

*From The President's Desk . . .*

Dear Members:

On January 1, 2006, after many years serving the Ocean City Historical Museum as a trustee and vice president, I began my role as president of the Museum. I look forward to a busy year of promoting Ocean City history and continuing the Museum's charge to "collect, preserve and display objects of historical worth and interest pertaining to Ocean City."

My emphasis will be on increasing the displays in the Museum. I hope by the end of this year, there will be many more photos on our walls showing the growth of Ocean City from 1879 to 2006. My number one goals are to restore the 1896 and 1925 maps and get them back on display.

Another goal is to have the past 13 years of the *Ocean City Sentinel*, on microfilm. With this accomplished, we will have copies of the *Sentinel* from 1893 to 2006. This is our city's history and it should be available to everyone.

Volunteers have made the OCHM the best Museum in South Jersey and I want you to be involved more in the day-to-day operation of the Museum.

And finally, I want more people visiting our Museum. This can be accomplished by eliminating the door charge and having more programs. I am happy to report that the Museum's board, at the January 10th meeting, voted to eliminate the charge and approve an expanded program schedule. Look for the list of programs in this Binnacle.

With your support, and the hard work and dedication of the Museum's officers and trustees (see the list on this page), this year will go into the history book as a great one for the Ocean City Historical Museum.

Fred Miller

**2006**

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AND  
TRUSTEES**

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**STAFF**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

LINDA A. LONG

**MUSEUM ASSISTANT**

ALEXANDRA FORD



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LETTER

By: Linda Long

OCHM kicked off its first fundraising campaign in 2005 with several new initiatives. First, OCHM did its first-ever Direct Mail Membership Drive. This Drive brought OCHM 280 new members and \$1,200 in donations for a total net profit of \$9,100. OCHM started its first Business Partnership Program which enrolled 17 local businesses to partner with OCHM for a total of \$4,670 in income. OCHM had several fund raising events this Summer. They included the Annual Yard Sales which raised \$795, The Annual Fair which raised \$4,100, the Annual Luncheon which raised \$1,500 and the First Annual Summer Party at Gillian's Waterpark which raised close to \$5,000. All of the above efforts gave OCHM the opportunity to raise its income from \$50,114 in 2004 to \$93,106 in 2005 which is an 85% increase. WOW!

I would like to thank all of our members for their continued support. We hope you will continue to assist us in preserving the culture and heritage of Ocean City for future generations.

**Last chance to  
buy your copy of OCHM's 2006  
Calendar! On Sale Now for \$6.00  
plus Tax in the Museum!  
Visa/MC are accepted!  
Call today to order at 50%  
off regular retail of \$12.00.**



*Ocean City Historical Museum, Inc.*  
*2006 Historical Calendar*



*History and Vintage of the Ocean City Boardwalk  
Ocean City, New Jersey*



## *~In Memoriam ~ Roy E. Darby, Jr.*

*DARBY, JR., ROY E., 86 - of Ocean City, passed away Monday, January 2, 2006 at his home with his family by his side. Mr. Darby was born in Ocean City where he spent most of his life. He graduated from Ocean City High School in 1937 and from Rutgers University in 1941. He served as a Captain in the Navy during WWII in the European Theatre. After the war, he returned to Ocean City where he joined the R.E. Darby Insurance Agency, which had been founded by his grandfather in 1905. He retired in 1985 and the agency is currently owned by his son Glenn. Mr. Darby was active in the community serving on the Ocean City Planning Board and as a volunteer for the Ocean City Food Cupboard and the Ocean City Historical Museum. He was a member of the Ocean City Exchange Club and Ocean City Masonic Lodge #171 F. & A.M. He also served on the Board of Directors of Ocean City Home Bank and was past president of the Cape May County Independent Insurance Agents Association. He was predeceased by his wife, Martha F. Darby, in 2004. Surviving are two sons: Glenn and his fiance Beth Broadley of Ocean City, Robert and his wife Wendy of So. Pasadena, CA. Also surviving are two brothers: Harry and his wife Ruth of Albuquerque, NM, Frank and his wife Carol of Marlton; three grandchildren: Rachael Cretan, Nora and John Darby and two great grandchildren: Rayan Cretan and Brendan Thompson...*

To those of us who have known and loved someone a newspaper obituary doesn't really tell you anything about him. Yes, the obituary tells about his family, and all of the things that he has done, but it doesn't tell you about the personal side of the individual.

