



MUSEUM MEMOS

Mt. Airy Museum Newsletter



VOLUME 13 NUMBER 3

Fall 2013

The President's Pen

Mike Eacho

Throughout the last year or so, the Signage Committee has been designing signs for the buildings in Mount Airy. The signs will describe the history of the buildings, the building sites, and the businesses that occupied the buildings or sites. The drafts for many of these signs are now on display in the windows of many of the businesses in town. A sample of an actual sign is also on display in Town Hall. We would greatly appreciate it if our members would look over these signs and comment on the information contained on them. Your help would be a big help to the Signage Committee.

Photographs of the old businesses in town are also needed to complete the signs. If you have any old photos of any businesses or homes in Mount Airy, please get them to Pete Bowlus or to Town Hall. A wanted poster is displayed in many locations in town that lists photographs that we especially need.

A small group of volunteers from the Historical Society is working to reassemble and print the "blue book", "A Vision of Home". The owner of a Baltimore publishing company, Otter Bay Books, will be at our November meeting to discuss the publishing process to our members.

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 Fridays and Saturdays from noon until 4 p.m., but we can only be open if we have someone there. Thanks to those people who have already volunteered time to help keep the museum open. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Ruth Ann Lowman.

Condon's Hardware Schedules "Grand Opening" Aug 1-3

New Store is located in Building Formerly Occupied by Watkins 5&10c Store.

Austin B. Condon, trading as Condon's Hardware, has opened a new store at 226 South Main street. This building was formerly occupied by Watkins 5 & 10¢ store and after they moved to a new location, it was used for storage. The building was remodeled by Kenneth Poole, of Libertytown, for William Browning, of Kemptown, from whom the building is leased by Condon's Hardware.

Mr. and Mrs. Condon have resided in Mt. Airy all their lives and Mr. Condon was a resident of Mt. Olive for a number of years. They are members of the Ridgeville Methodist Church.

Mr. Condon held a position with Mt. Airy Furniture and Appliance Company for five years prior to going into business for himself, and before that was associated with Hood and Grimes.

The official opening of the Condon's Hardware was held a few weeks ago and a grand opening will be held August 1-2-3 at which time there will be free gifts for everyone and three door prizes will be awarded.

There is a new and spacious parking lot in the rear of Condon's for the convenience of their customers.

Editor's Note: This piece of Mount Airy's history was taken from the Community Reporter dated Friday, July, 26, 1963. Condon's Hardware was located in the building where the St. James Thrift Shop is now found.

The Historical Society of Mount Airy meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm. Meetings are in the lower level of the Mount Airy Fire Company unless otherwise announced. Hope we see you there.

E-mail us at: mountairyhistoricalsociety@earthlink.net

Historical Memories from Fifty Years Ago

Compiled by Althea Miller

The information for these Historical Memories was compiled from articles in the April through September of 1963 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.

