

# INTEREST AND PRIDE

BY C. W. LATTIN

**O**n Aug. 1, Silda Wall Spitzer, wife of New York State Attorney General, Eliot Spitzer, made a stop at the Cobblestone Museum in Childs. Our picture shows her listening with interest as I spoke with pride about our local heritage.

Mrs. Spitzer gave a brief luncheon talk at Tillman's Village Inn. Here she mentioned that the largest single group of unregistered voters in New York state are women.

Following her talk she spent a little over a half hour at the Cobblestone Museum where highlights of local history and famous Americans were mentioned.

She listened with enthusiasm when told that John Cumteen, who once lived next to the Cobblestone Church, was elected state Attorney General in 1902. She was also amazed to find that Horace Greeley, known for saying "Go West Young Man, Go West" owned the Ward House on the other side of the Cobblestone Church in 1863 and that George Pullman of the sleeping car fame had attended the Universalist Church in Childs during the 1840s and 50s.

But perhaps more than anything, Mrs. Spitzer was most

intrigued at the Cobblestone masonry buildings found in our region.

She was a most gracious visitor and very appreciative of having been invited to visit the museum.

It is of vital importance to keep political figures informed and aware of local assets, because you never know when their help may be needed. For example: Back in 1977 former

Congressman John LaFalce was asked to attend the dedication of the Ward House at the Cobblestone Museum. I remember a couple of people muttered at the time about the advisability of that. However, LaFalce was again asked to be a part of the dedication of the museum's Farmer's Hall in 1980 and the historic Gaines jubilee in 1984. He also held two of his town meetings at the Cobblestone Church. In 1993, when state Historic Preservation people insisted that our congressman give his approval of National Register status for the Cobblestone Historic District in Childs, John LaFalce wrote an outstanding letter of recommendation. Why? Because he knew the place since he had been there on numerous occasions.

Likewise, state Sen. George Maziarz and former Assen-

blyman Charles Nesbitt collaborated to issue a grant to the Cobblestone Museum in 1998. Why? Because they are familiar with this attraction.

The moral to this story is never under estimate the good will and sincere interest that elected officials and people in high places have for their locality, their region and their state.



CONTRIBUTED BY JEANNE CRANE

**POLITICAL INFLUENCE:** Silda Wall Spitzer, wife of gubernatorial candidate Eliot Spitzer, recently visited Orleans County. She is shown here with Bill Lattin on a tour of the Cobblestone Museum in Childs.