



MUSEUM MEMOS

Mt. Airy Museum Newsletter



VOLUME 22 NUMBER 4

Fall 2022

Election for Board of Directors

The Historical Society of Mount Airy, Maryland, Inc. will elect a new board of directors at our December meeting, which will be held December 6, 2022. The current board of directors is Michael Eacho, President, Clarice Runkles, Vice President, Diann Linton, Treasurer and B.J. Dixon, Secretary. Nominations for the board positions will be accepted up to the time the voting takes place. Please submit nominations by e-mail at: historicalsocietyofmountairy@earthlink.net or in person at the December meeting.

Baseball In Mount Airy

The presentation for the December meeting of the Historical Society will be "Baseball in Mount Airy." This presentation is the continuation of the series "Entertainment in Mount Airy." Scheduled guest speakers include Barbara Runkles, Billy Wagner and George Richardson. Please join us and share your knowledge and memories of the baseball teams from Mount Airy including the American Legion teams, Mount Airy High School teams, Mount Airy Athletic Association (MAYAA) teams, Four County Athletic Association teams and others. The meeting will be held in the lower level of the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company beginning at 7 p.m. A short business meeting will precede the presentation and discussion.

Discover the History of Mount Airy!

Visit the Mount Airy Museum.

See our operating train display that models the railyard once located on North Main Street. Other exhibits describe the businesses that served our community, the B&O Railroad and the children's hospital once located here.

Open Saturdays and Sundays noon until 4 p.m.

Thank You for Your Support

The Historical Society of Mount Airy, Maryland would like to extend our sincere thanks to the following individuals who have made donations to the Historical Society. These donations help us with the cost of printing the newsletter, cataloging and storage of new items in the collection, and the acquisition of new historical items. They will also help us pay for new, informative, and eye-catching exhibits in the Mount Airy Museum.

Thomas Walker

Janine E. Grossman

Thanks also to all of you whom have so generously donated to the Flat Iron Building Preservation effort. Your donations will help us fund the engineering study that will determine the soundness of the building and the structural repairs needed to restore the building.

Welcome New Members

The Historical Society would like to extend a welcome to the following new members:

- Nancy Curtain
- Sarah & James Parsons

We would also like to extend a welcome to the following new life members:

- William & Elizabeth Cave

Stories and Photos Wanted

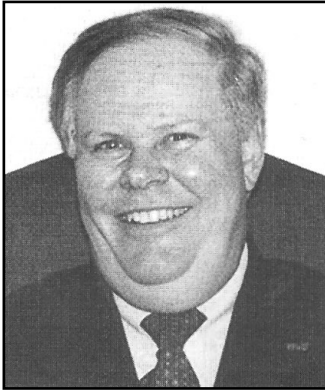
If you have stories or photographs you would like to contribute for the Historical Society's quarterly newsletter, please contact us at:

historicalsocietyofmountairy@earthlink.net

Any stories about Mount Airy, its people, businesses or local events are welcome.

Dennis "Denny" L. Ahalt

December 24, 1942 — September 11, 2022



Dennis "Denny" L. Ahalt went home to be with his Lord, on September 11, 2022, at the age of 79 years 9 months. He was a lifelong Frederick County resident, residing the majority of his adult life in Mt. Airy, MD. Denny is survived, by his wife of 60 years, Patricia E. (Wagner) Ahalt. He was born, on December 24, 1942, to the late Glen "Jim" G. and Charlotte F. (Rudy) Ahalt. His early years included spending time on his grandparents' farm tending to his sheep, which he showed at the Great Frederick Fair. He loved playing baseball, from an early age thru adulthood, as well.

Denny attended Frederick County Public Schools and was a member of the Frederick High School Class of 1960. After his high school graduation, he went on to the University of Maryland and continued at Frederick Community College, where he obtained an Associate Degree. Denny continued to strengthen his business skills, by attending the Maryland Banking School.

