



# *MUSEUM MEMOS*

## Mt. Airy Museum Newsletter



VOLUME 17 NUMBER 3

2017

### **The President's Pen**

*Mike Eacho*

A lot has occurred since we published our last newsletter. First, the Town of Mount Airy has approved funding for the Mount Airy Station restoration project and awarded the contract to Hauptman Builders of Mount Airy. Repainting of the station's exterior was completed and some repairs to the train platform and brickwork were also completed. Members of the Historical Society have been busy planning new exhibits for the station when work inside is complete.

I would like to thank those people who volunteered to open the museum over the summer. We have been able to keep the museum open most Saturdays and for special events.

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 to greet our guests.

Once again I would like to extend a very special thanks and a job well done to the ladies who continue identify, photograph, scan, catalog, pack, and preserve the many artifacts and photographs that the Historical Society has acquired over the years. This monumental effort is being accomplished by Diann Linton, Peggy Fleming, Linda Brightwell, Clarice Runkles, B.J. Dixon, Althea Miller, and Sandy Dutterer.

### **Thanks**

The Historical Society of Mount Airy, Maryland would like to thank the following individuals 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.

- Louise Wright Miller, Westminster, Md.
- Harold Robertson, Westminster, Md.

### **Mount Airy Station Construction Has Begun**

Construction inside the Mount Airy Station began last week. The restoration of the building's interior is being performed by Hauptman Builders of Mount Airy. Work is to include building a firewall between the Museum lobby area and the Mount Airy Pharmacy, building men's and ladies rest rooms in the lobby area, installing a wheelchair lift, opening up the museum display area, and opening up the museum work area. The work is expected to take about three months. When construction is complete, the Historical Society will move into the building and begin fabricating new exhibits for the museum.

### **Hall of Fame Nominations**

The Historical Society of Mount Airy, MD, Inc. is soliciting nominations for the 2018 Hall of Fame program. All local organizations and individuals are invited to nominate a person or persons to be considered for this honorable position.

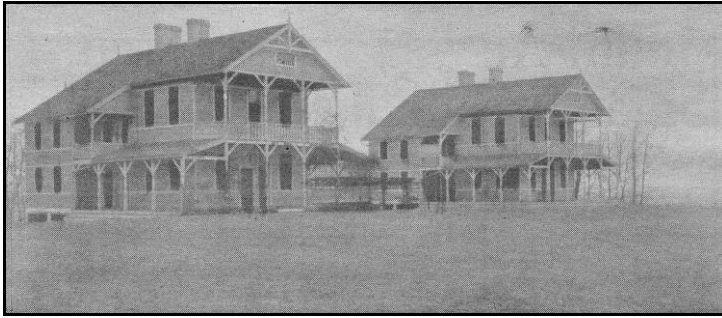
The Mount Airy Hall of Fame honors truly deserving people, living or deceased, of Mount Airy and the immediate surrounding areas, who by work, service, volunteerism, word or deed, made the community a better place for everyone. It also honors those who were born here and went on to bring honor and glory to the community by their efforts, deeds, or life's work outside of the area. By honoring these individuals, it is believed that their stories will inspire others to greater achievement and make everyone aware of the fabric that is woven into our home - Mount Airy, Maryland.

Nomination forms for the Mount Airy Hall of Fame may be found at the Mount Airy Town Hall or at the Mount Airy Museum. Forms can also be obtained online at the following link:

<http://www.mountairymd.org/DocumentCenter/View/234>.

## The Robert Garrett Sanitarium gave sick children a breath of fresh air

*From the Mount Airy Centennial  
March 2, 1994*



The Robert Garrett Sanitarium for children opened in Mount Airy in June 1888 to allow children from Baltimore City the benefit of pure, dry, cool air during the summer months.

A hundred years ago, the air up here was considered good for your health.

In June, 1888, the Grace Church Dispensary in Baltimore opened the Robert Garrett Hospital for Children on North Main Street, 842 feet above sea level, so its young patients could get away from the heat and humidity in the city.

The seven-building facility had 26 beds, an isolation ward and a resident physician in Mount Airy. Kitchen, laundry and servants quarters were 50 feet from the hospital itself. At one end of the eight-acre property was the contagious disease pavilion. A large open air pavilion was added later.

Children went first to the Dispensary and were then transferred to the Sanitarium from June through the second week in September. About 100 children were admitted to the Mount Airy location each summer. Free transportation was provided for the parents to visit their children.

