

SCUTTLEBUTT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's been a busy productive time since last we met.

The Historic House Tour in support of the George and Suzanne Hurley Scholarship was a huge success. We are indebted to the eight owners who were kind enough to allow us into their properties and to our generous sponsors. Daphne Hurley was instrumental in making the Tour the success it was. We were delighted with attendance – 87 people came out on a beautiful fall day. Comments from participants were terrific. Our scholarship account got a boost of more than \$10,000. We will be having a tour again next year on Saturday, October 12th. Please let us know what properties you would like to see on the tour and if you have a contact for any properties that might be appropriate.

The 5th Annual Storm Warriors 5K run/walk surpassed past races. Our net was greater than \$14,000. More than 100 runners came out on a beautiful November morning. It actually was warmer at 6 a.m. than it was at noon when the event ended! Again, sponsorships made the day. All Museum sponsors are listed on our webpage. If you have a chance, please thank them. We are grateful for the Tri-Running team who work with us each year. They make it look so easy. And, of course, we are indebted to the City for allowing us to use the iconic OC Boardwalk. Mark your calendars, our 6th run will be Saturday, November 9, 2019. Please help us spread the word.

Our very own Treasurer Gordon Katz was the guest speaker at the Worcester County Historical Society fall dinner. He filled us in on the facts and rumors surrounding Ocean City's George Washington Hotel. It was very enlightening.

The Worcester County Historical Society has taken on a project to recognize the birthplace of one of baseball's greatest players, William Julius "Judy" Johnson who was born in Snow Hill in October 1899. The WCHS will erect a monument that would honor this great baseball player. This is the result of a George and Suzanne Hurley scholarship recipient's submission. The Museum was decked out for the holidays with lots of natural greens and some twinkling lights. Thanks to Amanda Cropper, Mabel Rogers, Robin Beauchamp, Robin Breeden, JoAnne Guilfoil, Sandy Hurley and Christine Okerblom for their artistic, wreath-making skills! And thank you Christine for thinking to light up the outdoor anchor - it was fabulous. We had a very festive Holiday Appreciation party for our sponsors, friends, and supporting organizations at the beautifully decorated Dunes Manor. I think everyone had a good time. And we ended the old year and began the New Year at the Mayor's Open House at the Convention Center. People just can't get enough of photos of old OC and we had lots on display.

Plans for the Museum annex remain active but are currently on the back-burner. Will update you when anything happens.

Sadly the 40th Anniversary Party was cancelled but it was unavoidable. The Museum is now in its 41st year and I say it's never too late for a party. We're looking for suggestions. How would you like to see the Museum celebrate? Let me know.

Let's hope 2019 is productive, kind and peaceful. Do stay in touch.....



Museum Society President, Nancy Howard, at the Mayor's New Year's Day Concert at the Performing Arts Center.

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****Joseph E. Moore, Esq.***Board Attorney***Richard W. Meehan***City Council Liaison*

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND - THEN & NOW

The Shoreham - 309 Atlantic Avenue

The Shoreham, situated on the south corner of 4th Street on the Boardwalk, is the oldest hotel building in continuous service in Ocean City today. The hotel has been in operation every summer season since opening in 1923, lodging visitors in the same structure at the same location. Other hotels, such as the Atlantic, the Plimhimmon/Plim Plaza, the Rideau and the Breakers, have been around longer, but those hotels' present structures were built at later dates, after the original buildings either burned down or were torn down.

Prelude: The "Fox Cottage" and "Tourist Inn"

Minnie B. Jackson bought the lot on the southwest corner of 4th Street and the Boardwalk in 1892. The northern end of the Boardwalk at that time ended at 7th Street. We know very little about Mrs. Jackson, other than she was a well-to-do widow from Baltimore (or Baltimore County). Mrs. Jackson purchased the two adjoining lots along the Boardwalk in 1896, and had a cottage erected on the northerly part of her property in 1897. She rented the cottage that season to Washington, D. C. attorney Duane E. Fox and his family.

