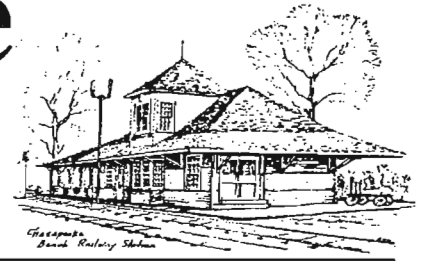


# The Chesapeake Dispatcher



Semi-Annual Newsletter of the Friends of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, Inc.  
Museum Telephone (410)257-3892

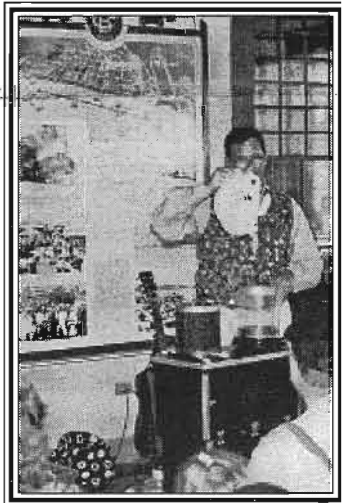
Vol. 23 Issue 1 Number 43

May 2004

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Family Fun Day – May 16

The Museum's Spring Family Fun Day is scheduled for Sunday, May 16th from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The day will begin with a show by the Diane Herbert All-Star Dancers, who will perform a variety of dance styles by a range of ages. Pat Nutter, who never ceases to amaze kids of all ages with his magic act, will be back by popular demand. New to the Family Fun Days is Clown Ming Diaz, regionally famous for his elaborate face painting and balloon animals.

The event includes children's crafts such as making old-fashioned pinwheels, and train signal and carousel magnets. There will also be a table for fossil hunting and an opportunity to play early 20th century games. Families can have their picture taken in early 20th century dress by substituting their faces in a painting of a family arriving at the Chesapeake Beach resort in the early 1900's. They can also participate in a Treasure Hunt inside the Museum.



Pat Nutter, First Family Fun Day.

## Museum Celebrates 25 Years!

Think back 25 years....in 1979, Kramer vs. Kramer was at the movie theater (nobody owned a DVD player), Sophie's Choice was a best selling book (there was no public library in the Twin Beaches), and Gloria Gaynor was belting out I Will Survive on the radio. 1979 was also the year the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum began! Gerald and Fred Donovan, the proud new owners of the Rod 'N' Reel Restaurant, wanted to ensure the memory of the Chesapeake Beach Railway would always survive. Through cooperative efforts between the Rod 'N' Reel, the state, the county, the town, and the Calvert County Historical Society, the Museum was born. The proud "parents"

of the Museum, MILDRED FINLON and BERNARD LOVELESS, became the co-presidents and they have held those positions for the past 25 years. They are both ready to retire in their official capacities as co-presidents, but they will continue as ex-officio members of the Friend's Board of Directors for life.

Mildred and Bernie have always been satisfied with staying in the background, never wanting much attention for their hard work and efforts on behalf of the Museum. But their labor of love cannot go unheralded as we celebrate 25 years of fruitful existence. If it weren't for them, we wouldn't be here. They have been great parents. We intend to celebrate them as much as we celebrate the museum's birthday!

Please plan to join in the fun! This gathering will also serve as the first Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum.

*Date: Tuesday, June 22, 2004*

*Place: Rod 'N' Reel Restaurant*

*Time: Cash Bar at 6:30 p.m. - Buffet at 7:00 p.m.*

*Cost: \$25.00 per person*

*R.S.V.P. by June 12 to Janet Bates, P.O. Box 775  
North Beach, MD 20714*

*Questions? Call Janet at 301-855-8915*



Bernard Loveless and Mildred Finlon with the Museum Committee, Staff, and Friends at the Courthouse in Prince Frederick, summer 2003.

## Acquisitions 2004

Our collections grow each year with the donations of interesting items from friends and supporters. These items add to the story that we have to tell about the good old days in Chesapeake Beach at the resort and riding the Railway. Thank you to all who have contributed to this fascinating story.

John Manley - Digital Copy of a 1913 CBR Pass issued to Mr. Henry V. Massey.

Tim Moriarty - Photocopy of magazine article: Railroad Magazine, March 1943, "A Three-mile Switching Road." (East Washington Railway).

Phyllis Campbell - Color postcard: "Up-to-Date Features of Travel", c. 1913.

