



MUSEUM MEMOS

Mt. Airy Museum Newsletter



VOLUME 16 NUMBER 3

2016

The President's Pen

Mike Eacho

I hope everyone had a safe and healthy summer. I would like to thank those people who worked over the summer meeting with donors and collecting new items for the museum. We have several new artifacts and a number of new photographs to display. See the article in this newsletter describing some of the new artifacts.

Many thanks also to the folks who volunteered to open the museum over the summer. We have been able to keep the museum open most Saturdays and we were open the evening of the Celebrate Mount Airy event on August 27.

If you can spare some time during the fall, please help us out by volunteering at the Museum. We would like to be open on Saturdays from noon until 4 p.m., but we can only be open if we have someone there.

A very special thanks and well done to the ladies who worked all summer to identify, photograph, scan and catalog the many artifacts and photographs that the Historical Society has acquired over the years. It would appear that Diann Linton, Peggy Fleming and Linda Brightwell have this monumental task under control. They have also been scanning and photographing items previously catalogued and improving the indexing of these items so that it will be easier to identify and locate them in the future. The process of carefully packing all these items has also begun, thanks to B. J. Dixon, Althea Miller, Peggy Fleming, Linda Brightwell and Sandy Dutterer. With the demolition of the Flat Iron Building looming, it is imperative that we get the Historical Society's collection catalogued and ready to move by the end of the year.

Welcome Mount Airy's First Police Chief

Douglas Reitz

by Pete Bowlus

The Mount Airy Historical Society would like to welcome our new Police Chief to our community. This is a history-making event. In our newsletters we usually focus on events that happened in our community during the past one hundred and eighty-six years. We as a community are making history each and every day and exciting events are happening.

Mr. Douglas Reitz was selected to be the first chief of the newly created Mount Airy Police Department. Mr. Reitz, a former Maryland State Police Officer and former Police Chief in Pennsylvania, was selected from a group of fifty applicants. As each day passes the new police department will be making history, from the selection of staff, purchasing uniforms and equipment and the many other functions that will make the police department a success.



E-mail us at: mountairyhistoricalsociety@earthlink.net

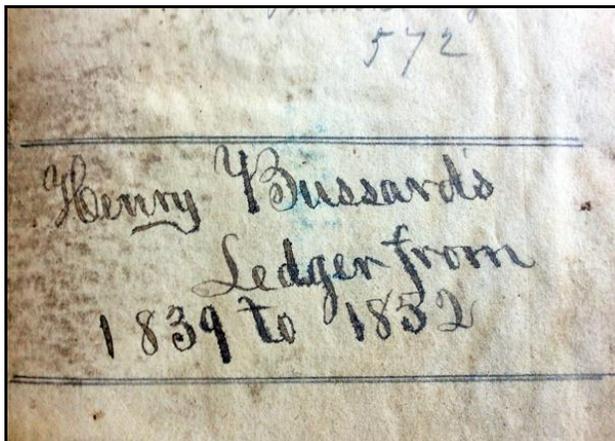
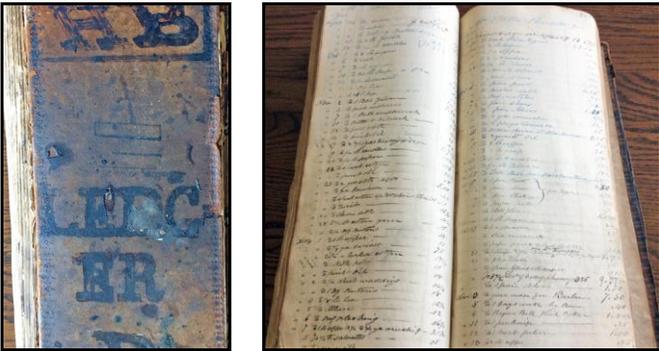
Douglas Reitz,
the first Police Chief of the new Mount Airy Police Department

Thanks

by Pete Bowlus

The Historical Society of Mount Airy, Maryland would like to thank the following individuals and business who have donated artifacts and photographs since our last newsletter. These items will help us share the history of this exciting community with our neighbors and museum visitors now and in the future.

