

The following was presented by Board Member Kevin Keffer at the Hall of Distinction Induction Ceremony of the Dover Historical Society, on Sunday, April 28, 2019.

## Eugene "Cheese" Hanhart

Well first off, the nickname Cheese: It appears to have come from both his Swiss heritage and the fact he delivered pies for his father – Cheese Pies!

I never had the opportunity to meet Mr. Hanhart, and believe me, it would have been "Mr.," not "Cheese." However, I knew his unusual name because of conversations I overheard with my dad, while he was speaking to men in Uhrichsville: Mr. Barney LaPorte, Mr. Sam Romig and Mr. Carl Copeland. They would reference "Cheese" Hanhart. I knew he must be important simply because they were the most important people in town.

Later, I had the good fortune of meeting his granddaughter, Mrs. Kay (Gray) Bambeck, and some of his great-grandchildren through her. They are all simply wonderful people. My dad always felt you could tell a lot about a man by his family so I guess you can judge from that also.

Eugene Hanhart married Margery Marshall in 1926 and began his family. They had two children, a son Richard and a Daughter Mary Ann (Gray). He also purchased the Vorherr Insurance Agency that would become the Hanhart Agency.

"Cheese", if I may, began business in 1929, probably not a great year to go into business. He certainly was an able entrepreneur because the Hanhart Agency is still in family ownership and operation today, through four generations.

However, he is known around our nation, state and community for more his work in politics. He began as a precinct worker, then to county chairman and then to Chairman of the Democratic Party of Ohio from 1948-1956. He ran the campaign for Governor for Frank Laucie (who served 5 terms) and chaired numerous state committees during his tenure. He brought many well-known people into and through our community and made Dover a point on the map of Ohio.

Mr. Hanhart was an active civic member as well. He served on many city projects and organizations, including state boards for highways and bridges. He was an active member of Grace Lutheran Church, Union Country Club and chaired the bond drive for WW11 in Tuscarawas County.

I believe his contributions to Dover are still being felt and I am honored to announce his induction into the Dover Historical Society Hall of Distinction as its newest member, Mr. "Cheese" Hanhart.