

June 1, 2019
Spring

Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring has finally sprung at the Museum after a very dreary winter and not so great early spring. Our boardwalk pots are full of the colors of spring and summer. Be sure to stop by and take a look.

One thing you will notice when you visit is that we have changed the entrance. You will now enter the building on the north side rather than the south. Public Works is hanging a brand new 'entrance' sign. Hopefully this will encourage more visits from those who walk and ride the boardwalk. It still amazes me that so many folks have no idea we're here. We need to change that.

Lee Gerachis, Museum board member and owner of Malibu's Surf Shop has donated a surfboard to be raffled off this summer. Tickets will be available at Malibu's so stop by and support the Museum (and tell your friends). Proceeds will be shared with a terrific organization - Believe in Tomorrow. We are grateful to Ace Printing and Mailing for donating the raffle tickets.

We were delighted to receive six applications for our George and Suzanne Hurley Scholarship. The recipient will be named at the Stephen Decatur High School Awards ceremony. We will invite him or her to our October *apres* House Tour event.

And speaking of the House Tour, we are well on our way to another opportunity for residents and visitors to see an Ocean City of a different time. Last year's tour was so well received that we didn't hesitate to do it again. We're making a list of properties that are potential sites for future years. If you know of a property or have a special place you'd like to see let us know and we'll see about putting it on a future tour.

Plans for our November 9 Storm Warriors 5K are coming along nicely. To date we have received sponsorships from: Thrashers/Jolly Roger, Calvin B. Taylor Bank, Knights of Columbus, Bank of Ocean City, American Legion, Seacrets, Ocean City Lions Club, Dunes Manor, Adam Showell, Greene Turtle and Pepsi. If you have an opportunity please thank them.

Sandy, Christine, Tom Perry (Board member) and I took a road trip to visit museums in Virginia Beach and Machipongo, Virginia. Met some very nice, helpful folks and picked up lots of good ideas. One of those ideas was the possibility of hosting a podcast. Looking into the possibility. If anyone out there has any experience with a podcast give us a call.



Nancy Howard
President

*PRESIDENT'S MESSAGECONTINUED****Staff*****Sandra D. Hurley***Executive Director/ Curator***Christine Okerblom***Assistant Curator****Board of Directors*****Nancy Howard***President***Mabel Rogers***Vice President***Gordon E. Katz***Treasurer***Melanie Ayres Merryweather***Secretary***Hal Adkins****Amanda Cropper****John Fager****Lee Gerachis****G. Alfred Harrison****John B. Lynch****Hunter "Bunk" Mann****Shirley Moran****Louis S. Parsons III****Tom Perry****J. D. Quillin III****Robert Rothermel, Jr.****Newt Weaver**

Our boardwalk banners will be going up on June 12. Hope this will bring some visitors our way.

Museum annex remains in limbo. But don't despair, it will happen.

We are delighted the Ocean City Surf Club received the Legacy Award from the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council. The club was a great help to us last year selling raffle tickets and continues to work with us on projects.

We supported students from Showell Elementary and OC Elementary Schools on the annual Boardwalk walk. All sponsors were listed on the shirts the students wore. Partnering with others is so important - and really terrific when it involves children.

I think I've kept you long enough. Now please enjoy the rest of the Scuttlebutt and we'll talk next time. If ever you have comments or suggestions for us please don't hesitate to call me at 443-235-4405 or e-mail neffiehoward@comcast.net



Our flower pots are planted with beautiful, colorful flowers and our new "Entrance" sign has been installed

A HISTORY OF BASEBALL IN OCEAN CITY

BY NEWT WEAVER

Baseball has always been a part of Ocean City’s illustrious history starting back on July 20, 1877 when a club from Snow Hill challenged a team from Wilmington, Delaware as reported in the “Wilmington News Journal”. The game was scheduled to be played in Ocean City on August 2nd.

On August 5, 1882 an organized team from Salisbury played in Ocean City featuring a sure-handed picked “nine” from the Congress Hall. Despite the talented bunch’s efforts from the hotel, they went down in defeat 5-0.

Guests from the Atlantic Hotel entered a group from Company C, Engineer Corps of the District of Columbia National Guard who were on a 10-day summer encampment at Ocean City. Camp Gilbert Thompson was the name given to this area. This attraction took place on a ball field just west of the Congress Hall and according to research and notes gleaned from acclaimed historian and well-known author, Gordon Katz, this field was located at present day Oceanic Motel. Just three innings were played on August 15, 1894 because the gang from the Atlantic were ahead 14-0 and the engineers called it quits.

