



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 2005

Message From the President of the Friends

Joan D. Kilmon

When the Railway Museum started in 1979, it took many "friends" to turn the old station into the wonderful museum it is today. Bernie Loveless and Mildred Finlon spearheaded the project as co-chairs of a committee of the Calvert County Historical Society. As the mission of the museum evolved, so did the mission of the volunteers and supporters, resulting in the Friends of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum, which became incorporated in 1997. Bernie and Mildred continued to oversee the Friends, but at their insistence and approval, a "new" board of directors was appointed in 2004 and elected at the Annual Meeting in June 2005.

I was honored to be elected president. I was thrilled that Janet Bates agreed to serve as vice-president - we had worked together on the museum for 25 years. John Riedesel most graciously accepted the role of secretary and Chuck MacDonald will continue to serve in the capacity of treasurer, a function he had been performing for a number of years. Betty MacDonald and Larry Brown rounded out the elected board. What fun times we have had! We all have a general interest in trains,

a specific interest in local history, and have each been touched by our special friendships. Janet Bates is truly our "institutional memory." She rode our train. She says, "I have experienced so much in this area, from the hurricane of 1933 to Isabel in 2003!"

We each have hopes and dreams for the museum while maintaining the vision of our founders, Bernie Loveless and Mildred Finlon.



Front Row: Larry Brown, Betty MacDonald, Janet Bates, Joan Kilmon, John Riedesel. Back: Chuck MacDonald



Annual Holiday Open House



Museum Christmas Open House 1983

Please mark your calendar now - Sunday, December 4, 2005, 1-4 p.m. You won't want to miss our Annual Holiday Open House. Our party will once again be expanded to include our next-door neighbor, the Chesapeake Beach Hotel and Spa. We'll have lots of goodies and good times as well as gift suggestions.

You will note from the picture on the left, we have been throwing Holiday Parties for years. Taken in 1983, the following good friends were pictured: Mrs. R. Sinclair, Richard Sinclair, Dick Eisenman, Albert Grosvenor, Joan Kilmon, Bernie Loveless, Janet Bates, Mildred Finlon.

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Message from the Curator

Harriet M. Stout

History enriches our lives every day and in many ways. Most importantly, it is the way we share the stories of our nation, our community, and our own lives. These stories broaden our horizons, open our eyes and ears to the past and the present, and give us a sense of identity and focus. Like a treasure box, history provides a rich hoard of gems to bring into the light a few at a time or all at once, however we wish to enjoy them.

This may sound too extraordinary for our little Museum in Chesapeake Beach, but it is not. We are a part of all the stories that are told, and we certainly have a very special treasure here. Our own lives are made richer for those stories, and each time we share the history of our community with others, the treasure increases in value.



A Railroad Odyssey

By John Riedesel

"Help take a bite out of crime!" The voice of McGruff, the Crime Dog, came from across the hallway in the Amtrak sleeper car. You sure meet interesting people on a train.

Early in the fall I took a two-week trip around the country, mostly by rail. The immediate goal was to ride Amtrak's *Surfliner* to Los Angeles for a brief stay before boarding the *Coast Starlight* and the 1389-mile ride to Seattle. From the window of my little compartment I saw dramatic and beautiful

scenery as we went right along the pacific coast for about 200 miles, then through California's Central Valley and wine country to the San Francisco Bay area, north over the Cascades and through the red-wood forest to Oregon's Willamette Valley, and finally across the great

Columbia River and on to Seattle.

Part of the appeal of a train ride, especially a western trip, is meeting your fellow passengers in the lounge and dining cars. I met many train buffs along the way, including the one who was the voice of McGruff. At every meal you meet someone new, and everyone has a story to tell. The

meals are consistently delicious and are included in the ticket price if traveling in sleeper class, which is the only way to go for a long western trip. For privacy or a bed to sleep in there's your cozy compartment.

