

## SCUTTLEBUTT

### President's Message

Happy 2016!

First I'd like to tell you that blizzard Jonas came, tried to blow us down and left. We were fortunate in that we didn't have the snow that others experienced but boy did we have wind and flooding. Fortunately the Museum weathered the event. Thanks to the City employees who watched out for us.

My last message to you brought us up to the 2nd annual Storm Warriors 5K. I am so happy to tell you that we grew to 130 runners/walkers this year. Of course it was a perfect day and we had many day-of registrations. OC Tri-running, again, was a dream to work with. Thank you members who joined us. And thank you to our sponsors: Bank of Ocean City, American Legion Post 166, Ocean City Elks, Ocean City Lions Club, Ocean City Development Corporation, Calvin B. Taylor Bank, Seacrets, Walmart, Greene Turtle, and Knights of Columbus. By the time you read this the City will have given us permission to hold our 3rd Storm Warriors 5K on Saturday, November 12. Hope you will be able to participate. Please tell family and friends who might be interested in coming out to support the Museum.

A week after the 5K the Museum did join with the Downtown Association in its *Light Up Downtown* holiday festival. Again, it was another beautiful day that brought out many locals and visitors. It was great to be part of an effort to bring much needed attention to our beautiful downtown. We'll participate again this year. I've often said Downtown is the heart of Ocean City.

The Board voted to organize a scholarship honoring George Hurley. Plans are underway. Will update you in the next Scuttlebutt. We also voted to adopt a Collections Management Policy. This will allow staff to acquire only items that are relevant to our mission and to divest the Museum of items that don't meet that requirement.

Your Board's main objective this year will be to get the plans for an addition to our building before the public and our elected officials. As you probably know, a good bit of our building space is taken up with non-exhibit functions. Also, staff works out of what can only be described as a rabbit hutch. And the working conditions are not safe. An addition also will allow us to offer additional opportunities for residents and visitors to experience the Museum. So, your Board is working on rectifying these conditions. Thanks to the efforts of Board Member John Lynch we have suggested plans for an addition drawn by noted local architect Jack Graham. We must convince our local, county and state officials of the need for the addition. We can't do this alone. We will be calling on you for support.

Most importantly we will need to raise funds for the addition. Although we will solicit funds from government bodies we will need to show that we are putting our money where are mouth is!

That is one of the reasons we opened a fund at the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore. You already know how important the work of the Museum is. We just need to open the eyes of others.

Please visit our web site [www.ocmuseum.org](http://www.ocmuseum.org) to see the various ways you can donate. Or, go to the Community Foundation site [www.cfes.org](http://www.cfes.org) to donate directly to the fund. Also, we hope you will contact anyone you feel might be interested in becoming a Museum Society member. If you wish to discuss anything involving the Museum Society especially funding please don't hesitate to call me at 443-235-4405.

Your past support is greatly appreciated. We look forward to working with you to make the Museum an even greater presence in Ocean City and Worcester County.



**Museum Society President,  
Nancy Howard**

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*City Council Liaison**100 Years Ago . . . . .*From the *Denton Journal* (Denton, Maryland), Saturday, January 29, 1916:**Important Bridge Asked For.**

The importance of having a bridge across Sinepuxent Bay at Ocean City is known to every one who visits Maryland's only seaside resort. Automobiles from Baltimore, Washington, Philadelphia, Wilmington and from almost every farm and town of the several counties of the Maryland, Virginia and Delaware peninsula during the summer rush with full speed to the bridge on the west side of the bay near Ocean City and are often detained from fifteen minutes to one-half an hour before the railroad track is made clear of trains.

This is especially true on special days like Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, when extra trains come in and thousands of people from the country come in vehicles and automobiles to spend the day. It is not uncommon for from 500 to 1,000 automobiles per day to pass over the road from Berlin to Ocean City, a distance of seven miles, the point where Virginia, Delaware and Maryland people come together.



**View looking west of the first automobile bridge into Ocean City, dated 1938. At the time this picture was taken, plans were already well developed for the "new bridge" at North Division Street that opened in 1942. Ocean City Museum Society archives.**

The duPont road [*present day US 113*] is practically completed through Sussex county, Delaware, from the line of Delaware and Maryland at Selbyville to Georgetown, and will be ready for use in early spring. This road runs through a thickly populated section, and the people of Delaware will greatly appreciate the generous gift of T. Coleman duPont.

