

**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.**  
 George F. Boyer Museum  
 3907 Pacific Avenue  
 Wildwood, NJ 08260

AV-07-2

Wildwood Historical Society, Inc.

**The George F. Boyer Museum**

Issue #20

The Wildwoods By-The-Sea, New Jersey

Fall 2007

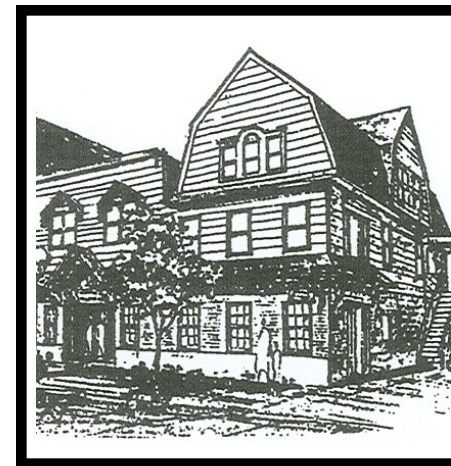
*... a message from  
 the President*



After a very busy summer here at the museum, we're ready to slide back into our winter mode. Our film project that transferred the old film to DVDs was completed. In addition, there was money left over to purchase a new scanner with a large format and transparency capabilities. All this was through grant money provided by the Cape May County Freeholders and the Division of Culture and Heritage. Thank you again, gentlemen, for recognizing our little museum!

The more time I spend here, the more I realize there are a lot of people that recognize our museum. Just recently a gentleman came in and initially he was inquiring about a property on East Roberts Avenue where he spent 18 summers of his life. He went on to tell us how those summers shaped his life pursuits. He was devastated that a lot of the landmarks had been torn down, and in particular the movie theaters. He mentioned a number of films that he saw at the Blaker, the Casino, the Strand, and we both reminisced about seeing *South Pacific* at the Regent theater in 1959.

Our manager, Bob Bright, quickly did some research and when the man left, we had printed photos of the house where he vacationed, and photos of the now defunct Blaker and Casino theaters. He was so thrilled, he gave me a hug and told us this visit was the highlight of his trip. Incidentally, the young man of the 50s went on to get his doctorate and is a Professor of American Film at the University of Southern California. **That's** what makes our work here worthwhile!



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

**The  
 Wildwood Historical  
 Society, Inc.**



The Executive Board,  
 "Buddy, and the Staff" of  
 the Wildwood Historical So-  
 ciety wishes you the  
 compliments of the season  
 and thanks you for your in-  
 terest in our museum and  
 your

Anna M. Vinci  
 President and Editor



**FOP  
 Officers -  
 1975**

*Front row:  
 Bill Mitchell,  
 "Boots"  
 Langford,  
 Al Aragon  
 Back Row:  
 Bill Fisher,  
 Sr. Bill  
 Raniszewski,  
 Dom Romeo,  
 Al Barth,  
 Lou  
 Raniszewski*



*Empol's Restaurant - 1957*

*Juan Pablo's Margarita Bar - 2007*

**Then!**

*Southeast Corner Garfield and Pacific 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**

**The Wildwood Historical Society, Inc.**  
 George F. Boyer Museum  
 3907 Pacific Avenue  
 Wildwood, New Jersey 08260



## Curator's Corner

by Bob Scully

It's always busy when it comes to acquiring documents and artifacts for the museum. In the last few months, we have had a number of "gift-bearing" visitors, both local and out of town, and we have even had things mailed in to us. Very recently **Dianejud Mc Dowell** of Philadelphia mailed us a 1960s Greater Wildwood Hotel-Motel Accommodations Directory. The **Thurman/Sprague** Families brought in a photo of a NJ Bell Telephone strike in the 40s and a photo looking north on Pacific Avenue from Bonelli's Market taken in the 30s. It was called the "Pioneer Market" back then. **Clifford and Shirley Patrick** gave us a Five Mile Beach Building and Loan Association's 1939 annual report and a copy of their 1925 Constitution. These can be found in our Building and Loan File. **Pat Mullen Carty** dropped off a very old photo of the Riptide Nightclub on Oak Avenue; looks like it was taken in the late 40s or 50s. **John Ricci** brought in a lot of photos and artifacts surrounding Joe Stamile who passed away in the 80s. Joe was once the director of Public Relations for Wildwood. We have developed a very large Stamile Family file, plus there was a number of photos of Joe taken with various entertainers and they can be found in our "Entertainers" book. **The Lodge Condo Association** of North Wildwood gave us photos of the Lodge Restaurant and Motel taken in the 70s. **Tom Kinnemand** gave us photos of the Lodge being constructed. Look for them in our "Motel" book. A really great gift was the Margaret Mace *Beacons* from 1949, 1954 and 1958 from **Tom Flud**. We have so very much - come in and take a look!

.....until next time

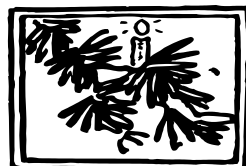


Items available at the Wildwood Historical Society, Inc.  
3907 Pacific Avenue.  
Proceeds benefit the Museum  
- Also available by mail -  
Call for shipping and handling charges  
Call (609) 523-0277

**Documentary on Wildwood** - *Wildwood Days*. This much awaited video was done by Travisty Productions and welcomes you to the world of the 50s and 60s. It was featured on PBS and the DVD is available at the museum for \$30.  
**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. Cost: VHS, \$27 - DVD, \$29.

