



O. Delbert Proudfoot

O. Delbert Proudfoot, a 1930 Penn Avenue graduate, returned to his native South Cumberland after graduating from Washington College in Chestertown. With the encouragement of Coach "Bobby" Cavanaugh and Principal Victor D. Heisey, he embraced the "new" South End school as his own. Immediately, he became the chief organizer and fundraiser for Fort Hill's extra-curricular activities. This loyalty to the Sentinels would carry Del through the next four decades.

For 20 years, Del served as President of the Penn Avenue-Fort Hill Alumni Association, the only organization committed to the students. He initiated the Alumni Dance (held on Dec. 26 every year), the highlight of the South Cumberland social season; he chaired the prestigious Letter Banquet honoring all seniors who had earned the coveted "F", and he originated the programs for the football games, which he often picked up at the printers and then sold the 5-cent copies at the top of the steps. He was determined to deliver first-class rewards to the student community.

Receiving full support from the South End community, Del became a member of the first elected Allegany County School Board, serving two terms. This opportunity put him in the position to better serve, as he championed the FH Boosters fight for the stadium concessions, helped develop the Homecoming Defensive and Offensive Player awards, and was instrumental in the new Fort Hill gym plan.

In addition to his support of the youth of Fort Hill, Del found time to coach four National Marbles Champions. The Proudfoot Marble Rings at Constitution Park were commissioned by the Mayor and Council and are still actively in use.

Other honors came his way. He was an honorary life member of the Maryland Congress of Parents and Teachers, served on the Executive Committee of MABE, received the Howard L. Northcraft Unsung Hero Award, and the National Elks Youth Activities Award, and chaired the Allegany Co. Physical Fitness Commission.

Del was married to Eleanor (Sterner) Proudfoot for 46 years and they had four children - Ellen P. Arnone (Class of '56); Linda P. Dalmás ('58); Del A. Proudfoot ('63); and Gayle P. Morris ('64).