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LOVES CHEVYS: Alumni Edith Berry takes a moment out with Bill Burke and his 1956 Chevy Nomad and 1955 Chevy two-door sedan, both painted pale two-tone green. He's had the Nomad 34 years, and the sedan just over two years.

PORTRAIT OF BOOKER T: During a historical marker dedication at Booker T. Washington Elementary-Sept. 4, former student Doretha Cale proudly displays the portrait of Booker T. Washington she painted for a graphic arts class at Delaware Technical and Community College. Copies of the portrait are available by calling 697-0598.



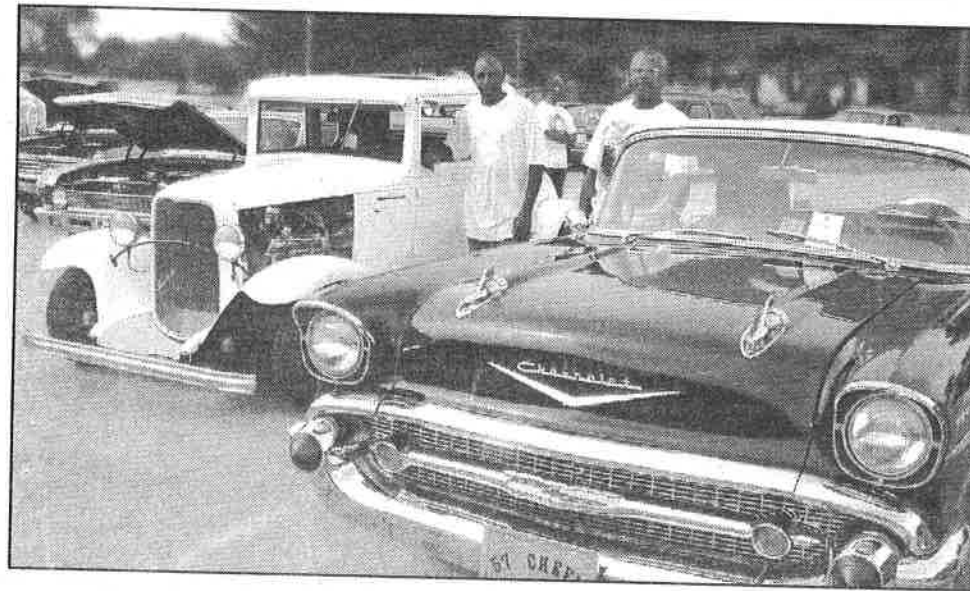
MADE A DIFFERENCE: Morgan Little, former student, student teacher and principal from 1990-1991, and former teachers Susan Young Browne and Dorothy George were among those on hand for the ceremony. Little acknowledged many of the teachers present at the ceremony and told how they had really made a difference.



RELIVING MEMORIES: Joseph Bedford Jr., former Booker T. Washington Elementary School student, Dr. Elsie McIntosh Collins, who taught eighth grade social studies at Booker T. and at William Henry, Ann Holden Thompson and Sophie Reed Russell, former students, take time to look at photos of the school and its students and staff through the years during a historical marker dedication Sept. 4. Photos by Betsy Gustafson.



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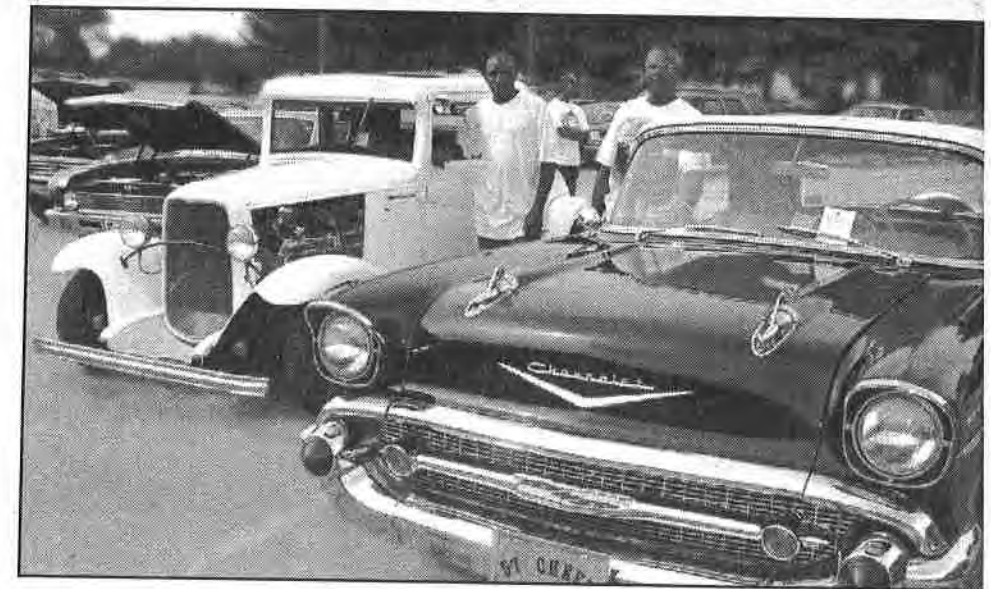
ALUMNI CAR SHOW: The William Henry W.M. Comprehensive High School held its Third Annual Car Show Sept. 3. Participating were Stephen Woolford and James Knott, pictured left to right, who are friends of alumnus Freddie Douglas of Dover. Woolford entered his 1931 white Chevy Coupe while Knott drove a black 1957 Chevy with a white convertible top.