The newly designed ballpark with benches, grandstand, locker/dressing rooms for the players are now nearly completed. This field features an enclosed, high fenced-in area for baseball and other athletic events. The park opened on July 13, 1900 and was located near the terminus of the railroad. The first game played featured employees from the Atlantic Hotel verses the laborers from the Congress Hall Hotel. The game was closely contested and well-played as the Congress Hall workers edged the Atlantic players 3-2.

One of the better organized teams of this period (1902-1905) was the Plimhimmon Stars who were composed of both guests and employees of the Plimhimmon Hotel and local talent from the rooming houses nearby. Beating most of the local area hotel teams...they did have problems winning against the Berlin Indians. This was a well-rounded and highly skilled club.

From 1906-1909, Ocean City re-organized and a competitive team was formed which defeated the Berlin Clubs on several occasions.

On July 6, 1909 Ocean City Club beat a talented Berlin team twice by scores of 4 -3 and 9-3. The first game was played in Berlin; the second one in Ocean City. Both games were well attended according to Gordon Katz’s thoroughly documented notes.

Before the turn of the century, baseball was played not just in Ocean City and Berlin, but throughout the lower shore and Delmarva in general. Quite a few of the players were skilled enough to make it to the semi-professional level and continuing all the way to the major leagues.

A total of 43 Major Leaguers have called Delmarva home. Roughly 44% (19) of these players were pitchers.

WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS!

*The President and
Board of Directors take
great pleasure in wel-
coming the following
new members:*

INDIVIDUAL

**Kristen & Jamie
Greenwood**
Berlin, Maryland

Sarah Wasem
Berlin, Maryland

Cindy Gogan
Berlin, Maryland

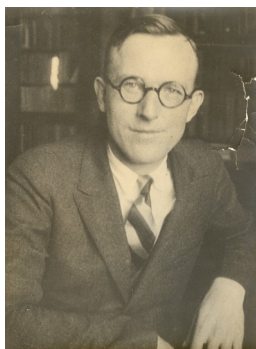
Joshua Wedge
Manassas, Virginia

A HISTORY OF BASEBALL IN OCEAN CITY.....CONTINUED

John Besson “Brewery Jack” Taylor is the first native of Delmarva to pitch in the Major Leagues. On September 16, 1891, Taylor playing for the National League New York Giants became the first and only native of Worcester County to perform in the majors.

Snow Hill native All-Star, MVP, and hall of Fame William Julius “Judy” Johnson played in the Negro League from 1921-1937.

“Brewery Jack” was born May 3, 1871 in Sandy Hill, later renamed Stockton, located 10 miles Southeast of the County Seat in Snow Hill, Maryland. Taylor would later become the ace of the pitching staff for the National League Philadelphia Phillies from 1893-1897. In 1898 pitching for the St. Louis Browns, he lead the National League in innings pitched (397.1), games started (47), complete games (42) and games pitched (50).



Ralph R. Dennis

Although no athletes hailing from Ocean City managed to play in the big leagues, that doesn't mean there weren't talented individuals playing baseball. Some were scouted and even made it as far as a call-up or tryout with the nearest major league team. Most of those gifted players were competing at the high school level.

The 1926-1927 Ocean City High School Baseball squad, under Coach Ralph Reverdy Dennis (High School Principal and first fireman in the O.C. V. F. D to die in a fire, George Washington Hotel in 1937), consisted of Levin David “Dave” Lynch, catcher; Erdman Crozier Jones, left field; Edmund Chester Pusey, right field; Joseph Warren Carey, pitcher; Hugh Thomas Cropper, center field; Daniel Trimper III, first base; Edwin Charles Ludlam Calhoun, Jr., second base; Owen John Mumford, pitcher/right field; Robert C. Anderson and Charles Thomas “Tommy” Cropper, substitutes. Professional scouting teams were closely following Carey, Trimper, and Jones. However it was Joseph Warren “Moxie” Carey, the fast-ball pitcher with a knee-bending “rainbow” curve and wicked change-up that got most of the attention.

The 1928 team added John Stanton Laws, first base; Lincoln C. Townsend, right field; and James Samuel Thomas, left field. But it was “Moxie” Care again that carried the team by allowing the competition few, if any, scoring opportunities through outstanding pitching. By 1929, Carey signed with the Baltimore Orioles of the International League.

