

### Alternate Giving Ideas

The Wildwood Historical Society, Inc. and the Boyer Museum were made possible through the contributions of many individuals in our community.

The gifts you make today help preserve the memories of the past. Please consider the Historical Society in your will.

### Friends of the Wildwood Historical Society, Inc.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Class	
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$200.
<input type="checkbox"/> Business	\$50.
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$50.
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$25.
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$15.
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$10.
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$5.

**Renewal**     **New**  
 Please check membership class and  
 enclose fee with application.

**Wildwood Historical Society, Inc.**  
 George F. Boyer Museum  
 3907 Pacific Avenue  
 Wildwood, NJ 08260

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Issue #32

The Wildwoods By-The-Sea, New Jersey

Fall, 2013

... a message from  
 the President

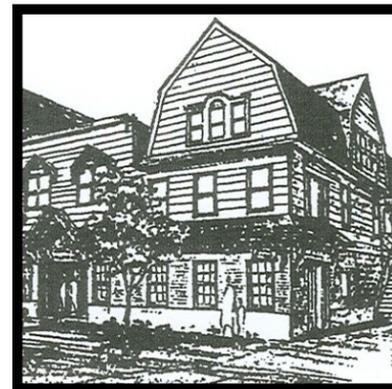
Hi Everyone!  
 As I write this message, I am saddened to think it will be the last that I write as the president of the museum. In January, I will be handing the gavel over to Kathy Skouras. Kathy joined us a few years ago as a volunteer, then joined the Board of Directors, and for the last year took over the job as treasurer. She is a very capable young woman who can handle the job of technology without being intimidated.



Like it or not, our little museum has advanced forward from filing photos and documents in various folders and books, to these items being recorded and scanned to data bases so that we can preserve and locate them when we need them. We have over 10,000 images scanned in our files of properties throughout the island, and presently we have six volunteers scanning our binders, thereby securing the images of our schools, beaches, boardwalk, businesses, police and fire departments, not to mention those that focus on the founding fathers of this island.

Problems will arise that involve the advancement of technology, and it is up to the Board of Directors to have someone in charge that can handle our information system, and I feel that Kathy is that person.

I have been on the Board for nine years, serving as the president for the past seven. I can't begin to express my feelings about



this organization and preserving our wonderful history.

The people that walk through these doors make it all worth while. When a visitor tells us about his grandmother's house where he vacationed and we produce a photo of that house with grandmother on the front porch - the hug he gave me and the tear in his eye was the greatest thank you of all.

To the staff, Board Members, and volunteers who have supported me over the years, you are so much appreciated. You paint and fix and clean and keep the property tended. Many of you spend hours balancing the

### The Wildwood Historical Society, Inc. Preserving the history and memories of the Wildwoods . . .

books, scanning, sorting, filing and updating our information binders. A young man on our Board by the name of Chris Mento, has been responsible for setting up and maintaining our Facebook page. I mention him by name since until he came along, none of us knew enough to set up a Facebook page.

In closing, I want to extend a grateful "thank you" to our visitors for their support. I will continue on as a "volunteer" working with the ladies that are presently scanning books. It's been a wonderful nine years!

To all, I extend a very,  
**Happy Holiday Season.**

*Anne Vinci*  
 President



Gidding's Men's Store - 1950s

Tom Kinnemand Photo



Zippy's Bikes - 2013

Anne Vinci Photo

*Then!*

3900 Pacific Avenue

*Now!*

We are always looking for new members to help preserve Wildwood's history. Now is the time to renew your membership. If you have done so already, we thank you. Because of rising costs of maintenance and utilities, donations are welcome, too! Membership dues help to cover the cost of mailing, notices, newsletters and notification of special events.

### MEMBERSHIP

**Wildwood Historical Society, Inc.**  
 George F. Boyer Museum  
 3907 Pacific Avenue  
 Wildwood, New Jersey 08260  
 609-523-0277



May 4, 1974,  
 St. Ann's Regional School  
 First Holy Communion  
 held at St. Ann's Church.  
 Left to right:  
 Christine Cramer,  
 Robert Regalbuto, Michael Colman and  
 Joanne Vinci. Teacher is Mrs. Scrivani.

