



## FRIENDS OF HISTORIC VINELAND

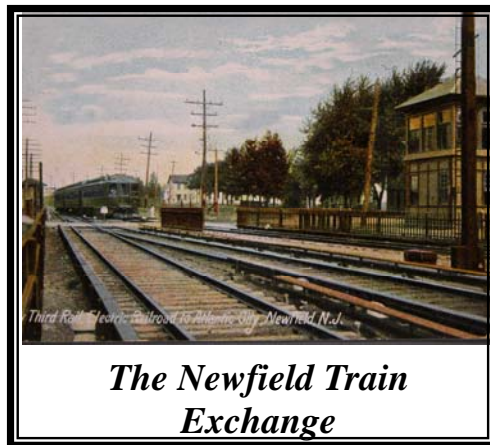


### *Another Version Of The History Of This Area:*

By Frank De Maio, M.D.

Again this season we have included a continuation of the History of Landisville written by Mr. Renzulli. Now as some of you may recall, he was my teacher when I was in grade 7 in Minotola school. So, it seems only appropriate that I do a little writing about MY recollections of the Landisville area along with his. After all, what good is a student if he does not learn from the teacher (and Mr. Renzulli was a good teacher).

One thing that I always remember is the train that took you to Philadelphia. Of course, if you went in the other direction it took you to Atlantic City. The train would appear like clock work at 7:00 AM in Buena, then go to Minotola. It would take us about 15 minutes to walk to either location to catch the train. If going to Philadelphia, you would first go to Newfield, which was the end of the Atlantic City part of the line. You waited for the train that came from Millville, and Vineland, got on it and then headed to Camden, stopping at



*The Newfield Train  
Exchange*

every town. This included Malaga, Franklinville, Clayton, Glassboro, and so on. In Camden, you got off the train, walked for a block or so, and then got on the Camden Ferry. This took you to Philadelphia where you got off and walked up a small hill to the Market Street Trolley. This came from central Philadelphia, made a complete turn around a building and then went back up to center Philadelphia. You got off at the appropriate street, exchanged for another trolley and were off to your destination. To get home at night, you had to reverse the procedure. Hence, a trip to Philadelphia was always a twelve hour plus day trip.

Another recollection was getting a hair cut from Mr. Yecco. He is mentioned in this issue of Landis-

ville history. He was an interesting man. As I recall as a kid, he was a good looking man, had a mustache, and always smelled good. When I got older, I recall him trying to sell me some poison that killed flies. Flies were a real pest in the old days and it seems that the best of screens did not keep them out. There was a fly in the barber shop and Mr. Yecco got out his trusty spray can and started to spray the fly. It did not die so he followed it all over the shop spraying all the time. The fly finally settled down on a window sill where Yecco continued to spray until it drowned.

There was no central heat, indoor plumbing or electric lighting in the good old days. Everybody had an outhouse as a toilet. Toilet paper was last year's Sears Catalogue. For heat, there was a stove that burned wood or coal. If you were cold you moved closer, if hot you moved away. There was no insulation in homes in the old days, and so on cold winter days, everybody was very close to the stove and each other.

*(Like the story by Renzulli: To be continued!!!)*

# *The History of Landisville—Continued!!!*

*By: F. Renzulli of Landisville*

(referring to school plays in the previous article) It was held there because it was used as a classroom and it was the only local building that had a stage. The scene for the musical was a dairy farm and the theme song, as I remember it, went like this: "Won't you wait 'til the cows come home' won't you wait 'til the cows come home; Dear ole Brindle, Belle and Boss, Soon the meadows they will cross; Down the lane at the dawn of day, Once again they will wend their way, Hear them in the dell, dingle, dangle bell, Won't you wait, wait, wait by the old red gate, Won't you wait 'til the cows come home?" The audience applauded, parents exulted at the performance by their children and every one went home happy. A pleasant evening for the parents and wholesome entertainment by the school children!

