

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.

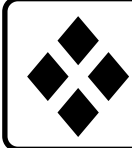
Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____

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.

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

AV-05



Wildwood Historical Society, Inc.



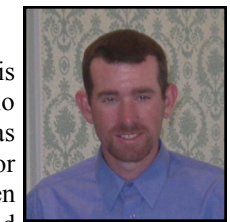
The Boyer Museum

Issue #15

The Wildwoods By-The-Sea, New Jersey

Summer 2005

..... a message from the President



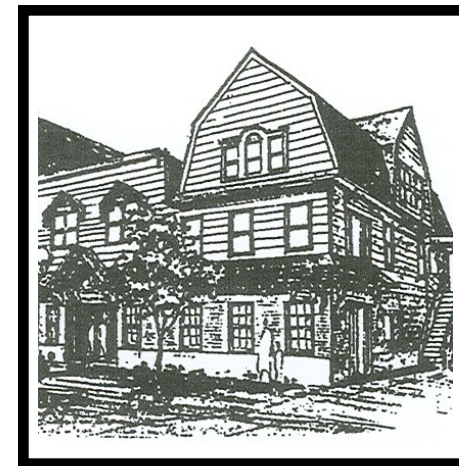
Hello! My name is Anthony Canzano and I am serving as Board President for 2005. I have been visiting Wildwood most of my life and as early as twelve years of age I recognized the interesting history of the island.

In 1996, I became a local resident and also involved with the museum. I began volunteering by sorting through endless boxes of loose photos and 35mm slides. Four years later we gained new albums and updated existing albums by adding many new photos. Some of the albums I worked on were Hunt's Pier, Hunt's Theaters, and boardwalk amusements. Admittedly, the history of the boardwalk is my main interest.

During my tenure, I have helped convert the gift shop room into the Boardwalk Room by adding photos from the 35mm slides, three ride models that I have constructed, and many artifacts have been added, such as signs from Hunt's Pier to the brake handle from the Jack Rabbit Roller Coaster.

On behalf of my fellow Board Members, I would like to thank you for supporting the Wildwood Historical Society. We continue to receive photos, artifacts and information everyday to add to our collection. As we see the island changing from boarding homes and motels into condos and townhouses, we realize how important it is to have a museum like ours to preserve our past.

It is sad to see our island change so quickly, and so many people appear to be against the change. However, I see this as history repeating itself. Old hotels and rooming houses gave way to motels and hotels during the 1950's. Now, those buildings are giving way to condos and new hotels once more. The museum has two very large, and growing albums full of demolished buildings. When you feel you cannot remember what building stood on a particular lot,



Preserving the history and memories of the Wildwoods . . .

The Wildwood Historical Society, Inc.

or can't recall the name of a particular motel or hotel, feel free to come in and enjoy a piece of history.

It is an exciting time for the Wildwood Historical Society. We have begun talks about expanding the museum into the adjacent parking lot to gain more room for our ever growing collection. We are also working on developing new open houses and programs focused on youth and getting kids interested in the history of our island. We are also moving the National Marbles Hall of Fame to the Greater Wildwood Chamber of Commerce building on Pacific Avenue. This move will free up a tremendous amount of wall space and make the marbles history, artifacts and information more accessible to those interested.

Finally I would like to share with everyone our mission statement. "It is the mission of the Wildwood Historical Society, Inc. to gather, preserve and present the history of 'The Wildwoods' to the public in an interesting and informative manner."

Anthony Canzano
Board President

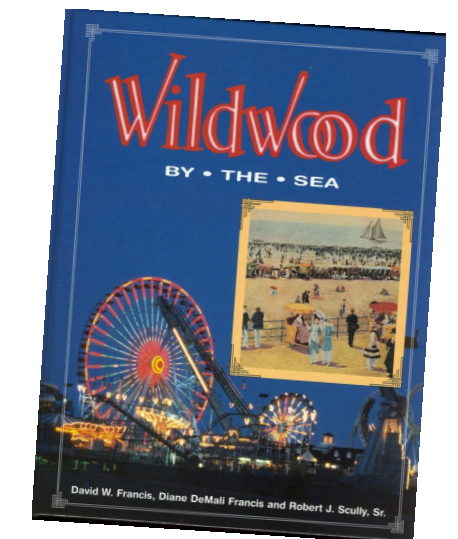
Plan Ahead! Great Gift Ideas

The Video - "Wildwood, The History of An American Seashore Resort" is available for sale in both VHS and DVD. The film is a 60 minute visual voyage through the history of our island from the settlement in the late 1800's through the present. The film also includes rare video footage and photos of the island.

