



DOVER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Old Tye News

Volume XLII Issue IV

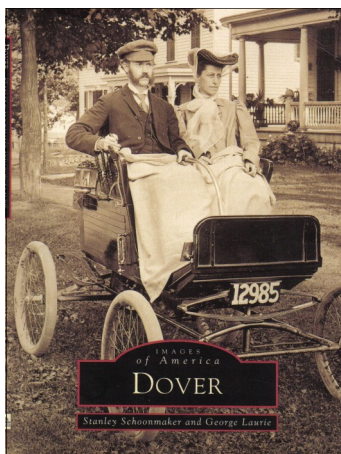
(Now accepting 2012 Membership dues. See enclosed membership form.)

FALL 2011



TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Hudson Favel's carving of the World Trade Towers as they appear on display at Tri-angle Park, maintained by the Dover Renaissance. The Town of Dover will conduct a ceremony on Sun. Sept. 11th at 12:00 noon. The Dover History Museum House will be open.



Great holiday gift idea for that someone special. To place order, call Betty 973-366-0629.

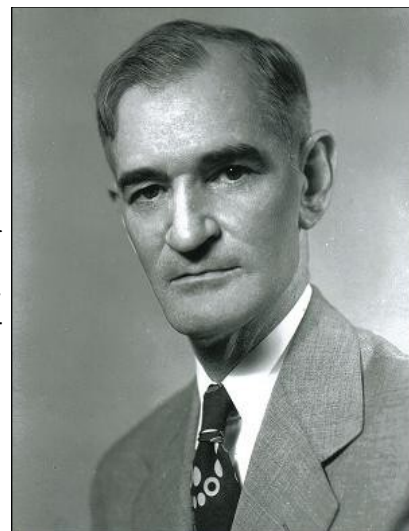
America's Top Scientist Lived in Dover George C. Hale Credited With Helping Win WWII

DOVER—More powerful than a locomotive, more powerful than a speeding bullet, more powerful than TNT. What could it be? That would describe “haleite,” one of the world’s most powerful military explosives ever invented, named in the honor of George C. Hale who discovered the compound by using cheap raw materials at his chemical laboratories at Picatinny Arsenal. Dr. Hale’s discovery was so powerful that it allowed the Allies turn the tide against the Nazis in the Battle of the Atlantic by breaking a stubborn German naval blockade during World War II.

The U.S. Army Ordnance Department reported “haleite” to be the “most powerful explosive in the world.” It satisfied the chief department specifications for its quick burst or detonation, it’s non-sensitive, safe to manufacture, safe to load and transport and easily made from cheap and abundant raw materials. Its composite is still a

top secret to this day.

Dr. Hale, who lived in Dover, was chief of the United States War Department’s Chemical Research Bureau at Picatinny Arsenal. He not only invented the most powerful explosive ever to exist, but held patents covering propellants, high explosives, fuse powders and pyrotechnic compositions. Maj. Gen. G.M. Barnes stated in 1943 “One reason the Russians were so successful in knocking out the German tanks may have been because of the bazookas. The bazooka is sort of a rocket-gun. It is technically a rocket launcher and has a shell it fires as a rocket grenade. The rocket explodes with such violence that it bursts the tank armor, filling the interior with sheets of flames. The rocket shell is propelled through the air by the emission of a constant train of escaping gases in precisely the same fashion that the Fourth of



July “skyrockets” were propelled. These rocket guns were ineffective until the development of the world’s most powerful explosive, “haleite”.

According to retired Indiana University (IU) chemistry professor Marvin Carmack, “Dr. Hale began investigating the explosive while completing his (Cont. on page 5)

Early History of Dover’s Hispanics-Online A 2002 Oral History Project Reveals Hardships & Joy

DOVER—In 2000, members of the Dover Historical Society thought it would be a good idea to document the early migration of Hispanics to Dover. Realizing this project had never been done and the fact that many of the original settlers have either passed away or moved back to their homeland, the Society received

a grant from the Morris County Heritage Commission to conduct a project. After several meetings with leaders of the Hispanic Community, five prominent members of the Hispanic community were selected to be interviewed. (cont. on page 6)



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 (cont. on next page)

