remains one of their busiest to this day. They were also the first grocers to handle frozen foods locally.



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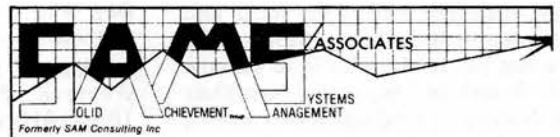
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"The Italian Band"



Lopiano Band Photograph of funeral procession on Chestnut Street, Washington, PA April 16, 1915. Can you identify these people? Any information you might be able to provide, send to Sunda Cornetti, 224 E. Maiden St., Washington, PA 15301 or call 222-2246.

Between 1899-1910 over two and a quarter million Italians came to America, and approximately three quarters of them settled in the urban-industrial regions of the Northeast.

Those Italians who settled in the milltowns and mining areas of Pennsylvania brought with them their own specific regional customs and musical traditions. Unique among the latter was the transference of the beloved "village band" tradition from the old country to their new homes. Mainly supported by their nationality churches and the benevolent societies that were founded in order to help these immigrants to adapt to their new homeland, the ethnic bands answered a need for social and ritual expression among people who were not yet ready or able to become "truly American." Separated from their new country by language barriers, long hours of labor at menial jobs, often surviving in conditions near poverty — these Italians lived in a world withdrawn from the mainstream of American life. Many expected "to make their fortune," then return to Italy. Banded together in "the little Italies" prominent in the early 20th century, these immigrants thought of themselves as Napolitani, Abruzzesi, Patricani,

Calabresi, Siciliani, Casertani. They fostered their individual customs, such as "la festa" and "la banda", both essential to the happiness of the peasant in Italy.

"La festa" was the tradition carried to the new world by the Italian peasant of honoring a special patron saint for each village on a special feast day. The occasion was marked by a religious procession through the town led by its own village band. The festivities would end with a special concert and a huge fireworks display. "La banda" was also called on to play for weddings, christenings, first Communion, Confirmation, and funerals. In this country Columbus Day was celebrated by parades and festivities featuring "la banda."

Many of these groups emerged in western Pennsylvania between 1880-1910 and several are still active today. Lewis Angotti has been the guiding light behind the Bentleyville Firemen Band which helped us celebrate our festival by marching in last year's parade. In Lawrence and Beaver Counties there are LaBanda Rossa (The Red Coat Band) of New Castle, PA, La Banda Vestita Azzura (The Blue Coat Band) of Mahoningtown, PA, and the Musical Political Italian Club

Band (The MPI Band) of Aliquippa, PA. These groups are unique in their preservation of their cultural heritage.

Angelo Tucci and Louis Bruno of Washington recall Lopiano's Band that played in the early part of the century at dance halls, wedding receptions and funeral processions. The band was composed of the three Lopiano brothers, Joseph Carlet, Dr. Louis Carlet (before he attended medical school), and other musicians. They gathered at Lopiano's home on Houston Street to practice. In the summer, they would practice on the front porch and Patsy Arena can remember how he and the children in the neighborhood would gather to listen. The band frequently walked to Washington Park where they performed.

In 1920, Louis Bruno chauffeured the band each weekend to Manifold, PA to play in a dance hall. His sister, Mary Bruno, played piano with the band when they performed at dance halls in the surrounding mining towns. She attended Washington Seminary Music Department, gave piano lessons and played at the Bijou theater during the silent film era. Eventually the Lopiano brothers moved to New York City

(continued)

"The Italian Band" (continued)



Sam Vincent (Guitar) and Steve Fragapane (Mandolin) Photo courtesy of Perry Vincent, Saxophone player and Johnny Vincent, drummer with Johnny Costa Combo.

where one became conductor of a symphony orchestra and another brother conducted for musical theater.

Mary Bruno's husband, Professor Alfred Longo, was an accomplished musician when he came to the United States at age 22. He began his music career at age 7 in Italy. Professor Longo, along with the Lopianos, organized the Sons of Italy Band, which participated in the Columbus Day parade and gave free concerts in Washington Park. Longo also gave music lessons to Italian immigrants and their children. Longo was also pit musician at the Old Capitol Theater when they presented vauderville acts. Later he organized the W.P.A. band at the Brownson House with local musicians (both employed and unemployed) and gave instructions in music to the elderly. Before the advent of talkies, he provided background piano music for the silent movies at the Casino Theater which later became the State Theater on Main Street. When "talking pictures" became the rage, he lost his position at the theater and this prompted the family to move to New Jersey. There, he conducted the St. Roco Band, the Senior Citizen Band and played with the Joseph Dasile Band at the Olympic Amusement Park. He also composed music for symphony, band and circus compositions. Later the two musicians, Alfred Longo and Joseph Dasile, were involved with the music for the Sealtest Circus that toured the country and was televised.

