



The Chesapeake Dispatcher



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

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Message From the President of the Friends

Joan D. Kilmon

The Railway Museum and all of our "Friends" had an extraordinary year in 2006! We not only held our first fundraiser and friend-raiser, the event was a wonderful success! Our Vintage Swimsuit Fashion Show was held outside at the Rod "N Reel Restaurant on a picture perfect July afternoon. We celebrated the last 100 years of summers in Chesapeake Beach by showcasing swimwear from the turn of the century to today. Our two newest members of the Board of the Friends of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, Hilary Dailey and Abigail Francisco, played integral roles in the production. Hilary developed a beautiful working relationship with Jantzen Swimwear and they in turn, loaned us many of the vintage and current suits that were modeled that day. Abigail

(Continued on page 3)



These models at our Swimsuit Fashion Show showcase styles from 40's, 50's and 80's. Pictures courtesy of Emily Hoffman

Message from the Curator

Harriet M. Stout

Museum exhibits are like picture postcards from the past. They provide a visual image that tells a story, as well as a small amount of written information to give the viewer more details. The exhibits in the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum tell a number of stories and share many images of our community's past. Many postcards are on display, as well as other photographs and three dimensional artifacts. These images and items speak in their own ways for the people who enjoyed the Beach in earlier days. The stories are both public and private, like the message on the reverse of a postcard. Sometimes the message is intimate and personal; sometimes it is a quick note to inform the recipient of some bit of general information. Through these images and artifacts our exhibits tell the human story of our community; and they are a snapshot of the past from the photo album of our lives.



Traveler Leaves Heart In San Francisco

By John Riedesel

"I left my heart, and a lot of my money, in San Francisco," I wrote on the postcards. What better way to spend a hot, East Coast August than to take a train trip across the country to the City by the Bay and other California destinations?

I took the commuter bus from North Beach into Washington. At Union Station I boarded AMTRAK's *Cardinal* for the overnight ride to Chicago via Charlottesville, West Virginia's New River Gorge, Cincinnati, and Indianapolis. I had planned a visit with friends in Michigan before heading for the Far West so, after a day of sight-seeing in the Windy City, I boarded the train for Grand Rapids.

Returning to Chicago after three days, I snuggled down in my compartment on the *California Zephyr* for the journey to the West Coast, anticipating good meals and conversation in the diner and beautiful western scenery. The *Zephyr* does not go all the way into San Francisco. I detrained at Emeryville, near Oakland, and boarded an AMTRAK bus for the ride across Oak-

land Bay Bridge to the San Francisco Ferry Terminal and other points in the city, arriving finally at my hotel near the cable car terminal at Market and Powell Streets.



Bixby Bridge carries Highway One of Mill Creek along California's Big Sur coast. The 1932 reinforced concrete, open spandrel bridge is 714 feet long and 265 feet high.

For the next three days I scoured the city by cable car, trolley, light rail, bus, and on foot. It's amazing how much of this remarkable city one can see using only public transportation. The cable cars are a popular attraction, but less well known is the Market Street - Embarcadero trolley line, which uses restored streetcars, mostly PCC-style, from the 1920s through

1950s. One day I took a motor-coach tour around the city, visiting such places as the Embarcadero, Chinatown, Nob Hill, and Golden Gate Park. We crossed over beautiful Golden Gate Bridge to Sausalito, returning by ferry across San Francisco Bay.

Leaving the city, I took a two-day motor-coach trip down the coast to Los Angeles, visiting the John Steinbeck Museum in Salinas and stopping at several points on the Monterey Peninsula. We drove down California Highway 1, the coastal road, through Jack Kerouac's Big Sur country; saw sea lions, seals, porpoises, and giant redwoods; and toured the fabulous Hearst Castle.

Los Angeles seemed almost anti-climactic, but I spent an enjoyable two days exploring the city by bus and light rail, taking a boat ride around Long Beach harbor and visiting the pier at Santa Monica. Finally I boarded AMTRAK's *Southwest Chief* at the beautiful Spanish/Art Deco L.A. Union Station and watched as the desert southwest rolled by my window. Arriving in Chicago, I boarded the *Capitol Limited* for the overnight trip back to Washington and home, another successful rail journey around this amazing country of ours.



