



*Notes from the*  
**Wildwood Historical Society**  
 located at 3907 Pacific Ave. in Wildwood.  
 609-523-0277



**SUMMER HOURS** 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
 Every Day except Sundays  
 and National Holidays

In my last museum newsletter I wrote an article about the old amusement rides of my youth. Apparently it stirred the memories of quite a few other people and some of them shared them with me. **Andrea Cafiero Balliette** sent me a lengthy e-mail detailing her memories of the rides and the boardwalk that existed during the 40s and 50s. She said "I never rode the **Jack Rabbit**, too scary and to this day never ride roller coasters, but I loved **Ye Old Mill** and the **Caterpillar**, especially when the top came over." I share her feelings about roller coasters. I went on the **Jack Rabbit**, just ONCE, and I remember as we plunged downward, I thought, "I can never live through this." I promptly got sick as I exited the ride. Andrea asked, "Does anyone remember the **old bowling alley** and the attraction where you threw balls at a curtain with a hole in it, like a bull's eye. If you were successful, a girl dressed in lounging pajamas reclining on a couch, got dumped on the floor. It was a 40s version of a dunking tank." I can't say that I remember a bowling alley on the boardwalk, or the gal dressed in lounging pajamas, but Andrea does make mention of another throwing attraction. It was where **boy and girl pigs** were released from cages if you scored a hit. They ran down a ramp and exited through a door labeled boys or girls. You got a prize if the pig went through the wrong door. Now THAT I remember well. It was located in the covered arcade between Cedar and Oak Avenues on the Boardwalk. During the 50s there was also a ride in the Arcade called the "**Coal Mine**." You stepped into an elevator and a "window" allowed you to see how you were descending hundreds of feet into the earth. You would emerge and get in a cart and be taken through the dark coal mine. Can't remember much about the mining scenes. The Arcade also housed "**The House of Mirrors**." The concave and convex mirrors not only distorted your image, but they were arranged in such a way as to confuse you so that you couldn't make your way out very easily. Incidentally, we recently acquired one of those mirrors for the museum.

According to Andrea "favorite treats were **Schafer Hot Dogs**, sno-cones, Alpine icy cold fruit drinks in real glasses and **Mrs. Murray's fudge donuts**." She went on to say, "the only popcorn we knew was Johnson's caramel corn since Hunt's Theatres didn't have popcorn. Easter Sunday was wonderful as everyone was dressed up, hat and all. I remember getting mustard on my outfit or grease from falling on the track at the **Dodge-em cars**. So many great memories. Maybe it wasn't 'Little House on the Prairie,' but it was our childhood," . . .and so it was! Thanks for sharing with us, Andrea.

As I read over Andrea's e-mail, I realized I have my own collection of Boardwalk memories; **Schafer's Hot Dogs** at Cedar Avenue was a definite stop with my husband and children, and the **hot waffle place**, I couldn't pass up, across from what is now **Mariner's Landing**. I have always felt I was so fortunate to have grown up here on our island. The fact that my children had the same privilege was just "icing on the cake."

Before closing, I ask you to keep a look-out for **Rob Ascough** and **Al Alven's** upcoming book **Hunt's Pier**. We will be scheduling a book signing/open house some time in July.

For now, remember to enjoy life. It comes with an expiration date. See you at the museum. Until next time . . . . be happy and be well!

*Anne Vinci,*

PRESIDENT OF WILDWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.



The hot waffle place mentioned in Anne's article was located at 3500 Boardwalk across from what is now Mariner's Landing Pier. The waffles were only .25¢ and were hot and made to order with the only choice of a brick of vanilla, chocolate and strawberry ice-cream.

# A Blast From the Past!

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WILDWOOD HISTORIC SOCIETY



**Ann Marie Accardi**  
 WCHS 1967



**Joe Grottola**  
 WHS 1976



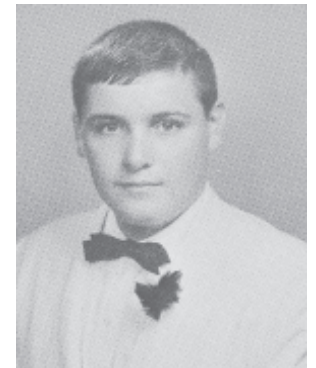
**Darlene Finno**  
 WHS 1963



**Donna McPherson**  
 WCHS 1967



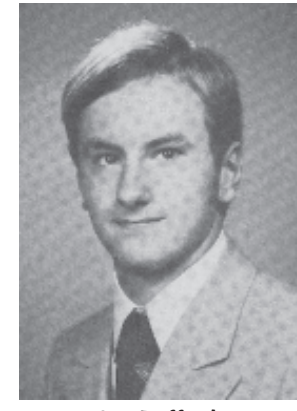
**Irene McWilliams**  
 WCHS 1967



**Joseph Bada**  
 WCHS 1961



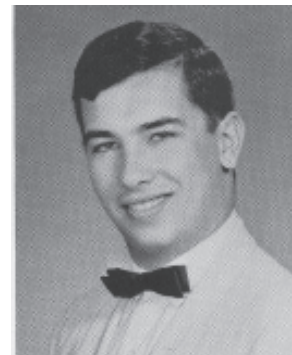
**Doreen Corino**  
 WHS 1973



**Joe Raffaele**  
 WCHS 1971



**Josephine Cartolano**  
 WCHS 1961



**Charles Schumann**  
 WHS 1964



**Miriam Jaggard**  
 WCHS 1961



**Mel Atwood**  
 WCHS 1961

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