



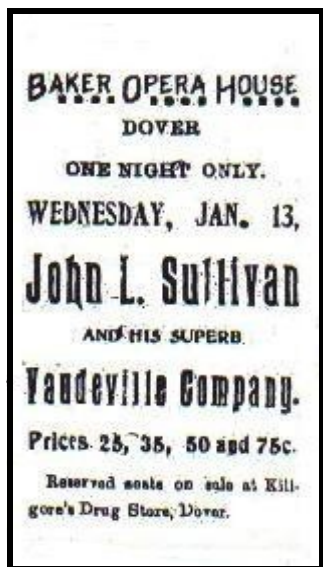
The Old Tye News

Volume XLII Issue III

Summer 2011



Two students from Academy St. School check out where they live on a recent visit to the Dover History Museum House.



John L. Sullivan in Dover 1904

The Old Tye News is a member of the League of Historical Societies of N.J. and is published four times annually: Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall

Dover Historical Assoc., Inc. 1966

Kids Fill Museum With Excitement Field Trips To The Dover History Museum House Popular

DOVER-The excitement always runs high when Dover kids come to the Dover History Museum House or when Stan Schoonmaker takes his Dover History program on-the-road. The Dover Area Historical Society's Outreach Program has been around for several years now presenting history shows, not only to schools, but to churches, senior citizens, non profit organizations and even other historical societies. This past spring alone, Stan visited East Dover Elementary School and presented a Dover history show on the screen to the third graders.

On May 19th the 9th grade Learning Community from Dover High School visited the museum and pursued numerous areas of research regarding Dover's history. Stan was recorded at least 8 different video interviews so the students could complete their projects.

Near the end of May almost 100 fourth grade students from Academy Street School walked to the museum house and spent almost two hours touring the building and asking questions about Dover's history. Beth Olney was on hand to assist with the presentations. Of keen interest to most of the students was the tale of



Stan poses with students and teachers from Academy St.



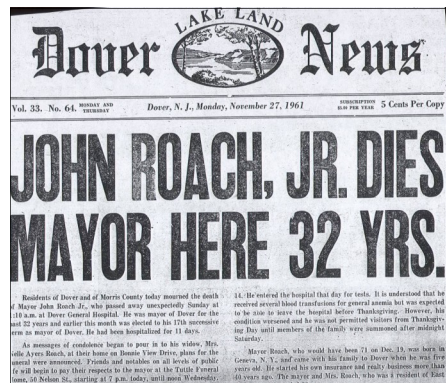
Beth Olney explains some of the historic memorabilia.

(Cont. page 3)

Mayor Roach Passed Away 50 Years Ago

DOVER-One of the longest serving mayors in the history of Dover and N.J. (32 years) John "Jake" Roach Jr. who passed away 50 years ago this coming Nov. 26th. Mayor Roach had been hospitalized 11 days earlier at Dover General Hospital. He entered the hospital for tests and received several blood transfusions for general anemia and was ex-

pected to leave the hospital before Thanksgiving. However, his condition worsened and his family was summoned to his bedside. Mayor Roach passed away and would have turned 71 on Dec. 19th. Born in Geneva, N.Y. and came to Dover (cont. on page 5)



2011 Paid Membership

LIFE TIME MEMBERSHIP

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(cont. below)

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 (cont. below)

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 William B. Woodhull, Jr., Newton
 (cont. next page)

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(cont. below)

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 Marjorie J. Weber, Birdsboro, PA
 Miriam Willinger, Dover
 Clara Wolford, Dover

Kids At Museum House

(cont. from page one)

Dorothy Condict, our resident ghost at the museum.

According to Stan, "in each case, the students were extremely enthusiastic and promised to return and to bring their parents along with them."

Stan and his Outreach program thanks the school staff for getting students interested in learning and hearing about Dover's great history.



Stan presents one of his on-the-road programs at the East Dover Elementary School. The kids love to hear stories of Dover's past.

DVD's Now Available

*Downtown Dover Now and Then
 *The Morris Canal in Dover
 *Good Old Dover *Old, Old Dover
 *More Old Dover *Dover's Disasters
 *Dover The Parade Town
 *Not There Anymore
 *Dover Fire Department
 *Wm. Harris Collection
 *Lowell Cook Collection
 *Vivian Berg Collection
 *Dover High 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s
All DVD purchases are by donations only. Call Stan to order: 973-366-2319.

