



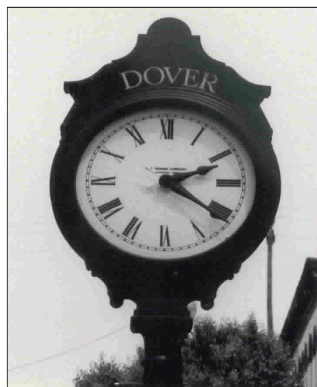
# Ye Old Tye News

Volume XXXIX Issue II

Spring 2008

## Special points of interest:

- *Spring-time at Hurd Park*
- *A visit to Indian Falls*
- *View the photo gallery at Dover General Hospital's Cafeteria*
- *Attend one of Dover's many historic churches*
- *Dine at one of Dover's many fine restaurants*



Replicas of Dover's Town Clock on sale at the Museum. Call 973-361-3525

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## Dover Museum "Ghost" Raises Questions

DOVER-In our last newsletter, we ran a story on the "ghost" that may be haunting the museum house as witnessed by many volunteers who have worked and spend a considerable amount of time there. We have been advised to be careful who we believe the ghost is or "was." At first we had no idea of what these strange happenings were until the volunteers from the Masonic Lodge uncovered a shoebox of nearly 100-year old "love letters" that belonged to one of the Condict girls. At that point we assumed this ghost may have been that of the young Dorothy Condict who at a young age was just beginning to find love. These letters were hidden away in her bedroom floor and when she moved away may have forgotten about them. We also assumed that later, she returned to watch over these hidden treasures that were kept secret for nearly a century. Historical Society Trustee Marilyn Paterson has done a

great deal of research in translating these hand-written letters into text, and has done considerable amount of work in tracing the history of Dorothy Condict and her family. The following story appeared in the

### The Star-Ledger

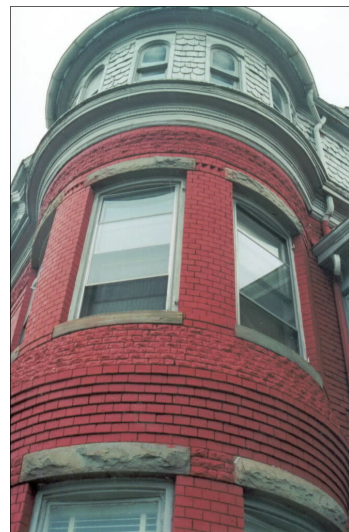
Star Ledger on May 18, 2006

#### VIVACIOUS GIRL'S SPIRIT FELT IN HER OLD HAUNT

By Maureen Salaman.

DOVER-Dorothy Condict was a vivacious teenager in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the youngest daughter of a noted Dover physician and someone who clearly had several suitors, a zest for life and a lot on her mind.

Members of the Dover Historical Society, who are renovating the former Condict house as a museum, learned a lot about the girl after discovering a box of love letters hidden in a secret compartment in her bedroom. But they also



feel they know Dorothy in another, more tangible way.

It seems Dorothy may be back.

Strange breezes, sounds, shadows and scents around the house with no obvious explanation have prompted historical society members to conclude Dorothy, in some way, is still among them. (Cont. page 5)

## Challenge: Would You Spend The Night In A Haunted Museum House?

DOVER-As a fund raiser, the Dover Area Historical Society is challenging you to spend the night in the Dover History Museum House. For a \$25 fee, the historical society wants to know who is brave enough to spend the night in the museum with only a flashlight in hand and find out if you too

experience the events of the past. The rules are simple: No more than 25-individuals are allowed to spend the night; no lights on except for flashlights; no sleeping allowed; coffee & refreshments will be available; anyone can leave at any time during the night and

everyone is required to be prepared to tell at least one story. This event can either be fun or the fright of your life. So far, witnesses of the museum Ghost say it is friendly and not frightening. For more info call 973-361-3525.

Targeted date is some

## 2008 Membership (Have you paid your 2008 dues yet?)

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Ira & Cynthia Ayers, Randolph  
 Dr. A.L. & Jean Baker, Hopatcong  
 Carolyn Bishop, Dover  
 Benson Thomson Agency, Dover  
 Joan & Alan Bocchino, Dover  
 James Brooks, Ocean City  
 Curtis & Lois Brown, Lancaster, PA  
 Harriet Buono, Dover  
 Warren & Shirley Burgess,  
 Randolph  
 Eva Casey, Dover  
 George Coulthard, Dover  
 Norman & Mary Lou Dailey, Dover  
 Florence D'Agostino, Dover  
 James & JoAnn Dodd, Dover  
 Patrick Fahy, Dover  
 Jay & Patti Ferriero, Mt Arlington  
 Evelyn Gilbert, Jensen Beach, FL  
 David & Karen Glaser, Dover

Victor & Ellen Guadagno, Sparta  
 Stuart & Betty Inglis, Dover  
 Carl Iosso, Dover  
 Jim & Verna Johnson, Pompton  
 Plains  
 Patricia Kalena, Dover  
 William & Nancy Kattermann, Dover  
 Richard Kelly, Dover  
 Karen Kovalsky, Hackettstown  
 Melvyn & Barbara Loory, Boonton  
 Henry & Charlotte Luer, Denville  
 Betty & Ralph MacNaughten, Mine  
 Hill  
 Marilyn Matin, Cottage Grove, MN  
 Dr. Hugh Miller, Dover, DE  
 Otto Miller, Mine Hill  
 Rich & Barbara Newman,  
 Dover  
 Dave & Lisa Pennella, Dover  
 Michael & Catharine Picciallo,  
 Dover