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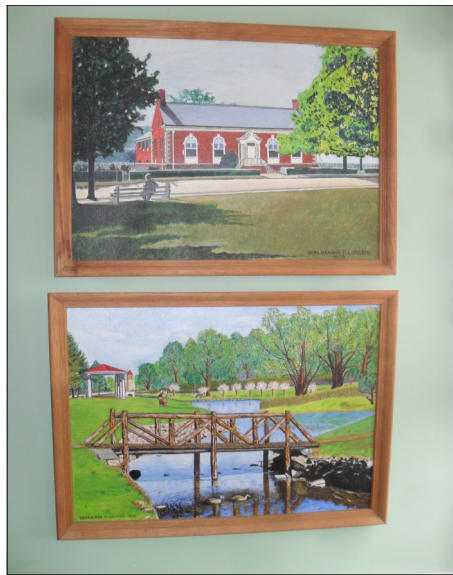
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One of the Most Beautiful Museums in Morris County

The more visitors that visit the Dover History Museum House the more complements the Dover Historical Society gets as having one of the most beautiful museum houses in Morris County. Thanks to the countless hours of our many volunteers and supporters.



Portraits in the Dover History Museum House



The above paintings were donated to the Dover Area Historical Society by Robert & Linda (Larson) Gordon of Mt Arlington. The Larson's lived on Baker Street in Dover.

Two beautiful paintings of scenes of Dover by Wlademar F. Larsen (1979) shows one colorful scene of the Public Library and the other of the beautiful Hurd Park. Mr. Larsen captures the beauty of these scenes through skillful combinations of bright colors, immediately capturing the viewer's attention. His exact likeness of the scenes can be easily confused as photographs. A must see on your next visit to the museum house.

A portrait of our former late President Vivian Berg and her husband Raymond, hangs on the third floor of the Dover History Museum House. Vivian has been credited with saving the charter of the Dover Area Historical Society, by holding continual monthly meetings for over 20-year while the society remained homeless. Meetings were held in churches, halls and various homes around town until a museum house was finally secured in 2004. Vivian will always be remembered for her countless hours of dedication to the Dover Historical Society.

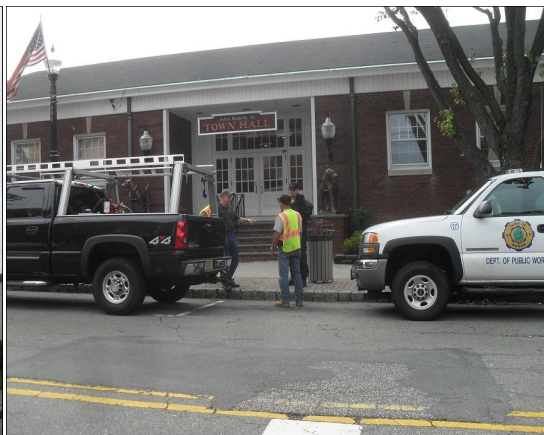


The above portrait of Vivian and Raymond Berg was donated to the historical society by the Berg Family as part of the Vivian Berg collection.

Hurricane "Irene" Blows Away Open House

DOVER-Everything was set for the Society's First "Summer Open House." All the beverages were stocked, the cakes and cookies were baked, the veggie bowls and chips were purchased, etc. and then along came "Irene" to put a damper on everything. Irene reminds us of that nasty little girl we grew up with that was always a pain and ruined all the fun we ever tried to have.

Photo to the right shows the museum house with the dark clouds overhead. Mayor James Dodd is pictured directing emergency actions around the town. Flooding has always plagued downtown Dover.



Upcoming Events

Tuesday * Sept. 20th * 7:30 pm
MUSEUM HOUSE

The Lowell Cook Photo Collection" (The son of Dover's famous artist, Bea Cook, has donated dozens of photographs to the historical society for public viewing) No charge & Refreshments served.
Call 973-361-3525 for info.

Saturday * Sept. 24th 1:00 & 3:30 pm
MUSEUM HOUSE

"Afternoon Tea - Remembering Grandma"

1:00 pm SOLD OUT * Tickets available for 3:30 pm seating. Donation \$15
Call Phyllis at (973) 366-4276
Be sure to bring a friend!

