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ISSUE #6

TARENTUM MAGAZINE



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FEATURING:

**Bob Livorio:
Tarentum's Music Man**

Remembering Estelle Harris

**Local Native American History
Comes to Life This Summer at
Harrison Hills Park**

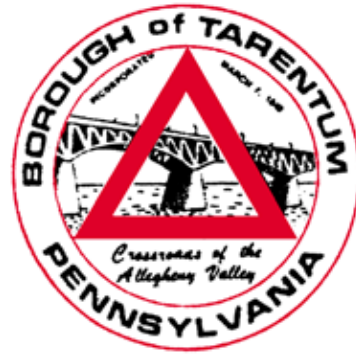


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(Marry Warren)
THE FLAMINGOS
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MISSION

Tarentum Borough Magazine was created for Tarentum Borough residents and surrounding communities to enjoy and engage in the good works and pleasures of others. Tarentum Borough Magazine is available online and in print. The magazine promotes community values that make Tarentum Borough an asset to all.

Managed & Edited by: Hugh & Carrie Fox – The Tarentum Recreation Board

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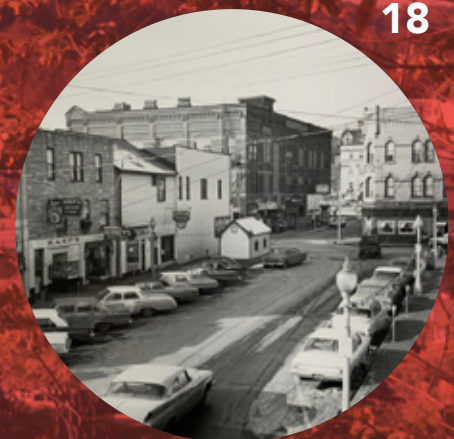
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Tarentum Recreation Board Events

- MAY 11, 2023** – Senior Bingo 1PM Dalton’s Edge – RSVP Required
- MAY 25, 2023** – Lost Boys / Food Drive Honoring Chief Justin Mcintire / Officer Jordon Schrecengost
- JUNE 1, 2023** – Daniels & McClain
- JUNE 29, 2023** – Murphys Music Band

- JULY 6, 2023** – American Pie
- JULY 20, 2023** – Shiners
- AUG 3, 2023** – 56 East
- AUG 17, 2023** – Lenny Collini Family Pak – Food Truck Event 5-8PM – Concert @ 7PM
- AUG 31, 2023** – Chris Denem

All Concerts at Carl J. Magnetta Jr. Amphitheater, Thursdays 7PM – Snack Shack Opens 6PM.



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Other Tarentum Events

- TARENTUM FARMERS MARKET** - June 8 Thru Oct 26 - Wednesdays 9AM-1PM - Corner Of Lock And 10th.
- TARENTUM NIGHT MARKET** - 2nd Thursday Of Each Month - April Thru Nov - 5PM - 8PM

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Did You Know?



Did you know that this famous TV mom graduated from Tarentum High School in 1945?

That's right, the 5'2" Estelle Nussbaum Harris rose to fame on the mega hit, "Seinfeld" playing Estelle Costanza, George's disapproving mother and Frank Costanza's bickering wife.

Harris was born in New York City, where her parents, Ira and Anna Nussbaum owned a candy store. When she was seven, the Nussbaums moved to Tarentum. The family lived on East Tenth Avenue and her father and her uncle, Joe Stern, operated the Star Confectionary Store on Fifth Avenue.

Tarentum High classmates remember Estelle as cute and bubbly and say she returned sever-

al times to class reunions and kept in touch over the years, sending cards and letters to old school friends.

Always the actress, she perfected a manner that first made her a favorite for parts in television commercials leading to feature roles in popular TV shows like "Night Court," "Married With Children" and "Mad About You."

In 1992 she got her break when she was cast in the TV show "Seinfeld" and what would become her most memorable role. Harris died last year from natural causes at the age of 93.