Frank Poolas, Dover  
 Wm. Richardson, Mt Arlington  
 Stan & Marj Schoonmaker, Dover  
 Bill & Ulla Shuler, Dover  
 Paul Shuler, Dover  
 JoAnn, Bob & Mike Steinberg,  
 Dover  
 Dr. Anthony Troha, Mine Hill  
 Tuttle Funeral Home, Randolph  
 Bob & Alice Wagner, Wharton  
 Kay Walker, Dover  
 Bill & Brenda Woodhull, Dover  
 JoAnne Zarger, Mine Hill  
 In Memory of Arch Nicholas

**The By-laws Committee  
 announces that starting in  
 2009 Life-Time Membership  
 will be a one-time fee of \$300.**

### 2008 Membership (cont.)

#### SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

Donald & Jean Alpert, Jr.,  
 Oak Creek, CO  
 Marjorie Harring Bell,  
 Los Angeles, CA  
 Brownwood Realty Co., Dover  
 Eve Casey, Dover  
 John D'Agostino, Landing  
 Dover Chamber of Commerce  
 Dover Renaissance, Inc.  
 Dover Rotary Club

Frank & Grace Hamilton, Old Lyme,  
 CT.  
 Betty & Woody Hedden, Randolph  
 John & Maria Hynes, Easton, NH  
 Joyce Lake, Dover  
 Scott & Judy Miller, Dover  
 Bill & Susan Shauer, Dover  
 Rev. Jim & Loretta Slattery, Dover

#### FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Penny & Joshua Bennett, Dover  
 Walter Buczek, Totowa  
 Juan & Kathleen Casiano, Dover  
 George & Mary Castellitto, Randolph  
 John & Mary Chirip, Randolph

Robert Ciardi & Joan Drexler, Irwin,  
 PA  
 Richard & Cathey Cole, Dover  
 John Cunningham, Florham Park  
 Frank, Dolores, Frankie & Michael Diaz,  
 Mine Hill  
 Kathleen & George Doboney, Wharton  
 Ray & Phyllis Fisher, Dover  
 Robert & Mary Flanagan, Dover  
 Dr. Ed & Ellen Forbes, Randolph  
 Bill & Bonnie Gregory, Morristown

An annual \$50 Sustaining Membership  
 allows you a "Compliments of"  
 message or a small business ad.

### 2008 Membership

#### FAMILY (CONT.)

Dorothy & Harold Hertel, Safety  
 Harbor, FL  
 Francis & Marie Hoffman, Dover  
 Dan & Judy Klement, Remer, MN  
 Ralph & Margaret Kubisky, Dover  
 Wilfred & Linda Mabee, Oak Ridge  
 Larry & Catherine Magliocchetti,  
 Dover  
 Joseph Mann, Middletown, NY  
 Bert & Linda McDonald, Dover  
 Jim & Linda Mullin, Dover

Joseph & Sharon Nazzaro, Randolph  
 George & Shirley O'Brien, Dover  
 Irene & Michale Palanchi, Dover  
 Vishal Parmar, Dover  
 Helen & Carmen Pennella, Dover  
 Ada Rosen & Hudson Favel, Dover  
 Robert Schwarz, Budd Lake  
 Bob, Patricia & Samuel Schwarz,  
 Dover  
 Helen & Bob Slack, Dover  
 Thomas Slack, Dover  
 Ann & Leslie Stephens, Lk Hopatcong  
 Ray & Mary Storey, Manchester  
 Valley National Bank, Dover  
 Leroy & Edith Varga, Dover

James & Rae Ann Visioli, Dover  
 Pat Visioli, Milford, DE  
 Linda & Stephen Wagoner, Dover  
 Charles Walker, Greensboro, NC  
 Neldon & Alma Williams, Dover  
 Miriam Willinger, Dover  
 Douglas & Marcia Zeek, Dover

#### INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Bob Bahrs, Morris Plains  
 Joseph Bentrovato, Plant City, FL  
 Lucinda Bryant, Succasunna  
 Robert Carpenter, Rockaway  
 Phyllis Casey, Dover (Cont. next page)



**INDIVIDUAL (CONT)**

Patricia Davis, Landing  
 Ellen Enkler, Alden, NY  
 James Fransen, Sussex  
 David Peer, Rockaway  
 Janet Hooper, Dover  
 Gary Kazin, Rockaway  
 Marilyn Patterson, Dover  
 Bernard Schenkler, Alden, NY  
 Michael Srsich, Rockaway  
 Julia Stringer, Dover  
 Henry Will, Ledgewood  
 Arlene Wright, Murphysboro, IL

**SENIOR MEMBERSHIP**

Charlotte Arndt, Denville  
 May Baker, Dover  
 Jack Bennett, Morris Plains  
 Joyce Boniface, Mine Hill  
 Walter Breczek, Totowa  
 Flavia Brock, Dover  
 Frances Campbell, Mt Tabor  
 Patricia Carthage, Lake Hopatcong  
 Philip Carthage, Belfast, ME  
 Jean Chervnsik, Dover  
 Jane Cody, Pompton Plains