Tues. * Oct. 18th * 7:30 pm
MUSEUM HOUSE
(Remembering Dover's Disasters)

Fri. * Oct. 14, 21 & 28th * 6:00 - 9:00 pm
Sat * Oct. 15, 22, & 29th * 6:00 - 9:00 pm
Sun. * 16, 23 & 30th * 3:00 - 6:00 pm

MUSEUM HOUSE
"Magnificent Halloween Display"
All three floors of the Dover History House decorated with various Halloween

displays. *(Bring the whole family!)*

Tues. * Nov. 15th * 7:30 pm
MUSEUM HOUSE
(Honoring Dover's Cadet's History)

Tues. * Dec. 20th * 4:00 - 9:00 pm
MUSEUM HOUSE
(4th Annual Holiday Open House)
The Dover Area Historical Society & the Dover Area Chamber of Commerce
welcome you to tour the museum and meet local business leaders.

Bring a gift for the museum house.
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
(These programs are subject to change)

Dr. George C. Hale Lived On S. Elk Ave.



Allen Hale and his mother Mrs. George C. Hale look at a portrait of America's top Chemical Scientist at Picatinny Arsenal.

bachelor's degree in chemistry at IU. The military shelved Hale's discovery for nearly 20-years because the material was thought to be too sensitive and very dangerous. When Hale took the government job at

Picatinny Arsenal he continued and completed his research in "haleite". It wasn't until World War II that the British "begged Roosevelt" to help them manufacture "haleite" for the Allied forces. President Roosevelt agreed in 1940 to build a plant to manufacture this powerful explosive. By 1942, over 7500 workers were producing "haleite" for the war effort.

Dr. Hale's career is like a story book. From an obscure chemistry professor at IU in 1915, he had risen to become head of Picatinny's chemical research in 1917. In 1920, Dr. Hale was sent to Germany to assist in collecting information on German Explosives and ammunition following World War I. Upon his return Dr. Hale received his Ph. D. from IU and returned to Picatinny and was placed in charge of the Chemical laboratories where he studied the deficiencies he had uncovered in America's explosives and ammunition

during the war. Following the disastrous explosion of the Naval Depot at Lake Demark in July of 1926, Dr. Hale was in charge of developing new plans and laboratories at the Arsenal under improved conditions.

While at Picatinny, Dr. Hale initiated and directed the first research work in the United States on the important explosive, Cyclonite; he planned and directed extensive studies on the mechanism of the deterioration of nitrocellulose propellants; studied the application of wood pulp to the manufacture of military nitrocellulose; the factors involved in the deterioration of TNT and Amatol and improved the production of pyrotechnic and tracer compositions.

George C. Hale was born in Cass, Indiana on Sept. 29, 1893 to Charles and Rosettie Hale and graduated from Sullivan High School in 1910. At 18, George was teaching school before entering IU in 1911 and received his bachelor's degree in 1915.

Mr. Hale Loved Dory's Oysters

Nephew Jim Ringer knew his famous uncle as "just an ordinary guy. You'd never know he was famous." Hale and his family spent most of their lives in Dover at 31 South Elk Ave. while working at Picatinny. Hale's two sons, Allen and George remember as kids sledding down the hill near Bonnieview and would often end up in Hurd Park near the "mayor's house." Allen remembers his dad taking him to Dory's Oyster Bar to pick up some of that famous Oyster Stew for Sunday night's dinner.

In 1946, George C. Hale suffered

a heart attack and passed away two years later on November 3, 1948, never fully recovering. He was buried at the Dugger Cemetery in Cass Township, Indiana

In 1962, a modern laboratory for explosive research was dedicated at Picatinny and named the George C. Hale Building.

According to Allen, "we sold our family home in August of 1974 to the Hospital and moved away, only returning occasionally for a visit. You can imagine my surprise when I returned to Dover in 1988 to view our old home, and found

nothing there but a parking lot."

Both Allen and George graduated from Dover High School.

**GEORGE C. HALE
1891-1948**

**THE EFFORTS WHICH ARE UNDERTAKEN
HERE PERPETUATE THE IDEALS AND
ASPIRATIONS TO WHICH DR. GEORGE C.
HALE DEVOTED HIS LIFE. THIS BUILDING IS
A MEMORIAL TO HIS LEADERSHIP AND HIS
CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIELD OF EXPLO-
SIVE RESEARCH.**

Picatinny Arsenal Dedicates \$1 Million Hale Building America's Most Ultra-Modern Explosives Lab. Names In His Honor

PICATINNY-On Friday April 27, 1962 Picatinny Arsenal dedicated the George C. Hale Building which was designed expressly for research on quasi-stable materials, primarily explosives.

