



MUSEUM MEMOS

Mt. Airy Museum Newsletter

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 3

Summer 2025

Mark Your Calendars

- Our next meetings of the Historical Society are Tuesday, October 7 and Tuesday, November 4.
- History 101 - will be held again this year during the week of October 6-9, 2025. For more information, see the story on page 2.
- Vietnam Memorial Travelling Wall – All day, October 9-13, 2025, located at the New Windsor Fire Department Carnival Grounds. See https://www.nwfd10.org/apps/public/events/eventView.cfm?Event_ID=562 for more information.
- 2025 Ghost Tours will be given at 5 p.m. or 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 11, 18, 25, Friday, October 31 (7 p.m. only) and Saturday, November 1. Tickets are available through Eventbrite for \$20 plus an Eventbrite fee. See the link on our website. Tours last about 1.5 hours and are considered moderately strenuous.
- Virtual Ghost Tour - Thursday, October 16, 2025, 50-6:30 pm at the Mt. Airy Library. For those who are unable to handle the walk involved with the walking ghost tours, come join us for some spooky fun!
- America's 250 contest is back! - Submissions are now being accepted for the America's 250 Field Trip Contest for students in grades 3-12. See the link on our website for more information.

These and other events are listed on our website at: <https://www.historicalocietyofmountairymd.org/copy-of-calendar-of-events-5>

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. Your 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 attract visitors to our museum and pay for new, informative, and eye-catching exhibits in the Mount Airy Museum.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Bonnie & Doug Alexander | • Barbara A. Bell |
| • Jean & Don Cramer | • Diane M. Davenport |
| • Ana N. Ifert Family | • Jean Knill |
| • John R. Molesworth | • June & Harry Pearce |
| • Jean & Don Pickett | • Clarice Runkles |
| • Mr. Davis Streaker Family | • Roger Tabler & Sandra Roark |

Welcome New Members

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

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| • Tyler Meinhart | • Carmen & Kay Peltzer |
| • Barbara Schlueter | • Diane Stover |

The Historical Society now has 122 members. Several of our past members did not renew this year.

Visit the Mount Airy Museum.

The Museum is open
Saturday and Sunday from 12 noon until 4 p.m.
We are also open by appointment

History 101 for 2025

History 101 will be held this year during the week of October 6-9, 2025. History 101 is an annual week-long event offering free programs and activities relating to the history of the town of Mount Airy and our region. It is sponsored by the Mount Airy Historical Society and supported by the Pine Grove Chapel and the Mount Airy Branch of the Carroll County Public Library. All programs are suitable for all ages. Each program is expected to last for one hour. Please note that the locations and starting times may differ each night. Mark your calendars and plan on attending these presentations.

We are thrilled to announce that all four of this year's speakers are returning due to popular demand. They have presented programs for History 101 in the past.

The presentations are scheduled for the following evenings and locations:

- Monday, October 6 at 7 PM in the Pine Grove Chapel (803 South Main Street). Our speaker is Chris Haugh, the full time historian and preservation manager for Frederick's Mount Olivet Cemetery. Through his History Shark Productions, he chronicles the lives of national figures as well as average local folks, **STORIES IN STONE**. Mr. Haugh promises an entertaining presentation relating stories of famous and infamous local citizens.
- Tuesday, October 7 at 7 PM in the large room (lower level) at the Mount Airy Fire House, (702 North Main Street). Our speaker is Matthew Borders, Park Ranger from Monocacy National Battlefield. Matthew is returning to entertain us again with the topic "Held the Bridge to the Last – The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and the Battle of the Monocacy".
- Wednesday, October 8 at 6:30 PM in the Mount Airy Public Library, Large Meeting Room (705 Ridge Avenue). Our speaker is James Rada, well known local author. He will be presenting "The Daughters of Charity, their work as Civil War Nurses, with a focus on Frederick County."



- Thursday, October 9 at 6:30 PM in the Mount Airy Public Library, Large Meeting room (705 Ridge Avenue). Our speaker is Betsy Estilow, retired Hood College professor, and member of the Board of Directors of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. Her topic will be "The Legacy of Civil War Medicine" She will explore how innovations developed during this devastating conflict still impact our health care today.

Editor's Note: The following story was published in Mount Airy's Community Reporter on Friday, July 6, 1945. Stories like these were published in the paper throughout WWII.

