

May 28, 1940.

To my Dear Niece Ruth and Nephews, Morris and Sol:

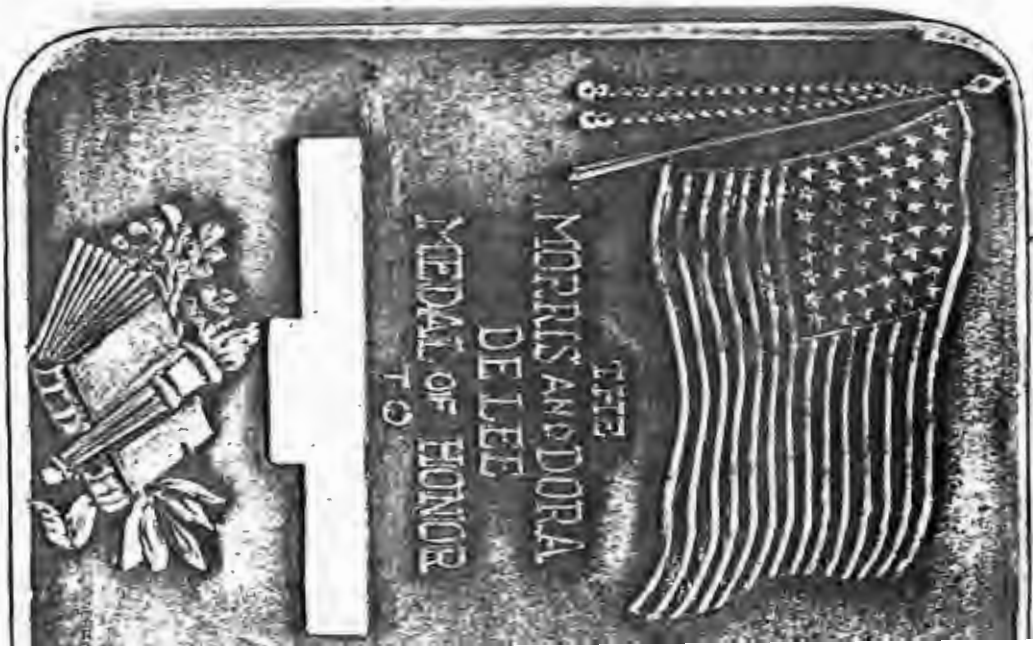
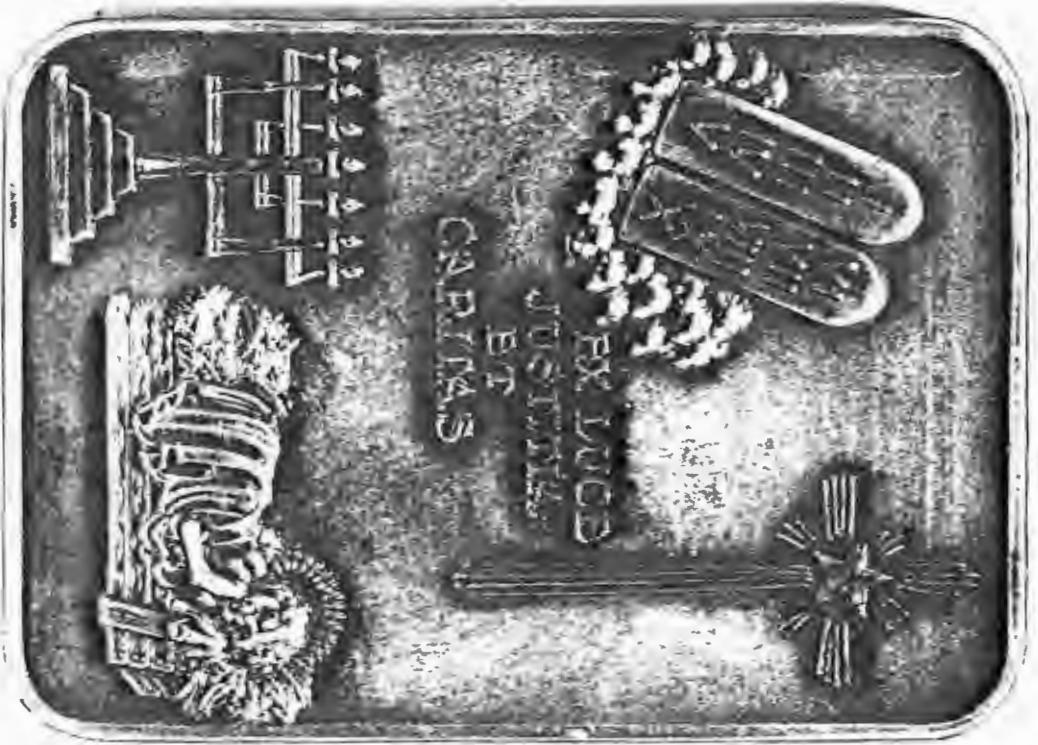
You know about the Morris and Dora DeLee Medal of Honor that is awarded annually at the Haldane High School in Cold Spring, New York. I have established similar awards at the High School of Plano, Illinois.

