

SCUTTLEBUTT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Nancy Howard
President

Spring has finally sprung here in OC. What a winter.....and we thought it never would end.

We had a bit of a set back with our expansion plans. Legislation to find out if we can, in fact, build east of the OC Building Limit Line had to be pulled. We're hopeful to get some more detailed information in place and try again next year. We're still very optimistic. What plan doesn't have hurdles?

We have several other plans brewing. Daphne Hurley has come up with the brilliant idea of an historic 'house' tour of downtown. The event will support the George and Suzanne Hurley scholarship fund. Plans are underway to hold the event Saturday, October 13. We will follow this event the following Saturday, October 20, with our 40th anniversary party—*Surfin' the Seventies* with a barbecue at Fager's Island. So mark your calendars. We'll be sending you more information as we move along. (Tell your friends!)

Please stop by the newly renovated 'aquarium' room. Staff has done a wonderful job creating the "*Hook, Line, and History: The Story of Commercial and Sport Fishing in Ocean City*" display that now occupies that room. The official opening is June 5. See more about this exciting new exhibit in the Curator's Corner.

Mark your calendars for the 2018 Children's Day on the Bay to be held Sunday, August 5, from Noon to 3 p.m. At Sunset Park in downtown Ocean City. Lots of activities and learning experiences will be included for children. Moms and pops also seem to enjoy it.

Hope you're getting in shape for our 5th Storm Warriors 5K walk/run Saturday, November 10. Plans are moving along nicely. We have some very generous folks in OC. To date we have sponsorships from: Calvin B. Taylor Bank, the Elks Lodge 2645, Farmers Bank of Willards, Humphreys Foundation, Jolly Roger at the Pier, Thrasher's French Fries, and Knights of Columbus. If you know of anyone you think might be willing to be a sponsor please do contact them or let me know and I'll do it. I have no shame!!! E-mail me at neffiehoward@comcast.net or call 443-235-4405. To register for the 5K visit www.octrirunning.com Tell your friends about this too.

The Museum Society nominated the Trimper Family for the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council Legacy Award. The award '....recognizes an individual or group who continues or preserves a traditional craft of livelihood.....' Since the Trimpers are celebrating their 125th anniversary we thought they were a natural. I'm delighted to tell you that they won. Here is the nomination followed by a photo of Brooks Trimper who accepted the award and yours truly.

The Legacy Award recognizes an individual or group who continues or preserves a traditional livelihood. The OED defines 'legacy' as something left or handed down by a predecessor. Some of the synonyms are: gift, tradition, bequest, endowment. We can add another to the synonyms: Trimper's Rides.

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****G. Alfred Harrison****John B. Lynch****Hunter "Bunk" Mann****Joseph E. Moore, Esq.****Shirley Moran****Louis S. Parsons III****Tom Perry****J. D. Quillin III****Robert Rothermel, Jr.****Newt Weaver****Richard W. Meehan***City Council Liaison***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....CONTINUED**

Since 1893 Trimper's Rides has been a staple of Ocean City. It's impossible to think of Ocean City without imagining Trimper's amusements on the Boardwalk. The carousel and rollercoaster are images burned into the memories of generations of visitors. Only a family with drive and dedication could continue to keep its business in the forefront of nearly 8,000,000 visitors a year. The Trimper's are incomparable when it comes to the single family ownership of such a renowned establishment.

The 1929 obituary of Daniel Trimper Sr. in the Democratic Messenger stated: He was engaged in the promotion of all kinds of amusements and was deeply interested in the advancement of Ocean City. Mr. Trimper was a kindly, courteous gentleman and was a very popular citizen.

His 'legacy' has been kept throughout the years by many Trimper's. His ten children and their descendants have also played important roles in Ocean City's political life and other businesses. Trimper's son, Daniel, Jr., managed Windsor Resort Corporation after his father's death, and served as Mayor of Ocean City for 16 years. A great-grandson, Daniel IV, also served on City Council and as Council President. Grandson Granville D. Trimper, who became the corporation's manager in 1980, served on the City Council for 18 years, many of those as Council President; he also served as Mayor. Granville served on the Worcester County Commissioners as President for 4 years. In 2000 he was elected Citizen of the Year (Millennium) by the Ocean City Chamber of Commerce.

This year we will celebrate 125 years of operation of Trimper's Rides under the leadership of one extraordinary family. The mantle of this exemplary family has come to rest on the shoulders of two of the younger Trimper's. Brooks and Chris Trimper would make their forebears proud. Not only are they keeping the legendary business alive they are integral parts of the town. Both are actively working to keep Ocean City not only the vacation destination of millions but a livable place for their young families. Chris has been active in the work of the O.C. Development Corporation and Brooks in the efforts of the Downtown Association.

