



# WILDWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

## GEORGE F. BOYER MUSEUM

Our mission is to gather, preserve & present the history & memories of The Wildwoods.

609.523.0277

WildwoodHistoricalMuseum.com

3907 Pacific Avenue Wildwood, NJ 08260



Issue #36 Winter 2015



15-0095



15-0107



22-0041



22-0063

Here are some of the wonderful wintertime photographs from our collections. If you know any details about the photos, please share!

Send an email to:

WildwoodHistoricalSociety@hotmail.com

Enjoy! Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukkah! Happy New Year!

**Re-Opening April 14, 2016**

April 14-May 7 Th/Fr/Sat

May 9 - Oct 1 Mon-Sat

Oct 6- Oct 29 Th/Fr/Sat

9 AM to 2 PM

### 2016 History Re-grant

The WHS possesses over 100 years of Leader newspapers. We are having them digitized to preserve the deteriorating papers and to create searchable files.

We have been awarded a 2016 grant of \$3000. by the Cape May Co. Cultural & Heritage Commission, from funds granted by the NJ Historical Commission to continue this endeavor.

Over a decade of issues are completed and uploaded to our visitor computer. As we are granted donations, more newspapers can be preserved and shared at the museum.

### Museum Highlights

Our wonderful volunteers: Vicki Bundschu, Judy Carr, Inge Laine & Joan Husband scanned over a dozen more of the photo binders this summer. Thank you!!! Look at all the great pictures on the guest computer.

Costantino Spinosa, our summer manager, welcomed over 3400 visitors to the Wildwood Historical Museum during the 2015 Summer season! He enthusiastically answered queries in person, by phone or email, guided guests to our collections, printed photos & ran the gift shop. Cos created the Weekly Highlights feature on our website: WildwoodHistoricalMuseum.com. Al Alven, our Facebook manager, will continue these fun postings. The Groff's Family Restaurant closed its door and the sign was gifted to the museum by Charles Eyster. The stained glass Staller Hardware sign was donated by Nancy, Susan & Luci Staller. Thank you for these iconic landmarks.



## Canning's Christmas Tree Lot & Memories

By Pat Canning



Do you remember when you bought your Christmas tree from Canning's Christmas tree lot? We were located on the corner of Wisteria and New Jersey Avenues in Wildwood Crest. From approximately 1958 to 1977, my dad, Frank Canning, and I sold and flocked Christmas trees, and also sold holiday decorations from after Thanksgiving up to Christmas Eve.

Before the building known as the Colony Arms Apartments, which is located on that same lot now, was built in 1978, there were three little garages there. For many years the garages were used typically for storage, but then in 1958 my dad, Frank and my mom, Dorothy, decided to sell Christmas trees and a few outside decorations for the holidays. Right after Thanksgiving the stakes for the trees would be put in place. My dad and I would travel to Philadelphia and pick up the trees at the Philadelphia train yards. We would bring back beautiful balsams, firs, and pine trees, and a variety of Christmas decorations, including over 100 wreaths, to sell in the end garage, which we converted into a little store. We put a space heater in the little store, which kept us warm on some of the freezing days and nights of the approaching holidays. Having a full time job during the day, I was only able to help my dad at night, but worked the trees all day Saturday and Sunday. Sometime in the late 60's or 70's we bought a flocking machine. Needless to say, the trees were gorgeous with the flock-

ing. Along with the decorations that were sold in the little store, we also sold handmade grave blankets for loved ones.

In 1962 my mom, Dorothy, and my dad's sister, Katherine McDonald, decided they wanted to try their hand at running a take-out kitchen in the summer. So what was a Christmas store and tree business in the winter, became a take-out kitchen in the summer. Seems like my parents and Aunt Kay may have been early entrepreneurs of their time, but no one was thinking that back then. The front garage was used for taking orders and selling salads and desserts etc., and the middle garage was converted into a cooking kitchen. One day a week they would have a "special", such as baked chicken with stuffing and mashed potatoes. Back in the 60's and 70's "no meat on Fridays" was followed in some churches. This made the fish platters so popular that on Fridays there would be a line from the pavement to inside the store. The platters at the time were only \$1.40, and that included french fries, cole slaw, roll, butter and utensils. Wow!!! Most of our help throughout the years were the local high school students. In 1978 a new era was started. On the lot where the three little garages once stood, my wife, Rita and I built a new Canning's Take-out Kitchen, our home and the Colony Arms Apartments.

