



# Ye Old Tye News

Volume XXXVII, Issue II

Spring 2006

Remembering  
Al "Mr. Dover" Ciardi  
Page 5



**Dover's best kept secret:  
INDIAN FALLS**  
*This summer visit Indian  
Falls and experience the  
adventure!*

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## Welcome Mayor of Dover, England The Right Worshipful Councilor, Mayor Ken Tranter To Attend September Ceremony To Honor The Historic "Dover Dogs"

DOVER-At a recent historical society meeting, Alderman Frank Poolas updated the group on the status of the injured "Dover Dogs" which recently fell victim to vandals. Bob Wagner is taking bits and pieces of the smashed mastiff dogs and piecing them back together with a delicate style of welding. (See page 9) When the dogs are repaired, a gala celebration will take place with dignities invited to a rededication ceremony for the historic dogs, including a visit from the Mayor of Dover, England.

The history of the "Dover Dogs" dates back to 1869. When industrialist George Richards convinced this bustling little community to become an "official" independent town with its own government and public services in 1869, he sought to serve as

the first Mayor.

It is believed that perhaps an international newspaper, like the N. Y. Times, may have mentioned the fact of a "new" Dover and this may have caught the attention of the citizenry of Dover, England. Soon after, through popular subscriptions, the Mayor of Dover England presented the new Mayor of Dover, New Jersey a pair of white mastiff dogs, that were sculptured by J.W. Fiske in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

These muscular metal dogs, standing about four feet high, were originally placed at the entrance to Mr. Richards mansion house at the top of Prospect Street overlooking and guarding the entire Town of Dover.

When Mr. Richards passed away, his widow called several of his trusted employees together and had them choose a memento from the estate. Mr.

Thomas Baker, grandfather of Barbara Dunn, was the Accountant and Comptroller for the Richards dry good business on Blackwell Street. He chose the dogs and they were then placed at his residence at 87 W. Clinton Street.

In 1989 the Dogs were donated to the Town of Dover.



(Cont. on page 7)

Mayor of Dover, England Ken Tranter and Mayoress Jan Tranter

## Barbara & Gordon Dunn Donated "Dover Dogs"

DOVER-From its beginnings in 1869, the tale of the historic "Dover Dogs" has been a long and tangled story from the highest honor to neglect and damage to rediscovery and once again honored, vandalized and honored again. When the first mayor of Dover passed away, the Dogs became the property of Thomas Baker, an employee and trusted friend of George Richards.

From 1899 to the 1960s, the Dogs resided at 87 W. Clinton St. Fire



nearly destroyed the Dogs in the 1940s. In the late 1960s, they were moved to 13 MacSpar Drive where they were once vandalized during Halloween. In 1989, they were donated to

Dover and were stored at the high school and nearly forgotten. During Dover's 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, new interest in the Dogs arose; they were restored and placed at Town Hall. In 2006, they were once again vandalized. Now, new efforts are being made to restore the Dogs and better protect them from future damage.

# Membership 2006

The following members have paid their annual dues for 2006.

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Dr. A.L. & Jean Baker, Hopatcong  
Benson Thomson Agency, Dover  
Joan & Alan Bocchino, Dover  
James Brooks, Ocean City  
Curtis & Lois Brown, Lancaster, PA  
Harriet Buono, Dover  
Eva Casey, Dover  
George Coulthard, Dover  
James & JoAnn Dodd, Dover  
Patrick Fahy, Dover  
Evelyn Gilbert, Jensen Beach, Fla.  
David & Karen Glaser, Dover  
Victor & Ellen Guadagno, Sparta  
Jim & Verna Johnson,  
Pompton Plains

Patricia Kalena, Dover  
Richard Kelly, Dover  
Henry & Charlotte Luer, Denville  
Marilyn Martin, Cottage Grove, MN  
Richard & Barbara Newman,  
Dover  
Frank Poolas, Dover  
Mr.&Mrs. Wm.Richardson,  
Mt.Arlington  
Stan & Marjorie Schoonmaker,  
Dover  
Bill & Ulla Shuler, Dover  
Paul Shuler, Dover  
Tuttle Funeral Home, Randolph  
Kay Walker, Dover  
JoAnne Zarger, Mine Hill  
In Memory of Arch Nicholas, Dover

## SUSTAINING

Rotary Club of Dover  
Betty & Woody Hedden,Randolph  
Nancy & Bill Kattermann, Dover  
Rev. James & Loretta Slattery,  
Dover  
Brownwood Realty Co.Inc., Dover  
Eve Casey, Dover  
Frank D'Auria, Denville  
Dover Market Place, Wayne  
Jan Gordon, Landing  
Joyce Lake, Dover  
Scott & Judy Miller, Dover  
Cindy & Rich Romaine, Dover  
Susan & Wm. Shauer, Dover

## FAMILY

Penny & Joshua Bennett, Dover  
Joe & Cindy Burbridge, Dover  
Juan & Kathleen Casiano, Dover  
George & Mary Castellitto, Dover  
John & Mary Chirip, Randolph

## Membership (Cont.)

Richard & Cathey Cole, Dover  
John D'Agostino, Landing  
Jeanne DeMark, Longmont, CO  
Gordon & Barbara Dunn, Pt. Charlotte, FL  
Russell & Edith Fine, Milford, DE  
Dr. Edward & Ellen Forbes, Randolph  
Robin & Connie Foster, Dover  
Bogert & Helen Holly, Dover  
Bob & Janet Hooper, Dover  
John & Caroline Huntzinger, Milford, ED  
Stu & Betty Inglis, Dover  
Carl & Shirley Iosso, Dover  
Margaret & Ralph Kubisky, Dover