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LOCAL NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY COMES TO LIFE THIS SUMMER AT HARRISON HILLS PARK



Photos by Hugh Fox

If you have ever wondered what life was like in our region when Western Pennsylvania was considered the frontier, a fascinating new exhibit in the Environmental Learning Center in Harrison Hills Park will be of great interest to history lovers of all ages.

The Friends of Harrison Hills Park, an advisory committee to the Allegheny County Parks Department, has recently renovated its community room in the park to include an educational exhibit on the Native American tribes that resided here.

Tarentum was of major importance to the daily life of both the Indian tribes and the settlers. Paramount to the way of life was the trading post on Bull Creek opened by Pierre Chartiers, who lived in the area we now know as Tarentum.

Susan Goughler, the curator of the exhibit and council member of the Friends group, said that she has always wondered about those who first made this region their home. But, she says, getting started was a slow process. "There simply wasn't anyone I could find or any place I looked that had specific information on our immediate location. Heinz History Center, local historical societies and online sites had lots of general information but it just wasn't specific enough."

It wasn't until she got the idea to contact the Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center in Dorseyville, PA that she found the person she needed to help launch this project. Miguel Sagué Jr., an artist, musician, and spiritual guide who sits on the board of directors of the Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center, is their contact for community outreach and education.

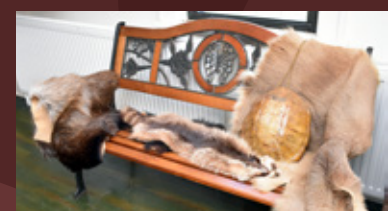
"I was hoping to get fifteen minutes on the phone with him. We talked for about an hour and it was clear that he knew exactly who, where and how. He came to the park to talk more and see our space. He even

offered to build a diorama of a longhouse and gardens as part of the display! He is passionate about educating and sharing his vast knowledge with others. I can't thank him enough for his interest and support."

Goughler is urging local residents to come to the park to see the exhibit this summer. She says finding the Learning Center is easy. You just turn left immediately upon entering Harrison Hills Park, make another left on Chipmunk Lane and there you are!

Park Rangers will be available to greet guests Sundays from 1 to 3 pm, from June 25th through August 27th.

The Friends council is currently discussing plans for an Open House and details will be announced as they become available.





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Tarentum Fraternal Order of Eagles #699

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

BY Cindy Homburg



It was February 6, 1898 that a group of Seattle theater owners founded the Fraternal Order of Eagles and a mere six years later that the Tarentum Eagles Club was chartered with sixty enthusiastic members, anxious to take on the responsibility of raising funds locally to help support medical centers, combat heart disease and cancer, help children with disabilities, uplift the aged and infirm and much more.

After seven years in two previous locations in Tarentum, the F.O.E. purchased the former Kennedy home on the corner of 2nd Avenue and Wood Street in 1911. The house was built in 1889 and still stands today as the Aerie for Order #699.

The home of the Tarentum Aerie was renovated in the 1970s and as they tore down old walls there were surprises like the dumbwaiter system found, fitted with tin cups to bring booze up from the basement during Prohibition.

A block building was added onto the original structure at this time to be used for dances and other fund-raising events. The beautiful, old oak bar, which was original to the house, was moved into the newly added room. The work done enabled the organization to move its regular meetings from an upstairs room to the ground floor.

In 1987, the Valley News offered the Eagles seventy-five thousand dollars for the Wood Street building but the offer was rejected, saving another historic Tarentum landmark.

But the real work of The Eagles is helping people. Jim George, Secretary and forty year member of the Tarentum F.O.E. says he learned about

the great things the Eagles were doing right here in Tarentum when he first joined the Tarentum Aerie. They were always stepping in to help the community as well as individual families in need whenever help was needed. "This is a great fraternal organization and social club," says George.

Even to this day, there are on-going fundraisers, raffles, and events being planned with 60% of proceeds being reserved to support worthy causes.

In the early 1960s, Tarentum Police Officers were invited to join the Eagles, dues free for a life. Tarentum Fire Fighters and Emergency Medical Technicians were admitted with no initiation fee or dues for the first year. And 50-year members are free from paying dues for life.

To become a member of the Tarentum Eagles you must be referred by another member.

