



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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November 2009

Message From the President **A Spook-tacular Event**

By Kristen Scott

By Dana Watkinson



I love fall. I love watching the tree's dazzling displays of orange, red and gold; the smell of cool, crisp air.

This fall has been a wonderful time at the Museum. On October 11, we had our annual Fall Family Fun Day. All the princesses, witches and monsters were a joy to behold. Our many thanks go to the organizers, Dana Watkinson, Corrine E. Moore, Meg Janelle, Kris DeGrace and Kelly Peake. Their hard work and dedication made this event a rousing success.

Although the Haunted Water Park was cancelled, I thank volunteers John Riedesel, Kathleen Scott, Chuck MacDonald and Janet Bates who helped put together over 1200 goody bags. All that hard work did not go to waste. We donated the bags to the Bay-side Boys & Girls Club in North Beach.

The fall fun is not over yet. Be sure to join us on November 21 at the North-east Community Center as we put together gingerbread trains. Then the Annual Open House will kick start the Holidays.

Hope to see you soon!

Fall Family Fun Day was a grand event this year. Meg Janelle and Dana Watkinson organized tasty refreshments, scientific experiments, spooky decorations and a Lionel train raffle. The day would not have been such a success without the help of many people.

Visitors were greeted by Friends of the CBRM president Kristen Scott and Kelly Peake, who handed out raffle tickets, CBRM back sacks and Halloween goodies. The raffle was won by 2 year old Zachary Yelding, who slept peacefully through the drawing. While he won't remember winning, lasting memories will be formed around the prized train set, donated by Lionel.

Most impressive in size and ability to keep the kids jumping was a castle moon-bounce from Fantasy World. Sitting beside the moon-bounce



Above: A visitor is greeted by the Halloween Express.

Left: Some of the volunteers that made FFD a great time:

(From left to right) Kelly Peake, Meg Janelle, Sheran Vaughn, Corrine E. Moore, Betty MacDonald, Dana Watkinson and Kathleen Scott.



was a game to test the aim of all young defenders of Earth against alien invaders. John Riedesel kept the Earth forces supplied with tennis ball ammunition. Demonstrating the popularity of Piper the Clown and her assistant, long lines led to director's chairs, where children's

(Continued on page 4)



Message From the Curator

By Harriet Stout

At the end of the year and the beginning of each New Year, we are repeatedly reminded to follow this simple guideline. "Out with the Old! In with the New!" This is great advice for the reluctant housekeeper to follow, but not so easy for a museum. It is particularly difficult in a history museum where our principal task is to collect and care for the old stuff that helps us tell the story of our past. The end of the year is indeed a good time to take stock of past accomplishments and to measure progress. It is also a good time to look forward and to make room for new ideas and activities. The most important thing to remember as one year passes into another is that time never stands still, even in a history museum. As we move forward we must make sure that the history we tell continues to be clear and true.

And the Night Shall Be Filled with Music

By Betty MacDonald

When the concert series began in June, a huge crowd gathered on the porch to hear the amazing Broadway talent, Clare O'Shea. Her cabaret style was a first at our small venue and the audience was thrilled. She is a Chesapeake Beach resident and how fortunate we are to have such an exceptional performer in our midst!

In July we had the return of the nationally acclaimed U.S. Navy Band's *Country Current*. Military bands are a hit wherever they perform and this was no exception. We look forward to a probable return next July.

Mike Phipps brought his *Dixie Ramblers* and as always, the many fans of Bluegrass came to enjoy their particular style. This group gets better and better and their loyal following of fans expect and look forward to these fun fellows coming to "jam" for us in August.

Much to our disappointment, *Stardust*

Memories were not able to delight us with their World War II, 40's music due to high winds and rain. Mother Nature



The U.S. Navy Band, Country Current is always a favorite each summer at the Bay Breeze Concerts.

chose not to cooperate that September night, but hopefully next June will be "the charm" and they can show us their stuff after a disappointing cancellation this year. Be sure to check the schedule for their appearance in June.

Our thanks to all who make these concerts possible, namely the Help Association, Inc., the Bates Foundation, the Town of Chesapeake Beach, the Calvert County Commissioners and our generous membership and individuals who have made donations in support of the concerts. We all enjoy the unique floral arrangements adorning the refreshment table. These are provided by Chesapeake Beach Garden Club for the enjoyment of our concert goers.

