



MUSEUM NEWS

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CELEBRATING THE HISTORY AND COMMUNITY OF CAPE CHARLES & LOWER EASTERN SHORE

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MEMORIES OF GROWING UP IN CAPE CHARLES, BY WILLIAM (BILL) NEVILLE

“My twin brother Junius and I were born in 1941, and our parents brought us home from the hospital in Nassawadox to a new house on Randolph Avenue just a few days before Christmas. My brother still lives there.

One of my earliest memories is of dad driving us by the POW camp “Ettinger” near Oyster and shouting something to the Germans. He got a response of some sort. I wasn’t fluent in German, (I’m still not) so I am not sure what he said.

In the summer, when he would come home from working in the PRR shops, he would let Junius and me stand on the running board of his Chevrolet and ride us two blocks down to the beach.

Looking back now at when and how we grew up in Cape Charles makes me realize what a cool place it was for a kid. We had it all the bay, beach, woods, fishing ponds, Sandy Island, plantation creek, and the abandoned old ferry dock. We had our school friends, great teachers, the boy scouts, football games, bonfires and pep rallies. We could ride our bikes all over town, roller skate, fish, swim, explore beaches, islands and creeks, build forts and take our BB guns with us to shoot stuff.



Cape Charles children with Lloyd Kellam as Santa, 1953. Image private collection of Bill Neville

To add to all of this there was the railroad with big steam locomotives and ferries and a huge terminal where we could roam and watch passengers and freight moving between the trains and the steamers and count the automobiles as they boarded

It was always a thrill to watch the steam locomotives as they arrived or departed with the steam hissing, the screeching of steel on steel and the chugging. Seeing the stack belching smoke and steam along with all of the accompanying sounds and smells made an awesome spectacle for us kids.

Another one of my memories is of us going to the station to see our cousin Ruthellen Mears board the train to Atlantic City to compete in the Miss America contest in 1947. She was Miss Virginia, from little Cape Charles! When she started to step on the train, it lurched and frightened her. In my child’s mind, I was pretty sure this was the cause of her not becoming Miss America!”

2020 EPIPHANY PARTY DONATION

Special from Margaret Van Cleif - 28 years ago, Chris Bannon and a few others gathered to auction off their “least favorite Christmas presents” to one another, and donate the money to a needy local family. The Cape Charles Epiphany Party has grown, and now chooses its beneficiaries from among our community’s many worthwhile nonprofits. The Cape Charles Historical Society and the Cape Charles Rosenwald School Restoration Initiative were honored to be this year’s recipients. Over 250 people showed up and bid like mad on items that ranged from a catered dinner at the Bay Haven Inn to the famous mascots of the party, a pair of pink plastic flamingos. The flamingos went for \$615 this year, the dinner for \$800!

Our own board member Butch Vest made huge pots of his famous chili, and everyone brought a dish to share. With many laughs, they proceeded to raise over \$9000 total! The CCHS will receive \$3,439.46 from the event. A huge thank you to our generous town!

ALL ABOARD THE RAILROAD RESTORATION FUND!

Help us preserve Cape Charles' transportation history! To donate, visit our website at capecharlesmuseum.org, or contact Kimb at (757) 607-6018

A BIG THANK YOU GOES OUT TO ROBERT BARNES : DR. & MRS. W. ANDREW DICKINSON : J. WAYNE SPRINKLE : RICK & JANICE FELKER : STACIA CHILDERS

MEMBERSHIPS AND MORE

2019 saw a record number of 232 memberships, exceeding all previous years and providing \$17,431 in operating funds. Membership contributions are still the largest single line item in our budget. Thank you for your continued support!

A number of people donating \$250 or more chose to add plates to the museum's plaques in honor of friends and relatives this year. Thirteen plates were added:

- * In honor of Jeffrey K. Walker by his friend Richard Tanker : Isabelle Lawrence beloved daughter by Fred Von Cannon : and Tommy and Malvina Savage uncle and aunt by Jake and Laura Leigh Savage.
- * In memory of John D. Humphreys beloved husband by Joanne L. Humphries : Essie Drummond Woerner beloved grandmother by Jenean Hall : Mary Neville Kayton beloved aunt by Bill Neville : Dale Wiles beloved brother by Linda Wiles : Juan and Purita Vargas beloved parents by Nancy Dalinsky : Anthony J. Ash beloved brother by Mike and Jennifer Ash : Marshfield Hunt Scout master by Andrew Dickinson : Dan Wilkins football coach by Andrew Dickinson.
- * Plates were also added to honor Jack Hickman, and Wayne Calloway for their individual contributions to the museum and community.

