It was Saturday, April 18, and a lovely day it was. The tents went up, the post card and hobby vendors set up their tables, and the weather cooperated beautifully. This was the day the Wildwood Historical Society, George F. Boyer Museum held their annual Post Card Show, coupled with the dedication and ribbon cutting for the new wing of the museum. While the champagne didn’t flow, there was food and drink aplenty. City officials from Wildwood, North Wildwood and West Wildwood were on hand to congratulate us, and each presented proclamations from their respective cities. Hundreds of visitors meandered through the museum and enjoyed the collections of memorabilia of the Wildwoods. The day was a total success.

All the while we were planning for this gala, we were still busy conducting “business as usual,” accepting documents and artifacts from our visitors. Judy Miles Carr brought in a number of great photos from 1935-57 Wildwood High School activities. The Jimmy Kane family brought in a loveseat from Zaberer’s Restaurant. A short time later Don Zaberer, presently living in Florida, sent us a Tiffany-style lampshade that hung in the restaurant. Steve Lauriello from Lauriello Electric spent an entire afternoon hanging the fixture for us, and it complements the Zaberer’s display. Thank you, all!

Dave Williams of the Wildwood Crest Historical Society, is always quick to share photos with us. Among other photos, he gave us interior shots of the Beach and Strand Theaters. Al Johnson brought in a photo of the Class of 1961, and then I had to ask him to name all of his fellow students, and HE DID! Jim Menzel brought in two “contraptions”. Through the internet, we have determined that one of them is a Master Violet Ray #1 Machine to treat various ailments of the 1930s. We still haven’t come to a conclusion on the second item, but we’re working on it.

At the end of January, on what very well felt like the coldest day of the year, the Morey Family held a farewell party for the Golden Nugget amusement ride. Our manager, Bob Bright, was asked to attend and the museum was the recipient of a piece of souvenir track.

Jim Cafiero came through with a great collection of old photos. One was of him, age two, in front of the Cafiero Hotel on 18th Street in North Wildwood. Another really great picture was what we think is the first golf course in Wildwood. It was located on the 300 block of East Spicer Avenue and was taken in 1930. It was called “Hill and Dale Golf” and it cost 25 cents to play. It only lasted one or two summers. It’s my guess that less than one year after the fall of Wall Street, and the start of the “Great Depression,” the 25 cents was considered “discretionary” income, and there wasn’t too much of that around at that time.

Fred Grosse, Jr. mailed us a DVD with about four dozen old photos of the Wildwood Beach Patrol. Fred’s grandfather was “Dutch” Hoffman, Wildwood’s long-time Beach Director: There’s a photo of the first lady lifeguards and a photo of The Wildwood Beach Club in 1937. He said the photos came from his grandmother’s photo album. How nice that he thought of us. Dave Neff, WHS Class of 1958, also e-mailed me a series of very old photos of the Wildwoods, while Marion Holmes Hand, WHS Class of 1942, dropped off a collection of memorabilia from the Classes of 1941 and 1942. Jim and Billie Nash brought in a box compass from the fishing vessel “Telka” along with an old photo of an Otter’s Harbor Ice Truck. It also looks like our own staff has been busy gathering up contributions: Al Brannen brought in old photos from St. Ann’s CYO basketball team and cheerleaders, along with interior photos of Duffy’s Restaurant. A packet of WW II War ration stamps came in from Bob Bright, and vice-president, Phyllis Beethel brought in a large collection of 2009 Basketball and Soccer League photos from Richard Hans.

Come on in and take a look for yourself. Until next time… be happy and be well.

Anne Vinci
President of Wildwood Historical Society, Inc.