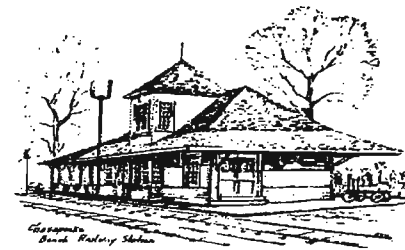


# The Chesapeake Dispatcher



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

Vol. 22 Issue 2 Number 42

November 2003

## Holiday Open House Everyone Is Invited Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> - 1 to 4 P.M.



Our Annual Holiday Open House is scheduled for **Sunday, December 7**. We hope all our old friends will be able to attend, along with the new friends we have made this past year. It's a great time to just enjoy the museum, share in good conversation and holiday cheer, and partake of a great sampler of holiday goodies. The gift shop will be open to help you out with your Christmas shopping; we have some great gifts for the railroad buff in your family. We appreciate any contribution you can make to the table of holiday treats.

Come, bring friends and family, and enjoy the holiday hospitality of the Museum.

## Applause For Bernie – 25 Years Of Service

In June the Calvert County Board of Commissioners honored Bernard Loveless for his twenty-five years of exemplary service to the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum. Without his guiding light and his hard work the museum would not be the fine place it is today. The Commissioners issued a Proclamation praising Bernie for his dedication to our special place. Please take a look at the picture from this event on page three of this issue.

The Friends of the Museum would like you to join us in honoring Bernie once again at our Holiday Open House. It will be a Special Day for this Special Person. So do come and we will share a few of our favorite stories about Bernie. And once again we will say, "Thank you, Bernie, for all you have done for the Museum."



## Thank You To Volunteers

One of the nicest parts of our small museum is the group of volunteers who help make the whole thing possible. We have many people who help in a variety of ways. Volunteers help keep us open on the weekend, make special events such as the car show and the concert series possible, work on special projects and help with special needs. Total volunteer hours were over 1300 this year. A big **THANK YOU** to all who have contributed so generously of their time and talents. Betty Quigley continues to serve as the weekend Volunteer Coordinator, and we thank her especially for her many hours of cheerful service.

On the weekends a special group of volunteers help out as Station Masters; some of these folks also help out on weekdays when the curator is away. The following volunteers have given the Museum a lot of weekend hours. Many of them also help out in other ways as well.

Janet Bates  
Mildred Finlon  
Ed Haack  
Larry Hatch  
Kathy Hogan  
J. Evans (Van) Ireland  
Ingrid Lamb

Patricia Lavato  
Carolyn Leverone  
Margorie Meleen  
Beverly Page  
Virginia Quigley  
Mryt Rausch  
John Riedesel

Another group of volunteers help in many other ways around the Museum. This help includes maintenance, special events, technical assistance, and many other special needs. These special helpers include some of the above Station Masters as well as the folks listed below.

Robert Alley  
Charlotte Allison  
Vince Allison  
Margie Bliss  
Larry Brown  
Ralph Carrello  
Vince Cipriani  
Chesapeake Garden Club ("Watering Fairies")

Mary (Kitch) Eisenman  
Joan Kilmon  
Jay Loveless  
Betty MacDonald  
Charles MacDonald  
Jane Schaub  
Girl Scout Cadet Troop #1190

## Recent Acquisitions

We have had the opportunity to add some very interesting items to our collection over the past few months. A number of wonderful donations have been made to the Museum. We would like to thank all those who have contributed donations in the recent months. These gifts will be enjoyed by visitors and researchers for many years to come. Donations are always welcome.

Purchase - 30 Black and white postcards and 6 Color postcards with various view of Chesapeake Beach.

Purchase - Magazine; The Colorado Magazine, Summer 1971, Article "Otto Mears and the Silverton Northern Railroad".

John Donald Blowers - Plastic Bottle with shake-up glitter water: Souvenir of Chesapeake Beach Amusement Park, c. 1950's

Margie Bliss - Miscellaneous office supplies and Christmas ornaments.

Joseph Korczynski - Tie grips; miscellaneous newspaper clippings; Booklet: "Railroads at Work", 1951.