Cable cars approach the turntable at Market and Powell Streets in San Francisco.

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

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Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum

Thank you, Kathleen Addario, for your generous contribution of two framed posters of Chesapeake Bathing Beauties for the Swimsuit Fashion Show! The raffle raised over \$350 and the proceeds will be used to help refurbish the parlor car, Dolores. Congratulations to Pat Tait, the lucky winner!

Celebrate Summer Exhibits

This past summer our visitors were able to enjoy our first annual *Celebrate Summer* exhibit "Swim Through 70 Years at Chesapeake Beach". This special exhibit focused on the 70 year history of swimming at the Beaches. Swimsuits from these years were on exhibit, as well as other artifacts and postcards related to the story of swimming at the Beaches. Quotes from early advertisements for the Beach provided interesting descriptions of the early beach. Related activities were available for children, and visitors could take home information about the history of bathing suits.

We plan to do a special *Celebrate Summer* exhibit each year. This exhibit will allow us to have a special topic of focus each year and highlight related items that are on permanent display. Each year, June 9, Founders' Day will kick off the grand opening of the special summer exhibit. Next year we will take a look at the history of fishing at Chesapeake Beach with "A Fish Story: The LAST One Hundred Years".

WE NEED HELP!!

Do you have old fishing poles, lures, etc, that you could share with us? We need artifacts, photographs and other items related to this story. We would also like fishing hats and other clothing items from the well-dressed fisherman's (or fisherwoman's) collection of treasures. If you can help us with this exhibit, please contact the Curator at 410-257-3892 and let us know what you can contribute.

Message From the President of the Friends (cont.)

Joan D. Kilmon

provided us with the majority of our swimsuit models and directed the fashion show. Nick Garrett coordinated music through the centuries so each suit was showcased with the background of appropriate music. I was honored to be the emcee and to share personal memories of at least ½ of the century!! The show would not have been possible without the support of those who attended and all the models who so generously gave of their time to participate: Mary Ellen Curran, Buster Young, the O'Neil family - Jeff, Nahjla, Layla and Maya, Katelyn Payne, Morgan Walker, Lindsay McNamara, Angela and Ali MacWilliams, Christine Judge, and our Museum Curator Harriet Stout. Harriet not only made her vintage suit to match the 1912 bathing beauty on the classic souvenir booklet of that year, she also provided several suits from her personal collection and oversaw the appropriate purchases from eBay!

5th Annual Bates Memorial Golf Shootout

By Janet Bates

Not even a nasty Nor'easter in October could dampen the spirit and enthusiasm of the players as they tee'd off Saturday, October 7th, for the 5th Annual Charles C. Bates Memorial Golf Shootout.

The tourney, originally scheduled for Friday, had to be postponed due to high winds and heavy rain. However, our tournament host, Twin Shields, extended us a rain date to Saturday. Spirits were high and laughter abounded throughout the course. The awards dinner that evening was a terrific combination of good food and drink and prizes for all! It was truly a memorable day for everyone. We greatly appreciated the dedication of our players and the support of our sponsors, donors and volunteers who made this event such a success. What we were able to donate to the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, Beach Elementary School and Tracey's Landing Elementary School far exceeded our expectations.

We are already looking forward to next year!



Kathy Young, Woody Young, Nancy Bates Young and Jean Bates Morris, museum members at the annual Bates Memorial Golf Shootout

High School Intern Richard Young



An old friend of the Museum, R i c h a r d “Buster” Young has joined us as an intern this year. Buster has been helping around the museum from the time he was 10 years old; as a youngster he would often drop by and ask the curator if there was anyway he could help.

He is always willing to pitch in and was even a model at the Swimsuit Fashion Show.