Seattle was another exciting city to explore. I viewed it

from the top of the Space Needle and from a tour bus as well, and rode the monorail and old Waterfront Trolley to the famous Pike Place Market and Pioneer Square Historic District. Then, at the century-old King Street Station, I boarded Amtrak's *Empire*



"All Aboard-r-rd!" A service stop at Havre, Montana, on Amtrak's *Empire Builder*.

Builder for a three-day, 2200-mile trip to Chicago, another "moveable feast," crossing the Rockies at Glacier Park midst falling snow, enjoying wine and cheese in the lounge, and good meals and conversation in the dining car as we traversed Montana, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and finally Illinois.

What does a railroad buff do on a one-day layover in Chicago? Why, ride trains, of course! I rode to Aurora, Illinois, on one of Chicago's vast network of commuter trains, known as Metra. But all good things must end, and I finally boarded Amtrak's *Capitol Limited* for the 764-mile overnight ride to Washington.

If this sounds intriguing, just call 1-800-USA-RAIL and talk to Julie. She'll set you up!



Seattle's Waterfront Trolley, unfortunately in danger of being shut down. The beautifully restored cars are early 1900's from Melbourne, Australia.

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

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Memorial Golf Shootout

By Janet Bates

The golf carts rolled out onto the course at 8:30 am, Friday, October 7th, for the beginning of the 4th Annual Charles C. Bates Memorial Golf Shootout. There was a slight mist in the air but no rain. All helpers and friends had begun to arrive at 6:30 am and everything was in place by 7:15, volunteers serving hot coffee and hot dogs. They love those dogs in the morning! The Museum was represented by the Friends' President, Joan Kilmon, who dropped in for an early morning

visit. This was really appreciated.

It was another great tournament enjoyed by all, with good food, prizes and fellowship. To date, we have given \$2,700.00 to the Museum for different projects. During the summer of 2006, we will sponsor one of the Bay Breeze Concerts and will look forward to another tournament in the fall.

Charles C. Bates was a past treasurer of the Friends.

Thank You to Volunteers

Each year our volunteers contribute their time and talents to help to make our museum the special place it is. The time recorded in the log is probably quite a bit less than what is actually contributed by these helpful hands. This past year our volunteers logged approximately 1100 hours. We would like to thank everyone who worked with us this past year. A special thanks also goes to Betty Quigley who schedules the volunteers who help her man the Museum on the weekends.

We would like to let you know who these volunteers are and what special jobs they perform.

Robert Alley	technical assistance
Charlotte Allison	landscape design, care for plantings
Vince Allison	assistant landscape work
Donald Avery	annual right-of-way hike, stationmaster
Joyce Fontana Avery	right-of-way hike, stationmaster
Janet Bates	Vice-President Board of Friends of CBRM, stationmaster, membership chairman
Larry Brown	Board of Friends of CBRM, special events, newsletter contributor
Vince Cipriani	Railroad history advisor, research EBay for available collections items
Mary Ellen Curran	educational programs and special events, newsletter contributor
Michael Curran	technical assistance
Hilary Dailey	special events, tourism research, community outreach, stationmaster
Mildred Finlon	special historical advisor, stationmaster, Board member emeritis
Dennis Flake	stationmaster
Edwin Haack	stationmaster, special events, education programs
Louis Bernie Hammett	maintenance assistance, stationmaster
Kathy Hogan	stationmaster, special events, education programs
J. Evans "Van" Ireland	stationmaster, special events, education programs
Joan Kilmon	President Board of Friends of CBRM, special events, education programs, liaison with public library, newsletter co-editor
Joseph Korczynski	maintenance assistance, railroad history advisor
Ingrid Lamb	stationmaster, special events, education programs
Patricia Lavato	stationmaster
Betty MacDonald	Board of Friends of CBRM, concert series chairperson, special events, newsletter contributor
Charles MacDonald	Treasurer of Board of Friends of CBRM, special events
Audrey MacWilliams	stationmaster
Elizabeth MacWilliams	special events, education programs, stationmaster, archival assistance
Bill Marshall	stationmaster, special events, education programs
Martin McClenahan	stationmaster
Joe Parker	stationmaster, newsletter contributor
Ann Parks	stationmaster
Diane Pitcher	special events, education programs
Betty Quigley	Manager of CBRM gift shop
Myrtle Rausch	stationmaster
John Riedesel	Secretary Board of Friends of CBRM, stationmaster, special events, newsletter contributor
Kathleen Scott	special events, education programs, organized spring grounds cleanup
Kristin Scott	special events, education programs, annual right-of-way hike, newsletter
Trish Stancil	special events
Betsy Towle	special railroad history advice
Nancy Young	special events, staff support
Mike Zitzman	stationmaster