Hugh Ward - Document: old deed dated 1899; large aerial photograph of Fishing Creek and the route the Chesapeake Beach Railway.

Purchase - 2 matchbook covers: Fishing Fair Sept 5-6-7, 1941 "Miss Happy Angler" and "Fishing Boats - Rod - N Reel - Finest Food & Mixed Drinks on the Bay."

Kathleen Addario - Framed artwork: Six color cards of historic 19<sup>th</sup> century locomotives.

Jim Tigner - 2 Digital images: Black and white postcards: Steamer Dixie, two different views.

Purchase - 20 Photographic negatives: Images of the rolling stock of the CBR.

Nancy Feuerle - Color photographs of gardening and activities at the museum, Spring 2003.

George Effinger - \$25 Bond Coupon: Chesapeake Beach Railway, Jan 1901.

John J. O' Conner - Letter: Lodge Excursion to Chesapeake Beach, dated June 29, 1900.

(Acquisitions, Continued)

Ethel Lou Bennett/ Joan Kilmon - Photograph: Jimmy Dorsey playing with his band, in the Chesapeake Beach Ballroom; and other celebrity photos.

Bayard Cutcliff - Book: Morgan: American Financier, Jean Strouse, Random House, 1999; Records of several legal cases; newspaper clippings.

Robert Alley - Matchbook cover: Fishing Fair, 1941.

J. Evans Ireland - "Chessie" pin.

John Riedesel - Color photographs of Proclamation ceremony honoring Bernard Loveless at the County Courthouse.

## Annual Antique Car Show

The Museum held its 23<sup>rd</sup> annual antique car show on May 18, 2003. It was a cloudy and cold day for mid May, and both participants and visitors were in short supply. Some of us even put on our flannel shirts because of the cold. For those who came, we had a fine time looking at some of our old favorites and inspecting a few newer models from the 1950's and 1960's.

Sadly, this will be our last car show for the immediate future. As both cars and drivers are aging, it is now more difficult to put them on the road for a visit to us. We are not scheduling an antique car show for the Spring of 2004. But we encourage our antique car owners to continue to visit us with or without their old friends. These old cars continue to remind us of the good old days at Chesapeake Beach, and help to bring the story alive to many of the younger folks.

## Visitor Statistics

At the end of October a look at our Visitors Book showed that we had had visitors from at least 37 states and 18 foreign countries. Our visitors came from all parts of the United States and from Germany, France, England, Holland, Brazil, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela, Turkey, the Philippines, Japan, and New Zealand as well as a few other countries. The total numbers for visitors at the end of October was 7000. This is a bit down from our usual numbers. The curator believes this is mostly due to the cold weather on the day of the Car Show and the two concerts that were rained out, as well as the rainy weather on many other days of the year.

We always enjoy looking into the Visitors' Book at the end of a season to read the home addresses of our visitors, as well as the comments they make about our Museum. Many of our visitors thanked us for helping to preserve history and for sharing it with them.

### The Chesapeake Dispatcher

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

Contributors: Bernie Loveless, Harriet Stout, Joan Roach,  
Mildred Finlon, Mary Ellen Curran, & Betty MacDonald  
Typesetting by Beach Designs • Printing by Bayside Printing  
Mailing by Bernie Loveless, Janet Bates, Mildred Finlon  
and Betty and Chuck MacDonald

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

News article from *The Washington Post*, Wednesday, August 13, 1924



*Celebrating the Calvert County Commissioners Proclamation honoring Bernard Loveless. Bernie and Mildred at the Courthouse in Prince Frederick. Photo by John Riedesel*

## Our Flag Is Flying Again



*Photo courtesy of Bernard Loveless.*

For most of the summer we were unable to fly our flag. This was due to the fact that the pulley at the top of the pole was broken, and no one was tall enough to replace it. We needed a machine that could get a man to the top of the pole with the new part. Finally with the help of Patrick McNaney, the superintendent of the construction project

of the hotel next door, and Vince Allison, and a bucket truck we got the pulley replaced and the flag is flying. Thanks to Pat and Vince for helping us to proudly raise the flag again.

