

the **SUN** by-the-Sea



"Forever is composed of nows." ~Emily Dickinson

A Blast From the Past!

COURTESY OF WILDWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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 Sunday & National Holidays

Bob Scully, curator

We're happy to report we are now open six days a week, Monday through Saturday, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We continue to work diligently trying to get our new addition ready with our displays. One of our directors, Al Brannen has been busy rooting out and sorting boxes of items in our storage room. These things were given to us over the years and we are now able to put on display some very interesting articles. Of course, we have come up with our share of a mystery or two. Maybe our readers can help us identify the origin of a quilt that was obviously hand made. It measures about 72" by 86", with six squares running vertically and five squares running horizontally. The squares are outlined and hand-stitched in red fabric. Inside each square is a circle with sixteen wedges. Inside each wedge is embroidered a name; some of the groups of wedges are the names of flowers, one with fruits, and one circle contains the names of 16 different ministers' names with the words "Rancocas Circuit" embroidered in the center. In another circle the year "1926" is in the center with the family names such as Gibbs, Bensel, Hansell, Elbertson and so on. We have had a number of people look at it, but at this point we don't have a clue as to who made it or how it got to our storage room. We have speculated that perhaps a ladies' group or church group made it up in 1926 since that year is repeated in several of the circles. Stop in a take a look. Maybe someone out there can shed some light on our "mystery quilt."

In his quest to unearth more of our "treasurers," Al came upon a large collection of photographs that we are trying to attach names or locations. One of the pictures turned out to be a 1918 photo of the late "Reds" Maxwell. Mr. Maxwell was a long-time Wildwood Commissioner, and is pictured in his WW I Army uniform, which we happen to have on hand. Incidentally, we are making a concentrated effort to collect more military photos for our archives. Phyllis Bethel, our vice-president started this project about five years ago, and we are actively looking to increase this collection. So, if you have any photos that we can borrow to scan, we would appreciate them and will return them to you.

Another photo we came across was a group of people standing outside of a place called "The South Jersey Steamship and Travel Bureau." I checked this out in our Polk Directories and the address turned out to be the Beecher-Kay building which still stands at 101 E. Wildwood Avenue. After a discussion with Glen Kay, I learned that Beecher-Kay is the oldest continuing business in the Wildwoods with 102 years of history. Also special thanks goes out to Mr. Kay for providing us with a very old photo of the Beecher-Kay Building when the upper floors were the Hotel Fenwick.

Before closing I want to welcome our new volunteer, Judy Miles Carr from Wildwood Crest. She will be working with Inge Friesenborg Laine scanning the hundreds of old photos to be placed on a more stable media. Thank you, thank you, ladies!

Until next time be happy and be well!

Anne Vinci,

PRESIDENT OF WILDWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.



Cathryn Stockridge
 WCHS 1976



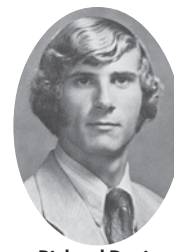
Diane Shivers
 WCHS 1970



Dave Bowman
 WCHS 1970



Kevin Burns
 WCHS 1972



Richard Davis
 WCHS 1974



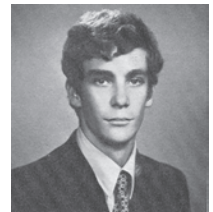
Eileen Murray
 WCHS 1984



James D. Peterson II
 WCHS 1979



Joan Taylor
 WCHS 1977



Jack Maurer
 WCHS 1971



Joanne Vinci
 WCHS 1984



Trevor Sawyer
 WCHS 94



Tom Sawyer
 WCHS 86



Robert Scully
 WCHS 1974



Theresa D'Amico
 WCHS 1974



Ed Grant
 WCHS 1974



Beecher-Kay Realty Co. - 101 East Wildwood Avenue, Wildwood, NJ - Circa 1940s
 Beecher-Kay is the oldest continuing business in Wildwood with over 100 years of history. The inset photo was taken in 1907 at an unknown location. The building was also known as the Hotel Fenwick. The first floor of the hotel served as Wildwood's first post office.



Herward Walker "Reds" Maxwell - 1918
 (1895-1949)
 Served in Wildwood City Commission 1939 to 1963
 Wildwood Historical Society Photo Credit: (1907-1908)

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