Ralph & Betty MacNaughten, Mine Hill  
Larry & Kathy Magliochetti, Dover  
Joe Mann, Middletown, NY  
Bert & Linda McDonald, Dover  
Byard & Linda Miller, Heber Springs, AR  
Dr. Hugh & Minerva Miller, Dover, DE  
Karl & Ginny Miller, Hayes, VA  
James & Linda Mullin, Dover  
Ken & Margaret Palovitz, Towaco  
Carmen & Helen Pennella, Dover  
Mabel Poulos, Dover  
Robert Schwarz, Dover  
Ian & Gertrude Simms, Hopatcong  
Duncan & Dorothy Smith,  
Silver Spring, MD  
Joanne & Bob Steinberg, Dover  
Raymond & Mary Storey, Manchester

LeRoy & Edith Varga, Dover  
Jim & RaeAnn Visioli, Dover  
Pat Visioli, Milford, DE  
Bob & Alice Wagner, Wharton  
Steve & Linda Wagoner, Dover  
Neldon & Alma Williams, Dover  
Wm. & Brenda Woodhull, Dover

## INDIVIDUAL

Robert Bahrs, Morris Plains  
Robert Carpenter, Rockaway  
Phyllis Casey, Dover  
James Fransen, Sussex  
Ward Grossman, Saco, Maine  
John Hynes, Easton, NH  
Martin Kane, Mt. Lakes

## Membership (Cont.)

Gary Kazin, Rockaway  
Jacqueline Loeffler, Dover  
Joan McCellan, Dover  
Nancy Nicholas, Dover  
Marilyn Patterson, Dover  
Bernard Schenkler, Rockaway  
Beth Schoonmaker, Dover  
Julia Stringer, Dover  
Dr. Arthur Tiger, Dover  
Dr. Anthony Troha, Mine Hill  
Louisa Wall, Dover  
Arlene Wright, Murphysboro, ILL

## SENIOR

Faith Andres, Dover  
Ellen Appio, Randolph  
Edith Baker, Dover  
Ivan & Natalie Basch, Dover  
Marjorie Herring Bell, LosAngeles, CA  
Gloria Benedict, Dover  
Jack Bennett, Morris Plains  
Joe & Carolina Bentreovato, Dover  
Vivian Berg, Dover  
Carolyn Bishop, Dover  
Joyce Bowlby, Mine Hill  
Edna Burkart, Dover  
Frances Campbell, Mt Tabor  
Pat Carthage, Lk Hopatcong

Jean Cater, Dover  
Howard Chegwiddden, Dover  
Jean Chervnsik, Dover  
Jane Cody, Dover  
Peter Cullen, Clifton  
Ed Curry, Dover  
Jane Curtin, Dover  
Ed Daniels, Dover  
Lynn Davis, Lady Lake, FL  
Marion DeArmond, Ledgewood  
Catharine DeShazo, Dover  
Thomas & Ellen DeShazo, Frenchtown  
Albert Ebner, Mine Hill  
(Cont. on page 7)



# Historic Baker Theater Celebrates 100 Years

THE HEART AND SOUL OF DOVER HISTORY LIES WITHIN THE WALLS OF THE OLD BAKER THEATER

DOVER—"It has been said, more famous stars have supplied recreation on the stage of the Baker Theater than any other one stage in America." Published December 22, 1924.

When the doors of the Baker Theater opened for the first time in 1906, it



was considered the finest playhouse in the entire state and was labeled as the premier entertainment showcase in New Jersey. It seated 1,146 and was billed as the largest vaudeville playhouse in the entire region.

The history of the

Baker Theater started one block east on Blackwell St. when William H. Baker constructed the Baker Opera House in 1885 as a venue for the newest form of entertainment called "vaudeville". On May 13, 1904, 19-years later, Mr. Baker suddenly closed the doors to the old Opera House and announced that he was planning on constructing a beautiful new, "state-of-the-art" theater building in Dover; "modern in its architecture and convenient, and accommodating as well." Mr. Baker said, it was to be the most modern theater between Dover and Newark and would be heated throughout with steam heat and would be lighted with both electricity and gas.

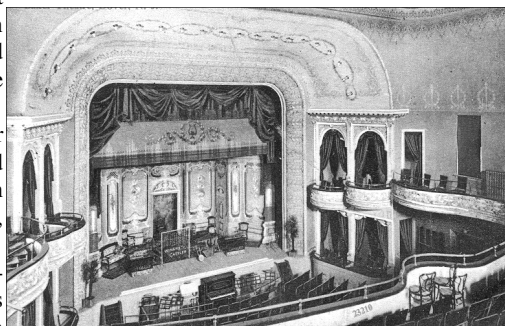
The Grand Opening of the Baker Theater was on December 5, 1906 and featured Mr. Robert Mantell & Company in Sir Edward Bulwer's Romantic play, "Richelieu."

Robert Mantell was a British-American actor born in 1854. He made his debut in 1876 and operated his own

traveling theatrical company by 1905. Mantell was internationally noted for his Shakespearean roles.