The location of the sanitarium was considered perfect by its administrators, with views of hills and mountains in every direction. It is said that the nurses who staffed the facility preferred to sleep in the open air although there were rooms for them.

Local folklore has it that the sanitarium closed sometime before the 1920s. Lester Lowman said he moved to Mount Airy around 1920 and the facility was not open then. Dorothy Lowman also said when she went to Mount Airy school in the '20s, there were no occupants in the buildings.

Early in the 1940's, Truman Lowman bought the "pavilion that was out back and used parts of it to build his house," Lester said.

**Editor's Note:** The Garrett Sanitarium will be featured in an exhibit in the new Mount Airy Museum when it opens in the Mount Airy Station early next year. Anyone having photographs, artifacts or stories about the sanitarium is invited to contribute to the content of this exhibit.

## Bank Announces Two Promotions

*From the Community Reporter  
Friday, November 7, 1977*

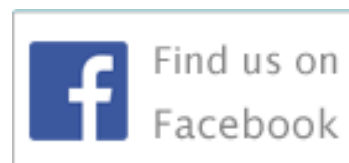


**Dennis L. Ahalt**

Maryland National announces two promotions in the Western Maryland Regional Office in Frederick. Robert M. Eslinger was promoted to vice president and Dennis L. Ahalt was promoted to assistant vice president.

Mr. Eslinger joined Maryland National in 1970 as an administrative trainee and was promoted to assistant vice president in 1973. He began his banking career in 1964 at Creature Security Pacific National Bank, Riverside, Calif. Mr. Eslinger is a member of the Regional Loan Committee of the Development Credit Corporation of Maryland.

Mr. Ahalt, a native of Frederick, graduated from Frederick Community College in 1970. He began his career at Maryland National in 1969 as an administrative trainee. He was promoted in 1970 to manager and branch officer of the Mt. Airy Office. In 1974 he transferred to Frederick as loan officer.



## Museum Exhibit Planning

The last two meetings of the Historical Society have been dedicated to the planning of exhibits for the new museum when it opens in the Spring. The planning process began by asking members to answer the question "What do you think our museum should focus on to inform others of our town's history?" Many great ideas were presented including:

- The B&O Railroad
- The National Road
- Area commerce
- Businessmen/women
- The Twin Arch
- Pine Grove Chapel
- Mount Airy Fires
- Historic homes
- Ridgeville, Parrsville, Dorseytown, Plane 4
- Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company
- Local social and civic clubs
- Mount Airy in the Civil War
- Mount Airy during WWI and WWII
- Garrett Sanitarium
- Henry Bussard
- Area industries
- Area churches
- Area schools
- Concrete plant
- Wildwood Park

From this list, the members chose the following topics to begin planning exhibits around. The topics chosen for initial planning were: The B&O Railroad and its impact on Mount Airy, The Garrett Sanitarium, and Commerce in Mount Airy

Small groups were formed to put together a story line and concepts for these three exhibits. At our next meeting, these ideas will be shared with the other members.

We hope to address all of these topics in time, but because of a limited number of volunteers, we can only tackle a few exhibits at a time.

Anyone having photographs, artifacts or stories pertaining to any of these topics are asked to contribute to this effort. We would also welcome more volunteers to assist us with the planning, design, and fabrication of the exhibits. The Historical Society hopes to produce vastly improved exhibits for the grand opening of the new museum.

E-mail us at: [mountairyhistoricalsociety@earthlink.net](mailto:mountairyhistoricalsociety@earthlink.net)

## Suggestions Made For Development Of Park Here Six-Member Committee Named To Work With Park Representatives Community Input Invited

*From the Community Reporter  
November 4, 1977*

As stated in last week's issue of the Community Reporter, a meeting was held at the Mt. Airy Middle School to discuss a community park for Mt. Airy, to be located near the intersection of the Mt. Airy bypass and the unimproved section of Center Street.

The meeting was opened by Bruce Hildebrand, director of Carroll County's Department of Recreation and Parks. He gave a brief statement of the background of the park, telling the group of about 30 interested citizens of Mt. Airy that there are about five acres to work with and about \$40,000 in funds.

Parks Planner Chris Batten explained that the first priority is to determine what Mt. Airy wants and a committee was appointed (as stated last week) to solicit ideas from the community. After that phase, Batten said, would come an evaluation of the volunteer strength of the community together with the actual amount of financial aid available for the project and thirdly a master plan would have to be drawn.

