



MUSEUM MEMOS

Mt. Airy Museum Newsletter



VOLUME 8 NUMBER 1

Spring 2007

The President's Pen

Mike Eacho

Once again, the Annual Appeal Campaign for this year was a huge success. The donations received as a result of this campaign fund the majority of the Historical Society's expenses for the year, including the setup of new museum displays, newsletter printing, and the purchase of artifact preservation and office supplies. I can't thank enough all the individuals and businesses that contributed to the Historical Society again this year.

Thanks also to all the people who helped make the campaign a success. It takes a lot of effort to print and fold letters and get them mailed to all the people and places that help us out year after year.

As always, we have a lot of work to do in order to get the museum opened in the Spring. If you have some creative ability and some spare time, please help us to put together some interesting displays so we can share the History of the Mount Airy with the people of the surrounding area.

OFFICERS

Mike Eacho, President
Pete Bowlus, Vice-President
B. J. Dixon, Secretary
Pat Norwood, Treasurer

Hall of Fame Tickets

Tickets for the Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Dinner go on sale March 1. The price of tickets is \$20 per person and may be purchased from Dennis Ahalt at the New Windsor State Bank (301-829-3097) or from BJ Dixon at Town Hall.

The Induction Ceremony and Dinner is Tuesday, March 18. Social Hour begins at 5:30 pm, followed by a buffet dinner at 6:30 pm, and ending with the Induction Ceremony. Come join us in honoring this year's inductees to the Mount Airy Hall of Fame.

Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame

As you are all aware, Oscar Baker was inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame last year on October 25. What you may not be aware of is that Lee Fogle received this honor in 1994.

The Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame (MSCHF) was organized in 1987 to honor residents of Maryland, age 60 or over, who have made an outstanding contribution to improve the lives of others in their community. Up to 50 nominees are honored every year.

It is nomination time for the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame for 2008. If you know of someone deserving of this honor, please contact Mason Wilburn at mountairyhistoricalsociety@earthlink.net.

All nominees for the Hall of Fame must be recommended by a sponsor. Self-nominations are not accepted. To nominate someone for the Hall of Fame, the following documents must be mailed to Maryland Senoir Citizens Hall of Fame, Inc., 800 Southerly Road Box 1, Townson, Maryland 21286-8403:

- A completed nomination form
- A letter of endorsement from the sponsor
- A recent individual photograph of the nominee with the name and date noted on the back (no larger than 4"x6"). Photos are not returned.

There are many people in Mount Airy deserving of this award, so please consider sbmitting a nomination. Nominations must be received by April 30, 2008. All nominees selected receive induction into the Hall of Fame, a membership certificate, the official MSCHF lapel pin, and are featured in the *Blue Book*.

The Historical Society of Mount Airy, Maryland Meets the first Tuesday of every month (except July and August) in the lower level of Mount Airy Fire Hall. The meetings begin at 7 pm. Please join us.

2008 Hall of Fame inductees

The Inductees into the Mount Airy Hall of Fame for the year 2008 are Arthur J. Brett, Frances Bellison Free, Benjamin Franklin Gue, Althea V. Miller, and Thomas W. "Crow" Wagner. This newest group of Inductees expands the overall membership in the Hall of Fame to 65. The 2008 Class will be officially inducted at the Historical Society of Mount Airy's annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Dinner on Tuesday, March 18 at the American Legion Home on Prospect Road in Mount Airy.

The selection process for this year's inductees began in October of 2007. Individuals and organizations nominated persons, living or deceased, who have contributed to the Mount Airy Community in a positive way. The nominations were submitted, and according to the Hall of Fame selection rules, five of the nominees were chosen for induction.

Benjamin Franklin Gue

May 14, 1954

Ben was born and raised in Mt. Airy. He is the owner of Ben Gue's Gifts and Collectibles. The business started 31 years ago as an antique shop and gradually evolved to what it is today. He was an active member and volunteer of the various committees for the Mt. Airy Centennial, and organized the parade for the event. He has also been chairman of the two town festivals, the May Fest and the Fall Festival. Ben spends many hours organizing and planning the events, which he has been doing for more than 10 years. Ben helped build and continues to maintain the Memorial Park located across from his business on South Main Street. He was the founding member of the Downtown Business Association.



