

SCUTTLEBUTT

Staff

Suzanne B. Hurley

Curator

Sandra D. Hurley

Assistant Curator

Diane Knuckles

Office Manager

Our Mission

The Ocean City Museum Society, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and interpreting the rich natural and cultural history of this coastal community through memorabilia collections, rotating exhibits, educational programs and area research. The Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum presents:

1. The history of the United States Life-Saving Service on the Delmarva Peninsula.
2. The past lifestyles and culture of the Town of Ocean City, Maryland.
3. The local ancestral records and artifact collections through its internet service.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CURATOR

BY SUZANNE B. HURLEY

Guess what? This old station house no longer sways nor leaks during a northeaster. Thanks to the Mayor and City Council's dedication to preserving this landmark building, the complete renovations of the past two years have made the building sound again.

It has been an interesting summer, a two for one get in free coupon summer. But that's what it took to get through these harsh economic times. We are amazed that our attendance figures are up significantly from last year. The new exhibit *The Boardwalk of Yesterday* has been well received and our guest book is just loaded with good comments concerning all of the exhibits and programs that are offered. Our thanks go to our highly knowledgeable staff of volunteers who present insight into the Town's history and demonstrate their talents on a daily basis throughout the summer season. The Museum Society now has 1,326 active members and donors. We appreciate all that they do to make this museum one of the finest small museums on the East Coast. Remember also, that Rand McNally has awarded the Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum the "Best of the Road-Editor's Choice Award." That is quite an honor.

If you haven't had a chance to see the new exhibit, please try to stop in this winter, perhaps on Open House day (Sunday, December 6th), or on a pretty weekend. We'd love to see you!



Museum Society Members Jean Kline (left) and Janet Cherrix volunteered their time at Harbor Day at The Docks event on October 10, 2009

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY DECEMBER 6TH

The Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum will hold a Holiday Open House on Sunday, Dec. 6th, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. There will be free admission for everyone and 10% off all items in the Museum's gift shop. Experienced volunteers and staff members will be available to answer questions about the history of the U.S. Life-Saving Service and the unique and colorful past of Ocean City, Maryland. As a special gift this year, the first 100 visitors to the Museum will receive a small selection of vintage postcards just for showing up! The Museum's gift shop provides excellent holiday shopping with a variety of books for adults and children, gifts, jewelry, and much more.

Board of Directors

J. D. Quillin, III

President

Thomas B. Wimbrow

Vice President

G. Alfred Harrison

Treasurer

Janet Cherrix

Secretary

Albert Berger

Marion Chambers

Robert L. Jester

Joseph E. Moore, Esq.

Robert Rothermel, Jr.

Robert T. Stevens, III

Lillian Townsend

Nancy L. Howard

Richard W. Meehan

City Council Liason

MEET J. D. QUILLIN, III

BY JANET CHERRIX

J. D. Quillin, President of the Board of the Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum, exemplifies the best in an individual's dedication and service to his community. With his descendants going back to the 1700's in Worcester County he has a strong connection to the area and he has been witness to its growth.

J. D., along with his brother, Mike, owned and operated three businesses in Ocean City; The Surf & Sands, Satellite and French Quarter Motels. Working in the motels from an early age and living on 13th Street he was there when the 1962 Storm hit the town and caused significant destruction. He recalls how the bay "filled up" and the tides flooded the streets near his house. Realizing the potential damage he walked to the motels to throw the breaker switches. The ocean waves were so powerful he had to hold onto the 20th Street sign to keep from being knocked down. He saw two condominiums collapsing nearby from the force of the storm and watched how sections of the Boardwalk were lifted up by the waves and crashed into the motels windows.

J. D. attended elementary school in Berlin and middle school in Ocean City and then graduated from St. Andrew's School in Middletown, Delaware in 1956. After completing

college at the University of Delaware in 1960 he embarked on a trip to Europe which stimulated his love of traveling. He has been to twenty countries and enjoyed snowmobiling in Russia and Alaska and has seen polar bears up close in Churchill, Canada. He



J.D. Quillin receives a donation from The Hugh Wilde Family in 1981

has traveled to Egypt and Israel with the International Airplane Owners & Pilot's Association. He loves flying and owns a single engine J3 Piper Cub. J. D. has survived two plane crashes, one in 1983 and another the following year. The 1984 crash caused him serious injury, but it has not kept him from returning to the skies. Besides traveling and flying he has time for golf and genealogical research.

His leadership in the community is one of significant achievement. He has been President of the Lions Club and the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company. His father, Dirk Quillin, was President of the Chamber of Commerce and J.D. likewise became President. He was awarded the highest civil-

ian award in scouting, the Silver Beaver Award. He was Scoutmaster twice for the Tri-County area. He has been named the Jaycees Man of the Year and in 1982 was honored with the Outstanding Citizen Award by the Chamber of Commerce. He and his family have had a long association with the Life-Saving Museum and are credited with being the Museum's first KEEPERS.

At 73 years of age J. D. continues to remain an active and vital member of his community and is not only a current participant in numerous service organizations, but is on the Board of the Rackliffe Plantation House Foundation which is involved in the restoration of this historic 18th Century site in the South Point area.