Frederick G. Long, Jr. - Western Electric Capacitor: Said to be from the CBR Switch Tower in CB, collected by F. G. Long, Sr., about 1935.

Bayard S. Cutcliffe - Book: The Visible Hand: The Managerial Revolution in American Business, by Alfred Chandler, Jr., 1977; Archival collections: photocopies of historical documents.

Laura Burroughs - Items found in the House lived in by the Marlboro Station Master: Brown scarf, newspaper pages with comics and crossword puzzles, unused CBR envelope.

Purchase - Black and white postcard: "Chesapeake Beach, Md.", postmarked Aug 5, 1907.

Purchase - Black and white postcard: "Stebbins Avenue, Chesapeake Beach, Md.", postmarked July 14, 1908.

James Tigner, Jr. - Digital Copy of black and white postcard (front and back), "Carnival Scene at Chesapeake Beach, Md."

Laurence Hampton - Archival collections of assorted railroading history articles.

Mildred Finlon - "Map of Calvert County Showing the Geological Formations", 1903.

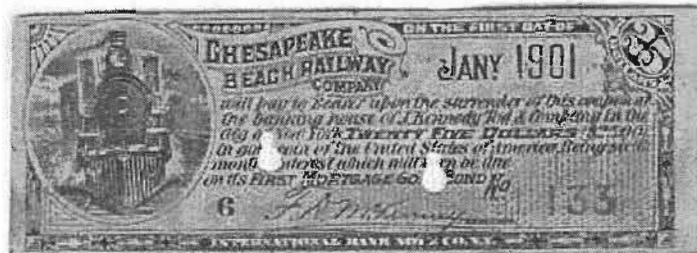
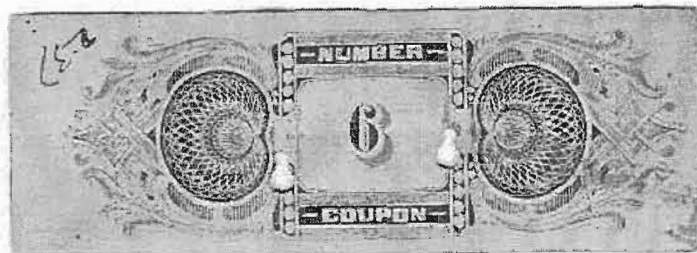
Joan Kilmon - Photographic collection: From The Estate of Alice and Charles "Dutch" Ritter.

### The Chesapeake Dispatcher

The Semi-Annual Newsletter of the Friends of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum

Contributors: Bernie Loveless, Harriet Stout, Joan Kilmon, Mildred Finlon, Betty MacDonald, Mary Ellen Curran & John Riedesel  
Typesetting - Beach Designs • Printing - Bayside Printing  
Mailing - Bernie Loveless, Janet Bates, Nancy Young, and Betty & Chuck MacDonald

Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum  
P.O. Box 1227 • Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732  
(410) 257-3892



Rare Chesapeake Beach Railway bond coupon, donated by George Effinger in 2003. (Given to him in the 1950's.)

## Volunteer Workshop

Our annual Volunteer Training Workshop was held this year on March 13. We had a very pleasant day with about 20 people attending. Several new faces joined the crowd of seasoned volunteers. We concentrated this year on volunteer responsibilities, and looked at new challenges that we may be facing in the coming season. A pleasant lunch at the Rod 'N' Reel followed the morning information session. After lunch we then took a tour of the new hotel, our new next-door neighbor. The volunteers were impressed by the lovely facilities that will probably bring many additional visitors through our doors in the years to come.

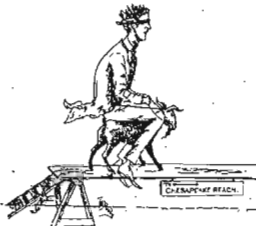
If you did not make it to the workshop, but would still like to volunteer at the museum, please contact Harriet Stout at the Museum (410-257-3892), or Betty Quigley, our volunteer coordinator, at 301-855-2768.

### ALL ABOARD!

The Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum is seeking volunteers to help with the on-going activities of the Museum. Volunteers have the opportunity to make new friends and to meet people from all over the world, share their community history with others, and help with the important and interesting work of the Museum in many ways. **New volunteers are always welcome!**



For more information about becoming a volunteer at the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, please call 410-257-3892 weekdays between 9:00 AM. and 4:30 PM. Join us now!!! We need you!!!