All In The Days Work

It's Lt. VanSant Now

2nd Lt. Eleanor V. VanSant, Army Nurse Corps, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James R. VanSant, was promoted to 1st Lt. May 16.

Lt. VanSant has served with the 182nd General Hospital in Derbyshire, England, over 15 months and is still stationed there.

THE MT. AIRY THEATRE
FOR THE BEST IN ENTERTAINMENT

Friday and Saturday, September 28 and 29
New Thrills! New Adventure! In Technicolor!
"SON OF LASSIE"
starring **PETER LAWFORD, DONALD CRISP, JUNE LOCKHART, NIGEL BRUCE**

Monday and Tuesday, October 1 and 2
One of Bing's Brightest To Delight You Again!
BING CROSBY, JOAN BLONDELL, MISCHA AUER in
"EAST SIDE OF HEAVEN"
Special News Reel—**JAPS SIGN ON DOTTED LINE!**
Aboard the Battleship Missouri

Wednesday and Thursday, October 3 and 4
THE BATTLE OF LAUGHS! !
"LOVE THY NEIGHBOR"
starring **JACK BENNY, FRED ALLEN, MARY MARTIN, ROCHESTER**

C O M I N G
"NEVADA" "THE VALLEY OF DECISION"
"ZOMBIES ON BROADWAY" "SEE MY LAWYER"
"THUNDERHEAD" "SADDLE LEATHER LAW"

Ad from the Community Reporter September 28, 1945

Ghost Tours are Back!

Join us for a walking tour along Mount Airy's haunted Main Street and hear ghostly tales from beyond the grave! Learn why this town has earned the nickname of "Mount Scary!"

The Ghost Tours start at the Mount Airy Museum located inside the historic train station at 1 N. Main Street, Mount Airy, Maryland, 21771. Explore Mount Airy's violent past of murders on Main Street, shoot-outs at the station, deadly railroad riots, mysterious fires, and ghostly apparitions in town. The tour continues around the railyard, follows the trail of bodies up and down Main Street, and returns to the Mount Airy train station. The walk is only 0.91 miles. It is moderately strenuous, and NOT wheelchair accessible. The walk is up and down hilly streets, over curbs and some gravel and around obstacles in the sidewalk. Bring a flashlight as nighttime visibility is limited. Content is NOT recommended for small children. Tour time is approx. 1½ hours. Choose your tour time of either 5pm or 7pm, Saturdays October 11th, 18th, 25th, Halloween Night Friday, October 31st at 7pm only, or Saturday November 1st, 5pm or 7pm. Each tour is limited to a maximum of 26 people. Tickets for these events are \$20 per ticket plus an Eventbrite service fee. Tours are rain or shine. All proceeds benefit the Historical Society of Mount Airy, Maryland. Tickets can be purchased by searching Mount Airy Ghost Tours 2025 on Eventbrite, or see Ghost Tour page on our website for more information.

<https://www.historicalsocietyofmountairymd.org/>



Scan this QR Code for more information.

Support for the Mount Airy Hall of Fame

The Historical Society of Mount Airy, Maryland would like to sincerely thank the many businesses in our community that supported the 2025 Mount Airy Hall of Fame Dinner and Induction Ceremony. Without their generous sponsorship we would not be able to honor these deserving members of our community.

Please support the following businesses, which contribute so much to our great community.

Mount Airy Hall of Fame Supporters

- 17 Paradise bed & breakfast
- ACNB Bank *
- Blade Busters Lawn Cutting, Firewood, Snow Removal
- Blossom & Basket Boutique
- Browning Reagle Insurance Agency
- Burrier-Queen Funeral Home and Crematory, P.A.
- Catonsville Homes – 40 Years of Excellence
- Dertzbaugh Construction, Inc.
- Electrical Solutions - Michael C. Dixon
- 4 County Lions
- Health Unlimited Family Fitness and Aquatic Center
- Kiwanis Club of Mount Airy
- Mary Hushour, Realtor Long & Foster
- MacKenzie A. Kantruss, Attorney at Law
- Mount Airy Ace Hardware
- Mount Airy Lions Club
- Paul Clay, Real Estate Consulting RE/MAX Realty Plus
- Ridgeville Service Center – Complete Car Care
- Rotary Club of Mount Airy
- SK Printing
- Team Bonnie and Maureen - RE/MAX Realty Plus
- The Plumbery Home Center
- Tim Barkley, Attorney
- Wagner Meats / Mt. Airy Locker Co.
- WRF & Sons Plumbing & Heating, Inc.