**Thanks to the writings of the late Jim Sims, a longtime F.O.E. member and former president for the historic information provided.*



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DUSTER

by Cindy Homburg
Photos by Hugh Fox

Respectfully Serving Community Families Since 1938

Albert H. Duster Sr., founder of Duster Funeral Home, was born December 11, 1906, in Tarentum, the son of Joseph and Clara Burk Duster.

As a young man he dropped out of high school to help support the family. He eventually found employment with the Flick Funeral Home, in Tarentum. While working for Flick Funeral Home he kept up his studies received his high school diploma from Pittsburgh Academy.

He later attended American Academy of Embalming and Mortuary Research in New York City. After graduation he took the examination given by the Pennsylvania State Board of Undertakers. He successfully completed all studies and passed all exams while under the apprenticeship of W. E. Flick Funeral Home. He was now ready to be a funeral director and start his own business.

On December 3, 1938, Albert H. Duster Sr. opened the Duster Funeral Home on West 7th Avenue in Tarentum. This funeral home was in his family home. He later moved the funeral home to 108 West 7th Avenue. Business was expanding and he needed more room and more parking. One day when he was on his way home from a funeral, he noticed that the Marvin House on East 10th Avenue was for sale. He immediately made a phone call and bought the house. This would be the perfect place for his funeral home. A beautiful home on East 10th Avenue with more exposure and more parking. In 1954 the Duster family moved to East 10th Avenue and are still there today.

Mr. Duster was in business with his sons, Rodney and Gary, who both graduated from the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science and worked with his sons until his retirement at the age of 87.

Since 1954 the Duster Funeral Home has updated their facilities many times and added more parking to better serve their families.

The Duster Funeral Home has been family owned and operated for over 85 years with quality service and pricing to meet every family's financial needs.



They are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, anytime you call the funeral home you will talk with, either Rodney or Gary, no matter what time of the day or night.

As Tarentum was the first community in the area to change to all LED lighting, the Duster Funeral Home is also one of the first funeral homes in the area to have all LED lighting plus an electric Tesla automobile. The Duster Brothers love their community and are involved in many hometown organizations such as, K of C in Natrona, Brackenridge Legion, Tarentum Eagles, Elks and V.F.W., AII-Kiski Strong Chamber and the Vietnam Veterans Association.

Gary graduated from Salem College in West Virginia and taught Social Studies for 10 years at Springdale High School. Rodney is a graduate of Youngstown University in Ohio and also a US Army retiree. He served 2 tours in Vietnam and retired as a Lt. Col after 22 years of service.

Rodney and Gary are here to serve you 24 hours a day and will always be here for their families. They will continue to carry on the tradition that their father started in 1938.

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BOB LIVORIO

Tarentum's Music Man

by Francine Costello



*Are the stars out tonight,
I don't know if it's cloudy or bright...*

If you came of age in the 60s in Tarentum

or anywhere in our region, Bob Livorio likely provided the sound track for your young life. One Summer Night, Misty, There Goes My Baby, High on a Hill, Soldier Boy, Lovers Never Say Goodbye, Chapel of Love.

Bob played the music we all loved, but, Livorio says, it was the thousands of teens who faithfully listened to his Saturday radio show on WKPA, sent song requests and dedications pouring in to the station, and crowded the dance floor when Bob was spinning records, who created the memories he cherishes to this day.

It began in the 50s when he was hired by WKPA in New Kensington. It was then that he created his first hit show called "The Bob Livorio Supper Club" where he played big band music and featured popular singers of the day like Tony Bennet, Perry Como, Rosemary Clooney and Frank Sinatra. He even got to meet and interview many of these hit-makers of the day.

WKPA AM Radio was broadcast from the second floor of Cooper Brothers Music Store in New Kensington but a little known fact is that for a brief period, the station was also broadcast from the Manos Theater in Tarentum. So during that time, announcers would give the station ID as, "WKPA, New Kensington and Tarentum."