Federal City Lodge No. 20,  
... and ...  
Dorcas Rebekah Lodge, No. 4,  
I. O. O. F.,  
Will give their Annual Excursion to  
CHESAPEAKE BEACH  
ON  
Friday, June 29, 1900.

Chesapeake Beach is a delightful place to spend the day, and in addition to fine salt-water bathing, fishing, and crabbing, it has all the popular amusements of a first-class summer resort, including a board-walk one mile long, dancing hall, lunch pavilion, theatre, merry-go-rounds, scenic railway, swings, etc.

We hope that you will take an active interest in this excursion, and by your presence and efforts help to make it a grand success.

There will be an evening train, thus enabling you to spend a few hours of moonlight on the board-walk.

Trains will leave Chesapeake Junction at 9.00 and 10 a. m. and 1.00, 2.00, 3.00, 4.00, 5.00, 6.00 and 7.00 p. m., returning on the half-hour until 11.00 p. m.

Tickets, adults, 60 cents; children under 12 years, 25 cents.

COMMITTEE.

Early description of what the resort of Chesapeake Beach had to offer. Old letter found by John J. O'Conner.

With the summer season upon us once again, we remember past summers at the Beach.

Here is a wonderful description of the Resort in 1900 and an advertisement for the Fishing Fair in 1940.

A matchbook cover advertising the Fishing Fair in 1941.



## Bay Breeze Summer Concert Series

Our Concert Coordinator, Betty MacDonald, has arranged entertaining and varied groups for the 2004 Bay Breeze Summer Concerts. All concerts are on the **second Thursday** of the month. Concerts are outdoors on the Museum porch starting at **7:30 p.m.** and are free to the public.

On Thursday, June 10th, the concerts kick off with an encore performance featuring The Back Pages Band from Baltimore. They will provide classic pop and acoustic rock music from the golden ages of the rock 'n roll era. Henry Smith directs the group.

The Pure Luck Band, a local group, will be appearing for the first time on Thursday, July 8th. They present a variety of vocal and musical entertainment. The drummer, Steve Watson, directs the group.

The ever popular bluegrass band, the Dixie Ramblers, will return in their regular time spot, the 2nd Thursday of August. This year it is on August 12. This group is under the direction of Mike Phipps. They never fail to attract a large crowd of enthusiastic fans.

The series will conclude on Thursday, September 9th with the Calvert Brass Consortium directed by Dennis Vogel. They are sure to entertain with their wide repertoire of music...patriotic to jazz, sacred to rock, and show tunes to classical.

**June 10 – Back Pages Band**  
**July 8 – Pure Luck Band**  
**August 12 – Dixie Ramblers**  
**September 9 – Calvert Brass Consortium**

Concerts are made possible with the cooperation of the Calvert County Commissioners and financial assistance from The Arts Council of Calvert County, the Town of Chesapeake Beach and our generous membership. We are grateful to all for their strong support. Thanks also to the Rod 'N' Reel Restaurant for providing us with chairs and refreshments at intermissions. Plan to join us for an enjoyable summer evening of music.

## Archival Work Continues

Our visiting archivist, Phyllis Campbell, worked with our collections again this year during January and February. She was able to catch up on cataloging Small Collections. She also worked on indexing the records of Chesapeake Beach related items sold over Ebay during the past year. Her yearly visits help to make our archival resources available for research to staff and students alike. We appreciate the work that she does for us each year. Thank you, Phyllis.

## New Hotel – New Neighbor

The Chesapeake Beach Hotel & Spa next door to the Museum opened for hotel business March 26. The Spa will be opening in May. The hotel offers wonderful accommodations to its guests. There are 72 rooms in the hotel with 15 waterfront suites, including six luxury suites with balcony, fireplace, and whirlpool. All of the rooms have a great view of the Bay. Inside the hotel the visitor will see framed prints of many photos from the Museum collections. The friendly staff has been visiting the Museum over the past few months, getting acquainted with the history of the area. The hotel guests will be invited to join with our regulars at our concerts, children's programs, and other special events. The Museum is looking forward to a great partnership with the hotel.



*Front view of the new Chesapeake Beach Hotel & Spa. Photo by Bernard Loveless.*

## Museum Participates in Teacher Training Partnership

Museum Curator Harriet Stout and Education Programs Director Mary Ellen Curran have been participating in a teacher in-service training partnership with Beach, Sunderland and Huntingtown Elementary Schools. Teacher representatives from each grade came to the Museum in March to learn about curriculum-related opportunities for field trips for next school year.