Dick Wilson suggested that the proposed multi-purpose court have a lip put around it so that it could be flooded for ice skating in the winter. Amy Myers mentioned that the tennis courts should not have, the lights excluded to save money, as playing at night would assure maximum use of the courts. Janice Leatherwood mentioned that she would like to see paddle tennis courts constructed.

The six-member committee, Clarice Runkles, Amy Myers, Janice Leatherwood, Ed Johnson, Dick Wilson and Troy Thompson, volunteered to work with the parks representatives and to monitor the community as to what they would like to have built in the park.

**Editor's Note:** This was the beginning of Watkins Park in Mount Airy.

**The next meeting of the Historical Society will be on November 7, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the lower level of the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company. We will be planning new museum exhibits. Please join us.**

## Support for the Mount Airy Hall of Fame

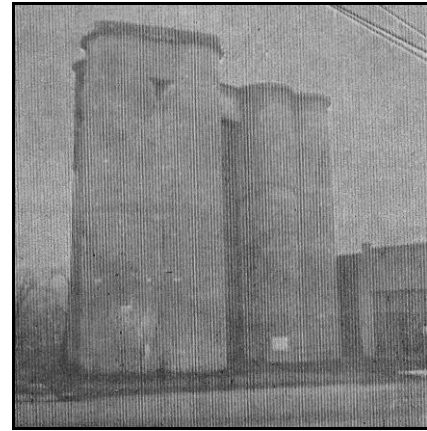
The Historical Society of Mount Airy, Maryland would again like to express its sincere gratitude to the many businesses in our community that supported this year's Mount Airy Hall of Fame Dinner and Induction Ceremony. Without their generous sponsorship we could not honor these deserving members of our community. We ask you all to please support the following businesses, which have supported us so generously over the years. They provide so much to our great community.

Anissa Hastings, Realtor, Weichert Realtors - New Colony  
Blade Busters Lawn Cutting, Firewood, Snow Removal  
Blossom & Basket Boutique  
Brick Ridge  
Browning Reagle Insurance Agency  
Burrier-Queen Funeral Home and Crematory, P.A.  
Catonsville Homes  
CBI Development Group  
Century Ford, Dodge, Chrysler & Jeep  
Charlie Condon, Real Estate Teams, LLC  
Convenience Catering & Concessions - Marsha Henley  
DCB – Your Community Bank  
Electrical Solutions Michael Dixon  
4 County Lions  
George's Girls Jewelry & Repairs  
Green-Living Homes, LLC (Frank Dertzbaugh)  
Health Unlimited Family Fitness and Aquatic Center  
Jeff Barnes Chevrolet, Inc.  
Jerry's Trophies, LLC  
J & J Trash Service  
Kerry Mandrik, Long & Foster Realtors  
Kiwanis Club of Mount Airy  
Lindquist Insurance / Sherman - Emerson Insurance  
Mary Hushour, Realtor Long & Foster  
MacKenzie A. Kantruss, Attorney at Law  
Misty's Senior Services, L.L.C.  
Mount Airy Ace Hardware  
Mount Airy Lions Club  
New Windsor State Bank  
New York J&P Pizza  
Paul Clay, Real Estate Consultant RE/MAX Realty  
Point to Point Land Surveyors  
Rotary Club of Mount Airy  
Snap Fitness  
SK Printing  
Steve Jackson Real Estate Teams, LLC  
Team Bonnie and Maureen - RE/MAX Realty Plus  
T.E.M. Trucking, Inc. Pool Water, Stone, Etc.

The Greater Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce  
The Mount Airy Inn  
The Plumbery Home Center  
Tim Barkley, Attorney  
Van Mar Associates, Inc. Engineers, Planners, Surveyors  
Wagner Meats / Mt. Airy Locker Co.  
WRF & Sons Plumbing & Heating, Inc.

## Mt. Airy Silos To Be Demolished

*From the Community Reporter  
November 11, 1977*



At the last meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission for Mt. Airy, the Farmers and Mechanics Bank presented a site plan for expansion of its parking lot and the building of a new drive. The plan included tearing down the unsightly grain silos that have not been used (except by the pigeons) since fire destroyed the building occupied by the Mt. Airy Milling Company in 1969. Andy Mason, chairman of the Commission, expressed pleasure at this point, stating the plan is a considerable improvement over what now exists, as the silos have been a constant "eye sore" to the town. Mayor Lewis Dixon, who attended the meeting, said he was elated over the proposed project that the bank ought to be given citation for what it plans to do to improve the appearance of the town.