Duane E. Fox and his wife Matilda were two of the large group of the upper class from Washington and Baltimore that dominated Ocean City's social scene from the early 1890s until around 1906. The wealthy visitors often stayed for the entire summer, filling up the Atlantic and the Plimhimmon, which were the axis around which the resort's fashionable entertainments revolved, as well as the hotels in between and the cottages that stretched northward along the Boardwalk. The other group of summer visitors, the excursionists who might only spend a day or two at the beach, were largely relegated to the southern end of the Boardwalk. The two groups rarely interacted.

Mr. Fox and his family were perennial summer visitors in Ocean City for

more than fifteen years. They hosted parties and other events at their cottage, which became known as the "Fox cottage" even though they did not own it. They were often among the last to leave the beach at the end of the season, frequently extending their stays into October. Even after their peers had largely abandoned the resort after 1906, the Fox family continued to spend the summer in Ocean City through the 1912 season, but did not return after that.



Illustration 1: From The Baltimore Sun, June 25, 1916

Having lost her long-term tenant, Mrs. Jackson, then living in Florida, sold the lots and cottage to Lemuel A. Wyatt in 1913. Wyatt was a local builder who had earlier purchased "The Gables", located next to the Presbyterian Church (now the Baptist Church) on Baltimore Avenue near North Division Street. He turned the "Fox cottage" into a boarding house that he called the "Tourist Inn" (see illustration 1). His wife Laura, the daughter of Josephine and Kendall Hastings, managed The Gables property, while Lemuel leased the Tourist Inn to others to manage for him.

THEN & NOW CONTINUED...

Lemuel Wyatt's creditors forced him into bankruptcy in late 1916. At a public auction held on January 17, 1917, Oliver D. Collins, the Worcester County Clerk, purchased the Tourist Inn. Collins had previously purchased the then-vacant southern half of the property from Wyatt in 1914. He continued to operate the boarding house as the Tourist Inn.

The Shoreham

In the spring of 1922, Collins sold the Tourist Inn to Lemuel Wyatt's mother-in-law, Josephine Hastings. Mrs. Hastings had built the New Avalon Hotel on Baltimore Avenue between North Division Street and North 1st Street in 1903 and the Hastings Hotel on the Boardwalk between 2nd Street and 3rd Street in 1916. She proceeded to tear down the old cottage on the corner of 4th Street and the Boardwalk, and erect a new hotel on the site. As reported in the *Worcester Democrat* on December 23, 1922, "Mrs. [Josephine] Hastings has completed the building of her new hotel on the Oliver Collins site just above the Merview [Mervue Hotel, located on the Boardwalk between 3rd Street and 4th Street]. It is a spacious forty room hotel, equipped with all modern appliances, with sixteen bathrooms, and so arranged that guests may secure room and bath if desired. The new hotel is to be called the Traymore; and will be opened by Mrs. Hastings in the early spring."

A follow-up article published on January 20, 1923 provided this update: "Miss Josephine Hastings, formerly of the Hastings Hotel, has completed the erection of a new hotel on the Boardwalk, consisting of forty rooms, with bath attached. This hotel will open to the public June 15, 1923, and is to be named after the Traymore Hotel, of Atlantic City." We don't know why, but Mrs. Hastings decided to change the name of her new hotel to "The Shoreham". The hotel opened a couple of months ahead of the announced date, as seen in this advertisement placed in *The Baltimore Sun* on April 12, 1923:

THE SHOREHAM. Opens April 15, 1923. Ocean City's most up-to-date hotel. Just completed. New throughout. Private baths and running water. Directly on the Boardwalk. Mrs. Kendall C. Hastings, Ownership Management.



Illustration 2. Courtesy of Cindy Vollmerhausen.

1869 opened the first lodging establishment in what would later become the town of Ocean City. Mrs. Cropper's sister, Mary B. Quillen, opened the Lankford Hotel on the Boardwalk in 1924, one year after The Shoreham.

Illustration 2 shows The Shoreham as it appeared circa 1925.