Toward the end of the 50's, Livorio received a call from the Tarentum YMCA inviting him to DJ a dance in the gym. Livorio agreed and, he says, "From the very first dance, the crowds were huge!" He remembers a night when a local group was to perform live at the dance. But when they arrived, he saw that they had to stand on benches in a distant corner because the dance floor was so crowded they couldn't walk across the gym to get to Bob.

Next came a call from George Conroy, the Harrison Township Commissioner at the time, who asked Livorio if he would be interested in being the DJ for dances they were thinking of starting up at the Citizens Firehall in Birdville on Sunday evenings.

"George," said Bob, "I don't know if this area can handle two dances."

"Let's give it a try, Bob."

Those jam-packed, Sunday evening dances on the second floor at the firehall in Birdville lasted for six years. "And," Bob says, "we only missed one and that was the Sunday after President Kennedy was assassinated."

"About five months after we started the Birdville dances, I received a call from a close family friend by the name of Lenny Marino who was a song arranger who worked under the name, Lenny Martin. He said, "Bob, I have a great young group and I'd love to send them up to you to perform at Birdville."

"What's the name of group?" I asked.

"The Skyliners."

"When they started to sing "Since I Don't Have You," the crowd went absolutely crazy! The Skyliners performed to a packed house at Birdville three times. Over the years, I had the honor of working with them at other venues and became good friends with all of them."

I only have eyes for you dear....

Soon after the start of the Birdville dances, Livorio began spinning records on Friday nights at Henry's in Tarentum. "From the very beginning, the dances at Henry's were so crowded, I would tell kids not to worry if they didn't know how to dance. "When you're at Henry's all you can really do is stand there and move a little." Bob said that as the crowds grew he would

often pray, “Oh Lord, please don’t let us all end up in Bull Creek!”

“The kids from Tarentum had been going to Henry’s for a good while before they started having Friday night dances,” Bob explained. “It was a great place to go for lunch or just a snack. They had a well-stocked juke box and owners, Henry and Ann Sydlik always treated those teens like gold.”

“By the time I started at Henry’s, I already had a following,” Bob explains. “So in addition to the Tarentum kids, teens from Ken-Hi, Arnold, Springdale, Harbrack and Freeport, filled the place every Friday.” And if you got to experience a Friday night at Henry’s you probably remember that without anyone saying a word, there was a certain spot where the gang from Tarentum would stand, another for Harbrack, Ken-Hi, Freeport and so forth. “Everyone seemed to get along and there wasn’t any trouble. Or, if there was, they took it outside,” Bob is happy to report.

In the fall, Henry’s became the place to go after the football games. When Ken-Hi music director, John Stevens learned that his band and majorettes were showing up at Henry’s still in their uniforms, he told them they had to go home and change into their own clothes before heading to the dance. “But, guess what,” says Bob, “after that, even more of them showed up in their distinctive red and black uniforms.”

“Another dance I did was on Sunday afternoons from two to four-thirty at the IAES in Arnold. They started them in the sixties and we consistently had huge turn-outs.”

With his weekends booked, Bob made the decision to give up his week-day work at WKPA and launch a Saturday morning show aimed at teens—a show that ran an impressive thirty-three years. It was called, “The Bob Livorio Show—Your Saturday Morning Listening Habit.”

The show played all the tops in Mowtown and the Oldies—Little Anthony and the Imperials, The Five Satins, The Chantels, The Flamingos and on and on. Bob accepted song requests and dedications and worked hard to honor those who took the time to send him their requests

while still pleasing those listeners who only wanted to hear music with as little interruption as possible.

And as the requests kept pouring in, the entire Livorio family, even the three young children, had to be enlisted to help sort through the mountains of mail.

*You are here and so am I.
Maybe millions of people go by...*

It was during that same time that a group of kids from Ken-Hi got in touch with the people at Kennywood Park with a special request. Since their school picnic at the park was that Saturday morning, they asked if instead of playing the usual music over the loudspeakers, the park would agree to play the Bob Livorio Show. The answer was a decisive no, explaining that if Kennywood started such a thing, there would be no end to it.

Always modest and low key about his accomplishments, Bob Livorio is quick to point out that the great success of dances at Henry’s, Birdville, and other local venues were not unique to our area.

