

*The* **MUMMERS**  
**MAGAZINE**



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FRANCIS PALAMIDA**

**50c**

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We wish the  
PHILADELPHIA  
NEW YEAR SHOOTERS' AND  
MUMMERS' ASSOCIATION PARADE  
on January 1, 1954  
every possible success



**HENRY DISSTON & SONS, INC.**  
TACONY, PHILADELPHIA 35, PA.

*JANUARY 1, 1954*

# **PHILADELPHIA NEW YEAR SHOOTERS' and MUMMERS' ASSOCIATION, Inc.**

PHILADELPHIA, PA.



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President

**JAMES DURNING**  
President

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**WILLIAM MINK**  
**JOHN FRALINGER**

Our organization extends its thanks to all those who have aided us.  
And our special and very warm appreciation goes to the Salvation  
Army and the Philadelphia press.



FREDERIC R. MANN  
Philadelphia's Commissioner of Recreation  
GRAND MARSHALL

# *Mummers' Parade Directors*



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MURRAY COMIC CLUB



"COMIC FEATURE" — MURRAY COMIC CLUB

# The Ancient Custom of Mummers

Mummers is as ancient as man's dream of getting outside of his customary life; it is as old as man's imagination.

Tracing back through the mazes of history that led to England and Germany, to ancient France, pagan Rome and Greece, we find mummers has influenced customs and perpetuated many interesting traditions.

Every nation had its festivals at one time or another, each marked by parades and displays of fanciful costumes. The pagan Saturnalia and carnival, for example, an ancient Roman festival of Saturn, beginning December 17th, was marked by unrestrained merry-making.

As far back as 400 B.C. Roman laborers observed that feast of the Saturnalia in honor of their god, Saturn, and the reaping of the harvest. They made calls on friends, they exchanged gifts and it was customary for some of the gifts to bear greetings for a happy new year.

Slaves sported robes from their masters, and the patricians, wearing fantastic costumes, roamed the streets with their slaves. Age and rank were forgotten for the fiesta and all persons were free for the day. There was a musical background for the capers of the multitude with songs and ballads befitting the joyous occasion.

An early custom was the Florentine Carnival usually held in the beginning of Lent — a day set aside by the monks of the Middle Ages for the lords of misrule and the abbots of unreason.

At this time, England and Germany celebrated their Christmas Masque, resulting in riotous indulgence. This took the form of a dramatic entertainment popular in 16th and 17th centuries, and followed usually an allegorical theme which embodied pageantry, music and dancing. Immigrants and travelers brought these customs, celebrations and festivities when they came to America. Continued throughout the centuries of American history, this traditional gala pageant of Philadelphia symbolizes the ushering in of the new year.

One of the earliest known accounts of a mummers' parade was written by Dr. Henry Muhlenberg, who established the Lutheran Church in America. He wrote in 1839: "Men met on the roads in Tinicum and Kingsessing, who were disguised as clowns, shouting at the top of their voices and shooting guns.

When the Swedes came to Tinicum, just outside of Philadelphia, they brought their custom of visiting friends on "Second Day Christmas," December 26, long before William Penn arrived in the good ship "Welcome".

Gradually they extended the period of their calls to the New Year, which was welcomed with marked revelry and joyous noises. Masqueraders paraded the streets of old Philadelphia and the other sections now a part of the city.

Many of the revelers were armed; they carried pistols for protection along with their bells and sundry noisemakers. And as expected, the pistols and even muskets were called upon to add their

emphatic blasts of the din of "welcoming in the New Year. Those who "shot in" the New Year naturally became New Year's Shooters and thus they established an identification through the years.

The early Swedish Mummers appointed a leader, or "speech director", who had a special little dance step and who recited a rhyme like this:

Here we stand before your door  
As we stood the year before;  
Give us whiskey, give us gin,  
Open the door and let us in.

Even during the Revolutionary period, New Year's Day continued to be a day of carnival and friendly calls. General Howe, whose redcoats occupied the city, staged the "Meschianza" in the Wharton mansion on New Year's Day, 1778, and the ill-starred Major Andre described it as a "gay and gorgeous spectacle".