Dr. Horace O. Cropper and his wife Amanda Ayres Cropper bought The Shoreham from Josephine Hastings in 1926. According to Dr. Cropper's obituary published in 1958, he was an "eye specialist and real estate dealer" and a veteran of the Spanish-American War. Mrs. Cropper was the granddaughter of Isaac Coffin, the man who in

**WELCOME ABOARD
NEW MEMBERS!**

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

FAMILY

Nora Benach
Ocean City, Maryland

Shelia Berger
Berlin Maryland

Whitney Buckwald
Berlin, Maryland

Pamela Davis
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Jeff McLain
East Petersburg, Pennsylvania

Joseph Paglierani
Valley Lee, Maryland

INDIVIDUAL

Jamie Bish
Selbyville, Delaware

Jackie Choate
Ocean Pines, Maryland

Michelle Schieder
Ocean City, Maryland

Kristen & Jaime Greenwood
Berlin, Maryland

STUDENT

Jessica Bentz
Baltimore, Maryland

THE YEAR WAS ...1962

From *The Salisbury Times* (Salisbury MD), Monday, April 2, 1962

Student Task Force Helps Clear Debris From Resort

OCEAN CITY – A pre-season visit was made here over the weekend by a group of goodwill ambassadors from the University students who migrate here for the summers.

About 55 members of the several fraternities of the University of Maryland rolled into Ocean City Saturday morning in a bus and a few cars.

Assigned chores in a headquarters set up for them in the Shoreham Hotel, the boys pitched in with a will to help clear away the debris from the disastrous storm of March 6-8.

They asked nothing in return, except a lunch Saturday and a place to sleep Saturday night.

One collegian named Buck Lamb said during an afternoon break, "I'm having the best time of my life – almost as much fun as I've had in my whole life."

And they earned a word of thanks from Russell H. Cullen, president of the Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, speaking in behalf of all of the townspeople. "The people here appreciate what the boys are doing and we thank them for all of their help," Mr. Cullen said.

Mr. Cullen and his wife own the Shoreham Hotel, the headquarters of the fraternity task force. They had a meal prepared for the boys when they arrived Saturday.

"Those boys ate like there was a hundred of them," Mrs. Cullen said, "but that's the way I like to see them do. I have seven children of my own."

When the Inter-Fraternity Council had notified the Chamber of Commerce a week ago that they would be available to give free work to the resort town, notices were sent to all chamber members.



Damages and debris on Baltimore Avenue near 18th Street after the March 1962 Storm.

Not long after the boys had arrived, they were assigned to different jobs around the town.

Some were sent up the beach to clean up debris. Others helped to dig out sand from cellars of ocean front hotels, restaurants, snack bars and coffee shops. Some of these underground rooms were completely filled with sand.

Eleven boys were assigned to work at 46th St. to help to clean the debris at the Sea Horse Motel, owned by Miss Evelyn J. Elson of Baltimore.

Miss Elson fed the boys hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks. She said she went to the store after they arrived and bought all the hot dog rolls that were in the store.

"They ate like they were all starved," Miss Elson said, "but with all the work they did, I would be glad to give them all the meals they wanted."

The Sea Horse Motel was not badly damaged, but debris from other buildings closer to

the ocean had been thrown against her place and had filled her parking lot with broken glass, boards and cinder blocks.

"I'm very grateful to those boys," Miss Elson said. "I think they deserve a lot of credit."

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READERS' FORUM

'Senior Week'

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: When did the tradition of "Senior Week" begin?

A: The annual post-graduation pilgrimage of high school and college seniors to Ocean City probably had its start in 1946, a year after the end of World War II. An article published in *The Baltimore Sun* on June 3, 1946 that related opening weekend activities in Ocean City noted the large presence of college students, many of whom had hitchhiked to the beach, among the estimated crowd of 10,000 visitors. Also joining the party were a host of recently discharged veterans, most about the same age as the students, who "went all out in their first trip to 'The City' since the war started ... Beer and other drinks flowed freely." *The Sun* reporter added this observation: "For the first time since the war began, the men outnumbered the girls here on a week-end, and, while the men weren't too happy about the whole thing, the girls thought it was wonderful."

We think that "Senior Week" likely evolved from this spontaneous post-war celebration into an annual tradition. Further supporting our speculation of 1946 as the beginning of "Senior Week" is this story published in *The Sun* on May 28, 1951:



A group of young people gather on the Ocean City boardwalk in the late 1940s

At least a half dozen college students from Washington, D. C., were seized here in a week-end raid by county and city authorities to break up what residents complained was a "wild drinking spree" in a rented house on Surf avenue ... Ocean City residents said the event was typical of **the preseason parties at Ocean City for the last four or five years** [*emphasis added*], when the fraternity and sorority groups rent houses and hang flags outside the establishments they take over.