## Thanks To The "Watering Fairies"

The beautiful flowers around the Museum this last summer were courtesy of the Chesapeake Garden Club. Charlotte Allison planned the plantings and did lots of the work, with the help of other members of the club. Through the summer these hard working gardeners kept the plants watered and healthy. The list of helpers is long, but as a group they were known to us as the "Watering Fairies". Thank you to all who helped make our special place so beautiful!

# 12-YEAR-OLD GIRL WINS LONG-DISTANCE SWIM

## Bernice Freedley Goes 1,500 Feet in Good Time at Chesapeake Beach Meet.

## HAVE LUNCH IN WATER

In the report of the annual aquatic sports of the Milton Swimming and Life-saving Club at Chesapeake beach Sunday, The Post inadvertently omitted mention that Bernice Freedley, 12 years old, won the gold medal in the long distance swimming race for the senior class. She entered the class late in the season, but negotiated the course of 1,500 feet in unusually good time.

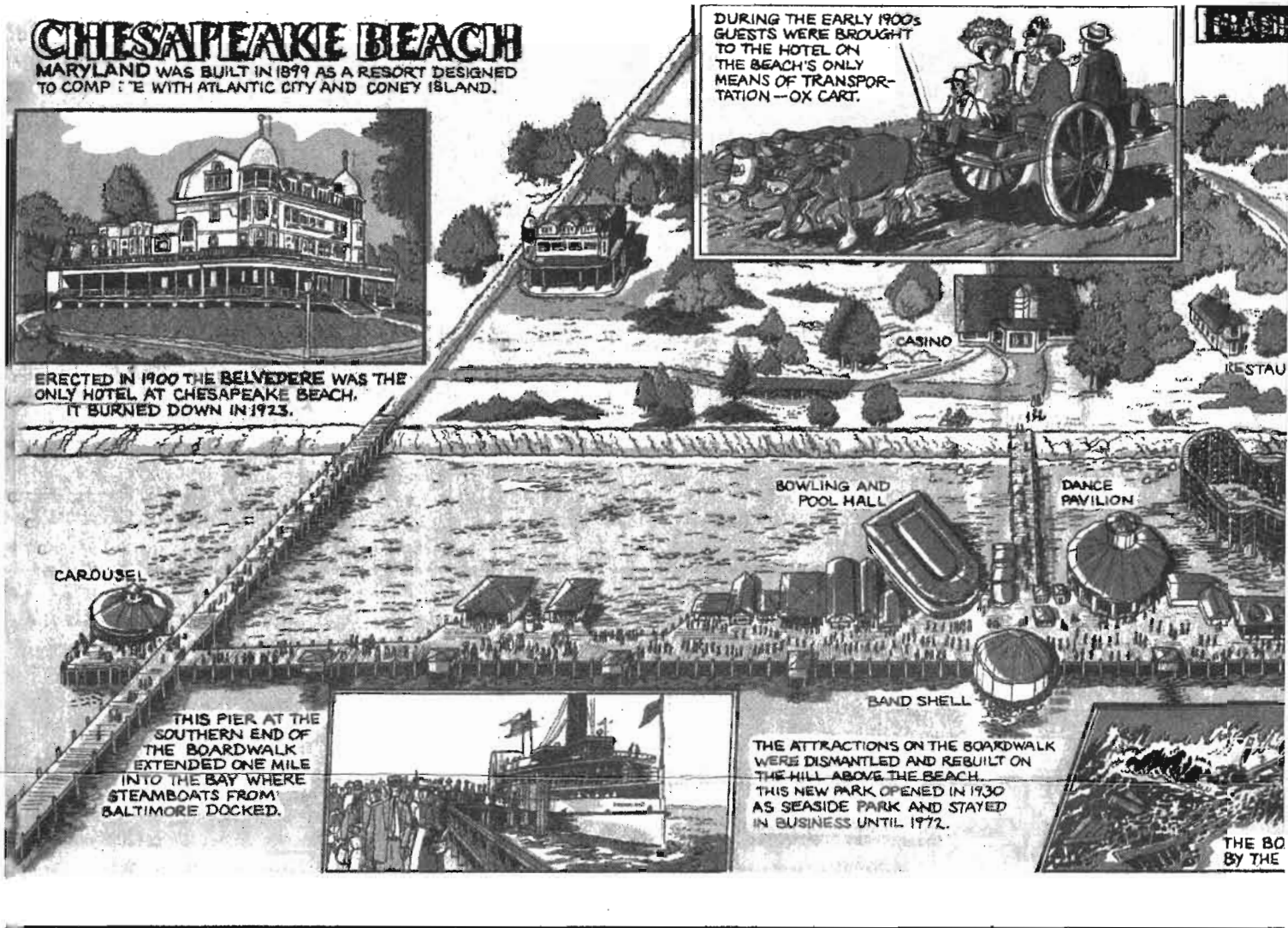
The gold medal for the long distance race of 350 feet for the junior class was won by Gertrude D'Andelet, 13 years old, who was also third in rank in her class for all-around swimming and diving.