The next important improvement along the Atlantic coast for the benefit of the people of Maryland, Virginia and Delaware is the construction of nine miles of road from Berlin to the duPont road to connect the two great State highways that lead to Ocean City, Maryland. The bill asking for an appropriation for a bridge to reach Ocean City and a resolution asking for a survey to be made for the road from Berlin to duPont road introduced by Senator [*Orlando*] Harrison, chairman, "Roads and Highways" Committee, from Worcester county, are both important pieces of legislation and should be of highest interest to the people of Maryland, as well as those of Virginia, Delaware and Pennsylvania, Senator Harrison believes.

→ *Curator's note: Obviously, summer traffic congestion has been an issue for Ocean City visitors for more than a century! The Maryland General Assembly approved Senator Harrison's bill, and road construction, including a new bridge over Herring Creek on the road between Berlin and Ocean City, got underway in early 1917. According to newspaper accounts, more than 10,000 people, including Maryland Governor Emerson C. Harrington, turned out on July 4, 1919 for the official opening of Ocean City's first automobile bridge, which entered the town at Worcester Street.*

## 50 Years Ago . . . . .

From *The Daily Times* (Salisbury, Maryland), Wednesday, December 22, 1965,  
Letters to the Editor:

### EDITOR OF THE TIMES:

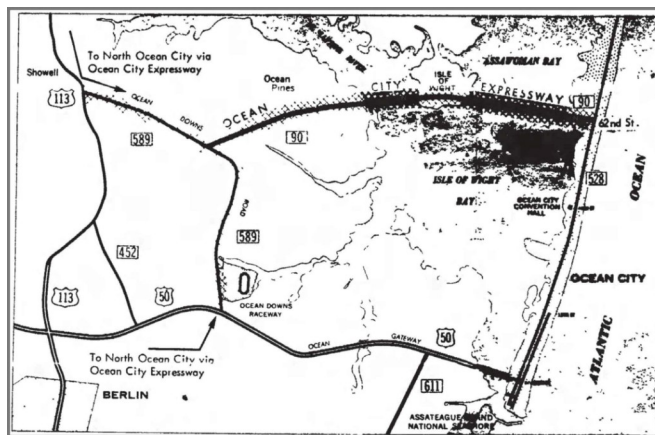
#### Thoughts on Bridges

Leaving the location of a second bridge into Ocean City in the hands of the State Roads Commission was a very tactful move on the part of the city and county officials, as it will keep criticisms from the locals down to a minimum. Many places have been suggested for the span but I do hope the SRC keeps in mind that the crossing should not only be built to serve traffic, but where it would be easily accessible to the most persons in case of an emergency or evacuation.

With the building boom – greater than one can imagine – presently going on all over town, not only is a second bridge desperately needed now, but a third one will be in demand in a couple or three years. It, too, would be most wise of the town fathers to extend a thoroughfare paralleling Beach Highway (Philadelphia Ave.) before the area becomes too congested with zig-zag buildings. St. Louis Ave., which ends at 17<sup>th</sup> St., could be extended, or it may be more feasible to lengthen Baltimore Ave. northward. In my opinion, obtaining the right-of-way now could result in a huge saving in the road building fund.

In order to keep business alive and flourishing in the downtown section, property owners would do well to follow the example of Dr. F. J. Townsend, Jr., who is replacing his old buildings with modern structures and off-street parking. The new edifices are located on the boardwalk near the band stand, a very congested area, to say the least.

C. Newton Weaver, Ocean City, Md.



**Map showing the location of the Ocean City Expressway (Route 90). From *The Daily Times* (Salisbury MD), August 13, 1971.**

→ *Curator's note:* As Mr. Weaver noted, the placement of the second bridge into Ocean City was the subject of controversy at the time. The State Roads Commission settled on an entrance between 61<sup>st</sup> Street and 62<sup>nd</sup> Street, largely because part of the new expressway could be built across the Isle of Wight, thus shortening the length of the bridge spans required. Construction of the Route 90 highway and bridges commenced in 1968. Maryland Governor Marvin Mandel officially opened the road, which then had a western terminus at Route 589 (Racetrack Road), during a ceremony held on August 12, 1971. Route 90 was later extended west to US 50, with the new interchange opening on October 29, 1976.