The Roy Darby I knew was a caring, kind, responsible, considerate gentleman. Roy and I spent many hours talking and sharing our life experiences. To sit and listen to his early Ocean City history about his experiences as a motion picture projector operator in the theatres on the boardwalk, his growing up and old, and his experiences during World War II was without equal. Roy was so full of life. He cared about you and never failed to call and express his concerns if you had illnesses. Some years back, when I spent several weeks in therapy after surgery, without fail, every day at 4:10pm my phone would ring and Roy would be on the line. After Marty passed away and Roy's health started to fail, his major concern would be that someone could fill in for him as a Museum Docent for his scheduled time. A gentleman always with a neat, quiet sense of humor.

Roy, you will be missed greatly, not only by your family but by we who have been blessed to have known you.

Paul S. Anselm, OCHM Past President

# Meet Your New Board Members

**Members of the Ocean City Historical Museum, Inc. elected four new members of the community to serve as OCHM board members for a term of three years. Below please find a short bio of each of the new board members.**

## Sylva Bertini

Sylva Bertini is the mother of 3 daughters and grandmother of 1 boy and 5 girls. She was born in Italy and came to the USA in 1951. Sylva married Marino Bertini in 1957. She was the owner manager of 3 delicatessens, 2 in Vineland, NJ and 1 in Ocean City. After 20 years in business Sylva went to work at OC home bank as a teller. Sylva retired in 2000, after 23 years of service. She is currently a board member of the Ocean City Home Bank, a board member of the OCHB Charitable Foundation and a trustee for the OC pops.

Sylva is a Eucharistic minister at the shore memorial hospital and at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church. She volunteers with the food cupboard. Sylva and her husband love Ocean City. For this reason, she is honored to serve on the board of the OCHM. Sylva and her husband enjoy traveling in the United States and overseas to Europe where they also have the pleasure of visiting relatives and friends.

## Douglass Longenecker

Douglass Longenecker was born and raised in Ocean City in 1930. He graduated from Ocean City High School in 1948 and graduated from Pennsylvania Military College in 1953. Douglass served in the United States Army for 21 years and retired with a rank of Major.

Douglass's civilian employment included manufacturing supervisor for RCA, Sales Representative for Pitney-Bowes and later manufacture's representative in the floral industry. Additionally, Douglass served a four-year term on East Windsor, NJ Township Council.

Douglass has two grown children and currently resides in Cape May County.

## Daniel O. Murray

Daniel Murray was born in 1931 at 423 Asbury Avenue in Ocean City and graduated from Ocean City High School in 1950. Dan's father was a Ocean City Fireman. Dan's grandfather was a plumber in Germantown, PA and Ocean City from 1900 until the early 40s.

Dan owned a Real Estate office in Pennsylvania and Ocean City until retirement and was a builder in Pennsylvania and Ocean City. Dan is the Past President of the Ocean City Board of Realtors and has been active in youth organizations as well as in the establishment of the Community Center.

Dan currently is the Chairman of the Tabernacle Baptist Church Building Fund and Tabernacle Baptist Church Historic Committee, which restored the church which was built in 1890.

Dan has been married to Wilma for over 50 years. Dan and Wilma have five children and 10 grandchildren. Dan enjoys being outdoors and loves to fish.

## Dr. Richard Stanislaw

Richard Stanislaw, President of Ocean City Tabernacle, has joined the Board of Trustees. Dick and his wife, Becky, have been vacationers in Ocean City for forty years.

His doctorate, from the University of Illinois, is an historic study of choral performance practices of the pre-civil-war era. He holds a Master of Music in Composition from Temple University and a BS in Bible from Philadelphia Biblical University. He taught music history and choral conducting at the college level prior to coming to Ocean City Tabernacle.

He also participated in the Historic Museum of Greene County, PA. Dick formerly was V.P. for Academic Affairs at Waynesburg College and, earlier, V.P. of Taylor University. He also served as Chair of the Music Department at Bloomsburg University. Along with choral compositions and scholarly articles and reviews, he has written two music reference books: *A Checklist of Four-Shape Shape-Note Tunebooks* (Institute for Studies in American Music, Brooklyn, NY) and *Companion to The Worshipping Church* (Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL). Along with his duties at the Tabernacle, he directs the "Angelus Chorus" of Cape May Courthouse.

