

VILLAGE VIEWS

TERRACE PARK • OHIO

SPECIAL ISSUE

A Grateful Village Says Thank You, Ellis Rawnsley

by Camilla Warrick

In a village that expects volunteerism, Ellis Rawnsley has surpassed all expectations.

For 51 years he has been giving himself--quietly, and professionally--to this community. Without doubt, the quality of life here has been influenced by his devotion.

The next time you hear a siren, think of Rawnsley. He was one of the founders of the volunteer fire department and life squad. He served 25 years, including eight as chief.

The next time you pick up a Village Views, think of Rawnsley. He's been associated with this monthly paper since its launching in 1969 and editor for the past 15 years. This fall he turned those responsibilities over to Kathy Startzman, but continues to cover the workings of council.

The next time you see a Cub Scout in uniform, think of Rawnsley. He and his late wife, Bonnie, and Grace Siegel organized the troop in 1943, and he was its first cubmaster.

Other mainstays of life in the village--the Christmas tree lighting party, the pancake supper, the local phone directory--these, too, bear the Rawnsley mark. The police station/administration building was also named in his honor because of his gifts of time and land.

For his many contributions to Terrace Park and particularly his work on Village Views, he was celebrated with a tea at the community center on Sunday, November 17.

If you have never met this man, with his snow-white hair, bushy eyebrows and gentle, self-effacing humor, try hanging out at the post office, mid-mornings. Although he could have his mail delivered free, he prefers to pay for a box for the pleasure of making the daily trip.

The post office is also a good place for gathering information. This matters to a veteran newspaperman. Before his retirement from the Cincinnati Enquirer, he did almost everything one can in a newsroom. But he was probably best known for his tips on gardening. The American Seed Trade Association named him the outstanding newspaper garden editor in '59. Other horticulture organizations similarly honored him.

The Rawnsleys' introduction to Terrace Park was a version of love-at-first-sight. They'd been living in Cheviot, but came here frequently

to visit newspaper buddies, Woody Clark, Pete Koch and Frank Grayson. One weekend in 1940 they noticed a house on Wooster Pike tucked behind evergreens with a For Sale sign in front of it.

Rawnsley had almost everything going for him--a solid job, a young, eager family and interest in this place. But, as he tells it, he lacked money. That didn't matter to the real estate agent, who talked

him up to the seller. A week later the house, at 717 Wooster Pike, was theirs.

So began a remarkable legacy of community involvement. Both Bonnie and Ellis were active at St.

Thomas Episcopal Church. Bonnie, who died in 1990, taught Sunday school for 13 years, worked in women's groups, sewing thousands of cloth balls for babies, making gifts for nursing home residents and assisting the Salvation Army. She was also a president of the local PTA and an officer of the Hamilton County association.

However, according to her husband, her greatest contribution may have been unofficial. She served as a kind of family psychiatrist to dozens of people, who discovered that she was a caring listener. People who grew up with the Rawnsleys' three children described them as second parents.

