



MUSEUM MEMOS

Mt. Airy Museum Newsletter



VOLUME 13 NUMBER 2

Summer 2013

Mount Airy Woman Turns 100 Years in June

Article provided by Melissa Hoyle

Dorothy Buckingham Lowman remembers the good old Mount Airy. She is turning 100 years old next month and here is her story. Born on June 9, 1913 on a farm in Winfield, Maryland just off of Woodbine Road, her father was a farmer. Living with her parents and four older brothers, tragically her mother passed away when she was just 8 years old. In the spring of 1922, the three youngest children, were sent to live with their Aunt Lulu Pickett, in the area now known as Warfield Acres, just off South Main Street.



Dorothy Buckingham Lowman

Aunt Lulu lived in a beautiful house with several acres. She was a seamstress and would make the children clothing out of just about anything, even “grown-up clothes.” As a child, she wore a skirt and braided blouse. Reminiscing, it took her the best part of thirty minutes to walk to school. And walk she did, in all types of weather. “We liked to go to school,” Dorothy said.

(Continued on Page 2)

Thanks

The Historical Society of Mount Airy, Maryland would like to thank the following individuals who made cash donations. Their financial support will help the Society to produce new museum displays, reproduce photos, print the newsletter, purchase storage materials used in the preservation of historical items in the collection, and acquire new historical items. Thank again you for your support.

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The Historical Society would also like to thank the following individuals who donated photographs and artifacts. These items will go on display in the museum and help us to portray the history of Mount Airy and its people and businesses.

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| C. Oscar Baker | Dennis Mullinix |
| The Family of Martha Henley | |
| The Family of Grace Arrington Harrison | |

The next meeting of the Historical Society of Mount Airy will be Tuesday, September 3, 2013 at 7pm. See you then. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

E-mail us at: mountairyhistoricalsociety@earthlink.net

Mount Airy Woman Turns 100 (Continued from page 1)

Dorothy fondly recalled, Miss Mount, a 3rd grade teacher living up on Hill Street. Miss Mount would walk to school until eventually purchasing a vehicle. When the weather was poor, she would end up walking because this was before snow tires and other tire technology.

The school, which is located at present day Mount Airy Elementary school, was much different from the one room school-house she attended in Winfield. It was a 3- story building with the high school upstairs and younger students downstairs. The entire class size was about 100 students, filtering from Watersville, Woodbine, Winfield and even Sykesville. Sykesville's High School was only a two year school and would send students to the Mount Airy High School on the B & O Railroad train. Dorothy recalled these students arriving a little bit late to class and leaving before the end of class, due to the tight train schedule.

Dorothy graduated with 30 students in the class of 1930. The class photograph is proudly displayed in the Mount Airy Town Hall. She attended Towson Normal School for two years to obtain her teaching license. Right out of college, during the Great Depression she was fortunate to get a job in Carroll County teaching a 4th grade class at Mechanicsville Elementary, then later at Winfield and then fifth grade at Mt. Airy for a total of 30 years.

"When you live in a small town you know everybody," Dorothy responded when asked how she met her husband Lester Lowman. He was six years older and friends with her older brother. Brown's Soda Fountain, which was in Ridgeville, was the local hotspot. They had a nickelodeon for only \$0.25. "Mount Airy was a dancing bunch," she said "Friends would meet up to ballroom dance." Some of the other local hotspots included going to the movies in Frederick and dancing at Braddock Heights.

Dorothy married Lester in 1942 and rented an apartment over the A & P Store in Downtown Mount Airy. He worked his career as part owner of Dorsey's Hardware Store with Mrs. Pearl Thompson. They later added a furniture line and the store had just about everything from washing machines to paint. As memory would serve, there seemed to always be a grocery and clothing store downtown; Skegg's and Edgar Smith's grocery store; Wilkins Young Men's Shop and Isidor "Izzy" Wilkins clothing store.

Other fond memories include the Firemen's Parade, which has always existed on a Thursday. Also, the Ladies Auxiliary put on a Fried Chicken Dinner each year. One year, Dorothy helped out a friend in the Auxiliary and went around to local farmers asking for donations to the dinner. It was called "Gathering Up." They received everything from eggs to local vegetables. Other notable achievements: she was a member of the Calvary United Methodist Church, Mt. Airy Garden Club, Eastern Star, and the Board of Directors for Frederick Co. Public Schools.

Dorothy was a pleasure to interview, very hospitable and her mind was very sharp. When asked what her secret was for living so long, she said "it has happened a day at a time."

