

DEAR EDITOR,
Your article on Father Cox ["From the Ranks of the Ordinary People: Father Cox and Pittsburgh in the 1940s," by Sally Witt, Summer 1997] was interesting to me. I remember as a child overhearing conversations concerning my uncle, Collins McCauley, and his role in some kind of "trouble" when he used one of his trucks to ride men to Washington, D.C. [as part of Father Cox's Great Depression unemployment marches, which are discussed in the article]. I remember hearing the term "Cox's Army" without understanding it until I was older and read something about the "march." I had forgotten about this until I read the article.

My family was so terrified — and I need that word — about this incident that they would not let us children know anything about it, for fear that we would say something and my uncle would be arrested. I did learn that there was some sort of trouble and Uncle Collins came back to Jeanette, in Westmoreland County, trying not to let anyone know where he had been or what he was doing.

Some unfortunate private incidents happened, unrelated to Father Cox and his activities, and my uncle lost his trucking business. I am sorry to say that I do not know much about his life, because as most people are, I was too busy with my own. I don't

imagine that there is any way to reconstruct much information on him, as he was among the "little people" who are involved in historical events, but never included in the history later.

I also remembered, as I read the article, listening to Father Cox on the radio in the '40s, but I do not think that I identified him with that earlier "march." I recall he talked about the trips he was taking, and it seemed to me that the amount of money it cost to accompany him on those trips was enormous. He talked about the cost of the trips on the air; again, to me, the cost seemed enormous — something that only rich people could afford — though that may not have been true, because I was a young teenager then. I also remember not agreeing with what he was saying about social affairs then. It seems to me that I also remember, perhaps wrongly, some negative comments about him after his death.

I do enjoy your magazine and intend to stay a member as long as I can. I truly appreciate the way you bring out the history that truly matters, but that remains untold for the most part. As a former teacher, I realize that many people do not understand how the past forebodes, or predicts, the future. I will probably do more reading on Father Cox due to your article. ✪

Phylis Pietrusza
Manor, Pa.