The Docket

May/June 2021

GENE HACKMAN IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Community Shelter Planning, 1966 Cold War Civil Defense Film, with Gene Hackman

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WC-IG7GN6TU

In 1966 the federal government filmed a fallout shelter planning film in Doylestown and the county administration building. It stars Gene Hackman and has some wonderful footage of Doylestown. You will not be disappointed watching the footage of Doylestown and the current Administration Building from 55 years ago. The theme of the film produced by the federal government is that every resident needs to have a plan for a possible nuclear attack. The film is 22 minutes long. Copy and paste https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WC-IG7GN6TU to watch.

The writer-director is Mark Isaacs who was a resident of Bucks County when the film was shot. In addition to Hackman, Paul McGrath plays the Civil Defense Director based on County Civil Defense Director Colonel Lewis R. Stretch. Arnold Moss voices the role of the cynical "senior elected official" or "Commissioner" base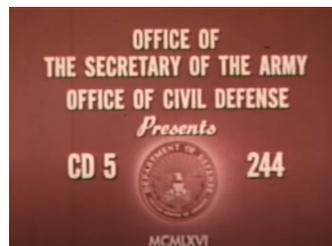d on J. Justus Bodley who was Chair of the Board of Commissioners at the time. Hackman plays Donald Ross, an expert from the regional Office of Civil Defense.

Only after Hackman's character offers 100% federal funding for the Community Shelter Planning program does the Commissioner finally agrees. The film concludes at a meeting adopting the plan. It was "premiered" at the Bucks County Courthouse on June 6, 1967.

Gene Hackman Academy Awards

- Bonnie and Clyde (nominated)
- I Never Sang for My Father (nominated)
- The French Connection (winner)
- Mississippi Burning (nominated)
- Unforgiven (winner)

Gene Hackman- Other Notable Films

- The Poseidon Adventure
- The Conversation
- Young Frankenstein
- Superman
- All Night Long
- Hoosiers
- The Firm
- The Replacements
- The Royal Tenenbaums

Gene Hackman was born in 1930 and was 36 when he came to Doylestown to make the shelter planning film. Prior to this film he appeared in various bit roles such as the TV series Route 66 in 1963, and began performing in several Off-Broadway plays. His first film role was in the 1964 drama *Lilith* starring Warren Beatty. It is probably no coincidence that only after filming in Doylestown did his career take off.

FILM AND FICHE SCANNING PROJECT

The Clerk of Courts office houses hundreds of years of county criminal records. Since 2014 these records have been scanned and are easily accessible as PDF images. Each day a significant amount of time is spent by staff searching microfilm and micro fiche for documents from cases prior to 2014. In order to increase efficiency and public access, the County Records Improvement Committee recently approved a request from the office to fund the conversion of film and fiche from 1980 through 2013 to PDF/A. PDF/A is a secure version of PDF (Portable Document Format by Adobe) approved by the PA State Historical Society for document retention. Approximately 7,930 microfilm reels containing 436,150 cases equaling 15.2 images of film and 37,803 cases on microfiche sleeves containing 2.25 million images are being converted.

Microfilm is a record-keeping medium that stores images of original hard copy records in a smaller format. For example, a bankers box of files can hold about 2,500 pages. The same 2,500 pages can be photographed and stored on a roll of 4x4" microfilm.

Microfiche is like microfilm but comes on little sheets and has fewer images. The most common type of fiche holds 60 images.

TRIVIA   How many covered bridges are in Bucks County?

We asked the staff: Who is the most famous person you have met?

Amanda— Craig Berube
Arianna— Ann Burrell
Aubrey—Dwayne Johnson
Cathy– Karen Scioli (Stella)
Deanna— Rob Zombie
Eileen– David Letterman
Frank— Joe Biden
Jackie– Ben Vereen
Jason— Bam Margera
Lauren– Michael Cuditz

Marcia—Maxi Priest
Marissa—Teresa Giudice
Megan—Bernie Parent
Michele–Phyliss George
Mike—Barack Obama
Sarah– Nancy Reagan
Sharon—Walter Perez

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http://buckscounty.org/government/RowOfficers/ClerkofCourts

July/August Newsletter– Summary Appeals

Answer to Trivia Question: Bucks County has 12 covered bridges and ten are open to vehicular traffic.