F. J. Brunner, of the municipal pool of this city; Aran Manuelin, of the American legation here, and Seymour McConnell, of Washington, were the judges.

Other attractive features were several by Master Leonard West, 10 years old, member of last year's class and medal winner of his class. Leonard is rated the best swimmer of his age. He made a dive from the rail of the long pier through an inflated tube lying on the water 15 feet away, getting and bringing up bottom in 10 feet of water. He also blew soap bubbles carrying the pipe and can while he floated.

One of the unique features was the buffet luncheon served from a table set for the service floated in the 10 feet of water along the pier which was presided over by Mrs. Milton and served to the seniors of the class and medal holders of former years. The participants partook of hot bouillon and wafers and much merriment was caused by the maneuvers of the swimmers to observe table manners while at lunch.

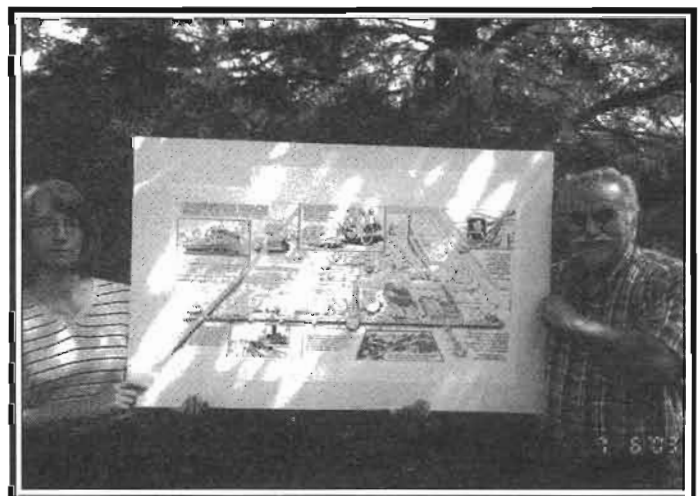
## FLASHBACKS



## Found In The Comic Pages

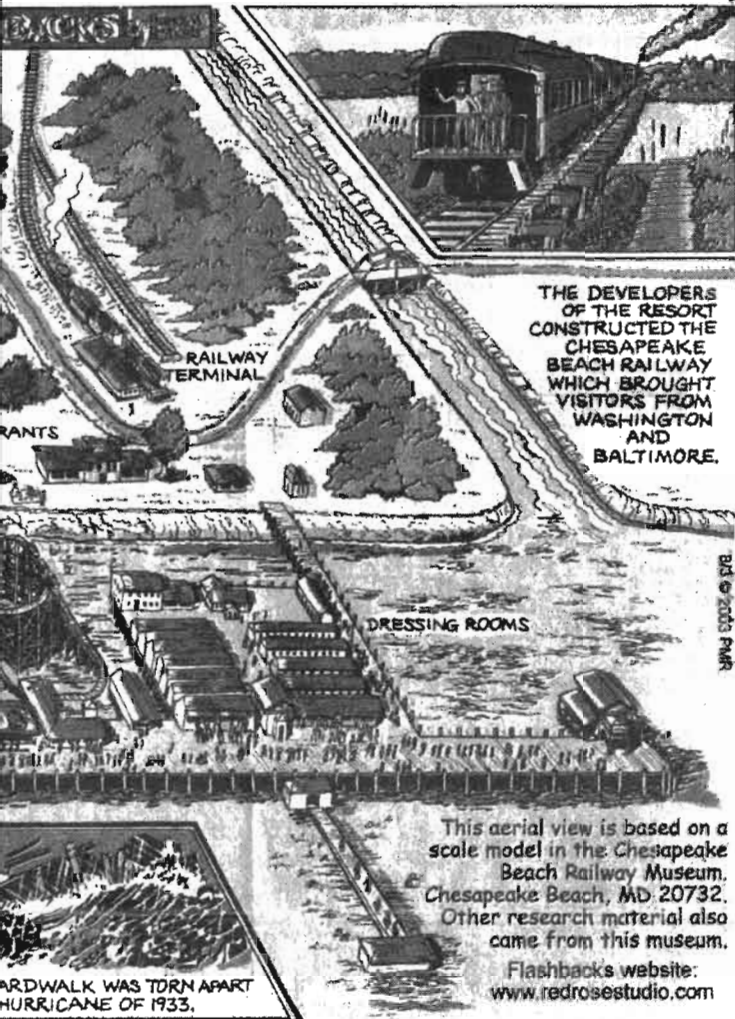
The resort of the Boardwalk era was featured in a “Flashback” in the Washington Post and other syndicated papers on August 3, 2003. The drawing of the Boardwalk was made by artist Patrick M. Reynolds. He visited the Museum earlier in the summer. He used the diorama of the boardwalk as his model for the sketch that became the Flashback. The history was provided by your curator.