“Almost every community had dances and popular D.J’s like Terry Lee, Porkey Chedwick and Mad Mike. And what we had was a friendly competition.” As it turned out, Bob Livorio and Porkey Chedwick didn’t meet until later in life and as Bob says, “Instead of talking about music and dances, we talked about our health.”

Over the years, Bob Livorio has received a good deal of public recognition and publicity for the huge role he played in the region’s pop music scene of that era. Always gracious, Bob expresses gratitude but reserves special thanks to his great friend Rex Rutkowski, now retired as a journalist for the Valley News Dispatch/Tribune Review. He says Rutkowski—one of the finest writers to come out of our region—wrote numerous articles about Livorio, his work, family life and his deep faith.

Bob is filled with memories. “And I thank the Lord for giving me a great mind to be able to recall



so many wonderful times.” He says he thinks about the kids and how they would come up to him to talk before and after the dances. “I always tried to make time for them. After all, these were their dances and I wanted to please them. I played the music they loved and I loved to bang it out really loud because that’s the way I liked it to.” He was even careful about not playing a popular song at a dance, if it wasn’t a song that was good to dance to.

After all of these years, people still come up to Bob when he’s out and about, to tell him how much they loved his radio show and going to his dances. He tells of three men, all of them in the service who never knew one another, but each one told him of a time when they returned home and went to the spot where Henry’s used to be just to remember their youth and the wonderful times they had there at the dances.

“I have nine grandchildren,” says Bob, “They’re all adults now and sadly not one of them have experienced the fun that teenagers of that era had. Sometimes when I’m at home, I’ll sit and play some of my old records from those amazing years and I think, wow, this could never happen again.”



But Bob Livorio isn’t given to melancholy. He takes great joy in his memories. And maybe that’s because he wasn’t just an observer of the times, he was a participant. When asked if he has a favorite song, he’s quick to answer, “Yes! It’s “I Only Have Eyes for You” by the Flamingos because that was my song for my wife, Barbara, and it still is.

*But they all disappear from view.
And I only have eyes for you.*

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Low-interest home improvement loans are currently available to eligible Allegheny County homeowners through the Allegheny Home Improvement Loan Program (AHILP).

EMERGENCY/ PRIORITY IMPROVEMENT LOANS FOR UP TO \$10,000 at 0% APR are available for completing qualified types of emergency/priority home improvement such as roof replacement (main roof), replacing a furnace or boiler, tap in projects or repairing a broken gas, water or sewage line. This loan may also be used to undertake wholly accessibility-related improvements such as ramps or bathroom modifications. There is not a processing fee associated with an Emergency/Priority Improvement Loan, but your requested improvement must be qualified as being an “emergency” or “priority” improvement by AHILP in order for you to be offered this no-interest loan.

GENERAL IMPROVEMENT LOANS FOR UP TO \$23,000 at 1% APR are available for general or multiple home improvements such as windows, siding, flooring, cement work and remodeling. You must also be willing to bring your home up to code standards, if necessary, including the remediation of any lead-based paint hazards to receive this 1% General Improvement Loan. Grant funds may be available to you for a portion of the cost of undertaking any major code or lead remediation work. The only processing fee associated with receiving a General Improvement Loan is \$375, which is not due until loan closing and may be financed as part of your loan.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Eligible property: Owner-occupied, residential, single-family dwelling (occupied by owner as principal residence)
- Property ownership needs to be via recorded deed since AHILP loans are mortgage-secured loans
- Deed needs to be in the name of a natural person (versus in the name of a corporation or trust)
- Property taxes must be current / up-to-date; Acceptable credit history
- Your total household income cannot exceed the following income limits based on household size:
HOUSEHOLD SIZE / MAXIMUM INCOME LIMIT:
1 / \$76,300 2 / \$87,200 3 / \$98,100 4 / \$109,000 5 / \$117,750

AFFORDABLE MONTHLY PAYMENTS TO FIT YOUR BUDGET:

Examples: \$ 6,000 loan at 0% APR = \$62.50 for 96 months or \$55.55 for 108 months.
\$10,000 loan at 0% APR = \$69.44 for 144 months or \$64.10 for 156 months.
\$15,000 loan at 1% APR = \$89.77 for 180 months
\$23,000 loan at 1% APR = \$105.78 for 240 months

