

SCUTTLEBUTT

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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.

NEW EXHIBIT OPENS! *THE BOARDWALK OF YESTERDAY*

The long awaited exhibit about the famous Ocean City Boardwalk is now open for the public to enjoy. The new **Boardwalk of Yesterday** exhibit is an uniquely presented view of the boardwalk from an insiders perspective.

The photograph panels feature; **Windsor Resort: The Trimper Family, 4 for 25 Cents: The Photobooth, Prominent Boardwalk Families, Boardwalk Elvis, Souvenirs & Game Prizes, Nostalgic Boardwalk Scenes, Keepsake Postcards, and Jester's Fun House.**

The Prominent Families display tells the story of four of the many families that set the character and charm of the early Boardwalk. They are; the Showell's of the Showell Bath House fame, The Townsend's who owned the Washington Pharmacy among other Boardwalk businesses, The Lynch family, owners of the Commander Hotel, and the three generations of



The Windsor Resort panel tells the story of the Trimper family and their success in the amusement business over the past 100

the Dolle family, owners of Dolle's Candyland.

"Laughing Sal" and "Bruno" the bull dog, from Jester's Fun House, are on display complete with sound effects at the push of a button.

An antique wicker rolling chair that was commonly rented on the Boardwalk in the 1920s is also featured.

Turn of the century photographs and keepsake postcards taken at Hamblin's Photograph Studio on the

Boardwalk add to the ambience.

The exhibit is very colorful and incorporates the essence of the Boardwalk in the individual displays. Adler Displays of Baltimore designed and installed the exhibit. The photographs, text, design layout and artifact selection was done in house by the staff.

A \$2,000 grant from the Worcester County Historical Society, funded in part, a video kiosk for the exhibit.

Board of Directors**J. D. Quillin, III***President***Thomas D. Wimbrow***Vice President***G. Alfred Harrison***Treasurer***Janet Cherrix***Secretary***Albert Berger****Marion Chambers****Robert L. Jester****Joseph E. Moore, Esq.****Robert Rothermel****Robert T. Stevens, III****Lillian Townsend****Nancy L. Howard****Richard W. Meehan***City Council Liaison***AN OCEAN CITY MEMORY
"A TOUCHING STORY OF HEROSIM"****BY BEACH PATROL CAPTAIN BOB CRAIG
2006**

Many things happened during my 51 years of service with the Ocean City Beach Patrol (41 as Captain) but none touched me as much as this incident. I don't remember the exact date but it was early in my Captaincy that I hired an outstanding athlete named Charlie McCullough and assigned him to the 8th Street beach.

One day, Big Charlie (aptly named because of his 6-foot 8-inch 270 pound stature) was summoned to Ninth Street to assist in a developing problem there and was returning to his life-guard stand at 8th street when, looking ahead, he saw a toddler about 3 or 4 years old get up and walk toward the water's edge. When the water swirled around her feet she lost her balance and fell. The backwash from the wave swept her into deeper water and Charlie took off running! When he got to her the water was well over her head but only waist deep on Charlie. Water had cut off her breathing and she was unconscious so he immediately started artificial resuscitation as soon as they reached shore.

By this time someone had found a phone on the boardwalk probably at the Lankford Hotel. (This was long before cell-phones) and had called the Coast Guard Station which, in those days, is what everybody did in case of an emergency. I was in the Chief's office when the call came through so I immediately ran out to my bike on the boardwalk and headed for 8th Street. Before the city limits were extended beyond the North-end of the boardwalk the Beach Patrol Captain supervised by riding a bicycle on the boardwalk.

I made my way through the crowd that had gathered and asked how long the resuscitation had been in progress and the general consensus was a minimum of 15 minutes. Thinking that perhaps Big Charlie was getting tired; I offered to take over but he waved me off and continued with his steady, rhythmic procedure. One minute went by, then two. Suddenly, the little girl coughed, spit up a lot of water and began to cry. And so did Charlie!



Bob Craig of the Ocean City Beach Patrol with his wife, Virginia L. Mason Craig.

**MUSEUM BUILDING LOOKING ALL
BRAND NEW**

George Hurley, supervisor of the Museum's restoration is happy to announce that the two year-two phase refurbishment project here at the museum complex has been completed. The exterior of the museum is now in pristine condition and stands at the foot of the Boardwalk as the gem that it is. The building has been made ADA compliant adding a ramp on the front porch, installing a new entrance door and addressing issues with the bathroom.

Terry McGean, the City Engineer was invaluable in making the restoration of the exterior of the building and the historic watch tower proceed smoothly. A special thank you to Dennis Dare, the City Manager and to the Mayor and City Council members for funding this project.