The original artwork is available for sale by the artist. He would like to offer it at \$300, with a donation of \$100 to be returned to the museum. These originals are often great collector’s items, and make a great framed piece to decorate anyone’s home or office. If you are interested, please contact the curator at 410-257-3892.



Artist Patrick Reynolds and his wife Display the Original Artwork

By Patrick M. Reynolds



## Fall Family Fun Day – Cancelled By Isabel

The Fall Family Fun Day was scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup>. But it was canceled due to the aftermath clean up for Hurricane Isabel. Fortunately, the Museum was spared any water damage, but the grounds were littered with debris left by the storm surge. The parking lot of the Rod N' Reel was flooded, as was Smokey Joe's restaurant.

Local magician Pat Nutter and clown Ming Diaz were scheduled to entertain families during the event. Clown Ming Diaz is famous for his face painting and balloon animals. Also included in the program were members of the Galaxy Training Center of Huntingtown with its troupe of baton twirlers, poms, cheerleaders and cloggers. These performers have promised to be rescheduled with us for an upcoming Family Fun Day.

The Dolores was to be dressed-up for Halloween. Children unfamiliar with jacks and marbles would have been introduced to these early 20<sup>th</sup> century games. Crafts would have consisted of making a railroad crossing signal magnet, an engineer's or conductor's cap, and a pinwheel.

## Lost and Found

Did you lose a ring near the museum parking lot? A ring was found in our parking area in October. If you think it might be yours, call the museum at 410-257-3892 to identify it and you can come pick it up.

## New Neighbors – Hotel Rising Fast

Work on the new Rod 'N Reel Hotel next to the Museum has been going on all summer. The finishing touches to the exterior and the interior will be made as the winter months progress. A completion date of sometime in the spring is hoped for. The museum has been helping to provide information and resources to several branches of the hotel project. The interior design team, along with Fred and Gerald Donovan, are picking photos from the museum collection for use in the Hotel. One of our favorite views of the Amusement Park will grace the wall behind the reception desk. Other photos will decorate the public areas and the rooms.

Recently the Sales Manager, Sandy Walker, visited for a private history tour of the museum with the curator, Harriet Stout. Ms. Walker was fascinated by our story, and enjoyed the visit. We hope that we will be able to share our Museum with many more Hotel staff and visitors in the future.