By this time, vaudeville was America's most popular form of entertainment and Dover was a major stop along the vaudeville circuit equal to that of many large cities. (cont. next section)

(Notice the photo below shows the orchestra pit. K. H. Sparnon conducted The Baker Theater Orchestra for many years)



Interior of the Baker Theater circa 1906

## Vaudeville in Dover

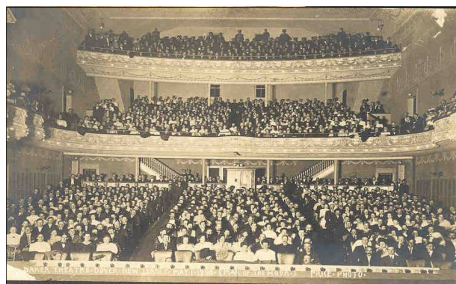
The vaudeville shows brought great happiness and excitement to the Dover region.

Major famous theatrical and vaudevillian stars appeared at the Baker such as Helen Hayes, Dewolf Hopper, Ethel Barrymore, Lillian Russell, Lou Costello, George Burns & Gracie Allen, Harry Houdini, Joe Cook, John Phillip Sousa and many, many others.

George Burns and Gracie Allen appeared at the Baker on September 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> 1923. Billy Allen (Steve Allen's father) and his "Spectacular Musical Review" appeared

at the Baker several times.

On Thursday, May 29, 1913, the Dover Advance reported that Raymond F. Woodhull was appointed manager of the Baker Theater and immediately began making



Packed Baker Theater May, 1908

major changes. He remodeled the staircases, installed new ladies "retiring" rooms, a children's nursery, check room and gentlemen's "lounging apartments." The benches in the orchestra pit were replaced with new orchestra chairs and private offices were constructed for Mr. Woodhull and apartments built for the traveling managers. According to Mr. Woodhull, "the people of Dover will now be permitted, during the coming new season, to witness some of the best New York productions, without the long ride to the theater in the big city."

Compliments of  
Betty & Woody  
Hedden  
Randolph

Compliments of  
Frank D'Auria  
Denville

## BAKER THEATER

On Tuesday, August 12, 1913, John Philip Sousa and his world famous band came to Dover to a sell-out performance. It was said that John Philip Sousa and his band have been heard all over the world by millions of people, for the audiences they have delighted have often been vast in numbers, even exceeding over 100,000 persons in one

## Wm. H. Baker Passes Away

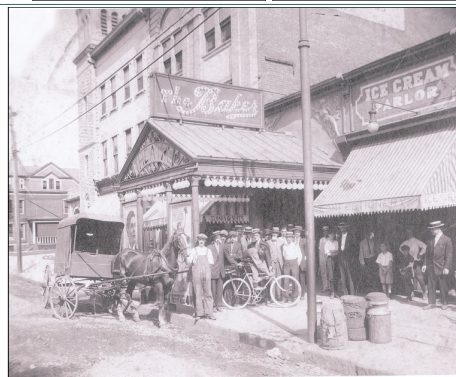
day. William H. Baker passed away on November 16, 1918 at the age of 67 and his son, Henry O. Baker took over ownership and

later, became partners with Raymond Woodhull.

Around this time, motion pictures were just beginning to arrive on the scene and a typical nightly performance at the Baker featured a short motion picture starting at 7 p.m. and was followed by 5 acts of vaudeville at 8:00 pm.

By the early 1920s, in addition to the regular vaudeville acts and the silent motion pictures, the Baker began to book major theatrical productions that made full use of the theatre's five-story fly loft, back-stage and under-the-stage dressing rooms.

(cont. on page 4 )



Baker looking west circa 1908

## Historic Baker Theater

On November 24, 1924 it was announced "conveniences afforded theatergoers to the Baker will be equal to the best in the United States. Manager Woodhull, who has traveled extensively visiting theaters in every section of the country, has given the work his personal supervision."

The Grand Opening of the "New" Baker Theater occurred on Friday December 26, 1924 with prominent speakers terming it "a theater of refinement, an important part of municipal life, and a milestone of progress for Dover."

The Dover Advance wrote, "The exquisite beauty of the theatre impressed every visitor, and on all sides were heard exclamations of pleasure and amazement at the transformation."

The President of the National Motion Picture Theatre Owner's Association, M. J. O'Toole, of Scranton, stated, "This new Baker Theatre outshines any of its kind that we have had the

pleasure of visiting. It very clearly reveals to the people of this vicinity that the owners have a cherished belief in the future of Dover."

Two years later, on September 16, 1926, the ownership of the theater changed hands from Baker and Woodhull to the **Stanley-Fabian Corporation**. According to reports, "the change in ownership meant no change in policy." The new owners were the largest theatre holding company in America owning 225 theaters.

Now the Baker was able to book the finest pictures and vaudeville acts available to the public. The biggest stars of



The Baker Theater c 1930

the screen and the best vaudeville acts were now within reach of the Baker, because of the purchasing power of The Stanley-Fabian Corporation. Mr. Fabian stated "I promise to provide the Baker Theater with the highest entertainment obtainable."

Two years later, the Baker underwent yet another major renovation. On February 18, 1929 the Baker Theater made one of the most significant events in the history of the motion pictures that completely revolutionized the entire motion picture industry...Sound.