- Reservations for the Turkey and Ham Banquet at the Fireman's Activities Building on April 18 given by the Mount Airy Coin Club are to be made to C.R. Topper for \$2.00 each. 4/5/63
- The Ninth Charter Night of the Taylorsville-Winfield Lions Club was held at Morgan Chapel Church Hall. International Counselor, Murray Ryan, was present as well as Bee Beck, founder and first president of the club. Entertainment included a monologue by Nancy Bohr, songs and piano accompaniment by Mr. and Mrs. Norman Etzler and music by the Mount Airy High School orchestra under the direction of Frank Miller. 4/5/63
- A loss of an estimated \$100,000 completely destroyed a furniture store in downtown early Friday morning. The fire threatened other buildings as did the holocaust 60 years ago when 16 buildings fell prey to a fire. The building was owned by Albert Ross and the business, Mount Airy Furniture and Appliance, was owned by Ross and W. Keller Day. Ten fire companies helped fight the blaze. The destroyed property until recently housed the business of B.S. Dorsey Co. It was built shortly after the former disastrous fire of February 25, 1903. In that fire the entire business section of the town was wiped out. One month earlier, January 29, 1903, the Anderson and Co. was totally destroyed by fire. In response to the February, 1903 fire to a call for help the United Fire Company of Frederick sent its' steam engine to Mount Airy on a special train at 6:30 A.M. Five B & O freight engines hauled water back and forth from Bartholows, some four miles west of town each engine making five trips. 4/12/63
- Charles T. Bussard of Ridgeville and Clara Jennett Baker of Gist were married April 15, 1903. The couple married and had their wedding reception in the same house in which they are still living. Their seven children were born there also. They celebrated their 60th anniversary on Easter Sunday. 4/19/63
- Excerpts from a letter written by Mrs. Frances Cullison in the Community Reporter: "I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Mr. Frank Miller for the most enjoyable concert at the Senior High on March 29. All of us who have heard the Junior High Band, the Orchestra, the Senior High Band or the Dance Band can only thank the students for the listening pleasure they give us and most of all thank Mr. Miller for his patience, inspiration and never-tiring enthusiasm for his music students and his Bands." 4/19/63
- Charles Eyler, acting as liaison between Ridgeville and Mount Airy has announced a meeting at the Fireman's Hall, Main Street for the purpose of discussing the proposed annexation of Ridgeville with Mount Airy. The committee has invited the Mayor and Council as well as George Greer, Executive Assistant to the Carroll County Commissioners. 4/26/63
- Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Browning are the proud parents of their first child, Mary Elizabeth, on April 17. 4/26/63
- The local Kiwanis Club observed its' 14th Charter Night. Coordinating this event were past presidents Andy Mason and Charles Beck as well as Dwight Walker, a member of the program committee. 5/3/63
- At its' final meeting of the school year the PTA will consider the arguments for and against further consolidation of Mount Airy Senior High School. Mrs. Kenneth Burdette will present the position of those who favor the establishment of a new and larger high school in the Winfield area. V.R. Simpson will represent those who favor expanding the present MAHS to offer all those programs necessary for the education of local youth. 5/3/63
- Miss Sandra Linton was 2nd place winner in the FACIT Accuracy Contest on April 27. 5/10/63

Historical Memories from Fifty Years Ago (Continued)

- L. Pearce Bowlus, Mount Airy attorney, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Western Maryland Trust Co. Bowlus, a native of Middletown, has been a practicing attorney in Mount Airy for 24 years. He is the attorney for the Carroll County Board of Education and for the town of Mount Airy. 9/20/63
 - Miss Carol Hilbinger and Mr. William Dorsey were married at Calvary Lutheran Church on September 7. 9/20/63
 - Ridgeville will vote on the annexation issue on September 23 from 5:00 to 8:00 P.M. in the vacant store property known as “Bake’s Market.” At present there are 86 registered voters eligible to vote. If any wishes to vote who is not registered they must appear at the County Election office before September 23. 9/20/63
 - On September 26 new boys will be inducted into the Boy Scout Troop including: Sam Beck, Tony DiBella, Ralph Holweck, Joe Seidl, Dave Flora, Mike Kirshner, Billy Keaton, Mark Dorsey, Kim Mundy, Allen Watkins and Larry Van Sant. 9/20/63
 - Judy Windsor was recently installed as president of the Mount Airy Girls 4-H Club in a candlelight ceremony at the home of Cynthia, Susan and Tina Boller. Other officers inducted were: Karen White—vice president; Cindy Boller—secretary; and Susan Boller—treasurer. Each officer was presented a pin and Judy presented Sharon Warfield with a past president’s pin. 9/27/63
 - Miss Margaret Ann Fritz was recently honored at Hood College for her academic work last year. Miss Fritz was named a Hood College Scholar at the opening of the school year having maintained a 3.2 overall average for two years. She is a graduate of MAHS. 9/27/63
 - The residents of Ridgeville turned down annexation with Mount Airy. 52 ballots were cast against annexation and 38 in favor of annexation. 9/27/63
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**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 Historical Society of Mount Airy, Maryland
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