The Business Ledger of Mr. Henry Bussard, dated 1839 to 1852 was donated by Joyce Krahling and her Daughter Heidi of Alfred, Maine. Joyce's Grandmother, Etta Dorsey Spencer was a relative of Mr. Nathan Dorsey.



Henry Bussard's Business Ledger

The seats from the Mount Airy Movie Theater were donated by Mr. Frank Illiano, Snap Fitness, The Mount Airy Inn and New York J&P Pizza.



Mt. Airy Movie Theater Seats

Dr. John K. Brooks DDS donated a Ritter Modulaire Pedestal and his Antique Medical/Dental Bottle Assortments and Associated Devices and Instruments. Doctor Brooks retired after more than twenty five years of dental service to our community.

The dental pedestal was use by Dr. Brooks who purchased the business from Dr. Benjamin Livesay.



Modulaire Dental Pedestal of Dr. Brooks

Dr. Michael and Nanci O'Brien donated photographs of Main Street and The Robert Garrett Sanitarium.

Mrs. Milton Hunter donated a photograph of the 1927 Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company.

Ms. Heidi Krahling donated photographs of Byron S. Dorsey.

These artifacts and many others are on display at the museum. If you have not been to the museum in a while please come down and visit.

The Mount Airy Museum is open most Saturdays from 12 noon until 4pm. Come visit and enjoy photographs and memorabilia from Mount Airy's past. The Museum is located in the Flat Iron Building at the corner of Main Street and Park Avenue.

Thanks to Mount Airy Collision Center, Inc.

by Pete Bowlus

The Mount Airy Historical Society would like to thank Tom and Marsha Gibney, owners of The Mount Airy Collision Center, Inc. 1706 Back Acre Circle, Mount Airy for the awesome job of restoring these two artifacts. The story of these artifacts will be in the next newsletter.



Restored Artifacts



We Have It!

The new Go-Go Walking Doll. This 21" doll will walk across the room all by itself. No need to walk with it or lead it by the hand. You have to see it to believe it. Make your daughter or granddaughter the happiest girl in the neighborhood with one of these dolls for only \$9.98.

Watkins 5 & 10¢ Store
Mt. Airy, Md. Phone 829-0210



Recognize this doll? This advertisement appeared in the Community Reporter, October 14, 1966.

Welcome New Member

The Historical Society would like to extend a welcome to our new member, Richard Horn

Torrential Rains Cause Flooding



The above photo, taken by Janice Bennett of Mount Airy, shows Twin Arch Road taken at the crest of the flood which completely flooded the bridge and inundated the surrounding properties.

The torrential rains, coupled with the collapse of the banks of the two ponds along Twin Arch Rod, caused a flooding which has been described by long-time residents as the "worst ever" or the "worst in thirty years."

In addition to closing Twin Arch Road to traffic for a period of many hours, the heavy rainfall caused widespread flooding of basements.

The rainfall this week, while not as concentrated, has caused much basement flooding of residents' homes.

The photographer of the above photo is a 1966 graduate of the Mount Airy High School and is currently enrolled in a three year course in the "Famous Photographer's Schools."

Your editor appreciates the use of this picture and looks forward to seeing more of Janice's photography.

Editor's Note: This article was published in the Community Reporter on Friday, September 23, 1966.

Acme Market

Out Of Business In Mount Airy

Store Closes Despite Petition Circulated By Some 600 Patrons Asking That It Remain Open

A crepe hanging on the door of the Acme Market in down town Mt, Airy last Sunday morning was eloquent proof that the retail food distribution firm was at last out of business here. Rumors of the chain's closing had persisted for many months but management did not finally reveal its intentions until several weeks ago. Patrons from the neighborhood and outlying areas numbering 600 who depended on the local chain for the bulk of their household and grocery needs, circulated a petition asking that management reconsider and retain the local store until other quarters were made available. The request availed nothing and formal announcement of the closing on September 17 was made by Jack Shank, local manager, early last week.

The Acme Market was located in a building vacated by the Commercial Bank some 30 years ago and thereafter acquired by Asa H. Watkins. Jack Shank, manager of the local store, said his assistants, Ross Davis, Mrs. Virginia Smith and Virgil Tyner, meat cutter, would probably be transferred to the chain's Damascus food market.