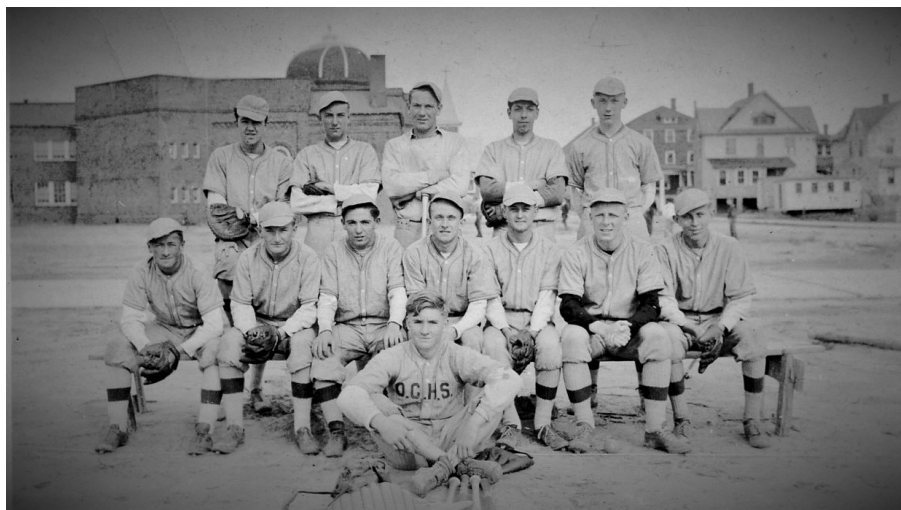
Instead of continuing his professional career as a baseball player, “Moxie” Carey became the ace pitcher for the Chestertown Washington College team from 1930-1933. The Philadelphia A's tried to lure him away from his college studies in 1931. Instead the left-handed strikeout artist became the star pitcher for Rock Hall Club in the Chesapeake Bay League. He also played briefly for the Hagerstown Club of the Blue Ridge League.

Carey was inducted into the Washington College Athletic hall of Fame for baseball, football, and lacrosse in 1991.

The 1934 Ocean City baseball team consisted of Charles Edward Lynch (Dave's younger brother), second base; Harry William Kelley, right field; Winfield Scott Wallace, short-stop; Meredith Herbert Chandler, catcher; Robert Francis “Bob” Connor, first base; Charles Lee “Mike” Burbage, pitcher; Alfred Everett “Al” Harmon (Clinton's younger brother), left field; James Henry “Jimmie” Ennis, third base; John Joseph Francis Sacca, left field. Burbage, Sacca, Connor, and Lynch were the standouts, but the scouts leaned toward Sacca, Chandler, and Connor. This team easily captured the Worcester County High School Championship. Lynch later went on to the University of North Carolina where he played college golf.

A HISTORY OF BASEBALL IN OCEAN CITY.....CONTINUED

Ocean City in 1935 went undefeated as Charles Alfred "Pinky" Parker, left field; Joseph Sire "Joe" Elliot, center field; 15-year-old William Joseph "Bill" Simpson, right field; and Harry Timmons "Tims" Bunting, substitute; were added to the roster. Both Bob Connor and John Sacca were called up



Left to Right, Bottom Row; Harry Kelley, Charles Parker, James Ennis, Wallace Scott (Captain), Joe Elliott, Charles Lynch, Alfred Harmon. Top Row; Charles Meredith, Bill Simpson, Charles Burbage, John Sacca, Robert Connor. Seated front; Harry Bunting (Bat Boy).

for a two day tryout with Philadelphia A's. Connor was known for his slick fielding and clutch hitting. Sacca had a rifle for an arm, a great glove, and a powerful swing at the plate... noted for his long homeruns.

Harold Jackson "Lefty" Rayne, Jr. of Ocean City played in shore league competitions in the mid 1930s. Rayne was a lefty who threw hard and kept hitters off balance with his outstanding pitching, winning numerous ball games. He is in the Eastern Shore Baseball Hall of Fame in Salisbury. William Addison Gibbs, who

played for Ocean City in the late 1930's and early 1940's was perhaps the best all around athlete on the diamond playing in one time or another all positions on the field.

