

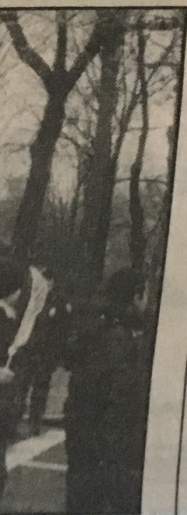
pendence Day Parade took
hundreds of school children
es. It was a spectacular event
spectators. The Evzones from
ally for the Parade, marched



storia, N.Y., marching on 5th
Independence Day Parade.
d Irene Tiniakos, waving the



ade in New York city
Demetrios Cathedral,
slos Koulourmanis,
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s School of
ue.

Ted Dulles, a Goodwill Ambassador for Elmhurst

By Jo Ann Cycon
Staff Writer
The Elmhurst Independent

Recently, on a Friday night, I walked into Pizza Palace to meet Ted Dulles, owner of Elmhurst-based Dulles Cleaners. I had never had the pleasure meeting Ted, but I was aware we had one thing in common, our Greek heritage.

Scanning the dining room, my eye caught a proud man staring straight ahead, his hands crossed, looking very stately. It had to be Ted, I thought. As I began walking up to him, there was no doubt, with a big smile he stood up and greeted me. His Greek accent was music to my ears, reminiscent of my large Greek family.

Before, I had the opportunity to begin asking Ted about his background, he politely interrupted me and said, "Jo Ann, before we talk about anything there are a few things I want to say."

"First, I want to welcome back the Cruger Family, returning to Elmhurst with the Elmhurst Independent. They have been friends and business partners for 44 years.

My business association with the Cruger family has always been excellent."

I thanked him for his expressions of congratulations and praise. Dulles added, "Being a firm believer in advertising, with personal experience, I can testify that success come through advertising." I was in the course of my interview that I came to realize Dulles is a walking billboard for the city of Elmhurst, Greek-Americans, and his many business civic, fraternal and ethnic organizations he is a member of or has founded.

Dulles proudly acknowledges that he is an American by choice and a Greek by birth. At the age of 18, he emigrated to the United States in 1951.

He settled in Champaign, Illinois, where some of his relatives resided. He lived there until 1956, starting as a presser in a cleaning store, working his way up to an assistant manager at a local drive-in and owning his first business, Alex's Cleaners when he was only 23 years old.

Dulles left Champaign in 1957 and came to Chicago, where he worked for Holsum Bakery and owned a tavern.

In 1958, he came to Elmhurst and opened a one-hour martinizing, Dulles Cleaners, located on the east side of Addison Street across from his present location.

"In those days, it was unheard of that anyone could expect to drop off their cleaning and get it back in an hour," said Dulles.

My landlord warned me, "Mr. Dulles, your store will only be a couple stores down from another cleaners."



Dulles replied, "That's OK, I am not worried."

The business grew and eventually Dulles would own 11 dry cleaning businesses between 1958 thru 1970. Dulles still owns two Elmhurst locations which are operated by his son, John.

"Citizens who refuse to participate in the affairs of his city or state, deserve the type of government he gets." In that spirit, Dulles has been involved in religious, fraternal and civic organizations.

I am the "godfather" of the Greek-American community in Elmhurst and Dupage County," he said. Dulles was founder and Past President of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, located in Elmhurst. He belonged to AHEPA (American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association) for ten years, Cofounder and Past President of Enosis, Union of American Hellenic Organizations of Illinois, Cofounder and Past Supreme Vice-President of the United Hellenic American Voters, Past President of the United Society of Pan Arcadians and Chairman of the Supreme Convention in Tripolis, Greece of the Pan Arcadian Federation of America.

In 1971, Dulles opened the Athenian Fireside Restaurant, the first Greek-American restaurant west of Halsted Street. Dulles admits, with a smile, he was ahead of his time. "Back then, you could only find Greek restaurants in Greektown," he said. Dulles not only offered authentic Greek cuisine, but also the art of belly dancing.

In the ten years, the Athenian Fireside was in operation, due to the popularity of belly-dancing, over 5,000 women, graduated on the stage at the restaurant. One of my closest friends, who traveled all the way from Joliet, appeared on stage at the Athenian Fireside and still has her belly dancing certificate!

Dulles also tried his hand at producing and directing a Greek-Ameri-

can television program, the Dulles Glendi Hour, which was seen on Channel 26 in 1974.

But Dulles did not limit his influence and participation to just the Greek-American community. He is past Worshipful Master of Elmhurst Masonic Lodge 941, member of the Elk and Moose Lodge and was past President of the Elmhurst Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"I couldn't have accomplished any of this, if it were not for the support of my Kiki, his wife of twenty years. We had four children, and I was running my business during the day and attending meetings at night. She never complained or asked that I cutback on my level of involvement.

Kiki Dulles died of cancer in 1981, leaving Ted behind to raise their four children, John, Connie, Gigi (Georgia) and Ted, Jr.

Ted will turn 70 years old next year, and as we continued to talk about his life, he said, "I want to thank the founding fathers of Elmhurst, the great men and women who laid the foundation for the generations to come. Today, we all benefit from the fruits of their labor."

In his opinion, some people were born to be leaders and the other managers. "It's when the two work together - there's music," said Dulles, referring what he calls the "golden age" in Elmhurst.

"As a witness to the growth of the Elmhurst that we know today, I want to pay tribute to the individuals who have made a difference big or small," he said.

The first "golden age" in Elmhurst occurred during the administration of former Mayor Chuck Weigel and City Manager Bob Palmer. "The under-center, the creation of the automobile row on the north end of town and the annexation of West Avenue to Route 83 and Lake to Grand Avenue - Check Weigel was a leader of his time."

The second "golden age" of Elmhurst is occurring under current Mayor Tom Marcucci and City Manager, Tom Bourchet. "They were born to be an excellent leader and manager," said Dulles. "The city garage, the development of the heart and soul of the city - the downtown, the new library, the high school, renovation of Elmhurst Historical Museum, expansion of Elmhurst Hospital - Elmhurst Centre for Health, and the crowning jewel - Elmhurst Crossing on St. Charles and Route 83, these men have contributed to the quality of life for everyone who lives in Elmhurst."