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION

Please visit our website: www.alleghenycounty.us/ahilp

Or contact Allegheny County Department of Economic Development at: 412-350-6337



These loans are being made available through the Allegheny Home Improvement Loan Program (AHILP). AHILP is sponsored by the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County and administered by the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development. AHILP provides low-interest loans to income-eligible homeowners residing in Allegheny County to complete home repairs and improvements. Applicants must have household income that is less than 115% of the area median income limit based on household size and meet the program's general eligibility requirements. Income limits are subject to change without prior notice.

3/2023



A LIFE OF PURPOSE & SERVICE THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM HOME

WHAT CAN SOMEONE FROM TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA
DO TO **MAKE A DIFFERENCE** IN TODAY'S WORLD?
THE ANSWER IS—**LOTS!** *by Jean Frances Fleming*



Through God's grace I have had the opportunity to pair my education and abilities with my desire to reach out to those in need around the world. I have been blessed with opportunities to travel, visit, and work, in Asia, Scotland, South Africa, Eastern Europe, and Mexico. I took part in a variety of activities including holding Bible camps for kids, taking part in triage for medical outreaches, distributing Bibles to those who wanted but didn't have access to Bibles, and teaching English. It is fascinating to experience day-to-day life in other cultures!

Soon after receiving my BA degree in Journalism/Communications from Point Park University, my adventures in the world of global missions launched. The start of my journey began in The Netherlands where I lived for almost five years. The missions organization with whom I worked is called Youth With A Mission (YWAM). While in The Netherlands, I got my first taste of being a foreigner living in another country. I lived in a small village called Epe, nestled in the countryside of Holland. I was drawn to the slower pace of life where people actually take time to visit and talk to each other. I learned to speak Dutch—well sort of speak. I never quite mastered the ability to mimic some of the gruff, almost guttural sound combinations that came so easily to native speakers. Being the people person that I am, I found it frustrating to try and engage in some conversations. I would plan and mentally rehearse what my contribution to the conversation would be, only to realize that the conversation had moved onto

something else! I did however learn enough of the Dutch language to manage.

Trading my car for a bicycle as transportation was a bit of a stretch, but I survived. People do drive in The Netherlands, but the bicycle is a much preferred mode of travel. I even learned the art of balancing bags of groceries while riding a bike. Just don't let those bags get too close to the spokes of the bike wheels or you may end up chasing "run-away" apples and oranges down the street. Trust me—I have first-hand knowledge!

I soon discovered that although most Dutch people are fairly skilled at speaking English, their written translation of documents from Dutch to English can be somewhat lacking. That was where I came in. I grammatically "cleaned up" the English in the written translations from the hands of native Dutch speakers.

Still working under the umbrella of Youth With A Mission, I re-located from The Netherlands to another YWAM location in Tyler, Texas. I was back in my own country, yet I still had to deal with the nuances of different cultures. I began working in the field of TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). We had several YWAM staff members from other countries whose native language was not English, and I worked with those staff members to increase their proficiency in English.

Several of my students were Asian. Inherit in the Asian culture is a duty to show respect to your elders and to teachers. It was an interesting challenge to convince my Korean students that they were not causing me to lose face by questioning something I said or did. For example: From day one, I thought one of my students had the given name of Mussolini, and called her by that name. I thought it was interesting if not a little odd to name someone after a dictator, but ... It wasn't until the last day of the course that the student summoned the courage to enlighten me on the fact that her actual name is "Loselini" not "Mussolini." Another one of my students had managed to get through the first half of the TESOL course before I realized through



his homework—not through direct communication from him—that he really wasn’t grasping an important concept that all of the lessons had built on! SIGH !!!

I eventually moved from Texas to Montana—still working with YWAM. While in Montana I served with the Strategic Missions Office, which afforded me the opportunity to continue with overseas connections.