On May 11, 1939 Ocean City High fell to a more mature team from Beacom College of Wilmington, Delaware 8-4. The Ocean City team felt confident in challenging the college team. This club featured Gibbs who played left and right field and pitched a few innings. Joining him was Samuel Eugene Villani who also pitched and played left field. William Edward Kelley was saddled with centerfield duties. Oscar Leonard Bergman guarded the hot corner at third base. Ernest Leroy Hastings played first base and had two base hits. William Tunnell Bunting performed flawlessly at shortstop and garnered two hits. The catcher handling both Gibbs and Villani was William J. Griffin. William Joseph "Bill" Simpson played second base. James Hastings was added to the roster as a right fielder and substitute. The team up until the defeat by the Beacom men were playing exceptional baseball.

Over the years, teams from Berlin, Snow Hill, and Pocomoke continued into the late 1940s rivaling Ocean City for the County Championships and school trophies.

THE YEAR WAS ...

1966

From *The Baltimore Sun*, Thursday, August 18, 1966

Twins Spread The Word At Ocean City

Ocean City, Md., Aug. 17. — Two young guitar-strumming folk singers, who are studying to be ministers, are conducting an “experimental ministry” among the thousands of young people who work and play in this resort all summer.

Though they look hardly out of their teens, Robert and Donald Kretzschmar, 22-year-old identical twins, are college graduates, now in their second year of theological studies at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

But for the summer, “Rob and Don,” as they call their team, are troubadours with a mission — a religious mission among the young. Their approach is through folk music. As far as they know, nothing quite like it has been tried before.

The Crowd Gathers

At least once a day, usually after dark when teen-agers and college types are looking for a good time, “Rob and Don” pick a place at random on the boardwalk, stroll out on the beach 30 or 40 yards, start plucking their guitars and singing folk songs. Because they are good at it, a crowd soon collects.

The twins usually begin with something loud and rousing, perhaps the sea chanty, “Golden Vanity,” or a singalong like “Ritsch Ratsch.” They continue with popular numbers but mix in religious ballads, such as “Kum By Ya” (Come by here, Lord) or even prayers and psalms set to contemporary folk melodies.

They introduce each song with an explanation of its religious significance and a statement of their personal faith. The “program” may last an hour and usually ends with a singing prayer, perhaps the “Lord’s Prayer” set to calypso.

In this relaxed atmosphere by the sea, the two young ministers-to-be have found that they “can talk to the kids, make serious statements and they listen.”

City On Agreement

Recently this wandering troubadour technique brought them up against a city ordinance forbidding gatherings at night on the beach, but they have worked out an agreement with city officials that will permit them to continue.

The two “lookalikes” — six feet tall, 160 pounds each — are not here by chance. They were invited by the local district of their church (Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod) to come to Ocean City this summer. They also have the cooperation of the Ocean City Ministerium, representing the resort’s major churches.

Although their religious work with the young is their main reason for being here, it actually is an off-duty activity. The boys are working their way, sharing a job as night clerk at a motel.

The evenings are reserved for their ministry. “At first,” Rob said, “we had no idea how to start. We tried singing on the boardwalk but it was too noisy. We tried sitting in with groups of young people trading songs, but they were more interested in the rhythm than the words.

“Then,” he recalls, “one time we were on the boardwalk, not knowing exactly what to do, and we both walked out on the beach and started singing to ourselves under the stars.

It felt eerie at first,” he continued, “but soon a few young people wandered out. That did it. The crowd mushroomed to 60 or 70. It was one of our best evenings.”

On the average they draw from 30 to 75 young people. The “program” lasts about an hour and a half.

“The audience is very attentive,” Don said. “Maybe it’s because we have the nerve to get out there. It’s quiet, too, and it’s possible to say serious things to these kids.”



MISSIONARY MINSTRELS—Rob and Don Kretzschmar, 22-year-old ministerial students from St. Louis, are using their folksing talents to bring religion to youth at Ocean City this summer. The twins sing on the sand and talk about Christianity to teens. Sunpapers Photo—Knlesche

After the guitars are put away, some of the young people stay on to talk. “They’re curious about us. When possible, we invite them to contact their church youth group.”

The twins, born in Monroe, Mich., are the sons of a Lutheran minister, now in Birmingham, Ala. Both baritone, they have studied voice but “picked up the guitar” themselves.

Unless they are asked, they make no mention of their church affiliation during their beach programs. They intend only to get across “a Christian message.”

The twins are not alone in their efforts to work directly with young people. Sometimes they join forces with Dr. Thomas J. Roberts, a young physician here, who has organized a series of interdenominational programs, “Christian Athletes,” at the boardwalk bandshell.

