



The Binnacle

April 2007
OCHM 1735 Simpson Ave.

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Ocean City, NJ 08226

From The President's Desk . . .

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Dear Members:

Joe Gilbert ended his April 5, 2007 Spindrift column in the Ocean City Sentinel asking: "Now whoever said history was boring?" Well, not anyone involved with the Ocean City Historical Museum! It has always been the goal of the museum to make local history interesting and relevant. This summer's program schedule is a good example of how we encourage people to enjoy learning about the history of this eight-mile long barrier island off the coast of New Jersey.

Every Thursday from June 14 to August 30, and every Saturday morning in July and August, a free program has been planned to highlight Ocean City history. Please look at the schedule and mark your calendar for those you don't want to miss.

The museum is a "work in progress." It's always changing to keep local history from being boring.

Cicero said the following over 2,000 years ago, "History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illuminates reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life and brings us tiding of antiquity."

See you at the museum.

Fred Miller
OCHM, President

OCEAN CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

1735 Simpson Avenue

Ocean City, NJ 08226

Phone: 609-399-1801 Fax: 609-399-0544

www.ocnjmuseum.org

The museum is open Monday-Friday from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Saturday from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Summer hours are Monday-Friday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and
Saturday 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Summer hours begin after Memorial Day.

2007 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 26, 7:00 pm, Ocean City Then and Now is the title of Mary and Bob Mohr's slide
Presentation

Saturday, April 28, 8:00 am, Citywide Yard Sale at the Tabernacle

Thursday, May 17, 7:00 pm, Do you remember? With Allen "Boo" Pergament, Atlantic City Historian

Thursday, June 14, 7:00 pm, Flag Day Salute by Bob Benton, Flag Historian

Thursday, June 21, 7:00 pm, History of the Ocean City Tabernacle with Richard Stanislaw, President/
CEO of the Ocean City Tabernacle

Saturday, June 23, 8:00 am to Noon, Museum Yard Sale in the Atrium

Thursday, June 28, 7:00 pm, History of the Beach

Every Saturday morning in July and August, 11:30 am to noon, Discussion of Ocean City History

Thursday, July 5, Noon to 4:00 p.m., Children's Program, Sindia Miniature Golf at Playland's Seaport
Village, between 9th and 10th streets on the Boardwalk

Thursday, July 12, 7:00 p.m., 100th Anniversary of the Shore Fast Line into Ocean City with Sally
Hasting, President of Somers Point Historical Society

Thursday, July 19th, 7:00 p.m., Postcard History of Ocean City with Susan Miller, Postcard Historian

Thursday, July 26, 7:00 p.m., Natives Night Celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the Night in Venice
Bay Carnival

Thursday, August 9, 7:00 p.m., Boy Scouts in Ocean City with Rocky Gannon, Eagle Scout 1943

Thursday, August 9, 7:00 p.m., History of Ocean City Movie Theatres with Jim Laymon, Theatre
Historian

Thursday, August 16, 7:00 p.m., History of Real Estate in Ocean City with Ken Cooper, Realtor and
Museum Trustee and Board Secretary

Thursday, August 23, 7:00 p.m., TBA

Thursday, August 30, 7:00 p.m., Remembering Grace Kelly 25 years after her death with Fred Miller,
Ocean City Historian and Museum President

Admission is Free!

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Donations are Appreciated!

JOINING THE PARKER & LOUISA MILLER SOCIETY

The Parker and Louisa Miller Society* has been organized by the Ocean City Historical Museum for the purpose of encouraging and soliciting contributions to a defined giving plan. The Society honors contributors from Ocean City and New Jersey, as well as surrounding states. Your contribution benefits the operation of the Museum and ensures its continued access to the general public.

Here's how to join the Parker and Louisa Miller Society- in just two steps:

1. Arrange your estate to leave a gift to OCHM

Common ways to do this are:

- Bequest through a will or trust
- IRA/401K designation
- Life insurance policy beneficiary designation
- Charitable Remainder Trust
- Charitable Lead Trust
- Charitable Gift Annuity

2. Inform OCHM that you made the necessary arrangements by returning the form below. This will give us permission to include your name in future listings of the Parker and Louisa Miller Society.