Another annual affair was the Field Day. This was an athletic competition consisting of relay races, broad jump, running broad jump." Walking" the Chinese ladder (a regular ladder with about 15 rungs, held up about 6 feet from the ground by posts). The object was to walk with your hands from one end of the ladder to the other end and back again as many times as possible without dropping to the ground. The one who could stay up the longest won the contest. Chinning the bar was another

sport. A pipe about an inch and a half in diameter and about 6 to 8 feet long, was held up by posts about 6 feet from the ground. The object was to grab the bar with your hands and pull yourself up until you got your chin over the bar. You also had to bring your body all the way down without losing grip of the bar then bring yourself up again. The one who did this the most number of times won the contest. The Maypole Dance, performed by girls, was also an annual event during field day competition

At the southeast corner of intersection of Arbor and State Road was the Ratti hardware store and home of the Ratti family. (This family was related to Pope Pius XI). Across from the Ratti's was Alfonso Mercoli's blacksmith shop. It is interesting to note that at that time there were three blacksmith shops in Landisville. The other two were: Magioncalda's operated by Jake Magoncalda located on west side of State Road, between S. Boulevard and Flower Street while the other shop operated by Anthony Corsiglia was almost opposite of Magioncalda's shop. All were very busy all the time. The blacksmith shops also repaired wagons, built wagons, made wagon wheels and repaired farm equipment. The first blacksmith shop in Landisville was located at the northwest corner of intersection of route 40 and North

Boulevard. The original owner passed away and Mr. Corsiglia operated it for a few years then moved to his new shop on State Road. Frank Camarano and Rocco Dandrea established a gas and service station in that building. As the "farm wagon age" moved toward the "farm truck" age the blacksmith shops changed from shoeing horses and repairing wagons to building truck bodies. Magioncalda became an auto repair shop, Corsiglia retired and Mercoli's became a repair shop for farm equipment. Some time later Magioncalda's repair shop was sold to Camarano and Dandrea and the old blacksmith shop was demolished.

In the middle twenties Branson & Doerr, a Ford car dealership in Vineland, erected a building next to Alfonso Mercoli's shop and established a second Ford dealership. The front room of the building was used to display the new cars and the rear of the building was used for repairs. After a few years the partnership split with Art Branson taking over the Landisville business while Harry Doerr took over the Vineland dealership. Branson later decided to give up the dealership and retained the repair garage. The front room he rented to Mr. Walter Matlack a pharmacist who previously had operated drug stores in Vineland and Hammonton and now established the first pharmacy in Lan-



disville. This was about 1928 and still operates as Matlack's Pharmacy under different ownership. The rear part of the building continued to operate as a repair garage for several years. Eventually it was sold to Ed Viani, a produce buyer and trucker who established a Laundromat and this too is still in operation.

One of the early Italian families to settle here was the Martinelli family. In the 1890's Giuseppe Martinelli came to America with his family and two nephews Giuseppe and Michele Martinelli. The elder Giuseppe settled in Minotola on Central Ave. just south of Wheat Road. Michele bought a farm on the south east corner of State Road and Flower Street. The nephew Giuseppe returned to Italy. Of the elder Giuseppe Martinelli family his children Dominick, Andrew and Frank and Mrs. Maurelli remained in our area and their children are well known especially in the plumbing business. Andrew operated a bar at the south-east corner of South Boulevard and Willow Street. Frank also engaged in the plumbing business. Another son Joseph moved to Vineland. Mr. Maurelli owned a barber-shop in Minotola for

many years and his son Angelo operated a furniture store also in Minotola. Most of Michele Martinelli's family eventually moved to Camden, one son Joseph remained in Landisville until his death. Andrew operated the bar until 1919 when the eighteenth amendment to the constitution, also known as the Volstead Act or prohibition act, took effect. This act prohibited the manufacture or sale of alcoholic beverages in the United States. During the years the bar was in business it was a very popular gathering spot for all the glass house workers, farmers and other working men in the area. It provided the 'Happy Hour' of its day. On State Road in Landisville Lelio Fantini owned and operated a hotel and bar. It too ceased to operate as a bar with the coming of the prohibition era. The building still stands next to the post office.