FIRESIDE PROGRAMS

You are cordially invited to our first Fireside Chat, Saturday, January 21, 2006 at 2 p.m at the Chesapeake Beach Hotel and Spa. The guest speaker will be Helen Ward Wheeler, who will discuss the book:

**Country Boy to Country Doctor:
Memoirs of Hugh W. Ward, M.D. 1898-1978**

Dr. Ward practiced medicine in Calvert County for 49 years. When he was in his 70's he tape recorded his memories. His daughter, Helen Ward Wheeler, has turned those memories into this wonderful anecdotal history of the man and his times.

A cold winter day, a hot cup of cocoa, a warm fire in a beautiful setting, and local lore - what a perfect way to spend an afternoon. Please join us!
For more info: 410-257-3892!



Farewell to Kristen Scott

In September Kristin Scott, our hardworking office aide, moved on to a full-time job with the Calvert County Elections Board. We all miss Kris and her hard work and good humor. For the eleven months Kris was with us she brought a refreshing number of new ideas and creativity to our daily tasks and special programs. Harriet especially appreciated her ability to take over a lot of the more mundane jobs and county contacts.

Kris also put in over 25 hours as a volunteer while she was at the Museum. This contribution of volunteer time allowed her to receive a grant from Walmart to the amount of \$250. This is a program Walmart has to encourage their employees to contribute to their community. These funds will be used to help with educational programs; some of these funds were used to expand the decorations in the Haunted Railway Car for Fall Family Fun Day.

Thanks, Kris, for being such a great help to all of us!

ERRATA

The numbering of our newsletters got mixed up back in 2003. We have two issues with the number 42 (May and November, 2003). To correct the error, this issue will be numbered 47, missing number 46 as all the newsletters from November 2003 through May 2005 were one number off.

Thank You to Chesapeake Garden Club

Once again, the members of the Chesapeake Beach Garden Club contributed time and energy to beautify the landscape around the museum. The flowerbeds and the planted containers provided color and beauty to the grounds. Charlotte Allison did the planning and initial planting, and many other helping hands took care of things as the summer progressed. Many thanks to all who got dirt under their nails to improve the museum grounds with the attractive gardens!

Carpentry at the Museum

Restoration carpenter, William Dalton, did a lot of work around the Museum during the late summer and early fall. He did such a good job of making the new look old that you might not even notice what he did for us. The most important job that he did was to repair the east end of the Dolores. He replaced the rotten wood of the door frame and installed the new door and windows. He also replaced some rotted wood above the windows of the Dolores.

Mr. Dalton also did a few other jobs for us that were badly in need of doing. The siding of the storage shed had rotted at the bottom, and that was replaced. Another job that had gone undone for a number of years was the completion of the walls in the baggage room. At last the walls are finished, and the room has a nice old look about it with no insulation showing through.

Recent Community Outreach Programs

During the last six months, staff members have participated in several community outreach programs as part of the Museum's effort to share our history with a larger audience. Harriet Stout and Kristen Scott took information about the Museum and our programs to the Crain Memorial Visitors' Center on May 12; we joined other Southern Maryland sites in celebrating Tourism Week. In July materials were organized and loaned to the Salem Avery House in Shadyside for a week-long Transportation Camp.