According to Dr. C.O. Davis of DuPont, "This has all the makings of the finest explosives research laboratory in the world."

Mrs. Hale is being presented a painting of the building by Clarence Bain,

while Gen. John Barclay, former commander at Picatinny and Gen. W.K. Ghormley, commanding officer of OSWAC. Following the dedication ceremony, over 200 invited guests were taken on a tour of the new Hale Building.

The editor of Ye Old Tye News would like to thank Allen Hale for all the information on his famous father.

The historical society hopes to present an exhibit on the life of George Hale in the very near future.



Documenting History of Dover's Hispanics

(cont. from page one)

Society members applied to the Morris County Heritage Commission for a grant and in 2001, received a donation of \$2000 to purchase recording equipment and supplies, conduct oral interviews, translate verbal text to English and have all five interviews transferred to transcripts. Now, for the first time, these interviews are available on the historical society's website at www.doverhistoricalsociety.com.

The first organizational meeting was held on Nov. 28, 2001. Two other meetings followed which included members of Dover's Hispanic Community. The original members that met were Stan Schoonmaker, Joan Bocchino, Virginia Caceres, Juan Casiano, Joel Medina, Robin Kline, Edward Lopez and George Laurie. One meeting was held in the offices of the Dover Latino Affairs where Olga Jimenez-Wagenheim, Ph.D. Rutgers Associate Professor and Director of Puerto Rican Studies explained the importance of conducting such oral research and

completing the assignment. The members also met with Harold Green, Chairman of Historic Research for the N.J. Historical Commission and were briefed on ways to conduct good interviews.

Five individuals were selected to be interviewed and two individuals were selected to conduct those interviews. The five individuals were Ismael Acevedo, Maria Agront, Francisco DeJesus, Angel Mendoza and Felipe Torres. The two selected to conduct the interviews were Virginia Caceres and Joan Bocchino.

Following the interviews, discussions occurred between the historical society and the Latino community on what to do with the final product. Perhaps a written history book on the history of Dover's Latino community or a large display in downtown Dover, or maybe a program in the schools dealing with this historic account, along with other ideas that were tossed around to no avail.

Not until 2011, when the Dover Historical Society had developed its own, well maintained website did the idea arise to post these interviews on-line to be available to anyone in the country that would like to share the information.

After reading these transcripts, please feel free to document your own recorded history of personal events and experiences in Dover and submit them to the Dover Area Historical Society for consideration in future documented histories of the life and times of living in Dover, New Jersey.

DONATIONS

**Joyce Lake, Victory Gardens
\$100**

Jas. Brooks, Ocean City \$100

Thank you!

Hamilton Field Gets a New Face Lift in 2011

DOVER-With the 2011-12 High School football season there will be something new this year. A brand new artificial turf. The field will also be used for the high school soccer season.

In 1929, Dover High School moved its athletic programs to this new field.

In 1940, the district authorized the final purchase of the entire plot and renamed it to Hamilton Field in honor of Frank Hamilton who served as the Board's president.



Memories from Mrs. Louisa Crittenden in 1913

DOVER- "On Dickerson Street, besides several houses, stood the old Academy (Dover's first school house circa 1796) just east of Morris Street. In leaving Dover toward the east, one followed the road from Dickerson Street along the base of a hill (Moller's) where the railroad tracks now run. On this road about one mile east of Dover is Pleasant Valley (Salem Street) there were two large comfortable houses, one belonging to Mr. Conger and the other to Dr. Ira Crittenden, the first physician to

settle in Dover. This road (Salem Street) was called "The Road of Morristown" and was the regular stage coach route to Newark and New York City.

Dr. Ira Crittenden settled in Dover (circa 1810) and his son, Dr. Thomas Crittenden, born in 1822, graduated from the New York City College of Physicians and entered practice in Dover with his father in 1848. For several years, they were the only two practicing doctors in the entire Dover area."



Pictured: Dr. Ira Crittenden's house today.