Denny started his banking career, as a teenager, working for Farmers & Mechanics Bank, as a teller. He moved his family, to Mt. Airy, while serving as a Branch Manager for Maryland National Bank, in 1971. Over the years, he worked for about eight different banks, primarily in Mount Airy. Denny retired, from New Windsor State Bank (NWSB), in 2013. He loved his customers and the relationships that he formed within the community.

Spirituality was important, throughout Denny's life. As a youth, his family was part of the founding members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, in Frederick, MD. Once Denny and his own family moved to Mount Airy, they started attending Prospect Methodist Church. Their home's proximity, to

Prospect, afforded them the opportunity for many years of fellowship and service to the church.

Denny lived his life, generously, on multiple levels. He shared his gifts of time and talent, as a volunteer with many local community organizations, holding a variety of positions including: committee for the accreditation of South Carroll High School, Prospect/Marvin Pastoral Parish Relations, Mt. Airy Lions Club, Ridge Swim Club, Mount Airy Youth Athletic Association (MAYAA), Greater Mt. Airy Chamber of Commerce and Mount Airy Disaster Relief Fund, many of which he served as the Treasurer. Denny's lifetime of volunteer service took him from the Board room to coaching on the sideline. He coached soccer, basketball and T-ball. His community and professional service was rewarded, with the honor of being inducted into the Mount Airy Hall of Fame in 2003. He, also, shared his treasure, with numerous charities and organizations that he was passionate about supporting.

In addition to his wife, Denny is survived by daughters: Laura Heck (Drew) and Jenny Ahalt; grandsons: Corey Heck (Emi) and Logan Heck; great grandson: Andy Heck; brother: Randy Ahalt (Suzanne); nephews: Ryan Ahalt (Peggy) and Chad Ahalt (Cassie). Denny is, also, remembered by a great niece, great nephew, brother-in-law, numerous generational cousins, as well as many friends.

Editor's Note: The following article was included on page 1 of the Community Reporter of November 13, 1942. Americans, 80 years ago, were focusing so much of their energy toward supporting the troops and the Nation's war effort as can be seen by this appeal.

Women Urged to Knit for Armed Forces

Miss Helen Nusbaum, Mount Airy, this week received from Miss Evelyn Mather, production chairman of the Red Cross of Carroll County, wool to knit sweater, gloves, scarfs and helmets for soldiers in the armed forces.

Miss Nusbaum urges everyone who can, to volunteer to knit this wool up so the finished garments may be forwarded to the boys as early as possible.

17 Paradise Open House

**One Day Only, Saturday, December 3 2022
12-4 pm**

Just in time for the Holidays, the new Bed & Breakfast in town, 17 Paradise, will open her doors bedecked in all her Christmas Splendor. Each room will brim with decorations - some old, some new, some handmade, but all festive. Reminiscent of days gone by, this old house will once again be filled with warmth and good cheer ready to welcome you, your family, and friends and instill the Holiday spirit.

Please join us.

Start your day with the house tour (an easy 5 minute walk up Paradise Ave from the municipal parking lot), be on hand for the lighting of the tree in the parking lot at 5:30 pm, then bundle up for the town parade at 6:30 pm. Plan on holiday shopping at the unique shops and dine at various restaurants in town to round out the day in quaint downtown Mount Airy. Visit the Mount Airy Museum at the train station and railyard to be delighted by the historically accurate train layout depicting this old B&O railroad town in its earliest years. And be amazed by what "used to be" in this charming town as presented in the museum.

A \$5 cash donation requested at the door of the 17 Paradise Open House will benefit the Mount Airy Flat Iron Building Restoration Project. Help support the worthy cause to save and preserve the icon of downtown Mount Airy, Maryland.