Now Buster is a high school senior and is working as an intern for high school credit and learning about the business side of museums. He will be helping to catalog and prepare some collections materials for storage, as well as working with the curator on developing and improving exhibits.

Look for a New Winter Exhibit

Look for a new exhibit this winter covering two topics of railroad history. It will have its premier showing for the Holiday Open House.

The curator is keeping it Top Secret until it is ready for viewing, but items are being assembled and research is underway. A number of artifacts have been sent to the conservator for treatment before being put on display. Other related items on permanent display will be highlighted.

Watch for hints of this special exhibit as autumn advances and the summer exhibit is gradually phased out!

Dolores Preservation Project Receives Funding

The railcar Dolores is a very important part of the Museum Collection and has been a part of the Museum from its earliest days. As it is the last extant piece of rolling stock from the Chesapeake Beach Railway, it is clearly important to provide it with the care and conservation that it deserves. Many hands have contributed to the preservation of the Dolores over the years and the car has benefited from this care and work.

It is now time to embark on a long-term preservation project for the Dolores that will stabilize and protect the site and fabric of the car. The interior of the Dolores could provide us with a year-round education and program space, but work on the exterior must be completed first.

Happily for the Museum, we have received funding for the first stages of this project from two sources. Firstly, the Board of Commissioners of Calvert County has allocated \$33,000 in the FY2007 budget for preservation work. We also have been awarded a grant of \$31,500 from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority to be used for stabilizing the site on which the Dolores rests and for solving some of the long-term site problems to insure the survival of the old railcar.

The County Building and Grounds staff is assisting the Museum in moving forward with this project, and we hope to solicit advice and assistance from other railroad history experts.

Lecture Series Continues as Bayside Chats

The Museum continued our adult lectures with a very interesting program on October 21. Our guest speaker was Bill Withuhn, the Chief Curator of Transportation at the Smithsonian Institute. He gave an informative PowerPoint presentation on the Smithsonian's permanent transportation exhibit, *America on the Move*. We can't wait for the Museum of History to reopen in 2008 to visit the exhibit! He also shared tidbits of his knowledge of railroading history from his lifelong involvement with American Railroads, and inspired us to continue our good works at CBRM with his praise of our Museum.

Our adult lecture series, formerly known as the Fireside Chats, were moved to the Northeast Community Center and renamed the Bayside Chats. We outgrew the Fireside Room at the Hotel with the success of our first two programs. We had good attendance for this program; twenty-five people turned out to hear the interesting program.

Planning Grant Awarded

The Museum has just received notice that we have been successful in our application for an Education and Planning Grant from the Museum Advancement Program under the Maryland Department of Planning. This grant will provide up to \$5,000 for developing a long range strategic plan for the Museum. A visiting consultant will work with us in planning for the future of the Museum. Staff, volunteers and Friends will be interviewed for their input and inspiration, and then will provide us with a written plan that documents these ideas and plans.

Recent Acquisitions

A number of donations have been received from friends in the last few months. These items continue to add to the important resources of the Railway Museum. We would like to thank all of those who have contributed artifacts, information and photographs to the Museum collections.

Ruth Mihalec	Book: <u>The Pictorial Encyclopedia of Railways</u>
Purchase	Book: <u>Otto Mears: Pathfinder of the San Juan : His Family and Friends</u>
Anthony Arochio	Magazines: <u>Trains and Travel</u> , March 1953; <u>Railroad Magazine</u> , March 1939
Paul Berry/Calvert Marine Museum	Photocopy; Display advertisement for the <u>Washington Post</u> , Dec 14, 1892 for the Washington and Chesapeake Beach Railway Co.
Bernie Howder	Digital photograph: Cottage in Chesapeake Beach, c. 1925
Nancy Feuerle	Photographs: Swimsuit Fashion Show, 1 July 2006 and CD of photographs
Vince Cipriani	Photographs of June concert and gardens around Museum in early summer
Charles MacDonald	Photographs: Swimsuit Fashion Show, 1 July 2006
Joan Kilmon	Ankle ID bracelet for CB Swimming Pool (c. 1950–1960)
Timothy Bladen	Swimming cap (from Mildred Finlon)
Grace Mary Brady	Photograph: Tobacco wagon built by Russell Wood; CD of Russell Wood Oral History done by Museum in 1985
Emily Hoffman	Photographs: Swimsuit Fashion Show, 1 July 2006
	Photographs: Swimsuit Fashion Show, 1 July 2006