Although the distinctly ethnic Italian band no longer survives in Washington, PA, their tradition of

musical excellence lives on in numerous local dance bands. Lee Barrett, the Vincent brothers, and Stan Vinton (Bobby's father), all well-known local musicians, studied with the professor from the Italian band of the Sons of Italy in Canonsburg, PA, Dionini Cheverini. Professor Cheverini taught Tony Caroselli, saxophone player, who went on to play with national dance orchestras during the big band era. Nick Bell, trumpet player (now deceased) played with the Fred Waring and the

Paul Whiteman orchestras. A complete listing of all Italian American musicians, past and present, who learned their craft from the successors of the Italian "la banda" in this country would probably fill a book, a book which we fervently hope will be written one day.

by Nancy Razvoza and Sunda Cornetti

*This is not the complete story of the Italian bands and musicians. There are many older Italians to be interviewed. Can you furnish more information about the Lopiano or Professor Longo's band? Contact Sunda Cornetti, 224 E. Maiden Street, Washington, PA

Sources: Much of this material is based on the research of Emma Rocco, Associate Professor of Music at Pennsylvania State University, Beaver Campus, from her article "Italian Bands: A Surviving Tradition" which appeared in *Pennsylvania Ethnic Studies Newsletter*, Winter, 1984.

Other Sources: Personal interviews with Mary Bruno Longo, Angelo Tucci, Patsy Arena, Perry Vincent, Louis Bruno.

Special thanks to Ann Elias who gave needed assistance in contacting those people who were interviewed.



Circa 1946 Early Johnny Cimino Band. Left to right: Louis Cimino, Patsy Cimino, George Glass, Tony Marra, Johnny Cimino, Shod Keeney, Freddie Cope.

Photo courtesy of Patsy Cimino

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We believe in the brotherhood of man. With these principals laid as the foundation for its work and the organizing ability in spirit of sacrifice of its leaders, the foundation of the Washington Ladies Lodge was laid. To these women we pay tribute today. In Washington there are close to 65 members belonging to the Sons of Italy. The Order Sons of Italy is a national organization with 27,000 members in Pennsylvania. Some are serving as leaders in the professional field, political avenues, and in the business field, and many have contributed, through hard work to the development of their community.

The orders goals include:

1. Promotion of the Moral, Intellectual and Material well being of its members.
2. A viable Scholarship program for its members.
3. Emphasis on the basic concept of Americanism.
4. The dissemination of Italian Culture in the United States.
5. Civic Education for its members.
6. The encouragement of participation in Political, Social and Civic Life of our country.

The Order Sons of Italy in America is not only national in scope but has an international dimension. In the United States many Grand Lodges exist that span the nation from coast to coast and from north to south. Our neighboring country of Canada has two Grand Lodges. The order adopted the March of Dimes fight against birth defects as its national charity. Other past charitable efforts of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania include fund drives for the victims of the earthquake in Northern Italy, Sicilian earthquake, Florence flood, Vaiont Dam disaster and operation heart beat. Fund drives were also organized for the two flood disasters in Pennsylvania at Wilkes-Barre and Johnstown.

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Seated: Dorothy M. Capo, President, State Trustee, District #13. Washington County Lodge. Order Sons of Italy in America. Standing Left to right: Evelyn Ippolito, Minnie Patricelli, Trustees Josephine Manzella, Orator.

Vittoria Lodge #76

Vittoria Lodge #76 celebrated its 50th anniversary with a dinner-dance on April 29, 1984 at the George Washington Ballroom in Washington, PA. President Mary Steratore, who has been President for 32 years was honored. Mary has also been active in the Order as a National Councillor for the past 12 years. She has worked actively to promote the Italian Heritage Festival since its inception.

Mary is the widow of Anthony Steratore, who was an active member of Alpine Star #9. She has two sons, Eugene of Uniontown, PA. and Frank of Marietta, OH. and one daughter, Rosalind Reda. Mary has been blessed with ten grandchildren and one great-granddaughters.

