While the Fifty’s weekend brought thousands of visitors to our island, a group of Wildwood High School alumni who graduated over 50 years ago got together for a celebration of their own. Each year a small group of volunteers put together what they call their 50 Plus Wildwood High School Reunion. It is open to any student who graduated or attended Wildwood High School from 1959 or earlier; the Class of 1959 being this year’s incoming class.

This year, on Sunday evening, October 4, a group of over 200 got together at the Convention Center for the 26th annual dinner dance. Classes from 1934 to 1959 were represented. The earliest classmate was Ida Carlson Bradway. She attended the dinner with her son, Ed Bradway, a graduate of the Class of 1957. Some of the participants came from as far away as California and Florida, and many of them took the time to visit the Wildwood Historical Society. Great job 50 Plus volunteers!

In case you haven’t been in the museum for a while, we have acquired a bumper car. Robert R. Baita, Jr. of South Bound Brook, New Jersey, brought it down to us. According to Mr. Baita, the car is exactly like the ones used on Fun Pier during the 1970s. He worked the ride as a young man, so he should know.

We also received an ice cream cart belonging to the “original fudgy-wudgy man,” Edward A. Redding. “Pop” Redding’s son, Dennis and his wife, Connie, were kind enough to deliver it to us and we have it set up in our new south wing addition. Tony Karpovich gave us a Hunt’s Theatres Usher’s Uniform Jacket used 1967-69.

Lynn Zettlemoyer presented us with a collection of old motel and hotel brochures; some are still standing and some went the way of the wrecking ball. How many of us remember the Ruthlyrne Hotel, the Lyndhurst Hotel, the Vogue Motel, and Maryland Hall? We have the brochures and you can peruse them at your leisure. Karla Frederick gave us a photo of Charles Stolnabb and Clarence Malley with a 500 lb tuna. You can check it out in our Fishing Industry Book.

Tom Kinnemand, a local retired photographer, continues to unearth old photos of the Wildwoods and shares them with the museum. One recent photo is of the Rock-o-Plane ride on Marine Pier in the 1950s. The ride looks almost primitive compared to the sophisticated rides on today’s boardwalk. He also gave us a photo of the Train Ride on Hunt’s Pier taken in the 50s or 60s. If you want to stir up some old memories of any of the old rides, stop in and ask to see the Amusement Ride Book, or the Hunt’s Pier Book.

Indoor and outdoor photos of the Boardwalk came to us by way of Diana Falk. These can be seen in the Boardwalk Book.

Joan Bransfield Graham stopped in and among other things, she donated a class picture of Wildwood High School, Class of 1962. I need to put names to the photos. If anyone can help in this direction, I would appreciate a call. We are now on our winter schedule and all are welcome to stop in to see our collection of ever-growing artifacts.

Until next time . . . . . . be happy and be well!

Anne Vinci, President of Wildwood Historical Society, Inc.