# RESCUING HISTORY

By Fred Miller

## MOTELS ILLEGAL IN OCEAN CITY

After World War II, most of the hotels, guest homes and apartments in Ocean City hung out their "NO VACANCY" sign during the summer months. Everything was going great for them, but they were concerned about their future. Modern motels were being built in neighboring resorts and giving the old hotels serious competition.

In the spring of 1950, the local hotel and guest home owners convinced Mayor Edward Bowker and Commissioners Augustus S. Goetz and Henry Roeser, Jr. to adopt an amendment to the zoning law to forbid the building of motels in Ocean City. This was effective in keeping America's Greatest Family Resort motel-free during the early Fifties.

"City To Introduce Motel Building Law; Action Schedule Friday to Amend Zone Ordinance" was the front-page headline of the May 17, 1956, *Ocean City Sentinel-Ledger*. Mayor Edward Bowker said the purpose of the proposed new ordinance was to regulate motels to make sure they would be built in accordance with modern standards of design, safety and convenience, thus making them real assets to the resort. It was a Superior Court ruling stating motels are legally permissible anywhere hotels or guest houses are allowed that forced the mayor to change the local ordinance.

The following week, the *Sentinel-Ledger* printed the new ordinance: "No structure shall contain less than 15 units. Each unit shall be composed of a minimum of 200 square feet inside dimensions, and shall consist of a minimum of one bedroom with a closet or closets, and a bathroom, which shall be not less than five feet by seven feet in size, and shall contain a tub or shower, lavatory and toilet facilities.

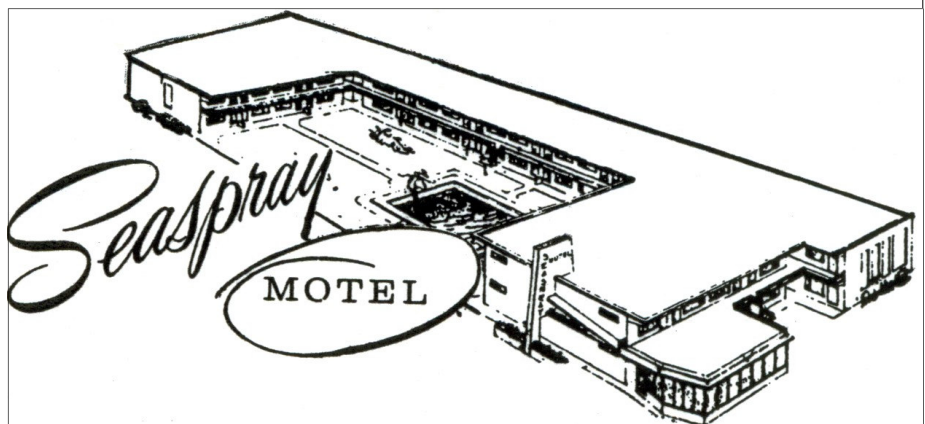
"The distance between the floor and the ceiling in each room shall be not less than eight feet. A window in each bathroom is required unless the room is ventilated by a shaft connecting thereto. Doors shall be not less than 2 feet 6 inches, and the minimum size of windows, except bathroom windows, shall be not less than 12 square feet."

Off-street parking of automobiles was provided for by a stipulation that motels must provide on their premises not less than 200 square feet of parking space for every sleeping unit.

Ocean City's first motel was the Seaspray Motel. When it opened on July 1, 1958, on the corner of 34<sup>th</sup> Street and Bay Avenue, it was the largest motel between Atlantic City and Wildwood. It cost Stoeco (Howard S. Stainton, Mary Oehlschlager and Ewing T. Corson) Homes, Inc. \$170,000 to construct the 68-unit building. Today one unit sells for \$225,000!

Forty years ago, the 1966 Ocean City Vacation Guide listed 14 motels: Coral Sands, Forum, Fountainview (now part of the Pavilion), Harbor House, Impala, Pavilion, Port-O-Call, Royal Crest (now the Tahiti), Seano (now Ocean Front), Seaspray, Sifting Sands, Springhaven (now Tradewinds), Sting Ray and Willis (now Sun Aqua). All 14 motels are still standing and renting rooms.

Most of Ocean City's old hotels, which were here in the 1950s, have been torn down. The list includes: Alden Park Manor, Alvin, Arlington, Biscayne, Breakers, Colonial, Comfort, Delaware, Illinois, Lincoln, Oceanic, Raleigh, Seaview, Southern, Strand, Surf, Swarthmore and White Hall.



