



Edward David Angelaccio

June 10, 1946 - January 24, 2025

By Ryan Richards: September 23, 2021 at 9:16 AM EDT

When Ed Angelaccio says his father was a cut above the rest, it is no mere boast.

“My father was a world-renowned hair stylist,” he claims. “I remember him saying he had done [the hair of] Miss America.”

The beauty queen was Dorothy Hann, who was crowned during an unofficial pageant in 1932 in Wildwood (the sanctioned Miss America Pageant was canceled that year due to the Depression).

Angelaccio removes from a briefcase a creased black-and-white photo of Hann and next to him is a dapper young man styling her hair.

The Penn Valley resident pulls out another photo, also creased and worn, depicting Hann in a one-piece swimsuit. It is signed, “To my faithful hairdresser, Mr. Roy.”

Although “Mr. Roy,” as his father was known in salon circles, died in 1975 at age 68, his son’s memories of his influence on the Main Line are as fresh as the scent of talcum powder.

His father was born in America in 1908 but emigrated with his family to his ancestral Italy as a 1-year-old. When he returned to the United States he spoke little English and, although he was 16, was placed in first grade to learn English and other basic lessons.

“I guess he could beat up anybody in his class,” jokes his son.

In his teens, with only a third-grade education, his father became a skilled woodworker due to earlier training from one of his grandfathers, remembers his son.

But he would soon practice another skill taught to him by his other grandfather in the old country – hair-cutting.

He landed a job at John Wanamaker’s in Center City as a hairdresser and earned a reputation for cutting-edge styles. His flair for hair, in fact, landed him a Master’s Cup, a national honor, for styling during a 1939 competition at the then-named Bellevue Stratford Hotel in the city.

“Dad was the ‘in’ thing as far as hairstyling was concerned back in the ’30s,” says his son. “Everybody had to go to Roy.”

And that included Ruth Swain, a Wanamaker’s sales clerk from South Philly and Mr. Roy regular. “He fell in love with her,” says his son, and they married.

According to Ed, at the end of the 1930s a client suggested to Roy he should open his own salon on the Main Line, where many of his customers lived and beauty shops were few. So he and Ruth packed up and moved to Narberth.

“They rented a little apartment and opened up his first beauty shop,” says

Angelaccio.

The area at the time was sparsely developed. Albrecht's Flowers & Nursery with its exotic facade was next door, and on the corner was Dannenhauer's Apothecary. But Narberth was better known for its history than as a commercial hub back then. A nearby monument honors the September 1777 encampment of Gen. George Washington and the Continental Army just before the winter encampment at Valley Forge. A Quaker meetinghouse nearby once hosted William Penn. And across the street is the 1803 house owned by Joseph Price, a Quaker farmer, innkeeper, carpenter and "patriot."

Located on the 700 block of Montgomery Avenue in Narberth, Roy's Hairstyling Salon was below the family's apartment. (The original salon is today Meg & Company Salon.) Ruth worked with him as a manicurist and shampooer while raising her children. Ed and his older sister, Ruth, worked in the salon as children. Ed's duties included sweeping and taking out the rollers from clients' hair.

Roy's reputation attracted heads of industry and finance as well as socialites and politically influential women. Ed recollects the names of some of his pop's clients, such as "Aunt Connie," as she was known in the shop. Her last name was "Pew," as in the founders of the Sun Oil Co.

He also believes his dad's customers included the Strawbridges of Strawbridge & Clothier fame.

"It's better than a vague assumption," says his son.

His dad also cut the hair of another well-known Main Line matron.

“My dad did Grace Kelly’s mother’s hair,” he recalls.

He remembers the butlers and chauffeurs who would accompany the wealthy women. And inside the wood-paneled, un-air-conditioned salon customers would be attended by Mr. Roy’s well-dressed staff (the women were required to wear heavily starched, high-collared cotton uniforms). His dad, meanwhile, always came to work in a tie, white shirt, leather shoes and heavy trousers – even in the summer.