Kathy Johnson, Richard Riggins, Marianne and Charlie Valaer make sure the cookies and lemonade magically appear on the refreshment table by the mid-concert break. Many thanks to these "refreshment angels".

We hope to see you next summer at the same place and time for more enjoyable evenings of music on the porch of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum. We so appreciate our many loyal fans.

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

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Summertime Fun

By Dana Watkinson

This year we introduced four new topics into the Summer Children's Programs: Museum Visit, Working on a Railroad, Building a Railroad and Junior Conductors.

Combined with last years topics (All about Trains, Amusement Park, and Natural Resources) we now have seven distinct programs. Some "new" programs are based on older themes such as Museum Visit, while others were created to fulfill a specific community need. For example, this year the Junior Conductors will conduct their train car creations in the North Beach Christmas parade on Saturday, December 5.

Some programs have a few rough edges. In Building a Railroad, we definitely need a better material than drinking straws to represent the rails. (If you have a suggestion, please let me know.) Other programs, like Amusement Park, where games are set up and prizes awarded, are favorites. Natural Resources has transformed to include a beach visit, and next year may involve a naturalist. As these programs grow, watch for more information about summer 2010 programs.



The Railroad Lantern: *Shining the Light on Volunteers*

By Hilary Dailey

When Ann Parker Parks was a little girl, she used to journey with her father from Silver Spring to visit her grandparents in Holland Point. A self-proclaimed "Beach Bum," Ann enjoyed this time with her extended family so much that when she retired ten years ago, she made Holland Point her permanent home and became an active member of the Holland Point Citizens Association.

Like so many of our faithful Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum volunteers, Ann has deep roots in this area. Her Great Uncle Ben ran Parker's Drug Store, Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum volunteer, Janet Bates, is her second cousin, and her dad was buddies with our own Bernie Loveless. Not surprisingly, knowing that Ann was pas-



Ann Parks is well known for her involvement in the community, including her role as Station Master at the Museum.

sionate about our area, Janet and Bernie nudged her to become involved in the Museum as a Station Master. "The Museum is a neat place. I really like to talk to people when they come in," she says, "it's especially fun when you get people who used to visit this area as kids and are now bringing their own kids and grandkids."

Through her connection with the Holland Point Citizens Association, Ann is helping to preserve her community and the quality of life these visitors remember from their childhoods. Furthermore, through her involvement with the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, Ann is helping these visitors share those great memories with future generations.

Thank you, Ann, we appreciate your community spirit!

A Storm is Brewing

By John Riedesel



Who among us can forget the trauma and devastation to Chesapeake Bay communities caused by Hurricane Isabel in September 2003? Damage and loss to homes and businesses—including longtime landmark Stinnett's Restaurant—was evident all around.

And some of us who have lived in the area long enough may have unpleasant memories of Hazel in 1954 and Connie in 1955. And perhaps there are some with ties to the Gulf Coast or the Virginia Blue Ridge who remember the death and destruction of Hurricane Camille in 1969.

On Sunday, September 13, 2009, the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum was privileged to host writer Rick Schwartz at one of our Bayside Chat series. Mr. Schwartz is author of the publication, *Hurricanes and the Middle*

Atlantic States, A Surprising History from Jamestown to the Present. The book gives a detailed account of all the major East Coast storms of the last four centuries.

Mr. Schwartz presented an interesting narration and slide presentation of much of his book material, focusing on storms which wreaked havoc on our area in particular. He stated at the outset that a great deal has been written regarding devastating Gulf Coast storms, but very little about those ravaging the Middle Atlantic states. So he set about to write such a history himself. The result is a complete and seminal work, comprehensive and full of pictures and storm track maps.

About twenty-five people attended the session, which was followed by a stimulating question-and-answer period, then refreshments and informal conversation with the author. Signed copies of Mr. Schwartz' work were also available at a discounted price.



Rick Swartz presents a lecture on hurricanes based on his book *Hurricanes and the Middle Atlantic States, A Surprising History from Jamestown to the Present* during a Bayside Chat.

Bayside Chats are organized by Dana Watkinson, Education Director, and held at the Northeast Community Center. These topics of local interest are conducted throughout the year. By consulting the Museum at 410-257-3892, or its website, www.cbrm.org, one can learn of the Chats and other activities hosted by the Museum.