The Baker Theater installed the "Talking Pictures" the first of its kind in Morris County. Beginning with the synchronization of music and screen action, the sound process reached perfection with the synchronization of speech and acting. The theater presented "*The First Talking Picture in Morris County*" on March 18, 1929 showing Warner Brother's, "ON TRIAL" starring PAULINE FREDERICK,

Compliments of  
Nancy & Bill  
Kattermann  
Dover

Compliments of  
Susan & William  
Shauer  
Dover

## Historic Baker Theater 100 Years Old

(cont. from above)

By now, vaudeville's popularity faded and as economic hard times hit, something had to be cut. It was usually the vaudeville troupe that found itself out on the street. With them went the stagehands, as well as the musicians. Times were now tough for the vaudeville performers, except for those who went on to radio and motion pictures.

Now, most of the Baker's advertising became "coming attractions" for the latest movies, while a few vaudeville acts were booked for Saturdays.

By 1930, vaudeville was dead with only a few vaudeville theaters struggling to stay alive. Motion Pictures and Radio began to absorb many of the leading vaudeville acts and talents.

For the next 30-years the Baker operated as a popular, full-time movie theater, attracting thousands of moviegoers, young and old. As other competing movie theaters opened in Morris County and in the surrounding communities, The Baker found the competition to be tough as patrons began going elsewhere. (cont. next section)



The Presbyterian Church held their services in the Baker Theater following a devastating fire that caused considerable damage to the church in the 1970s.

## The New Baker Theater of Dover

(cont. from above)

By the 1960s, the Baker became a small town movie-house that featured Saturday Matinees that continued to draw large crowds of kids. In the 1970s, when nearby malls began opening multi-screen theaters, attendance further shrunk at the Baker.

On August 1, 1978 a fire alarm sounded at the Baker due to an electrical circuit problem. The fire department

responded but was not needed. Following an inspection the next day, the theater was closed. A sign on the door read, "Closed-Reopen Soon." The original Baker Theater never did reopen after that and its long, wonderful, exciting history came to an end. Ironically enough, the very last picture to be shown at the Baker was titled "**The End.**" In May, 2004 the Baker was sold to new owners Lee Levitt and Joe Luddy. They have spent several hundred thousand dollars in renovations, structural repairs, restoring its muted red,



green and gold tones and repairing fallen plaster. Original stained glass exit signs were reinstalled, chandeliers, marble banisters, ceiling designs were cleaned and restored. Once again, Dover



# The Village Of Dover Incorporated in 1829

DOVER-In 1826, Henry McFarlan Sr. and Joseph Blackwell succeeded in having Dover incorporated as a village, covering 25 acres, and extending from South Dickerson Street to Clinton Street, and from Prospect to Bergen streets. All property East of Bergen Street was considered unclaimable swamp, and it was not to be drained and developed until the 1880's. In 1827, they had a map of Dover prepared, showing all shops and buildings, as well as streets, laid out to sell building lots, with the canal-to-be as their chief selling point. They also inserted an ad in the Morristown "Jerseyman," in which they set forth the advantages of the location, and offering convenient terms to prospective homeowners. (10% on the day of sale, 40% on November 1, 1827, 50%, May 1, 1828. Improvements of \$80 or more, made during 1827, would result in one-half of the amount paid for the lot being refunded). In 1830, lots of 50 ft. by 150 ft. sold for \$50.00 each.

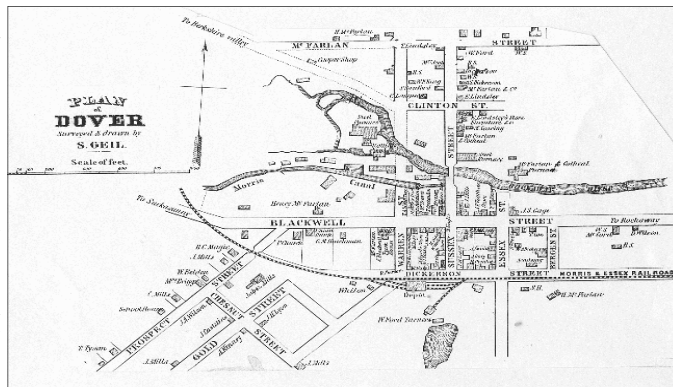
Blackwell and McFarlan named the two main east-west streets after themselves. Side streets crossing these at right angles were named after the early New Jersey Counties: Warren, Essex, Sussex, Morris, Bergen and Salem. Other prominent streets were named after prominent Dover men like Searing, McDavit, Dickerson, Hinchman, Segur, etc. Maple trees were planted along the principal streets. The center of town became Blackwell Street lined with tall maple trees and business shops.

Smoke bellowed forth thick columns from Dover's 2 rolling mills, foundries, nail and spike factories and numerous smaller iron-connected enterprises.

In 1844, John W. Barber and Henry

Howe, published their "Historical Collection of the State of New Jersey," in which they depicted "The Smokestacks of Dover."

Although there was no wild scramble to buy McFarlan's building lots, there was however, a steady increase in buyers who came to build homes and stores. What was known as the "McFarlan Building Boom" would last for the next 50 years.



## The Town of Dover Becomes Official in 1869 Breaks Away From Randolph Township

DOVER-On April 1, 1869, the Village of Dover, in Randolph Township, was Reincorporated by Act of the General Assembly of New Jersey, and obtained a Town Charter, which specified a Mayor, Recorder, 2 Aldermen, and 5 Common Councilmen. Dover's population then, was 3,300, making it the second largest municipality in the County.