It is my wish that you exert every effort to keep these Awards of Merit alive for as long as it is possible for you to do so.

If you should dispose of Doradel Farm, at Plano, you may feel that continuance of the Awards there are not important, although I would like to have it. You may use your judgment about that, but the Haldane School Award will always be desirable and I hope you will be able to keep it up each year.

I have provided enough medals to last 8 years, and the dies are also preserved.

The expense will not be great and divided among you should be easily born.



De Lee Prizes Reinstated At Haldane High

Dr. Joseph B. De Lee
Resumes Awards Made
By Late Brother *Putnam Co. News*

The DeLee awards were presented at commencement exercises of Haldane Central School on Monday evening, for the first time since the death of the original donor, Solomon T. DeLee, in 1932. A former resident of Cold Spring, the late Mr. DeLee retained a deep interest in this community and for many years prior to 1932 presented a gold medal to the boy and girl attaining the highest scholastic average in Haldane High School. The boy's medal was given in memory of the donor's father and the girl's medal in memory of his mother.

Dr. Joseph B. DeLee of Chicago, brother of the late Solomon T. DeLee, reinstated the awards this year. Dr. DeLee had hoped to attend the commencement exercises and make the presentations personally. He was unable to be present, however, but sent a message, which was read by J. Bennett Southard Jr., vice-president of the Board of Education, who presented the awards.

Due to the recent increase in the price of gold, Dr. DeLee decided to give a bronze medal and a \$50 United States Government savings bond to each winner.

Recipients of the awards this year were James Bushnell, valedictorian of the graduating class, and Helen Be Bullock.

Dr. DeLee's letter reads as follows:

June, 1939:

To the Young Men and Women of the Cold Spring School:

Let me greet you heartily on this occasion—when you pass from one step in your life's career to another—always a further one and I hope, for each and all of you, a sigher one.

It is giving me great pleasure to be able to present two Awards of Merit to the young man and the young woman who have achieved preeminence in their school work.

None of you remembers the old Rock Street School. There I learned my a, b, c's and I have always kept it in tender memory. My brother Solomon established the Morris and Dora DeLee medals for merit at this school where he also began his education. He, during his life, had the same purpose in mind as I do now.

The Awards are given to perpetuate the memory of my Father and my Mother, but not in the way that you probably think, as personalities. No, I wish to perpetuate in these Awards (which I hope to be able to continue for many

brief, the people of Cold Spring were Americans.

Protestants, Catholics, Jews, they all had the spirit of America, the spirit of justice, of mutual helpfulness, of freedom of speech, of worship, of good sportsmanship, and they all worked together to build up our beloved country.

It is this American spirit which I wish these Awards of Merit to perpetuate in this school. I hope that they will keep it alive where it is in danger of dying out.

You young men and women may not know that at the present time there are forces at work trying to destroy this American spirit, trying to change our beloved country into a conglomeration of classes and groups of people hating each other.

These subversive elements in our midst use the most insidious propaganda methods, like a wolf in a sheep's clothing, under the slogan of saving America, to spread their false political ideologies. They try to inculcate undemocratic doctrines, anti-Catholicism, anti-Protestantism, anti-Semitism, all of which promote ill-will among our people, injustice, hatred of races and of religion, and thus they stir up conflicts among groups of our population.

They indeed aim to undermine our government and take away from us our hard won and highly prized liberties. They want to make us slaves of a totalitarian state.

Far worse than all these put together, such a propaganda of hatred and intolerance destroys our civilization, destroys our souls. Through thousands of long and torturous years, aided by the teachings of the old Jewish prophets and those of the beloved Christ—we humans have reached a plane of civilization, one of justice, of mercy. These propagandists want to cast us back to the state of barbarians.

I hope that these Awards of Merit will help to fortify the young men and women of Cold Spring against this insidious propaganda; I hope that each one who hears these words will dedicate himself to the American Spirit, which is political liberty, religious freedom, equality under God, and that each one will help his fellow citizens in the common task of building a true democratic society based on justice, mercy and fair play.

J. B. DE LEE.

Evil and good are phases in the process of growth; and who shall say which is the better teacher? Illness, error, defeat, frustration, disintegration, malicious accident, all these elements are as much in the process of life as waste, nutrition, and repair. The very forces which, if triumphant, would destroy life are needful to season experience and deepen understanding. Like arsenic, evil is a tonic in grains and a poison in ounces. The real problem of evil, the problem that justifies every assault upon war and poverty and disease, is to reduce it to amounts that can be spiritually assimilated.

This doctrine is just the opposite of certain "optimistic" life-denying attitudes and habits of mind that have become popular during the last three centuries: particularly, the notion that comfort, safety, the absence of physical disease, are the greatest blessings of civilization, and that as they increase evil will be automatically abolished.

—Mumford

Dr. Joe saved this -