Ruth Beth Watts Was The Dover Little Theater

DOVER-Organized in 1933....today the Dover Little Theater is the third oldest little theater in continuous existence in New Jersey. The legend of Ruth Beth Watts still remains strong in Dover, inspiring and utilizing the talents of local actors, actresses, producers, directors and many other volunteers.

Often referred to as the "little theater in the hills" The Dover Little Theater was established in 1933 by an interested group of theatre-minded individuals sponsored by the Dover Women's Club and headed by Miss Watts. Original organizers included Max Heller, Rosewell Bowlby, Sam Childs and Grace Boll. There were a total of 40 members in the original Little Theater Company and 20 more joined by the end of the first year. The first production was "Ladies Of The Jury" held to a sold-out crowd at Dover High School on September 25, 1933.

Miss Ruth Beth Watts of Kingston, Pennsylvania moved to Dover in 1933 with her parents and with a strong interest in the theater and soon became its resident-director. She had attended Wyoming Seminary, Kingston, and had public speaking and dramatics at Texas State College of

Women, and at Winona State Teachers College in Minnesota. She did post-graduate work at Yale, and she also studied direction and interpretation at The London School of Speech in England. Miss Watts directed over 180 performances in her 45-years with the theater. Ruth took a short break from the theater in 1944 and 45 to serve as a substitute teacher at Western Maryland College. She also taught at Drew College and had coached high school plays, and had coached the production of the "Passion Play" at the Sacred Heart Church. She was also in charge of the government's WPA theater project for the entire state of New Jersey.

According to her close friend Joan Munson, "Ruth was one of those rare individuals who could help you gain your fullest potential - whether as an actor or as



Ruth Beth Watts seen here directing one of her 184 productions spanning 45-years at the Dover Little Theater

a human being." Miss Watts passed away on January 21, 1977 at the age of 87.

She was often quoted as saying, when she died, she wanted a bash - a send-off at the theater. So six months later in June, friends organized a three-day bash that was open to the public, free of charge. (cont. below)

Dover's Three-Day Bash In Memory Of Miss Watts

Many who developed their talents at the theater attended "the bash", including Franklin Heller, former director of television's "What's My Line." Heller was active in the early productions and noted, "I often thought fondly of Ruth Watts and that Little Theater." "She was more than a director" said Joan Munson. "She would scold, cajole, and be involved in every aspect of the play, always demanding perfection."

Miss Watts had always expressed her opinion that little theater work and acting, produces "sound moral character and helps develop a well rounded personality."

Early in 1934, the group purchased the old Gillen & Young Chapel, showroom and morgue on Elliott Street for \$1,000, contributed by 10 public spirited citizens and gave its first full-length play there on May 2, 1934.

The Dover Little Theater continues to provide a "home" for those who are interested in theatre - whether it is on-stage as an actor or singer, behind the scenes helping with sets or lighting designs or simply as an audience member.

If you would like more information about DLT, please call the box office - (973) 328-9202.



Miss Watts talking to the cast of "The Matchmaker" in May of 1961. The 120th production included Joan Munson as Mrs. Levi.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday * Jul. 19th * 7:30 pm

MUSEUM HOUSE

"Dover High School Hall of Fame"

No charge * Refreshments Served

Call 973.361.3525 for info.

Tuesday * Aug. 16th * 7:30 pm

MUSEUM HOUSE

"The Bon Ton Movie Night

LAURAL & HARDY in

"Pack Up Your Troubles"

No charge * Refreshments served

Tuesday * Sep. 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.

(If no answer, please leave a message.)

Sat. * Sep. 24th * 1:00 & 3:30 pm

MUSEUM HOUSE

"Afternoon Tea - Remembering Grandma"

Tickets \$15. Call 973.366.4276

Be sure to bring a friend!

(These programs are subject to change)

Afternoon Tea

Remembering Grandma

OUR 4th ANNUAL

AFTERNOON TEA AT THE DOVER HISTORY MUSEUM HOUSE

SATURDAY SEPT. 24, 2011

1 PM SEATING 3:30 PM SEATING

Grandma was a wonderful person....cleaned, cooked, took care of the grandchildren, told stories of yesteryear and kept the family treasures and memories alive. Here's your opportunity to enjoy an afternoon celebrating Grandma with Tea, Snacks, Goodies and lots of memories. Share your own memories of Grandma, share photographs & memorabilia. Tickets \$15 per person. (Hurry, seating is limited.)

For more info. & tickets call 973-366-4276

Mayor Roach Jr.