Postcard View of the Steamer Bay Belle

The Museum has very few photographs of the last steamboats to come to Chesapeake Beach from Baltimore. Perhaps it is because the Bay Belle only came for the year of 1942. Here is a recently purchased postcard of the Bay Belle.



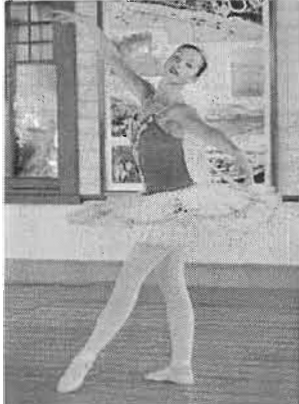
Holiday Open House—DECEMBER 3, 2006

THE CHESAPEAKE BEACH RAILWAY MUSEUM 1 PM - 4 PM

Fun for Everyone at the Fall Family Fun Day

By Mary Ellen Curran

The Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum kicked off its Fall Family Fun Day on October 8th with an encore performance by the Blue Sky Puppet Theatre. *The Halloween Witch* was presented in keeping with the day's Halloween theme. Next, students from the Abigail Francisco School of Classical Ballet took center stage. Their perform-



Joseline Mroczek from the Abigail Francisco School of Classical Ballet

ance included a variety of ballet dances, as well as, a jazz number designed to capture the imagination of children.

Clown Ming Diaz created works of art on many faces with his face painting. Children and adults alike were transformed into animals and superheroes with their full-face designs. Even the Dolores was in the Halloween spirit. Visitors who dared to enter, experienced the sights and sounds of railway riders of the past. There were groans, moans and screeches. Limbs and bones, flashing eyes and evil laughing were all part of the *Haunted Railroad Car*.

Children also had the opportunity to participate in arts and crafts and try their skills at early 20th century games. They made bat wings by tracing their hands and cutting them out. They could also make a cup and ball game. The more adventurous tried their luck at solving a nail puzzle or playing pick up sticks.



Xavier and Hilary Dailey having fun at the Railway Museum

Beach Rail Junk

For many years we have understood that the metal scrap from the CBR was sold to the Japanese after the Railway filed for bankruptcy in 1935. But we have not been able to produce any sound documentary evidence for this sale. Finally, Francis Tosh has given us a small piece of historical evidence of that sale. The following newspaper article was included in a donation of photocopied materials he gave us last December.

Article from Washington Times, May 18, 1935

Japanese to Bid High For Beach Rail Junk

SEAT PLEASANT, Md., May 18.—The Japanese government may soon make use of the scrap metal of the abandoned Chesapeake Bay Railway.

Officials of the Japanese government have signified to receivers their desire to enter "by far the largest bid" for the 26 miles of rails, 15 coaches and two engines that are to be offered at auction here June 1 and ship the metal to the Far East.

The same policy has been followed in the United States for a year, the metal going into guns

or being used for industrial purposes.

Charles R. Webber, of Baltimore, named receiver by the Baltimore Federal Court, has been authorized by the court to offer for sale the portion of the railway that is to be abandoned.

The remainder of the road, near the District, to be used for coating power plants, will be offered at auction later.

The rails weigh 6,000 tons, it is estimated. Ties and other scrap metal are to be offered along with the rails. The sale will be held at the District Line station here on the morning of June 1.

Remembering Marion Warren

In September the Museum lost another old friend with the death of Marion Warren, the well-respected Maryland photographer. Early in the Museum's history Marion Warren was inspired by the Museum's founders to work with our photographic collection. He copied and printed many photographs for us, and made copy negatives for our files. These negatives have been used many times to reproduce the historic images in our collection. Most of the enlarged photographic prints on exhibit in our galleries were also made by Marion Warren. His work helped to provide a little bit of the Magic that was part of the Museum's beginnings, and his work will always be an important part of the Museum's collections in the years to come.