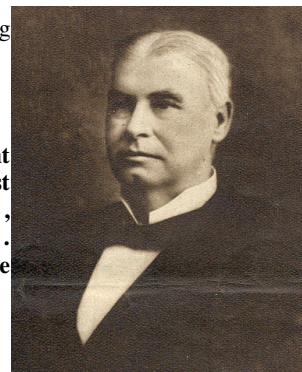
At an election held on Monday, May 3, 1869, in I. B. Jolly's "Mansion House Hotel" George Richards, a dominant figure in local affairs, became Dover's first Mayor,

winning with 260 votes. Also elected with him were Recorder James H. Neighbour, Aldermen Mahlon H. Dickerson and Ephraim Lindsley, and Councilmen William H. McDavit, Alpheus Beamer, Thomas J. Halsey, Daniel F. Wiggins and Martin V. B. Searing. William H. Lambert was the town's first Clerk.

Much of Dover's early growth was due to Mayor Richards' time and talents of which he gave freely. The George Richards Building (Iron Carriage Antiques) on Blackwell St. is a lasting monument to his

great and lasting memory.

To the right  
Dover's First  
Mayor,  
The Hon.  
George  
Richards



Compliments of  
Rev. James &  
Loretta Slattery  
Dover

Compliments of  
Cindy & Rich  
Romaine  
Dover

## In Memory of Al "Mr. Dover" Ciardi (1915 - 2006)

DOVER-Dover has truly lost one of its most important historic figures in the passing away of Alfonso "Mr. Dover" Ciardi at the age of 91. Noted for his high profile in town, he attended just about every function and important event and shared his wisdom and thoughts with both the young and old alike. Mr. Ciardi will certainly be missed.

Most of those growing up in Dover remember Al as one of the original organizers of the annual Fourth-of-July fireworks celebration at Hamilton Field. Al, along with Dominick Francis, Keith Heaton and Clyde Utz served on the original committee under Mayor Dr. Leslie P. Stringer and enlisted the support of the American Legion, Lions, Rotary and Kiwanis clubs to begin the fireworks display on July 3, 1953. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration Committee was incorporated in 1955 and continues its marvelous displays to this day.

Al was a tireless worker and organizer for the Town of Dover and served on the Dover Board of Education and the Dover Housing Authority. He was past commander of the American Legion Post 27, in charge of the Morris County Boys State program and long time member of Dover's Memorial Association helping organize Dover's many parades and events. As a matter of fact, there is not enough room in this column to list all the details of Al's dedication to Dover. Al's service to the community didn't go unnoticed. A few years ago the citizens of Dover named a street in his honor and memory, "Al Ciardi Way" which is located just off Orchard Street, one of the most important historic sections of town.

# Dover Traction Co. Incorporated in 1899

## North Jersey's Trolley System Headquartered In Dover

DOVER-In June, 1899, the Morris County Traction Company was incorporated, and a franchise was granted by the Town of Dover on Friday, August 12, 1903

The first trolley car, named the "Dover," (remember the first canal boat named "Dover of Dover"?) left the Dover car barn on East Blackwell St. on July 1, 1904. It carried Mayor Searing, the Common council, newspapermen, and others. That first year, running from July 1, 1904 to June 15, 1905, the company carried 42,716 passengers.

Between 1905 and 1908, the company acquired franchises and constructed lines in various communities. By 1909, the road was operating from Elizabeth and Maplewood to Summit; from Morristown to Morris Plains; and from Denville, through Rockaway and Dover, to Wharton. Between 1909 and 1911, the various parts of the line

were connected and extended to Lake Hopatcong. There was half-hour service to most communities.

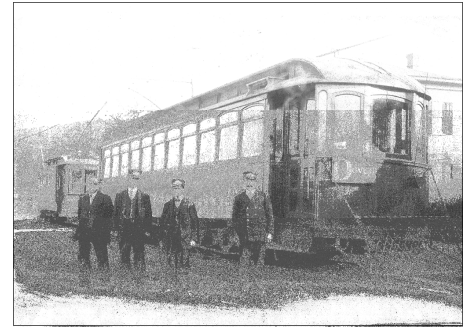
Many of the employees of the fast-growing company came to the Dover area and took up residence. The company had repair shops and a Division Office here. At its peak, the company employed as many as 112 at the Dover plant.

In 1919, one-man safety trolleys were introduced. They were quickly dubbed "bob-tails," and carried 32 passengers. In 1921, the company carried over 7,642,000 passengers.

With the advent of the bus, the Trolley Company was headed toward bankruptcy. It went into receivership on July 24, 1923, and its half-hour service ceased in 1928, when the Public Service Coordinate Transport Co., at a foreclosure sale, purchased the franchise. The old traction company had received approval to convert to buses and would never run a trolley over the line again.

The last trolley ran on January 15, 1928 accompanied by blowing horns and ringing gongs and trolley whistles. It was piloted by Superintendent Charles F. Fields, and was followed by a train of new busses.

During a World War II scrap drive in 1942, 21,000 linear feet of trolley rails weighting 75 tons were removed and donated to the war effort.