(Cont. from page one)

at the age of five, John Roach Jr. attended the public schools and graduated from Dover High School and later attended the Dover Business College. His business career began as a salesman for Swift & Company until he entered the service during World War One. He served with the U.S. Ambulance Corps in France and was later honorably discharged as a corporal.

When "Jack" returned to civilian life, he engaged for a short time in the trucking business with his brother William "the Roach Brothers Co.". He then began in the real estate field with his partner Harry Nixon under the name of Roach & Nixon. After four years he started his own business under the name of Roach Realty Company. Mayor Roach first ran for office in 1929 serving as an alderman. The following year he ran for mayor and got elected 17 consecutive times after that making him the longest serving mayor in Dover's history.

In addition to being mayor, he also served on the Morris County Freeholder's board for 20 years, 11 of those as its director. Among other things, Mayor Roach will always be remembered for his fight stopping the Port Authority from building a jet port in the Great Swamp of Morris County. For several years Mayor Roach headed the Morris-Sussex Boy Scout Council, director of the Morris County YMCA, director of the N.J. League of Municipalities, was active in the operations of the local Salvation Army, was a member of the Kiwanis Club, the Dover Lodge of the Elks and the Morris County Officials Association. Roach twice ran for the nomination to Congress as a representative of the 5th N.J. District, losing first to Rep. Eaton in 1948 and then to Rep. Peter Frelinghuysen in 1952.

The Dover Board of Aldermen issued the following statement: "The People of Dover have suffered an irreparable loss in the sudden death of Mayor John Roach Jr. To adequately fill this office in the manner to which we have



Mayor John Roach, Jr. sitting comfortably at a Dover Board of Alderman meeting in the old firehouse on Sussex St.

been accustomed is an extremely difficult task. His long years of service have left a monument in the hearts and minds of our people that will live on forever."

Dover Town Hall Named in Mayor Roach's Honor

DOVER— Mayor John Roach Jr. guided Dover through the difficult years of the great depression and war, through the post war boom times. Such was his impact on Dover that his large home bordering Hurd Park is still referred to by old timers as the *"Mayor's House."*

In honor of his long service to the town, the new Municipal Building on North Sussex Street was named in his honor. The attractive new building was dedicated on May 25, 1963 and replaced a two story structure on the same site that served as Dover police and fire depart-

ments since the 1800s.

The expanded town complex has its rear on Warren Street with the police and fire department being located there. A second floor was added to the police department in 1997.

The photograph to the right shows the old Dover Fire & Police station being torn down in the early 1960s to make way for the new Dover Town Hall.



Society's "Outreach" Touches the Little Hearts of Dover

Dear Mr. Schoonmaker, Thank you for coming to East Dover Elementary School. I learned a bunch of stuff from you. It was cool that there was a drive-in at the theater. I also think it's cool that Shop Rite started as a race track. Thank you, Tatiana

Dear Mr. Schoonmaker, Thank you for coming to our school. Wow! Finding out the Baker Theater had plays and movies was cool. I am interested in finding what kids did for fun and were there any video games? Thank you, Gabriel

Dear Mr. Schoonmaker, The two things I loved that you taught me was that Dover had a canal and that where our school is now, there was grass. Could you tell me what Olive Garden was? Thank you, Agestina

Dear Mr. Schoonmaker, I learned a lot. I learned that a train and boat crashed. But the most interesting thing I learned was that East Dover opened in 1955. Thank you, Jerry

Dear Mr. Schoonmaker, Thanks for teaching us the history of Dover. My favorite part was when you showed us the photos of the train crash and the 2 Fire Fighters on horses. Thank you, Samantha

Dear Mr. Schoonmaker, Thanks for showing us Dover when it was just discovered. How do you know all this information? And how did you get the pictures you showed us that day? It turns out Dover is really great! Love, Ashley

Dear Mr. Schoonmaker, We enjoyed the pictures. Where the maps in the past, for directions? From Pricila

Historic Pine Terrace Inn (Bonnieview)

DOVER-All that remains of the once great Bonnieview Mansion (also known as the Pine Terrace Inn) is the old driveway leading up a small hill at the edge of Hurd Park and a street sign along Route 46 that says "Bonnieview Drive." Bonnieview was built as a home for Alpheus Beemer and his wife Margaret being completed on May 22, 1876.

Mr. Beemer was instrumental in 1873 in organizing the National Union Bank in Dover and was one of its directors. He also established a silk mill near Hurd Park and was involved in many other businesses. He died on April 22, 1883 and on November 28, 1885 his widow sold the property to Edwin & Ella Ross (Edwin was a descendent of Betsy Ross, the designer of the first American Flag.) Mr. Ross owned the Ross Silk Mill in Port Oram (Wharton) which on his death was sold to Paul Guenther.