The bank plans to expand its parking lot on the property immediately surrounding the bank building. A new drive is to be looped down the south side from Main Street to Prospect street with entrances and exits on both streets. Also included in the plan is a new drive-in window. No major improvements are planned for the building.

Conditional approval for the bank's project was given by the P&Z Commission. Recommendations for shrubbery and trees to be placed in open spaces were among conditions set by the Commission.



## The Home of Miss Bessie Davis

*By Pete Bowlus*

In our last newsletter there was a picture of the former home of Miss Bessie Davis on South Main Street. The question was, is this house historical? Probably, Maybe, Yes, No? The building was the home to the first telephone exchange in Mount Airy.

Today the landscape has changed on South Main Street and the building is no more. Time waits for no one.



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## 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.

- Sunday, October 8 will be Homecoming Day at Prospect Church. The Rev. William Boyer will bring the message. 10/6/67
- Frank Dertzbaugh is a member of the freshman class at Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA. He is majoring in mathematics. 10/6/67
- Jonathon I. Ifert, Meter Reader and Collector for Potomac Edison, will be among 26 new members into the company's Quarter Century. 10/13/67
- Army Second Lieutenant Gurney L. Dixon was assigned to the 1st Armored Division at Fort Hood, Texas October 1. He is a 1967 graduate of NC State University with a BA degree in sociology. 10/13/67
- A turkey and oyster supper is set for October 22 at the Activities Building on Twin Arch Road. The local firemen have been keenly disappointed at the turnout for their suppers recently. This one is very important because they are raising money for a new ambulance. 10/20/67
- The County Commissioners and Board of Education of Carroll County have agreed to purchase two sizeable cites for schools. To provide for expansion of the new SCHS at Winfield 112 acres of the Conaway farm have been acquired at a price of \$1,500 an acre. At Westminster the Ryle Close farm of 160 to 170 acres at \$2,000 an acre has been approved for a new comprehensive Westminster High School. The Westminster school is expected to be the first educational complex to include a vocational-technical school and a community college. 10/20/67
- Passersby may have noticed the improvements to the exterior of Dr. Lively's dental office. Plans are also being made to improve the general appearance of the old hotel. The store previously owned by Mrs. Herman Gillis is being remodeled. Delaine Hobbs is expected to occupy this space with his photography studio. 10/20/67
- The Mount Airy and Frederick Kiwanis Clubs will be sponsoring the Marine Band in concert at Gov. Thomas Johnson High School. 10/20/67
- The new Mount Airy Bowling Lanes on Center Street are nearing completion and Operator Zeke Watkins expects to open at the new location on November 1 as planned. Twelve lanes, tripling the capacity of the old facility on Main Street will be available. An interesting sidelight is that one of the very few persons who have participated in league bowling continuously since the old alleys were opened 35 years ago is none other than the Mayor of Mount Airy, Paul E. Beall. 10/27/67
- The annual Halloween parade and treat sponsored by the Lions Club is scheduled for tomorrow (Saturday) at 2:00 P.M. Three judges will pick winners in two age groups. 10/27/67
- November 4 brings the fall Howard Chapel Fried Oyster and Turkey Supper from 2:30 P.M. on. It will be held in the church Fellowship Hall family style with a bake and fancy table. 10/27/67
- Prize winners in the Halloween Parade were: 6 and under: Prettiest-1st Cynthia Ogren; 2nd Elizabeth Harne; Ugliest-1st Donna Ogren; David Hetrick; Most comical-1st Susan Wagner; 2nd Scott Clements; Couples-Prettiest-1st Eddie Boone; 2nd Debbie and Michael Stickle; Ugliest 1st Dwayne Caneen; 2nd Didre Doyle; Most comical-1st Gordon Long; 2nd Willie Wagner. 10/27/67
- Winners 6 through 12-Singles Prettiest 1st Lisa Hammond; 2nd Margaret Stevens; Ugliest 1st Linda Gue; 2nd Judy Slick; Most comical 1st Tommy Fox; 2nd Steven Harne; Couples-Prettiest 1st Teresa and Karen Furr; 2nd Kim Chaney and Lisa Lowman; Ugliest-1st Nancy Brown and Margaret Beck; 2nd Ricky Hayes and Randy Henley; Most comical-1st Debbie and Lisa Robertson; 2nd Michael and David Duvall. 11/3/67
- Filomena Javier, a teacher from Quegon, Philippines is spending 3 weeks with the Harry Clower family. Her 6 month study of American Life, 4-H Club Work and Food Processing and Preservation Skills is part of the International Farm Youth Exchange Program. 11/3/67