Lowell Cook, Twp. of Washington  
 Jeanne Crofton, Scotch Plains  
 Peter Cullen, Clifton  
 Jane Curtin, Dover  
 Edward Daniels, Dover  
 Dave & Lynn Davis, Lady Lake, FL  
 Catharine DeShazo, Dover  
 Thomas DeShazo, Frenchtown  
 Douglas Dickerson, Dover  
 Richard & Elfrieda Egan, Dover  
 Emma Eckhart, Dover  
 Robert Fancher, Wharton  
 Russell Fine, Milford PA  
 Mary & Robert Flanagan, Dover  
 Roger Flartey, Mine Hill  
 John Gill, Flanders  
 Rolando Gomez, Dover  
 Joyce Gorine, Dover  
 Sophie Goritski, Blairstown  
 Leonora Harrison, Mt Tabor  
 Diane Hunter, Dover  
 John & Caroline Huntzinger,  
 Milford, DE  
 Mary Jenkins, Dover  
 Catherine Jugan, Dover  
 Paula Kassell, Dover

Claire Kelly, Dover  
 Kevin Kelly, Janesville, WI  
 Helen & John Kuzel, Dover  
 Helen Lambert, Wharton  
 Dorothy Leary, Hanover, PA  
 Claire Leifer, Dix Hills, NY  
 Dorothy Lindberg, Jamison, PA  
 Shirley Lohman, Dover  
 Stanley Manning, Dover  
 Athena Mantgas, Dover  
 Charlene Sue May, Manassas, VA  
 Helen McCahill, Ocean Grove  
 Dr. Donald McElroy, Dover  
 Marion McKane, Dover  
 Gloria Melneck, Atlanta, GA  
 Byard & Linda Miller, Heber Spring, AR  
 Karl & Ginny Miller, Hayes, VA  
 Kenneth Miller, Mine Hill  
 Roy & Marion Miller, Dover  
 Louise D. Milner, Hamilton, NY  
 Joan Munson, Dover  
 Dorothy O'Leary, Hanover, PA  
 Helen Peterson, Dover  
 Ray Porphy, Ridge Spring, SC (cont. pg4)

Thank You Dover Senior Citizens Assoc. for  
 the generous donation!

**Upcoming Events**

Tuesday \* March 18th \* 7:30 PM

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

*"History of the Dover Area Churches"*  
 at First Memorial Presbyterian Church  
 No Charge—Refreshments Served Call  
 973-361-3525

Tuesday \* April 15th \* 7:30 PM

**Regular Monthly Meeting**  
**(BON TON MOVIE NIGHT)**

*"The Station Agent"*

(A movie filmed in and around the Dover  
 area & Lake Hopatcong.)  
 DOVER MUSEUM HOUSE

Tues. & Thurs. \* May 6th & 8th

**"DINING TO DONATE"**

Applebee's Restaurant  
 (Located at the old Dover Speedway)  
 Bring a friend! Call 973-361-3279

Tuesday \* May 20th \* 7:30 PM

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

*"Photos of Historic Dover"*

DOVER MUSEUM HOUSE  
 No Charge - Refreshments served.

Tuesday \* June 17th \* 7:30 PM

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

DOVER MUSEUM HOUSE

(Monthly programs are subject to  
 change)

**NEWS BRIEFS**

The Daughters of the American Revolution held their monthly meeting at the Dover Museum House on Sat. Feb. 9th. Everyone was very impressed with the museum.

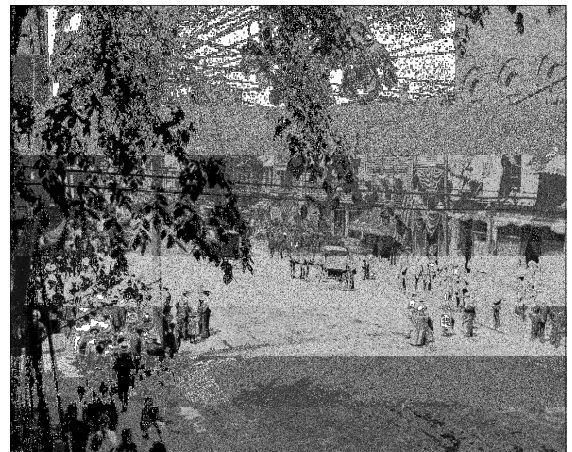
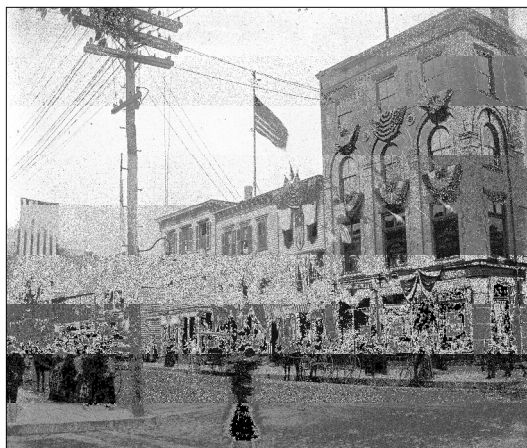
The Dover Emblem Club is planning to hold their monthly meetings at the Dover Museum House.

Thank you Connie Foster for arranging volunteer help at the museum!

If your non-profit organization would like to meet at the Museum House, please call 973-366-0629.

**Scenes of Early Dover**

Two great photographs of downtown Dover circa 1890. Notice how large a city Dover was in the 1800s. Notice today's Dover Business College building to the right.