The Book - "Wildwood By-The-Sea" Get this historical pictorial of the boardwalk now because it will not be re-printed.

The Other Book - "The Wildwoods in Vintage Post Cards" The beach, boardwalk, buildings, harbors, streets, with full description of each pictorial.

Available at the
Wildwood Historical Society
3907 Pacific Avenue.
Proceeds benefit the Museum



Sightseer Toy Tram Car is now available at the Museum!

July, 1960



July, 2005



Then!

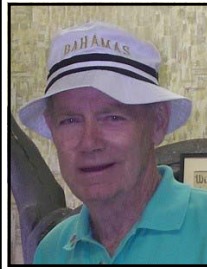
230 East Rio Grande Avenue, Wildwood, New Jersey

Now!

The Wildwood Historical Society, Inc.

The Boyer Museum
3907 Pacific Avenue
Wildwood, New Jersey 08260

Support Your Museum!



Curator's Corner, 2005

Bob Scully, Curator

This year the Historical Society was very busy with over 6000 visitors to the Museum. The National exposure, which we received from the PBS television show, **Wildwood and the Boardwalk**, must have helped. Caroline Travis, researched and videoed most of the show locally and at the museum. We have received calls from California, Chicago, New Orleans, Florida, New England and many from Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York. This positive publicity, made possible by Travisty Productions, could not have come at a better time for the community. Thanks, Caroline!

Our picture books, documenting the demolition of the buildings on the island are almost up to date. The buildings are coming down faster than we can photograph them. Several directors and Mr. Bright sometimes take duplicate pictures, and the best one goes into the books. We have bought special books to keep up with the number of buildings demolished.

We are currently working with the chamber of Commerce to move the Marbles Hall of Fame to their building. We have limited space, and they will be able to display the objects properly. Presently we are in the process of an inventory of the items and plaques to transfer over to them.

Our book, **Wildwood By-The-Sea**, has been reprinted and is available from the gift shoppe. We have been busy mailing them to all parts of the country. Order your copy now!

OUR VISION - A new fireproof building. Wildwood Architect, Kevin Young AIA, has donated preliminary drawings for a 3300 square foot building **addition** to the museum. The addition would be located over the parking lot next to our building, on the south side. If feasible, the additional space would allow us to safely and adequately display our precious antique artifacts in a fireproof and waterproof building. Most items, pictures and records, would be transferred to the new area, and the existing space would be better utilized for documentation, preparation and conservation. **ALL DONATIONS GLADLY ACCEPTED! (501-C3)**

.....until next time

"Pound Fishing" 1850 -1960

by Anne Vinci

What's a pound boat? Unless you're part of what is now a legendary, historic piece of sea life that is gone with the wind and the tides of time, you may not have a clue.

Pound fishing flourished in the South Jersey area from about 1930 to 1960. The first pound net was introduced to Raritan Bay and other New Jersey sites in the mid 1850's by George Snediker, a fisherman from Gravesend Bay. It was private enterprise conducted by individuals, men, who sought to extend the catch of fish beyond that of the area's commercial fishing fleets. Their aim—to obtain huge catches of fish by a "trap" laid far out at sea. A pound net could trap up to one thousand bushels of fish a day. (*Expansion of the Fisheries: 1855-1910*)

The pound boat was about 40 feet long, with just a number for a name. It was somewhat reminiscent of a canal boat, but divided down its length into lidless bins, open to receive fish. *Cape May Star & Wave*, May 1, 1997

The early pound nets were netting

knitted by local fishermen and women during the winter, but this method became too slow after the turn of the century, when fishermen installed motors in their boats and were able to install more pound nets. The first engines made for boats had only one cylinder and four horsepower. Thereafter, most nets came from a New York company that made them by machine.