The teachers were given a tour of the Museum, as well as, examples of curriculum-based learning materials for children. They also had an opportunity to ask questions and make recommendations for future relationships with the schools. At the conclusion of each visit, they were excited about planning a field trip to the Museum and spreading the word to their colleagues at school.

## Calvert County Celebrates 350 Years

Calvert County is celebrating 350 years of history throughout 2004. Our story is not quite that old, but we have a part to play in telling the story of the last 100 plus years. Harriet Stout and Mary Ellen Curran represented the Museum in the kick-off event, the Grand Parade in Prince Frederick on April 17. Along with Harriet and Mary Ellen were the two four-legged Museum mascots, Miss Mariah and Belle. Kitch Eisenman with grandson, Steven Eisenman, Jr., also joined in the parade, driving her 1929 Ford Model A roadster. We have no specific activities planned to celebrate the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but the Fall Family Fun Day on October 3 will highlight our special place in the history of the County.

## Exhibit Updates

The Museum is working to update more of the exhibits and add new material to our displays. We continue to work to provide ultraviolet protection to our framed items, as well as, acid-free matting. One major exhibit which will be greatly improved over the next few months is the collection of photos of the CBR rolling stock. We hope to properly frame all photographs and improve the backboard on which the photos hang. We hope to give an old and valued exhibit a New Look soon. A grant from the state of Maryland will support the improvement of this exhibit.

We have also added a number of new items to the exhibits. The Bates family has contributed two very significant items. One of these is the marvelous Amusement Park sign that is hanging in the stationmaster's office room. The other is the gift of the original cartoon of the Boardwalk, the "Flashback", featured in the comic section of the Washington Post and other papers last summer. Janet Bates purchased the cartoon and paid for the framing with funds raised by the Charles Bates Memorial Golf Tournament held last fall. Thank you to Janet and the whole Bates family for enlivening the Museum with two new exhibit items.

## Conservation Of Artifacts Continues

The Museum is continuing the work of providing conservation treatments to many of the artifacts on display. Catherine Valentour is working as our conservator to clean items and provide for their long-term care. You may notice that many of our old pieces of equipment look just a bit more bright and shiny than in the past. They have been cleaned of loose dirt and rust and then covered with a wax coating to prevent further rust from forming on the surface. This care will help our collections material survive in good shape for many years to come.



*Marching in the Parade (left to right) Mary Ellen Curran, Harriet Stout, Belle, and Miss Mariah. In the background, Kitch Eisenman and grandson Steve in her 1929 Ford Roadster. Photo by August Selckman, courtesy of The Calvert Independent.*

## Our Web Site Grows

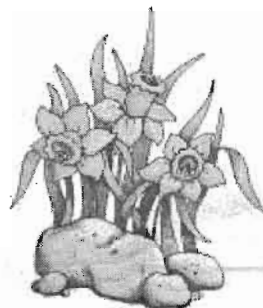
The Museum has been on-line for a little over a year. For most of this year the information of the site was only the basics, including such things as our hours of operation, a brief history, special events notices, membership information, and a few other items. We have had one or two special activities on the site as well, but we offered very little extra information.

We are working to provide our web site browser with more interesting content. We are currently adding extracts from some of the oral histories that we have collected over the years. Check out the interesting stories people have shared with us. We will also be adding photographs, some old and some new, for viewing. Historical articles from past newsletters will also be made available. These additions will offer more information to the casual browser, as well as, give information to the student researching a school project.

Keep an eye on the web page and see how it changes over the next few months. Share your ideas with us. Our address is [www.cbrm.org](http://www.cbrm.org). Log on for a visit!

## Children's Programs This Summer

The Museum will offer a series of fun children's programs again this summer. Along with learning a bit about the history of the area, children will be invited to enjoy stories, games, and songs from an earlier time. We will be offering "The Good Old Days Today", "Grandmother's Trunk", and "What is a Museum?" as we have in the past. The programs are on Thursday mornings from 10:00 to 11:15. They start on June 10 and run through August 12. Call the Museum for more details, or pick up the schedule of programs at the Museum or your local library. Come along with your favorite young person.