* Special thanks to ACNB Bank whose ad for this year's program was received after publishing the program, but graciously donated the fee for the ad.

Editor's Note: The following story was published in Mount Airy's Community Reporter on Friday, August 24, 1945. We honor all servicemen who gave their all in the service of this country.



These Men Died to Make Victory Possible

These are our hero dead – the lads from this community who gave their lives for their country and us. Appropriate here, are these lines from Cato's Soliloquy:

Thus am I doubly armed: my death and life,
My bane and antidote, are both before me.
This in a moment brings me to an end;
But this informs me I shall never die.
The soul, secured in her existence, smiles
The stars shall fade away, the sun himself
Grow dim with age, and Nature sink in years;
But shall flourish in immortal youth,
Unhurt amid the war elements,
The wreck of matter, and the crash of worlds!

T/5 G. Leroy Burdette – son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel R. Burdette, was killed in action in France December 22, 1944. He was inducted into the army December 7, 1942.

Cpl. Michael Busch – husband of Mrs. Mary Thelma Busch, Mt. Airy, was killed in action in Germany March 7, 1945. He had been in the army 33 months and was attached to the 94th Division, with General Patton's Third Army.

Lt. Nathan G. Dorsey, Jr. – husband of Evelyn Leona Eader Dorsey, died May 19, 1945, of wounds suffered April 25 during the assault on Okinawa. The only son of Mayor Nathan G. Dorsey and Mrs. Dorsey, he was inducted June 1, 1942 and after receiving his commission, went overseas with the 27th Infantry Division.

Lt. John F. Leatherwood – son of Mrs. Lillian B. Leatherwood and the late Bradley C. Leatherwood, died January 30, 1945, from wounds sustained in action. "Jack" was a member of the 82nd Airborne Division, a paratroop outfit. He was inducted February 6, 1942.

Tech. Roger William Poole – was killed in action in Africa, April 11, 1943. He was the son of Mrs. Annie E. Pool, who resides with her daughter, Mrs. Laura Brown, Prospect Road.

S 1/C J. Willard R. Smith – died May 29, 1945 while aboard ship. He was a Coast Guardsman and the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Ray Smith near Ridgeville. His wife, the former Miss Cathrine P. Mullinix, also survives him.

Pvt. Marshall Wilson – son of Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey E. Wilson, of 2077 Pulaski street, former Hill street residents, died April 12, 1943, at Camp Mackall, N.C. He had been inducted in January, 1943, soon after turning 18. He was attached to an Airborne outfit.

Pvt. Harry E. Wolfe – husband of Mrs. Thelma Wolfe, this place, died of heart ailment in Italy August 25, 1944. A member of the 88th Infantry, he was posthumously awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge.



Your G A Store stands ready to serve you with these Labor Day Specials and many other good things to eat. Patronize him today!

McCormick's Orange Pekoe Tea, ¼-lb. pkg.	28c
Tea Bags, 16.....16c, 48.....45c; Del Monte Coffee, lb. jar	35c
Schindler's Peanut Butter, lb. jar	27c
Crisco, 3-lb.....74c, 1-lb.....26c; 2 1-lb pkgs. San Giorgio Macaroni	23c
Land O'Lake Peas—Tiny Tab, extra sifted, Sweet	16c
Loose Rice, lb.....11c; Aunt Jemima Pancake Flour, 2 pkgs.	25c
Buckwheat, 2 pkgs.....31c; Softasilk Cake Flour, pkg.	27c
Pillsbury's Enriched Flour, 5-lb.....34c, 10-lb.....62c	
Wheaties, 2 8-oz pkgs.....23c, 2 12-oz. pkg.....31c; Farina, pkg.	9c
Pillsbury's Pancake Flour, 2 pkgs.....23c, Buckwheat, 2 pkgs.	27c
Quaker Oats.....13c; Bee Brand Insect Spray, pts.....23c, qts.....37c	
Full Line of Canning Supplies—Jars—Jar Tops—Lids—Jar Rubbers	
FRESH FISH TWICE WEEKLY	
Swift's and Myer's Hams, ½ or wh.....34c; Hog Liver	22c
SK Steer, 3 Cornered.....32c; Sliced Bacon, ½lb.....19c and 21c	
SK Steer Chuck Roast.....28c; Boiling Veal and Lamb	21c
SK Hams, ½ or whole.....33c	
Lunch Meats; Frankfurters.....30c, 35c and 36c	

Lindsay L. Browning

PHONE 65-W MT. AIRY

All Phone Orders Before 10 O'Clock Delivered

Ad from the Community Reporter August 31, 1945

Editor's Note: The following story was published in Mount Airy's Community Reporter on Friday, August 17, 1945, 80 years ago. The headline tells it all.