During this time my focus temporarily shifted a bit. Rather than teaching I helped to provide support assistance for missionaries living overseas. I was active with member care doing things such as talking with our overseas missionary partners and subsequently communicating their requests, and helping to arrange care packages for them.

I find that going overseas on a short-term basis allows me to experience the sights, sounds, and customs through the lens of a visitor rather than the lens of a longer term resident. In the open market places the hustle and bustle of people, vehicles, and even live animals maneuvering through small spaces, requires a watchful eye as you make your way through scores of stalls sporting brightly colored wares. Exotic aromas almost dare you to take a taste-test. The opportunity to haggle over a price that better suits your budget is a reminder that you are indeed in a different land!

After several years I stopped working with YOUTH WITH A MISSION (YWAM), and moved back to my native Pennsylvania. Thanks to my connection with another missions organization, I have had the opportunity to still travel overseas occasionally. Recently,

I traveled with a small team to Chiang Rai, Thailand. We held English camps for students in schools in the city as well as in rural settings in the mountains. It is so gratifying to see young people eager to learn and enhance their English speaking skills. It has been said that, “Young people can change minds. They can even change the world around us”.

What an opportunity I had to influence these young folks’ lives! Yes, I really can do my part to make a positive difference in a hurting world, and broaden my horizons as I do it.

Jean Frances Fleming makes her home on 1st Avenue in Tarentum.



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IN THE 1950s, East Tarentum's Shopping District Was Known as the Heart of Tarentum

By Barbara Magnetta

I grew up in West Tarentum and we called going shopping in East Tarentum going "upstreet."

I vividly remember our mom saying, "Get ready, girls. We're going upstreet."

My sister, Joan and I would get so excited just knowing we were going shopping. You didn't need a car or bus, just your own two feet. Only twenty minutes or less, from our home in West Tarentum and we would be there, going from store to store, shopping for clothes, shoes, baked goods and candy, unless, of course, we met friends along the way and stopped for a friendly chat.

Once when watching a TV program about a couple visiting Estonia in Europe, the friendliness of the shop owners reminded me of our Tarentum store owners, always talking and joking with their customers in the stores or just passing by on the street.

On our walk upstreet, once we reached the 200 block of Fifth Avenue, we would pass some familiar places like Allegheny Lumber. It is Don Garrett who reminded me of the wonderful Star Confection that was on that same block. Who didn't love that store with its tempting array of sweet treats.

One of my favorite stops was Swerling's Ladies Store. They had an overwhelming selection; it was very popular among high school girls.

Farther along, on the corner, was Chapman's Pharmacy and Economy Bank. And of course there was Flick's Funeral Home.

There was the Brunswick Bowling Alley on Fifth Avenue and many years later, it became the home of Joan's Kiln Korner, the ceramics business my sister and I opened when we were older.

Lewis Children's Store was known for the most beautiful Baptismal outfits and Communion dresses. My mom found it easy to shop there.

Of course there was Saul's Army Store but don't let the name fool you! All the boys bought their jeans and tenner shoes at Saul's. And, as Joan



Uhric Sadecky remembers, the tables in Saul's were stacked with all that year's most popular toys.

Weissburg's is where we stopped to get fresh meats and cheeses. Straight through the store lead into DiGirolamo's Fruits and Vegetables—hand-picked beauties.

Want to see a movie? The Manos Theater was the place to go. I recall when the movie, "Frankenstein" was released, the Manos hired a Frankenstein impersonator to roam the theater. What fun this was! On the second floor of the Manos was Duck Pin Bowling. We also had the Harris Theater on the Corbet Street hill, which brought in live acts.

Rounding the corner of Corbet Street was like a revolving door—one store after another.

There was the wonderful Tarentum Confectionery, nicknamed The Greeks because it was owned by the Pappas family who were of Greek ancestry.

"Nothing can compare to those days when we had everything right in our own town of Tarentum," says Diana Jean Staricek Lisco. And G.C. Murphy's was one of those everything stores. At the main entrance to the store was a wide staircase which took you downstairs where there were colorful aquariums of fish. G.C. Murphy's had everything from make-up and jewelry to pots and pans, tools and toys. It was a shopper's dream. The lunch counter, with its bar stools, burgers and cokes, wasn't too bad either and it was a great place to socialize and then off to candy and roasted peanuts.