Look for Betty Inglis' Grandfather in this photo

## Upcoming Events

**APRIL 18TH - TUESDAY - 7:30 PM**

Museum House  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
"Hodge-Podge II"

No charge - Refreshments served

**Tuttle Funeral Home**

272 Highway 10, Randolph Township,  
NJ 07869 (973) 366-7400

**J.D. Automotive & Truck Inc.**

State of the Art Repair Facility  
331 Richards Ave. Dover  
973-366-0799

**MAY 12TH - FRIDAY - 8:00 PM**

**UNCLE FLOYD "LIVE"**

**BAKER THEATER**

also Tribute to Lou Costello and  
The Dover High School Jazz Band

**TICKETS: \$12.50 Adult - \$7 Students**

Call (973) 361-3525 for more info.

Sponsored by the New Jersey Radio Museum  
and Dover Area Historical Society



Compliments of  
Rotary Club of Dover

**MAY 16TH - TUESDAY - 7:30 PM**

**Dover High School Auditorium**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**High School Life in the 40s**

No charge - Refreshments served Call  
973-366-0629 for info.

Compliments of  
Scott & Judy Miller  
Dover

Compliments of  
Jan Gordon  
Landing

Compliments of  
Brownwood Realty  
Co., Inc. Dover

Compliments of  
Joyce Lake  
Dover

## Oldest Photo of Dover?



DOVER-The photo to the left is perhaps one of the oldest photos of historic downtown Dover. Photography became very popular in the U.S. in the mid 1850s. This particular photograph shows a section of Blackwell Street looking west between Sussex and Warren Streets. Notice Goodale's Pharmacy half way down the block (today's Daily Record building), so we know the photo was taken after 1850. Also notice at the corner of Warren Street, the Baker Opera House was not yet built, so the photo had to be taken before 1885. Notice the steeple in the distance is the second building of Dover's Presbyterian Church and the building at the corner of Warren Street is the Stickle House, before it was remodeled and became the Hotel Dover. That dates this photo around **1872**. (Notice gas lights lined the streets of Dover along with hitching poles for the horses and most buildings were wooden).

### In Memoriam

Al Ciardi, Dover \* Alice Erickson, Freehold \* Madelyn Ericson,  
Honeybrook, PA \* Elizabeth Huelsenbeck, Rockaway



# Photo Gallery - Hodge-Podge Of Pictures

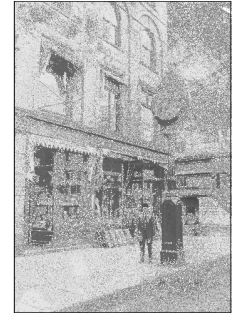
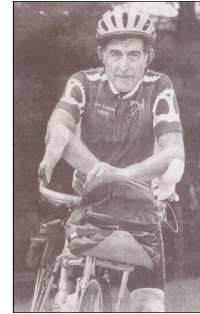


Photo #1 was first shown at the historical society's Feb. 21st meeting showing a study hall at the old Dover High School on Myrtle Ave. Low-and-behold, it was discovered the student with his head on the desk was that, of our very own, Bob Wagner. It was concluded that he was daydreaming of someday the Dover Historical Society owning its own museum house. Photo #2 shows Rick Kelly tending bar at the historical society's 2nd Annual Root Beer Social. This year's social is scheduled for July 9th at the Dover Flea Market. Photo #3 shows LeRoy Varga, as he prepares for the 746-mile Paris-Brest-Paris bicycle marathon in 2003. Pictured at 76, Leroy is certainly one of Dover's unsung heroes. Photo #4 shows Dover's town clock when it was located in front of Berry's Hardware Store in 1899.

## UPCOMING EVENTS (cont.)

**JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> - FRIDAY - 7:30PM**

**Baker Theater**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual H.S. Jazz Nite**

\$5 Adults - \$2 Students

Call (973) 361-3525 for info.

**JUNE 20TH - TUESDAY - 7:30 PM**

**Museum House**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**High School Life in the 1950s**

No charge - Refreshments served

Call 973-366-0629 for info.

**JULY 9TH - SUNDAY - 12 NOON**

**3RD Annual Root Beer Social & Yard Sale at Dover Flea Market**

All day Yard Sale

12:00 Noon Root Beer Floats

Reservations **973-366-0629**

## Mayor Geo. Richards Mansion - Original Site of the Historic "Dover Dogs"

### DOVER DOGS (CONT. PAGE 1)

In 1989, Barbara Dunn donated the dogs to the Town of Dover. They were stored at the high school and sat behind closed doors in a closet for the next 17-years. Knowing of their existence and fearing they might eventually be thrown away or disappear, historical society president Betty Inglis alerted Mayor Stephen Sukalo during Dover's 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in 1997. Funds were made available to have the dogs



Pictured is the mansion house of Dover's first Mayor, George Richards. The house, long gone, was located at the top of Prospect St. right at the intersection of Audrey Place. Notice the two "Dover Dogs" located on either side of Mr. Richards entrance. The dogs were given to Thos. Baker in 1899. The official rededication of the "Dover Dogs" is scheduled for Sept.