#### WELCOME ABOARD

#### NEW MEMBERS!

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

#### **FAMILY**

#### **Skip & Yvonne Bunting**

Ocean City, Maryland

#### **INDIVIDUAL**

#### **Ryan Artuso**

Ocean City, Maryland

#### **Michael Kruszczynki**

Berlin, Maryland

#### **Linda & Steve**

#### **Petersen**

Berlin, Maryland

#### **Marci Russell**

Ocean Pines, Maryland

#### **Paul Scott**

Ocean City, Maryland

#### **Stone Scruggs**

Ocean City, Maryland

#### **Janice Starsnic**

Sinking Springs, Pennsylvania

#### **Michael Winaker**

Ocean Pines, Maryland

## Volunteer & Staff Appreciation Party

On December 2, 2015 the Board of Directors hosted a festive event as a way of thanking volunteers and staff members for all of their support throughout the year.

The reception was held in the Victorian Room of the Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City and there were over sixty people in attendance. The food was delicious and the conversation lively.

Our thanks to board member Lou Parsons for documenting this event with your beautiful photographs!



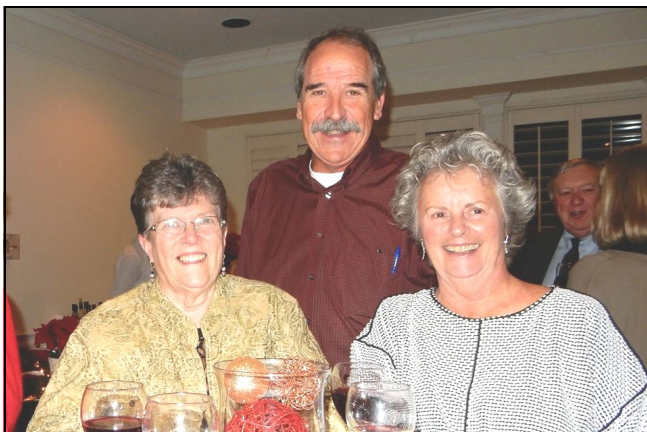
**Museum Society President, Nancy Howard, poses with some of the many volunteers who help make our programs a success. Front Row L to R: Nancy Howard Joe Britvch, Amanda Hammond, Shirley Moran, Donna Reid, Mabel Rogers and Charlotte Montgomery. Back Row: Janice Davis, Jean Kline, Bob Stevens and Don Schaefer.**



**Bob Stevens, Sandy Hurley and Gordon Katz**



**Charlotte and Ed Montgomery**



**Mabel Rogers, Alfred Harrison and Shirley Moran**



**Janice Davis and photographer, Lou Parsons**

## Volunteer & Staff Appreciation Party



Museum staff members and their spouses joined in the fun at the Thank You Party held on December 2, 2015. L to R : Peg and Richard Mance, Sonya Russell and Imad Elali, Anne and Harry Ballantyne.

## *A Local Perspective*

A Day in the Life of .....

Daniel Trimper IV

The year was 1938; I was five. Ocean City was the epitome of a safe, small town. Mother helped me don my uniform – a postage stamp-sized bathing suit. I was ready for the day's schedule.

First, I made my rounds of the various hotels, where the owner-ladies awaited me each morning with all manner of breakfast pastries. After a delicious repast and several minutes of polite conversation, I was off again to the next hotel. I particularly remember at the Shoreham Miss Lois Carmean, later to become Mrs. Hale Harrison, Sr. She would have a delicious slice of pie for me. Skipping along the boards in those days entailed no more worries than getting splinters in bare feet.

After four or five food visits, it was time for my second appointment at the Cropper Hardware Store on lower Baltimore Ave. Cooney Calhoun, the barber, together with old Doc Townsend and several of the hardware store employees, would offer me unshelled peanuts and various coins to perform soliloquies of curse words. No Shakespearean actor or performing monkey ever enjoyed an audience more than I did. My performance ended, I marched home to relate my day's activities to Mother.

