

## 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.

## SUMMERTIME JOBS AT OCEAN CITY

BY BURT RAUGHLEY

Ocean City has always had a three month season, and, back when I lived there in the 40's and 50's, a nine month off-season. The population was 900 in 1950, and I believe nearly half of the folks came to our home basketball games. Remember, television was in its infancy and attending a home town sports contest was pretty exciting. And, after Labor Day, the town went to sleep. Raymond Dennis ran movies at the Capital Theater only on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. We had Bob Truitt's poolroom across the street from the theater, Townsend's Drug-store, and Purdues Soda Fountain across the street. Other than that, we would just cruise around town in our cars or maybe challenge a buddy to go up on the Beach Highway and race, which was two lanes and kind of wavy, so our speedometers would hit a higher number when our wheels temporarily left the road surface.

When I passed my driver's exam at Snow Hill in December of 1950, I was on cloud nine. My Dad helped me buy a 1937 Plymouth, so I was, finally, a licensed driver...the last boy in my class to do so, because I was the youngest. Fortunately, in the summers of '49 and '50 I worked for John Dale Showell managing one of his beach umbrella stands, along with my buddies George Hurley and Bill Brown. I walked to work at North Division Street and the boardwalk from my home at 107 St. Louis Ave. Good money, too, \$ 20.00 weekly gross, for seven days. The teenage social aspects of working on the beach made up for the meager salary. Plus,

many evenings I would set up pins in Mr. Showell's bowling alley, and earn another couple of dollars.

But, having a driving license, gave me an expanded potential in the job market, so for the next two summers Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Laws employed me as a grocery clerk and delivery driver. They were awfully good to me, even hiring me

back the second year after I smashed up the front end of their Studebaker pickup truck the first year. Many of the permanent residents shopped by phone, just by picking up their phone and asking Edna Murray to connect them with Laws Grocery, so I got to meet some nice folks delivering their orders.

After graduating from Ocean City High School in June of 1952, I entered the U. of Maryland in September. As I was living away from home and Mom

and Dad's benevolence, expenses mounted up, so I connected with Scott Wallace, our Postmaster, for a job driving the mail truck in the summers of '53 and '54. What a great job! And higher pay! Of course, as the youngest and most naive of the guys working there, I took a lot of kidding. But I took it in stride and I will always remember the wonderful camaraderie there with Scott, Herb and Grandville Cropper, Lynn Engh, Bob Bob Massey, Bob Murray and Russell Bradford.

I have always felt myself lucky to have had the job opportunities that a small seashore town like Ocean City offered.



**Ocean City High School's 1952 Basketball Team**  
**Burt Raughley, front left**

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*City Council Liason*

# A TIMELY REMEMBRANCE

BY GEORGE HURLEY

During the winter of 2008 the Ocean City Government undertook a project with the Ocean City Museum Society involving the first stage of refurbishment of the 117 year old municipal Life-Saving Station Museum located at the south end of the Boardwalk. Built in 1891, it enjoys on average about 25,000 visitors each year.

As has been reported earlier this past year, the old building, which was one of the earliest built in town, was sorely in need of exterior "tender loving care".

An interesting anecdote that can be reported regarding the work this winter involves a board removed from the gable end wall. George Hurley, a 30 year member of the society who also assisted the city engineering department in oversee-

ing the work saw the board pitched in the dumpster one day. It appeared to have writing on it. He retrieved it. A carpenter of long ago had written on it in bold script:

**"Bd measure 46ft...D J Adkins".**

David J. Adkins started the original lumber company now known locally as The Adkins Company. He started the business while carpentering in the 1890's and sold out to his cousins in 1908. The present day safe used in their Berlin office still bears his name printed across its front.

The Adkins Co. was the principal lumber supplier for the museum job this winter. The company will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in September of 2008.



**Richard Holland (left) accepts the gift of a special piece of lumber from Museum Society member George Hurley**

It would appear that David's signature was a timely remembrance from the past.

## PINE WOOD SAILORS AT SPRINGFEST

The Pine Wood Sailors Event held on May 3rd during Springfest proved to be a huge success with as many as 50 children, along with their family members, constructing model sailboats and sailing them in our small pond.

*A Big **Thank You** to all of the volunteers that turned out for this*

*program: Museum Society members Tom and Betty Wimbrow, Bob Stevens, and Bob Reed and Stephen Decatur High School students Christy Stutzel, Leslie Hurley and Brandon Maddy.*

## INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM

In honor of the 32nd International Museum Day, the Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum held an Open House on Sunday, May 18th. Admission was free to all the entire day. Board Member and interpreter Bob Stevens was on hand to greet visitors and share his knowledge of The United States Life-Saving Service and his enthusiasm for the Museum.

The Museum Staff entertained over 400 visitors that toured the facilities over the course of the day.