# Historic District Building Lost To Fire



Photo by Rama

DOVER-Some see the January 10, 2008 fire at the Su Casa Colombia restaurant on Sussex Street as just another old building in Dover lost to a fire. Others see it as an old "historic" building in Dover lost to a fire. As happened so often in Dover's history, some of Dover's original building structures have been lost to either a fire or razed to make way for new development. This particular building at the corner of Sussex Street and Bassett Highway had no real significant historic value other than it being around at the time the Morris Canal existed (see photo to the left) up to the time when various businesses occupied the building, such as Breslow Paints, a toy store, etc. during the heydays of the Dover Shopping Center. Up to the very end, this building, adjacent to the Blackwell Street Historic District, served as a prime piece of Dover real estate in the middle of the downtown business district. Occupied by one of Dover's finest and most popular restaurants, The Su Casa Colombia, the building served Dover well. The fire reportedly started around 9:15 am on Thursday and according to police, did not look suspicious. It apparently started near a chimney that vents the restaurant's chicken rotisserie. The town used an excavator to knock down the rear of the building so firefighters could get to the numerous hot spots of the lingering fire. A few days later the building was completely razed.

## SENIOR MEMBERSHIP (CONT.)

Diane Power, Rockaway  
Edna Rawson, Dover  
Ed Reich, Dover  
Marie Richards, Dover  
Diane Saitta, Dover  
Martha Salvesen, Dover  
Jean Schneider, Randolph  
Florence Schuten, Pilion, SC  
Carolyn Seeger, E. Stroudsburg, PA  
Alice Segarra, Dover  
Lorraine Shallop, Dover  
Virginia Shukailo, Dover  
Betty Shunk, Dover  
William Slack, Okeechobee, FL  
Dorothy Smith, Silver Springs, MD

Gladys & Paul Sullivan, Dover  
Alfreda Suter, Dover  
Dolores Tate, Bell Haven, NC  
Kenneth Thompson, Denville  
Marian Thriemer, Murphysboro, IL  
Marsha Vitow, Baltimore, MD  
Louisa Wall, Dover  
Marjorie Weber, Birdsboro, PA  
Florence Winch, Dover  
Clara Wolford, Dover  
Barbara Woodhull, Dover

## DINING-TO-DONATE APPLEBEES

May 6th & 8th 4 PM to 9 PM  
Forms available at SACKS,  
VICTORS, TOWN HALL, LIBRARY  
*Thanks to all the February diners!*

## Visit the Dover History Museum

Since the Dover Museum House at 55 W. Blackwell Street does not yet have any regular scheduled hours of operation, you can easily make arrangements for a personal or group visit. Contact anyone of the following officials and a visit could be arranged:

Betty Inglis (973) 366-0629  
Stan Schoonmaker (973) 366-2319  
Bob Wagner (973) 361-4821  
George Laurie (973) 361-6205

## Letter From Noted Author John Cunningham

John T. Cunningham long has been known as "New Jersey's popular historian," a title bestowed on him by the New Jersey Historical Commission. His prolific contributions to New Jersey history in his books, magazine articles, documentary films and talks in every section of the state leave no doubt that he knows, writes and talks about his native state from experience and diligent research. Cunningham's writings also encompass a wide number of magazine articles on the state's ecological wonders, from the Great Swamp to birding at Cape May Point.

In our last newsletter, Joan Bocchino wrote about an unforgettable lecture she attended given by Mr. Cunningham. Here is his letter to Joan:

Dear Joan Bocchino:

(Cont. on page 5)



**John T. Cunningham**  
has been a long-time  
member of the Dover  
Area Historical Society



## The Haunted Museum House?

DOVER-A photograph of the Dr. Arthur W. Condict house circa 1905 at a time when the doctor and his family would have resided there. Notice the trolley tracks, so we know the picture was taken after 1903. Also notice the enclosed front porch. Bob Wagner, manager of the museum house, wants to rebuild the front porch to bring back the original charm of this beautiful building. The side porch was recently rebuilt with new footings for a solid support. Most of the second floor has been completed thanks to the Masonic Lodge of Dover and a complete set of new windows have been installed on the third floor. If you, your group or organization would like to assist in work sessions at the museum, please contact Bob Wagner at 973-361-4128. We need people to clean, paint, install sheetrock, lighting fixtures, unpack and organize old documents, letters, newspaper clippings,



books and other artifacts. We will also need volunteers to host the museum when open on Sundays this Spring 2008.

## Historical Society's Outreach Committee

DOVER-As Chairman of the historical society's (DAHS) Outreach program as well as being Vice President, Stan Schoonmaker has been very busy extending the presence of the DAHS beyond the walls of the museum at 55 W. Blackwell Street. Some of the latest activities:

- Updating the historic photo display in the cafeteria of Dover General Hospital.
- Visited and discussed Dover history and the writing of the Dover History Book with all the fifth grade classes in the Dover School District.
- Presented "Downtown Dover History" to the Senior Citizens at the Moose Lodge.
- Helped with photo displays at Fred's Fish Market, Valley Nat'l Bank & the new Attilio's Tavern.

If your group or organization would like the services of the DAHS, call Stan 973.366.2319.

## The Star-Ledger

### Vivacious girl's spirit felt in her old haunt By Maureen Salamon

(Cont. from page 1)

"It's the closest I've felt to experiencing something supernatural," said George Laurie, the museum's curator, who has spent many hours working at the three-story building on West Blackwell Street. "I've never felt fearful of it, but it's just spooky."