He has been involved in numerous town fund raising events, including the help for the flood in the Midwest and the Mt. Airy Disaster Relief Fund, just to name a few. This past July, Ben was elected President of the Mt. Airy Lions Club. In this new role, Ben is responsible for overseeing fund raising events, coordinating club projects, administering funds/budgets, and organizing community-related activities. It is his latest challenge and he is taking his responsibilities seriously. You will find Ben in the French fry booth at the Mt. Airy Lions Carnival, where

he has worked for the last three years. Ben is always ready to lend a helping hand. He can be depended upon to get the job done.

Althea V. Miller

August 1, 1935

Althea was born near Shepherdstown, West Virginia. After graduating from Shepherd College (now University) in 1957 she began teaching in Carroll County at Manchester Elementary School. In 1959 she transferred to Mount Airy Elementary School and spent most of her career there as a classroom teacher, librarian and administrator. She served as principal from 1977 to 1993. She earned her Masters Degree at Western Maryland (now McDaniel) College and studied further at the University of Maryland.



She is a member of Calvary Lutheran Church. She is or has been a member of several educational organizations and has served as president of Omicron Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma. She was named Outstanding Alumnus of Shepherdstown High School in 1995. She is serving as president of the Shepherd University Emeritus Club (50 years + graduates) for 2008.

She has served on the board of directors of Mount Airy NET; is a member of the Mount Airy Historical Society and volunteers at the Mount Airy Museum; visits a local nursing home and reads to residents; volunteers for the University of Maryland Terrapin Club and its support groups (making scrapbooks for players, etc.) and keeps the retirees of Mount Airy Elementary School connected via luncheons and e-mail contacts. She enjoys baking and preparing meals for others when needed.

She and her husband, Frank, (also a retired educator) are avid University of Maryland Terrapin sports fans and boosters. They are the parents of two sons and have three granddaughters.

E-mail us at: mountairyhistoricalsociety@earthlink.net

Arthur J. Brett

September 28, 1931

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Art worked for the Social Security Administration's foreign operations and the Foreign Service with the diplomatic rank of "Consul". He moved to the Mount Airy area in 1978, transferred his now 53 year American Legion membership to Gold Star Post 191 and retired in 1988. He was Post Commander in 1990-91 and again in 1991-92. He moved into town in 1995. Through the years, he spearheaded many post activities to help veterans, e.g., claims, funerals, awards and other services due them. He was also active with Legion scholarships, Boys State, and the national oratorical contest. He was editor of the post newsletter, "The Gold Star," from 1989 through 2003. In 1993, the post awarded him an Honorary Life Membership.



He is a member of La Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux (40 & 8), an honor society of American Legionnaires, plus four other veterans organizations. He holds a third degree in Knights of Columbus Council 10525 of Poplar Springs and received the Knights Shining Armor Award for recruiting and working on its scholarship program. He also is a charter member of Carroll County's Chapter 2306 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, Honorary Life Member and charter Vice President of the Piedmont Pacers Volksmarch Club and charter member of the Historical Society of Mount Airy. He served on the Mount Airy Board of Supervisor of Elections and received an "Official Citation" by Delegate Donald B. Elliott in recognition for his volunteer work with Mount Airy youth which included many visits to local schools to speak about his military service, Legion programs, the U.S. Constitution and related topics.