George Washington, following his inauguration, began the official custom of New Year's Day calls and continued it during the seven years he occupied the presidential mansion in Philadelphia, then the capital.

The mummers continued to celebrate annually in their traditional way. Reciting doggerel and receiving in return cakes and ale, groups of five to twenty, their faces blackened, would march from home to home, shooting and shouting, doing friendly impersonations of General Washington and burlesquing the fashionable English mummers' play of St. George and the Dragon.

A character that always accompanied their "Washington" was Cooney Cracker, a clown whose costumes and antics make some historians believe he was the forerunner of the Uncle Sam of today. This shooter impersonating Washington had several poems and speeches to recite, which still survive.

The burlesquing of their fashionable mummers' play and the increasing number of the black-faced revellers, offended the "Social Leaders" of the day. It caused them in 1808 to force through the legislature an act, declaring that "masquerades, masquerade balls, and masked processions were public nuisances", and decreeing that all persons who allowed masked balls in their homes, entertained shooters or participated in these or similar demonstrations, would be subject to a fine and imprisonment not to exceed three months.

Nevertheless, the farmers, tradesmen, craftsmen, apprentices, laborers and members of fire-fighting companies continued to stage clandestine masquerades on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day and there are no records of any convictions under this act. They continued their own ideas of celebrating New Year's and clung to their rifles and pistols and friendly calls in "welcoming in the year". Gradually they acquired the name "shooters" which is still used today.

With such a rich background it is no wonder that the traditional Philadelphia Mummers' New Year's Day Pageant has continued for over a century and becomes more colorful and spectacular each succeeding year,



FEATURE — PHILIP J. HAMMOND COMIC CLUB



GREATER OVERBROOK STRING BAND  
"ORCHIDS IN THE MOONLIGHT"



"JOCKEY SUIT" — HOG ISLAND FANCY CLUB



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## PARADE RULES AND REGULATIONS

### Fancy Division

Club must have captain's cape with at least twenty page boys.  
Best dressed groups must have at least twenty men in costumes.  
Handsome costume can be considered as one man carrying the costume. If he has extra men to carry out his theme this is agreeable, but only one man is allowed under the competing costume.  
No musical brigades are to be considered for prizes.  
No costumes are allowed on wheels; any suit on wheels will be disqualified.

Clubs must have at least one band.

No horses will be allowed in parade unless pulling floats.

Cards to be handed to the judges by one man, representing his own club in front of the judges' stand.

Cards will signify character of costume being presented.

Bands going up Broad Street in costume will not be judged for any prize, they will just supply music for the line of march.

All costumed entries must start at Broad and Porter Streets and finish at Sixth and Girard Avenue to qualify for prizes.

Members are to be reminded that there is to be no immoral conduct along the line of march.

The captain will be held responsible for the conduct of the club and the above rules.

### Comic Division

Each club must have a captain's cape with twelve page boys or more, and the cape must be carried and not on wheels.

Each club must have two or more bands.

Each club must have 100 or more men in line.

No horses will be allowed in the parade unless pulling floats.

Smearing the faces of spectators along the line of march and other improper conduct will not be permitted.

No horseback riding.

Club captain will be held responsible for the conduct of his club.

### String Band Division

Band must have 35 players in the line, but no more than 10 other members at any point of the compass, either vertical or horizontal. (In suits—this does not mean marshals or service men.)

No floats shall be allowed.

No string band shall be more than one block in back of the preceding one; if so, it may hurt the standing for a prize.

No brass or cup instruments such as: trombones, french horns, etc, shall be allowed.

Each band shall be allowed three minutes in front of the judges' stand.

The following system shall be carried out for the judging of the string bands: 50 points for music, 30 points for costumes, and 20 points for novelty, drill or theme.

A string band shall be allowed to have one pleasure car carrying a banner and a sign in front of the car; also a closed car for the rear of the band. No extension on the sides or back; nothing to extend above the car or above the banner.