"First the Washington crowd comes in," said one local business man, "and then the Baltimore crowd arrives."

"Sometimes in the course of a night," he said, "half of a fraternity is in a house occupied by their sorority friends, while the sorority girls have moved to the fraternity house."

We're not certain exactly when graduating high school seniors joined in the tradition, but that appears have started in the 1950s.

We welcome all questions about Ocean City and U.S. Life-Saving Service history, and we'll try our best to provide answers. Please direct your inquiries to curator@museum.org.

THEN & NOW CONTINUED

Dr. and Mrs. Cropper expanded The Shoreham for the 1927 season, made additional improvements in 1928, including heated bathrooms, and enlarged the dining room in 1930. See illustration 3. The hotel was operated under the American plan, meaning the price of lodging included three meals a day, and was touted as “regularly catering to a refined list of guests.” Like other hotel operators in Ocean City, Mr. and Mrs. Cropper responded to the national economic depression of the 1930s by reducing their rates. In 1933, room rates were \$3 to \$5 a day, or \$15 to \$35 for a week’s stay; dinner was available for 75¢.

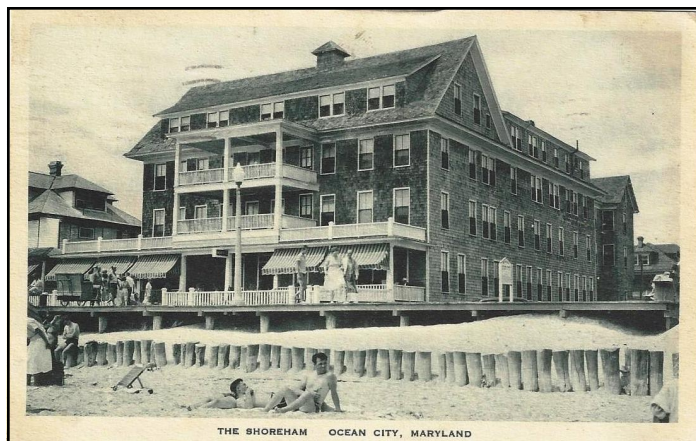


Illustration 3: *The Shoreham circa 1935, after Dr. and Mrs. Cropper had enlarged the building. Courtesy of Cindy Vollmerhausen.*

In March of 1935, Mr. and Mrs. Cropper entered into a contract to sell The Shoreham to John H. Farlow and his sister Nadine F. Harrison of Berlin for \$40,000. John and Nadine, operating as “Farlow & Harrison”, took over management of the hotel that summer. A formal conveyance of the property was executed on October 22, 1936. In addition to running The Shoreham in Ocean City, the pair also briefly owned the Atlantic Hotel in Berlin from 1940 to 1941.

John and Nadine sold The Shoreham in 1944 to Shoreham Corporation, a company organized by Salisbury, Maryland businessmen Sidney Banks, Lee W. Insley and J. Wesley Nottingham. The spring of 1944 was an active time in Ocean City, with nine of the resort’s hotels, including The Shoreham, changing ownership. Mr. Banks promoted one of the employees at his hotel in Old Point Comfort, Virginia, Miss Lois Carmean, to the position of manager of the newly acquired Shoreham. Miss Carmean married G. Hale Harrison, the son of the late State Senator Orlando Harrison (and brother-in-law of one of the former owners, Nadine F. Harrison) on September 19, 1944. She would later open Harrison Hall, located on the Boardwalk at 15th Street, in 1951.

Mr. and Mrs. Lynn McCray took over management of The Shoreham in 1946 under a three-year management lease with the Shoreham Corporation. Mr. McCray, with his business partner Walter T. Onley, founder of the W. T. Onley Canning Company in Snow Hill, bought The Shoreham in 1949. The hotel was extensively remodeled and redecorated for the 1950 season, including the addition of more private baths. A soda fountain and snack bar were added in 1951.