Free admission for Historical Society of Mount Airy members - clip coupon below:



Listed on [Airbnb.com](https://www.airbnb.com)

17 PARADISE

A turn of the century bed & breakfast
in the historic town of Mount Airy, Maryland

Call or email for information
301.730.0514 | 17ParadiseMtAiry@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendars

Annual Mount Airy Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony

- The Annual Mount Airy Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony will be held Tuesday, March 21, 2023. The Class of 2023, to be honored at the event, is to be selected soon.
- Christmas Open House at 17 Paradise to benefit the Flat Iron Building Preservation effort – December 3



Editor's Note: The following article was from the front page of the Community Reporter Friday, December 9, 1932. The Pants Factory was a major employer in Mount Airy from 1921 until the early 1990s. It had facilities on Prospect Road, then, Wildwood Park and finally on Center Street.

Addition To Local Pants Factory Now Under Construction

Necessity For Increasing Production Will Provide Employment For 40 Extra Operators.

Ground was broken last Thursday for the erection of an addition to the local Pants Factory, which will be completed within three weeks if weather conditions permit. Increased demand has made the present facilities of the factory inadequate, according to Ralph Sellman, proprietor.

At the present time, Mr. Sellman stated, the factory is turning out more work and employing a larger number of operators than any previous period. An average of 350 dozen pairs of trousers a week has been maintained for some time and, with the new power machines in operation the output will probably be around 600 dozen.

Following the completion of the addition, a 30x36 one story frame structure, 32 modern fast type factory sewing machines will be available, bringing the factory's total machines to 82. The new equipment will give employment to approximately 40 people, increasing the present force to between 90 and 100 operators.

The factory is now working on an order of the American Red Cross for dark cotton trousers, to be distributed to the needy. Production is being pushed, Mr. Sellman declared, in order to be ready for the output of white duck pants which begins about the middle of January.

Construction of the addition is under the supervision of Archie Hood, contractor. The land upon which the building is being erected, is a 36x70 lot, was purchased by Mr. Sellman from the People's Lumber & Supply Co.

Editor's Note: The following article was printed in the Community Reporter Friday, November 30, 1942. It describes more of the preparations being made as the country gears up for World War II.

Casualty Station To Be Equipped in Mount Airy

Civilian Defense Committee to Set Up Casualty Station in Fire Engine House

Mount Airy's Defense Group, under the direction of Dr. C. M. Van Poole, is equipping a casualty station at the Fire Engine House here to conform to Civilian Defense regulations.

Donations of sheets, pillowcases, Turkish towels, quilts, comforters and blankets are asked. The articles may be taken to the A&P Store.

A number of cots are also needed. Persons having one to spare are urged to mark it with their name and leave it at the A&P Store.

If a donor is unable to deliver the above articles he is asked to contact Mrs. Charles Jones, Ridgeville.

Volunteers are sought to help with the sewing and in getting the room ready, and they are urged to contact Mrs. Norman Hood. A date for the sewing period will be fixed later.



All of us at the Historical Society of Mount Airy wish you all a happy and healthy Hanukkah and Christmas. We also wish you the very best in the new year.

We ask you, once again, that if you can spare some of your time, please help us out by volunteering at the Mount Airy Museum.

Historical Memories from Fifty Years Ago

Compiled by Mary Lynn Myers Kuhn

The information for these Historical Memories was compiled from articles in the October, November, and December, 1972 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.