JOB FAIR at Dover Air Force Base





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JOB FAIR at Dover Air Force Base

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Dun. Sept. 5, 2004
De State News

Dover school earns marker

By Cathianne
Werner-Porterfield
Delaware State News

DOVER — Visitors to Dover's Booker T. Washington Elementary School need not be history buffs anymore to truly understand the significance of the school.

Thanks to a group of dedicated alumni, a historical marker was placed at the school Saturday morning, commemorating the history of the building as the state's largest African-American school until segregation ended in 1965.

"It was an all-colored school," said Dover resident Bessie Crane, who attended the school from 1957-63.

Marker text

On November 13, 1922, 210 children and 6 teachers marched from two old school buildings located on Slaughter Street and Division Street to a new school for African-American students in Dover. Funding for the building was provided by the Delaware School Auxiliary Association, through the generosity of P.S. du Pont. The school was named for Booker T. Washington (1856-1915), a former slave who became the nation's foremost African-American educator. Originally built for grades 1-8, this was the state's largest African-American school at the time of its opening. Grades 9 and 10 were later added. S. Marcellus Blackburn was the school's first and only principal for forty years. His daily motto was "Lest we forget." Following integration in 1965, the school became known as West Dover Elementary. The original name was restored in 1998.

Although the school was segregated during that time, Ms. Crane felt it was important to note that the quality of the education at Booker T. Washington was second to none.

"I remember that we had

excellent teachers," Ms. Crane said.

"Our teachers made sure we knew we were there to learn and we were taught that no child was dumb. You were

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Attending Saturday's historical marker dedication at Dover's Booker T. Washington Elementary School are, from left, former teacher Susan Young Brown; former teacher Dorothy George; Dr. Bobble Brown; C. Wallace Hicks; Russell McCabe, outreach services coordinator for the Delaware Public Archives; Anita Boyer; William Holden Jr.; Helen Hicks; Rep Nancy H. Wagner, R-Dover; former teacher Lola Tue; and Rep. Donna D. Stone, R-Dover.

Marker

Continued From Page 1

expected to learn. We had no choice. They treated us like we were their own children. They cared about us and we cared about them. I think we had some of the best teachers available during that time."

In the school's earliest days it served students from first to eighth grade, but once a student had graduated from the eighth grade, their options for continuing their education were slim.

"If they wanted to go further they had to go to Wilmington or to Delaware State College to finish high school," Ms. Crane said.

By the time Ms. Crane left the school, she had more options.

She moved on to William Henry School, then Dover High, which by that time was being integrated.

She noted that William Henry seemed to have more to offer than Dover High.

"It depends on which class you talk to," she said. "Older classes say they weren't equipped. We were well equipped. We had an audio-visual lab and computers, a new auditorium, a new gym. We also had the planetarium. It was a first-class school."

The alumni placed a marker at William Henry last year and had hoped they could have the Book-



Delaware State News/Doug Curran

Doretha Cale displays a painting she created of the school's namesake, famed African-American educator Booker T. Washington.

er T. Washington marker placed prior to the death of one of its most notable students.

"I wanted to get it done before (James C. Hardcastle) passed away, but it didn't happen that way," she said. "He was one of the first pupils to go to Booker T."

The third-generation Dover resident, who died at 89 in February, was the first black member of Dover City Council, serving from 1974-84, and was principal of William W.M. Henry High School for 11 years before the school was integrated.

His career as an educator

began as a mathematics teacher at Booker T. Washington, then an all-black junior high school.

Ms. Crane said the placement of the marker served as a sort of kickoff to a weekend's worth of events for the alumni group, which numbers about 15.

Also planned for the group was a tour of William Henry, a silent auction, brick dedication, dinner, athletic honors banquet, dance, breakfast and church service.

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