A Blustery Day

By Janet Bates

Although we had just had a heavy thunderstorm, the Annual Meeting went off as scheduled. The Museum had just been decorated for this year's *Celebrate Summer* theme of amusement parks and was greatly admired.

The slate of officers remained the same as last year:

Kristen Scott—President

Hilary Dailey—Vice President

Chuck MacDonald—Treasurer

John Riedesel—Secretary

However, two new Directors were added; Mike Sweeney, who volunteers almost every weekend, and Janet Bates, who is very glad to be able to vote again. This is in addition to current Directors, Larry Brown, Betty MacDonald and Nancy Young.

As a special treat, we had author Lara L. Lutz, who brought her just published book *Chesapeake's Western Shore* which tells the story of the resorts and summer places of other times along our western shore. The cover shows

part of our Chesapeake Beach Park and is of special interest to us. We are delighted to carry this book in our Gift Shop, as there are so many people who remember and are still associated with the places written and pictured in the book. We thank Lara for a lovely presentation.

We finished our evening with delicious pizzas. All agreed that storm or no storm, it had been another fine Museum event.

A Spook-tacular Event: continued from page 1



The mother of the sleeping raffle winner, Zachary Yekding, accepts the train on his behalf.

faces were transformed into works of art. At the Halloween craft tables, Kris DeGrace helped children create bookmarks and decorate masks while Hilary Dailey tied countless strings onto lollipop ghosts and pumpkins.

Lollipops were not the only treats. Thanks to the quick hands of Betty MacDonald and Kathleen Scott, visitors snacked on brownies, pretzels and crackers, and sipped cider and soda. Fresh popped popcorn was also available as a snack, or to transform into a popcorn hand!

Chuck MacDonald and Mike Sweeney took turns popping corn and watching over the Dolores, where a Mad Scientist had set up a lab complete with jars of spiders, floating eyes and a few snakes. On the porch, Mad Science of Southern Maryland performed many experiments, including fizzy Kool-aid carbonated with dry ice.

Inside the Museum, a mischievous spirit had set pictures at awkward an-

gles (please let us know if you spot any more impish occurrences). Betty Quigley and Kathy Hogan, however, had only human visitors (236 to be exact), and they answered questions tirelessly.

If you were not one of the 500 visitors counted by Sheran Vaughn, you missed a truly great event. Don't worry, we will be having a Spring Family Fun Day on May 23rd. Thanks to the best volunteers ever, we put the FUN in Family Fun Day. I would also like to thank Corrine E. Moore who juggled many administrative tasks and took numerous photos, Harriet Stout for trusting us to put together a great event, and The Calvert County Board of County Commissioners for a day that celebrates families, history, and fun.

For She's A Jolly Good Fellow

By Janet Bates

Mrs. Elizabeth Wills retirement party held at the Museum on June 24 was a delightful affair. Mrs. Wills has been housekeeper for the Museum for more than twenty years and will always be remembered for such nice greetings when we came into the building.

She is probably one of the few Calvert County residents at the age of 88 still actively working. A nice group of people came, some who had known her from the very beginning. Aside from Museum members who were there to honor her, Wilson Freeland, the Director of General Services, Debbie Shirley, Executive



Mrs. Elizabeth Wills has been a dedicated employee for many years and we thank her for all her hard work.

Administrator to Mr. Freeland, and a representative from the Calvert Recorder were also in attendance.

The refreshment table was lovely. Corrine E. Moore, Administrative Assistant at the Museum, did a fine job. The decorated cake was very pretty and there was much to eat and drink.

Museum president, Kristen Scott, presented Mrs. Wills with a lovely, much-deserved plaque. Everyone wished her many years of happy retirement. It was a lovely party and we enjoyed being able to share time with Mrs. Wills.

Recent Acquisitions

This year the Museum made significant additions to the collections through donations and purchases. Gifts from Friends of the Museum are especially appreciated, and we would like to thank all those who contributed this year. We have also pursued a more active program of acquiring items through purchases. These gifts and purchases add to our general collections and they also provide additional artifacts for specific exhibits, such as our annual *Celebrate Summer Exhibit*.

