

# SCUTTLEBUTT

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Museum Society President**

**Nancy Howard**

A breeches buoy rescue hadn't happened in Ocean City since 1941. On June 20 the Museum presented a breeches buoy re-enactment drill on the beach. The same procedures used in 1941 were recreated in 2015. I am so pleased to report that it was a huge success.

The event honored the 100th anniversary of the formation of the US Coast Guard. The turnout for the re-enactment proves that our residents and visitors are appreciative of what the Museum does and can provide to Ocean City. We were fortunate to have the support of the City as well as others. Special Events, for keeping things on track and helping with so many worrisome details; Public Works for whom nothing is too much trouble. Their help with building the wreck-pole, securing the perimeter and many other details of the event was invaluable. The Fire Marshal, Police Department and Paramedics provided their usual outstanding services. The Delaware Indian River Life-Saving Station loaned us the equipment and actually performed the 'rescue.' They do this on a regular basis and Laura Scharle and her team are experts at it. They worked so hard to help us bring the event to fruition.

The Ocean City Coast Guard Station was an enormous help. Master Chief Timaree Sparks and Petty Officer Kyle Wood deserve special recognition. They were in the planning stages of the event and followed through to the end. The entire station crew couldn't have been more helpful or been more cheerful throughout. The 21st century rescue they performed was impressive and amazing to watch. There never are enough good things to say about our Beach Patrol. They wanted to join in and give their version of a water rescue to add to the event. The crew on the beach, as always, was informative, and friendly.

Delmarva Power helped us enormously by erecting the wreck-pole (simulation of a mast). That was quite an operation to watch. Bob Rothermel was instrumental in helping us over so many hurdles and providing an outstanding sound system for day of. The local media were very helpful in spreading the word about the event.

The evening before the re-enactment a celebration dinner was held at the Clarion. We were honored to have Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Steven W. Cantrell as the guest speaker. It was heartwarming to see past members of the Coast Guard who had served in Ocean City mingling with the young men and women who serve here now as well as Coast Guard Auxiliary members. Photographs of the dinner and re-enactment are enclosed.

Since the last Scuttlebutt came out we have added two new Board members: Mabel Rogers and Shirley Moran. Both have been Ocean City residents for most of their lives. Both share a wealth of knowledge about our town and care very much about preserving its history.

The Board nominated Sue and George Hurley for a Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Council Heritage Award. I am proud to say that the Hurleys were presented with the award. I am also proud to say that our Board Member and past vice president Tom Wimbrow received the Heritage Interpretation Award.

Just a reminder that there are opportunities for you to donate to our efforts. Aside from the standard membership categories we now have an opportunity to support the Museum monthly and we have established a fund with the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore. All donations are, of course, tax deductible.

And lastly, I hope you've marked your calendar for our 2nd Annual Storm Warriors 5K run/walk. It's up on the [www.octrirunning.com](http://www.octrirunning.com) site. More about that in our next edition.

Thank you so much for your interest.

***Staff*****Sandra D. Hurley***Executive Director/Curator***Diane Knuckles***Assistant Curator***Board of Directors****Nancy Howard***President***Hunter “Bunk” Mann***Vice President***Gordon E. Katz***Treasurer***Melanie Merryweather***Secretary***Hal Adkins****Janet Cherrix****Amanda Cropper****G. Alfred Harrison****John B. Lynch****Joseph E. Moore, Esq.****Shirley Moran****Louis S. Parsons III****Tom Perry****J. D. Quillin III****Mabel Rogers****Robert Rothermel, Jr.****Margaret Steimer****Newt Weaver****Thomas D. Wimbrow****Richard W. Meehan***City Council Liaison***A LOCAL PERSPECTIVE*****The 1950s******By Dale Cathell, Judge, Maryland Court of Appeals (Retired)***

In the 1950s my future father-in-law was asked by a client, who I think was Dick “Moneybags” Hall, to accept three oceanfront blocks north of the then developed Ocean City in lieu of a \$500 fee. My father-in-law insisted on the money and turned down the offer of the three blocks. There were times when the general consensus was that the area of north Ocean City was worthless.