## New Acquisitions . . . . .

**Kathy Boyer Maher** donated two CDs containing the four books written by her father, George F. Boyer. We will make them available to visitors for research here in the museum. She also donated a collection of papers on the Baker Brothers, Joy Bright Hancock, and "The Mini House".

**Tom Kinnemand** took a series of photos of two very long-time businesses in the Wildwoods that were closing after being in business around 75 years. Namely, H. B. Christman and Bonelli's Market. **Tom Flud** brought us stacks of photos from the **Estate of J. Elwood Chester**, former principal at Margaret Mace School. They appear to be taken in the early 1950s. If you're interested, take the time to come in and look in the "Margaret Mace" book. **Steve Murray** was kind enough to give us a book "Guardians of the Hereford Inlet," and **Noble Bright** brought in a CD and two books about NJ history.

**Charles Cannon** of Margate stopped in one day with an antique metal voting box. We made some calls and found the last time it was used was in 1960 when voters made the choice to use voting machines. He also allowed us to scan a very rare group photo of the 1932 Miss America contestants. The contest that year was held in Wildwood for the first and only time. He gave us permission to reproduce it once for our museum only! He also gave us a single photo of her and her obituary. **Jeri Hoffman McDaniel** continues to give me trinkets from her parents' collections. This was a political button electing George Redding for Senator.

We received stacks of fishing photos from **Chuck Schumann**. Look in the "Otten's Harbor" book if you're interested. **Karla Svard Frederick** also gave us a collection of Svard family boats. One of our volunteers, **Joan Husband** gave us a photo of Otten's Harbor, frozen!

Do you remember a "Mighty Joe" gorilla that stood at an off-shore golf course in the 1960s? A **Dan DeFabio** e-mailed me a photo of it. It's in our "Rio Grande" file for your perusal. That's it for now. We are closing for the winter months, but are still available to you by phone. Have a snug and happy winter from all of us at the museum

Until next time . . . . .

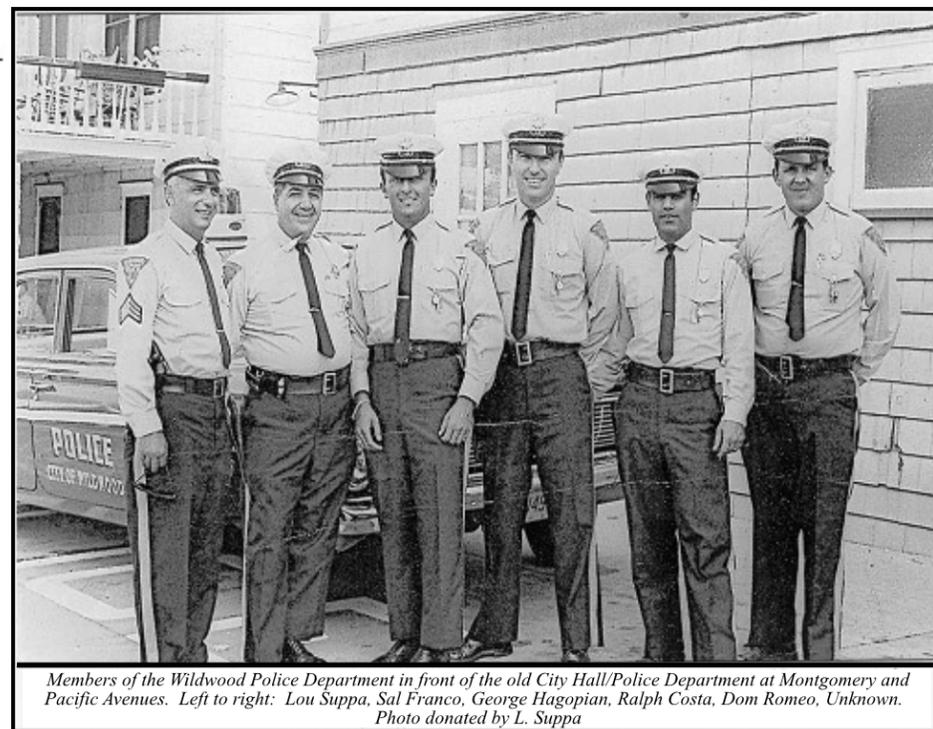


Visit our Gift shop!