Peace Comes to a War-Torn World

Japan's Unconditional Surrender Announced by President Truman at 7 P.M. Tuesday August 14.

General Douglas MacArthur Named Supreme Commander To Accept Formal Surrender: Tragic Note Enters Victory Celebration With Announcement of Loss of USS Indianapolis on July 30 With Heavy Loss of Life – Town Has Wild Night of Celebration – Religious Services Held.

After four days of doubt, contradiction and agonizing suspense, the news a worn-torn world was waiting for – the end of World War II – came at 7 p.m. on Tuesday night, August 14, when President Harry S. Truman called the representatives of press and radio into his office at the White House and announced that the Japanese Government had accepted the Allies terms of Unconditional Surrender and that he had named General Douglas MacArthur Supreme Commander to accept formal surrender.

The news was quickly flashed to a waiting world, simultaneous announcements being made by the Governments of the Allied Powers, who accepted the Japanese surrender, sight unseen, when advised by Secretary of State James Byrnes during a four-way trans-atlantic telephone conference, that the Japanese Government' surrender note complied fully with the Potsdam Declaration.

A note of tragedy however, was injected into the surrender announcement, when the Navy Department announced the loss of the heavy cruiser Indianapolis sank on July 30 as the result of enemy action. The cruiser presumably was torpedoed by an enemy submarine and sank in 15 minutes, with only 315 of the ship's complement of 1,196 officers and men being saved. The tragedy occurred following a record-breaking run to Guam, where she safely delivered essential atomic bomb material.

Word that Japan had surrendered thus ending World War II, was calmly received here early Tuesday

evening. Indeed because the news had been anticipated for several days, folks appeared to be waiting only for the official announcement by President Truman.

Immediately after the president's pronouncement at 7 p.m., there was a mild demonstration confined to ringing bells in the several churches and a parade of fire engines with sirens shrieking.

Indeed, it appeared that folks were soberly reflecting the impact of the peace after several years of frenzy and excitement during the greatest war of all time. There were no violent outbursts here, and the demonstration was confined to the din of automobile horns.

All business houses remained closed all day on Wednesday and a parade in the evening concluded the community's observation of the signing of the peace with Japan.

Typical of the reaction felt by the community to peace was the reply of Mrs. T. Crouse, formerly Mrs. Harris, who has had four sons in the armed forces. "I only hope its true so my boys can come home," Mrs. Crouse declared. Two of her sons, Preston and Howard have been given medical discharges. A third, S/Sgt. Charles L. Harris is now in the Phillipines, completing his fifth year in the Army. The fourth son, S/Sgt. Albert C. Harris, also a veteran of five years, is now in Greensboro, N.C.

William Jackson, Ridge Road resident expressed pretty much the same sentiment. "I'm glad," he said, because now the boys will soon be home." Jackson, a local resident for the past couple of years, has seen four of his sons taken into the armed forces.

Here there are no violent outbursts or sensational displays; rather the community seemed to be solemnly pondering the consequences arising after the arrival of peace – and there were those who remembered that while many of the area's native sons will soon be home to family and dear ones there are some who will never return.

Heeding the Governor's proclamation, declaring Wednesday a legal holiday, the Bank, post office and all business establishments remained closed throughout the day.

Historical Memories from Fifty Years Ago

Compiled by Mary Lynn Myers Kuhn

The information for these Historical Memories was compiled from articles in the July, August, and September, 1975 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.