In the early part of the 20th

century Bonnieview became the Pine Terrace Inn until the onset of Prohibition. At this time it was a gracious inn, with such notables as President Grover Cleveland, many well known Governors, Mary Pickford, and Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. among its many distinguished guests.

In the 1920s it became the residence of Harry Schwarz, a prominent business leader in Dover and he later in turn sold it to Dover General Hospital in late 1966.

The original plan was to use this mansion as a nurses home, but this plan fell through.



Soon after, the Dover Area Historical Society leased it from the hospital on June 18, 1975 for a 10-year period.

Obviously the society jumped at the chance to have such a large and beautiful
(cont. below)

Bonnieview Served as the Dover Museum for One Year

historic home and \$30,000.00 was raised and spent on renovations and repairs, plus a great amount of time and effort volunteered by its members. Finally Dover had its first grand museum, opening on June 15, 1975.

Just one year into the lease, the hospital served notice that the lease was being terminated and the society had three months to vacate. The official explanation was that the hospital needed the building for additional clinics.

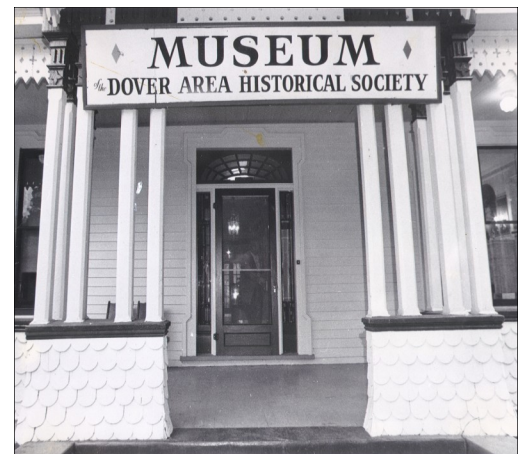
After extensive litigation, the hospital won and the museum closed on July 1, 1977.

Almost immediately, the hospital abandoned plans for the clinic due to excessive costs and planned to raze the building.

Despite efforts by the town to buy the building (too costly) or move the building to Hurd Park (impracticable) all efforts failed.

On November 19, 1978 the historic mansion house was destroyed and was replaced with a seldom used parking lot.

A truly great loss for the historical society and the town of Dover.



Old Stagecoach Stop

Do you know where this building is located?



Compliments of
Rev. James Slattery
Dover

Compliments of
Sylvia Rubens
Randolph

Compliments of
Scott Miller & Family
Dover

Compliments of
Jerry Mead
Bethlehem, PA

Compliments of
Joyce B. Lake
Dover

Compliments of
Arlene Kerneklian
Ashtabula, OH

Compliments of
Bogert Cox Holly
Dover

Compliments of
George W. Johnson
Dover

Dover's Historic "Dory's Oyster Bar"

Dory's Customers Would Sometimes Slip and Fall Into the Morris Canal

DOVER-Many old-timers in Dover remember the old Dory's Oyster Market on Bassett Highway, today the site of the Bassett Pub. For nearly 50-years Dory (Theodore) Steck operated his Oyster market serving up oyster stews, clam chowder and baked beans. During the summer months Dory would retire from business, but as soon as Fall arrived, customers flocked to his door by the hundreds. According to Dory, oysters had to be cooked into an oyster stew to be at their best. For many years Dory sold coffee, but finally along about 1925, he decided the coffee trade was of little value, so he stopped selling it.

Only once did Dory have to close his doors for business. The Morris Canal then ran by his front door so that when it rained, the water would drop off his roof into the canal. A narrow footpath paralleled the canal in front of his building that often, people would slip and fall into the canal.

That may have ended Dory's business, but when oysters were in season, the canal was not. The heaviest canal traffic was in the summer when oysters were not available.

At first, Dory sold all kinds of food, but eventually he decided on just oysters, clams and baked beans. Rationing and price increases put an end to the baked beans. Dory never advertised his business; he left that up to his customers that never let him down.

Dory once recalled when a man came to him with a pearl in a box and told him he could increase his business five-fold if he had a friend tell people that he found the pearl at Dory's Oyster Bar. Dory told the man that he didn't need any more business and called him a crook.

Although Dory opened thousands and thousands of Oysters over a 45-year period, he never found a valuable



pearl. All Dory's customers were treated alike. Once, a famous inventor came into his place and demanded immediate service. "He waited his turn like everyone else" said Dory.