Ocean City Historical Museum, Inc.
1735 Simpson Ave. Ocean City, NJ 08226
609-399-1801/fax 609-399-0544

The Parker and Louisa Miller Society

I/We have made a provision for OCHM in my/our estate plan and wish to be included in the Parker and Louisa Miller Society
Please print name(s) as you wish to be listed

Signature(s)

Date

RESCUING HISTORY

By Fred Miller

1907 Visitors Guide

One hundred years ago, Ocean City distributed widely a ten-page brochure to encourage vacationers to come to this barrier island. The first page included the following information: Located on an island seven miles long, with the Atlantic Ocean on one side and wide inland waters on the other side, Ocean City is one of the most advantageously situated summer resorts in the country. Its unrivalled situation, in fact, insures a healthful and invigorating saline atmosphere the summer long. Cooler by several degrees than the average temperature of other resorts along the South Jersey seaboard. The drainage of marshes in the vicinity of the resort has practically eliminated the mosquito pest. The consistent development that has gone forward for the past decade has placed Ocean City in the front rank of summer resorts. It represents to-day the most progressive and advanced seaside municipality in the state. Comfort, health, recreation convenience, price-reasonableness-all invite you to visit Ocean City! The next page told of the recent improvements: Across the meadows there is a direct fast trolley line to Somers Point, giving half hour service every fifteen minutes to Atlantic City. Two lines of boats ply between Ocean City, Longport and Somers Point, providing the ever-pleasant features of the bay trip. New cottages and public buildings have been completed, adding to the beauty of the resort. "Many of the hotels have undergone renovation and refurnishing. A score of first-class hotels and more than a hundred cottages constitute the resort's summer facilities. A general air of improvement and bustling activity is evidenced in every phase of Ocean City's life.

The following page told vacationers what they could do here: The public music pavilion will, as before, be a centre of social activity. It is an institution unique with Ocean City, and much of the resort's popularity last season is due to this \$10,000 improvement, maintained solely for the convenience of the summer residents. Daily and nightly musical concerts will be given in the pavilion during the summer, and the many improvements made in the building will at once impress those who have already enjoyed its exceptional advantages. Gunning, fishing and sailing attract the sportsmen to Ocean City because of its pre-eminence in these sports. The bays and inland waters furnish a delightful outlet for those who appreciate the real seashore enjoyments. The bathing on the wide, level strand is unequalled anywhere else along the Atlantic Coast for safety and genuine pleasure. The brochure continued informing all about the resort's growth and development: Ocean City's growth has been unprecedented among summer resorts. It now extends along the entire upper half of Seven-Mile Beach. Its development may be explained by its progressive administration and its superior advantages. It has twenty-five miles of graded and graveled streets, a mecca for the automobilist. Its system of drainage and sanitation has evoked unstinted praise from scores of municipal engineers. It possesses complete gas and electric lighting plants. Its healthfulness is unquestioned—the Bureau of Vital Statistics reports only 148 deaths in five years, out of an average yearly population of 2000, or an average of 10 in each thousand per year, lower than any resort on the coast. Only four of these deaths were from drowning, a tribute to the safety of the resort's bathing.

The next page bragged about the boardwalk and the recreational facilities: For two miles, Ocean City's new boardwalk stretches along the beach front of the resort. It is thirty-two feet wide, giving an unobstructed view of the ocean on one side and lined with interesting shops, casinos, and bazaars on the other. Since being rebuilt several hundred feet nearer the ocean, the resort's boardwalk is a model for stability of construction and utility as a promenade. On it may be enjoyed those bracing constitutionals which mean so much to the invalid who seeks the seashore in search of health. Bowling, tennis, baseball and other sports may be indulged in within a few steps of the boardwalk. The yachting wharves and boat landings are on the bay side, presenting boating facilities without equal along the coast.