Amplification, either on instruments or in any way connected with the string band, is absolutely forbidden.

No animals of any kind allowed.

Any string band wearing old suits must get last prize.

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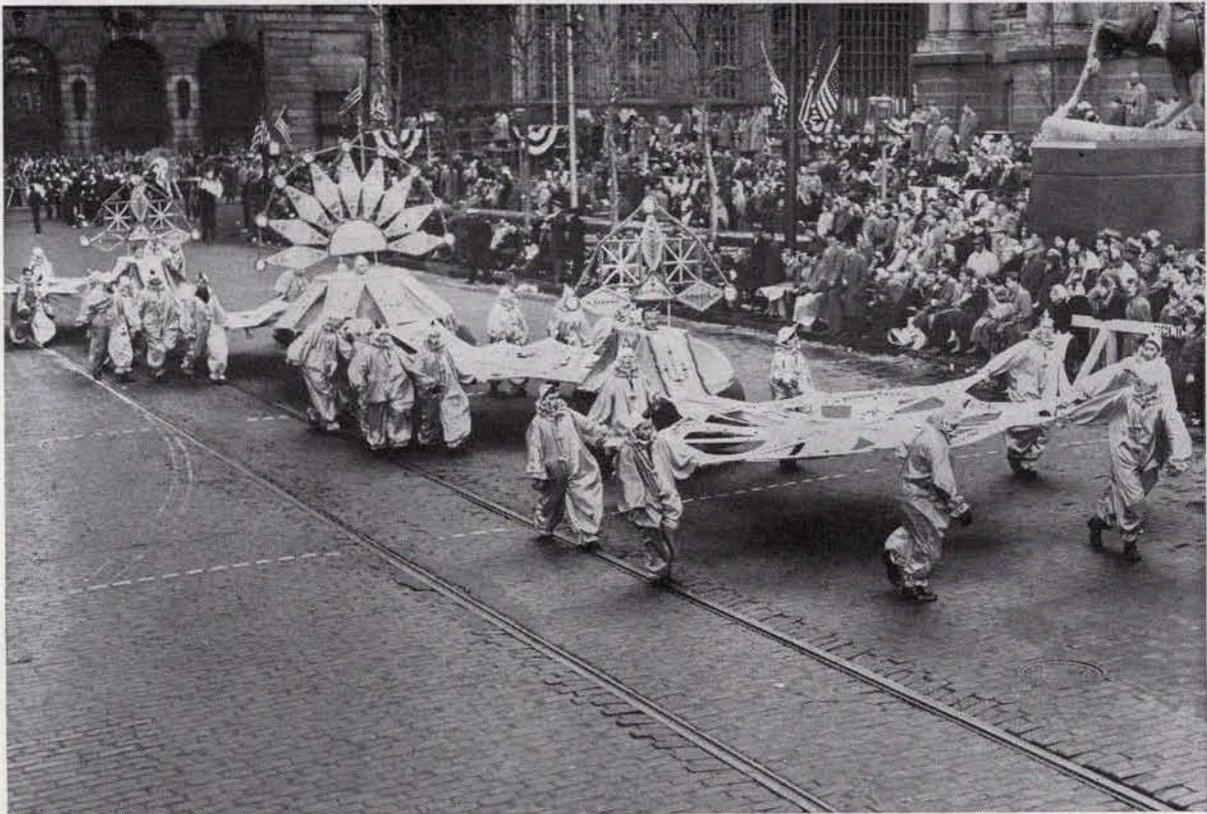
HOG ISLAND FANCY CLUB — BRIGADE



UPTOWN STRING BAND — "BUTTERFLIES"



TRILBY STRING BAND — "HIT PARADE"