Who needs some new shoes? Tarentum boasted four shoe stores. Those carrying children's shoes had a fascinating machine that measured children's feet. It was commonly called a fluoroscope. There was Caplan's Shoe Store which was home of the popular Buster Brown and Books Shoes. We sang the Buster Brown jingle from the radio all the time. "I 'm Buster Brown I live in a shoe. Here's my dog Tide he lives in there too!"

Tritsch's Shoe Store was located near the Praha Hotel. The Praha is still operational, no longer a hotel but great place to get a bite to eat and drink.

Hard to believe but Tarentum in those days, was home to six jewelry stores. There was Kennerdells, Cogley, Spahr, Karpis, Schwer and Motosicky's. Schwer is now Sieta Jewelers. My husband Carl purchased my diamond ring at good old Motosickys.

Grants was another five and dime store. A wonderful variety store full of home goods, toys and much more. Fishkin Ladies Apparel was near the famous Isaly's. Isaly's was home of the skyscraper ice cream cone and chipped chopped ham. Relaxing in the leather padded booth, enjoying a barbeque sandwich, an ice cream sundae, milkshake or just a cone. There was nothing like it. The Isaly's sign is still visible on the building today.

Another Pharmacy across the street was and still is Blackburn's Physician's Pharmacy.

Who could forget Berkey's Mens Store and Berkey's Ladies. Berkey's Men's Store was popular with young men. Floyd Berkey sure catered to his customers.

Betty Gay's, Miller Brothers, Kumer's Bakery, Huets Dry Goods and Harrison's Mens Wear were more favorite stops. There was Sterling's and Shenkans Furniture. Shenkan's Furniture gave all girl graduates of Tarentum High School a mini cedar chest, great for loveletters. What memories!

Sixth Ave had plenty to offer with Palgon Brother's Market, Rudert's Hardware, Synders News Stand (now the home of Asays) Grady's Bakery and many more.

Union National Bank and Peoples National Bank sat on two corners in Tarentum. Peoples National Bank housed Lovili's Beauty Salon on the second floor, where I was employed as one of seven hairdressers.

We surely didn't need a Plaza, but one was proposed for Tarentum. It never happened here but it was built in Natrona Heights instead. Unfortunately, our businesses had a hard time competing with the new Heights Plaza Shopping Center with its big parking lot and covered walkway.

But we were always proud and happy to go up street for a wonderful shopping experience.

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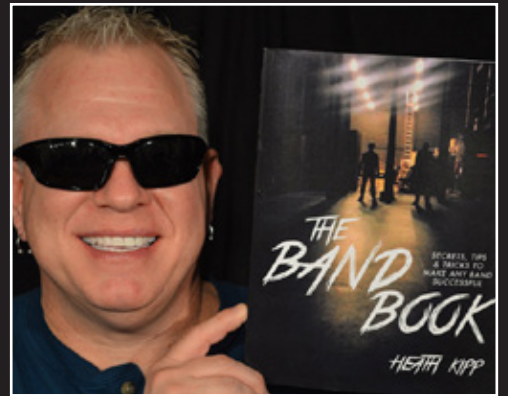
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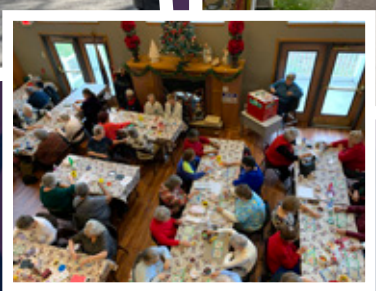
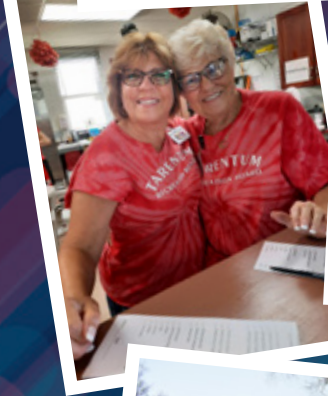
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