Fresh Fish, Crab Meat and Oysters Frying & Baking Chickens

ESSKAY STEER BEEF —

Chuck Roast, lb. 43c - Rib Roast, lb. 57c - Round Steak, lb. 78c
Sirloin, lb. 84c; Esskay Franks, lb. 54c; Dixie Maid Franks, lb. 44c
Sliced Bacon, ½-lb. 73c; Sweet Korn Bacon, lb. 65c; Esskay Lard, 19c
Esskay Smoked Picnic, lb. 44c

Ready-To-Eat Hams, Half or Whole, lb. 64c - Regular Hams, lb. 61c

LINDSAY L. BROWNING

Phone your orders before 10 o'clock and let your GA truck deliver
MT. AIRY, MARYLAND Phone 65-W

(From the Community Reporter November 1957)

Frances Bellison Free

June 13, 1907 - January 12, 2008

Frances, known to everyone as "Aunt" or "Auntie" or "Aunt Frances", was born in the house she lived in her entire life, 318 North Main Street. A Mount Airy High School graduate, class of 1925, Frances decided to continue her education at Towson State Normal School and graduated in 1927, becoming an elementary school teacher. Her first teaching assignment was in Sykesville, MD, where she rented a room in a house during the week and took the train home to Mount Airy on the weekends.



Starting in 1928, Frances was assigned to the Mount Airy Elementary School. During these next years she continued to study and develop professionally and soon became the Vice Principal of Mt. Airy Schools for 30 years, not a small feat for a young woman in those days. In 1967 Frances retired, but continued to be a teacher because of her capacity in the education department of Calvary United Methodist Church. She was a lifetime member of her church and at the time of her death she was the oldest living member of the congregation. She dearly loved her church and served as Sunday School teacher, choir member and youth leader.



Frances was a member and President of the Mt. Airy Ki-Wives and a Past Matron of Prudence Lodge #95, Order of the Eastern Star, in Mt. Airy. Frances and her husband, George were married for 41 years and adopted their nieces, nephews and all of the neighbor children as their own.

"Aunt Frances" was a much loved and respected lady in the community and was a vital part of the lives of all who knew her. She lived life by the Golden Rule, believed in "Carpe Diem" and was an inspiration to us all.

Thomas W. "Crow" Wagner

March 7, 1945

Tom was born, raised and has lived in Mount Airy his entire life. His famous nickname "Crow", came in part from growing up in a small town. Tom is a Mount Airy High School graduate, class of 1963.



Tom Wagner, through his business, is very community oriented and involved in the daily activities of Mount Airy. Wagner Meats participates in all of the local agricultural fairs and the Maryland State Fair. Tom purchases the 4-H project animals to support the young people who are involved in raising animals. He visits each of the fairs in Carroll, Howard, Montgomery and Frederick Counties to participate in the auctions of the 4-H stock.

Wagner Meats, under Tom's leadership, provides employment opportunities for young people who may be starting their first job. Tom is active in the Maryland Cattlemen's Association. He also belongs to the American Association of Meat Processors. Mount Airy Locker Company first joined Mount Airy Youth Athletic Association (MAYAA) 34 years ago and continues today as Wagner Meats. This involvement includes sponsoring, supporting and helping various athletic teams in the community.

Tom was one of the original members of the Junior Fire Company, moving on to an active member and then to an honorary member of the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company. Through the years, Tom has had many employees who were active members of the Fire Company, and when the alarm sounded they were able to leave their job and respond to the fire.

He is married to Carol and they have two adult children, Janice Sue and Tom II. He served two years in the Air Force and is a member of The American Legion Gold Star Post 191 in Mount Airy where he has served as Finance Officer since 1994. In this capacity he has helped the Post to support baseball at the Legion field on Prospect Road. Tom served as Commander of the Post for three terms from 1974 through 1977. He was elected as an Honorary Life Member in March 1989.

Tom joins his father, Bill and his brother, Will as members of the Hall of Fame.

Annual Appeal Campaign 2007

The Historical Society of Mount Airy, Maryland conducted its Annual Appeal Campaign in December and January. Once again, the campaign was a tremendous success. To date \$3,295 was donated by the Society's members and friends.