CAPTAIN'S CAPE — HOG ISLAND FANCY CLUB



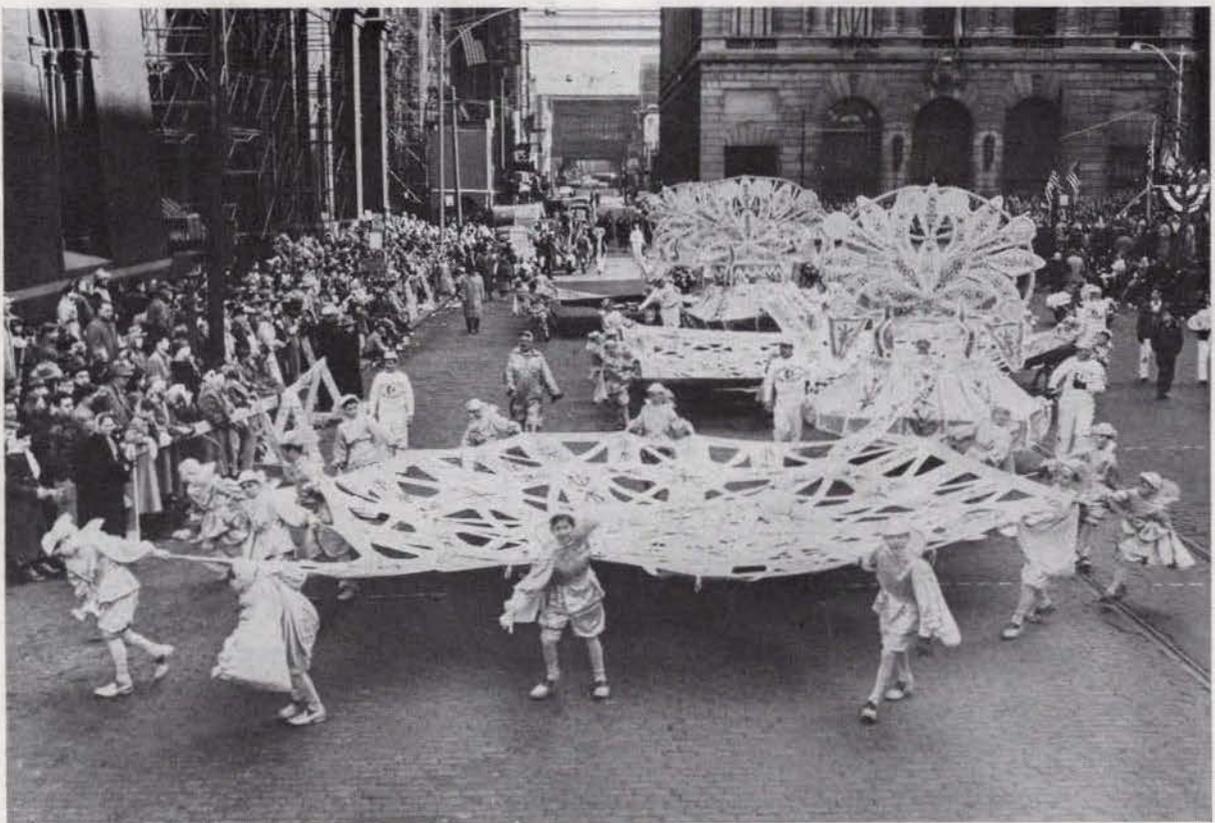
HEGEMAN STRING BAND — "BELLS OF ERIN"



CAPTAIN'S CAPE — S. D. WHEELER FANCY CLUB



**BROOMALL STRING BAND — "AUTUMN SERENADE"**



**CAPTAIN'S CAPE — KLEIN FANCY CLUB**



WOODLAND STRING BAND — "BY THE SEA"



AVALON STRING BAND — "BOUQUET OF ROSES"



**CAPTAIN PETER BROOMALL  
BROOMALL STRING BAND**



**CAPTAIN RAY GURT  
SOUTH PHILA. STRING BAND**



**CAPTAIN'S CAPE  
OREGON FANCY CLUB**



**CAPTAIN HOWARD PEOPLES  
KENSINGTON STRING BAND**



**CAPTAIN JOS. L. BRESSET  
WOODLAND STRING BAND**



**CAPTAIN ADAM QUAGLIA  
TRILBY STRING BAND**



**CAPTAIN RAYMOND ENDRISS  
QUAKER CITY STRING BAND**

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# Philadelphia New Year Shooters' and Mummers' Parade

OFFICIAL ROUTE: Broad & Porter Sts., up Broad St. to Broad St. & Girard  
Ave. Leave Broad & Porter Sts., 9:00 A.M. January 1.