Each stylist worked in individual booths with curtains for privacy, No open chairs, says Ed, as women of stature would not want to be spotted having their hair colored or getting a permanent wave.

His dad also cut men’s hair but after hours since unisex salons did not exist.

In the mid- to late 1940s Ed’s parents purchased the salon and its adjoining properties, which included an arcade, for \$10,000 and opened an expanded salon.

Ed, a 1965 Harriton High graduate who eventually cut hair with his father, says after he returned from serving in the Air Force during the Vietnam War he encouraged his parents to demolish the aging storefronts and build anew as an investment.

“Every time I brought it up he would say ‘no, no, no,’” he recalls.

But after initial apprehension his parents agreed and constructed a new building in 1974. His mom named it Meeting House Centre after a nearby street.

He credits both his mother and father for the success of the salon.

“Behind every successful man is a great woman,” relates Ed. “She had this real good business sense.”

Ed, who today manages the property, likes to think that the new building spurred future growth in Narberth, a sort of commercial renaissance.

“There was a lot of commercial building... and renovating going on to spruce up the area,” he says.

Walking around the perimeter of Meeting House Centre, Ed, who is in his early 60s and whose Subaru sports a “NARB” license plate, points out the second-floor tile medallion featuring a wooden ship saved from the old structure, the original sidewalk he played on as a child and the 80-space parking lot that was once a dirt lot and site of his makeshift playground where he would act out cowboy and Indian wars.

He nods toward a small plaque embedded in the rear exterior wall. On it states, “Dedicated to Ruth & Americo (Roy) Angelaccio”... “A Grateful Son... Never Forgets.”

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Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 3. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Chadwick & McKinney Funeral Home, Inc.
30 East Athens Avenue
Ardmore, PA 19003
(610) 642-6303

Tribute Wall

SP

“ *Ed Angelaccio's Family & Friends,
My Deepest Sympathy for the Loss of a Great Man who could
always provide the Humor & History of Everyone He Knew and had
Interacted with in life. He was a respected Voice that everyone
Loved and Appreciated on All Subjects & All People. I am sorry that
I was not closer to Him during our time at Harriton High School and
Adult Lives. I knew that he was sick but I did not know the
seriousness of his illness and I give my deepest condolences to
Ed's Family & Friends. Ed Please Rest In Peace and I will be
Joining You Very Shortly.
Respectfully Submitted with Condolences,
Steve Persson
Your Classmate HHS 1965*

Steve Persson - April 10, 2025 at 11:55 AM

Y,

“ *Your sister ,Ruth purchased the Divine Peace Bo
uquet for the family of Edward David Angelaccio.*



Your sister ,Ruth - January 31, 2025 at 08:40 PM

SS

“ Edward ‘s father was my mother’s, (Dora Angelaccio Dattilo), brother along with Mario, Emilia and Claire. I was glad to reconnect with my cousin last year. He was such an amazing photographer and gifted guitar and banjo player. He played with such greats as Chet Atkins, The Beach Boys, and The Nitty Gritty Birt Band. He tried to teach me to play the guitar with no luck, we had a good laugh about that. I always enjoyed his sense of humor. I loved going to the shop and remember doing a large painting of a woman’s face with very long flowing hair that he kept in the salon until he sold it. He had a very full life, and I am glad he is not suffering any more from Lymes disease. Rest in peace, cousin. Love you, Sandra.

