

Milestones

Craft Chiropractic - 50 Years

When we consider the businesses that make up our community, we often forget those in health care. When one of those offices celebrates fifty years of service, it deserves to be recognized. Such is the case with **Craft Chiropractic Associates** of 38 North Main Street in Ellenville.

In August 1953, Dr. Richard H. Craft returned to his hometown of Ellenville to open his chiropractic office. He began practice in his parents' living room at the corner of **Ann & Warren Streets**. With help from the family of his bride, the former Dale McDole, the newlyweds returned from their honeymoon in September 1953 to find their home and office combination at North Main ready to move into. **Craft Chiropractic** remains at the same location fifty years later.

When you look at the current office, you can hardly imagine this practice's humble beginnings. The original office consisted of one treatment room, a reception area, and a restroom. The Crafts lived in a three-room apartment in the rear of the building, with a rented apartment above the office, which helped pay the monthly mortgage.

Three-and-a-half years after graduating *Ellenville High School* and three-and-a-half years of chiropractic college in New York City, Dr. Richard Craft began his fifty-year-long career in chiropractic medicine.

Mrs. Craft had graduated from *Ellenville High School* in 1951, one year after her husband. She graduated from New York City's Katherine Gibbs Business School and returned to Ellenville as secretary to the president of the *Home National Bank*, the predecessor of the *Ellenville National Bank*.

Many chiropractors failed in practice during the 1950s. With diligence, hard work, and tremendous community support, Dr. Craft's practice survived. As his practice and family grew, the Crafts moved from their small apartment to a home in Wawarsing where they still reside. Two of the Crafts' three children still live in the Town of Wawarsing.

Several remodels of the office at 38 N. Main Street have occurred. The most ambitious one being in 1984 to make room for the addition of his son, Dr. Mark Craft, and Mark's wife, Dr. Allise Marter, to the practice. At that time, 1600 square feet were added to the structure. Six treatment rooms, an x-ray room, handicap accessibility, and a lounge area for the staff were added. Three years ago, the business area and reception area were remodeled. This year, some minor alterations were made in the business area to comply with the new HIPAA regulations



The medical staff of Craft Chiropractic, from left to right: Dr. Allise Marter, Dr. Mark Craft, Dr. Richard Craft, and Dr. Joseph Grable.

imposed by the federal government.

In 2000, Dr. Joseph Grable, of the **Maple Avenue Grables**, graduated from the Los Angeles College of Chiropractic and returned to Ellenville to join the staff of **Craft Chiropractic Associates**. The addition of Dr. Grable has been well received.

After fifty years in practice, when many of his contemporaries have retired, Dr. Richard Craft continues to attend postgraduate courses and spend hours in health related studies. As health care and chiropractic have evolved, so has **Craft Chiropractic**. This is a practice where all the doctors invest time in continuing education. With the average patient traveling within a thirty-mile radius, **Craft Chiropractic** has treated 20,000 patients over the past fifty years.

As well as being active in local and state level chiropractic organizations, Dr. Richard Craft has long been involved in many community organizations. He has been a long time member of both the *Noonday Club* and the *Wawarsing Sportsman's Club*. He has been honored by these organizations as "Citizen of the Year" and "Sportsman of the Year."

Always proud of his community and the accomplishments of its people, several years ago he spearheaded the organization of the *Ellenville Wawarsing Alumni Association*. This organization allows past and present residents an opportunity to keep in touch with their community and friends. Dr. Richard Craft is presently finishing his second term as the Supervisor of the Town of Wawarsing with many accomplishments to his administration's credit. He remains in practice on a part-time basis. ➔

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