If postponed: Saturday, January 2—same time—same route.

## *Program*

CORPS OF MOUNTED POLICEMEN

POLICE AND FIREMEN'S BAND

### *FANCY DIVISION*

1. HOG ISLAND FANCY CLUB  
Captain Robert Meimbresse
2. OREGON FANCY CLUB  
Captain James Gianfrancesco
3. CHARLES KLEIN FANCY CLUB  
Captain James Chambers
4. S. D. WHEELER FANCY CLUB  
Captain Frank Shay

### *COMIC DIVISION*

5. MURRAY COMIC CLUB  
Captain Daniel Herman
7. LIBERTY CLOWNS COMIC CLUB  
Captain Joseph Schultz
8. PHILIP HAMMOND COMIC CLUB  
Captain Philip Hammond
9. PURUL COMIC CLUB  
Captain John Purul

### *STRING BAND DIVISION*

10. CRESCENTVILLE STRING BAND  
Captain George Duffy  
THEME: "Wizard Of Oz"  
SONGS: Over The Rainbow
  12. AVALON STRING BAND  
Captain Harry Lawson  
THEME: "Artists From Moulin Rouge"  
SONGS: Avalon, Sunshine Of Your Smile,  
Where Is Your Heart
  13. QUAKER CITY STRING BAND  
Captain Ray Endriss  
THEME: "Alabama Jubilee"  
SONGS: Alabama Jubilee, Camptown  
Races, Kentucky Babe and Birth  
Of The Blues
  14. AQUA STRING BAND  
Captain Fred J. Kesel  
THEME: "A Bird In A Gilded Cage"  
SONGS: Listen To The Mocking Bird
-

*STRING BANDS — Continued*

**18. TRILBY STRING BAND**

**Captain Adam Quaglia**

THEME: "Eskimos"

SONGS: Sitting On Top Of The Wcrl'd,  
Deep Night, Sleigh Ride, Sunny  
Side Up

**19. SOUTH PHILADELPHIA STRING BAND**

**Captain Ray Gurt**

THEME: "Mummers' Dream"

SONGS: Drifting And Dreaming, Meet Me  
Tonight In Dreamland, Beauti-  
ful Dreamer, When My Dream-  
boat Comes Home

**21. POLISH AMERICAN STRING BAND**

**Captain Walter Krop**

THEME: "Mexican Hat Dance"

SONGS: Mexican Hat Dance, Clarinet  
Polka, Mammanez, La Cuchar-  
acha

**22. UPTOWN STRING BAND**

**Captain Robert Runkle**

THEME: "Out Of The Deep Blue Sea"

SONGS: How Deep Is The Ocean, By The  
Sea, Three Little Fishes, My Bon-  
nie Lies Over The Ocean, Over  
The Waves, String Of Pearls

**23. GREATER OVERBROOK STRING BAND**

**Captain Harry Straub**

THEME: "Knights Of The Rose"

SONGS: Red Roses For A Blue Lady, One  
Dozen Roses, Roses Of Picardy

**25. WOODLAND STRING BAND**

**Captain Joseph Bruecks**

THEME: "Princes Of Music"

SONGS: Mission Of St. Augustine, Bye —  
Bye Blues, Baby Face

**26. FRALINGER STRING BAND**

**Captain John J. Fralinger**

THEME "Eddie Cantor"

SONGS: If You Knew Susie Like I Know  
Susie, Now's The Time To Fall  
In Love, Ida, We Love To Spend  
This Hour With You, Margie

**27. FERKO STRING BAND**

**Captain Joseph Ferko**

THEME: Apple Blossoms"

SONGS: Apple Blossom Time, In The  
Shade Of The Old Apple Tree,  
Is There Still Room For Me Neath  
The Old Apple Tree, Love Every  
Moment You Live, Trees