Ocean City Historical Museum will have a space set up at the Citywide Yard Sale on Saturday April, 28th at 8 am on the Tabernacle grounds. We are currently accepting donations for that event as well as our own Super June Yard Sale which will be held in the atrium of our building on Saturday, June 23rd at 8 am. The only thing we ask is no large pieces of furniture or clothing. For more information please contact the Museum at 609-399-1801.

Saturday, September 8, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., 21st Annual Museum Fair, Tabernacle Grounds

Wednesday, September 12, noon, Annual Museum Luncheon at the Flanders Hotel, "History of Gillian's Amusement Parks and the Gillian Family" with Speaker, Roy Gillian

Saturday, September 22, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Lake Family Reunion in the Museum

Thursday, October 11, 7:00 p.m., Fire Prevention Week and 80th Anniversary of Ocean City's Great Fire with Paul Anselm

Thursday, November 15 7:00 p.m., Annual Meeting and Natives Night

Friday, December 7, 5:30 p.m., Christmas Tree Lighting in the Atrium and Open House at the Museum

Saturday, December 15, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Sindia Day-106th Anniversary of the Shipwreck

Rescuing History, Con't.

The last page discussed transportation and real estate values: Two direct lines of railroad connected Ocean City with Philadelphia—the Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia and Reading. Through improvements made at Winslow Junction, at a cost of \$1,000,000, Ocean City has through train service from Broad Street Station by way of the Delaware River bridge, insuring exceptional service between Ocean City and the entire country. Fast and frequent express service is maintained by the Pennsylvania Railroad from Market street wharf, Philadelphia, and by the Reading Railroad from Chestnut and South street wharves. Improvement made during the winter along both lines of railroad have reduced the running time to the resort to 80 minutes, making it one of the most accessible in the State. The increase in the assessed valuation of Ocean City real estate places the resort first among the South Jersey watering places, with a valuation of \$5,735,477. Much has changed since 1907, but many vacationers still consider Ocean City the best family resort in the country.

In Memoriam

Dot Pataký was one of our volunteers here at the Museum for many years. She passed away last November and her obituary asked that memorial contributions be made to OCHM. She was very passionate of not only the history of Ocean City, but also the history of her street, Stenton Place. Her smile and laughter would light up the room even on the darkest day. Dot was well liked by many and will be missed by many.

In Memoriam

James T. MacAllister, 80, of Lafayette Hill, PA, and Ocean City died December 30, 2006. He served in the Merchant Marines during World War II, and in the Army during the Korean War. He was a member of the Ocean City Beach Patrol from 1941 to 1948 and was inducted in to the OCBP Hall of Fame in 1977. He was a longtime supporter of the Ocean City Historical Museum and his obituary asked that memorial contributions be made to the OCHM.

OCEAN CITY FIRSTS

BY: Fred Miller

- 1880—First accidental death—Harry McCann, 16, died when the wagon he was driving overturned on June 5, 1880
- 1880—First funeral service was conducted by Re, William H. Burrell for Harry McCann with the burial in Bargaintown.
- 1880—First Sunday religious service was held on June 13. Rev. William H. Burrell preached the sermon on the lawn at 5th Street and Wesley Avenue
- 1895—First Catholic Church—St. Augustine’s—erected on Asbury Avenue near 14th Street
- 1897—First Poles erected for the purpose of operating a telephone system
- 1907—First stone church building opens— First Presbyterian Church at the corner of 7th Street and Wesley Avenue
- 1915—First two-ring circus presented at the Show Grounds, Simpson Avenue to Pleasure Avenue
- 1917--First motorcycle policemen— Seaman, Sack and Johnson
- 1917—First fatal auto accident— Malcolm H. Krauss age 8
- 1918— First time daylight saving time was observed— March 31
- 1927—First policeman killed— Harry E. Shore in a motorcycle accident
- 1932—First self-service grocery store opens— Piggly Wiggly at 704 Asbury Avenue
- 1935—First time a picture of Grace Kelly (5 years old) was on the front page of the Sentinel-Ledger
- 1937—First memorial to a dog (Hobo) placed on the lawn of OCHS
- 1941—Fist OCHS graduate to set a world record – Archie Harris tossed the discus 174 feet and 8 3/4 inches
- 1965—First motel opens on the bay— Harbor House
- 1971—First movie house to be remodeled into two separate theatres under one room— the Moorlyn Theatre
- 1972—First Ocean City women elected to a county office— County Clerk Angela Pulvino
- 1973—First time voters had a say in who would occupy seats on the board of education
- 1979—First swim meet held in the Community Center pool— South Jersey Lifeguard Meet