- Growing Pains Get Worse for Town of Mount Airy (by Al Farrell)
Minutes before the Council at its monthly meeting approved annexation of the 60.8 acre Kogan Tract (which is at the corner of Twin Arch Rd. and Rt. 27 bypass) it received a petition to bring another 66.3 acres into the corporate limits. Bernard Young and W. Harold Skidmore have joined Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Rigler, the property owners, in a petition for annexation of the tract on Prospect adjoining the Hood property near the American Legion. They have no “immediate” plans to develop but seek R1 low density single family zoning. (Mr. Young and Skidmore will begin construction soon on “Friendly Acres”, the 86 unit townhouse project on Watersville Rd.) The town planning consultant agreed with Councilman Wayne Norwood if all land within town boundaries was developed to its densest planned use, a maximum population of 10-15,000 could be expected. Councilman Hobbs commented he wouldn’t see it in his lifetime and that he planned to outlive the rest of the Council! 10/6/72
- Norman Etzler resigns as Trustee of County Library.
Mr. Etzler was one of the original board members appointed in 1958. He has seen the library grow from one building housing 20,000 books to a system with headquarters library, 4 branches, and a bookmobile with total collection of 75,000 books. Mr. Etzler was instrumental in establishing a branch library in Mount Airy in 1965. 10/6/72
- Citizens of Tomorrow are Merissa Wilson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Wilson, who will soon be 2. Also, the three children of Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Franklin: Karen (2), Mark (8) and Kevin (7 years old).
10/6/72
- Editorial: The U.S. – Russian Détente
From the time President Nixon’s visit to Moscow up until the past few days, when heads of state from the Soviet Union were guests of the President at Camp David, there has been a series of developments which causes one to look with disbelief at what is happening. The two countries have signed an arms limitation agreement, and trade agreement permitting the sale of millions of bushels of American wheat to the Soviets. And now the President and Soviet Foreign Minister, Andre Gromyko, have formulated an agreement freezing for five years most of the two nation’s long-range nuclear arsenals. It would appear that both nations are coming to the realization that the continued growth and progress of each of them depends upon peaceful co-existence rather than cold war belligerency, 10/6/72
- Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Chaney are receiving congratulations on the birth of daughter, Michelle Lynn. Mrs. Chaney is the former Sharon Mullinix. 10/6/72
- Robert Wagner, student at South Carroll, has been selected as a member of the 1972 McDonalds All American High School Band. The band consists of 2 high school students from each state and one student from the District of Columbia. Robert toured England last summer with a band, chorus and orchestra of high school students known as America’s Youth in Concert. 10/13/72
- Lions Club will sponsor the Halloween Parade again this year. It will proceed from the Farmers and Merchants bank lot south on Main Street to Park Avenue then to the town parking lot for the judging to take place.
10/13/72
- Mr. and Mrs. J. Robert Lowman will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary October 16th. 10/13/72

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Historical Memories from Fifty Years Ago (Continued)

- ‘Two Blind Mice’ will be presented by the Mount Airy Players at the Calvary Church Auditorium. The actors in the play include: Dorothy Reed, Martha Mankollen, Barbara Harrison, Artie Esworthy, Helen Simpson, Ellis Leatherwood, Carolyn Davis, Jack Steele, Ray Simpson, Harry Arnold, Bill Moore, Ed Thren, Leroy Brown, David Simpson, John Simpson and Lewis Dixon. 10/13/72
- The Methodist Men of Calvary Church who were instrumental in building the church steps conducted a dedication service on October 8th. Rev. James Talley officiated with President Ralph Holweck and past president Charles Gendell cutting the ribbon. 10/13/72
- Ad: Southern States Cooperative, Inc. “Get Ready for Winter” – “Dig in and Go – Without a Tow” Snow and Mud Tires – Now only \$18.55
Unio SHD Motor Oil (case of 24 quarts) now only \$9.50
12 volt No, EHO-24 battery – fits many Ford, GM, Chrysler models thru 1972 – now only \$21.65
10/27/72
- Legionnaires plan local observance for Veterans Day on November 10th. Gold Stars most famous nimrods, Bobby Callahan, Bill Warfield, Garland Mann, Preston Brown, “Meat” Runkles and Russell Bennett left for Montana October 17th to hunt deer and elk. Gilbert Hash, Wendell Murphy and Bobby Callahan recently returned from a safari to Newfoundland where each shot a moose. Robert Logue has agreed to manage the Post’s Little League teams next year. 10/27/72
- The Mount Airy Homemakers Club met for lunch at the home of Mrs. Mollie Molesworth. Dorothy Bowen presented a program on Preparing for the Holiday. Mrs. Aubrey Fleming was recommended for president and Mrs. Wm. Bowen, secretary, to serve for the next two years. 11/3/72
- The annual game day of Saddle Pals was held recently with 117 horses entered in varied competition. Gene Hetrick judged many entries in games, performance classes and races. Butch Green kept the action moving as ringmaster 11/3/72
- The Maryland State Police is establishing the first statewide crime laboratory in Pikesville. This is becoming a reality through a federal law enforcement assistance grant of \$119,819. Some 95 police departments in Maryland have indicated they intend to use this new lab. This will enable Maryland law enforcement agencies to receive free of cost analysis of most types of evidence, 11/3/72
- On Friday, October 27th, the South Carroll Soccer team took the Carroll County League Championship with a 5 – 0 win over Westminster. Seniors Cliff Beck, Nick Dorsey and Alan Jenkins were again outstanding as they have been all year. It was a thrill to Coach Bill Stricker to have a winning team in his first year as coach at South Carroll. 11/3/72
- Ronald Kaetzel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald S. Kaetzel, was one of the 23 Army ROTC cadets who were honored by being named distinguished cadet at special ceremonies at Virginia Tech’s Blacksburg campus. He is majoring in biology. 11/3/72
- A new Junior High School was dedicated in Damascus. The \$3,000,000 structure honors the memory of John T. Baker, noted educator and father of Lillian Baker Leatherwood, well known resident of Mount Airy. 11/3/72
- At the town meeting on November 6th, Scott S. Bair of Carroll County stated he has been looking for a site to be used as the possible location for a major clothing manufacturing distribution facility, possibly a site near the railroad crossing on Rt. 144 (part of the E. Brooke Lee property). The Council advised Mr. Bair that water and sewer lines, in fact, all essential services, were problems and therefore they did not act favorably. The Council did say that water and sewer services will be available and were previously approved for the long proposed shopping center at the opposite end of Ridgeville. This shopping center has been in the planning stages for more than two years. 11/10/72