The next event was the annual *Children's Day on the Farm* at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum on June 5th. Our Museum's traveling exhibit was on display. Mary Ellen Curran, Kathy Hogan and Hilary Dailey helped children and adults make chromotrope toys. The three also spread the word about the upcoming summer children's programs and summer concerts at our Museum to more than 300 people who visited the table.

Bayfest came next on the calendar on August 27-28th. This year the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum partnered with the Bayside History Museum of North Beach on the Boardwalk at the 2nd Street fishing pier. This prime location proved very successful. Hundreds of people stopped to learn about both museums and our events. Mary Ellen Curran, Kristen and Kathy Scott, and Van Ireland sparked interest in future visitors as well as enlisting new volunteer support.

Recently, the Museum was represented at the first annual Kite Flying Day in North Beach on September 17. This event was organized by the Twin Beach business community. We were invited to exhibit at the Pavilion on the Boardwalk. A highlight of the day was the demonstration by the Washington Stunt Kite Flyers. There were also demonstrations by local organizations and businesses as well. Children had an opportunity to build their own kites and fly them on the beach. Mary Ellen Curran and Hilary Dailey provided information about the CBRM and in particular, the Fall Family Fun Day.

The Museum helped community children celebrate Halloween at the Chesapeake Beach Water Park on October 30. The Friends provided treats for Mary Ellen Curran, Van Ireland, and Trish Stancil to hand out to the little goblins who stopped by the table.



Recent Acquisitions

During the past few month we have added to our collections through gifts and purchases. All these items add to the story that we tell here at the Museum, and provide interesting research and exhibit materials for the future. Many thanks to all our donors.

Purchase	Black and white Postcard: "The Boardwalk, Looking North, Chesapeake Beach, Md." Postmarked Aug 3, 1910.
Purchase	Black and white Postcard: "The Belvedere Hotel, Chesapeake Beach, Md."
Purchase	Black and White Postcards: "The Arrival of the Steamer Dreamland, Chesapeake Beach, Md." Postmarked Aug 16, 1909; and "The Bathing at Chesapeake Beach, Md." Postmarked July 5, 1911.
Purchase	CBR Ticket: "Excursion of Women's Union of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, N.F.E.E." Dated Aug 17, 1921.
Purchase	Black and White Postcard: "New Dance Pavilion, Chesapeake Beach, Md." Postmarked Aug, 1944.
George Dale Gray	Black and white digital photos: Small train on long (steamboat) pier, traveling toward land. Group of five people leaning on railing.
Purchase	Transcript of Proceedings: CB Park, Inc. versus FBI. Dated March 6, 1952
Laurence Hampton	Archival Materials
Purchase	Vintage swim suit, c. 1930's; white and maroon striped with maroon waist; with skirt.
Randy Lieberman	Uncle Billie's (North Beach) amusement tokens.
John Armingier	Collection of old buttons, black silk waistcoat, cream silk camisole, doll dress.
James R. Ganley	Bond Coupon; The Washington and Chesapeake Beach Railway Company; Maturation date May 1908.
Pat Tait	Framed color photograph: The Museum with winter snow, dated 2002.
Purchase	CBR schedule of passenger trains, effective Sept. 8, 1930.
Purchase	Photographic negative: CBR Engine #7 at Seat Pleasant.
Mary McGraw	Newspaper article: "The Day Tripper - Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum" by Dana Burton. Published in <u>Generations</u> , Howard County, June 2005
Jason Rhodes	Book: <u>Maryland's Amusement Parks</u> , by Jason Rhodes, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, S. C., 2005
Purchase	Color tinted postcard: "Railroad Station, Chesapeake Beach, Md." Postmarked Aug 21, 1913.
Don Long	Photographs, Video, and CD: "R. F. D. Hollywood Memories".