**28. DURNING STRING BAND**

**Captain James Durning, Jr.**

THEME: "Bells Of St. Marys' "

SONGS: Bells Of St. Mary, Mission Bells,  
Vaya Con Dios

**29. BROOMALL STRING BAND**

**Captain Peter Broomall**

THEME: "Banjos On Parade"

SONGS: Oh, Susanna, Swanee, Camp-  
town Races, Banjo Song, Banjo  
Man

**30. GREATER KENSINGTON STRING BAND**

**Captain Harry Straub**

THEME: "Old Fashioned Garden"

SONGS: In A Garden Of Tomorrow, Lilacs  
In The Rain, Garden In The Rain,  
Lily Of The Valley, Daisies  
Won't Tell

**31. HEGEMAN STRING BAND**

**Captain Alfred Fink**

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SHOW OF SHOWS

CONVENTION HALL

FEBRUARY 2 - 3 - 4 - 16 - 17

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**CAPTAIN FRED J. KESEL — AQUA STRING BAND**



**KENSINGTON STRING BAND — "THE GYPSEY TRAIL"**



**POLISH AMERICAN STRING BAND — "THE VAGABOND KING"**



**AQUA STRING BAND — "FIESTA"**



CAPTAIN ROBERT RUNKLE — UPTOWN STRING BAND



FERKO STRING BAND — "MUSICAL GEMS"



**CAPTAIN HARRY LAWSON  
AVALON STRING BAND**



**SOUTH PHILADELPHIA STRING BAND  
"TOREADORS"**



**CAPTAIN JOHN J. FRALINGER  
FRALINGER STRING BAND**



**BRIGADE — OREGON FANCY CLUB**



**CAPTAIN JOSEPH FERKO  
FERKO STRING BAND**



**CAPTAIN AL FINK  
HEGEMAN STRING BAND**



**CAPTAIN WALTER KROP  
POLISH AMERICAN STRING BAND**



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FEATURE — PHILIP J. HAMMOND COMIC CLUB



CRESCENTVILLE STRING BAND — "TULIP TIME"

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Acheson Dispersed Pigments Company  
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Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butchers' Workmen of N. A. No. 198  
American Meter Company  
Alteneder, Theo. & Son  
Agnes, P.  
American Solder and Flux Company  
Automatic Temperature Control  
Apple Moving & Storage Company  
Adelta Mfg. Company

## B

Beneficial Savings Company  
Berliner, Jos. Company  
Brentwood Sportswear  
Broadvine Bar & Restaurant  
Brenneman, J. E. Company  
Boothby's Oyster House  
Bolder, S. & Company  
Brown's Cafe  
Bonstedt, W. G. & Company  
Bednarek, Stanley M.  
Black, M. Mfg. Company  
Blesi, Wm. J.  
Blanche, A. M.  
Bodine, Wm. W.  
Berry Brothers Buick  
Buttrick and Megary

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Camden Summer Clothing Mfg. Company  
Carnell and Bradburn  
Cherry - Levis Company  
Cloak & Skirt Workers Union  
Cancelmo, A.  
Colonial Floor Covering Company  
Clementine Machine Shop  
Chesterman - Leeland Company  
Counties Contracting & Construction Company  
Caldwell, J. E. & Company  
Cohen Dry Goods Company  
Colosey, Henry P.  
Consumer Salt Company  
Conley Equipment Company  
Creth & Sullivan, Inc.

## D

D'Ambley, A. Ernest  
D'Ambrosio, Edmund  
Di Enno, John  
Dunham, C. Trevor  
Dart Board Equipment Company  
Downes, George W.  
Dienelt & Eisenhardt  
Dairy Laboratories  
Daroff, Samuel H.  
Delaware Gasket & Machine Company

## E

Eastern Overall Cleaning Company  
Economy Dress Mfg. Company  
Electric Storage Battery Company  
Evans, George & Company  
Ellis, A. J. Construction Company  
Elco Printing & Advertising Company  
Eagle Brush Mfg. Company  
Eastern Boneless Beef Company  
Eckels, H. S. Company

## F

Farrell, Joseph L.  
Fastman, George & Son  
Ford & Kendig

Franklin Research Company  
Franklin Auto Glass Company  
Fitzpatrick Funeral Home

## G

Gassner, Thos. S. & Company, Inc.  
Grass, John - Wood Turning Company  
Gray & Rogers  
General Electric Company  
Great Eastern Sales Company  
George's Restaurant  
Gluck, S. & Company  
Grimm, Wm.