## The Garden Club Unlocks More Delights

The Chesapeake Beach Garden Club has great plans for beautifying our grounds during the coming year. Charlotte Allison continues to oversee the project for the Garden Club. She does most of the planning and purchasing of supplies for our site. During the next few months she and her gardening helpers will be putting in many hours to bring us several seasons of delightful blooms.

Watch for an especially interesting landscaping addition this summer. The Town of Chesapeake Beach is giving the Museum one of the old jailhouse doors from the old Town Hall. This was to be thrown away with the remodeling that is going on at Town Hall, but an alert Garden Club member notified Harriet Stout. The curator then asked if we might have the door to preserve a bit of interesting town history. The Garden Club will work to incorporate it into our landscaping, probably using it as a trellis for decorative vines. And so the old jail door has a happy resting place at last!

Thank you to all the Garden Club members who support us with their hard work. Thanks also to the Mayor, Gerald Donovan, and the Town Council for giving the Museum another interesting piece of town history.

## What Is Clinker?

One of the things that can be found along the route of the old Chesapeake Beach Railway is clinker. Occasionally someone finds a really large lump of the stuff. This spring we were given a large piece that was found along Fishing Creek during the winter. Our hikers on the annual right-of-way walk also picked up a few pieces.

Just what is clinker? Rather than trying to describe it in my words, I will quote from an article in Locomotive & Railway Preservation magazine (September-October 1996), "The Fireman's Balancing Act: Keeping a Steam Locomotive Hot."

...Clinker is composed of unburnable minerals in the coal that have been heated to the melting point. Depending on the coal, clinkers can be hard or soft. Soft clinker runs down through the grates, and hangs like stalactites in the ashpan. This is bad enough, restricting airflow through the grates, but is less of a problem than hard clinker. Hard clinker is a glasslike substance that forms in the firebed. This is a real problem, and it can form without warning and spread fast. Once the fireman spots the dark spot that means clinker, the solution is to break it up immediately by rocking the grates. If the clinker hardens, the grates may be immobilized, and the only cure is to reach for the "hook".

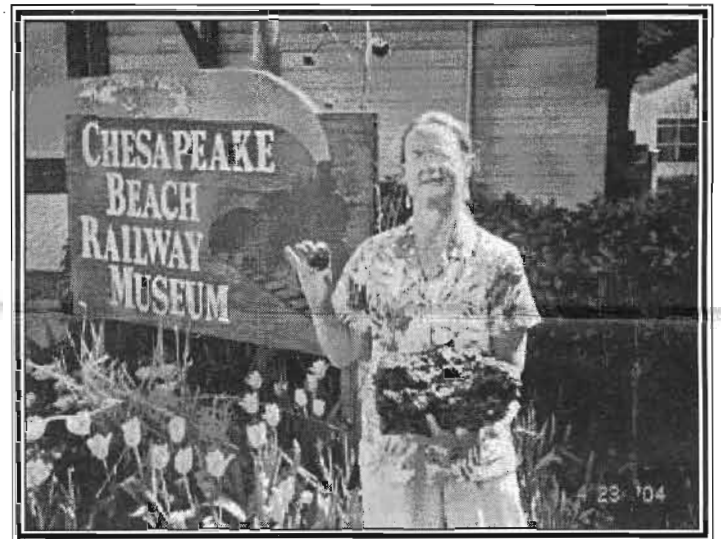
In yet another contradiction, the fireman has to adhere to the "light and bright" rule without letting the fire get hot enough to form clinker. The key to preventing clinkers is never to let the unburnable part of the coal get hot enough to fuse into clinker. For this reason, the ash and live coal layers of the firebed aren't supposed to mix. Thus skilled firemen generally avoid using the slice bar or clinker hook, so that they won't mix the two zones and cause clinker. But - in another contradiction - the only solution to a clinker, once it forms, is to rake it up and out through the fire door with the hook.

Obviously, finesse is called for as you use a 10-foot-long bar, which is so hot it's soft, in a six-foot-long cab, to manipulate a 1,000-degree clinker out of the fire and onto the floor of a rocking, lurching locomotive, without stirring up the ashes - and while watching the railroad out your side of the cab. Only rarely will a fireman get a tender full of coal that won't clinker, and some coal clinkers

badly. There may be two kinds of coal in the bunker, which means knowing how to fire both kinds, and how to handle the transition between the two; the mixture is effectively a third kind of fuel with its own characteristics.

The advice of one old manual is, "only enough coal should be added to the firebed to maintain the fire." The goal was just enough, but no more, without letting the fire get thin or go out in places....