- **Historical Memories from Fifty Years Ago (Continued)**

- For the October meeting of the Mount Airy Garden Club members and guests motored to Longwood Gardens on October 26. It was a beautiful fall drive. Along the way they stopped at the restaurant owned by Victor and Mary Ann Breiger, former residents of Mount Airy to say “hello” and have coffee. 11/3/67
- Richard Wilson, president of the Kiwanis Club of Mount Airy says the week of October 29- November 4 was set aside to salute the more than 86,000 Key Club members in 3,000 high schools and 15,000 Circle K members in 800 colleges in the US and Canada. 11/10/67
- Among eight talented organists who auditioned recently to play the Concert Hammond Organ for the Baltimore Lexington Market Christmas Concert, Mrs. Jessie Grigsby ranked first. 11/17/67
- South Carroll’s first athletics trophy was won Thursday, November 9 by the Cross Country team when South Carroll defeated Westminster and Frances Scott Key to win the County Championship. 11/17/67
- Mrs. Alamedia Moxley is assisting in the Beauty Salon owned and operated by Mrs. Helen Hobbs, while Helen is incapacitated due to a fractured wrist. This will allow the Beauty Shop to operate without any interruption to business. 11/17/67
- The Mount Airy Lions have collected and turned over to District 22W (Western Maryland) 103 pairs of old eyeglasses so far in the current year drive. Last year a total of 508 pairs were collected. It is hoped this number can be matched. The glasses, either in frames, or just the lenses or the frames, are all useable. 11/24/67
- Mr. and Mrs. William Knill have just returned from Miami Beach, Florida, where they attended the National Milk Producers Foundation Annual Meeting. There were approximately 1600 people registered. 11/24/67
- In the 50th year of Lionism throughout the world, the Mount Airy Lions celebrated their 27th year of service to the people of Mount Airy with a dinner and dance held at the Fireman’s Auxiliary Building. The club was founded in 1940 just prior to World War II. Charter President was the late Dr. Lawrence L. Leggett, a dentist who served the community more than 20 years. 11/24/67
- The 50th wedding anniversary of Bernard D. and Josephine D’Unger Warfield was recently celebrated with family and friends. They were married October 18, 1917. Their two attendants were present. Marriage vows were renewed at St. Michaels Church, Poplar Springs with breakfast following at the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Dr. and Mrs. William B. Culwell. A reception was held the following day at the family farm, “Brick House Farm.” Nine children and their spouses were present as well as 34 grandchildren. One son was unable to attend due to a tour of duty in the Phillipines. One grandchild also was unable to attend. 12/1/67
- The November meeting of the Homemakers was held at the home of Mrs. Carlton Ridgeley with Mrs. Mary Boone as co-hostess. President Mrs. Clyde Boller conducted the meeting. Mrs. Delbert Beall read an interesting reading about Thanksgiving. 12/8/67
- The Four County Jaycees will hold their second annual Christmas Party for underprivileged children on Saturday, December 16. This year the Jaycees will make Christmas come true to some 49 children in the Mount Airy area. The day will begin with a trip to the Druid Theatre in Damascus for a free movie, then return to Mount Airy to the Fireman’s Activities for a party and to meet Santa. They will return home by 6:00 P.M. 12/15/67
- Everyone is reminded of the “Trim Your Door” contest for the Ridgeville-Mount Airy area. They will be judged Sunday, December 15 between 6:00 and 9:30 P.M. 12/15/67
- On Saturday, December 16 at 7:00 the MYF will meet at the Howard Chapel Social Hall to wrap gifts for patients of the Frederick Nursing Home. 12/15/67
- Mount Airy looked very festive Sunday evening with the many pretty and skillfully lighted doorways. The non-garden club winners were: 1st Mr. and Mrs. Duvall; 2nd Mrs. and Mrs. Walter Brown; 3rd Mr. and Mrs. Jack Shank; honorable mention Mr. and Mrs. Paul Lowman. Garden Club winners were: 1st Mr. and Mrs. Latimer Watkins; 2nd Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gendell; 3rd Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Cunningham; honorable mention Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Burdette. 12/22/67



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