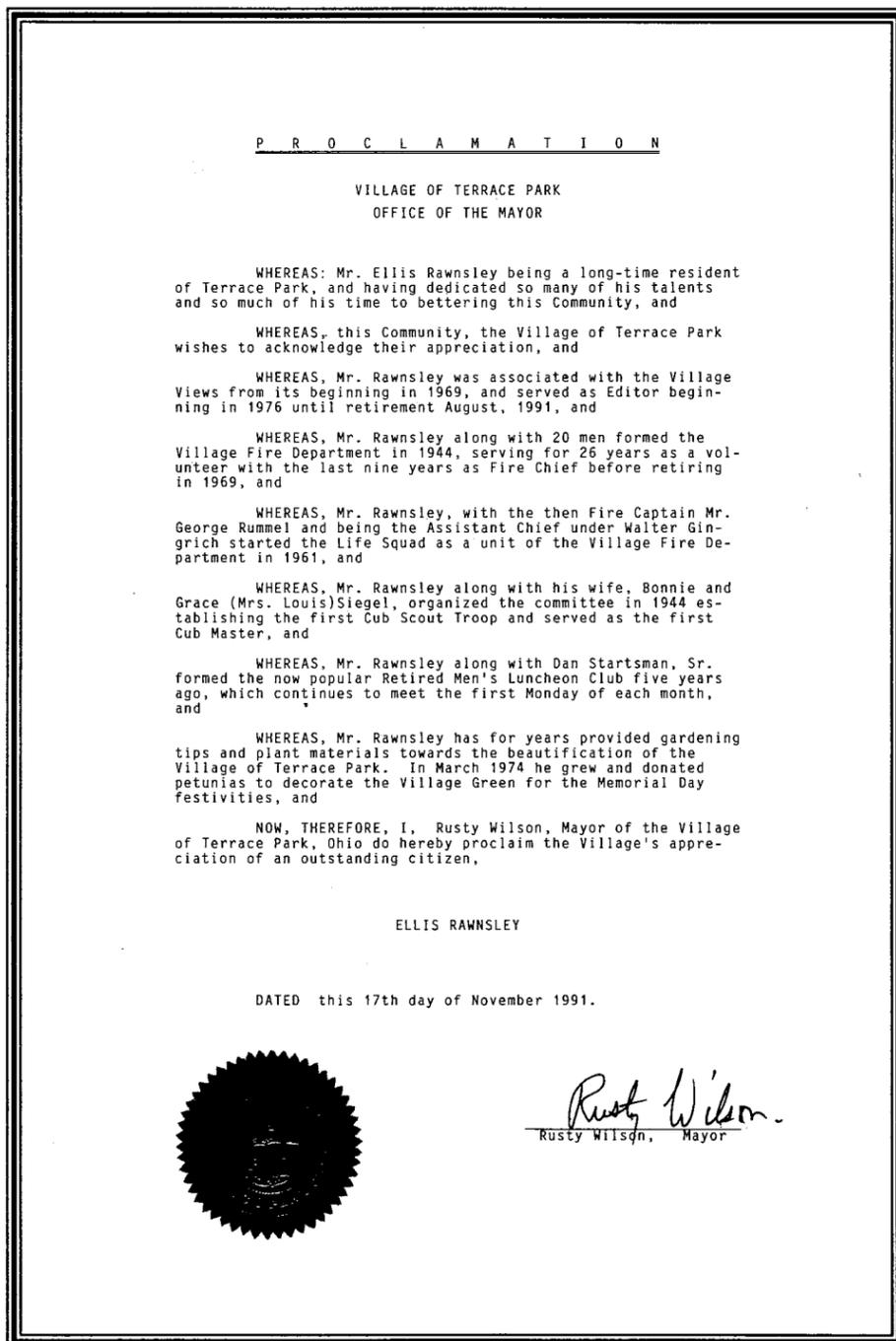
Rawnsley is a native of Yorkshire, England, where he lived until he was 13. For a kid who was used to World War I rationings of "horsemeat and rhubarb leaves," the trip over by ship, with its bounty of fresh fruit, was awe-inspiring. His father suggested they should have gotten tickets for Australia--to make the feast last longer.

Rawnsley's British accent was "polluted," he says, by spending the remainder of his childhood in Passaic, N.J., where his father supervised a lumberyard. During high school, he worked on a newspaper. After graduation, he was hired by the Associated Press to cover a textile strike, then the state legislature.

These were supposed to be temporary stints. But his performance led to a fulltime job. He met Bonnie while working in Pittsburgh. They came to Cincinnati when Ellis was asked to head the local AP bureau. From AP, he went to the Times-Star and finally the Enquirer.

Rawnsley's retirement from the editorship of Village Views is allowing him the time he needs to write the history of Terrace Park. He plans to have it finished in time for the 1992 centennial celebration of the village's incorporation. He's already authored the history of St. Thomas Church, a fascinating and informative narrative.

Rawnsley is an avid reader, an attentive grandfather and great-grandfather, a night owl and a generous gardener. His flower and vegetable seedlings have brightened countless village yards.





Twenty-eight \$100 bills provided foliage for the tree that grew from contributions given by grateful village residents. The E Pluribus Unum Rawnsley species (Latin for "one from many for Rawnsley") brought tears to the retired editor's eyes. In offering his thanks, he recognized Louise Bush, at left, whom he called "the mother of Village Views." Mrs. Bush, who lives in a Hyde Park nursing home, was co-founder of the publication.



Rusty Wilson, acting mayor, read a proclamation that declared Ellis Rawnsley Day in Terrace Park. Next, Lynn Nelson, on behalf of the Terrace Park Garden Club, presented honorary membership to Ellis in appreciation of his support for the organization and generosity with gardening tips and plantings. She said he is believed to be the first male admitted into the organization's membership. Ann Lindell brought greetings from South America in a letter by Ricki Schmidt, former associate editor of Village Views.



by Sue Porter

More than 200 people from as far away as Raleigh, N.C., and as nearby as next door gathered at the Community Building Sunday, Nov. 17, to honor Ellis Rawnsley, citizen extraordinaire.