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IN RE No. 3575 in Equity 1933
INCORPORATION OF SONS OF ITALY # 270 OF WASHINGTON, PA
Certificate of Incorporation

To the Honorable, the Judges of the said Court:-

In pursuance to and in compliance with the provisions of the Act of General Assembly entitled "An Act to Provide for the Incorporation and Regulation of Certain Corporations", approved the 29th day of April, A. D. 1874, and the supplements thereto, and amendments thereof, the undersigned, all of whom are citizens of Pennsylvania, have associated themselves together for the purpose and upon the terms and by the name hereinafter set forth and to the end that they may be duly incorporated according to law, hereby

the corporation is SONS OF ITALY

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the mutual

7. The membership in the corporation shall be subject to the admission of new members, which said admission to the requirements shall be provided by the by-laws of the corporation, the provisions of the constitution and the laws of the United States of America and of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

8. The said corporation may hold real estate or personal property to an amount, the clear value of income thereof shall not exceed twenty thousand (\$20,000.00) dollars.

9. The names and the residence of the subscribers are as follows:

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Italian Heritage Pageant Winners

Sixty-five contestants entered five categories of the Third Annual Washington County Italian Heritage Festival Pageant held July 1 at the Casa Royale.

Winners were:

Little Mr. Italy (ages 3 to 6), Gregory Shriver, Houston; first runner-up, Michael Gadani, Canonsburg; second runner-up, Martin Puchi, McDonald.

Little Miss Italy (3-6), Jeanie Insana, Washington; first runner-up, Erin Elmore, McMurray; second runner-up, Danielle Grachen, Charleroi,

Miss Bella Donna (7-10), Jenny Hayes, Houston; first runner-up, Jeanna Hodges, Canonsburg;



Judges Left to Right: Diane Mowl, Donna Rheiner, Mary Consolmagno, Cheryl Gadani & Louise Vella - Co-Chairmen. Not pictured, Ann Julian, Jean Popp.

second runner-up, Jennifer Julian, Washington.

Miss Italian Princess (11-14), Kristy Julian, Washington; first runner-up, Challise Puchi, McDonald; second runner-up, Jennifer Thompson, Washington.

Miss Italian Heritage (15-19), Shannon Pettit, Washington; first runner-up, Barbara Nicoella, Washington; second runner-up, Beth Poletti, McMurray.

Winners were presented bonds and trophies provided by the committee and local businesses.

A panel of five judges made the selection. They included:

- Faith Daniels, a reporter and news anchor for WTAE-TV. She is the daughter of Mary Calabro Skowronski of Washington and a Trinity High School graduate.

- Julie Page of Belle Vernon, 1983 Miss Pennsylvania and semi-finalist in the Miss USA

(continued)



Miss Italian Heritage
Shannon Pettit

Bobby Shawn congratulating Miss Italian Princess.



Tabulators, left to right: John Cicci, Louis R. De Pretis.



Judges, left to right: Joseph F. D'Andrea - Italian Honorary Vice-Consul, Julie Page, Joseph Imbarlino, Faith Daniels, WTAE Newscaster.

Italian Heritage Pageant Winners

(continued)

Pageant. She is a sophomore economics major at Washington and Jefferson College.

•Joseph D'Andrea, honorary Italian vice consul of Italy with offices in Dormont that cover 16 counties in western Pennsylvania. He is a language supervisor and Italian language teacher in the Moon Area School District.

•Joseph Imbarlino, a Pittsburgh hair stylist.

Mistress of ceremonies was Jane Ciccì. Entertainment was provided by Jeanie Collis, Bobby Shawn and the Vella School of Dance. Escort was Jerrad Moschetta.

The pageant committee was headed by Sheryl Gadani and Louise Vella and assisted by Mary Consolmagno, Lisa D'Amico, Diane Mowl, Joe Nicoletta, Jean Popp and Dona Shriver.



Pageant Winners. Left to Right, front row: Gregory Shriver, Jeanie Insana. Back Row: Kristy Julian, Shanon Pettit, Jenny Hayes.