In a later year, graduating to higher earnings, I obtained a shoe shine box and would take up my station at Rayne's store's back room to shine the shoes of the various captains of Ocean City's industry.

Life was good.



A young Dan Trimper IV poses for a memorable photograph at Trimper's Docks circa 1938.

# The 2nd Annual Storm Warriors 5K Walk/Run



Our Second Annual Fund Raising event was held on Saturday, November 14, 2015 on a glorious sunny day on the Ocean City Boardwalk.

With over 130 participants it proved to be a huge success!

Thank you to all of the participants and volunteers that took part.

A special thanks to :

**Robert J Banach of OceanCity-Cool.com.** for contributing the wonderful photographs.



**Volunteers from Stephen Decatur High School join O.C. Museum members to offer refreshments to the runners.**



**The oldest participant to complete the 5K is Harry Ballantyne (center) joined by two of his grandchildren, Christy Collins (L) and Steve Miller (R), who traveled long distances to join him.**



**Rose Kavanagh Emerick makes her final approach to the finish line.**

# The 2nd Annual Storm Warriors 5K Walk/Run



Trophies were produced by Plak That of Ocean City



Javier Hernandez catches his breath after finishing as one of the top competitors.



This participant is delighted with her award



Many of the winners pose in front of the Museum with their trophies

## Curator's Corner



**Sandy Hurley**  
Curator

Although it is only February our thoughts are turning towards the upcoming summer season and all of the excitement and adventures that comes with it. For our changing exhibit this season we will be paying tribute to the decade of **"The Stormy Sixties"** focusing on events, lifestyles and growth of that tumultuous time. The 1960's was a decade of change for America and also a very memorable decade for Ocean City. Although only one man, Hugh T. Cropper Jr., presided as Mayor during this time the Town went through a lot of changes and development. There were riots, storms, cool fashions, condominiums and as always, a whole lot of fun! In fact, the 1960 O.C. Bureau of Information touted Ocean City as "The Hospitality Resort with Family Fun at Family Prices".

This exhibit should be a lot of fun for all of you **"Baby Boomers"** out there. Who could forget fun times at The Beach Club, sing-a-longs at The Irish House or your first trip to the newly opened Frontier Town or a ride through Trimper's Haunted House? If you have some special artifacts, photographs or memorabilia specifically from Ocean City during the sixties we would love to include them. Just call (410) 289-4991 or email ([sandy@ocmuseum.org](mailto:sandy@ocmuseum.org)) and let me know what you have and we will be happy to consider adding it.



Mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 18th! We will be celebrating International Museum Day again this year by having an Open House that day. The theme for 2016 is "Museums and Cultural Landscapes". Please spread the word and tell your friends and neighbors that we will open and offering FREE admission to everyone from 10am to 5pm.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported The Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum throughout the years. Whether you visited the museum, attended one of our programs, volunteered at an event, or made a financial donation ~ thank you!

## Reader's Forum

**Q:** I recall my parents taking our family out to eat in the 1950s at a drive-in north of town. It was on the east side of Coastal Highway, I think around 30th Street. Do I recall that correctly, and, if so, what was the name?

**A:** The drive-in you remember was called the "Lighthouse Drive-In" and was located on the northeast corner of 31st Street and Coastal Highway. John and Martha Fleming operated the drive-in from 1955 to 1958. After the Flemings sold the property, the business went through a number of owners and name changes, starting with the "Green Door" in 1959, the "Crab Haven" in 1960, and the "Crab Claw" in 1970. After Edward Higgins bought the operation in 1974, he changed the name first to "Old Shuckers" in 1975 and then to "Higgins Crab House" in 1987.

You're welcome  
TO DROP  
ANCHOR AT THE

# Lighthouse

DRIVE - IN

Specializing In Complete Breakfasts

★ Sandwiches ★ Platters ★ Fountain Drinks

Free Parking - Guarded Beach

UMBRELLAS ★ BATH HOUSE

Owned & Operated By  
**Mrs. Martha C. Fleming**

31st & Beach Highway  
Just North of City Limits  
Ocean City, Md.

If you have a question about Ocean City history, please send it to: Sandy Hurley, curator, at [Sandy@ocmuseum.org](mailto:Sandy@ocmuseum.org) for a future edition of the *Scuttlebutt*.