These programs, held on occasional Saturday nights, bring athletes such as Jerry Phipps, basketball coach at Baltimore City College, and Bruce Bickel, Navy quarterback last year, to make statements of their faith.

Dr. Roberts, who is 35, says the programs (four this summer) “are merely a point of contact.” More needs to be done, and he hopes someone will continue the work next year.

The Kretzschmar twins agree with him that more religious work needs to be done here among visiting young people. The two are talking with local ministers about setting up a “coffee house” that will provide entertainment for young people in a Christian context. They also would like to see more recreation programs.

As for this resort’s much publicized “youth problem,” the twins are of good heart. “Of course, some are rebellious and trouble makers,” Rob said. “You always notice them first. But, from what we see, the majority are decent, fun-loving young people with serious concerns.”

Curator’s note: The Kretzschmar twins continued their beach ministry at Ocean City during the summer of 1967. They also assisted that summer with conducting Sunday services for the local Lutheran congregation, which were held at the Shore Drive-In Movie Theatre on Route 50. Both men were ordained as Lutheran ministers.

“Don” served for many years as the executive director of “Voice of Care”, the Lutheran outreach program to “persons developmentally challenged and those who care for them.” He retired from that position in 2013.

“Rob” started out at a church in Roselle, Illinois, from 1969 to 1971, after which he relocated to Baltimore County, Maryland. He was the pastor at Calvary Lutheran Church in the Hamilton community of Baltimore City from 1990 – 2012, and now offers counseling services in the nearby community of Parkville.

A SMALL MUSEUM CONFERENCE PROMOTING BIG IDEAS

BY CHRISTINE OKERBLOM



Christine Okerblom

Assistant Curator

As I entered the conference hall, I was surrounded by other museum professionals from around the country. Over the next three days *museums, and best practices within museums* was the topic of all conversations to be had. As I met with Community Engagement Specialists, Assistant Curators, Collection Specialists, and Visitor Coordinators, I became inspired by their passion and expertise!

In addition to the networking opportunities, the Small Museum Conference offered an array of sessions to attend, some of which include *fighting for collections priorities, field trips and outreach programs 101, leading for social media success, and making room for diversity, inclusion and equity*. The following sessions examined real challenges that small museums face and offered effective solutions.

I left the small Museum Conference knowing that I could strengthen the Museum by implanting three new practices. Practices number one, when in doubt, reach out, if there is a challenge at hand there is a good chance that another professional at another museum is willing and able to help. The second practice is to embrace improvement, if our programs and events are good, how can we make them great? The third and final practices is to keep learning. It is vital to the success of the museum that the staff continue to obtain news skills in order to meet our museums mission to its fullest potential.

READERS' FORUM

'Surf Avenue'

Curator's note: Participants in the recent Storm Warriors 5K walk/run held this past November asked us a number of interesting questions. We are sharing some of those questions in this and future newsletters.

Q: What is the origin of Surf Avenue between 7th Street and 8th Street? No other boardwalk blocks are divided like that.

A: "Surf Avenue" first appeared on a survey and plat prepared by the Maryland Seashore Corporation in October of 1925. See accompanying illustration. The oceanfront block between 7th Street and 8th Street was the first of several vacant blocks that the company acquired in 1925 and 1926. The company built houses on two of the lots, and pitched them in April of 1926 as "two new modern houses in the most exclusive Ocean block of Ocean City".

Continued.....page 9

LITTLE LEARNERS



Little Learners programs are held the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, September through May.

Preschool children learn about history and wildlife through story time, crafts, live animal encounters, and hands on activities



GROUP TOURS & FIELD TRIPS



Pocomoke Middle School enjoyed a field trip to the Museum on May 22, 2019



A tour group from the Harrison Group gets an orientation in the Boat Room

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ June 1st–August 31st– Daily Aquarium Feedings at 11:30
- ◆ June 21st–June 23rd–Jellyfish Festival
- ◆ July 1st–August 24th–Free Summer Programs– Mondays through Saturdays @ 10:00 AM
- ◆ September 21st–Smithsonian Magazine Day
- ◆ October 12th–Historic House Tour
- ◆ October 19th–Harbor Day at the Docks
- ◆ October 25th–31st–Locals Appreciation Week FREE admission to Delmarva Locals
- ◆ October 25th & 26th–Paranormal Investigation
- ◆ November 9th–Storm Warriors 5K Walk/Run
- ◆ December 1st–Holiday Open House



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