The reception marked his retirement as longtime editor of the Village Views and was organized by the newspaper's staff, Terrace Park Garden Club and others from the community.

"I've been practicing blushing all week," Ellis joked as he greeted well-wishers. But by the time the presentations were over, the color in his cheeks wasn't nearly as noticeable as the mist in his eyes.



Dave Pannkuk, center, led a chorus of well-wishers in lyrics written for the occasion by Pat Matchette to the tune of a Gilbert and Sullivan number.

The guest of honor, center back, is joined by his children: from left - Mary Lou Eyché, Raleigh, N.C.; David Rawnsley, Lebanon; and Virginia Fenton, Lansing, N.Y. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren were also on hand.



Kathy Startzman, who has succeeded Ellis as editor of Village Views, was chairman of the event and program emcee.

A TRIBUTE TO ELLIS RAWNSLEY

(With apologies to his former countrymen, Gilbert and Sullivan!)

Solo: Dear friends we've gathered here today,
Our tribute to a worthy man to pay.
Well known, of course, is his nose for news.
He has lent a different odor to the Village Views.
Chorus: He has lent a different odor to the Village Views.
Solo: For fifteen years as our editor
He's given all he's got, so who could ask for more!
Chorus: For fifteen years as our editor
He's given all he's got, so who could ask for more.

Solo: When snooping all around the town
He scooped up all the dirt that could be found.
He cleaned it up (oh, so carefully)
That his newspaper became a lovely thing to see.
Chorus: That his newspaper became a lovely thing to see.
Solo: But now he's laying down his pen.
We wish that he would take it up and start again.
Chorus: But now he's laying down his pen.
We wish that he would take it up and start again.

Solo: Now there's much more that we can sing.
We wouldn't want to miss a single thing.
As citizen, and gardener, grand;
As friendly neighbor, and donor of land;
Chorus: As friendly neighbor, and donor of land;
Solo: For Ellis Rawnsley and the village are one!
So let's stand and give a hand
And thanks for all he's done.
Chorus: For Ellis Rawnsley and the village are one!
So let's stand and give a hand
And thanks for all he's done.

Music: When I was a lad
Lyrics: Pat Matchette
November 17, 1991

Thanks for all your help!
 and from the heart
 Love
 I've needed you. You
 truly a great person!
 Love
 Bob

VILLAGE VIEWS

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Here's to more
 and better memories
 and love that truly

November 17, 1991

Effie R Miller

Faye Corey

Bob Speer

Ed + Jim Routh

Tracy enjoyed my long
 acquaintance with V.V. and
 the great up & down!

Jane + Roger Peterson

Anna Lawler

Boris and Berta Dweary

Carol E. Cole

Sarah Smith

Mary + Ted Gurnett

Joe + Jack Laidge

Reggie and Paul Luter

Deanne and Jack P. Ober

Stan Thomson
 Thanks for starting the
 Terrace Park Petices Luncheon

Pat + Don Hoken Cooper

Al and Janette Puccio

Janice

Melissa

Donnelly

Looking forward
 to F.P. history
 to Paul + Esther

Robert + Dianne Donnelly

Bob + Dianne Donnelly

Stan Thomson

Bob + Dianne Donnelly

Stan Thomson

Bob + Dianne Donnelly

Stan Thomson

Bob + Dianne Donnelly

Stan Thomson

Bob + Dianne Donnelly

Have a great time!
Love, Mum

Best wishes and keep the ideas flowing.

Willi Thawila

Nothing grows so well as when you hold no hand in the "engine"

Paul & Ruby
Paul & Ruby
M1 & Paul
Blanche Kaint
Ellen & an

Elizabeth A. (Liz) Hunt

Great wishes! Blessings great and massive blessings
spike and massive blessings in spirit and massive blessings in spirit

Richie with love
Richie with love
Richie with love

Richie with love
Richie with love
Richie with love

John Dick
John Dick
John Dick

Old memories never retire. Sleep your head on "nighting"...

Carol & Lee Cole
Margaret & Lee Cole
Margaret & Lee Cole

Patricia
Patricia
Patricia

John C
John C
John C

Our love to you
Our love to you
Our love to you

Julie and Chris
Julie and Chris
Julie and Chris

Best wishes
Best wishes
Best wishes

Congratulations
Congratulations
Congratulations

Thank you
Thank you
Thank you

Thank you
Thank you
Thank you

Ellis - Thanks!