



Stefan Lonce prepares to cut a piece of his PUZLCAKE as partner M.H. Fryburg, center, chats with Village of Croton-on-Hudson Trustee Robert Anderson. In the background at last Friday's marking of 'VANITY LICENSE PL8S DAY' is Mayor Dr. Gregory Schmidt--soon to have plates readin '4 CROTON.'

2ND 'VANITY LICENSE PL8S DAY'

Croton-on-Hudson residents M.H. Fryburg and Stefan Lonce celebrated their second annual "VANITY LICENSE PL8S DAY" last Friday at the village's Municipal Building.

Among the Croton officials on hand for the informal noontime ceremony was Mayor Dr. Gregory Schmidt who, the day before, apparently succumbed to both men's suggestion the he "vanitize." Indeed, in the near future, Dr. Schmidt is expected to replace the state Department of Motor Vehicles' standard-issue license plates on his personal vehicle with new ones reading, "4 CROTON."

"VANITY LICENSE PL8S DAY" is an event Mr. Fryburg and Mr. Lonce invented--appropriate, they say, to be celebrated each April Fool's Day--to highlight "some of the clever and cryptic vanity plates in the U.S.A." and elsewhere. (Canada is not immune.)

Mr. Fryburg says vanity plates are a fun and (usually) light-hearted way to promote one's self, profession or a cause every day of the year and relatively inexpensively.

Keeping the momentum going, the ceremony was marked with the cutting of a cake from Homestyle Desserts in Peekskill designed by Mr. Lonce. The PUZLCAKE, as it is appropriately named, contains depictions of two license plates; before eating, those in attendance are challenged to identify differences between the two.

Sponsoring Friday's ceremonial cake was local real estate broker Bridgette Bacon -- whose personal vehicle's license plates read, "ISELUBY" ("I sell you buy").

One of the projects the two men's organization -- 4 A BETTER WESTCHESTER + NYS ASSOCIATION, INC. -- has gotten behind is support of state legislation that would authorize the Department of Motor Vehicles to raise revenue by selling gift cards for vanity license plates. A bill introduced by state Assemblywoman Sandra Galef (D-95) a couple of years ago reportedly made it as far as being passed by the Assembly Transportation Committee.

Another project supported by the 11-year-old, not-for-profit organization is the proposed naming of the replacement for the Tappan Zee Bridge (which if formally named in honor of the late Gov. Malcom Wilson) in honor of Hudson Valley natives Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Last year, Mr. Fryburg, an author and attorney, successfully asked Croton's Board of Trustees to support the state-level proposal, as well as a second, at the county level, to name Westchester's Croton Point Park "Pete Seeger Croton Point Park."

Mr. Fryburg said he considers the Roosevelts to be the most important people of the 20th century, considering "(their) achievements in combatting the Great Depression and winning World War II." Mr.

Fryburg says people in this country and the world would be living in a much different environment had the U.S. not won the war which the Roosevelts championed.

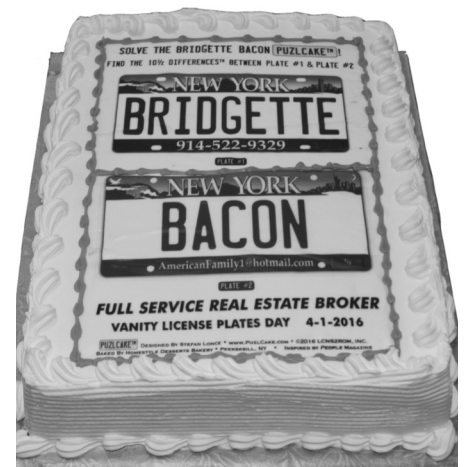
Mr. Lonce, an author, graphic designer and editor of The Montauk Sun, credits the payment of survivor's benefits, resulting from the creation of Social Security--another Roosevelt initiative--for having saved his family from financial ruin after his father died at an early age.

While F.D.R. was president and Eleanor Roosevelt was first lady, history tells that she was instrumental in the progress of many of the successful initiatives of her husband's administration, thus warranting inclusion of her name in an honorary naming of the new span, Mr. Fryburg said.

As a tie-in with the organization's promotion of vanity license plates, according to Mr. Fryburg, F.D.R.'s convertible, on exhibit at the late couple's estate and library at Hyde Park, Dutchess County, was the first to have a vanity license plate: "FDR." (The vehicle features hand controls the president designed to allow him to personally drive the car despite his affliction with polio.)

Mr. Fryburg's and Mr. Lonce's 4 A BETTER WESTCHESTER + NYS ASSOCIATION, INC. is actually seeking public support for the naming of three New York bridges, including the Brooklyn Bridge, in honor of the late New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, and the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, in honor of the late President Ronald Reagan--who signed federal legislation in 1983 stabilizing Social Security--and his recently deceased wife, Nancy Reagan.

More information on Mr. Fryburg and Mr. Lonce's organization and its initiatives (and how to order a PUZLCAKE) is available online at: www.TakeBackOurFutureNow.org.



A 'PUZLCAKE' sponsored by Croton real estate broker Bridgette Bacon.