Donations include the following items:

Two trolley rails, Valerie Beaudin

Tin toy train engine, John Riedesel

Locomotive brake shoe, Margaret Waranowitz

Ash pit shovel, William Oliver

Two beach chairs,
brass token, and photo,
Diane Donovan Harrison



1926 Local Paper ("The News"),
Milton Robertson

Photo and written account of 1960's band
("Jumpin Jax Band"), Harold Gearhart

Black and white photo, Vince Cipriani

Book (Chesapeake's Western Shore:
Vintage Vacationland), Laura Lutz

Copy of letter about road construction on old
CBR ROW, Janet Bates

Gifts of reference materials include the following items:

Photocopy of 1776 map of Virginia and
Maryland, Donald Haynes

Steamboat pictures and oral history,
Preston Bryant

Copy of photo of Pindell Station,
Ken Riggleman

Purchases include the following items:

4 valentines

27 postcards

5 photos

1 35 mm slide of CBR station

2 mechanical toys

Rod 'N Reel ashtray

Sand bucket and shovel

Salt and pepper shaker

CB Park souvenir plate

Stinnett's Tavern matchbook cover

3 Brill car advertisements

Sheet Music

2 men's swim suits

Play the Music! Put on your Dancing Shoes!

By Harriet Stout



The curator is developing plans for a *Celebrate Summer Exhibit 2010* to cover the theme of music. If you have any artifacts, documents, or photos that are related to this topic that you would like to share with the Museum, please call 410-257-3892. We are looking for musical instruments, sheet music, photographs, phonograph records, toys, posters, and any other items that would illustrate the story of music in the Beaches from 1900 to the 1970's.

Railroad Passes, Otto Mears and the Chesapeake Beach Railway: Part II

By James Tigner, Jr.

Continued from the previous issue

Annual passes have long been treasured by collectors of railroad memorabilia. Passes from the late 1800's frequently included fancy raised lettering and an engraved vignette. The vignette could be of a steam locomotive or a scenic spot located along the rail line. Engineering accomplishments such as a bridge or a tunnel constructed at considerable expense by the railroad were also top candidates for display.

Each pass had its own distinctive number so that the railroad could keep track of how many passes had been handed out, who was using them, and how frequently they were being used. These serial numbers are most often printed in red or blue ink and with raised lettering. The name of the person receiving the pass and their title would be typed or handwritten on the pass. Each pass had the name and title of a high ranking railroad official hand-signed or printed on it. This official was almost always the president, the superintendent or the general manager of the railroad. Passes normally had to be countersigned by another important railroad employee before they could actually be used.

Railroad passes by their very nature, expiring annually, were ephemeral. However, their sheer beauty and historical significance ensured that many would be saved and preserved over the years. Today passes are collected by geographic area, by age, and by specific railroad lines. Amongst the thousands upon thousands of different passes that were issued by the railroads over the years, none are perhaps as rare, or as desirable to collectors as those that were issued by Otto Mears. Yes, the same Otto Mears who built the Chesapeake Beach Railway.

Years before he ever got involved in the building of the Chesapeake Beach Railway, Otto Mears had established for himself quite a reputation in Colorado.

Mears was not a physically tall man, but he was a tireless worker with a gigantic drive and ability to accomplish what others would consider to be the unthinkable.

At the end of the Civil War, in which he had served as a California volunteer, Mears found his way to the south central area of Colorado where he became a successful merchant. However, roads in this rugged area of Colorado were



Otto Mears, founder of the Chesapeake Beach Railway

scarce. Out of necessity to transport goods to and from his ever growing mercantile and mining supply business, Mears soon found himself overseeing the construction of toll roads. In the end, he would oversee the building of more than 400 miles of toll roads through some of the most rugged and mountainous regions in all of Colorado.

Mears eventually took the leap from building toll roads to building narrow gauge railroads. Yet like his toll roads, the three railroads he built traversed some of the most mountainous terrain in all of Colorado. This was the mineral rich Silverton mining district in the San

Juan Mountains. For all of his road and railroad building, Mears became known as "The Pathfinder of the San Juans."

Mears's railroads carried workmen and their equipment to the mines and hauled the silver, copper, and gold ore down the mountains.

Mears was proud of the many accomplishments he had made in Colorado. He also made enough money to allow him to express a flamboyant side, for he had solid silver passes made for his Rio Grande Southern Railroad and his two Silverton Railroads, the Silverton and the Silverton Northern. Each pass contained over an ounce of pure Colorado silver. These were presented housed in a custom made leather pouch with the name of the railroad on it. Mears judiciously handed them out to his most respected associates.