## Museum Works To Expand School Programs

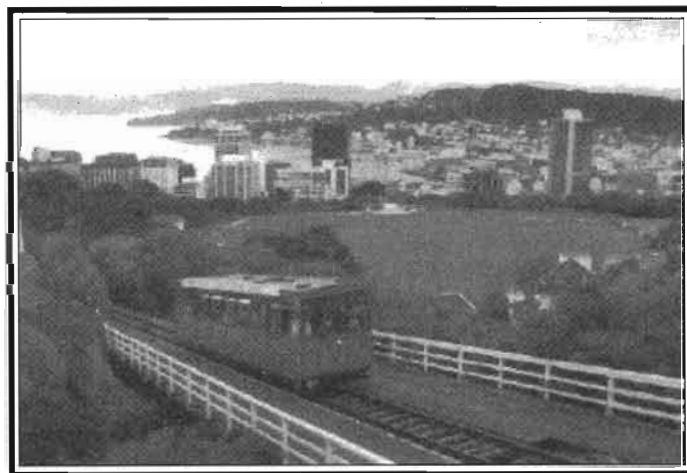
Director of Education Mary Ellen Curran and Curator Harriet Stout continue work with the schools to expand the Museum's programs. A breakfast with the principals of the northern Calvert county elementary schools had to be canceled due to the hurricane. The meeting was to include a presentation and tour of the Museum to enlist support for field trips. Another meeting has been scheduled as part of the principals' November meeting at the Board of Education. The Museum's third grade curriculum will be introduced at that time. Support has already been garnered from Berta Airey, the Board's Supervisor of Instruction for Elementary Social Studies. She agrees that the Museum's resources address many specific curriculum requirements. We look forward to developing a larger school program in the near future.

## Travels With The Curator – The Little Red Cable Car

In the age when the CBR was beginning operations, rail transportation was expanding around the world. Cities in all corners of the globe were building railroads to move their citizens more easily. Some of these railways continue operations to this day, and your curator was able to enjoy a ride on one of these early 20<sup>th</sup> century railroads while visiting Wellington, New Zealand, this past spring.

The Wellington Cable Car began life as the Kelburn and Karori Tramway Company Limited in 1902. It was a cable car system designed by James Fulton. The tramway transported Wellington citizens from the lower business section of the city to the developing suburbs in the heights above. It continued operations through the 20<sup>th</sup> century, changing from steam to electric power in 1933. It struggled to survive in the 1940's and early 1950's. But by the late 1950's the tourist potential was recognized. In the 1970's the city of Wellington took over the operations of the line, and the system was modernized and extensively upgraded for safety reasons.

Today the little red cable car provides a lovely trip from sea level to the heights above the city. Local business people, students, and tourists enjoy the ride up and down the incline. At the top of the hill is a wonderful little museum, the Wellington Cable Car Museum, in the old winding house. Adjacent to the museum is the Botanical Garden, which affords an interesting exploration of the curious and unusual fauna of New Zealand. The ride is fun and interesting, and provides a lovely view of the city below. It's well worth a trip halfway around the world.



*The Wellington Cable Car and Downtown Wellington, New Zealand.  
Photo by Harriet Stout.*



*The Dixie Ramblers, August Concert, Photo by Roxanne Chandler*

## Bay Breeze Summer Concerts

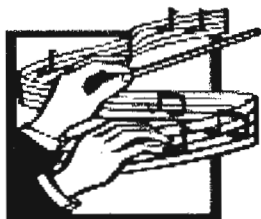
Two out of four...not bad for a baseball player, but not so for the Summer Concert Series. Unrelenting rains played a major factor this year. The first cancelled concert event was the Calvert Community Band in June. The last group in September was also cancelled due to more rain. What a year for precip!

In July it was once again touch and go with the threat of rain. For the large crowd in attendance on the porch, a dry and enjoyable concert took place with The Back Pages Band. Classic pop and acoustic rock songs from the golden era of rock and roll were well received, with rain coming only after the concert was completed.

In keeping with an August tradition, Mike Phipps and his Dixie Ramblers performed to an appreciative and foot-tapping audience, under hot and dry conditions. Blue Grass is a continuing favorite.

Many thanks to the Calvert County Commissioners, the Arts Council of Calvert County, and the Town of Chesapeake Beach for making these concerts possible. Thanks also to the Rod 'N Reel Restaurant for the refreshments provided at the intermissions.

The landscape at the museum changed with the addition of the hotel. We hope to continue with our Concert Series on the porch next year with smaller and lively groups. Hope to see you there.



