

## Cardy's

By Artie Maglionico

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Since 1922 Cardy's Sugar Bowl, located on Union Street in Lodi, has been serving children of all ages and continues to do so even as you read this. A customer will find everything from chocolate egg creams to T-shirts that tell you, jokingly, to "Have a Bad Day." Cardy's has spent over 100 years making a child's candy-coated dreams come true. The Cardy's legacy has been handed down over the years to its current proprietor Vincent "Benson" Cardazone.

Cardy's was a favorite childhood haunt for the kids from the Wilson School area. Benson remembers most of them by name, including my cousins, Philip and his kid brother, Richard. Other frequent patrons include Eddie Brigati of the rock group The Rascals, Joey Dee and the Star Lighters, Jerry Only of the Misfits and, of course, me and my cousin, Anthony Mags.

Cardy's, to my knowledge, is among the few places left that offers ice cream sodas and a seat at the counter to enjoy them. It might be difficult to find an empty bar stool since most of them are occupied by boxes of candy bars and bubble gum, much to a kid's delight. "We don't get as many children lately," says Benson. "Most of them stay home on their computers. We do get some young people from Hasbrouck Heights and surrounding towns."

For us "older kids," Cardy's takes us back to the Lodi we grew up in. Places like Humphries Pizza, Tony's Pool Room, Carvel, the "Lot," Panamas, as well as the whole of Lodi's once glorious and legendary Main Street -- all gone now and vanished forever into the fog of history. Cardy's, like Curioni's Pizza on Liberty Street, remains a monument of the past, a living monument if you will, that gives us a sentimental sigh in knowing that they still exist if only for the present moment. Yes, that's how I felt on my recent trip to Cardy's with my Cousin Anthony. Perhaps the past is the future in disguise after all.

In Memory of Vincent "Benson" Cardazone.