Today silver passes from the days Otto Mears spent railroading in Colorado are so rare and so sought after by collectors that when one shows up at auction it will fetch thousands of dollars. A solid silver annual pass from the Silverton Railroad issued for the year 1889 brought \$8962.50 at auction in 2005. Even more remarkable is that in the same auction an intricate 1892 silver pass for his Rio Grande Southern and the Silverton Railroad hammered down at \$13,145.00.

Considered even rarer is a solid silver pass for Mears's Silverton Railroad for the year 1890. Stamped into the pass is a view of the Colorado Rockies and the wording "Rainbow Route" and "Silverton Railroad." The pass was made of a size and shape (1.2" x 1.5") that allowed it to double as a watch fob. There was a ring at the top of the pass where a watch chain could be attached. As of this writing one of these watch fob passes is being offered for sale by a dealer in railroad memorabilia for \$15,500.

In the next issue, please join us as we conclude the story of railroad passes

Fun, Fun, Fun

The are many Museum Events to look forward to.



On Saturday, November 21, we are having a Gingerbread Train Workshop. Suggested ages are 5 through 11. We are requesting a \$5 donation for each train to cover the cost of supplies. It is from 2 pm to 4pm. Reservations are required. Great for children and grandchildren!



Join us at our Holiday Open House and meet old and new friends. Sunday, December 6 from 1 to 4 pm. Bring one of your special Christmas treats!

The Polar Express is being presented again. Join us with your children and grandchildren for a lot of fun and games, Tuesday, December 22 starting at 6 pm. We'll be looking for you!



On Saturday, January 16 we are going to the B&O Museum on a field trip. Call the Museum in December for times, trip fees and reservations. More details coming soon.

Want to become a volunteer or just have a good time while refreshing your memory? Join us on March 13 at the Museum for the Volunteer Workshop.

On the first Saturday in April, we have our Annual Heritage Tour, on which we explore the Chesapeake Beach Railway line by bus. Make sure you sign up early to reserve your spot. The trip fee is \$30.



Call the Museum, 410-257-3892, for more details or reservations for any of the above activities.

Meeting Face to Face



We are excited to announce that the Friends of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum is now on Facebook. This is a new and exciting way to keep up with the latest happenings and events. If you are already on Facebook just search for the Friends of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum and then click the link to become a fan. If you do not have Facebook, you can use the search engine Google and it should be the first result that comes up. You do not have to be a member of Facebook in order to view the page.

Hats Off To You



With the Holidays around the corner, we are pleased to offer a new item in the Gift Shop. These khaki hats are a great way to show your railway pride with the Chesapeake Beach Railway emblem.

The hats normally retail for \$14 but have been discounted to \$12. (Not subject to the membership discount.) All the proceeds will fund the Loveless and Finlon Education Center which will be located in the Dolores after she is fully restored.

Visitor Statistics

We've had another busy summer at the Railway Museum, and visitors have come from far and near. Our guest book is full of appreciative comments from folks from around the world. At least fifteen different countries are represented in the guest book from such far away places as New Zealand and Mongolia. Also, visitors from at least forty-two of the fifty states stopped by. By the end October we had approximately 9000 guests that came to our Museum this year.

Volunteer Appreciation

Last year we announced that Volunteer Appreciation Day was being moved to the fall. However, due to scheduling concerns, we are moving it back to the Annual Meeting in June. This way we can appreciate everyone who volunteered during the entire 2009 year.

We are also going to be giving an award



to the "Most Outstanding Volunteer." If you would like to nominate someone, please send us a letter (100 words or less) as to why you feel that person was the Most Outstanding Volunteer. You can base it on any volunteer activity at any time. You are not restricted to just this year. Please mail to:

PO Box 1227
Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732
Or e-mail Kristen at krescott@aol.com

May the best volunteer win!

Bayside Chats

Bayside Chats are an adult lecture series that are held during the winter months. These "chats" are informal information sessions where we can explore the history and culture of Chesapeake Beach and the surrounding areas as well the fascinating lore behind trains and railroads. The tentative schedule for Bayside Chats in 2010:

January 10—To Be Announced

February 7—Lee Rogers (Trains)

March 7—Dr. Frank Gouin (The Bay Gardener)

Be on the lookout for more information!

www.cbrrm.org

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



We're Planning A Holiday Party,

Please Say You'll Be Here.

Let's Celebrate The Season

With Good Friends And Good Cheer!

Sunday, December 6th

1pm - 4pm

At the Museum