MANY THANKS TO OUR NEW MEMBERS & RENEWED MEMBERS

The new Members who joined OCHM November 2006-April 2007

Ed Butler, Sara Green, Donna Groner,
Betty Hartman, Hazel Kavle, Jane MacFarland,
Lillian Pokrandt, Jane Roberts, and Ruth Stein.

The members of OCHM who renewed November 2006-April 2007

Ruth & Frank Allen, Bonnie & Pete Ault, Kim Baker, Richard Bay, Jean Bell, Marjorie Bender, Sylva & Marino Bertini, Ruth & Robert Bieler, Elizabeth Booth, Ruth Ann Bosworth, James Brooks, Joanne Budnick, Marian Callen, Margaret Carll, Rose & Gary Clemente, Joanne Cochrane, Virginia Coco, Josephine Costanza, Alice Cranston, Lois Darr, Anita DeSantis, Carol & John Deuter, Robert Dever, Floss & Ben Dungan, Barbara Field, Sonia Forry, Kammy & George Franz, Anthony Fulginiti, Ruth Garhammer, Ella Goodrich, Evelyn Greiman, Richard Grimes, Mary Ann & Stephen Gring, Paul Gring, Dorothy Gruber, Peg Hagerty, Patricia Hand, Wendy Harper, Diane & Joe Heath, Carla Heist, Margaret Heller, Valerie Henszey, Carol Hetzel, Historical Society of Hammonton, Faith Hogue, Doris Howell, Carol Janka, Annetta Jeffries, Margaret Kendrick, Linda Kirchoff, Dorothy Klock, Albert Lackman, Francis Larkins, Gene Lindacher, Kay Lynn, Jane & Bill McCausland, Mary & Robert McDowell, Connie & Scott Miller, Phyllis & Alan Mooney, Wilma & Daniel Murray, Linda Olsen, William Parkhurst, Connie & David Patten, Winnie Piriano, Lois Rahme, Ruth Rundgren, Doris & Sig Rutkowski, Mary Scarpetta, Margaret Schock, Betty & Rod Schumacher, Jeff Shirk, John Shirk, Leslie & Andrew Skibo, Toby & Mark Soifer, Edwin Spencer, James Spencer, Richard Stanislaw, Jim Steelman, George Swartz, Linda Toner, Connie & Nick Tyler, Pauline & Irvin Tyson, Henry Vila, Timothy Vile, Edwina & Roy Wagner, Joan Weckesser, Wynne Wert, George Wilson, and Margaret Young.

OCHM Contributors

Estate of Timothy F. Fitzgerald	\$5,000 +
Rocky Gannon	\$2,000
Dot Pataky Memorial	\$900 +
James MacAllister Memorial	\$300
Hammonton Historical Society	\$100
Ocean City Masonic Lodge	\$100

History of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in Ocean City, and the history of Ocean City Lodge #171 Free and Accepted Masons is being developed at the museum. Can you contribute to the collection?

Winter Hours (Labor Day-Memorial Day)

Monday-Friday, 1pm to 4pm and Saturdays, 11am to 2pm
Closed Sundays & Holidays

Summer Hours (Memorial Day-Labor Day)

Monday-Friday 10am to 4pm and Saturdays 11am to 2pm
Closed Sundays & Holidays



1735 Simpson Avenue
Ocean City, New Jersey 08226

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