“Moneybags” Hall was one of Ocean City’s original characters. He was married to a woman named “Iggy” Hall, who owned the Golden Quarter farm on Ayres Creek in the West Ocean City/Berlin area. I believe that “Iggy” was a true albino. She had chalk white skin, bright white hair and pink eyes. She was very, very smart. She and “Moneybags” started one of the first sit-down, upscale restaurants in the area. It was called “The Lagoon”, and sat at the head of a gut or lagoon abutting on the Coastal Highway. It is now incorporated into the “Embers” restaurant property. For a while, it and “Mario’s” were the major non-crab house eateries in town, outside of some of the hotels on the boardwalk.

“Moneybags” was a renowned imbibor of spirits and frequented a bar and restaurant owned by Robe Holland. I tended the bar. Robe would embarrass “Moneybags” by accusing him of being over-tight with his money to such an extent that “Moneybags” would usually leave me an exorbitant tip when he left. He gave me the first \$20 tip I ever received.



**The Lagoon Restaurant on Coastal Highway at 24th Street**

“Moneybags” hung around with a local bar owner, Mitch Parker (the elder), and with a gambler and character from the south end of the county – Brantly Wadkins. On one occasion, Mitch Parker was driving Brantly home from a race track in New Jersey on the Jersey Turnpike. Brantly kept urging Mitch to speed up so they could get home. They were doing 80 or 90 mph when the cops stopped them. Brantly told Mitch to let him talk to the officer when the officer appeared at the driver’s window. When the officer appeared, Brantly leaned over and told the officer, “Officer, I’m glad you stopped this crazy son-of-a bitch. I thought he was going to kill me.” Brantly and Mitch spent the night in jail until Brantly got someone to bring the bail money.

“Moneybags”, Charlie Holland and Ray Jarvis, Sr., were three of the original pioneers in the real estate industry. Charlie mostly bought; Ray mostly sold; and “Moneybags” did a little of everything. On one occasion, I was riding with Mr. Jarvis from Salisbury to Ocean City. It was 100 mph all the way, and Mr. Jarvis never caught a red light until he got to the bottom of the Rt. 50 bridge. When he stopped I opened my door, got out and just walked away. I never said a word. I was too frightened to speak.

The era when those types of characters thrived is probably gone forever. Political correctness now rules. But, it was fun while it lasted.

## CURATOR'S CORNER



Curator Sandra D. Hurley

The summer season is in full force and we are enjoying all of the wonderful families and other visitors that have been spending some quality time in the Museum. Our Free Summer Programs are underway and they will continue through Saturday, August 29th. As always there will be many different subjects ranging from Ocean City history to the wild horses of Assateague Island. They are held each morning (except Sundays) at 10:00 am and last about 30 minutes. Most of them will be held at the Boardwalk Tram Station just north of the Museum where there is plenty of seating and cover from the sun or light rain.

Our Fifth Annual Children's Day on the Bay will take place on Sunday, August 2nd from Noon until 4:00pm at beautiful Sunset Park in Downtown O.C. The public is invited to enjoy this family friendly event filled with educational programs, face painting, water games, boat building, prizes and much more. Lollipop the Clown will be there to delight the children with her face painting and other arts and crafts. Cascading Carlos will be on hand to mesmerize the audience with his juggling acts. The Ocean City Police Department will be there with equine members of the force and members of the U.S. Coast Guard will participate in the fun and games. It should be a wonderful day for the whole family. If you are interested in volunteering for Children's Day, I encourage you to call or email Diane Knuckles at (410) 289-4991 or Diane@ocmuseum.org.

The Museum Society will be hosting our first Paranormal Event on Saturday, September 12, 2015. Come meet the professional paranormal investigators of NJROPE (New Jersey Researchers of Paranormal Evidence) and find out about the equipment they use to gather evidence. Listen to audio clips recorded during an investigation of the 1891 building that serves as our Museum this past March. Enjoy a tour of the Museum with the chance to have your own paranormal encounter. Special "Spooky Tours" of the Museum and an Ocean City Ghost Walk will be offered by Chesapeake Ghost Walks.

Locals Appreciation Week returns for a sixth year this year. During the week of October 24 - 31, 2015 the Ocean City Museum Society is offering "Free" admission and 10% off gift shop purchases to any visitor who considers themselves a "Local" (Anyone who loves Ocean City and considers it their home for a day, month, year.) Spread the word to your friends or acquaintances that may not have had the opportunity to visit our little treasure of a Museum. The Black Cat Scavenger Hunt will be offered again this year. Answer the questions by visiting several sites around Ocean City and receive a complementary membership to the Museum Society for one year.