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Historical Memories from Fifty Years Ago (Continued)

- Mrs. Bertha Hahn is celebrating her 90th birthday. Mrs. Hahn is the mother of Mrs. Edger Grimes and she makes her home with Mr. and Mrs. Grimes. 11/10/72
- The Fire Prevention Committee has a busy schedule placing emphasis on “Stopping Fires Before They Start.” On October 9th, Arthur Lowman, Doug Alexander, Jeff King, Tommy Fleming and Robert Shaw visited the Mount Airy Elementary School. They talked to the children about fire slogans, prevention and safety. The children were given fire hats. Many other programs were given during the week. 11/10/72
- President Richard Nixon was re-elected by a landslide with his running mate Spiro Agnew. In Mount Airy of the 925 registered voters, 861 voted – 94% of those eligible to do so. 680 voted for Nixon / Agnew (156 voted for McGovern / Shriver team). 11/10/72
- Miss Joan Marie Kisner and Dale Andrew Logue were united in marriage at the Montgomery United Methodist Church recently by the Rev. Wallace Lusk, pastor of Ridgeville Full Gospel Church. They are residing in Mount Airy. 11/27/72
- Fred Baker, Athletic Director at South Carroll, has announced the opening of the 1972-73 basketball season. 13 of the 16 young men coming out for the varsity squad are veterans of last year’s championship junior varsity team and the coach has great hopes for a fine record this year.. 12/1/72
- Attorney General, Francis B. Burch, has warned Maryland shoppers to be wary of “sidewalk peddlers, storefront hucksters and door to door gyp artists” who specialize in cheating consumers during the Christmas season. 12/1/72
- New in Town –
Dennis Appliance and T.V. Center at 806 S. Main St. is offering a free turkey with a \$200 or more purchase. Refrigerators from \$170.⁰⁰ – See Allan Brown or Rose Dennis. “You Can Be Sure If Its Westinghouse!”
12/1/72
- Richard H. Smith completed his 20th year as an employee of the Md. And Va. Milk Producers Association. “Dick” is recognized as one of the outstanding field representatives. Dick married Anna May Osborn, his high school sweetheart, in 1950. They have five sons. Family interests in civic affairs center around Calvary Methodist Church and the Boy Scouts Troop 460. He also coaches a Little League group and is a past vice-president of the Mt. Airy Kiwanis Club. 12/1/72.
- The United Fund Campaign was very successful this year with the largest amount ever - \$615.⁰⁰. Mrs. Joan Hodgkins and Mrs. Marjorie Morel are grateful to all the collectors. 12/8/72
- Santa Claus is coming to Mount Airy again this year. The Mount Airy Chamber of Commerce and the Lions Club are responsible for contacting Santa and getting his promise to be here two weekends. There will also be a drawing contest held gain this year. 12/8/72
- Mayor Lewis Dixon has stated that “Hunting within town limits is against the law – there are no exceptions!” The Mount Airy Town Office has received reports that rabbit hunters have discharged their weapons within town limits. 12/8/72
- Sergeant Linda K. Hoff, daughter of Mrs. Rosalie Gue has completed the special U.S. Air Force Recruiter Course at Lackland AFB, Texas. She was trained in areas of study, including the AF job classification system, training procedures, and community relations. The Sergeant is a 1968 graduate of South Carroll. 12/8/72
- Achievement night was held by the Mt. Airy 4-H Pioneers. Mrs. Dewitt Maring presented awards. The top ten winners were Melanie Marine, Doug Full, Crystal Bradley, Karen Sprague, Larry Twenty, Debby Sprague, Mark Marine, Timmy Knill, Rusty Ray and Linda Twenty. 12/15/72
- Roland Kiracafe, teacher at the Mount Airy Middle School, was selected by the National Council for Geographic Education as a State Merit Award winner for “Meritorious Teaching Achievement.” 12/15/72

