

## A Village Trustee

by Dr. Hadley S. DePuy

My grandsons are such teases. For example, little six-year-old John and I were on the phone the other day, when he answered my question, "How are you, John?" by saying the following: "We're making do, Grandpa. It's been tough since mother went to prison but she's out now, and I'm sure we'll be fed again soon."

My jaw hit the floor. Our daughter-in-law Mary is a paragon of proper decorum. Prison? That can't be! But before I could get over the shock of John's opening bombshell, he went on.

"Pop has been busy so Luis and I have been on our own since mother's prison sentence began. We have nothing to wear and I have only one sock left. We're so poor we have to do our homework by candlelight. I wish you were here, Grandpa. I'm sure you would feed us." I could hear my son laughing in the background.

Later in our telephone conversation John asked me, in a very serious voice, "What was your father's name, Grandpa? What was he like? We are studying family and I need to know this stuff."

"John, your great-grandfather was named Cyrus DePuy. He lived in a small village in New York State named Ellenville. He was a very good man, well respected by almost everyone who knew him.

"It's interesting that you would ask about him right now, because March was an important month for my father. Not only was it his birth month, but it was in March that he was elected a Village Trustee, fifty-eight years ago.

"In Ellenville, John, Village Trustees govern the people. For the most part, Village Trustees are people who try to do a good job and deserve respect.

"To be elected to such a position was an important achievement for my father who had to overcome so many challenges. Born on a dairy farm in Kyserike, New York (near Accord), he was forced to bed for two years and lost much of the use of his left arm when he came down with polio at your age, John. He was taken out of school at the end of the fourth grade to work on his father's farm, lost a young wife and child during childbirth, lost everything in the Great Depression, and lost his job and retirement when the *O & W Railroad* folded in 1957.

"But your great-grandfather


achieved much in life by being hard-working, honest, religious, loving, and courageous. He was one of the wisest men I've met. He and my mother had a great run for forty-nine years. And he was a wonderful father who treasured the love his son has for him.

"What do you think of that John? Wasn't he a special person?"

"I don't know, Grandpa. What did a Village Trustee do in those olden times?"

"There was much to do. Ellenville wasn't the magnificent place it is now. In those days people complained about taxes, schools, politics, safety, business, irresponsible youth, the unattractiveness of the village, and the water in Napanoch. Can't you see how things are so much better sixty years later?"

There was silence on the other end of the phone. Then John said, "I guess great-grandfather was a good man even though he never went to prison. Maybe I'll name my next cat Cyrus so we won't forget about him."

Name a cat after my father? Can't think of a finer honor to contemplate this March. He'd like that better than having a street named for him. 

## Elections March 15<sup>th</sup>

Ellenville voters can exercise their franchise on **March 15<sup>th</sup>** from **12 Noon to 9 PM** in this year's village elections.

Incumbent Mayor *Jeffrey Kaplan* is running unopposed for mayor as he completes his first two-year term. He is running on the Democratic and Clean Sweep lines.

Four candidates are running for two two-year seats on the Village Board as trustees. In alphabetical order, the candidates are:

*Steven Krulick*, completing a one-year term filling a vacancy, a Green running on the Democratic and Clean Sweep lines.

*Ruben Torres*, running on the Republican line, "A."

*Gloria Weiner*, also running as a Republican.

*Raymond Younger*, elected in 2003, and former mayor, on the Democratic and Clean Sweep lines.

Polling places are:

**District 1: Kimble Hose Fire House, Berme Rd.**

**District 2: Christ Lutheran Church, Ann & Center Streets.**

**District 3: Town Hall, Canal Street**

**District 4: United Methodist Church, Canal Street** 

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