The late 1800's and early 1900's were a period when many Italian families settled in our area especially the Landisville section. Among the families that settled here were the Mercoli, DeStefano, DiDomenico, Battellini, Dandrea, Santagata, Camarano, Buglio, Giovanazzi, Goffredi, Labriola, Abriola, Antonelli, Donato, DelDuca, DeBellis, Ruccolo, Mattioli, Magioncaldi, Poteti, Rosemonte, Barbaglia, Brunini, Lilla, Quarella, Pontarelli, Darminio, Zanni, Patringnani, Capizola, Mottolo, Yecco, Fantini, Selva, Anello, Sindoni, Aulfo, Maranelli, Coari, Pernazzi, Mazzoli, Fornataro, D'Amico, DeMarco, Gruccio, Schieri, Father Cortesi, Evangelista, Tomasello, Giuliani,

Ciocco, Carano, Marolda, Montana, Lamberto, Ricci, Monfardini, Monforte, Guglielmi, Labo, Bononcini, Zorzi, Bertacchi, Cavoli, Mauro, Asselta, Bongiorno, Janucci, Arcangeli, Patella, Dalolio, Teti, Cimino, Olivari, Yacovelli, LoGiudice, Muccio, DeMaria, DiCriscio, Maresco, Leonelli, Bocelli, Benvenuto, De Maio, Napoli, Siciliano, Napolitano, Della Buono, Vasallo, Vasalotti, Tarquinio, Cugino, Ferrara, D'augostine, Stavoli, Ciraola, Luchesi, Trionfo, Darpino, Arpino, Zipetto, Bernero, Bagiotti, Capoli, Fiocchi, Rosamini, Vannini, Sasdelli, Casadia, Evangelista, Polmonari, Mignonia, Aulfo, Andaloro, Badaracco, Sasdelli, Vannini, Bucciotti, Poggi, Romano, Mastrangelo, Melini and my family, Renzulli, that settled here in 1902. Undoubtedly there are others whose names are not recalled at this time

Among the earlier Italian settlers of the East Vineland, Richland and Milmay area were Pagliughi, Scrivani, Sanguinetti, Petrini, Cazazza, Magolda, Corsiglia, Canepa, Levari, Rovegni, Villa, Maruffi, Scagnelli, Pancari, DeRosa, Pierotti, Grossi, Brunozi, Graziani and here too there were others whose names are not recalled.

Some one passing through My Town during the early 1900's could imagine he was in Italy.

*Do not despair, there is MUCH more to come. Same time, same place, but in the next issue of our "News Letter"*

**The Calendar for 2006** has been completed and will be delivered during the first week of December. All individuals that have purchased an Ad are given 25 copies as a token of our appreciation, and supplies lasting are given more if requested.! We have already picked out theme for next time (2007) and it will be agriculture. This will highlight some of the local farmers, and of course, our Farmer's Market.

**Monster Mash:** Kevin Kirchner and his gang held a big "Monster Mash" this fall with profits going to his group that is recreating the Palace of Depression. Next year, the Friends of Historic Vineland will partner along with Kevin to sell tickets, participate in some way, and otherwise help. So, keep the event in mind and plan on attending. It was a great event and definitely should be continued.

**Italian Heritage Event:** On September 15, 16, 17 of next year 2006, Wheaton Village will host a major cultural event that will highlight the culture and accomplishments of Italians. This event will start with activities in Millville on their third Friday of each month art event and go on to a vast number of other activities on Saturday, and Sunday. It is the plan of the group organizing the event to have a number of crafts people from Italy come here to participate, along with musicians and performers. Local folk will host the guests from Italy, and local individuals will be needed to act as translators and hosts. If any one is interested in being a part of this very fascinating event, please let us know.

The key element of the Millville portion on Friday night will be Carnevale where the visitors will be given masks to wear. The masks will be made by local folks as part of the support group.

*Well, we have come to the end of our newsletter and as you know by now, I always end it by asking for money. Is Xmas a good time to ask or is it a bad time??? I guess it is the time when you would most like to give but have the least left over to give. But anyway, donation or not here's wishing you a Very Merry Holiday and a great New Year!!!*

**DO YOU WANT TO JOIN??**  
TO BE A MEMBER

- BENEFACTOR.....\$100
- SPONSOR.....\$50
- FAMILY.....\$35
- INDIVIDUAL.....\$30
- STUDENT.....\$5

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO THE:  
**"FRIENDS OF HISTORIC VINELAND"**  
The Friends have no connections with the Vineland Historical Society or any other society!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY : \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

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