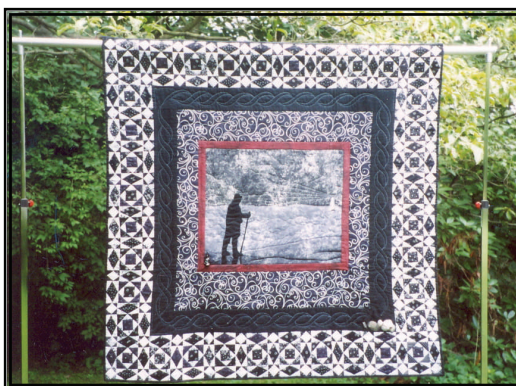
# WATCHMAN'S QUILT

BY VIVIAN LEIDY

My husband and I attended an Elderhostel program, "Sights of the Shore", at Ocean City, Maryland, August 18-23, 2002, offered as part of the University of Maryland system. Out studies included developing an understanding of the local heritage as we discovered "the natural, historic, and cultural sites of the Eastern Shore". Included was a field trip to The Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum. We spent time learning about the history and the importance of the function of this vital station.

I was intrigued by the Mermaid Quilt and the Legend; but what really captured my interest was the poster of the Surfman on the lookout for ships in distress on the stormy sea. I immediately saw a quilt in my mind, especially since our Quilt Guild Challenge for the year was "use black and white with one additional color and add embellishments".

I took a photo (with permission) of the display and used the stormy sea and a lighthouse, a lantern behind the surfman and



*Quilt inspired by the surfmen of the U.S. Life-Saving Service*

some seashells as my embellishments.

The storm fabric was perfect for the inner border and the "Storm at Sea" quilt pattern blocks finished the outside border. I named my quilt, "The Watchman, Storm at Sea", for the contest.

The museum was a highlight of our week.

## IN MEMORY OF ROBERT KAPUS

A generous donation to the Ocean City Museum Society was recently made in memory of Robert F. Kapus by his wife of 48 years, Jo DiStefano Kapus. Mr. and Mrs. Kapus of Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey became Keepers of the Ocean City Museum Society in February of 2001.

Mr. Kapus passed away on November 8, 2007. He joined the Coast Guard in 1949 and served proudly for 20 years. He often said that his proudest duty was aboard the much decorated USCG Cutter **INGHAM**, which is now in a maritime museum.

## MUSEUM AWARDS "GOOD OLD DAYS" TROPHY DURING CRUISIN' 2008

The 18th Annual Cruisin' in Ocean City was held May 15th through May 18th this year. As part of the festivities, the Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum selected the winner of the "Good Old Days Award".

Museum Board member, Bob Rothermel and Jack Hennen of T.E.A.M. productions, both Keepers of the Ocean City Museum Society, provided the trophy and a complementary advertisement for the Museum in this year's program.

The lucky winner was Mike Schmelz of Abingdon, Maryland. Congratulations Mike!

### WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS!

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

#### SUPPORTING

**Brent Ashley**

Ocean City, Maryland

**Gordon Katz**

Ellicott City, Maryland

#### FAMILY

**William Esham, Jr.**

Berlin, Maryland

**Carolyn Godfrey**

Fenwick, Delaware

**Louise Parker King**

Redondo Beach, California

**Kathy & Jason Mumford**

Newark, Maryland

#### INDIVIDUAL

**Clinton Goody**

Ashton, Maryland

**Steve Lane**

Ocean City, Maryland

**Darlene Marteny**

Garrett, Pennsylvania

#### STUDENT

**Jordan Schutter**

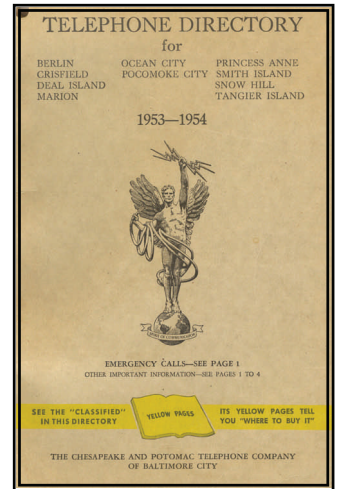
Orefield, Pennsylvania

## Look What We Found!

1953-1954 Telephone Directory for Ocean City, Berlin, Pocomoke City and surrounding area. At that time all of the phone numbers fit on 47 pages.

The number for the "*Ocean City Lifeboat Station*" under the U.S. Government Treasury Dept. was Ocean Cty-59.

*Gift of Joe Baranauskas of Reisterstown, MD*



### Ocean City Life-Saving Station Museum

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

We're on the Web!

[www.ocmuseum.org](http://www.ocmuseum.org)

*The Times and Tides of  
Ocean City, Maryland*

We welcome you to become a member of the Ocean City Museum Society.

Please complete this form and mail with a check payable to:

**Ocean City Museum Society, Inc., P. O. Box 603, Ocean City, MD 21843**

Student.....\$ 5.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Supporting.....\$ 100.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Individual.....\$ 10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining.....\$ 250.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Family.....\$ 30.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Benefactor.....\$ 500.00 \_\_\_\_\_

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