- New service station proprietor Larry Frederickson, a 21 year old native of Mt. Olive, has taken over the Mount Airy Exxon station, where he's been employed since 1972. He is a graduate of South Carroll High School Class of 1971 and was married to Gail Rodgers in April of 1975. Mr. Frederickson was employed by Central Dodge of Baltimore before working with the local Exxon. 7/4/75

- Ad for the Eldersburg Inn on Liberty Road: 7/4/75

Steamed crabs for \$3.50 to \$7.50 a dozen
--

Crab cakes \$1.25

Hard and soft crabs \$1.50 each

- The Annual Firemen's Carnival to begin July 21st. New midway of rides has been booked featuring Cole Brothers Ride Company and Monday nite will be all rides for a \$2.00 ticket. For the first year, all night entertainment will be by local groups – on stage Tuesday - Allen Brown and the Wishing Wells featuring Polly Shank, and Wednesday - Irene and the Country Rascals. The gala Fireman's Parade starts at 7pm and the Country Auction takes place on Friday night. Majorette Parade begins at 1 on Saturday and the usual Carnival wraps up Saturday night with the usual closing night awards topped off with a 1975 Pinto. 7/11/75
- At the Town Council meeting Monday night, a community park is being proposed for the north side of Prospect Road. This park would offer fishing, picnic area, playground and horseshoe facilities. The sidewalk from Calvary Church to downtown are completed and future plans include sidewalks all the way down Main Street. 7/11/75
- A Second Trooper Is Assigned to Mount Airy
Trooper J. W. Daucher, with his salary paid by both Carroll and Frederick Counties, has been assigned to Mount Airy. Mayor Dixon pointed out that this is the first time Frederick County has appropriated funds for police services within a municipality outside of appropriations for a sheriff's department. The fact that much of Mount Airy is within Frederick County domain seems sufficient justification for the move. 7/11/75
- The Mount Airy Legion Baseball Team is celebrating its third year. In the Fall of 1972, Post Commander Tony Lazarewicz, formed a committee to look into the possibility of sponsoring a baseball team for youngsters 16-18 years old. A team was organized and began competition in 1973. In 1974 Commander Doug Henley gave support to the team and he and Commander Tom Wagner (1974) provided leadership and effort resulting in the construction of new bleachers, concession stand, a backstop and a remake and painting of the dugouts. In 1975, manager and coach Andrew Mason was assisted by Ron Robinson and Bob Franklin. Ray Wilder was team photographer, Gene Deardorff and Charles Norwood were in charge of concessions at baseball games. 7/11/75
- Navy Seaman, Daniel P. Day, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Day, graduated from Basic Radioman School of the Naval Training Center in San Diego, California. He joined the Navy in February 1975. 7/18/75.

Continued on page 7

Historical Memories from Fifty Years Ago (Continued)

- Boy Scouts enjoy backpacking for two weeks at Philmont Ranch in contingent of Scouts, Explorers and leaders at Cimarron, New Mexico. Included in the crew from Troop 460 were Francis Ayers, Assistant Scout Master, Phil Ayers, Dave Burdette, Bill Miller and Brad Van Gosen – all members of the Leadership Corps. Bill Miller was elected as Crew Chief. Philmont is National camping area operated by the Boy Scouts of America comprising 137,493 acres of rugged mountain wilderness. The camping program includes horseback riding, burro-packing, gold panning, chuck wagon dinners, living history and wilderness survival along with many challenges – rock climbing, bowhunting, mountain search and rescue. The crew landed in Denver, Colorado and spent the first two days visiting the Air Force Academy, Royal Gorge and the Garden of the Gods. 7/18/75
- Mr. and Mrs. Talmadge Balance announce the engagement of their daughter, Vicki Lynn, to Roland Deardorff, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Deardorff, Sr. Miss Balance is a 1973 graduate of South Carroll and is employed by National Geographic Society in Gaithersburg. Mr. Deardorff is a 1973 graduate of Linganore High School and a graduate of Arundel Institute of Technology and is presently employed by Mt. Airy Locker Company. 7/18/75
- Firemans Carnival Gets Under Way
Miss Nancy Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Brown, is chosen Queen. Runner up positions went to Miss Sandy Bohrer and Miss Jenny Porter. Miss Bohrer is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bohrer and is employed at the National Bureau of Standards and also the instructor for the Baby Doll group of the Sparklers. Miss Porter; daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Porter, is currently employed at the National Institute of Health Federal Credit Union. 7/25/2025
- The Mount Airy Lions installed the following officers. For 1975-1976: Russell Ray, president; Art Weaver, 1st vice president; Dennis Ahalt, 2nd vice president; Charles Gray, 3rd vice president; Joseph Stevens, secretary; Harvey Fenstermacher, assistant secretary; William Risely, treasurer; Richard Lange, assistant treasurer; Carl Ward, tail twister; and Robert Davis, lion tamer. 7/25/75
- Carroll County School History was the subject of a talk to the Carroll County Historical Society: In 1899, the Westminster High School was organized. Mount Airy, Sykesville and Taneytown demanded high schools of their own and were provided with them a few years later. By 1937, there were ten high schools in Carroll County. Combined enrollment was 1,125 pupils. In June of 1975, there were four high schools with enrollment of 8,516. The introduction of vocational education and the establishment of total integration were accomplishments that occurred under superintendent Sam Johnson. 7/25/75
- Th C&P Telephone is expanding their telephone central office in Mount Airy at 819 S. Main Street. They plan to install more switching equipment to handle the growing communications needs in the area. When the new dial office was placed in service in October 1965, it was serving 1,531 accounts with a total of 2,057 telephones. As of June 1975, the number has grown to 2,438 accounts and 3,847 total telephones. Carl Weakley said they expect this pace to continue and this progress will enable C&P to meet the demand. 8/1/75
- Army Major Raymond G. Brandenburg, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond R. Brandenburg, 20 Park Avenue, participated in ceremonies marking the 200th Anniversary of the Army. President Gerald R. Ford was among the dignitaries in attendance. 8/1/75
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Harrison, 605 Park Avenue, announce the engagement of their daughter, Barbara Roxanne, to R. Michael Hemphill, son of Dr. and Mrs. Richard Hemphill of Ellicott City. Miss Harrison, a South Carroll graduate in 1972, is presently majoring in physical education. Mr. Hemphill is a 1972 graduate of Mt. Hebron High and is majoring in history. Both are attending Frostburg State College. 8/8/75