Laurie and fellow volunteer Bob Wagner were putting up wallboard one night when Wagner saw a shadow cross the

wall at the same moment that Laurie felt something brush by "Did you see that?" Wagner asked Laurie, as both quickly turned their heads to discover that no one was around them. "We got goosebumps all over us and really got scared," Laurie recalled, noting that both men have also experienced separate "brush-bys" and heard unexplained thumps while alone in the house. "It was a very hot evening" Wagner recalled, "but the corner got very cold and I smelled a strong lilac order. "There are no lilac bushes around here."

The link between the mystical experiences and Dorothy Condict's letters is, they grant, a fuzzy one. But ever since volunteers came upon the small, well preserved cardboard box, that theory has held the most weight. Dorothy's letters were well-stashed in a small opening in the tongue-and-grove flooring in her bedroom. "You think they're puritanical; they're not," observed historical society secretary Joan Bocchino. "They got a little steamy

### LETTER

Thank you for your pleasant, flattering words on my talk in Morristown. I thought I was merely conversing with a friendly audience, most of whom I have known for a long time. I had not the slightest idea that outlanders – from as far away as Dover! – would also attend.

I am a member of the Dover Area Historical Society for at least two reasons: First, for three delightful years that my new wife and I spent at 97 Elizabeth Street when I was the Dover correspondent for the Newark News from March 1939 until March 1943, when I entered the service. Secondly, I am a member because of the high quality newsletter – probably the best in all New Jersey.

Deeply etched in my memory are the flaming iron bars that snaked back and forth, night and day, at the rolling mill close to the center of town. I remember the Dover Little Theater, with accent on the Little. And I remember those countless climbs up steep Elizabeth Street, especially on bitterly cold winter nights.

My schedule for the next two month is intense, including six or seven major talks and book signings. Yet I have time to revise (for the sixth time) my first book, "This Is New Jersey" first published in 1953 and never out of print.

I thank you for memorable words.  
Sincerely, John T. Cunningham.

**Joan Bocchino's column "Beyond the D" will appear in the next newsletter.**

## Perils of Pauline Featured at the Baker Theater

DOVER-On March 28, 1914, the Baker Theater began the first of 20 episodes of the now historic "Perils of Pauline", starring Pearl White. This silent film was considered the most famous suspense serial in cinema history. Being renowned as the finest playhouse in the entire state of New Jersey and labeled as the premier entertainment showcase in the entire region, the Baker was one of the nation's first theaters to start showing these episodes. This episodic serial was known for leaving each episode with a cliffhanger having the audience wonder what would happen in the next chapter. The daring, athletic and active female star performed some of the riskiest, hair-raising stunts week after week that evaded attempts on her life. The most famous stunt – in which she was tied to railroad tracks and had to be rescued from a speeding, rapidly-approaching train – was filmed near New

Hope, PA, at a place now known as "Pauline's Trestle". Unfortunately, a copy of this episode has never been located.

Vaudeville and Perfect Photoplays	<i>The Baker</i> Theater Dover, N. J.	Last Three Days of This Week Daily Matinee
<b>THE PERILS OF PAULINE</b>		
<b>THE PERILS OF PAULINE</b>		
<b>THE PERILS OF PAULINE</b>		
This Marvelous Serial Photoplay starts Saturday, March 28th., being shown in connection with the Big all Star Vaudeville Bill. The story will be continued every other Friday or in other words following the installments in the New York Sunday American.		
<b>THE PERILS OF PAULINE</b>		
<b>THE PERILS OF PAULINE</b>		
<b>THE PERILS OF PAULINE</b>		
The all Star Vaudeville Will be Headed by GUS WILLIAMS For The Balance of the Week.		
<b>Renfax Musical Pictures</b>		

Notice also appearing was the famous Gus Williams Show that once featured George M. Cohan and the Four Cohans.



George M. Cohan appearing in the Gus Williams Show "April Fool". George & Gus never got along and the Four Cohans were eventually "let go" (Fired).

## Two 90-Year Old Scrapbooks of the Baker Theater Tell Complete Story of Events

DOVER-Packed away in boxes for the past 26-years, members of the historical society recently uncovered two old scrapbooks of newspaper accounts and advertisements of all the events and shows that appeared at the old Baker Theater. Old vaudeville shows that included George Burns and Gracie Allen, John Phillips Sousa and a host of other events that were all clipped from area newspapers at the time and neatly pasted into two huge accounting books. Also a wealth of information on the early movies they used to call "Photoplays". Theatrical information that is so rare that the society will soon be seeking grants to cover the cost of having them preserved and studied. Starting in this issue and future issues to come, we will be sharing with you, some of this information.

Compliments of  
Donald & Jean Alpert  
Oak Creek, CO

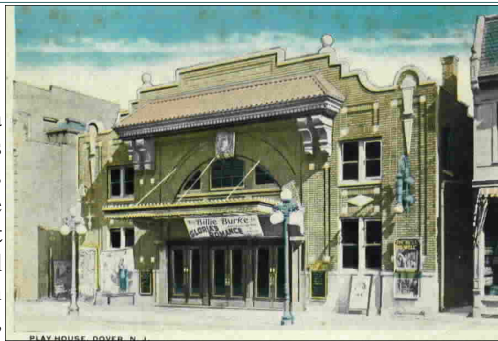
Compliments of  
Marjorie Harring Bell  
Los Angeles, CA

Compliments of  
Scott & Judy Miller  
Dover



## The Playhouse

On Saturday October 18, 1913 a new theater opened on South Morris Street named the "Playhouse". It was built as a competing vaudeville playhouse to the Baker by **The Essex Amusement Co.**, which ran it for six months until taken over by the manager of the Bon Ton Theater, John Howell. It was a modern, fireproof construction seating 750. Gracing the facade was a stone figure, probably "Dionysus", God of Tragic Art and protector of the Theaters". (The stone



face of "Dionysus" is in the process of being restored and remounted as a monument). Before the Playhouse closed, the theater was



noted for its Saturday afternoon B-movies that mostly catered to the kids of Dover. It was torn down in the 1970s.