The members of the Ocean City Museum Society, Inc., are proud to nominate The Trimpers for the Legacy Award.



Brooks Trimper and Nancy Howard with the Legacy Award at the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council luncheon held on May 2, 2018

READER'S FORUM



'Who is Nick?'

Q: We have eaten at Nick's Original House of Ribs on 145th Street many times over the years and have often wondered, "Who is Nick?" What can you tell us?

A: "Nick" was Nicholas Idoni, a native of Washington, D.C., who in 1980 joined with Joel Colton and Jack Hubberman to open J/R's Ribs

on Coastal Highway at 61st Street. Nick left J/R's in 1983 to open his own rib restaurant with a new business partner, Robert Mervis, publisher of the Sunny Day Guides.

The two men opened "Nick's Original House of Ribs" in the space formerly occupied by The Garden Restaurant, located on the east side of Coastal Highway at 145th Street. Salisbury restaurateur Louis Chames had originally erected the building on that site in 1955 as the Pimlico Restaurant. It became the Lobster House in 1959 after Chames sold the business and property to Elmer Dissinger of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. In the fall of 1961 Jack Maiorana, the owner of the popular Mario's Restaurant on 22nd Street in Ocean City, purchased the Lobster House and renamed it Mario's North. Maiorana's head chef Foster Evers and his wife Velma took over the business in 1965, later changing the name to the Roma Inn. The building began a new life as the Seafare Inn in 1971 under the ownership of Frank L. Hahn and James F. McCabe. The Garden Restaurant replaced the Seafare Inn in 1976.

Nick and Robert acquired the property in early 1989, and immediately set about to expand their operation. As The Baltimore Sun reported on July 16, 1989, "Nick's House of Ribs underwent a massive renovation this spring and recently opened its shiny new doors ... Now, there's a roomy foyer and ample-sized bar with an impressive vaulted ceiling. Greenhouse-style windows, mirrors and intricate brick work are found throughout and make the main dining room an airy setting."

The partners eventually had a falling out, and in March of 1996 Nick sold his interest to Robert and left the business. About eight months later, Nick drove to a remote field near Lewes, Delaware, where he committed suicide. His body was found by hunters on November 10. Nick Idoni was 39 years old at the time of his death.

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.

WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS!

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

FAMILY

**Cory & Candace
Harrington**
Newark, Maryland

Dale Schulz
Annapolis, Maryland

INDIVIDUAL

John Barth
Ocean City, Maryland



Glenn Irwin (left) and Chris Trimper (right) of the O.C. Development Corporation presented an award to assistant curator, Christine Okerblom for our Children's Day on the Bay event during their Annual Meeting on May 2, 2018

THE YEAR WAS1969

From *The Baltimore Sun*, Sunday, July 27, 1969

Bobby Baker Plans To Build Health Spa At Ocean City

Ocean City, July 26 – Robert G. Baker, the controversial former aide to President Johnson, is planning to build a \$20 million year-round health spa next to his Carousel Motel here.

In a wide-ranging interview today, Mr. Baker acknowledged he has filed with the Town Council for a zoning variation to construct a 25-story structure containing 1,000,000 square feet of floor space.

Asserting that the council, with whom he has had several sharp disagreements since he built the Carousel in 1961, would turn down his request to build higher than 40 feet, Mr. Baker said that he would carry his plans to the Board of Zoning Appeals at this oceanfront resort.

“The Eastern Shore is going to explode,” he declared, “and Ocean City is the right place and this is the right time” for his health spa project.



Bobby Baker holds up his infamous 1964 TIME magazine cover story.
Courtesy of Coastal Style Magazine

To the south of the Carousel, several developments have been begun. A 30-story high-rise planned by James B. Caine was reduced to a series of three-story townhouses by the tight-money market, but foundations on an adjacent property for a 12-story condominium have been constructed, and, next door to that, a group of developers who say they hold a franchise from the Holiday Inn of America is reported to be considering construction of a motel.

“People want to come to Ocean City because it has clean air, clean water and a minimum of racial problems,” Mr. Baker said. “Industry will come to the Eastern Shore to escape labor problems, high taxes and inner-core problems of the big cities.”

He said federal government studies show Ocean City will have a year-round population of 100,000 by the year 2000, when more than five million persons will visit nearby Assateague Island each year.

The tourist dollar, he said, is still the most desirable revenue a city can have, because tourists don’t require large municipal outlays for police and fire protection and water sewer facilities.

Ocean City will become the second-largest municipality in Maryland, he asserted, and will eventually take over the governmental functions of Worcester county, as happened recently in Virginia Beach, Va.