### 2006 Membership (cont.)

#### **SENIOR** (CONT.)

Elinor Eckert, Boonton

Emma Eckhart, Dover

Richard & Elfriede Egan, Dover

Robert Fancher, Wharton

Maggie Fisher & Bob Starling, Dover

Phyllis & Ray Fischer, Dover

Robert & Mary Flanagan, Dover

Roger Flartey, Denville

John V. Gill, Flanders

Rolando Gomez, Dover

Joyce Gorine, Dover

Sophie Goritski

Florence Gray, Dover

Margaret Greenan, Dover

Leonore Harrison, Mt Tabor

William Hastie, Wharton

Diane Hunter, Dover

Phil Jaeger, Cedar Grove

Mary Jenkins, Dover

Catherine Jugan, Dover

Paula Kassell, Dover

Judy Klement, Remer, MN

Judith Kovar, Rockway

John & Helen Kuzel, Dover

Clare Leifer, Dix Hills, NY

Dorothy Lindberg, Jamison, PA

Virginia List, Dover

Shirley Lohman, Dover

Charlene Sue May, Manassas, VA

Helen McCahill, Ocean Grove

Marion McKane, Dover

Gloria Melnick, Atlanta, GA

Bernadina Milano, Randolph

Kenneth Miller, Mine Hill

Otto Miller, Mine Hill

Roy & Marion Miller, Dover

Louise Dickerson Milner, Hamilton, NY

Ruth A. Monahan, Randolph

(Cont. on page 8)

**2006 Membership (cont.)**

Joan Munson, Dover  
 Joyce O'Malley, Lehigh Acres, FL  
 Helen Peterson, Dover  
 Diane Power, Rockaway Twp.  
 Edna Rawson, Dover  
 Edward & Madeline Reich, Dover  
 Mary Ritzer, Hackettstown  
 Martha Salvesen, Dover  
 Florence Schuten, Pelion, SC  
 Carolyn Seeger, E. Stroudsburg, PA  
 Virginia Shukailo, Dover  
 Delores Tate, Belhaven, NC  
 K. Robert Thompson, Denville  
 Marion Thriemer, Murphysboro, IL  
 Martin & Edith Trengove, Hackettstown  
 Marjorie Weber, Birdsboro, PA  
 Henry Will, Ledgewood  
 Miriam Willinger, D over  
 Florence Winch, Dover  
 Clara Wolford, Dover  
 Bob & Barbara Woodhull, Dover

**Thomas Baker Inherited the "Dover Dogs"**

DOVER-Thomas Baker, one of the best known and most respected citizens of Morris Co. was a member of the Baker family that settled in the Dover area in the 1700s. Thomas was born on Feb. 21, 1865 at the old Baker Homestead.

Upon completing his higher education at the Mt Morris Academy in Morristown, he bought out the real estate business of H.L. Dunham. He was also employed for many years as the comptroller and accountant for the Richards Company on



Blackwell St.

Thomas married Hester Mae Hilferty of Port Jervis on April 19, 1893 (Pictured above) In 1896, Mr Baker built this house at 87 W. Clinton St. where the dogs resided for many years.

The **Dover History Museum House** located at 55 W. Blackwell Street is now available for non profit groups and organizations to hold meetings or request personal tours. The **Dover Area Historical Society** is also available to present to your group or organization, a PowerPoint slide show on Dover area history programs through its "Outreach" program. For more information, please call (973) 361-3525.

**Events (Cont.)**

**JULY 18TH - TUESDAY - 7:30 PM**  
 Museum House  
 Regular Monthly Meeting  
**High School Life in the 1960s**  
 No charge - Refreshments

**AUG 15TH - TUESDAY - 6:00 PM**

Annual Picnic  
 Inglis Homestead on Richards  
 (Bring a covered dish)  
 Call 973-366-0629 for reservations  
 (Show & Tell - Bring an antique or something historic and tell about it)

**SEPT. 19TH - TUES. - 7:30 PM**

Baker Theater  
**2nd Annual Railroad Night**  
 Railroad Historian Bob Bahrs

**COMING ATTRACTIONS**

John Phillip Sousa Night  
 at the Baker Theater

*Victor's Flowers  
 and Gifts*

16 E. Blackwell St.  
 (973) 366-1068  
 Established 1940  
 Experienced Award-



**Benson Thomson  
 Agency**  
**INSURANCE - SINCE 1921**  
 15 NORTH MORRIS STREET  
 DOVER, NJ 07801  
 PHONE: 973-366-0010  
 Stephen Thomson & Jay Thomson

**Uncle Floyd "Live"**  
**Baker Theater**  
**May 12, 2006**  
 presented by  
**Dover Historical Society**  
**N.J. Radio Museum**  
 Showtime 8:00 PM  
 Tickets \$25.00 pair of Adults  
 \$7 Students under 18

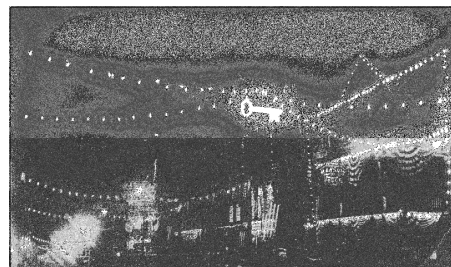
**New York City Gets Electricity in 1882, Dover In 1889**

DOVER-In 1882, Thomas Edison, a frequent visitor to Dover, supervised the installation of the first commercial electricity to a central power system in lower Manhattan in New York. Seven short years later electricity was supplied to Dover when a main switch was turned on at 7:30 pm on January 8, 1889 and supplied power to ten business establishments and a few street light poles. The Dover Electric Light Company was born, with the power plant located at 107

E. Blackwell St and the corner of Union Street.

Six linemen were employed and used a pushcart to carry the supplies needed to make necessary repairs to the lines. The company later moved its plant and offices to 25 N. Essex Street.