McCray and Onley arranged a deal in 1953 with Baltimoreans William and Rose Lilly, buying the Hampton House property on the Boardwalk (between 4th Street and 5th Street) from the couple while simultaneously conveying The Shoreham hotel property to them. Mr. and Mrs. Lilly also owned the Greystone Cottages, located on the east side of Baltimore Avenue in the same block as The Shoreham. They operated The Shoreham for only three years, selling it to Carroll and Anna Benson, from Hydes, Maryland, in 1956. The new owners promoted the attractions of their hotel in this advertisement published in *The Baltimore Sun* on May 13, 1956:

Long known as the friendly family hotel we offer these at home features:

70 Bright, cheerful rooms
Mod. American or European Plan
Responsible baby sitters
Free Parking - Snack Bar
Convenient to Churches
Really your “Home Away from Home”

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THEN & NOW CONTINUED

Mr. Benson organized American Touresorts, Inc., in 1959 and transferred ownership of The Shoreham to the new company. According to the company's prospectus, "American Touresorts, Incorporated is a Maryland corporation owning and operating The Shoreham Hotel, Ocean City, Md., and proposing to acquire and operate additional hotels, resorts and tourist facilities along the Eastern Seaboard of the United States." *The Salisbury Times* provided this report on May 1, 1959:

The Shoreham Hotel, for many years the summer resort home of thousands of vacationers, has become a unit of American Touresorts, Inc., a Maryland corporation which has its principal office in The Shoreham.



Illustration 4: *The Shoreham* circa 1955. A sign for the snack bar added in 1951 is visible at the right. Courtesy of Cindy Vollmerhausen.

The company plans extensive remodeling of The Shoreham, including installation of an elevator and the addition of public and guest rooms in the fall of 1959 ... Carroll L. Benson, president of the new corporation, will continue as manager of The Shoreham. Mrs. Benson, the corporation's vice president, is manager of the Florida operations from the Fort Lauderdale office.

Mr. Benson sold the company to Russell H. Cullen before the 1960 summer season. We don't know how many hotel properties in addition to The Shoreham were owned by American Touresorts at that time. Mr. Cullen, a sales engineer for a large grinding wheel manufacturer in Indianapolis, and his family had spent a week's vacation in Ocean City in 1958 "so the children could see the Atlantic Ocean". He arranged

to purchase The Hamilton, located on the north corner of 3rd Street and the Boardwalk, later that year. He also purchased the Seaview Hotel, located next door to The Hamilton, around the same time as he was acquiring American Touresorts.

Mr. Cullen quickly immersed himself in the business and civic affairs of his adopted town. He was elected president of the Chamber of Commerce, and ran in a three-man field for mayor in 1962, finishing second to the incumbent, Hugh T. Cropper. At The Shoreham, he expanded the snack bar into the "Dog House", serving "The best in Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Donuts, and Shakes" and the "Salt Cellar" below, featuring full course dinners.

The lower level restaurant wasn't successful, and in 1963 Mr. Cullen permitted four teen-aged boys, including his nephew, Bill Butler, to lease the space to open the "Dulcimer Coffee House" for under-21 visitors. The arrangement only lasted a couple of years. Mr. Cullen was an outspoken critic of young men with the long hair that was fashionable in the 1960s. *The Baltimore Sun* reported this story on June 29, 1966:

If anyone wears long hair in Russell Cullen's hotel, it's going to be a woman.

Cullen, owner of the Shoreham Hotel at this beach resort, says he won't permit young men with shoulder-length hair to trespass on his property. They're too rowdy, he says.

Cullen's edict prompted fifteen long-hairs, as they are known in the teen parlance of the surf set, to picket in front of his hotel Monday night [June 27].

Their signs read: "Unfair to long hair."

Police dispersed the group. Police said the young men failed to obtain a parade permit.

The long-hairs then charged they were victims of discrimination.

Of course they are, Cullen said yesterday. "Yes, they are being discriminated against. There are some things you can discriminate against."

THEN & NOW CONTINUED

In 1968, Mr. Cullen struck a deal with Ocean City real estate property manager Walter C. “Buck” Mann and his business associates to sell all of his Ocean City holdings, which included The Shoreham, The Hamilton, the Seaview and the recently acquired Greystone Cottages, to a new company called “Hamilton-Shoreham, Inc.” The deal unraveled after The Hamilton and the Seaview were destroyed in a fire on December 14, 1969. Mr. Mann took over American Touresorts (which still owned The Shoreham) shortly afterward, and Mr. Cullen, who had relocated to Florida before the fire, sold his other three properties in 1971.