Hurricane "Irene" Floods Downtown Dover



The photographs show flooding in certain sections of Dover. "The Little Church Around The Corner" is seen under water. A picture of Richards Ave. looking eastward and the eastern end of Blackwell Street which is always under water. At one time in Dover's history one acre of land in Millbrook was more valuable than the 100 plus acres of East Dover which was nothing more than swampland from Bergen Street eastward. Blackwell Street ended at Bergen Street while Dickerson St. continued all the way to Salem Street.

Compliments of
Don & Jean Alpert
Oak Creek, CO

Compliments of
Margie H. Bell
Los Angeles, CA

Compliments of
Brownwood Realty
Dover

Compliments of
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Compliments of
Bogert Cox Holly
Dover

John Curtin III to be Remembered in Hopatcong

DOVER-It was a proud moment for long-time and active Dover historical society member Jane Curtin. On Memorial Day 2011, Jane's brother, John Curtin III was honored as an America hero with an engraved monument that was unveiled in a ceremony in Hopatcong.

More than 40-years ago, John was killed in a mortar attack in South Vietnam during the Vietnam War. He was killed on Aug. 26, 1968 during an attack in the Cu Chi district of Ho Chi Minh City, formerly known as Saigon. Curtin's memory will live on forever with a 5-foot monument bearing his name and that of Army Sgt. Michael Kirspel also of Hopatcong, killed in action.

According to sister Jane, who was 19 at the time, "John was rejected by the Army when he first tried to enlist, but was accepted on his second attempt as the war was escalating. My brother was a very quiet young man, 23-year old, who was limited physically by his bad heart, worked in Vietnam as a secretary for an Army officer."

"I was thrilled to hear he'll finally be getting the recognition that he deserved. At the beginning, they (Vietnam War veterans) didn't get any kind of recognition," said Jane. Hopatcong Mayor Sylvia Petillo labeled the Memorial Day ceremony, "a celebration of life." *Pictured, Jane with a portrait of her brother John.*

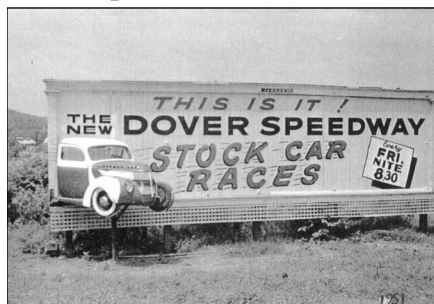


mony, "a celebration of life." *Pictured, Jane with a portrait of her brother John.*
From Star Ledger, Sunday, May 22, 2011

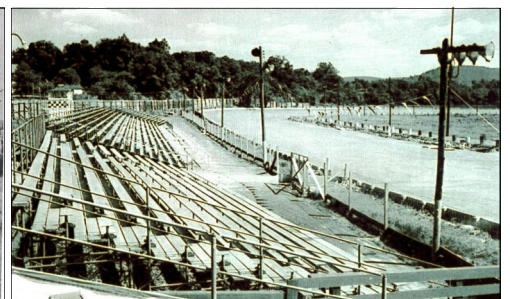
History of the Dover Speedway Now On Sale On DVD

DOVER-For the first time, the history of the famous Dover Speedway is now available on DVD.

Historian Bob Wagner has spent a life-time gathering information, collecting photographs and memorabilia on the history of the Dover Speedway and has now compiled everything on to a DVD. Not only are the photographs amazing and sharp, but Bob has even included some actual live footage of the race cars speeding around the track that actually captures some of the excitement of the racing that once occurred.



This is a great holiday gift idea or just a keepsake for all those memories we had



during those racing years. Call Stan to place an order at 973.366.2319.

American Revolutionary War Hero & Dover

Editor's Note: One of the most fascinating stories of the Dover area's history was the life and times of General William Winds. He lived in the Dover section known today as Salem Village and Victory Gardens, which at the time were parts of Rockaway. Dover's first name was "Old Tye" in his honor, then Beaman's as a reference to his brother-in-law's forge and then "officially" Dover in 1826 when Dover became incorporated. The name Dover came from the Hurd Family who moved from Dover, New Hampshire. Thus we have some of the earliest records of the role Dover played in the development of the United States of America.