More Winners



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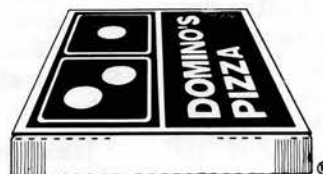
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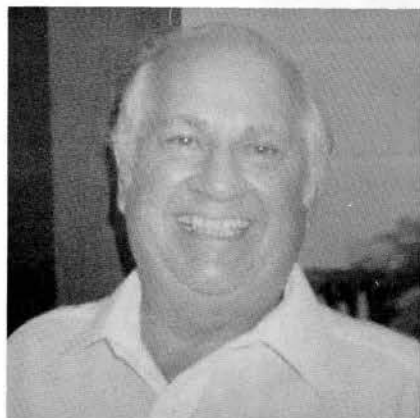
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Italian American Men and Women of Washington County

Vincenza Scarpaci dedicates her book "A Portrait of the Italians in America."

"To those who accept the full drama of Italian immigration: Its beauty, blemishes, achievement, and tragedies. May they better understand their heritage through the view of life within these pages."

We wish to pay homage within these pages to some of the Washington Countians who have added to the record of Italian life in America. We continue to add new names to the role of individuals and families from our area who have excelled in so many different ways. Nominations for next year's book are welcomed. Please contact Nancy Razvoza or Sunda Cornetti.



Wilson Bryan Pizzi, M.D., who has practiced medicine for 42 years in Washington.

Dr. Pizzi was born on February 18, 1918, in Connellsville, PA. Studious in school, he was also active in the Boy Scouts and is proud of the fact that he was the first person in Connellsville to become an Eagle Scout. In 1935, Dr. Pizzi entered the University of Pittsburgh where he received excellent grades even though he had to work his way through college. He was accepted into Pitt medical school in 1938, after completing only three years of college. Also in 1938, Dr. Pizzi married his high school sweetheart, Merne C. Haggart. They celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary on July 16th of this year.

Dr. Pizzi began his internship at Washington Hospital in 1942, after graduation from medical school. He was associated with the late Dr. W.J. L. McCullough for a short while, then entered into his own private practice. His practice was interrupted from 1955 to 1957 when he was called to serve as a U.S. Army physician. In 1964 he completed his residency in neurology, presently maintaining a full-time practice in Washington, also being on the staffs of the Washington, Canonsburg, Waynesburg and Uniontown hospitals.

Proud of his Italian heritage, Dr. Pizzi is the eldest and only son of F.A. and Elvira J. Pizzi, both of whom immigrated to the U.S. in the early 1900's. His four sisters all became nurses. The Pizzis have four children; two daughters - Janet McConnell of Pittsburgh, PA and Debbie Campbell of Waynesburg, PA and two sons, W. Bryan and J. Preston Pizzi, both of whom are practicing attorneys in Washington, PA.

Dr. & Mrs. Pizzi presently reside in Waynesburg, PA where he is an active member of the First Baptist Church, serving on the Board of Deacons.

Sally and Pete Oliverio owned and operated a grocery store at 590 Baird Avenue for 30 years. Pete served in the U.S. Army during World War I. He died in 1954, and his wife Sally continued to operate the store until her death in 1969. Both migrated to the U.S. from San Giovanni in Fiore, Calabria, Italy. Their three sons, John, Joseph and Samuel all reside in Washington, PA.

John Bruno of 184 Elm Street, Washington, PA, who is 88 years old was the first licensed plumber and contractor of Italian descent in this city. He began in 1927, employing as many as 35 men on some of his larger jobs. His firm did the plumbing for Washington Steel, St. Hilary's Church and the addition

to Washington High School. John retired in 1965, turning the business over to his nephew, Joseph Bruno. John's father, who worked at the College Street plant of Hazel Atlas, came to this country in 1899. His wife, with three sons and one daughter, made the trip the following year.

The three Del Corso brothers owned restaurants and bars in this area for many years. **Dominick Del Corso** operated the Diamond Grill in Washington where this writer can remember in the 1950's being served the best antipasto in town for \$1.00, including all the Selvaggi's bread you could handle. He opened his first restaurant, the Continental, in Canonsburg in 1924. **Tony and Art Del Corso** owned and operated the Palace on N. Main St. from 1950 to 1970.

Rose Andreola Arena, first Italian female glass worker, who started with Hazel Atlas Glass Company in the decorating department in 1923, after the death of her husband Tom who also worked for Hazel Atlas. Widowed at an early age, Rose single-handedly reared her four children; three girls - Theresa, Millie and Louise and her son Patsy. She wound up a 33-year career when she retired in 1956. Rose died at the age of 83 in 1974.