LOCAL ARTIST HONORS LIFE-SAVING STATION MUSEUM

BY FRED KINLING

In passing the Inlet on May 5, 2009, I noticed a tribute to the Museum being painted by local artist, Robert Matthew Knudsen. Mr. Knudsen, a graduate of the Maryland Institute College of Art located in Baltimore, Maryland started the painting one cloudy day in 2006 and finished it this May 5, 2009 "on the same kind of day." Mr. Knudsen who is a member of the Worcester County Arts Council, has painted a scene



Robert Matthew Knudsen works on his masterpiece at the Inlet

of the pier also and does his usual ocean painting at 136th Street and the beach.

He has also painted scenes in Annapolis and Monkton, Maryland as well as Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts.

He has been published in New America's Paintings in 2003 and has to his credit one of his paintings purchased by the fine mayor of Annapolis, Ellen O. Moyer.

WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS!

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

SUPPORTING

John Jordan

Havre de Grace, Maryland

Charlene & Frank Reese

Berlin, Maryland

FAMILY

Bill Archer

Berlin, Maryland

Ed & Suzanne Banks

Delmar, Maryland

Al, Barbara & Dawn Brower

Industry, Pennsylvania

Ralph Hastings

Ocean City, Maryland

Tina Long

Anncville, Pennsylvania

Terry & Maggie Steimer

Ocean City, Maryland

Richard & Cheryl Wyre

Darlington, Maryland

INDIVIDUAL

Sandra Hall

Salisbury, Maryland

Brooke Schutter

Orefield, Pennsylvania

Daphne S. Hurley

In house contribution of her time and proofing talent

OCEAN CITY COLLEGE & WHAT BECAME OF IT

BY SANDY HURLEY

In response to our last newsletter, Museum members Gordon Katz and Robert Hoke each shared their knowledge of Ocean City College.

Mr. Hoke supplied the following information that he "stumbled" across while researching another project; Ocean City College was formally known as Kirkland Hall Junior College of Easton which opened in 1967. The founding president of both ventures was Captain Walter J. Stencil (USN Ret). He was born in Ohio, in 1914, and was a 1937 graduate of the Naval Academy. He died in 2008, at the age of 94, in Easton. He had quite a distinguished career in the Navy, from Peal Harbor to the Cuban missile crisis. After his retirement he settled on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Gordon Katz wrote; "The College opened at Ocean City in the fall of 1972 in temporary quarters at the Plim Plaza Hotel. The College was forced to look for new facilities after the 1972 - '73 school year because of an undisclosed falling out with Plim Plaza management. Boise Cascade, the developer of Ocean Pines, donated some land there for the College to build its campus. There was some difficulty raising funds and sessions for 1973 - 1974 were held at the Green Gables and Rambler Motels on Route 50. By the fall of 1974, the school was in merger talks with Bay College in Baltimore, one of its principal assets being the land in Ocean Pines.

Several benefits were held by or on behalf of the College in 1973, but failed

to raise enough money to keep the school operating.

Requests for financial support were turned down by both Worcester County and Ocean City officials.

There were only 2 graduating classes (1973 and 1974). I can't find any information relative to the proposed merger with Bay College in the fall of 1974; it doesn't seem as though it went through. Bay College filed for bankruptcy following the 1977 - '78 school year and closed.

I also don't know what became of the land donated by Boise Cascade in 1972. I wonder if it is now the site of the Ocean Resorts Golf Club in Ocean Pines, which was donated to Wor-Wic Community College last year."

Our thanks to both gentlemen for sharing their knowledge!



**Ocean City Life-Saving
Station Museum**

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P. O. Box 603
Ocean City, MD 21483

We're on the Web!
www.ocmuseum.org

*The Times and Tides of
Ocean City, Maryland*

**Don't Miss Our
FREE SUMMER PROGRAMS**

JULY 6 ~ AUGUST 29, 2009
Programs begin at 10:30 a.m.

- MONDAYS– Beach Safety** Learn how to be safe in the surf with the Ocean City Beach Patrol
- TUESDAYS– O.C.B.C.** Takes you back to a time when Ocean City was a quiet fishing village
- WEDNESDAYS– Knot Tying** Become an expert at nautical knots with help of the USCG Auxiliary
- THURSDAYS– All About Sharks** Find out what sets sharks apart from other fish
- FRIDAYS– Storm Warriors** Experience what it was like to serve in the U.S. Life-Saving Service
- SATURDAYS– Aquarium Feeding** Watch and learn as the marine critters are fed

For more information please call (410) 289-4991 or email Sandy@ocmuseum.org

www.ocmuseum.org