

Alternate Giving Ideas

The Wildwood Historical Society, Inc. and the Boyer Museum were made possible through the contributions of many individuals in our community.

The gifts you make today help preserve the memories of the past. Please consider the Historical Society in your will.

Friends of the Wildwood Historical Society, Inc.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____

Membership Class	
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$200.
<input type="checkbox"/> Business	\$50.
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$50.
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$25.
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$15.
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$10.
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$5.

Renewal **New**
 Please check membership class and
 enclose fee with application.

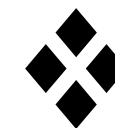
Wildwood Historical Society, Inc.
 George F. Boyer Museum
 3907 Pacific Avenue
 Wildwood, NJ 08260

AV-08



Wildwood Historical Society, Inc.

The George F. Boyer Museum



Issue #21

The Wildwoods By-The-Sea, New Jersey

Summer 2008

*... a message from
 the President*

As president of the Wildwood Historical Society, I am pleased to announce our 2008 Building Fund Campaign. The purpose of this campaign is to help us raise the necessary funds to expand our existing facility, the George F. Boyer Museum. This expansion will allow us to better accommodate our visitors and the increasing amount of artifacts that are in our possession.



The plans for this expansion are posted in our lobby for visitors to look over. It is the intention of the Board of Directors to have a plaque installed in the new addition listing our donors. Silver members will be those who have contributed \$500 or more; gold members will be those who donated \$1000 or more and platinum donors will be those who have contributed \$5000 or more.

I would like to thank you for your past support of the museum and ask you to consider making a donation in any amount to assist us in our current efforts. Please make your check payable to The Wildwood Historical Society. We are a 501(c)(3) corporation and your donation is tax-deductible. With the help of generous community members like you, we can continue to preserve the memory of the Wildwoods for many years and generations to come. It can truly be "The Wildwoods your grandpa and grandma knew."

**Preserving the
 history and memories
 of the Wildwoods . . .**

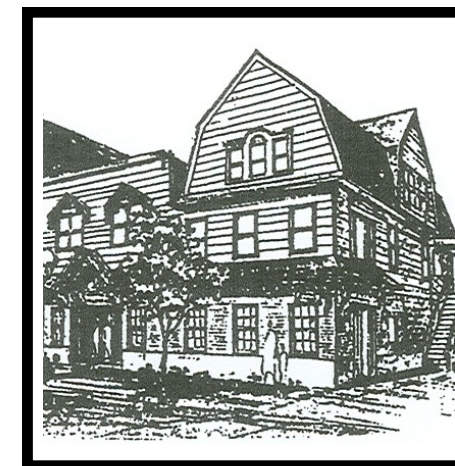
**The
 Wildwood Historical
 Society, Inc.**



your friends that the George F. Boyer Museum will soon be bigger and better than ever.

My fellow Board Members join me in extending our deepest thanks to all who have supported us and hope we can count on you for this project.

Anna M. Vinci, President



Please call me personally, at 609-522-4100 if you have any questions regarding our expansion project. We are excited about it and expect that you will see the benefit of adding more space to our floor area. I hope that you will visit soon and spread the word to

Can you help us name the "unknowns" in this photo? These young men are the Wildwood Safety Patrol taken some time in the 1940s. Front row: Furey Ferraco, Lou Harry, Vic Anzalone, Dom Capachione, B.J. Jones Second row: Bill Robinson, Joe Russo, Unknown, Tom Loag, Jerry Moulder, Ferdie Gallagher Back Row: Unknown, Henry Gorelick (?), Joe Blaze (?) Sal Fulginiti, Art Sicilia, and Hank James
 (Photo from John Fulginiti negative collection)



Wingate Motel - 1958



Starlux Motel - 2008



Then!

Northeast Corner Rio Grande and Atlantic Avenues

Now!

We are always looking for new members to help preserve Wildwood's history. Now is the time to renew your membership. If you have done so already, we thank you. Because of rising costs of maintenance and utilities, donations are welcome, too! Membership dues help to cover the cost of mailing, notices, newsletters and notification of special events.

MEMBERSHIP

Wildwood Historical Society, Inc.
 George F. Boyer Museum
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Curator's Corner

by Bob Scully

Winter has come and gone, and we continue to catalog the many artifacts that are presented to us. Our volunteer, **Inge Friesenborg**, has cataloged dozens of items from the **J. Elwood and Marie Chester Estate** and the **Curtis Miller** collection. She has also given us a wealth of photos from her family files documenting the early fishing industry that the Wildwoods enjoyed during the 30s and 40s.

We are finding great photos from the **John Fulginiti Negatives Collection**. Among them are **Holidays Restaurant** on the Boardwalk; **7 Seas Café** taken in the late 40s or early 50s, **Johnson's Restaurant** at Taylor and Pacific in the 1940s, **Murphy's 5 & 10** taken in March, 1951, and the **Woolworth Building** under construction in 1953. For **Wildwood Catholic** we received a 1974 class ring from **Maureen Dole** and a Wildwood Catholic jacket from **Joanne Vinci**. **Harold Jansen** gave us a button commemorating the opening of the **George Redding Bridge** in 1950. **Jerry MacDonald** continues to generously share with us his old trolley photos. One is a parade of trolleys on Old New Jersey Avenue and the other is trolley #36 parked on Spruce Avenue at Moore's Inlet. For the trolley enthusiast these can be seen in our *Five Mile Beach Electric Railway* book. From the **Karavangelas Family**, we have a photo of the opening of the **Apollo Restaurant** at Andrews and New Jersey Avenues in 1971. **Wilhemina Pohl** gave us photos of **Mr. and Mrs. Spatz of Spatz Pharmacy**. Inge was also able to unearth items such as a 1977 **Wheaton Agency** calendar, a **Lea & Nuss** calendar, a **Clarke Motors** wall thermometer and the list goes on and on. You must come in to see us and you, too, will be amazed at what we have.

