

← **The Rye Players – Community Theater on the Town Hall Stage**

The Old Town Hall has staged some great shows over the years. There are all those undocumented shows from the 1870's and 80's followed by a great outburst of entertainment throughout the year at the turn of the century as shown in one of our albums. Wild basketball games were the rage in the 20's and entertainment continued through the hard years of the Great Depression, but it was the advent of the Rye Players after the war that may have given the most memorable performances. Composed of many veterans and some teens like Beverly Nokes Lord, the players regaled us with a great array of classics including "Harvey" soon after it appeared on Broadway and the "Fall River Legend." Sometimes performing in spite of themselves, the players were often beside themselves in rehearsal and on stage with the audience none the wiser of all the back stage goings on. The stage finally went dark for the Players in the late 60's and the last performance of any kind happened in 1978 but the memory of the real sense of community they built lingers on. The great stage and hall rest quietly now, but the ghosts of all those actors and all that drama and comedy flit above the stage in that great space awaiting a future renaissance.