We wish to thank the following individuals and businesses who donated to our 2007 Annual Appeal Campaign:

Denny & Pat Ahalt	Fran Bartlett
Pat Bean	Helen Bowlus
Pete & Carol Bowlus	Art & Mary Brett
Jack & Nan Brown	Gil Buckman
Pauline Buckman	Josephine Collins
Margaret Condon	Nimrod Davis
Gary & Deborah Crutchfield	Phillip & Martha Dean
Norma Dennis	Carl & BJ Dixon
Marc DeSrosiers & Corrine Kelly	
Doug & Sandy Dutterer	Mike & Pat Eacho
Russell Fogle	Margaret Fritz
Keith & Mary Ann Gehle	The Gaudreau Family
Wanda Hall	Irene Hardy
Peter & Tamara Helt	Delaine Hobbs
George & Ann Horvath	Betty Ifert
Bill & Jean Knill	Virginia Linton
Jimmy & Diann Linton	Frank & Althea Miller
Angie & Bob Moore	Tom & Cheryl Neff
Harry & Rita Nikirk	Pat Norwood
Phillip & Janine O'Brien	Virginia Norwood
Gary & Wendi Peters	Carolyn Quigley
The Randall Family, LLC	Arlene Runkles
Rob & Stephanie Scranton	Clarice Runkles
Nancy & Bob Sprague	Helen Simpson
Tina & Dick Swanson	Ruth Smith
Dennis & Dawn Thomas	M. Davis Streaker
Bill & Barbara Wagner	Inez Thomas
Mason & Virginia Wilburn	Rebecca Woodfield
Bonnie & Winford Winkler	Audrey Wolfe

Animal Health Center - Michael O'Brien, DVM	
Classic Exteriors, Inc	Eagle Jewelers
Health Unlimited	Illiano Properties, Inc.
Mt. Airy Ace Hardware	Mt. Airy Liquors
Mount Airy Veterinary Hospital	
Van Sant Plumbing & Heating, Inc.	

Please support the businesses who help us out year after year.

Historical Memories from Fifty Years Ago January – March 1958

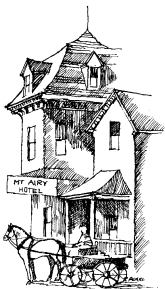
Compiled by Althea Miller

The information for these Historical Memories is compiled from articles in the January, February and March 1958 "Community Reporter" Newspaper. The late L. Pearce Bowlus, was the Editor for over 35 years. The newspaper was the main source of information for Mount Airy residents and surrounding areas from November 29, 1920 until the last issue on July 1, 1983.