Summer Programs at the Museum

The Museum had a busy schedule of special programs this past summer. Our Thursday morning programs got off to a big start in June with a record turnout of 56 children and adults on June 16. The programs continued through the middle of August. This summer we added hands-on craft activities which were very popular. Several other groups of children visited the museum and took part in special programs during the summer. An especially popular program was the storytime program done in cooperation with the Twin Beach Library on August 10; children enjoyed listening to the library ladies read favorite train stories under the porch. A nice group of children from Primetime Activity Center also visited the museum for a program on June 28.

Several adult groups also visited us and enjoyed the stories that we shared with them. In June the Charles County Antique Arts club visited the Museum. On the same day, Harriet Stout presented an outreach program in La Plata to seniors at the Richard Clark Senior Center. An adult group on a bus tour from Pennsylvania also visited us in June while touring Southern Maryland. The Curator had also presented an adult version of her Grandmother's Trunk program to the Freedom Landing Adult Day Care Center in La Plata on May 24.

Fun for Everyone at the Fall Family Fun Day

By Mary Ellen Curran

The Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum held its third annual Fall Family Fun Day on October 9th from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. There was an excellent turnout in spite of chilly temperatures and threatening rain clouds. Kathleen Jacobs & Puppets kicked off the entertainment with an hour-long puppet show called *Magic Pots & Recycled Bottles*. Children were mesmerized by old folktales performed by puppets made out of empty cleaning products containers. Next the Diane Herbert All-Star Dancers took center stage on the porch with their popular dance revue. Dance numbers included the hit songs "We're Going to the Chapel" and "Going on a Sea Cruise." Throughout the afternoon the popular clown, Ming Diaz, created works of art on children's faces.

The *Haunted Railroad Car* was creepier than ever with a variety of new devices and decorations. One of these was the skeletal remains of a train engineer shackled to a seat. A few motion and sound-activated devices were also added. These included a giant eyeball that glowed while it turned around and large furry bat that shook and blinked its beady red eyes. Two other big hits in the car this year were a life-like arm that moved and a real goblin who banged against the Gents Room wall. Our real live guest spook also manipulated a bat to swoop down on unsuspecting visitors leaving the car.

Arts and crafts activities were available as part of the afternoon program; children were given an opportu-



nity to decorate masks with sequins and feathers. Additional activities were making lantern sun catchers as well as cup and ball toys. Young and old alike also engaged in trying to solve an old-fashioned nail puzzle, new this year.

Christmas Memories

By Joe Parker

There was a chill in the air; it was December after all, but in the excitement of the moment I never even noticed. The engineer walked around the mighty New York Central steam locomotive inspecting all the exposed mechanism while the fireman made sure that the tender was topped up with coal and water. At last, the engineer climbed aboard and prepared to depart.

A blast of the whistle and the drivers begin to turn. Slowly at first, straining against the weight of a hundred loaded cars, the locomotive takes up the slack in the train. Staccato chuffs blast at a rapidly increasing pace as the train accelerates. In no time at all, the locomotive is gone and the cars

roll by, one by one, soon becoming a blur as full speed is reached.

From the cab of the locomotive, the countryside flies by. A hundred cars of priority freight charging across the landscape. Over the hills they fly...

fic, we fly across the countryside and in what seems a flash we are slowing down to ease into the train yard at our destination; right on time.

It really happened that way, at least in the mind of the five year old boy I was that particular Christmas Day. A locomotive, a tender, three cars and a caboose on a six-foot diameter circle of track sitting under the Christmas tree; my dad playing fireman to my engineer as I brought her in on time. It's almost fifty years ago, but I remember the moment as clearly as if it were just yesterday.

Another week and it's time to go back to school. The train-set is put away so that the living room can resume its regular functions. But every year at Christmas we pull out the train and, for a few weeks, the New York Central runs in our living room.



