

Tidings

Official Newsletter of the Avalon History Center and Avalon Historical Society

Winter 2015 Issue

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NEW AT THE HISTORY CENTER: AN ANTIQUE AVALON BEACH PATROL LIFE BOAT!



Beach Patrol Captain Murray Wolf gathered a group of guards to bring the boat into the History Center. Thank you! The lifeboat takes up the whole length of a room in the History Center!

a 1925 Avalon life boat was delivered to the History Center on Tuesday, June 2nd. The Avalon Historical Society purchased the boat from Henry J. Thompson, Jr., of Abington, PA. Mr. Thompson purchased the boat from Lawson Langenheim, of Avalon, in 1999. The original writing on the side of the boat read "Avalon Life Boat No. 1-23"; Mr. Thompson created a tracing of that lettering, so we will know its exact location on the boat when we have it restored.

The boat was built by the Edward Fell Jardine, Co., in Atlantic City, NJ. It has been dated back to 1925 using records from the Borough of Avalon.

The boat was delivered by Mr. Thompson and his wife, and the Avalon Beach Patrol came over to take the boat off its trailer and place it inside the History Center. This life boat is larger and heavier than the Beach Patrol's newer boats, and is made entirely from wood. Also visible in the photographs are 1907 Life Guard Uniforms recently donated to the History Center by Mrs. Dee Phillips.

The Beach Patrol has been serving Avalon since 1906; they have used life boats since 1914. The History Center is glad to add this wonderfully preserved artifact to our collection!



Mr. Thompson carefully restored the lifeboat, retaining as much original material as possible, before using it on the water with his grandchildren.



The copper plate at the bow of the boat indicates it was made in Atlantic City, NJ.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 2015 EVENTS AT THE HISTORY CENTER

We're happy to share photos from a sampling of our events and programs in 2015.
Thanks to all who attended!



JUNE 6TH: Civil War on 39th St. when Marty Runner of the CMC Civil War Roundtable invaded the History Center with his lively discussion & display of Civil War costumes & weapons, followed by Becks' Philadelphia Brigade Band across the street in the Tennis facility.



JUNE 23RD: Avalon came out in honor of the Paper Peddler, for the 1st ever Paper Peddler Trivia Night. Scott Wahl was MC over a spirited Quizzo-like game where teams competed to show their mastery of Avalon history while reuniting & reminiscing with Paper Peddler proprietors Deborah Martinelli & Craig Cunningham.



JULY 22ND: Music rang out at the History Center as locals & visitors alike came to share their musical talents in this 1st ever Open Mic Night.



JULY 25TH: Avalon Historical Society's 6th Annual W. Norman Mackey Clamshell Pitch on 30th St. Beach sorely missed Mr Mackey's shell tossing expertise this year, we hope to see him back on the beach in 2016. Fun was had by all participants!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, COMMUNITY HALL!

This fall marked the 50th Anniversary for Avalon's Community Hall, built and dedicated in 1965. To celebrate, we collected some photos of Avalon in 1965. Enjoy!

Thanks to Dave Coskey for providing photos.



Borough Solicitor James O'Neill, Mayor John McLaren, NJ Governor William Hughes, Borough Commissioner Dan Keen, and Borough Commissioner Domenic Schiavone at the 1965 dedication of Community Hall.



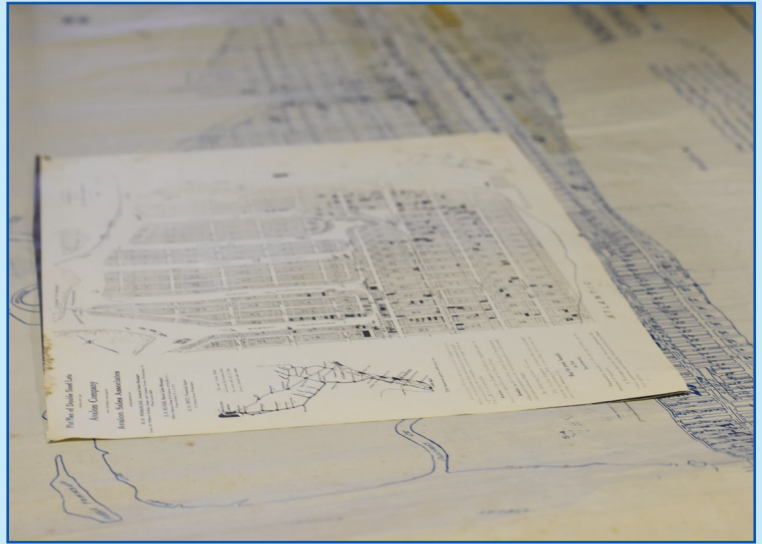
Charlie and Marion, with the popcorn machine, outside Charlie's luncheonette on the north side of Avalon pier.



Avalon Schoolhouse on 26th Street.



Sign at Avalon Boulevard.



As well as being objects of art, beauty and skill, historic maps, street plans and charts are treasures of historical information, offering a link to the past and providing information about local history, family genealogy and a person's own land and property. We have been able to resolve several inquiries this year, by taking a close but careful look at the maps we have in storage. The History Center has many vintage development and zoning plans of Avalon from as early as 1909, maps dating back to the 1890's and blueprints of plot layouts from 1916, by which we can trace the

progressive development of Avalon. Many are in a poor state of repair, however, we now have them unfolded, unrolled and tucked away between sheets of acid free tissue paper in their very own flat file storage.

Our most popular map is probably the 11' sand dune map hanging above the natural history exhibit in the foyer. We have a couple of copies, and there is at least one other in Avalon, hanging in the men's room at the Princeton - this intrepid museum tech did indeed go and take a peek – not during Happy Hour though!