- Did you know General Wm Winds (pronounced Wines) had his 275 acre plantation at what is today Salem Village and Victory Gardens?
- Did you know Wm Winds purchased this land from the heirs of William Penn in 1750?
- Did you know in 1752, Gen. Winds helped organize the Rockaway Presbyterian Church?
- Did you know Gen. Winds fought in the French & Indian War at Fort Ticonderoga and when returned to Dover, the town took his nickname as "Old Tye"?
- Did you know in 1765, Gen. Winds became Morris County's first Justice of the Peace?
- Did you know that same year, Gen. Winds defied the King's "Stamp Act" by writing all legal documents on birch bark?
- Did you know Gen. Winds organized Morris County's "Minute Men"?
- Did you know Gen. Winds brother-in-law Josiah Beaman purchased Jackson's Forge in Dover?
- Did you know in 1777, Gen. Winds arrested Governor Franklin, the last royal governor of New Jersey?
- Did you know General William Winds is buried in the Rockaway Presbyterian Church cemetery?



This photo may be the ruins of Gen. Winds plantation because of its location on Salem Street at Franklin Rd. taken in c 1870s.

Holiday Open House in Dover

DOVER-This year (2011) will mark the fourth anniversary of the "Holiday Open House" at the Dover History Museum sponsored by the Dover Area Historical Society and the Dover Area Chamber of Commerce.

As in the past, there will be tours of the house as well as informative stories and information on the history of Dover. Visitors will get to view the dozens of DVDs available on Dover's history and will have the opportunity to meet and greet local business owners and several of the outstanding historic personalities of Dover today. Also sampling of the many holiday treats and refreshments.

The "Images of America - Dover" history books will be on sale along with several DVD's such as "Dover - The Parade Town", "Dover's Disasters", "Downtown Dover - Then and Now", "Dover High School", "The Morris Canal in Dover", and "History of the Dover Fire Department." (Cont. on next page)

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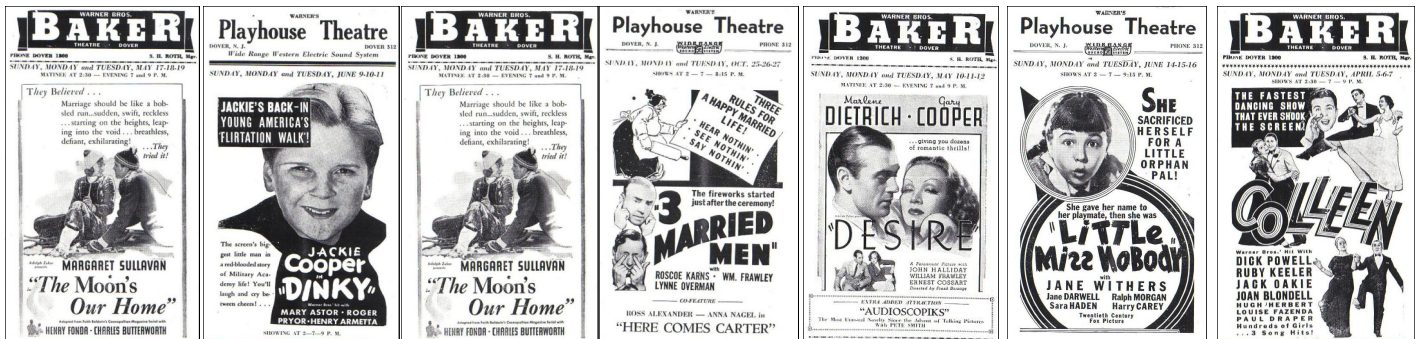
Boy Scout Troop 64 Maintains the Museum Grounds



DOVER-Boy Scout Master Scott Miller is seen here weeding the front garden at the museum house. The Boy Scouts maintain the lawn and gardens at the museum house and on a few occasions have spent the night there hoping to get a glimpse of Dorothy. Some say they have, others say they haven't.