Continued on page 8

Historical Memories from Fifty Years Ago (Continued)

- Carroll County Public Schools will open on Tuesday September 2nd, and according to Leo Kuhn, Director of Public Transportation, approximately 17,308 pupils will be riding school buses on a daily basis. The 180 buses will travel on an estimated 13,000 miles each day marking 800 student trips. 8/15/75
- Mount Airy will soon have a family restaurant. Blanchard, Carl and Kenny Sevirger have bought the Ridge Inn on Rt. 27 from Warner Snouffer and have been applying their building talents to the renovations. The stone façade has been replaced with an “Old West” rustic look. The restaurant will hold about 100 people and renovations are estimated to cost about \$65,000. 8/22/75
- Mrs. Eugenia Culwell, founder and president of Ridge Swim Club, was honored August 9th by over 200 people. A plaque was given to Mrs. Culwell commemorating her years of service to the pool. There was a water show dedicated to her also. Mrs. Culwell was instrumental in bringing about the existence of the Ridge Swim Club.” 8/22/75
- A new place to practice basketball gives budding “Wilt the Stilts” a place to refine their rebounds and field shots – the town parking lot. A corporate effort resulted in two basketball hoops and backboards. Potomac Edison donated the poles – the telephone company put them up, the Sevirger brothers donated lumber for the backboards, the Mount Airy Rec Council provided the hoops and the Jaycees put it all together. 8/22/75
- The Ridge Inn was a schoolhouse of yesteryear – there is a blackboard in the building – a remnant of the days when Miss Pearl (Garity, later Thompson) taught some 20 children in seven grades and seven subjects without using a hickory stick. Ridge School was built in 1869 for \$400. It was still a one-room red brick school when Rose Conaway Green entered first grade in 1911. She would much later teach there. The teacher had her hands full – she taught six year olds, 20 year olds and farm boys who spent just winter months in school. Miss Pearl handed out privileges such as ringing the bell and fetching water from the spring across the road. She made sure the pot belly stove was red hot in the winter. The school was auctioned off in 1947 for \$9,300 to George Nickoles. Bert Harrison turned the school into a tavern. 8/29/75
- A family picnic and water show was held at the Ridge Swim Club August 9th – it’s 5th annual water show. Many swimming groups performed – just one was the “Pink Pussycats”. This group made up of Bob Webb, Dale Neeper, George Harne, Mark Culwell, Ray Harne Dawson Grove, Grady Edwards, Gary Edwards, Herman Beck, Nip Barnes, Bill Crouse and Martin Shook did this routine to the tune of the “Pink Panther”. 8/29/75
- County Commissioners approved funds for Mount Airy Public Library renovations. The old bank building on Main Street, will soon be the new library. (Today’s Town Hall.) 9/5/75
- South Carroll High School opened September 2nd with about a hundred more students than last year – 1,660. Principal Chester Elder has requested portable classrooms in addition to the one now in use at the school. Teachers have refused to supervise activities beyond their contracted working hours in protest against the refusal of the County Commissioners to grant a pay increase negotiated with the Board of Education. 9/5/75
- Paul J. Double had been named manager of the Wayne Feed Supply Co. in Gaithersburg. Double is a graduate of the University of Maryland with a Bachelor of Science degree in animal sciences and a Masters Degree in animal nutrition. He served five years as a supervisor of the John Hopkins Research Farm. He lives in Mount Airy with his wife Sandy and four children. 9/5/75
- Dane H. Runkles, 909 S. Main St., is among 851 Millersville State College, Pa., students named to the Dean’s List for the spring semester. 6/13/75