..... until next time

Visit our gift shop for some great buys!

Items available at the Wildwood Historical Society, Inc. 3907 Pacific Avenue. Proceeds benefit the Museum - Also available by mail - Call for shipping and handling charges Call (609) 523-0277

The *Wildwood -by-the-Sea* Book is an indexed book of the history of the Wildwoods. It has been reduced to \$20 and this is the last printing. We are told these same books are available on E-bay for \$65 and up.

The Wildwood Days video is now available for \$20. It was done by Travisty Productions and welcomes you to the world of the 50s and 60s. This is the same video featured on PBS.

Also available are books, VHS tapes and videos dealing with the history of the Wildwoods. Come in and browse around. You might find something for yourself or a gift for the "hard to buy for" person in your life.



HOURS

Closed all National Holidays and Sundays

SUMMER HOURS

Monday thru Saturday, 9:00 - 2:00 PM

WINTER HOURS

Thursday thru Saturday, 9:00 - 2:00 PM

2008 Executive Board

President	Anna M. Vinci
Vice President	Phyllis Bethel
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Treasurer	Mary Ellen Shields
Secretary	Larry Lillo
Curator	Robert J. Scully
Alexander Brannen	Anthony Canzano
Scott Jett	Chris Mento

Anna M. Vinci, Editor

Historian/Manager - Robert Bright
Harold Sherwood, Emeritus

Special Thanks!

Very recently, Kathy Boyer-Maher, daughter of our founder, George F. Boyer, visited the museum with her family. They donated a collection of books and bound manuscripts belonging to her late father. The manuscripts included his publication *Wildwood Middle of the Island* along with others he never got around to having published. We are

very grateful to the Boyer-Maher family for entrusting these documents to us. The Mahers reside in McLean, Virginia. Pictured below are Bob Bright, WHS Manager, grandson of George Boyer, Matt Maher and wife Arista, Jim and Kathy Boyer-Maher and Mrs. Maher's aunt, Alice Harrison.



The above photo was taken in September, 1945, from the Murphy building at Wildwood and Pacific Avenues. The Marine Bank building is still standing, but is now the Crest Savings Bank. The buildings on the right-hand side were razed during the late 1960s urban renewal project. The photo was part of a box of negatives belonging to John Fulginiti and given to the museum years ago. The negative was restored by Thomas S. Kinnemand, Jr. This was one of our favorites and is hanging in the museum lobby.

Planes, Trains and Automobiles Bring Thousands of Tourists

This article is reprinted in part from *The Wildwood Leader* published on March 4, 1998, and authored by Barbara St. Clair.

In 1925, engineers dredged Sunset lake on the bay side of Wildwood Crest and used the spoils to fill in Turtle Gut, thus joining Two Mile Beach to the rest of the island. Trains were soon running to the tip of the island, despite the protestations of many Crest residents. Even after several great summers when many businesses set records—including a Labor Weekend in 1927, when receipts topped a million dollars—the Reading and Pennsylvania Railroads started to talk about consolidation to eliminate duplication of services. It took years to reach an agreement, but in 1932, the Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore Line was serving the county.

By 1924, a new bridge across Grassy Sound that connected the northern end of the island with Ocean Drive improved driving conditions and infringed on the railroad's appeal with vacationers. In 1928, on a July weekend, 14,000 people

people arrived by train, but according to newspaper accounts, 25,000 cars brought another 100,000 visitors.

Convenient bus service with coaches leaving Philadelphia every 20 minutes was additional competition for the struggling railroad. Airline service at the county airport and talk of a ferry across

By 1955, the new superhighway, the Garden State Parkway, brought thousands of cars to Wildwood causing parking problems and massive traffic jams. Every weekend would see bumper-to-bumper traffic on the North Wildwood Boulevard pictured here. (Tom Kinnemand Photo)



Great News!

The Wildwood Historical Society has been the recipient of grant money in the amount of \$3100. The money has been earmarked for a badly-needed computer, large format printer and other peripherals to network the equipment.

The grant money was made possible through the Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders. The award was administered by the Cape May County Division of Culture and Heritage.

President Anne Vinci accepted the grant award at the June meeting of the Cape May County Freeholders along with 31 other recipients throughout the county.

ware Bay only added to the railroad's dismal future.

In 1958 only two trains a day ran from Camden to Wildwood, a far cry from around 1924 when the Reading Railroad had opened the Camden terminal to facilitate seashore service and connect the railroad with the Delaware River ferry.

In early 1973 all passenger service to Wildwood was terminated, but because the country was in the midst of a gas shortage, service was restored on a reduced basis. Three years later all train service in the county ended.