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"THE DEAN"

SAMUEL McCLURE*

WHAT can we say about an individual who accomplished so much in his lifetime and had such a good time doing it? When I first met Dean Emeritus Harold Gill Reuschlein in the spring of 1992, he had been retired from the dean's office for almost thirty years. But you would never have known it! Villanova Law School was his and Mrs. Reuschlein's baby, for they were a team. He still was very much involved in the everyday life of the law school, roaming the halls of the school on a regular basis and was not at all shy about offering advice to me and many others.

I first encountered Dean Reuschlein while riding to the annual Philadelphia Alumni Reception. Former Dean Stephen Frankino was driving and Associate Dean Robert Garbarino and Professor Donald Dowd were also passengers. I remember Dean Reuschlein regaling us with stories about the law school, mostly for my benefit since I was the newcomer. These stories and others were oft repeated over the next few years as we met with alumni from all over the region to raise money for the Reuschlein Fund, a campaign to raise \$3.5 million for a chair in his honor. I never tired of hearing him tell these tales. In fact, I relished the time with him, listening to stories about his career and his life with his beloved Marcella.

I am sure others will be writing about his many accomplishments. They are documented in the history of the law school.¹ Mine is a very personal view that comes from the relationship I developed with him during the course of my duties and stretches far beyond. I spent hours "on the road" with the Dean (as he is still known to many of his former students). I can honestly say there was never a dull moment in all the time we spent together. His sense of humor (and that of Marcella) was wonderful. He was a raconteur, telling his stories with a decided twinkle in his eye. He was not a humble man, but why should he have been when you stop to consider what he accomplished in such a short period of time after becoming the founding Dean. The foundation he laid in those early days made it possible to maintain this school as a quality institution of legal education.

I have met many of his former students, and their stories about "the Reuschlein Years" could fill volumes. Not all of them necessarily "loved" him, but I'm sure most of them truly respected him and are thankful for the education he made sure they received here. For most, he was some-

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1. See generally HAROLD GILL REUSCHLEIN ET AL., THE VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW (1991).

what of a father figure who was responsible for leading them down the path that prepared them for the practice of law. Most have enjoyed successful careers because of him.

When I first met Dean Reuschlein, he was more than 88 years young. His energy level amazed me, as did his ability to consume a fair quantity of bourbon or scotch. He wanted to be sure to attend every alumni luncheon and reception, as well as all the events related to the Reuschlein Fund. He never seemed to tire of meeting and greeting, and he really enjoyed people and discussing "his" law school. He remembered names (or so it seemed) even if he had not seen someone in years.

When I first arrived at Villanova, he was still coming to the school four days a week (the only day he didn't come in was Friday, when he and Marcella did their grocery shopping). Later, it was once a week. Marcella's health had declined and they moved to a retirement village, which made it more difficult for him to get here. When he did visit the school he usually stopped to see Dean Frankino first, to dispense wisdom, then he would stop by my office to check on the status of the Reuschlein Fund and to give me a hard time about my exercise routine. He would tell me that he got his exercise by going to the funerals of his friends who had exercised. Dean Reuschlein loved to chitchat with Professors Abraham and Dowd and other faculty on the second floor, where his office was located (Room 208), or over lunch in the Reuschlein Faculty Dining Room. The food certainly was not the attraction, keeping in touch with old and new friends was.

He will always be remembered and honored here at the law school and the university. The Reuschlein Fund was a success thanks to the generous support of so many of his former students. Each year the chair holders of the Reuschlein Distinguished Visiting Professorship are with us. Their presence celebrates his accomplishments as a lawyer, legal educator, scholar, academic administrator and major contributor to American legal education. And, thanks to Art Kania's generosity and that of others, each year an outstanding third-year student is the recipient of the Reuschlein Scholarship.

But even without these tangible reminders, he will always live on in the hearts and minds of those of us whose lives he touched in so many ways. I know I miss him!