Sandra Stecher - January 30, 2025 at 05:22 PM

MN

“ I was a friend, business associate and limited confidant of Ed Angelaccio, AKA Ed Angelo. I met Ed in the late 1980's through his neighbors(my wife's father and step mother), who lived across the street, at a gathering in their home. We immediately hit it off. We interacted at numerous diners and events on and off through the years until recently when I consulted on various projects at Meeting House Center. We shared a love of music(Ed was always generous with his time helping me), art and a whacky sense of humor. Ed was an amazing guitarist, musician, artistic photographer, fitness enthusiast, Vietnam Vet., business man, beautician, meticulous home owner and loving son. I had tremendous respect for him but also honored his boundaries. He was a private person, although I was aware of his long time health issues which were a challenge for him through the years and which he faced with great courage. Whenever I think of him he brings a smile to my face. My wife and I have wonderful memories of our time with Ed. He was compassionate and selfless on so many levels. R.I.P my friend, you will be missed.

Michael Nardi - January 28, 2025 at 07:25 PM

RM

*Thank you for being Ed's Friend .
Ruth Angelo Mallek
Ed's sister*

Ruth Mallek - January 29, 2025 at 03:51 PM

LP

“ *Uncle Ed became a closer friend after we graduated Harriton together. An active member of the Class of 1965 alumni group, he arranged many of the reunions and kept in touch with many classmates after he returned from the Air Force and began working in his Dad's salon and managing his properties. Of course, he remained very involved in the music world, collecting guitars and making music industry friends along the way. When I retired in 2017, Ed helped me purchase my first bass guitar and was very supportive in helping me find a teacher. Many people do not know that Ed was instrumental in inventing a way of fixing helicopters when he served in Vietnam. His invention was patented and is still used. Ed was a canny businessman and extremely charitable with both his time and his donations. He also enjoyed hearty Italian dinners but kept his "figure" with serious workouts until he could no longer keep going due to illnesses. One always knew where you stood with Uncle Ed.*

Leslie Pugach - January 27, 2025 at 04:38 PM

RM

*Thank you for being his friend .
Ruth Angelo Mallek
Ed's sister*

Ruth Mallek - January 29, 2025 at 03:54 PM

R)

You Did it ,Brother ! You made a "silk purse out of a sow's ear " and proved your abilities.

Ruth Angelaccio (Angelo)Mallek - January 31, 2025 at 09:04 PM

AL

“ Ed was the best neighbor and family friend of the Leonard family since 1971. He took great care to check on Fred and Viv in their later years. His devoted craft as a hairstylist was shared with Fred, Viv and myself, their daughter-in-law, Anne Leonard. He was my hairstylist for 25 years and became a good friend. Sitting in his chair for two hours every six weeks was always interesting. Ed experienced so many amazing things in his life. His greatest love was playing his many guitars. He will be greatly missed by me.

Anne Leonard - January 27, 2025 at 01:17 PM

RM

*Thank you for your posting .
Ruth Angelo Mallek
Ed's sister*

Ruth Mallek - January 29, 2025 at 05:26 PM

WJ

Just heard of Ed's passing. What a loss.. He will be missed.

Walter Weir January 31, 2025

Walter Weir, Jr. - January 31, 2025 at 09:52 AM

LO

*Ed was a great guy. I have known Ed for over 27 years. We are a tenant in the building. He was always there if we needed anything. He was helpful. We will miss him and all the laughs we had in the store.
Lou Marchese*

Louis - February 03, 2025 at 10:48 AM

JL

I tried to call Ed last week, and when I could not contact him, I began to get an uneasy feeling, just now sadly confirmed. Ed was a lifelong friend; we met in 1964, when he joined my rock band as a vocalist and lead guitar player. We lost touch after high school, but re-connected in the early 00's, and I am so glad we did. He and I continued to share our passion for music despite geographical separation (he in the Philly area, me on the west coast) with long phone calls and occasional visits. This time, we hadn't talked in a while (a year?)...it hurts my soul to realize we'll never get to again. If there is a Big Recording Studio in the sky, I know Ed will be in it, knocking out another of his lovely guitar arrangements. Amen to all the other things folks have shared about him above, viz., his skill as a photographer, his many interesting travels and experiences, his business acumen, etc. Condolences to his family as well.

John Light

John Light - January 17 at 02:32 PM