## H

Hamilton Court Hotel  
Honorbilt Products  
Holmes, Archibald & Son  
Harvey Leather Company  
Hoffman, Chris  
Hotel Lafayette  
Howell Convalescent Home  
Hooper Paper & Twine Company  
Hoedt Studios  
Hoffman, A. & E.

## I

Ianelli, Emilio

## K

Keystone Adjustable Cap Company  
Klingel, Wilson & Schmid  
Keystone Rendering  
King Laundry  
Kuljian Corp.

## L

Lumber & Millwork Co. of Phila.  
Lukens Trucking Corp. of Phila.  
Levey, Frederick H. Company  
Leon's Cigars  
Leonetti's Flower Shop

## Mc

McArdle & Cooney  
McHugh, M. & J.  
McCloskey, J. E. Company

## M

Margerum, Wm. B.  
Matt & Joe's Taproom  
Mobilier's Apothecary  
Mallo, John  
Miller Transport Company  
Montgomery, Wm. Company  
Morris, J. G. (Wise Potato Chips)  
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Mitchell, W. K. Company  
Madeira, Percy C., Jr.  
Main Belting Company  
Murphy, Quigley & Company  
Melrose Diner  
Missmer-Wood-Narcissa Dairies  
Mann, Oscar Company

## N

National Refractories  
Noll, Charles, Inc.  
Nittinger, Russell E., Inc.  
National Decalomania Corp.  
Nannette Mfg. Company

## O

Oliver Brothers  
Oregon Bar

## P

Packard - Frankford  
Penn Syrup Corp.  
Pennsylvania Flexible Metallic Tubing Co.  
Petzold, Adolph F.  
Perloff Brothers  
Passayunk Laundry

Passon's Sport Centre  
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Philadelphia Pants Company  
Philadelphia Badge Company  
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## Q

Quaker City Hide Company  
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## R

Retzell Auto Parts  
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Rabiger - Kramer Company  
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Remmey, R. C. & Son Company  
Rosenau Brothers  
Ross - Tacony Crucible Company

## S

Samuel Brothers  
Scheidt, Adam Brewing Company  
Shaw, Wm. R.  
Simonds Abrasive Company  
State Paving & Construction Company  
Schuman, O. P. & Son  
Selas Corp. of America  
Sharkey's Cafe  
Shatz, Norman C. Company  
Spruance, Gilbert Company  
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Stromeyer, J. Company  
Service Bindery  
Sterling Supply Corp.  
Seiler, Karl & Sons  
Sarah's Dress Shop  
Shumoski, Stanley  
Spike, Joe  
South American Wools Company  
Stein's Department Store  
Samuel Brothers

## T

Thomas Textile Service  
Tel - Aviv Villa for Elderly People  
Tanzola, Wm. B.  
Twining, John E.  
Turner Construction Company

## V

Vandergrift & Company  
Vita Pelt  
Venuto, Jos.

## W

Wark & Company  
Wayne Mills  
White, S. S. Dental Mfg. Company  
Wagner, Chas. A. Paper Company  
Wertheimer & Company  
Whiting Paper Company  
Winthrop, Samuel & Sons  
Williams, Herbert S.  
Wilson, H. M. Company  
Ward & Ward  
Ward, D. L. Paper Company  
Welded Tube Company of America

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Zabel Brothers  
Zarra, Jos.



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CRESCENTVILLE STRING BAND**



**CAPTAIN HARRY STRAUB  
GREATER OVERBROOK STRING BAND**



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