## Dates To Remember

### Volunteer Training Workshop – Saturday, March 13

Our annual Volunteer Training is scheduled for Saturday, March 13. Put it on your calendar and plan to attend. We especially need new volunteers this year, so try to find a friend to bring as well. We always have a fun and interesting day. **Save March 13 for Volunteer Training.**

### Annual Right of Way Hike – April 3

The annual hike along the old Right of Way of the Chesapeake Beach Railway is scheduled this year for **Saturday, April 3**. A Raindate is on the calendar for the following Saturday, April 10. Let's hope that we have better weather in 2004 than we had for the hike dates in 2003, and don't get rained out twice! The area of the old railroad track that we plan to explore this year is that portion that runs north of Upper Marlboro. We hope to complete the route to the District Line.

For more information about these events, please call Harriet Stout at the Museum, (410-257-3892).

## Museum Outreach Programs

The autumn provides time for the curator to do outreach programs for groups who cannot come to the museum. This fall Harriet Stout has spoken to several interested adult groups. In September Harriet visited residents at Asbury-Solomons Retirement Community and told them of the history of Chesapeake Beach and the Railway. Several of them shared their history as well. On October 15 Harriet presented a program in Silver Spring to the Potomac River Power Squadron, boaters who might visit us later by water. A slide show and talk was shared with Vince Cipriani's seniors' class, the Senior Citizen Local History Class of Prince George Community College at Camp Springs Senior Citizens Center.

Children in our community have also enjoyed an outreach program. On November 10, the curator visited Beach Elementary School to participate in their annual Career Day.



**ALL ABOARD FOR THE  
CHESAPEAKE BEACH  
RAILWAY MUSEUM**

Become a volunteer and make new friends and meet people from all over the world. For more information, please call 410-257-3892 weekdays between 9:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M.

**WE NEED YOU!**

## New Postcards For Our Collection

We have been able to continue to add to the collection of photographic images with the purchase of many postcards. Vince Cipriani has assisted the Curator by searching ebay for items related to the story of Chesapeake Beach and the Railway. Thank you, Vince. On the reverse of the one below is the message, "We are down here for a swim. Had a lovely time."



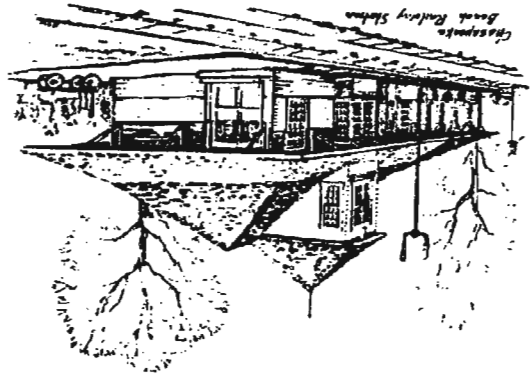
*Bathing Beach and Boardwalk, Chesapeake Beach, Md, c. 1920*

## Lady Isabel Pays A Visit

It was truly a dark and stormy night when Hurricane Isabel paid us a visit on September 18. Instead of our scheduled final concert of the season, we battened down the hatches and went home to hope for the best. The curator is happy to report that the museum building suffered no major damage from the wind and water of the storm. One of our outdoor exhibits did suffer minor damage; the force of the wind and sand blowing in under the porch damaged some of the photographs and they will need to be replaced. A few of the shingles on the roof may have been slightly rearranged also.

The high water reached to within ten feet of the deck out front, but it left only a high water mark on the pavement. The curator whispered "Thank you!" to the builders, who chose a spot for the station on the high side of the flood plane of Fishing Creek one hundred and six years ago.

Before the hurricane hit, the curator had covered things in the upstairs archive/work area with plastic in case any limbs came off the tree and through the roof. But no limbs fell. Also, the windows in the Dolores were taped so that the wind would not blow them out. Most importantly, a lot of help came from the Calvert County crews from the Divisions Buildings and Grounds as well as Parks and Recreation. The grounds were inspected and needs assessed early in the week, and later the crew came by to secure anything that might be damaged by the wind and rain. A BIG THANK YOU to all who helped us out!!!



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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732  
Permit No. 1227

Please join us at our  
Holiday Open House  
Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2003  
1:00 - 4:00 pm