The local Acme store was housed in the Watkins Building, on South Main Street for 20 years. Prior to that time it occupied part of the I. Wilkins building a short distance down South Main Street. The store was established in Mount Airy in 1929 in the room now occupied as office quarters by the Hood & Grimes division of Griffith Consumers, Inc., local fuel oil distributors. Harry Bellison was placed in charge of the first store and he remained in a managerial capacity until he quit the grocery business for banking and finance some years ago. Lack of parking facilities and traffic congestion on Main Street rendered the location of the market here less than ideal. Attempts by customers to pick up their purchases in front of the store represented a hazard because heavy, through traffic, moving north and south, made the practice unsafe. And while plans for a bypass which would route the traffic around Mt. Airy have been in the talking and planning stage for some 16 years, they have not yet materialized in any actual action along that line, such as one notes at Sykesville, where a bypass takes long

distance traffic around, and not through, the lower Carroll county town.

Local business interests, not unmindful of the fact that many persons from the outlying sections visited down town Mt. Airy for the sole purpose of dealing at the chain store, see the closing as scarcely helpful to the local commercial climate.

Shank, the local store manager, said his superiors indicated that another Acme Market would be made available in the neighborhood in a year.

At a meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Mount Airy held February 14, 1966, a proposal was presented by David C. Smith and Arthur Wetzstein for rezoning of the southern portion of the Merridale Gardens tract they had recently acquired from Asa H. Watkins, to Commercial A from Residential. A story touching the matter in the February 18, issue of this newspaper noted that "Acme Market has tentatively agreed to the purchase of a five-acre tract in the area with frontal parking to be provided at a ratio of four to one (floor space) upon which they plan to construct a \$300,000 retail unit. Smith and Wetzstein estimate the completion date of this project at Labor Day."

Editor's Note: This article was published in the Community Reporter on Friday, September 23, 1966.

FROZEN FOODS . . .	
10-oz. Frosty Acre PEAS	2/39c
2-lb. Frozen French Fried POTATOES	35c
6-oz. Whole Sun Frozen ORANGE JUICE	2/45c
GROCERIES . . .	
303 can Kounty Kist PEAS	2/33c
14-oz. bottle Ritters TOMATO CATSUP	2/43c
27-oz. Johnson's BEAUTIFLOR Liquid Wax	69c
SEALTEST ICE CREAM All Flavors — 1/2-gal. 89c	
MEATS . . .	
U.S.D.A. CHOICE STEER BEEF —	
SIRLOIN or ROUND STEAK	89c lb.
Esskay Skinless All Meat FRANKS	69c lb.
Esskay Sweet Korn BACON	79c lb.
FRESH OYSTERS	
BROWNING'S	
GROCERY	
STORES MT. AIRY, MD. PHONE 65-W	
FOR QUALITY AND ECONOMY	
Present Phone No. 829-1450	
Free Daily Delivery of Orders Phoned Before 11:00 A. M.	

Ad from the Community Reporter October 7, 2016

Historical Memories from Fifty Years Ago

Compiled by Althea Miller

The information for these Historical Memories was compiled from articles in the July, August and September, 1966 issues of the Community Reporter. The newspaper was the main source of information for Mount Airy residents and surrounding areas from November 29, 1929 until the last issue on July 1, 1983.

