

The following was presented by a Board Member at the Hall of Distinction Induction Ceremony of the Dover Historical Society, on Sunday, April 17, 2016.

DORIS AND FLOYD KIMBLE

In 1950, when Floyd and Doris Kimble began their life together as husband and wife, they probably never imaged the enormous economic impact they would one day have on the City of Dover. Not only has their company provided jobs for hundreds of people over the years, their kind generosity has been extended to many local charities.

Floyd started his career working in the deep coal mines surrounding Dover and soon his entrepreneurial spirit moved him to begin his own business. After returning home from serving as a staff sergeant in occupied Japan towards the end of the war, Floyd began strip mining coal, thus beginning the Kimble Coal Company. He soon realized that while trying to reach the layer of coal, it was necessary to go through other materials. Being the type of person to not waste anything, he began another venture known as Kimble Clay and Limestone. Floyd was a very hard worker and Doris recalls that he began with just a "piece of junk" mining machinery that he was able to acquire cheaply.

Doris graduated from Dover High School in 1946 and shortly after began working for the Reeves Steel Mill as a secretary to Samuel Reeves, Jr. She worked there until Floyd returned home from the Army. Money was scarce at the time so she used a parachute he brought home to make her wedding dress. They were married January 1, 1950.

Raising a young family of four sons, Greg, Gary, Eric and Keith and one daughter Jo Elaine, required much of Doris's time. But she would stay up evenings doing the book work needed to keep the company running smoothly.

The landfill business began as a result of neighbors requesting that they be permitted to dispose of their trash by placing it in the ground where the coal had been removed. What started as Kimble Landfill, then J & J Refuse, is now known as Kimble's. In 1975, a gas and oil business, Red Hill Development was started and would also become part of the legacy of the Kimble family.

Floyd passed away in September 1998, but his wife has continued the business they started together. Doris has been an astute business woman and has been very generous toward our community. The Doris and Floyd Kimble Foundation has provided numerous grants to organizations in Dover as well as throughout Tuscarawas County. The Salvation Army, the Tuscarawas County Center for the Arts, the YMCA, and the Dover Historical Society are just a few of the many local charities that have benefitted from the Kimble's generosity.