Stanley and Anthony Janulewicz opened the Sazarac Pub/Dungeon in The Shoreham in 1969. They operated the pub until moving on in 1979 to open the Bayside Skillet on 77th Street. A series of businesses came and went in the bar space at The Shoreham, including Surf & Suds, Mugsy’s Speakeasy and McGee’s, before the present occupant, Shenanigan’s Irish Pub and Seafood House, opened in 1989.

Mr. Mann’s American Touresorts sold The Shoreham to B & G Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (Edward A. Burke and Harold Greenspan, principals) in 1987 for \$1.925 million. A series of transactions in 2012 conveyed the property to the current owner, 309 Atlantic Avenue of OC, LLC, of which William A. Gibbs, Jr., and Raymond C. Shockley were the sole members.

“In 1968, Mr. Cullen struck a deal with Ocean City real estate property manager Walter C. “Buck” Mann..”



*The Shoreham Hotel in 2014
Museum Society Collection*

THE YEAR WAS..... CONTINUED

A few of the boys left Ocean City around 5 p.m. Saturday, to return to the campus. Jokingly, they said they had "other commitments," namely dates. But the majority stayed in town overnight.

Mrs. Cullen of the Shoreham Hotel said she and Mr. Cullen had tried to find enough young people in the town to have a party, but that's almost impossible this time of year. Anyway, around 8 p.m. the busload of boys pulled out for Bishopville, where a dance is held for young people every Saturday night.

"When they came back," says Mr. Cullen, "they all said they had a wonderful time."

Mrs. Cullen and her children prepared beds for the boys, since none of the hotel staff had started work.

Sunday morning some of the boys attended church. Others slept late.

"The funniest thing about the weekend was that a lot of them brought nothing except the clothes they had on," Mrs. Cullen reports.

The boys asked that no breakfast be prepared for them Sunday morning. Mrs. Cullen, on returning home from church, found the boys boarding the bus to return to campus.

Whether or not they will return to the resort town next weekend is not yet known. Bob Moncun, president of the Inter-Fraternity Council says they probably will. It depends on how many boys will come and the financial situation.

"Off the record," Bob Moncun said, "this is costing us around \$200, counting expenses of bus rental, gasoline and other incidentals to come down here. But, we're glad the people of Ocean City have given us an opportunity to help them at this time.

"We love to come to Ocean City in the summer, not to tear the place apart as some have said, but to have a good time like other people. This is one way we have in proving what we think of the people and the town of Ocean City."

"Mrs. Cullen and her children prepared beds for the boys, since none of the hotel staff had started work."



OCEAN CITY
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MUSEUM

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*The Times and Tides of
Ocean City, Maryland*

CURATOR'S CORNER

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope that the holidays brought joy and peace to all of you. Now that the holiday season is behind us it is time for the museum to get started on many of the maintenance projects and improvements to the building. Plans for this year include modifications to the interior boat room doors in order to make them more weather resistant. Originally, these were screen doors used for ventilation during warmer weather when the exterior doors were open. By installing conservation glass with UV protection and weather stripping around the doors we hope to be able to have the big wooden exterior doors open more often making the museum more inviting to boardwalk visitors.

The Museum Society was recently awarded a grant from the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council. The grant will allow us to install a new interactive Digital Touch Systems Kiosk. This kiosk will be filled with photographs, text and video clips that tell the story of Worcester County's rich history. In addition, the kiosk will include information on exhibits on the second floor of the building. Thank you LESHHC for your support. LESHHC is a nonprofit 501C3 organization and a certified Maryland Heritage Area Authority, whose purpose is to promote, preserve, and protect the historical, cultural and natural heritage of Maryland's Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties.

Currently, we are open on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 AM to 4 PM. Group tours may be scheduled during the week with advanced notice. Please contact me by email: Sandy@ocmuseum.org or phone: (410) 289-4991 to make arrangements.



Assistant curator, Christine Okerblom (L) with Lisa Ludwig, director of LESHHC