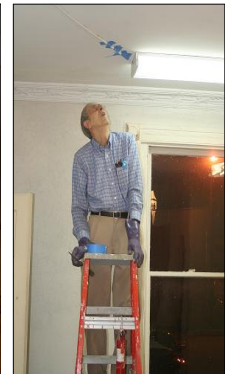


## Work Continues On The Dover Museum House



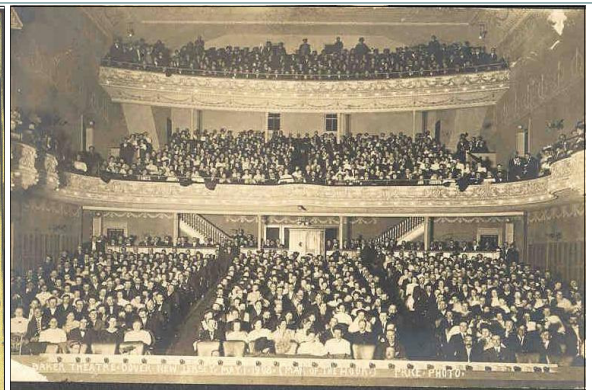
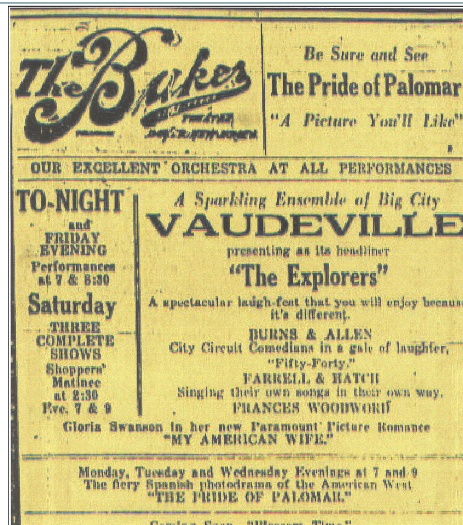
DOVER-Work continues at the Dover Museum House at 55 W. Blackwell Street. Picture above, a few members of the Masonic Lodge #20 finish up work on the second floor. Left to right are Dave Tweed, Bill Gregory, Dave Tweed and Mike Cilurso. The lodge donated time and labor completing three rooms as a gift to the citizens of Dover. The center photo are members of Dover Rotary Club taking a moment off work to pose for a picture. Left to right are Alex Mirlas, an

optometrist at COSCO, David Ayers, President of Ayers Chevrolet, Doug Olsen, manager of Valley National Bank in Dover and Attorney Dave Pennella. Photo to the top right shows Alderman Poolas and George Laurie supervising the worker (Bob Wagner) kneeling on the floor. To the right, Bob on the floor again working on the front door and Henry Will on the ladder checking out some electrical issues.



## Burns & Allen in Dover

DOVER-George Burns and Gracie Allen appeared at the Baker on Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> 1923. A two day stay-over, one can only assume they lodged at the Mansion House Hotel. Appearing at vaudeville playhouses around the country, including Boonton, they became a national hit and later moved to radio and then television.



George Burns called Gracie "Googie", while she called him "Natty." George Burns & Gracie Allen are long gone, but not forgotten in Dover.

## News From The By-laws Committee

At the Feb. 2008 meeting, the By-laws Committee announced the new dues payment deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. A three month grace period (June 30th) will be offered for payment before an individual is removed from the mailing list. Postage and costs of the newsletter are very expensive and your continued support is greatly appreciated.

The updated 2009 by-laws of the Dover Area Historical Society will be introduced and voted upon at the April 15th meeting. Anyone wishing to review the new by-laws can come early (7:00 pm) and read over the proposals and offer any comments and/or suggestions.