If you haven't shopped in our gift shop lately you may want to come check out some of the newest items on sale. Along with all of the fabulous books and other gift items we have a new line of T-shirts with the Museum building featured and in a wide assortment of colors. You can also support the Museum with a purchase that does not require a trip to Ocean City. "Big Blow", the third novel in Preston Pairo's Ocean City Mystery series, is looking to do more than provide beachgoers with lighthearted summertime entertainment. It's raising funds for the Ocean City Museum Society. Available exclusively as an eBook from Amazon.com for \$3. For every copy of Big Blow purchased from Amazon through the Labor Day weekend, the novel's publisher will donate \$1 to the Ocean City Museum Society.

I hope that everyone enjoys a safe and relaxing summer!

### WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS!

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

#### INDIVIDUAL

**Michelle Beletsky**  
Baltimore, Maryland

**Susan Freight**  
Baltimore, Maryland

**Calvin Ginnavan, Jr.**  
Ocean City, Maryland

#### FAMILY

**Roger & Alexandra Crump**  
Ocean City, Maryland

**Hal & Anita Wallach**  
Dagsboro, Delaware

## 100 Years Ago . . . . .

From *The Baltimore Sun*, "Letters to the Editor", July 27, 1915:

### Pleads For The Poor Fishermen Who Take All The Risk And Get Only A Meagre Share Of The Profits.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN – *Sir*: Not long since your paper gave an account of an accident that occurred here in which several of the fishermen lost their lives. Are you aware that the class of men from which these men are drawn are among the most useful and industrious citizens of the State, and that their calling is one of the poorest paid while the transportation, commission and packing interests reap an abundant harvest from the mere handling of the product of these "toilers of the sea"?



Commercial Fishermen in Ocean City circa 1915

Of the average price received in New York City, Philadelphia and Baltimore, fishermen get one-fifth, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company and Adams Express Company, participating in about equal portion, get 50 per cent., or about one-half the proceeds; barrel makers and ice manufacturers about 65 cents for a barrel. So that practically one barrel out of five is the net return out of an average catch. Attempts have been made repeatedly to secure justice from these great corporations named, but such ef-

forts result usually in a greater oppression or an increased rate.

Commission men act, as a rule, for the buyers and get their pay from the seller or shipper – a wrong situation. The fishermen run the risk and others reap the benefits. The Interstate Commerce Commission will not take up their cause, only upon formal suit being started, which they cannot afford. Will not THE SUN, which is democratic in its principles, take up this matter and include the oystermen – not the great packing house companies, by any means, but the rank-and-file dredgers and tongers who are obliged to sell quick for cash at very low prices, while the wholesale dealers and packers grow rich off their labor?

Many thousands of men are kept poor in order that the railroad and express companies and local capitalists may fatten on the fishermen and oystermen, who are entitled to a far larger proportion of the profits made on their labor and risk.

L. A. WILLIAMS, An Occasional Visitor.

Ocean City, Md., July 23.

→ *Curator's note: The "accident" to which the writer refers occurred in the early morning hours of July 1. A boat captained by George Williams with a crew of six fishermen was heading out for the offshore fish pounds when "a particularly heavy wave upset the boat, the crew being caught under it." One of the men, Emory Mumford, managed to lift the bow of the boat and free the others trapped underneath, some of whom were able to climb on top of the overturned vessel. Not all were able to stay afloat, however. Another boat "in charge of Arthur Adkins" came to their rescue, but not in time to pull everyone to safety. Captain Williams and three of his crew, Luther Hitch, Charles McLaine and Robert Timmons, were drowned. The incident highlighted the daily perils faced by fishing crews in both launching their boats in the surf, and in negotiating the return trip as well. The letter pointed out the high risk/low reward economics of the fishermen's occupation. We do not know if the writer L. A. Williams was related to Captain George Williams, one of the victims.*

*"Many thousands of men are kept poor in order that the railroad and express companies and local capitalists may fatten on the fishermen and oystermen...."*

## 50 Years Ago . . . . .

From *The Daily Times* (Salisbury MD), Monday, July 19, 1965:

### Miss Harrison Is Beauty Queen

OCEAN CITY – Linda Harrison, 20, of Berlin, is the new Maryland Beauty Queen, and will represent the state at the International Beauty Congress, Aug. 5, in Long Beach, Calif.