Even though the museum will be closed for the winter months, if you're in need of any gift items from our gift shop, call 609-523-0277 and arrangements can be made for you to make your purchase.

We have books and DVDs available that deal with the history of the Wildwoods and also souvenir picture mousepads for \$6 each. That favorite grandchild is not to be forgotten with the Talking Tram Car for \$12. Stop in and take a look.

Proceeds benefit the Museum  
Also available by mail  
Call for shipping and handling charges  
Call (609) 523-0277



Members of the Wildwood Police Department in front of the old City Hall/Police Department at Montgomery and Pacific Avenues. Left to right: Lou Suppa, Sal Franco, George Hagopian, Ralph Costa, Dom Romeo, Unknown. Photo donated by L. Suppa

## HOURS

The Wildwood Historical Society will be closed for the winter months from

October 27, 2013 to April 17, 2014

If you are in need of our services, please call 609-523-0277, leave a message and we will get back to you

## 2013 Executive Board

President	Anna M. Vinci
Treasurer	Kathy Skouras
Secretary	Larry Lillo
Gerald Barton	Chris Mento
Alexander Brannen	Mary Ellen Shields
Klaas Kramer	Catina Simmons

Robert J. Scully, Sr., Emeritus

Anna M. Vinci, Editor

## A REMINDER

We are still taking applications for pavers. If you would like to honor a family name or a family business, give us a call and we will put an application in the mail to you. The cost is \$100 for a 4 x 8 brick and \$225 for an 8 x 8 brick. Also remember to "like us" on FACEBOOK, **AND** take a look at us on TripAdvisor. We are doing **GREAT!**



Tom Kinnemand Photo

## Wildwood Historical Society/George F. Boyer Museum Postcard Show and 50th Anniversary Celebration - June 15, 2013

Left to right, Board members, Klaas Kramer, Chris Mento, Al Brannen, Mayor Ernie Triano, who presented the 50th Anniversary Proclamation, President Anne Vinci, accepting, Larry Lillo, Mary Ellen Shields, Kathy Skouras and Manager, Mona Pluck.

# In the beginning . . . . .

*Editor's Note: The following is taken from Book 4, Holly Beach stories written by George F. Boyer.*

The first people here were the Ketchemeches of the great Leni Lenape Indians. Charles the second, King of England, gave the territory grant to the Duke of York in 1664. The island of Five Mile Beach went through various parties.

The forest-covered land was used as a grazing ground for many years; but in 1882 a group became interested in forming the middle of the island as a community. They commenced business by application to the Clerk of the County of Cape May, April

12, 1882, with the sum of seven thousand dollars, subscribed and paid in by Aaron C. Andrews of Vineland, 25 shares; Nelson Roberts of Vineland, 4 shares; John L. Burk of Vineland, 15 shares; John L. Davis of Chicago, 38 shares; the following Philadelphians - Joseph Taylor, 23 shares, Thomas Montgomery, 17 shares; James Young, 7 shares; James McCandless, 4 shares; and Harry Spencer, 7 shares. Shares rapidly changed hands.

At an early date Latimer R. Baker became a shareholder and director of the company. They built the one-room sales office, also used for religious

gatherings and the first school, taught by Mary Van Valin (16 year-old daughter of Mayor Van Valin), and at times by a Mrs. Babcock.

They formed a stock company with the capital stock of five hundred thousand dollars, divided into ten thousand shares at \$55 each. The name of the company was the Holly Beach City Improvement Company and the new community incorporated in 1885 as the Borough of Holly Beach. After Holly Beach came the Borough of Wildwood.



Philip Baker, after developing Wildwood, went south of Holly Beach in 1905 and founded Wildwood Crest.

Turtle Gut Inlet, dividing Five Mile Beach and Two Mile Beach was closed and filled in during the years 1917-1919, and filled above the high water mark between 1925-1929.

George F. Boyer  
Wildwood, New Jersey  
December, 1964

Wildwood Leader, June 23, 1932  
(Presently Flip Flop)



## Thank You, Brick Donors!

Tim and Barbara Blute	Margaret and Patrick McDonnell
Dolores Connelly	Elaine Moore
Connie Darmiento	Barbara Preston
Montgomery T. Dutt II	Helen Rague
Dennis Grant	Christina Taglialatela
Denise Mawhinney	VFW Post 3509