First Italian Postmaster - Washington, PA - **Joseph A. Gisoni, Jr.** Joe graduated from Immaculate Conception High School in 1947 and began work for the U.S. Postal Service in 1950. He was appointed Postmaster on February 1, 1975. He and his wife Frances have five sons; Joseph, Gregory, Chris, Shawn and Matthew.

First Female Italian dentist - **Yvonne De Maria Zeis, D.M.S.** - daughter of Joseph and Priscilla De Maria.

First Female Italian Civil Service employee - Pennsylvania Employment Office - **Catherine Consolmagno Olson.**

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An especially fitting memorial for deceased friends and relatives is a contribution to Citizens Library or W&J's College Library to buy a book for their collection. Both libraries keep a permanent record of these gifts and use a memorial book plate in the front of those books purchased through this program. This plate lists the name of the donor and the person in whose memory the gift was given. (See sample plate) If you wish the library to purchase a book on a specific subject, you can do so.

Patsy Arena has contributed to W&J Library the following titles:

Center for Migration Studies. Images, a pictorial history of Italian Americans.

Cordasco, Francesco. The Italians: social background of an American group.

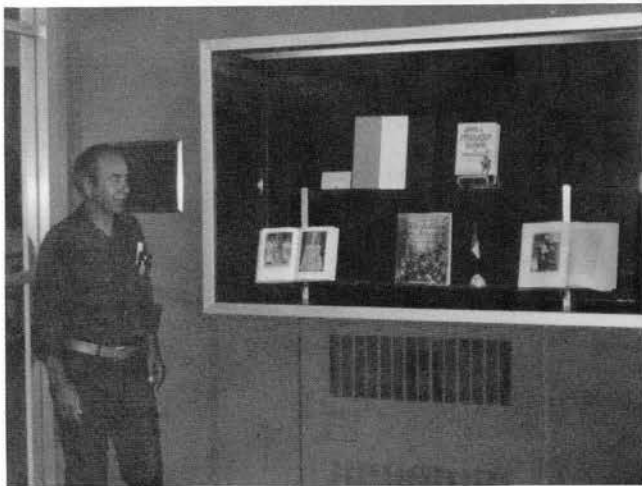
Gallo, Patrick J. Old bread, new wine: a portrait of the Italian American.

Nelli, Humbert S. From immigrants to ethnics: the Italian Americans.

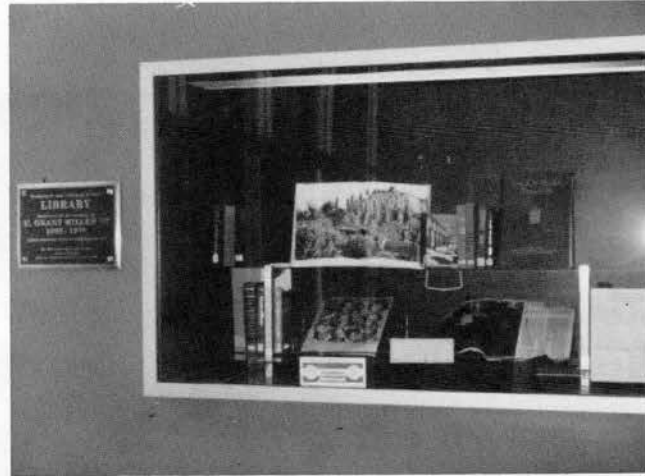
Pitkin, Thomas M. Keepers of the gate: a history of Ellis Island.

Scarpaci, Vincenze. A portrait of the Italians in America.

Spalding, Henry. Joys of Italian Humor and folklore.



Patsy Arena, standing beside display of books on the Italian American experience at W&J College Library in honor of 1983 Italian Heritage Festival.