It was quite a skilled operation to keep the fire in the firebox of an old locomotive going and keep the train running! Next time you walk the right-of-way and find a bit of what looks like an ugly lump of melted coal, think of the fireman doing his job so many years ago. Think of all the hard and hot work!



*The curator holding a very large and a small clinker.*

## IBM Clock Has A Visitor

An interesting visitor stopped by the Museum on November 4. Arthur Brunner told the curator that he had worked for IBM in the 1950's. During that time he serviced this area. He remembers taking care of the IBM clock when it was in the old Beach School. There is a note, which he wrote, lying inside the clock giving instruction on how to reset the clock. It was like watching old friends meet after a long time apart. Thanks, Arthur for taking care of the old clock!

Visitors will find the clock on exhibit in our main gallery.





*The 2004 Hikers. Photo by Bernard Loveless & John Riedesel.*

## Annual Right-Of-Way Hike

On Saturday morning, April 10, 23 persons gathered at the Railway Museum for the 2004 Hike along the Right-of-Way. The event had been re-scheduled from the previous Saturday because of rain. The weather on this date was truly perfect for a walk in the woods.

After a group picture and instructions by hike leader Bernie Loveless, the participants set out in several cars to explore three specific sites in the Upper Marlboro area. The first destination was the Marlboro station site, located on Old Crain Highway near School Lane and the Prince George's Board of Education offices. The station, abandoned in 1935, was unfortunately destroyed by fire in 1962, but its location is still clearly visible.

The group walked east across Crain Highway following the easily discernible right-of-way for about half a mile to Route 4. A region of cuts and fills takes the rail line across the hills and gullies. One remarkably high and long fill, prompts one to appreciate the determination of the railroad builders, given the primitive equipment used in 1899. One spike and lots of clinkers and cinders were found as we explored the old roadbed.

Two remaining points of exploration were accessed from Brown Station Road. The first was off Fenway Road, where a convenient park provided ample parking for vehicles. Eastward from this point the right-of-way was too encumbered with brush and trees for easy walking. Most of the group walked parallel to the rail line along the edge of an adjacent athletic field. Some brave souls bushwhacked along the original route.

West from the parking area, the right-of-way was maintained through housing developments as a hiking/biking trail. Portions of it were actually paved with asphalt. This part of the route came to an abrupt end at a spot where, in recent years, a high fill across a stream gully had completely washed out. We speculated that

erosion and lack of maintenance since CBRY days had eventually taken their toll.

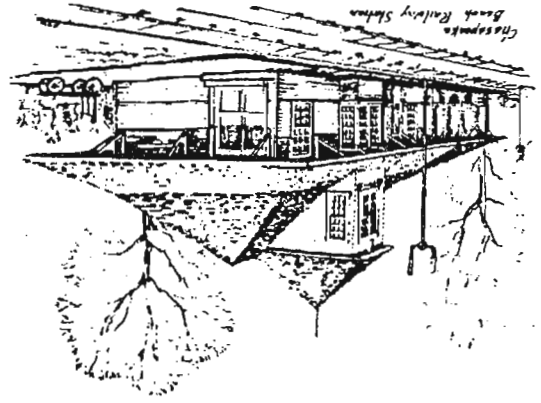
The group then drove to the third hiking location, a little farther up Brown Station Road to Brooke Road and into a development. First we walked eastward to view the washout from the other side. Westward, after a short distance, we lost the right-of-way just west of Brooke Road. We saw ominous signs of property stakes in the ground where the alignment should have been! It is remarkable how much of the rail line, which was abandoned in 1935 and presumably reverted to state ownership, is still walkable and clear of development. One hopes that this will continue; but the builders' stakes we saw on the hike do not bode well for the preservation of the right-of-way.

After the hike, many participants gathered for lunch in Upper Marlboro; and all look forward to next year's hike which will take us farther west and closer to the terminus at Seat Pleasant.

**We're looking for an assistant hike leader for next year. Please Volunteer!**



*Bernard Loveless shares personal stories about riding the Chesapeake Beach Railway.*



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Friends of the  
Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1227  
Chesapeake Beach, Maryland 20732

## *Come Celebrate With Us!*

The Museum is 25 years old and Bernie Loveless and Mildred Finlon have been there since the beginning. Join us in a celebration of the Museum's birthday and the tireless efforts of Mildred and Bernie.

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