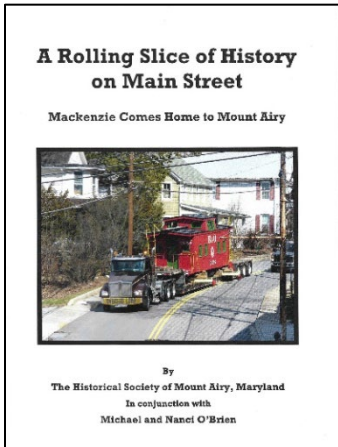
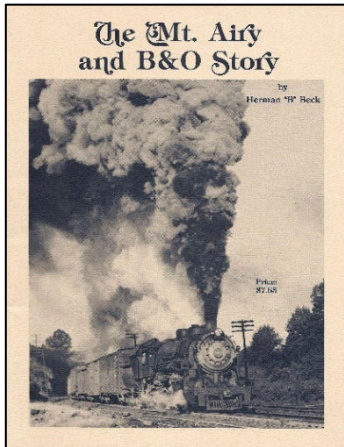
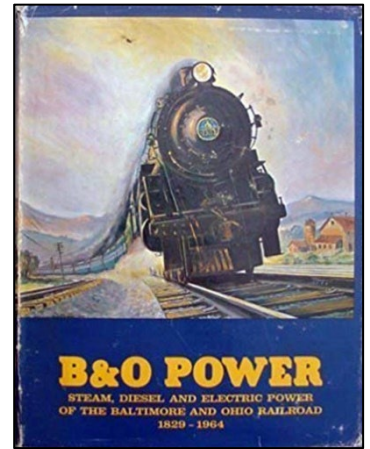
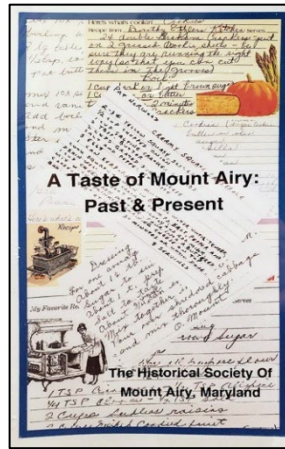
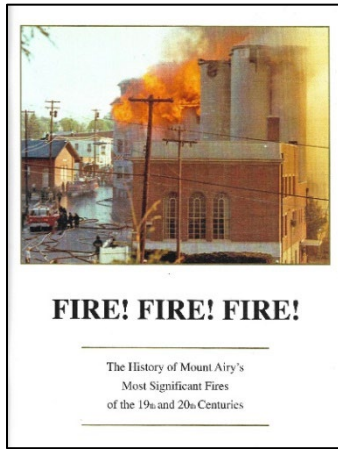
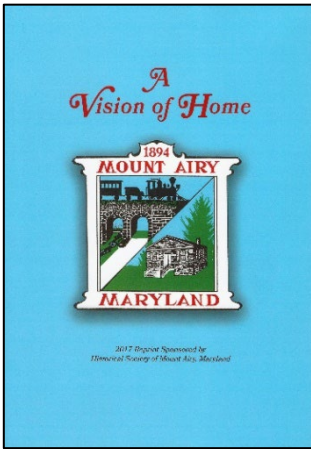
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Historical Memories from Fifty Years Ago (Continued)