Miss Harrison was presented with the queen's crown in the first annual contest in Ocean City Sunday night. She succeeds Miss Beverly Ann Smith, 21, of Baltimore.

More than 1,000 spectators crowded the boardwalk bandshell as 19 young ladies from throughout the state competed for the title. They paraded for the judges in evening gowns and swim suits.

Miss Harrison is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Burbage Harrison, Main St., Berlin. She is a 1963 graduate of Stephen Decatur High School, and attended the University of Baltimore and Bard-Avon School, Baltimore. Linda is presently employed by an Ocean City fashion shop as a model and saleswoman. She also models for a New York garment house.

In the California pageant, Miss Harrison will be competing against "reigning queens" from other states for the title of "Miss American Beauty." The American beauty will then compete against women from other countries for the title of "Miss International Beauty," and top prize money of \$10,000.

Runners-up in the Ocean City contest were: Miss Judy Dahlgreen, 20, of Westminster; Miss Dee Connelly, 21, of Laurel; Miss Diane Laudenslager, 19, of Annapolis; and, Miss Janet Bova, 20, of Ellicott City.



→ Curator's note: Miss Harrison finished as the first runner-up in the beauty contest held in California in August 1965. But she caught the attention of Hollywood talent scouts, and soon thereafter signed a contract with the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox studio. Linda appeared in a number of movies, including "Way ... Way Out" with Jerry Lewis, and opposite leading man Charlton Heston in "Planet of the Apes" and "Beneath the Planet of the Apes". She married Richard Zanuck, the son of famed movie director Daryl Zanuck, in 1969. The couple divorced in 1978. Linda returned to Berlin briefly in the early 1990s, where she operated a consignment shop called "Harrison's Peach Tree" just off Main Street, but later returned to California to be closer to her sons.

Linda Harrison with Charlton Heston in "Planet of the Apes" ([en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org))

*"More than 1,000 spectators crowded the boardwalk bandshell as 19 young ladies from throughout the state competed for the title".*

# BECOME A MEMBER!

If you are already a member please consider giving a membership to The Ocean City Museum Society as a gift.

## Membership Fees

_____			
Name		Please check your selection	Amount
_____		___ Student.....	\$5.00
Address		___ Individual.....	\$10.00
_____		___ Family.....	\$30.00
City		(Two adults & up to four children 18 years & under)	
_____		___ Supporting.....	\$100.00
State	Zip Code	___ Sustaining.....	\$250.00
_____		___ Benefactor.....	\$500.00
Email			
_____			

Make checks payable to: Ocean City Museum Society, Inc., P. O. Box 603, Ocean City, MD 21843

## READER'S FORUM

Q: When was electric power first introduced in Ocean City?

A: *The Sinepuxent Beach Company first installed electric lights at the Atlantic Hotel in 1892. Power was provided by a dynamo that the company set up on the lot on the southwest corner of Somerset Street and Baltimore Avenue opposite the hotel. A newspaper article published on May 9, 1892 noted that "Snow Hill has lately been lighted by electricity ... and it is expected that the same illuminating agency will become general this season at Ocean City. Arrangements have been made to light the leading hotels and the beach". The introduction of electric power immediately boosted the resort's popularity. Another newspaper account published on August 1, 1892 commented, "Beneath the lamps of over three hundred electric lights the guests of the Atlantic Hotel danced the first 'german' of the season Friday night [July 30]. Since the place has been a resort there has never been as merry and gay a summer as this." The use of electricity became more widespread in 1893, but it would take until 1916 for the entire town to have electric power.*

**A TLANTIC HOTEL,**  
**OCEAN CITY, MD.**  
 Under management of **THEO. L. PAGE** of U. S.  
 Senate restaurant, Washington, D. C.  
 The Atlantic Hotel, owned by the Sinepuxent Beach  
 Company, will open for guests on June 25, complete  
 in everything. New furniture, silver ware, linen, as  
 well as perfect drainage and sewerage; also electric  
 light and elevator. The company have a new steam  
 launch on Sinepuxent bay; also sail and rowboats.  
 Splendid fishing and boating, with the finest bathing  
 on the Atlantic ocean. For further information apply  
 to **THEO. L. PAGE,**  
 Jo28-1m **Manager Atlantic Hotel, Ocean City.**

Advertisement for the Atlantic Hotel  
 touting its "electric light and elevator".  
*The Evening Star* (Washington DC),

July 19, 1892.