Troop 64 schedules meetings each month usually on Friday nights. They camp every month and participate in several service projects. Currently the boys conduct a quarterly food drive with each ward, perform snow removal duties for the Orchard Street Cemetery and partner with the town to perform a clean-up of the Rockaway River. The troop has hiked the Appalachian trail, gone rock climbing and white water rafting to name a few activities. Troop 64 should have several Eagle Scouts next year. There are 34 scouts in the troop and still growing. Mr. Miller has been recognized and awarded for his efforts to revive Dover scout pack 64. (see troop photo on next page)

The Peak of Dover's Great Movie Theaters - 1930s



DOVER-Many kids growing up in the Dover area remember the fun days (before television) when “going to the movies” was about the biggest thrill you could have, other than going to Bertrand’s Island. Dover’s two major movie houses gave stiff competition to each other vying for the most popular viewing experience (just as the networks do today). Kids had big decisions to make, because of limited funds, of which movie to see and which movie theater to go to.

Nine times out of ten, the kids went to the Playhouse while their parents went to the Baker. As you can see in some of the line-ups appearing on the big screen, the Baker presented such notables as Clark Gable, Jean Harlow, Margaret Sullavan, Joan Crawford, to name just a few, while the Playhouse hosted movies by Jackie Cooper, Joe E. Brown, Edgar Kennedy, etc. It’s always been said the Playhouse would show the “B” movies while the Baker showed the “A” movies and in many cases,

the “B” movies were better, funnier and cheaper.

The Baker Theater showed its first “all talkie” movie in 1929 called “On Trial” and it’s very last movie in 1978 called “The End” starring Bert Reynolds.

The Playhouse opened in 1913 and immediately began showing “silent movies”. The last movie was showed in the 1960s and the theater was finally torn down in the 1970s.

4th Annual Holiday Open House At Museum on Dec. 20th



(Cont. from previous page) There is no admission charge for this event, but visitors are asked to bring a gift for the museum, such as bathroom and kitchen cleaners, plastic trash bags, paper plates and spoonware, paper towels, toilet tissues, etc. Monetary donations are also accepted. This year’s Holiday Open House is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 20th from 4:00 to 9:00 pm. Be sure to bring a friend!

New Span Of Rt. 15 Overpass Partially Open To Traffic



DOVER-Slowly, but surely Dover area residents are beginning to see great progress in the Route 46-15 multi-million dollar bridge reconstruction project.

This new bridge is a much improved version of the original 1930 bridge that made radical changes in the traffic flow through Dover. Instead of traffic going through the town to connect to W. Blackwell Street, drivers could easily go over this bridge to avoid downtown traffic. Work on this project is expected to continue through end of year.



Dover Area Historical Society
PO Box 609
Dover, New Jersey 07802-0609
www.doverhistoricalsociety.com



The Ryan Doltz Memorial at North Dover Elementary School.

President—Betty Inglis
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Archivist—George Coulthard
Webmaster—Phil Reynolds

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2012

Now is the time to send your membership dues for Year 2012. By doing so now, you will be listed in our first 2012 Winter edition of Ye Old Tye News and all three other editions that follow in 2012.

Your continued support is so important to the continuing efforts of all the volunteers that make the success of the Dover Historical Society through our outreach programs, social events, fund raising events, supporting other community organizations and most importantly, maintaining a “home” for Dover’s wonderful history. Thank you!

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1916 - 1920	Hon. Richard W. Whitham
1920 - 1922	Hon. William L. R. Lynd
1922 - 1926	Hon. William H. Hosking (died in office)
1926 - 1930	Hon. Thomas O. Bassett
1930 - 1961	Hon. John Roach Jr. (died Nov. 26, 1961)
1961 - 1962	Hon. Robert B. Woodhull (interim)
1962 - 1963	Hon. Dr. Leslie P. Stringer (interim)
1963 - 1965	Hon. Dr. Leslie P. Stringer (quit sickness)
1965 - 1966	Hon. Charles Whitehead (temporary)
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1968 - 1972	Hon. Edward R. Horan
1972 - 1974	Hon. Willard M. Hedden
1974 - 1974	Hon. L. William Newkirk (resigned)
1974 - 1975	Hon. Richard M. Newman (interim)

(Cont. below)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Family - \$20 * Individual - \$12
Senior Citizen (62 and older) - \$8
Junior Member (Student) - \$6
Sustaining Member - \$75
(Display Ad or Compliments of:)
Life Membership (one-time payment) (Husband & Wife or Individual) - \$300

Dover Area Historical Society is a 501(c)3
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