Letter From Ms. Jones of Uhrichsville, Ohio

To the Dover Area Historical Society:

Dear Friends,

I do not have a computer. I am 85 years of age, born 11/10/25. I am sharing with the museum about my father, John D. McBride. He was the manager of the Dover F. W. Woolworth store from 1935 until 1955. He was the top F. W. Woolworth and made more profits than any other manager. Following inventory, he would take the books to the N.Y.C. Woolworth's office. Then he received a percentage of the profits. Then he received one check a year, so my parents had to budget for a whole year. In January we received our new clothes, shoes, coats, etc. Just think how many people can say they worked for Mr. McBride. He usually had 50 employees and was strict about cleanliness. Our whole family helped with inventory. When he retired, the F. W. Woolworth Co. gave him a retirement dinner at the Waldorf Astoria in N.Y.C.. My father and mother (Verna Harington) McBride were married in June of 1913 and had 8 children, 4 boys and 4 girls. I graduated from Nyack Bible College where I met and married my husband, Rev. Irving T. Jones. I know that you did not need to know all of my family, but I have such precious memories. We had the best teacher at Dover High. When students went to college, thus the college classes were easy. Mr. Thompson, our biology class, thought ours were the smartest class he ever had, so he got permission to teach a second year of biology. Sincerely, Ms. Yolanda J. (McBride) Jones, Uhrichsville, OH.

Dear Mr. Schoonmaker.....Outreach (cont.)

Dear Mr. Schoonmaker, Thank you for coming to East Dover. I learned a lot. I was wondering if you could tell me what house you lived in and did you ride a horse to travel? Thank you, Evelyn

Dear Mr. Schoonmaker, Thanks for coming to East Dover School. My favorite part was when I saw the Dover Dairy Maid, because I live on that street. Sincerely, Liomara

Dear Mr. Schoonmaker, Thanks. I'm 9 years old. I'm going to ask you some questions I wrote and thought about. Who was the first governor? When was Dover found? Why is Dover named Dover? Was there a lot of water back then? Sincerely, Angel

Dear Mr. Schoonmaker, I can't believe that Dover had a drive in theatre. Have you ever been in the drive in movie theatre? What year did you work in East Dover? What year did the first mayor of Dover die? Thank you, Keisha

Dear Mr. Schoonmaker, Thank you for telling us about Dover. I learned so much. I learned that the Baker Theater held plays and then was a movie theater. Also, I was impressed when you told me about people who rode by horse in Dover. Thanks, Joana

Dear Mr. Schoonmaker, Wow! I have learned that fire fighters rode 2 female horses. I never knew that. When the residents of Dover had no cars, what did they do for fun? What kind of games did people play? Where did they buy their food? Thanks, Jairo

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



Our June 2011 Town Wide Yard Sale at the Dover Flea Market was a huge success. Thanks to Bob & Carol Brumale for their generous support.

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OF THE
DOVER BAND!
IN THE
BAKER OPERA HOUSE,
DOVER, N. J.,
WEDNESDAY EVENING,
MAY 12th, 1886.

GRAND MINSTREL OPENING!
Including Songs, Choruses and Local Hits.
NEW BAND MUSIO!
by the full band of 20 pieces under the direction of
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VOCAL & INSTRUMENTAL SELECTIONS
by the best known talent, Ethiopian Oddities,
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Our Trained Nurses are capable and are willing to render you the best possible service, and in return we expect the co-operation of the patients and their relatives in complying with our rules.
No one under 12 years of age allowed to visit any patient.
Quietness should prevail in the rooms as in the corridors.
No more than two people may visit a patient at one time.

VISITING HOURS
DAILY

Private Rooms	1 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.
Semi-Private	2-4 P.M. and 7-8:30 P.M.
Compensation Ward	2-4 P.M. and 7-8 P.M.
Ward	2-4 P.M. and 7-8 P.M.

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Sundays, Holidays

RATES

Private Rooms	\$7.00 per day
Semi-Private	\$5.50 " "
Ward	\$3.00 " "

BILLS PAYABLE WEEKLY IN ADVANCE

Final bills payable on discharge.
Earphone-radios may be obtained at the office at a weekly rental of \$1.50. No other radios allowed.

SM 3-43 ADVANCE

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Vice President—Stan Schoonmaker
Recording Secretary—Joan Bocchino
Corresponding Secretary—Wm Woodhull
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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

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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
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