# 2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, February 11, 2 o'clock—Children's Tea Party

Thursday, March 16, 7 o'clock—Winter Natives' Night salutes the Ocean City Board of Education, especially female members since 1920, during Women's History Month. Speaker: Board of Education member Brenda Moiso

Wednesday, April 19, 7 o'clock—Remembering Grace Kelly on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her marriage to Prince Rainier

Wednesday, May 17, 7 o'clock—Researching the history of your house and other services offered by the Cape May County Clerk's Office. Speaker: Rita Marie Fulginiti, County Clerk

Wednesday, June 14, 7 o'clock—Celebrate Flag Day with Bob Benton, flag historian

Saturday, June 24, 8:00 a.m. to noon, OCHM Yard Sale

Thursday, July 6, 2 o'clock—Program for Children

Thursday, July 13, 7 o'clock—Learn About Ocean City Ghosts from Eileen Reeser

Thursday, July 20, 7 o'clock—Celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the *Ocean City Sentinel* with David Nahan, Editor and Publisher of the *Sentinel*

Late July or early August—Second Annual Fundraising Party, at Gillian's Water Park

Thursday, August 3, 7 o'clock—Fred Miller, local historian, will discuss life in Ocean City from 1955 to 1979

Thursday, August 10, 7 o'clock—Explore North Atlantic Shipwrecks with Gene Petersen

Thursday, August 17, 7 o'clock—Learn About Forgotten Cape May County with Rachel Rodgers, Curator/Director of the Cape May County Historical and Genealogical Society

Thursday, August 24, 7 o'clock—Summer Natives' Night Celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Central Avenue School

Saturday, September 9, beginning at 9:00 a.m.—20<sup>th</sup> Annual Ocean City Historical Museum's Fair

Wednesday, September 13, OCHM Annual Luncheon—noon at the OC Tabernacle

Wednesday, October 25, 7 o'clock—Annual Meeting, followed by the History of the Ocean City Halloween Parade

Wednesday, November 8, 7 o'clock—Fall Natives' Night Salutes Veterans

Saturday, December 16, 1 o'clock—Sindia Day

# SPONSOR ONE OF OUR LECTURES!

For a \$100 donation, you can sponsor one of our lectures or events listed on page 5. As a thanks for your sponsorship, we will include your name or the name of your organization in all advertising and press releases. To sponsor a lecture or an event, please complete and return the enrollment form below or call the Museum's business office at (609) 399-1801.

## SPONSORSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Date of Lecture/Event you Wish to Sponsor: (Please refer to page 5)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Sponsorship: \_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT INFORMATION:

Make checks payable to  
Ocean City Historical Museum, Inc  
we also accept Visa/MC.

### Credit Card Information

Credit Card

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Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## OCEAN CITY FIRSTS

BY: Fred Miller

- 1880—First public sale of lots
- 1880—First hotel, the Brighton
- 1881—First postmaster, William H. Burrell
- 1881—First doctor, Gilbert E. Palen
- 1881—First founder to die, Simon Lake
- 1882—First school built
- 1883—First bridge to the mainland
- 1884—First county freeholder, William Lake
- 1902—First free mail delivery
- 1905—First Music Pier
- 1912—First Boardwalk hotel, the Breakers
- 1914—First public library
- 1915—First City Hall
- 1921—First female members of the Board of Education, Eleanor Fogg
- 1921—First Miss America Contestant, Hazel Harris
- 1922—First female doctor, Marcia Van Gilder Smith
- 1933—First Chevrolet dealer, Emil and Mary Palmer
- 1949—First summer male bathers could enjoy a day at the beach topless
- 1949—First parking meters installed—217 of them
- 1955—First state championship by the OCHS basketball team
- 1955—First summer resident to win an Academy Award, Grace Kelly
- 1958—First motel, Seaspray Motel at 34<sup>th</sup> Street and Bay Avenue
- 1964—First museum opens in Wesley Avenue School
- 1972—First female city commissioner, Marilyn K. Moore
- 1976—First beach tag sold, \$3 preseason; total collected \$761,240
- 1978—First female elected to City Council, Jeanne M. Clunn
- 1992—First First Night Ocean City



The new city hall opened in 1915 on the corner of Ninth Street and Albany Avenue. The police and firemen also used the building.