Photo from Tans Cycles in North Beach. Visit their free holiday train display from Nov. 24 thru Feb 4, Mon-Fri 3-8pm, Sat 2-5pm. For more info call 301-855-8337 or 410-257-6619.

Alas, eventually the boy grows up and goes off into the world. The train is put away for the last time as the child moves into adulthood. There's school, a job, marriage and finally a son.

On another fine Christmas morning another five year old boy stumbles down the steps to find the B & O Railroad under the Christmas tree. For a few hours on that morning, the fast freight roared across the countryside with absolutely no problems or delays. While the young engineer isn't aware of it, the engineer's father had given the locomotive a thorough workout the night before to ensure that all went well for the inauguration of the new mainline.

In Memory of Ronald Essex



The Museum lost another good friend since our last newsletter. Ronald Essex, born and raised in Calvert County, was one of our first-hand raconteurs of life in Chesapeake Beach since 1925, the year he was born. Ronald had a story for every occasion and often shared his remembrances at Board Meetings as well as at informal gatherings. Ronald had great memories of his

sister, Audrey, winning the beauty contest in the ballroom! And he was there when the cruise ship, *Marvel*, sank in the bay in 1955. People were rescued and brought to the North Beach Volunteer Fire Department. Ronald shared many articles of his history in the Beaches with the museum. Ronald saved us many hours with his willing hand and strong back when it came time to

set up for Antique Car Shows and Bay Breeze Summer Concerts. The museum could always count on Ronald to help out whenever he was needed. In the early years, forming the museum, his memories were vital to recreating our story. We miss him. The Friends of the Museum have contributed to the Alzheimer's Association in his honor.

Summer Concerts

By Betty MacDonald

The 2005 Bay Breeze Summer Concert series was a huge success in spite of a somewhat hot and dry summer. The series opened in June with the *Not So Modern Jazz* directed by Bill Rowe of Chesapeake Beach. They played club venue music of the 1920's to 1940's with piano, bass, drums and clarinet. It was a lovely way to open the series with so much foot tapping and hand clapping. In July, *Blues Times Two* featured a female vocalist, piano and guitar. Our August performers were the perennial *Dixie Ramblers* directed by Mike Phipps with his vocal and mandolin, as well as bass, guitar, and banjo. All the loyal blue grass fans turned out to enjoy this concert. The series concluded in

September with *Rockfish* directed by North Beach's Gary Pendleton featuring special guest fiddler Bill Marquess. All enjoyed the harmonica, fiddle, guitars, and vocal. It was a grand evening with a standing ovation to conclude the summer concert series.

Attendance grew with each and every concert; word gets around about an enjoyable evening. Of course everyone enjoyed the cookies and lemonade provided by the Rod N Reel at intermission. A special touch was flowers from local gardens provided by the Chesapeake Beach Garden Club; Kathy Johnson of Town Hall provided pleasant hospitality at the refreshment table as well. Thanks to the Arts Council of Calvert County, the Calvert County Commissioners and the Friends of the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum who help to make these concerts possible.



Dixie Ramblers

The concert series is reminiscent of concerts in the park from yesteryear. As concert coordinator, I hope to bring back many of our artists in 2006 for encore performances. Stay tuned and mark your calendar for next year with the second Thursday in June, July, August, and September. Join us on the porch at 7:30 P.M for a very enjoyable evening.

Check the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum web page (www.cbrm.org) or call the museum at (410) 257-3892 in May 2006 for new series.

See you at the concerts next summer.

VISITOR STATISTICS

This season we hosted visitors from around the world and all corners of our country. Our guest book recorded the visits of people from 37 states including the District of Columbia and nine foreign countries. The total number of visitors between January and the end of October was 8900.

www.cbwm.org



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

Holiday Open House

Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum

Sunday, December 4th

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 4th from 1:00 to 4:00pm*