On March 9, 1903, the Dover Electric Company was purchased by the Eastern Pennsylvania Power Company and for the first time, power remained on 24-



hours a day. Lights were turned on along Blackwell Street on January 8, 1889 to



## The Historic 1869 “Dover Dogs”



The Dover Dogs narrowly missed extinction from melting during this fire that occurred at the old stables behind Thos. Baker's house at 87 W. Clinton St. in the 1940s. (Notice the Dogs in the picture) Barbara Dunn and Vivian Berg use to climb and play on these dogs when they were children. The Dogs were also once vandalized during mischief



night when the tails were broken off. **Above**, Bob Wagner works on one of the damaged dogs in his Wharton shop. This dog was severely damaged when it was toppled from its pedestal and came smashing to the ground. 67 pieces of the dog were recovered, some large and some smaller than a dime. Bob is using a



technique of pot metal welding wire, because solder does not work on these pot metal dogs. Pot metal is a mixture of lead, zinc, tin, etc. **Above**, the picture shows the 21 pieces that make up the face of the dog. Bob is using a fiberglass resin to reconstruct the base for the face. When completed, the Dogs will be painted a silver-gray.

**THANK YOU!** The Dover Area Historical Society would like to thank all those members, supporters and volunteers who have spent countless hours and good-will in helping the dreams of a Dover History Museum come true. **THANK YOU!**

## Traveler's Diner - An Integral Piece of Dover's History

DOVER-On May 21, 2003 the 65-foot long metallic beauty, the former Travelers Diner was loaded onto a barge in Elizabeth and transported to Westport, Massachusetts to be restored and renamed the Handy Hill Diner.

The landmark diner opened in 1951 and served as one of New Jersey's major diners helping make the state known around the world as the "Diner Capital of the World." It's noted round windows and neon lite round clock facing Route 46 gave travelers the correct time, 24-hours a day.

"Travelers was a place you met everybody" said former Mayor Richard Newman. Recalling his youthful days, "after going out with friends, the group would always end up at Travelers around midnight and enjoy eggs, or a 25-cent Taylor ham sandwich with lettuce and tomato served on a hamburger roll."

With the new Route 46 overpass construction under consideration, soon Traveler's Diner will become a memory, but never forgotten.

Meanwhile, the new owners restored the original old silver diner and renamed it the Handy Hill Diner. The old Dover landmark still lives on ...250 miles away.



The silver-metal dinner was a N.J. classic.  
We want it back!

## Photos of Dover History by Rick Kelly, Society's Photographer



Bob Wagner poses in the foyer of the museum house, proud of the work he led to restoration. Notice the apparition standing next to Bob.



The work-crew from Dover's Masonic Lodge working on the 2nd floor restoration at the museum house.



Another packed house at the museum for the March 2006 meeting. Call (973) 361-3525 for update info. on the historical society.

**President Emerita—Vivian Berg**

**President—Betty Inglis**

**Vice President—Stan Schoonmaker**

**Recording Secretary—Joan Bocchino**

**Corresponding Secretary—Brenda Woodhull**

**Treasurer— Stu Inglis**

**Museum Curator—George Laurie**



**Dover Area Historical Society  
PO Box 609  
Dover, N.J. 07802-0609**

*Annual membership runs from  
Jan. thru Dec.*

Annual Membership dues:

Family - \$20, Individual - \$12,

Senior Citizen (62 and older) - \$8

Junior Member (student)—\$6

Sustaining Member - \$50

Life (one-time payment)

(Husband & Wife or Individual) - \$250

The Dover Area Historical Society is a 501 C-3

not-for-profit organization.

All donations are tax deductible!

**DOVER AREA  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Board of Trustees**

Phyllis Casey

Pat Kalena

Helen Pennella

Kathi Gilbert

Jim Johnson

Carolyn Bishop

Robert Wagner

Richard Kelly

Pat Fahy

William Woodhull

Virginia Shukailo

Kay Walker

**UNCLE FLOYD** brings his comedy to the Baker Theater on May 12 beginning at 8:00 PM. Lots of fun, laughs and good times. Call (973) 361-3525 for tickets.



**Al “Mr. Dover” Ciardi**



Remembering Al Ciardi. Al was one of the first in Morris County to voluntarily enlist in the Army in World War II. Al was also the first immigrant in the history of Dover to serve on the Dover Board of Education.

**2nd Annual Jazz Festival**

*Jazz Night at the Baker*

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual High School Jazz Fest.

Friday \* June 9, 2005

7:30 PM

at the

**Baker Theater**

41 W. Blackwell Street

\$5 per person— \$2 students

Children under 12 no charge

(All children must be accompanied by parent)

- Area schools Jazz Bands
- Dover High School Jazz Band
- Dover Middle School Jazz Band

For information contact (973) 361-6205.

**Refreshments provided by the  
Dover High School Band Boosters**

**Society's Outreach Program**

The outreach activities of the Society have been numerous and broad since the opening of the Museum. Our efforts to get the message about Dover's glorious past to the adults and youth of the area are gaining momentum.

PowerPoint presentations are currently scheduled for the Dover Seniors at their April Meeting and for the Third Grade Students at Academy Street School at the end of April.

A number of local clubs and organizations have been offered the use of the Museum to hold their regular meetings and a number of them have accepted the invitation. Feedback from those who have visited has been very positive.