**Admission is Now Free!**

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**Donations are Appreciated!**

# MANY THANKS TO OUR NEW MEMBERS & RENEWED MEMBERS

## The new Members who joined OCHM October—January

Mrs. Silva Bertini; Ms. Adelaide Brandes; Mr. Gary Clemente; Ms. Sandra Clitter; Mr. Joel Dickson; The Douse Family; Dr. George Franz; Mrs. Wendy Harper; Mrs. Carol Janka; Mr. Richard Lee; Ms. Patricia Mallas; Mr. James McGeogh; Mr. Dan Murray; Mr. James Stockley; Mr. Kurt Stofko; and Mr. Joseph Stutz

## The members of OCHM who renewed October—January

Mr. Jody Alessandrine; Mrs. Deborah Arnold; Mrs. Kimball Baker; Ms. Joan Benanchiitti; Mrs. Kath Bergin; Mr. Robert Bieler; Ms. Eleanor Bringham; Mr. Jack Brooks; Mr. Peter Brooks; Mrs. Grace De Feo; Mr. Cyril Draffin; Mr. Ben Dungan; Mrs. Betty Ermilio; Mr. Joseph Fertsch; Ms. Elizabeth Foster; Mr. Jon Gaspich; Ms. Ella Goodrich; Mr. Dick Grimes; Mrs. Margaret Heller; Mrs. Valerie Henszey; Mrs. Beverly Hill; Ms. Faith Hogue; Mrs. Janell Holtz; Ms. Dorothy Klock; Mr. Randolph Lee; Mr. Tom Martinson; The Mathews Family; Mrs. Jane McCausland; Mr. Fred Miller; Mr. Scott Miller; Mrs. Phyllis Moony; Mr. William Parkhurst; Ms. Winnie Piriano; Ms. Lois Rahme; Ms. Eleanor Rosica; Ms. Ruth Rundgren; Mr. Sid Rutkowski, Jr.; Ms. Margaret Schock; Mr. Rod Schumacher; Mrs. Sally Shirey; Mr. Andrew Skibo; Mrs. Toby Soifer; Mr. Edwin Spencer; Mr. Richard Stanislaw; Mr. Henry Vila; and Mrs. Edwina Wagner



## Ocean City Historical Museum's Annual Children's Tea Party Sponsored by the Exchange Club of Ocean City

February 11, 2006  
2:00PM in the Museum

Admission Fee: \$3.00 per Person  
Tickets must be purchased in advance by  
Calling 609-399-1801 or stop in the Museum

\*One ticket per person;  
We request (1) adult for every (3) children  
Between the ages of 6 to 12.

*Learn the history of the 4th Street Life-Saving Station!*

*Ocean City 8th grader, Allison Pfander, reads her story "Ocean City: A-Z", a pictorial celebration of the town in rhyme.*

*Enjoy a Victorian tea party with homemade tea sandwiches & fresh made tea!*

*Participate in arts and crafts projects!*



**20 % OFF**

Any purchase in the **Museum's Gift Shop**; One transaction per customer (unlimited number of items); **Must present coupon for discount.**

Expires 12/31/06

**20 % OFF**

Admission is Now Free!

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Donations are Appreciated!

# 2006 Holidays & Closings

Feb 20th Closed - President's Day  
Apr 14 & 15 Closed - Good Fri & Easter Sat  
May 29th Closed - Memorial Day  
Jul 4th Closed - 4th of July  
Jul 22nd Closed - Night in Venice Parade  
Sep 4th Closed - Labor Day

Oct 9th Closed-Columbus Day  
Nov 11th Closed-Veteran's Day  
Nov 23, 24, 25 Closed-Thanks Weekend  
Dec 23, 24, 25&26 Closed-Christmas W/E  
Dec 31 & Jan 1 Closed - New Year's W/E

## WINTER HOURS (November 1st to April 30th)

Monday—Friday, 1pm to 4pm and Saturdays, 11am to 2pm

## SUMMER HOURS (May 1st to October 31st)

Monday—Friday, 10am to 4pm and Saturdays, 11am to 2pm  
Closed Sundays & all Holidays



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Ocean City, NJ  
08226

### ***Ocean City Historical Museum's Mission Statement***

*The Mission of the Ocean City Historical Museum, Inc. is to maintain and operate a quality Historical Museum in Ocean City,*

*New Jersey with the cooperation and assistance of the City of Ocean City. The specific goals of the Ocean City Historical Museum, Inc. are to collect, preserve and display objects that are of historical worth and interest to Ocean City and surrounding areas; and to provide educational and cultural programs pertaining to Ocean City, New Jersey and surrounding areas.*