

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

As a former Ellenvillian (I migrated west to Los Angeles in 1958 after graduating from *Ellenville High School*), and an occasional visitor to my old hometown, I am enthusiastic about the upcoming event in 2006.

Off the top of my head, I can think of a few ideas that will make the 6-month-long celebration more of a success.

Certainly, for all those city dwellers who seldom if ever see more than the brick buildings that surround them, the open country, with its farms, streams, lakes, hiking paths, splendid views from the mountains, and the mountains themselves, will provide lots of joy.

Yes, it is important that the local residents spruce up their homes and sidewalks and plant a few more flowers. This also applies to the Ellenville schools, which will be the focus of so many activities.

You have back there an abundance of assets which can be taken advantage of to insure that the hundreds, if not thousands, of guests will leave with good feelings about the town, the friends and acquaintances they will meet for the first time in years, former school teachers, etc. Reminiscing will be the order of the day during these six months prior to the August 27, 2006, date.

I would also suggest that where there are empty lots that replaced the once thriving businesses, perhaps temporary stores (using tents), could be constructed. I'm sure you folks back there can think of how to fill them.

You also have available several large hotels, which, could add a diversion to those folks who would like a good meal in pleasant surroundings, see a show or two geared towards Ellenville themes, maybe even take advantage of the indoor/outdoor pools, ice skating rinks, and other amenities. Even a cocktail party (or two), whether indoors or outdoors, would be a pleasant way to spend a warm summer evening.

But the most important ingredient of its success, will, in my opinion, be that all the inhabitants who reside in Wawarsing currently, maintain a positive attitude about their lives in the area, and their hopes for the future. It's nice to be nostalgic, but the reality is in the future.

This *Wawarsing.Net* magazine could, and should, be the informative source for all who arrive, as to all that will be available to them to enjoy, and relive the pleasant moments when they considered the area their home.

Joel Levitz
Los Angeles, California

To the Editor:

In 1950, as a 10-year-old, my family spent the summer at *Grosch's Bungalow Colony*. I remember the ESSO gas station owned by the Markowitz Brothers and the general store/post office across the street next to the bridge. As a college student I had a friend that worked at the Jefferson Hotel and his girlfriend, later his wife, at the A&P in Ellenville. I also had an elementary school classmate whose family migrated to Ellenville in the early 1950's. It was indeed a pleasure to share a piece of nostalgia. My first cousin, who I shall keep nameless, was a graduate of *Ellenville High School* in 1957. She had resided in Accord. Thanks for the look back.

Gary S. Schreiberman
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To the Editor:

My friend Marie Bilney and I have been doing research on one of the original *Cragsmoor Art Colony*

artists, Carroll Butler Brown (1868-1923). My husband and I own the house built on the mountain that is registered in the Historical Houses of Cragsmoor. His aunt and uncle, Kenneth and Helen Clark, were the 3rd owners of the house named by Brown as the "Falcon" until their deaths in the early 1980s.

As is commonly known, Carroll Brown was a contemporary of the most famous artist from that colony, Edward Lamson Henry.

During our research, my grand-daughter Emily August (age 13, of Centreville, Virginia) became interested and helped me access Internet information. She enjoyed looking at the E.L. Henry paintings, some of which she also saw at the *Ellenville Museum*.

As an art class project, she wrote a poem to go along with one of his paintings.

I thought your magazine might be interested in printing this, as I noticed it does print some poems from local children. She's not local, but has visited Cragsmoor and Ellenville several times and always enjoys her time spent there.

Christina Clark
Hamburg, New Jersey

A Hard Road to Travel

by Emily August

(Based on E. L. Henry's painting,
A Hard Road to Travel, photo below)

I've got a road to travel,
A hard one it shall be.
It's only made of pebbles,
And narrow, as you see.

It's quiet in these woodlands,
The only noise I hear,
Are sounds of horse hooves trotting,
And crackling leaves from deer.

There's open fields around me,
And scattered here and there,
Are shallow streams for drinking,
For animals to share.

There's mountains in the distance,
And leaves upon the ground,
The wind is whipping quickly,
And makes them fly around.

The sun is slowly leaving,
And setting in the West,
I might not beat the darkness,
But I shall try my best.

I've got a road to travel,
A long one it shall be.
I'm going on a journey,
To where I will be free.