1. A new editor and office manager, Mrs. Foard Hood, was named to the Community Reporter. She replaced Mrs. Walter Chaney who served in that position for the past year. Mrs. Hood has two daughters, Janet Barnes and Joyce Keister and was a 1934 graduate of Mount Airy High School. (1/3/58)
2. Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Harshman announced the birth of a daughter, Kathryn Lynn, on December 20. She is their fourth child. (1/3/58)
3. Guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith were Mrs. Hattie Norwood, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Strine, Nancy and Dee Norwood and Charlie Norwood. (1/3/58)
4. Persons from Mount Airy who recently passed drivers tests were: Jeanne Elgin Plank and Fred Henry Moxley. (1/10/58)
5. Student Recognition Day was held at Calvary Methodist Church for students home from college. Assisting with the service were: Norma Lee Etzler, Alma Jean Leatherwood, Jean Condon, Barbara Holtzinger, Glenn Brandenburg, Marian Runkles, III, and Thomas Penn. (1/10/58)
6. Members of Beta Sigma Phi held a bake sale at Hipsley and Albright Friday evening, January 17 to benefit the March of Dimes. (1/10/58)
7. On February 17 the program for the PTA will be the celebration of the 61st anniversary of the organization. (1/17/58)
8. At the 32nd Annual Banquet of the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Co., Travis Norwood was re-elected to a second term as president. (1/24/58)
9. Hostesses for the January Mount Airy Garden Club meeting were Mrs. Kenneth Burdette, Mrs. Lester Lowman, Mrs. Pearce Bowlus and Mrs. Keller Smith. The meeting was held at Calvary Methodist Church. (1/24/58)
10. The Auxiliary of Gold Star Unit 191 initiated the following members: Mrs. Judy Brandenburg, Mrs. Ann Brown, Mrs. Edna Brown, Mrs. Mildred Harrison, Mrs. Maxine Henley, Mrs. Elizabeth Molesworth, Mrs. Sadie Van Sant and Mrs. Hattie Norwood. (1/31/58)
11. Capt. and Mrs. Samuel G. Jewell and their four children, Donna, Gary, Jeanne and Tammy, returned to the US last week following 3 years at Air Force Bases in Germany and France. They will spend a month visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Wagner. (2/7/58)
12. Sterling E. Cullison, Montgomery Ave. is the representative for Nationwide Insurance. His telephone number is 319-J. (2/7/58)
13. Warfield's Garage, an institution in Mount Airy for 29 years, was sold and will now be known as Chuck Creswell's Chevrolet, Inc. (2/14/58)
14. HEAVY snowstorm hits area...schools closed...Gov. McKeldin declared Tuesday a legal holiday. County-wide huge drifts blocked 75 percent of the roads. Mrs. Ella Smith, 37, who was in labor 5 hours was air-lifted from Woodbine to Fort Detrick. Dr. C. M. VanPoole, local physician, assisted. (2/21/58)
15. The Mount Airy Fire Department has put its new 1958 Cadillac ambulance in service. It is equipped with the latest life saving devices. The purchase price was more than \$12,000. (2/21/58)
16. Edward Day and Austin Simpson recently purchased Four County Esso from Ray and Donald Grimes. Both were previously employed by Warfield Chevrolet Sales, Inc. (2/28/58)
17. In the "Do You Remember" column 10 years ago (which would have been 1948) reports: the high school basketball team is the best in the school's history. Members of the team were: Dan Henley, LeRoy

Hansberger, Joe MacKenzie, John Harris, Keefer Corrick, James Barnes, Robert Dayhoff, Rudell Watkins, Robert Gosnell and Omar Bowers. (3/7/58)

18. Sally Thomas (senior high) and Valerie Coale (junior high) were named winners of the American Legion Auxiliary contest entitled "Our Heritage—Democracy." (3/7/58)
19. Mount Airy High School ended its' basketball season with a 13-7 record. In the Annual Carroll County Basketball Tournament finished as runner-up to New Windsor by a 40-36 loss. Team members included: Bert Penn, Winfred Winkler, Elliott Clary, Ronnie Yeager, Paul Culwell, Jim Dorsey, Dan Barnes, Dave Cantwell, Jerry Hall and Richard Maring with Jimmy Elgin as score keeper , Earl Kline, manager and Don Stoner as coach. (3/7/58)
20. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wagner are the parents of twins born March 13 at Church Hospital. The boys were named: David Francis and Douglas Wilson. (3/21/58)
21. Ronald Yeager, leading scorer for the MAHS basketball team was named to the All-County Team. Winfred Winkler was named to the second team. (3/21/58)
22. The Methodist Youth Fellowship presented a missionary program recently. Participating were: Valerie Coale, Mary Lynn Myers, Diane Simpson and Mark Culwell. Serving as ushers were: Eddie Browning,, Tommy Wagner, Sonny Myers and Mark Coale. (3/21/58)
23. The Mount Airy Junior High and Senior High Bands presented a concert for the public recently. The Junior Band composed of 39 members and the Senior Band composed of 34 members were both directed by Frank Miller. (3/21/58)
24. Frances Free, outgoing president of Ki-Wives, was honored at a recent meeting with a program presented by Corrinne Watkins entitled "We Remember Frances" about her life at college, her family, at school and her travels. (3/21/58)
25. MAHS tenth graders took an English/History field trip to Washington, D.C. where they visited three religious centers and attended the Uptown Theatre to see "Around the World in 80 Days." Mrs. Emily Brown and Mrs. Margaret Miller accompanied the 52 10th graders. (3/28/58)



The Historical Society of Mount Airy, Maryland
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