AVALON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all who renewed their membership or joined as new members since our last issue!

William & Donna Blakeman
 William & Mary Ellen Bowen
 Joseph & Teresa Breslin
 Pam & Ben Callanan/Linton
 John & Teresa Cavanagh
 Tom & Joanne Collins
 Marty Connor
 Donald & Mary Beth Constantini
 John & Muriel Cuthbert
 Dr. Robert & Pat Davis
 Richard & Jane Dean
 Kitty & Bob De Mento
 Edward Desipio
 Russell & Dorothy DiGiallorenzo
 Teri & Michael Owley D'ignazio
 Donald & Joan Douglass
 Abner & Mimi Dowdell
 Edith & William Ferris

Dr. Henry & Karen Finger
 William Flounders
 Steve & Ellen Geisel
 Gasper Genuardi
 John & Suzanne Glomb
 John A. & Miriam Haggerty
 Al Haring
 John Hempstead
 Dick Herb
 Lynn Holt
 Gail Keppler
 Ed & Eileen Klaus
 Anna Maria & Nicholas Mannino
 Rosalie & Vince Marchesani
 Richard Marino
 Walter Mikota Jr.
 Mary Millar
 Jack & Pat Nick

Gregory & Linda Osberg
 Marty & Lynda Pagliughi
 Gary & Cynthia Porter
 Charles & Martha Richardson
 Wilda & Jack Richardson
 Donna Rogers
 John & Jana Scarpa
 Alan D. & Nancy R. Silverman
 Barbara & Jack Tarditi
 James Thatcher
 Daniel B. & Pamela D. Thompson
 Edwina Thompson
 Suzanne & Norm Veasey
 Carlo & Joanne Viola
 Herb & Carolyn Wagner
 Jane Weaver
 Ken & Pat Williams

VISIT THE NEWLY RESTORED AVALON COTTAGE!



This small building was moved to the Avalon History Center in 2008 from its previous location behind the former Grace Union African Methodist Episcopal Church (built in 1929) at the southwest corner of Dune Drive and 17th Street. The Cottage was moved to the church site between 1963 and 1970, but its previous location is not known despite much research.

The building is 8'5" long and 12'5" deep and is dated between 1900 and 1920. We can tell because of the round-headed wire nails used in its construction, its exposed rafter ends, the style of the windows, and the style of the lock on the door. When the building was first moved to the History Center, it was thought to be a shed, but we now know that it was used as a dwelling for several reasons. The high number of windows and better-than-average front door suggest it was used for human habitation. The interior finish is beaded board, which also seems too fancy for a shed.

Furthermore, small-sized buildings are labeled as dwellings on various historic maps of Avalon.

Small cottages or houses of less than 150 square feet were offered by several American mail order companies, such as Sears, between 1895 and 1940. Sears introduced the 9' x 12' "Huntley" in its 1928 catalogue under the heading of "Sears Summer Cottages." This one-room cottage had two windows and a door.

The Avalon Cottage may have housed servants behind a main house, sheltered a sport fisherman, or provided rudimentary shelter for a summer vacationer. The restoration, completed this fall, removed the shingle siding that had been added, replaced rotted clapboards, and returned the roof to its original cedar shingle design. Come visit this charming building!

Thanks to local preservationist Joan Berkey, who conducted research on the Cottage.

Now that the building restoration has been completed, we hope to add reproduction furniture and appropriate landscaping.



The Cottage pre-restoration.



During the restoration process, shingle siding was removed to expose original clapboard.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THOSE WHO DONATED ITEMS TO OUR COLLECTION SO FAR THIS YEAR

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Al Haring
Dorothy Gibbs
Sarah Burns
Patricia Rutledge
James Thatcher
Craig Cunningham &
Debbi Martinelli

Joe Reese
Rose Marie Chew
Bruce Tell
Suzie Gallagher
Bruce Garland
Betty Rogers
Marianne Roberts

Charles & Genny Neely
Rose Wells & son Larry Wells
Dee Phillips
Teri Dignazio
Beth Tipping
Caroline Helmuth
Louise Thomas

Kevin Scarpa
Avalon Free Public Library
Avalon Volunteer Fire Dept.
Carol Matt Winnemore
John Walsh
Wilda Richardson
Joe Hoffman

Enjoy these photographs of wonderful donations. All items are now photographed and scanned when they are added to the History Center's collection.



1943 Avalon Mounted Beach Patrol photo donated by Louise Thomas.



Limited edition model of Avalon Pier, donated by Charles and Genny Neely.



Copies of the Avalon Reporter from 1992 to 2002, donated by Rose Wells. Sets of publications like this one add to the History Center's archival collection.

AVALON HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL HOLIDAY EVENT:

HELP RESTORE A PAINTING BY ONE OF AVALON'S FOUNDERS!

Mrs. Dee Phillips recently donated an 1889 painting of Avalon by Joseph Wells, who was one of the founders of the Seven Mile Beach Development Company. The painting is in need of several treatments to correct deterioration and prevent future damage. The Avalon Historical Society has agreed to fund the treatments and re-framing of the painting, which could cost more than \$7,000.



The painting will be on display at the Historical Society's Annual Holiday party, scheduled for Saturday, December 5th from 4pm-7pm at Avalon History Center. Come enjoy refreshments and good cheer, view the painting, and consider making a donation to support this project. Or, make a donation now by visiting the Historical Society's website: www.AvalonHistoricalSociety.org. Thank you!

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215 39th Street
Avalon, NJ 08202