**The Other Video** - *Boardwalk* as seen on Comcast, PBS and the 2003 Cape May Film Festival. Produced by Longshore Films in 2003. Cost: VHS, \$25 - DVD, \$30.

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



## 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

### 2007 Executive Board

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| President          | Anna M. Vinci    |
| Vice President     | Phyllis Bethel   |
| Vice President     | Doug Ford        |
| Treasurer          | Patricia Nagel   |
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| Alexander Brannen  | Anthony Canzano  |
| Scott Jett         | Chris Mento      |
| Mary Ellen Shields |                  |

Historian/Manager - Robert Bright  
Harold Sherwood, Emeritus

## When Wild Cattle Roamed in Wildwood

The following excerpt was taken from a book written by a former mayor of Wildwood, Thomas Martindale in 1905.

"A score of years ago Five-mile Beach on the New Jersey Coast, now divided up into the boroughs of Holly Beach and Anglesea, forming the ends of the island, with the borough of Wildwood in the center, was almost an impassable jungle. A road had been laboriously cut lengthwise through the center of the island, by means of which land communication was kept up between the two inlets, Hereford Inlet and Two-mile Inlet, now Anglesea and Holly Beach.

Tradition says that the influential family of Cresse and others, then prosperous farmers on the mainland, transported a herd of cattle over to the island upon flat boats, there to riot and fatten upon the rich sustenance which nature had wantonly provided for the wants of wild animal life as well as for the migratory wild fowls, which found a sanctuary upon the delectable stretch of brilliant green.

In process of time, the cattle became shy and secreted themselves from human ken as much as possible; likewise they multiplied amazingly, and in but a brief few years they became wild. So wild and fierce did they become that it was not deemed safe for a man to traverse the road through this land unless he were armed with a trusty rifle and with plenty of cartridges."

Read more about "the great black bull" in Mr. Martindale's book "Wildwood Ways and Down East Wilds."



Tom Kinnemand Photo

## Nagel And Scully Honored At Reception

A special reception was held at the museum in October by fellow Board Members to honor Pat Nagel and Bob Scully for their dedication and work at the Wildwood Historical Society. Both have served for over 15 years.

Pictured here are Patricia Nagel, Treasurer, Al Brannen, Past President and current Board Member, and Robert Scully, Curator. Relatives and friends were invited to attend.

## Recollections Of Holly Beach And Wildwood

by Bessie Bristol Mason

The following are excerpts from Ms. Mason's recollections given to us by her family. From her account, it seems Ms. Mason's family suffered various misfortunes including sickness and death the year of 1882, and she is recounting her experiences thereafter surrounding Holly Beach and Wildwood.

"These various misfortunes threw my mother into the greatest despondency, and the idea began to take shape in her mind of some change that might occupy her more pleasantly. Instead of a trip, she conceived the idea of a cottage at the seashore. She had heard of a place that had just been started, having progressed only as far as having the streets laid out, called Holly Beach. It was said to possess not only a wonderful bathing beach, but the unusual attraction of beautiful trees. She was well acquainted with both Dr. Andrews and Mr. John Burk of the Holly Beach Company, so the business was soon transacted, and the house begun. I think this was the summer of 1883, tho' I may have miscalculated a year. She chose to build among the trees, instead of near the beach thinking it was more beautiful and much safer. Time proved her judgment to be wise indeed, for those first large and substantial houses were carried out to sea by the high tides. Our house was the fourth one built in the resort and was situated on Taylor Avenue, the last lots on the south side. Soon after we bought the lots back

of us which gave us the ownership through to Rio Grande Avenue. The first house built in Holly Beach was one hastily put up by the company, I think, very near the beach on Rio Grande Avenue. It was a boarding house run by a Mrs. DuBois, and here we used to stay on our occasional trips until our own domicile was ready for occupancy. We used to come by boat to Anglesea, but I cannot remember at just what point we left the train. The material for houses was also transported by small boat. I was never likely to forget that fact, because the bricks used in our chimney had absorbed the salt spray and exuded moisture forever after. About six months afterward, a "corduroy road" was built extending from Rio Grande to Holly Beach, the present Rio Grande Avenue. This was a great improvement over the boat trip, but I cannot say that it made comfortable riding. In fact, I usually arrived in a condition of sea-sickness. Also it was built so low that the tide partly submerged it, so that the horse paddled through water much of the way.

We drew our drinking water from a well about half a block away and the other few first residents came there also. This well was a popular, if not a romantic meeting place. It was my task to take a small pail and go to the well and bring it back full of the yellowish, brackish water, which, unattractive as it looked, was

by no means bad tasting. But this inconvenience did not last long. I think only that first summer.

It was my misfortune to witness what I think was the highest tide that ever occurred there at least in my day. It was about 1885. How can I describe the scene? Houses drifting out to sea, the quiet creeping up of the water, which reached almost to our own house, the indescribable filth, small boats going hither and thither, the horror of uncertainty that it might submerge the whole island. My mother and myself were comparatively free from anxiety, for was not our home situated on the highest point of the town? I know now that my mother feigned a serenity that she did not feel so that I should not be alarmed.

By 1892, I was a grown up young lady, and I brought many friends down each summer, sometimes five or six at a time, but also I began to have responsibilities, and it became increasingly difficult to spare the time. In 1896, I was hotel pianist at the "Oxford" in Avon by the Sea so I missed that year, and from that time on, I began to lose interest and my mother did not like to go there alone, so it seemed best to sell. But it has still remained the happiest of my recollections for it was the playground of my youth."

If you would like to read Ms. Mason's recollections in it's entirety, stop in to see us.