- Mr. and Mrs. Larry Gartrell announce the birth of a daughter, Deborah Lynn, on June 14. Mrs. Gartrell is the former Carol Lach. (7/1/66)
- Effective July 1, the County Commissioners have asked that the present county building permits received from the Supervisor of Assessments only be issued at such time as the Health Department permit and zoning certificate have been approved. Likewise, a building permit notice must be posted on any new building or addition during construction. (7/1/66)
- Rev. John J. Dawson has been appointed to succeed Rev. Roger Elgert as pastor of Calvary Methodist Church. (7/1/66)
- The summer Bible School held at the Mount Airy Mennonite Church from June 20 to July 1st was well attended with 129 pupils enrolled. Over 60 scholars had perfect attendance. The superintendent was Pastor Irvin Martin. (7/8/66)
- Timothy Rigler was elected secretary of the Maryland FFA at the annual convention at the University of Maryland June 16-17. He is currently president of the Mount Airy Chapter. (7/8/66)
- The Mount Airy Saddle Pals will hold a jousting tournament this Saturday, July 9 at the Firemen's Activities Grounds. All are invited to participate or to observe. (7/8/66)
- Mayor VanPoole advises that the water ban has been lifted but asks that residents be conservative. Water supervisor, Ray Grimes, states that a second pump was installed over the weekend, giving the town 57,000 gallons more water per day. The total capacity of the two pumps will be approximately 250,000 gallons of water a day. (7/8/66)
- Andrew Mason, Michael Mason and Richard A. Wilson of Mount Airy attended the 51st annual convention of Kiwanis International in Portland, Oregon. (7/8/66)
- The Mount Airy Alumni Association held its' Annual Alumni Banquet and Dance with 278 members and guests in attendance. The president, Miss Faye Farver, conducted a short business meeting. The 1916 class held their 50th reunion with the following present: Mrs. Walter Spurrier, Mrs. Blanche Marsh, Miss Wava Clay, Mrs. Minnie Conaway and Mrs. Corrinne Watkins. Officers elected for 1967 were: Mrs. Carol Lach Gartrell, president; Miss Sandy Linton, vice president; Mrs. Anna Belle Biddinger, secretary; and Mrs. Dorothy Wagner, treasurer. (7/15/66)
- Donald Duncan, a 1966 graduate of MAHS, will appear on the Ted Mack Original Amateur Hour on July 17. He will sing "Get Me to the Church on Time" from My Fair Lady. (7/15/66)
- The local Lions Club was represented by the following members at the International Conclave held in New York City: Leonard E. Sherman, Harold Molesworth, Jr., Carroll Robinson and Murray Ryan. (7/22/66)
- The entertainment schedule for the Firemen's Carnival from July 25-30 will be:
 - Monday-"Miss Fire Prevention Beauty Contest"
 - Tuesday-The Osbourne Brothers (Grand Ole Opry)
 - Wednesday-Loretta Lynn (Country music star)
 - Thursday-Gala Firemen's Parade @ 7:00 P.M. / Fried Chicken and Ham dinner from 3:00 P.M.
 - Friday- Big Country Auction
 - Saturday-Majorette Parade and Contest (2:00 P.M.) / Kiddie's Matinee at 2:00 P.M. (all rides reduced) Free bicycle / Evening - Awards night (7/22/66)

Historical Memories from Fifty Years Ago (Continued)