Compliments of  
Frank & Grace Hamilton  
Old Lyme, CT

Compliments of  
Dover Renaissance, Inc.  
Dover

Compliments of  
Joan & Maria Hynes  
Easton, NH

Compliments of  
Rev. Jim & Loretta  
Slattery, Dover

Compliments of  
Joyce Lake  
Dover

Compliments of  
Brownwood Realty Co.  
Dover

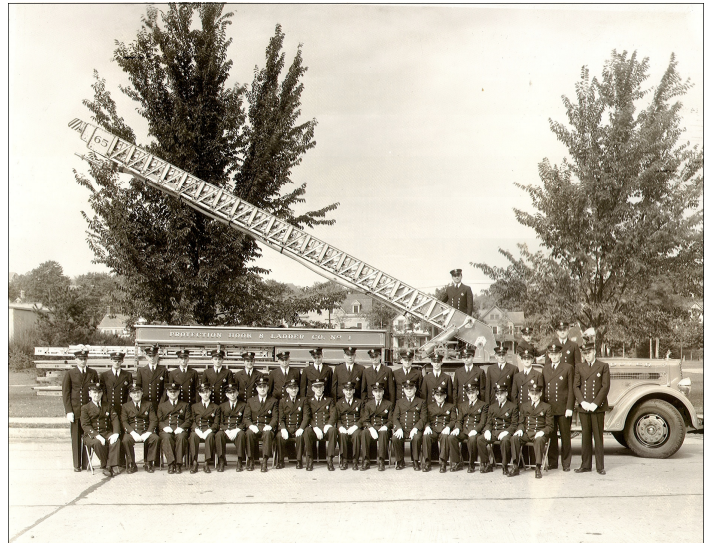


## Dover Fire Dept. 1939

DOVER-The Dover Fire Department pose for a picture at JFK Park (then known as the Dover Commons) in 1939. From left to right, seated, are George Flarety, L. R. Jacobus, Chester Landsberger, James Lampson, Simcon LaBar, Williard Hedden, Wm. Rule, Charles Sickles, Rudy Schwind, Robert Carlson, James Roscoe, Donald Guise, Jack Cook, George Cummings and Willard Jenkins.

Left to right, standing are Axel Elg, Walter Clark, Robert Pesland, H.O. Baker, Bert Scholl, Ezra McDougall, Wm. Schubert, Horace Rickley, Thomas O'Brien, Bud Graham, Frank Heller, Dave Hance, Rockwell Ward, James List, Duncan McMurtrie, Russell Jennings.

On the truck running board is Corkie Elg, the driver is Walter Fegely and on the ladder is Joe Lombardi.



### Dover Area Historical Society's Wish List

*In our last newsletter, we presented this "wish list" of needs for the museum. Here are the results so far.....*

- New windows (third floor) (10 needed) \$350 each.  
\*\*\*\* **Dover Emblem Club donated \$350 for one window**
- Planters & Flowers for exterior \$25 each. (needed by Spring)  
\*\*\*\* **Joan Munson donated \$100 for 4 planter boxes**  
\*\*\*\* **Linda & Jim Mullin donated \$50 for flowers**
- "Adopt-a-Month" \$400 (this pays for the electricity, insurance, water, etc. at the museum for one month)  
\*\*\*\* **Dover Moose Lodge donated \$400**
- Curtains for windows in the museum house.  
\*\*\*\***Stan Schoonmaker donated curtains**
- A room renovated and repaired and dedicated to a loved one.  
\*\*\*\***A possible huge donation toward a room**  
\*\*\*\***Mayor Dodd's "Assistant Labor Program"**

*If you would like to make a donation of any kind, please contact Stan Schoonmaker at 973.366.2319 or George Laurie at 973.361.6205*

**Compliments of  
Tuttle Funeral Home, Randolph**

**Compliments of  
John D'Agostino  
Landing**



### Dover Junior Anglers Fishing Contest 1935

2nd Row: Richard Clately, Walter Roessler, Tommy Vanderhoof, Unknown, Unknown  
1st Row: Unknown, Bob Bryant, Sidney Mintz, Marjorie Roach, Frank Williamson, Unknown, Al Bocchino. Notice Ulster Iron Works in background.

## New Walgreens Opens in Dover

DOVER-Hundreds of former Dover High School students tearfully watched as the 1938 wing of the old high school came crumbling down to make way for a new Walgreen's. However, no one can argue that the repairs done to the rear of the original high school building are nothing short of a fine work-of-art.

Also, the renovations to the original 1914 structure have brought the building back to its original charm and beauty. The Dover Area Historical Society welcomes Walgreen's of Dover and wishes them much success.



**Compliments of  
Bill & Sue Shauer  
Dover**

**Compliments of  
Dover Area Chamber  
of Commerce**

**Compliments of  
Eva Casey  
Dover**

2008 dues deadline - March 31st.  
Grace period - June 30th.



# Dover's Historic 1906 Bon Ton Movie Theater

*Editor's Note: The short history of Dover's Bon Ton Movie Theater is a very interesting story and very unique to Morris County.*

DOVER-In 1903, "The Great Train Robbery" by Thomas Edison made such a major impact on the American public that movie theaters started popping up all over America. Up until that time, motion pictures were just clips of dancers, jugglers and street scenes of everyday life to entertain vaudeville audiences after a long evening of "live" entertainment. This was the beginning of moving the motion pictures from a vaudeville "novelty" toward its eventual fulfillment as a unique art form. Following this trend, in 1906, Dover's "Bon Ton Theatre" was established by converting an empty storefront into a movie playhouse. While the Baker Theater continued to entertain with vaudeville shows and major live New York stage productions, the Bon Ton would only show movies.



**Bon-Ton  
Theatre**  
Dover, N. J.

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Playing the  
**Highest  
Class**  
**Photo Plays**  
at the reasonable price of  
**5 Cents**  
Except Saturdays  
and Holidays 10cents

---

A Turkey will be given  
away to the one holding  
the Lucky Number of the

The Bon Ton was established by John Howell who was born in Chester in 1873 and married Miss Clara Bowlby of Dover in 1896. By 1900, Mr. Howell became so interested in this new form of entertainment that he began purchasing these films and projecting them on screens by taking them town to town by

way of a covered wagon. According to the Dover Advance in 1928, this "traveling road show" by Mr. Howell was perhaps the first "chain movie theater" in history. Mr. Howell was such a hit that he finally opened a

**Have you paid your 2008 dues yet?**

## Bon Ton (cont.)

The Bon Ton Theater seated 75 to 150 people and admission was 5 and 10 cents. Patrons entered the theater, walking under the screen, facing the audience. Movies ran about an hour and were changed twice a week. During early "silent movies", it was customary to have a piano player accompany the film to dramatize the picture by highlighting each episode. Elizabeth Dalrymple Ball and Mrs. Bowlby Howell, were the nightly pianists. The Bon Ton closed in 1912 when John Howell moved to the newly constructed Playhouse Theater on

South Morris Street. Later on, Mr. Howell established the Washington Theater in Washington, New Jersey.