Serving as the center of a market area from Boston to Atlanta, Ocean City will soon become “another Fort Lauderdale” on the East Coast, Mr. Baker said.

His plans call for 1,451 rooms consisting mainly of three-bedroom, three-bathroom units in a 578-unit condominium. The planned price tag of a unit is \$45,000. The rectangular structure is to be built between the Carousel and Beach highway on land Mr. Baker now owns.

A “total living” building with a “climatic control system” would provide for a large health spa, four tennis courts, swimming pools, glass elevators on the outside of the building, a nightclub and a dinner theater under a glass-domed roof on the top of the condominium.

Continued.....page 5

CURATOR'S CORNER

There have been a lot of exciting things happening here throughout the winter and we are so happy to be able to share some of the progress we have made. One of our biggest projects this year has been our new exhibit entitled "Hook, Line, and History: The Story of Sport and Commercial Fishing in Ocean City". Assistant curator, Christine Okerblom, began planning last fall by researching, locating artifacts, and interviewing local fishermen (and women).



Sandy Hurley
Curator

The exhibit is housed in the "Aquarium Room" and incorporates the marine aquariums that have been a popular part of the museum since it opened. Utilizing the talents of designer Elaine Faye, we have created a space that makes you feel as if you are inside a ship, looking out from the port holes. Visitors can experience seeing live sea creatures while learning about the history of the fishing industry, both recreational and commercial, that has shaped Ocean City.

We have had wonderful support from the community through generous sponsorships from the following businesses and individuals: Bahia Marina, Captain Mac's Fish House, Harrison Group Hotels, The Angler Restaurant & Marina, The Bunting Family (In memory of John Jackson and John Howard Bunting), Mark Millikin, Daniel Mumford, John Fager, Mary Ellen Gunther, Sue Kelly, Harvey Berger, and the Ocean City Development Corporation. A Grand Opening will be held on June 5th from 3 to 6 pm.

I am very proud to announce that the Museum was recently honored with an award from the OCDC for our annual event **Children's Day on the Bay**, which is held the first Sunday in August at Sunset Park. Another honor that has been bestowed to a member of our board was given by the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council. Vice President, Mabel Rogers was chosen as **Interpreter of the Year** and received her award at the Annual Meeting held on May 2nd.

The Museum is open every day from 10 am to 6 pm starting June 1st. Please take time to visit us this summer whether you choose to take a tour or participate in one of our special events or free programs. We look forward to seeing you!!

THE YEAR WAS.....CONTINUED

An adjacent connected 10-story building, he added, will contain offices for 50 doctors, who are expected to average \$50,000 per year for eight months of work, and a computerized medical clinic which would charge \$100 for two days of tests.

Results of a doctor's four-hour examination of a patient, Mr. Baker explained, will be fed into a computer, adding "if there's nothing wrong, he can go out and play for a day and a half."

Construction is planned to begin in September, 1970, and to be completed 18 months later ...

Mr. Baker related that his daughter, Dorothy, 16, who is known as Sissy, told him he is "ten years ahead of the market." He has been working on the project for two years.

Curator's note: *Bobby Baker's vision of a massive health spa and resort adjacent to his Carousel Motel never materialized, although he was granted a building permit for the project. He entered the federal prison at Lewisburg, Pa., in January, 1971, after the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal of his 1967 conviction on charges of larceny, fraud and tax evasion. While Baker was serving his sentence, Washington D.C. developer Max Berg announced in April 1972 that he had purchased the Carousel Motel property, including the land on which the proposed facility was to be built. Baker was paroled shortly after the deal was arranged after serving 15 months of his sentence. He passed away this past November at the age of 89.*



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*The Times and Tides of Ocean City,
Maryland*



Senator Jim Mathias poses with Museum Society Vice President, Mabel Rogers after she received the Interpreter of the Year Award from the Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council on May 2, 2018

COMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars for these exciting programs and events!

- May 19th to June 20th—SALUTE TO SERVICES
- June 1st to August 31st—Daily Aquarium Feeding Program
- June 5th 3 to 6 pm—Grand Opening for new exhibit “Hook, Line, and History: The Story of Sport and Commercial Fishing in Ocean City”
- July 2nd through August 25th—Free Summer Programs
- August 5th Noon to 3:00 pm—Children’s Day on the Bay
- September 22nd—Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day
- October 13th—Historic House and Building Tour
- October 20th—Anniversary Dinner Fundraiser at Fager’s Island
- October 25th to 31st—Locals Appreciation Week
- October 26th & 27th—Paranormal Investigations
- November 10th—Storm Warriors 5K Walk/Run
- December 2nd—Holiday Open House