Around 1900 a net cost five hundred to six hundred dollars, and the remaining items—the poles, ropes and stones—brought the cost to about \$1,000, not including the boat (*Red Bank Register*, 23 March 1898).

Each pound net had 70 hickory or oak poles, each of which was 30 to 40 feet long. When fisherman were ready to install their pound nets, they slid the poles into the water, tied them in bundles, and towed them to the site. It took three or four days to install a single



pound net; two or three days to set in the poles and a day to tie on the sections of net. In the late 1800s, most crews had only one pound net; some had two. As boats became motorized, each crew increased its number of pound nets to two or three.

If you would like to learn more about this lost industry, visit the museum and see a collection of photographs depicting pound boats berthed at Ottens Harbor.

The Wildwood Historical Society was fortunate to have this collection donated by the late Charles Henry James in 1999, in loving memory of his father, Captain Jonathan James, a pound fisherman.



The marquee says it all: **"Thanks for the Memories!"** The Rio Motel built during the 50's is coming down. Visit the museum and browse through our "demolition" books for buildings that are only a memory.

SPECIAL NOTE: "Buddy," is doing well, and continues to be our **Official Greeter**.

MEMBERSHIP

We are always looking for new members to help preserve Wildwood's history. Now is the time to renew your membership for 2005. 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.

You were kind enough to make copies of two pix for my sister, Dottie, and I of our parents, Raymond and Jessie Gibbs. The pix are great, thank you! We both appreciate the time and effort you took to make these for us. I truly enjoy coming to the museum when we are in town. It is wonderful to be able to revisit the past through the pix that are in your many albums. Thanks again for the pix. Pati (Gibbs) McBride



What's happening at the Museum!

by Anne Vinci

An ambitious year is already under way for the Wildwood Historical Society. Our Film Preservation Project, under the direction of one of our Board Members, Chris Mento, is finally up and running.

Some time ago the museum received a number of slides and movie reels of footage promoting the Wildwoods. Some of these reels date back to 1927. Because of their age, we are having them transferred to a more stable media such as DVD. We estimate this project to cost in the area of \$3000. We are in the

process of soliciting donations and grants to finance this project.

The North Wildwood Flea Market Committee, formerly headed by Christina Tagliatalata, has generously donated \$500 towards this project. This undertaking falls within the realm of one of the current objectives of the organization which is "enhancing the preservation capabilities of the Society via technology."

In addition, the museum is home to a new copy machine thanks to funding made possible by the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division in the Department of State, through a grant administered by the Cape May County Division of Culture and Heritage. The

Access us on the **WORLD WIDE WEB** at [Http://www.the-wildwoods.com](http://www.the-wildwoods.com)
Click on "Things To Do"
Then click on "Museum" to find the Wildwood Historical Society Boyer Museum
To see "A Brief History of the Wildwoods," click "History"

HOURS

Closed all National Holidays
SUMMER HOURS
Monday thru Saturday, 9:30 - 2:30
WINTER HOURS
Thursday thru Saturday, 9:30 - 2:30
Closed Sundays

2005 OFFICERS

President	Anthony Canzano
Vice President	Phyllis Bethel
Vice President	Doug Ford
Treasurer	Pat Nagel
Secretary	Larry Lillo

Board of Trustees

Eveyln Bailie	Chris Mento
Alexander Brannen	Harold Sherwood
James Farry	Anna M. Vinci

Curator - Robert J. Scully
Robert Bright, Sr., Emeritus

grant was initiated last year by former board member, Thomas Flud. Final papers were recently submitted, and the badly needed piece of equipment was purchased.

We are also participating in a County wide program of monthly museum meetings. In an effort to promote the museums of Cape May County, the Cape May County Division of Culture and Heritage is sponsoring the raffle of a Bose Wave Radio valued at \$349. No purchase is necessary. Visit any participating museum, fill out a coupon and be eligible on November 15, 2005 for this prize.

The Wildwood Historical Society is going one step further. We are offering a very nice gift basket valued at over \$90 for the one drawing at our museum. The winner of that drawing wins our basket and then moves to the County drawing for the Bose radio.

Before signing off, I would like to extend a welcome to our new staff member, Lucy Roberts. Lucy alternates with our office manager, Bob Bright, Jr. They both do a very fine job. **Welcome,**