Continued on page 9

Historical Memories from Fifty Years Ago (Continued)

- The Mount Airy Post Office shares space in an old house with Mt. Airy Auto Parts. A new post office is planned here – search for a site to begin soon, as early as 1976. According to the Maryland Division and the Postmaster, Travis Norwood, more space is needed both inside and outside the post office. 9/19/75
- Saddle Pals will hold a horse show Sunday, September 28th at the Firemans Grounds. Warren Streaker will be the judge. 9/19/75.
- Letter to the Editor –
“We thoroughly enjoyed and completely agree with the recent letter in this paper. It is a crime young hoodlums ranging in age from 2 years to 13 years should be allowed the same rights and privileges that we older adults enjoyed in our youth, to loiter unmolested until the obscene hour of 8:00 p.m., to ride their bikes without the fear of being kidnapped on numerous sidewalks provided by the town... We also await enforcement of the town’s noise level law to stifle the the enthusiastic laughter which drifts from under the street lights at dusk! Placing the delinquents in the same category as roaming dogs was sheer genius! Being a citizen of this community I hope the Town Council acts immediately upon this problem. We await anxiously, the immediate enactment by the Town Council of a strict “child leash law”! 9/19/75
Editor’s Note: We publish these articles from the Community Reporter for our reader’s enjoyment. They in no way reflect the opinion of the Historical Society of Mount Airy, Maryland.
- The Mount Airy Bicentennial Commission will be selling an official souvenir coin made of bronze and for sale for \$2.00 until the two day celebration plannd for June 12 and 13, 1976. On one side are the Twin Arches built of stone in 1839 (actually, 1899) to carry the B&O Railroad on the south side of the Patpsco. The reverse side shows the Pine Grove Chapel dating to 1846 built on land donated by the Bussard family. The restoration and preservation of this building has been selected as the main emphasis project of this Commission, headed by Vernon R. Simpson. 9/26/75
- The new Main Street Bar and Lounge of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10076 will open to members October 1st if everything goes as scheduled. The building is located between the Community Reporter office and Western Auto and was bought two years ago for \$12,000 and has been renovated with donations of time and material. 9/26/75
- David Larry Emswiler, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Emswiler, has been awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in History at Bridgewater College. He was active in the Wesleyan Club and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. 6/27/75
- Delaine Hobbs has hung up the shingle of Peoples Lumber and Supply’s new home. The change from the Main Street location to the Cross Street location was made “to put the business together in one location and to allow more room for product display.” The new office is in the 64 year old Company’s old saw room. Ira Watkins, the owner since its beginning, will be at the new office as regularly as at the old one. 9/26/75
- Mrs. Lillian Swartz is retiring as the “Reporter” editor after eight years of service. She will now donate her time to Eastern Star activities specifically as chairwoman of the Worldwide Eastern Star Cancer Reserch Program. Mrs. Swartz took over the editorship from her daughter, Mrs. Jean Colburn, December 2, 1966. Before coming to the Community Reporter Mrs. Swartz was responsible for the editing and promulgation of policies, regulations and procedures governing the administration of civilians in the office of the Secretary of the Army. She retired in 1953 after 33 years of service. 9/26/75
- The Postal Service goes crazy again with new rates – on ‘Sunday, September 14th. Heretofore for a first class letter weighing 1 ounce took a ten cent stamp. Now it will take 19¢. Postcards, which were 8¢ are reduced to 7¢. So all the 8¢ cards on hand will have to be returned and destroyed. On top of this, the Postmaster General has requested a subsidy of an additional \$1,000,000 from Congress to manage his department – (a 100% increase!) 9/26/75



The Historical Society of Mount Airy, Maryland

P.O. Box 244

Mount Airy, Maryland 21771