Additional display — August, 1983

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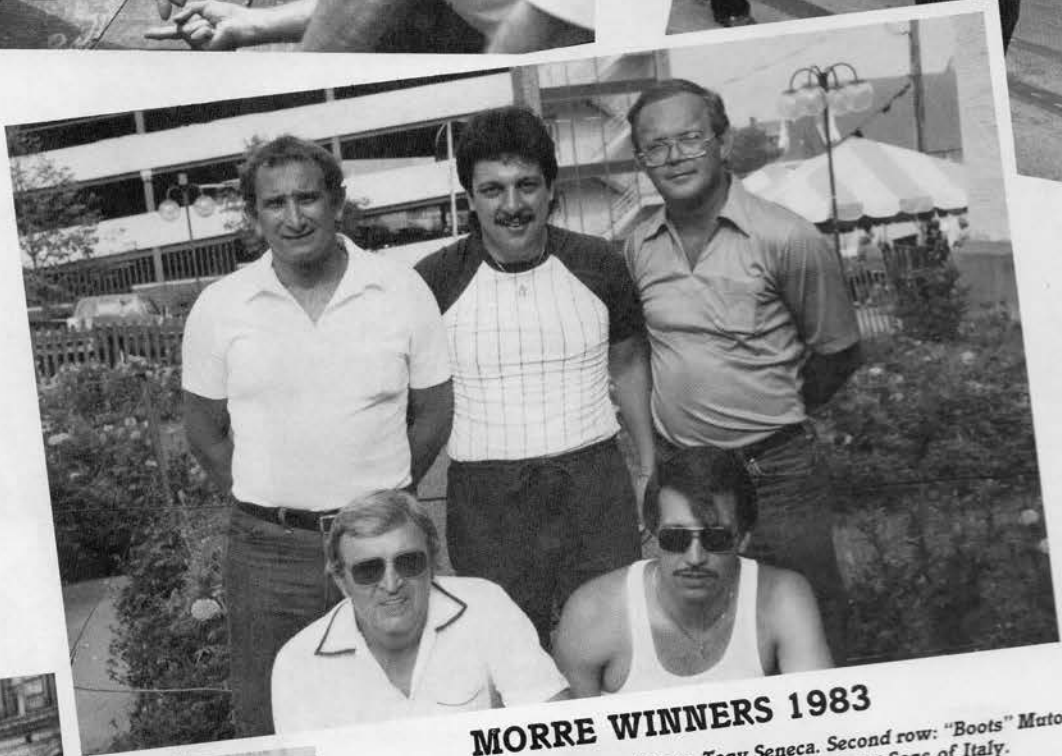
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1983 Festival Photos



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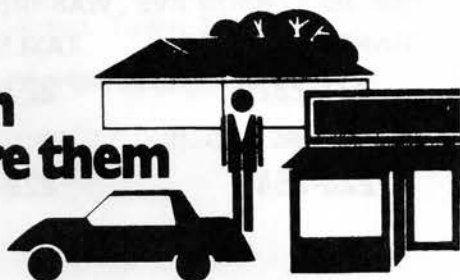
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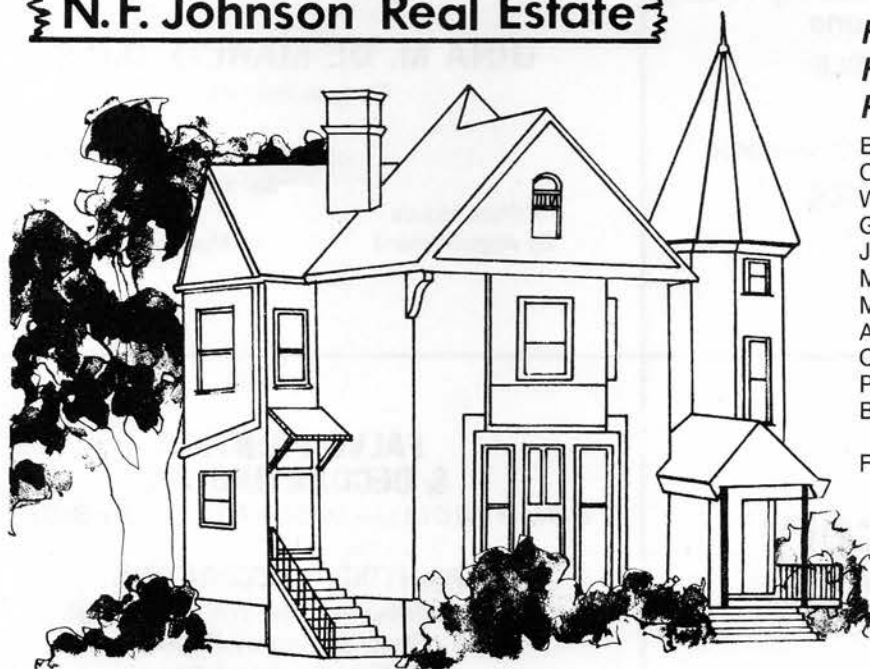
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