Also in those early years, my dad, the late Captain Frank Canning, ran an eight hour

party boat called "The Angler" out of Sinns dock between Sweetbriar and Wisteria Roads on Park Blvd. His father, Patrick (my Grandfather) owned a boat called "The Reliance" which fished out of Cape May. After my grandfather Patrick passed away, my father Frank, sold his boat, "The Angler", and bought "The Reliance" from his mother, which sailed out of Kurtz's Dock between Sweetbriar and Cardinal Roads on Park Blvd. For years, because I loved fishing and being a deck hand, I tried to be a deck hand on my dad's boat, but because I suffered from motion sickness, it was never meant to be.

Captain Frank Canning also fished commercially in the winter for cod fish. His boat, "The Reliance", was docked at Two Mile dock for the winter. When Rita and I were in high school we would double date on the weekends with one of my best friends and his date. After we took our girlfriends home (around 11 pm), we would head down to Two Mile dock & my friend and I would bait-up hooks for my dad to use for his cod fishing. This way we could earn some spending money to take our girlfriends on future dates.

I have so many great memories of growing up in Wildwood Crest, and I hope these few bring back "Happy Memories" of Wildwood Crest to others.

(This wonderfully nostalgic Wildwood story was first published in The Sun by-the-sea magazine, Dec. 2010)

### Captions:

- Pat Canning, 9 yrs. old, standing next to his dad, Capt. Frank Canning, on his first party boat "The Angler" (on far left)
- Canning's Take-Out Kitchen, 6300 N.J. Ave., Wildwood Crest in 1972
- The first menu from Canning's Take-Out Kitchen in 1963
- Pat & Rita's daughters liked to come to the tree lot and play. In 1969, here are 3 yr. old Kellie Canning (left) and 5 yr. old Maureen Canning (right)
- Rita & Pat Canning 1961





**Margaret Mace School—1943**  
Mrs. Brown's pre-first class

05-0053



02-0056

**Miss Ana Anderson's 6th grade  
Wildwood Elementary December 1961**

- Row 1:** Christa Phelps, Richard Oster, Toni Suppa, Bill King, Doris Knight.  
**Row 2:** Paul Compare, Sally Snyder, Richard Mitchell, Sharon Wapner, Charles Miller.  
**Row 3:** Martha Neff, Edward Harshaw, Sharon Thomas' elbow, Joe Peschi, Marcella Carlson.  
**Row 4:** Ron Wilson, Patty Fulginetti, Rich Yadowsky, Bob Lamach, Janet ?  
**Row 5:** Louis Hornstein, Charles Mosby, Tom Ritchie, John Webb, Anna Wingate. (From left of photo)



01-0075



06-0091

**6th Grade- 1954**

- Bottom Row:** Judy Moore, Shereen Roy, Pat Taylor  
**Row 2:** John Stell, David Rhodes, Ruth Waicus, Rosalie Weatherby, Carol Tozour, Judy Wood  
**Top Row:** Benjamin Lauriello, Tony Tierri, George Wilson, Mrs. Emory, Richard Lippincott, Ronnie McGowan, Harry Merkle



02-0042

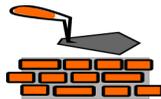
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Welcome to  
 our new board member—  
 Mary Anne Bluhm



Thank you to our recent  
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**Give a gift and help the Museum**

The Wildwood Historical Society and the G. F. Boyer Museum are supported by memberships and donations. We are independent and receive no financial help from the City of Wildwood.

Our **Buy A Brick** Program provides an opportunity to have a brick engraved in honor of a loved one and/ or to commemorate fond Wildwoods memories. Visitors can view your etched message at the Museum entrance. It is priceless. Please remember the Museum when thinking of a gift for the person who has everything.

4" X 8" Bricks may contain three lines with a maximum of 18 characters per line for \$100.00.

8" x 8" Bricks may contain six lines with a maximum of 18 characters per line for \$250.00.

Paver order forms can be downloaded  
 @ [WildwoodHistoricalMuseum.com](http://WildwoodHistoricalMuseum.com) or call 609-523-0277. -Al Brannen



**MEMBERSHIP**

Please renew your membership. If you have done so already, thank you. Donations are welcome, too! Membership donations help cover the costs of newsletters, mailings & notices of special events.

www.WildwoodHistoricalMuseum.com  
WildwoodHistoricalSociety@hotmail.com

The Wildwood Historical Society, Inc. & The George F. Boyer Museum are made possible through the contributions of many individuals. The gifts you make today help preserve the memories of the past. Please consider the Historical Society in your will.



We are always looking for new active Board Members

Friends of the Wildwood Historical Society,

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Masonic Lodge—1961



Wildwood Crest Library—2015



Photo by Kathy Skouras

6300 Atlantic Avenue, Wildwood Crest



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