- During November, Zeke Watkins held a benefit bowling tournament for the Carroll County Association for Retarded Children. \$275.⁰⁰ was collected and assisting with the tournament were Virginia Summers, Dorothy Watkins, Zeke Watkins, Charlotte Ware, Catherine Rippeon, Kitty Lowman, Anna Kidd and Anna Dasch. Tournament winners were Sharon Richards, Stan Lare, Lauretta Sanger, Paul A. Spencer, Linda Corrick, Ted Watkins, Eva Chaney and Junior Cornell. 12/15/72
- Jack Lowery wins fire slogan contest held at Mt. Airy Elementary School and sponsored by the Fire Company. Jack is in Mrs. Haight's 4th grade class and his slogan: "The Fire Department does their part for you – why don't you do your part for them? Prevent fires!" 12/15/72
- Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Day observed their 61st wedding anniversary on December 21st. The Days have two sons – J. Downey Day and Ellis E. Day. 12/22/72
- Gail W. Kline Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Gail Kline Sr. has been promoted to Technical Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force. Sgt. Kline, an airborne radio technician at Andrews Air Force Base and serves with the 1st Helicopter Squadron, a unit of Headquarters Command. Sgt. Kline, a 1957 graduate of Mount Airy High School, and his wife, Eva, are the parents of four children: Sabre, Kevin, Patrick and Tanja. 12/22/72
- Chester A. Elder, Principal of South Carroll High School, was honored on his birthday at a surprise reception following the annual Christmas Program on December 11th. A group of parents and teachers planned the surprise. 12/29/72
- Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Buckman were honored recently on the occasion of their 35th wedding anniversary at the home of their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert E. Buckman. 12/29/72
- Tony Cinquegrani was named to the All Tri-State Football Team. 12/29/72

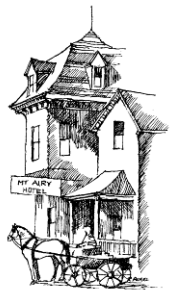
The following Holiday Greetings were included in the Mount Airy Community Reporter on December 25, 1942. Happy Hannukah and Merry Christmas and may the new year bring us the blessings of peace and health.

 <p>Merry Christmas</p> <p>A holy and happy Christmas is our wish for you...</p> <p>MT. AIRY PANTS FACTORY 829-9870</p>	 <p>The merriest Christmas</p> <p>Warm and sincere holiday greetings.</p> <p>MYERS DRUG STORE Main St. Mt. Airy, Md. 829-0300</p>	 <p>Cheer</p> <p>And a MERRY CHRISTMAS to everyone.</p> <p>VANSANT PLUMBING & HEATING Main St. Mt. Airy, Md. 829-0444</p>	 <p>Merry Christmas</p> <p>Peace on earth, good will toward men..</p> <p>MT. AIRY MILLING CO. Purina Chows Feed - Grain - Fertilizer Main St. Mt. Airy, Md. 829-1200</p>
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Also available soon will be the 2022 Annual Mount Airy Christmas Ornament, this year featuring the First National Bank, now the recently opened Liquidity Alehouse.

Great Christmas Gifts available for purchase at the Mount Airy Museum.



The Historical Society of Mount Airy, Maryland
P.O. Box 244
Mount Airy, Maryland 21771