- Dr. Emmett Full of Mount Airy has recently been elected chairman of the Carroll County Forest Conservancy Board. The new vice chair is Leslie Barnes of Sykesville. (7/29/66)
- Lions Club president, Herman Beck, announced his pleasure with the results with the Lions Club carnival held in June. It is expected the net to the club will be \$4,500. Among the projects already initiated are the MAHS band and the Mount Airy Little League Association. (7/29/66)
- The annual membership meeting at the Southern States Mount Airy Cooperative will be held at the Firemen's Activity Building on August 11. Following a family style dinner the highlights of the meeting will be the election of members to the local Board of Directors and the Home Advisory Committee. Nominations for the Board of Directors are: David Klein, Leo Kraft, David Mullinix and Lee Riggs. Ladies nominated to the Home Advisory Committee are: Mrs. Paul Hoffman and Mrs. E.R. Hough. (8/5/66)
- Mr. and Mrs. Latimer Watkins held an open house recently in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary. The Watkins were married in 1941 in Morristown, New Jersey. Mrs. Watkins was an elementary school principal and Mr. Watkins manager of F.W.Woolworth in Mount Holly, New Jersey. For the past 18 years they have owned and operated Watkins 5 and 10 cent store in Mount Airy. (8/12/66)
- Mr. and Mrs. John Haines announce the marriage of their daughter, Ellen Pamela, to Paul William Mediary on August 14 at Potomac Methodist Church, Potomac, Maryland by the Rev. DeWitt Dickey. (8/19/66)
- On September 3, Sherry Warfield represented Carroll County in the State Style Revue. Placing also in the Style Revue was Barbara White in the junior division. Other winners were Karen White and Gloria Clower. (8/19/66)
- Walter Dennison has become the fourth local victim of hepatitis to be diagnosed since spring. All four have developed in the Hickory Hills development south of Mount Airy. Previous victims, now fully recovered, were Pete Burdette, Mr. Grady Edwards and Craig Edwards. Health Department officials have been unable to locate the source of the trouble. (8/26/66)
- Thomas Muller recently completed a six-week course at Rutgers University in a Math Training program in National Science Foundation. (8/26/66)
- Administrative and staff changes will face the 1200 students of Mount Airy when they assemble on Wednesday, September 7. Harrieton Merritt, formerly principal of the elementary/junior high has been named principal of grades 1-12. This is the first time since 1957 that all have been under the same administration. John Devault will become the senior high assistant principal and Harry Lambert will remain assistant principal of the elementary and junior high. (9/2/66)
- The Harrison's back yard on August 23 was the scene of much activity as nine neighborhood children had an MD Carnival. They had a lot of fun and it was profitable, too. Those helping were: Roxanne Harrison, Mike and Jeff Schlotterbeck, Danny Brown, Mike Gosnell, Christie and Marcie Burns, Chris and Melody Badger. They raised \$21.50. (9/2/66)
- The youth of Mount Airy have been given a challenge to develop a plan for world peace by the local Lions Club - a challenge that could earn one of them a \$25,000 educational and/or assistance grant. The local club in conjunction with clubs around the world is sponsoring this world-wide contest. (9/9/66)
- Marvin Chapel Methodist Church, located at Plane No.4, will celebrate its' annual Homecoming Day this Sunday, September 11 from 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. The Rev. William Boyer will bring the morning message. The Rev. Hayden Sparks will be the guest speaker at the 3:00 P.M. service. (9/9/66)
- Two parcels of land will be annexed into the town on September 15: a 17 acre lot owned by Carroll Robinson along Watersville Road improved by a 10 unit apartment complex and the tract of less than 1 acre (J. Latimer Watkins) now owned by Paul Lowman on the north side of Main Street. Other tracts were considered but not approved (Ridgeville and Beck property). (9/16/66)

Historical Memories from Fifty Years Ago (Continued)

- Local 4-H'ers captured awards at Timonium. Those recognized were: Bruce Witte (tractor driving), Bill Colburn (rabbit), T.O. Warfield (record book/vegetables), Mike Maring (Angus), Mark Maring (Angus), Richard Witte (rabbit/eggs), Basil Eavey (tractor driving). (9/16/66)
- Torrential rains flooded Twin Arch Road including the bridge and inundated surrounding properties, flooding numerous basements. (9/23/66)
- The Acme Market in downtown Mount Airy closed its' doors on Saturday in spite of a petition signed by 600. (9/23/66)
- The Mount Airy High School Band will have a new drum major when it travels to College Park for Band Day at the University of Maryland. The new drum major is Doug Alexander son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Alexander. Doug attended the Smith-Waldridge Drum Major Camp in Indiana this past summer. Doug previously played trombone in both the marching band and stage band. (9/23/66)
- A fire prevention parade will be staged on Sunday, October 6 at 2:00 P.M. in celebration of Fire Prevention Week followed by a hook-up contest. (9/30/66)
- The Beta Sigma Phi Exemplar Chapter Maryland Wi-Psi Sorority was officially established in Mount Airy on the 15th of this month when officers were installed at the meeting held at the home of Lynn Burdette. Twelve members were present to install President, Mrs. Brenda Lowman; vice president, Mrs. Joan Lease; treasurer, Mrs. Shirley Murray; recording secretary, Mrs. Ruth Ann Moore and corresponding secretary, Mrs. Vivian Sherman. (9/30/66)



Byron S. Dorsey on horseback with two unknown women



Byron S. Dorsey Jr. and Byron S. Dorsey holding
Byron Dorsey III

These are two of the many Byron S. Dorsey photos that were donated to the Historical Society by Ms. Heidi Krahling.



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