John Howell was very popular in Dover, not only for his popular motion pictures, but for the mere fact of owning Dover's first automobile. He and his wife lived at 23 Fairview Ave. and was a member of the Dover Lodge, R.P.O. Elks, a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Exempt Fireman's Association, a former member of the Kiwanis Club, a member on the Board of Fire Wardens and very active in

community affairs. John Howell passed away on October 20, 1928 and was buried in the Locust Hill Cemetery. The old Playhouse and Bon Ton theaters are long gone, but the memory of John Howell and the Bon Ton Theater will live on forever in

**Compliments of  
Betty & Woody Hedden  
Randolph**

**Compliments of  
Rev. Jim & Loretta Slattery  
Dover**

The photo to the right shows the location of the Bon Ton Theater as it looks today. Notice in the center, you can still see where the ticket booth once stood while patrons entered to the right and exited to the left.

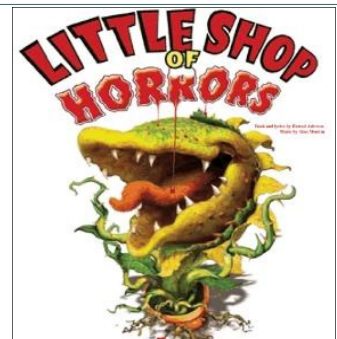
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Dover**

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Dover**

**DINING TO DONATE**

**APPLEBEES**

May 6th & 8th 4-9 PM  
Forms at SACKS,



**Dover High School Spring Musical**  
Fri. & Sat. March 28 & 29 and Sun.  
March 30. \$8 and \$4 Senior Citizens

**President Emerita—Vivian Berg**

**President—Betty Inglis**

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**Recording Secretary—Joan Bocchino**

**Corresponding Secretary—Wm Woodhull**

**Treasurer—Stu Inglis**

**Museum Curator—George Laurie**

**Ways and Means—Bob Wagner**

**Photographer—Rick Kelly**

**Old Tye Editor—George Laurie**

**Membership—Pat Kalena**

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Family - \$20 \* Individual - \$12

Senior Citizen (62 and older) - \$8

Junior Member (Student) - \$6

Sustaining Member - \$50  
(Display Ad or Compliments Of)

Life Membership (one-time payment)  
(Husband & Wife or Individual) -  
\$250

Dover Area Historical Society is a 501(c)3  
Not-For-Profit Organization

All gifts & donations are tax deductible!

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**Dover Area Historical Society**  
**PO Box 609**  
**Dover, New Jersey 07802-060**  
**[www.doverhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.doverhistoricalsociety.com)**



## How Crescent Field Got Its Name

DOVER—Probably not one person living within 10-miles of Dover hasn't heard of "Crescent Field" with its newly installed artificial turf. A few people may be aware of the "Old Stone Academy" since there is a marker at the site denoting its importance to history. But few have heard of, or remember Crescent's Tavern on Dickerson Street. It was owned and operated by one of the most prominent citizens of Dover, Carmine Gangemi, who for many years was known to everyone as "Mr. Carmine." This self made man came to America from Villaggio Maria Christina, Calabria, Italy at the age of 16 and moved in with cousins in Jersey City. He worked long hours in the food markets, bought and sold watermelons and chopped wood to sell. A few years later Carmine moved to Dover and started out by laying sidewalks and other construction jobs and eventually built and sold houses.

In 1920, he opened the Crescent Tavern on East Dickerson Street and in 1936 purchased the Old Stone Academy, completely gutted the entire neglected

building and opened his new tavern and eventually an adjoining restaurant. This was the site of Dover's first Italian-American Restaurant and Pizzeria.

Aside for all his community work and activity, Carmine noticed the swamp across the street, known as Billy Ford's Pond, was an eye-sore. He visualized a great location for a park and sports complex. He negotiated for the property rights from the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad and over the years succeeded in converting the swamp into an ice-skating rink in the winter and a baseball and softball field in the summer. To this day, the park is called "Crescent Field."

One of the greatest moments of Carmine's life was after many months of studying questions on government and politics, he drove to Morristown to be awarded his U.S. Citizenship. From that point on, he always voted, and did his utmost to convince all his relatives and friends to do the same.



In 1944, Mr. Carmine thought a great deal about Dover's snow problem and realizing the largest part of the problem was the disposal of the tons of snow after each storm. After testing different theories on snow-melting, he invented a snow-melting machine and in 1946 was successful in obtaining a patent. In subsequent years the basic ideas were studied and were used and perfected by larger companies to invent some of the best snow-melting equipment in the world. Carmine passed away on July 4, 1975 leaving behind all the accomplishments he achieved, all the personal gifts and donations he made to churches, all the charities for the needy and all his involvements in fraternal and social clubs and community work. The Carmine Gangemi Family wishes his memory to live