Photo from Calvert Recorder—Joe with his daughter in 2006 at the Museum

In Memory of Joseph Korczynski, Sr.

Joseph Korczynski, Sr. contributed many gifts to the Railway Museum, and his death on May 27 leaves us without his special friendship. His interests included old musical recordings, steamboats and bay history, and trains and railroad history. He gave a wonderful assortment of items involving these interests to our collection, and each of these

gifts enriches the story that we tell. Joe made a tape of the carousel music in the Park in the 1960's; a copy of this tape is available for sale in our gift shop. Several important exhibit items were also contributed by Joe over the years. One of these gifts is the poster advertising trips on the Dreamland. The newspaper clipping "Tomorrow I'll be in

Dreamland" was also a gift from Joe. As recently as this past year, Joe found a photograph of visitors to the Beach wearing rental bathing suits and gave it to the Museum. A copy of this photo was included in the *Celebrate Summer* exhibit.

We miss you Joe, but your gifts will always be a part of the Museum.

Bay Breeze Summer Concerts

By Betty MacDonald

As the year comes to a close, the 2006 Bay Breeze Summer Concerts are just a memory now. What a year it was! For the most part, the weather was hot and sticky but thankfully no showstoppers due to rain. It is with great joy that we are able to attract such appreciative, foot tapping and hand clapping crowds.

The series opened in June with the "Not So Modern Jazz Quartet", directed by Bill Rowe of Chesapeake Beach. They played club venue music of the 1920's through the 40's with piano, bass, drums and clarinet. It was a fine group for openers.

In July, we enjoyed the amazing talent of Ralph and Janet who perform a wide variety of musical styles from the 40's through today. They are known as "Two for You" and can that Janet ever belt out the tunes! A special treat and surprise was the appearance of a ballerina, Christine Judge, from the Abigail Francisco School of Classical Ballet who performed during Janet's singing of "Music of the Night" from "Phantom of the Opera".

Like clockwork, we've grown to expect the "Dixie Ramblers" in August. Mike Phipps with his vocal and mandolin talents as well as bass, guitar and banjo performers make great music for the many loyal bluegrass fans. By the way, the "Dixie Ramblers" will be back next year.

The series concluded on a drizzly evening in September with a return performance by Rockfish. This group creates a nice blend of harmonica, fiddle, guitars and vocal and is directed by Gary Pendleton of North Beach. A special tribute was made to the late Bill Marquess who could make his fiddle literally "talk". He is surely missed.

Concerts were made possible by the cooperation of the Calvert County Commissioners, the financial assistance from The Arts Council of Calvert County, the Maryland State Arts Council, the Bates Grant and our generous membership. We are grateful to all for their strong support.

A special thanks to the Rod 'N Reel Restaurant for providing those yummy cookies and lemonade that



Not So Modern Jazz Quartet

everyone so looks forward to at intermission. The Chesapeake Beach Garden Club members provided gorgeous and creative flower arrangements for the refreshment table each month. Once again, Kathy Johnson of Town Hall was on hand to serve the refreshments and to share her always-pleasant hospitality. Last but not least, we thank Gerald and Freddie Donovan for seeing to it that we had chairs to sit on - so many entities come together to make these concerts a success each summer.

I look forward to seeing everyone back on the porch each second Thursday of the months of June, July, August and September.

WWW.CBRM.ORG



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Friends of the
Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, Inc.
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Chesapeake Beach, Maryland 20732

Holiday Open House

Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum

Sunday, December 3, 2006

1:00 to 4:00pm

**Come join us for fun, train displays,
light refreshments and the perfect Christmas gift.**

*Chesapeake Beach Hotel and Spa also hosts an
Open House on Sunday, December 3rd from 1:00 to 4:00pm*