J. D. has many life long friends in the community and some recall he and his Chesapeake Retriever, "Henry" going clamming in their boat on the bay along with his two pet geese. He resides in the Bishopville area with his wife, Sandy. They have two children and three grandchildren.



J. D. Quillin, III President of The Ocean City Museum Society, Inc.

BAPTISM HELD AT MUSEUM

On August 30, 2009 a baptism was held in the Boat Room of the Museum. This is the first time such an event has been held in the building since it has been a museum.

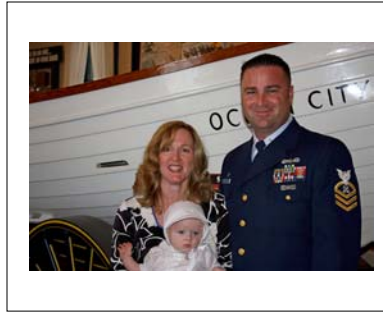
Bennett and Patty Brown of Berlin chose the location because of their strong ties to the area and the Life Saving Service. Patty was born and raised in the Whaleyville area and Bennett is from Delaware. Ben is presently serving with the Coast Guard, and



Reverend Carol Price holds Bennett Brown, Jr. next to the stand holding the bell for his baptism

one of his relatives was a Keeper of a local Life Saving Station around 1900. "By bringing the minister, Reverend Carol Price of Stevenson United Methodist Church in Berlin, into the Life Saving Station, we were able to combine the religious event with some history," commented the proud father.

A blue ribbon was attached to the brass bell from the Assateague Life-Saving Station that is on display in the boat room so that they could ring it at the conclusion of the ceremony. Ben built a beautiful wooden stand that held an inverted ships' bell that served as the baptismal font. It is a tradition in the sea going services, that a baptism aboard a ship is a very special event. When a child is christened onboard a ship, the bell is used to hold the water for the ceremony. Once the baptism is complete, the bell is then inscribed with the name of the child baptized. If done



The Brown Family on the day of the baptism

aboard a ship or Coast Guard Cutter, the bell is handed down to the last person baptized when the ship or cutter is decommissioned.

In a note written afterwards Ben and Patty stated "We had a perfect day!!! Our 6 month old "Bennett" stayed awake and happy for hours. After the Christening, we celebrated at Sunset Grille in West Ocean City. The party favors were anchors, a symbol of stability. Thanks to you and your staff for helping to make it a very special and memorable day."

SPECIAL GUESTS VISIT THIS SUMMER

During the Museum's Free Summer Programs we had many special guests that came to reminisce about their connections to Ocean City and the history of the United States. One of these honored guests was Albert J. Smith of Annapolis, Maryland.

Mr. Smith, a retired Naval officer was on the deck of the U.S.S. Missouri during the signing of the Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945. He and his daughters participated in the Friday morning program entitled "Storm Warriors" hosted by Museum Society Vice-President, Tom Wimbrow. After completion of the "Junior Surfman" application he was awarded a patch and certificate with the title "Honorary Keeper" of the station.



Albert J. Smith (left) being awarded an honorary "Keeper" certificate by Tom Wimbrow

WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS!

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

FAMILY

Bill Diedrich

Westminister, Maryland

John Knapp

Tripoli, Pennsylvania

Ron & Alice Lepson

Baltimore, Maryland

John McCearry

Henryville, Pennsylvania

INDIVIDUAL

Barbara Bridgett

Hughesville, Maryland

Gary P. Haigley

Edgewater, Maryland

George Leukel

Ocean City, Maryland

George Mengason

Salisbury, Maryland





**Ocean City Life-Saving
Station Museum**

813 S. Atlantic Avenue
P. O. Box 603
Ocean City, MD 21843

Phone: 410-289-4991
E-mail: Sandy@ocmuseum.org

We're on the Web!

www.ocmuseum.org

*The Times and Tides of
Ocean City, Maryland*

**Museums of Worcester County
Early Eastern Shore Christmas Celebrations**

Calvin B. Taylor House – December 5th 1 to 4pm (410) 641-1019 www.taylorhousemuseum.org

Girdletree Barnes Bank – December 13th 1 to 4pm (410) 632-1641 java2008@comcast.net

Furnace Town – December 5th & 6th Noon to 4pm (410) 632-2032 www.furnacetown.com

Isaac Costen House – December 12th Noon to 4pm (410) 957-3110 normamiles@verizon.net

Julia A. Purnell – December 5th 10am to 4pm (410) 632-0515 www.purnellmuseum.com

Mt. Zion One-Room School – December 5th Noon to 2pm (410) 632-1265 kpfisher@intercom.net

Queponco Railway Station (410) 641-0067 jomason641@earthlink.net

St. Martin's Episcopal Church (410) 641-6846 fambecks@aol.com

Sturgis One-Room School – December 12th Noon to 4pm (410) 957-1913 gatling144@verizon.net

Mar-Va Theater – December 16th 7pm (410) 957-4230 www.marvatheater.com

*****Please contact individual museums for more information**

www.worcestermuseums.org