JOIN THE CCHS LEGACY SOCIETY

Early this year we were honored and deeply grateful to receive a large distribution from the Eugene V. White Charitable Remainder Unitrust. The trust was set up by Mr. White many years ago. He made us aware of his future bequest by joining the CCHS Legacy Society. Forms for this are now available on the CCHS website. Please consider remembering the historical society in your will too!

2019 OYSTER ROAST

The November 30 Oyster Roast was a success on all counts. It was attended by about 240 people and, unlike the previous rainy year, the weather cooperated. The roasted and raw oysters were delicious, as was the chowder, chicken and donated desserts which included Brown Dog ice cream. As always, we wish to thank donors to the Silent Auction and our 15 sponsors: **Mike & Jennifer Ash, Elizabeth & Wade Branner, Andy Bucholz – E.S. Signs, Brown Dog Ice Cream, Davis Disposal, David Dix, Jerry Doughty, Griffith Seafood, Roger & Irene Munz, Bill & Dawn Neville, Fiameta Pellicer, Sprinkle & Sprinkle PLLC, Dora Sullivan, The Sandlot House, and Minda Vargas.**

AMAZON SMILE DONATIONS

Thank you to those of you who have donated to the CCHS by designating the historical society on Amazon Smile. The Smile program funnels a percentage of each purchase made to us. It's easy! Just go to amazonsmile.com when you shop, and make sure to designate the Cape Charles Historical Society as the beneficiary. Thank you!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Marion Naar has been a member since the historical society was formed! She is also an ardent and dedicated volunteer. Marian served as the CCHS president and treasurer for many years, while also performing many of the duties ordinarily assigned to paid staff. You can always find her at our board meetings and fundraisers, spreadsheets in hand! Marion has been a driving force at the museum for years, With the election of a new board president, she can still be found continuing her volunteerism as the treasurer. Cheers Marion!

SCAMMELL CHINA VISITORS

Last summer several members of the Scammell family visited the museum. They were attracted by mention of our Pennsylvania Railroad holdings and were pleased to see it on display. Scammell China, owned by several generations of the Scammell family and successor to earlier venerable chinaware firms, was located in Trenton NJ and operated into the 1950s. The Scammells manufactured fine china for restaurants, hotel chains and others, in addition to the Pennsylvania Railroad. Across a canal from their factory was the steel wire making factory owned by the Roebblings of Brooklyn Bridge fame. An interesting book about the history of the firm that became the Scammell entitled 'The History of the Lamberton Works' can be found on the Internet.

NEW BOARD OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

The CCHS board installed new officers and board members at our November election : John Griffith replaces Marion Naar as our president. Dora Sullivan replaces Bill Neville as our vice president. Miriam Elton Wagner and Anne Robinson Hallerman also join us as new board members.

We are sure you will join us in thanking our two outgoing officers for their long term volunteer service to the Cape Charles Historical Society's mission. They remain involved - Marion as the treasurer and Bill as a member at large.

VOLUNTEER WITH CCHS IN 2020

Are you interested in volunteering for our railroad artifact restoration, at one of our fundraising events, or in the museum? Our mission would benefit from your talents! Just include your phone or email on your membership form, call our director Kimb Denny at (757) 607-6018, or email us at capecharlesmuseum@gmail.com

2020 SHRIMP BOIL SATURDAY APRIL 25TH

Tickets available in March - Check our website for updates!

HIGH QUALITY SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER ITEMS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED, ESPECIALLY ORIGINAL ART & ANTIQUES, LOCAL BUSINESS DONATIONS AND GIFT CERTIFICATE BASKETS, AND NICE NEW ITEMS! DUE TO SPACE CONSTRAINTS WE REGRET THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT HOME DECOR, SERVING, OR KITCHEN DONATIONS AT THIS TIME. PLEASE CALL (757) 607-6018