Presently, Mrs. Lowman is living in Williamsport, MD to be closer to her daughter Mary Lou a resident of West Virginia. Aunt Lulu's house is long gone as it was developed into 15 dwellings by Mr. Prentiss W. VanSant back in 1956, but the memories and golden times of the past will always live on and be cherished.

Mrs. Lowman will be turning 100 years old on June 9, 2013. The Mount Airy Historical Society is requesting that the citizens of Mount Airy join them in recognizing this special woman on her big day and send her a birthday card. Her mailing address is 16505 Virginia Ave. #C42 Williamsport, MD 21795.

Little Folks BY "TEEN" SMITH

COME IN, FELLOWS AND HAVE A PIECE OF CAKE!
NOW, I WANT TO SEE WHICH OF YOU HAS THE BETTER MANNERS!
OH... BAXTER HAS!! GLOB GLOB!
RELAX, BAXTER... HERE'S A BIG SANDWICH... I DID SOME SHOPPING AT SMITH'S MARKET

Sunsweet Prune Juice	39c qt.	2-lb. box Cheese	65c
Giant Duz with Ice Tea Glass	69c	Esskay Franks	61c lb.
Dixie Cup Refills	35c - 50 - 5 oz.	Chuck Roast	43c lb.
Musselman's Apple Sauce	3/41c	All Canning Supplies	
Mrs. Filbert's Mayonnaise	57c qt.	Bird's Eye Lima Beans	29c box
Just Rite Fire Starters	45c box	Dream Whip	43c large box

SMITH'S GROCERY
Mt. Airy, Maryland FREE DELIVERY DAILY Phone Mt. Airy 10-J

From the Community Reporter Friday, July 5, 1963

The Mount Airy Museum is open most Saturdays from 12 noon until 4pm. Come visit and enjoy photographs and memorabilia from Mount Airy's past.

Large Growth In Population Is Foreseen

Carroll County Must Make Room For 19,215 More, Residents By 1980, Projections Study Indicates

Carroll County must make room for 19,215 more residents in 1980 than were enumerated in the County by the 1960 U. S. Census.

The "Maryland Projections Study" prepared by economics consultants Leon Harrison and Martin Taitel for the Maryland Department of Economic Development, shows a trend which should increase the county's population during the 20 years ending in 1980 by 36.4%. This would give the county a 1980 population of 72,000. The U.S. Census for 1960 was 52,785. Ten years earlier it was 44,907.

The projections study shows a population growth of 50.4 percent for the state as a whole, compared with the county's rate of 36.4 percent.

The projection of per capita personal income of Carroll Countians brings it up from \$2,030 in 1960 to \$2,491 in 1980.

For the state as a whole the projection shows a 1980 per capita personal income of \$3,254 or \$865 above that in 1960.

Maryland's percentage of national personal income increased from 1.6 percent in 1948 to 1.9 percent in 1961, while the state's percentage of gross national product jumped from 1.63 percent in 1950 to 1.88 percent in 1961. The state's percentage of the country's population increased from 1.6 percent in 1950 to 1.7 percent in 1960.

Maryland's Total State Income and Product, which corresponds with Gross National, Product, will compound, according to the Projections Study, year after year until 1980 at 3.6 percent per year which is greater than the 50-year national rate of 3 percent. While the Gross National Product was growing since the Korean War at the annual rate of 2.7 percent the Total State Income and Product was increasing at the annual rate of 5.5 percent.

The survey describes Maryland's economic pace in recent years as "outstanding and exciting" and forecasts that this pace will continue during the next 20 years. It sees the Maryland economy growing during this period at a higher rate than that for the country as a whole because of a "tightly-knit set of production and exchange relationships which share in the state's progress...in future years they will be working larger, more profitable operations..."

Reprinted from the Community Reporter
Friday, July 5, 1963

Mount Airy Historic District Signs

For the past year several members of the town have been busy researching, designing, and editing signs that will provide visitors with a glimpse of the Town's History. The new signs, when completed, will be placed prominently on buildings throughout Historic Downtown Mount Airy. The sign will give a brief history of the building and list the businesses that have been located over the years on the current building's site.

Active in this effort were Mr. C. Oscar Baker, Mr. Pete Bowlus, Ms. Ellie Bonde, Mr. Mike Eacho, Mayor Pat Rockinberg, Ms. Mary Beth Ruch, and Mr. Dick Swanson. Also contributing were Ms. Helen Simpson, Mr. Delaine Hobbs, and Councilman Peter Helt. Inspiration for the signs came from the Town of Estes Park, Colorado, which displayed similar signs several years ago. Thanks to D. Fortini at the Estes Park, Colorado Museum for all his help getting us started.

Below is an example of one of the many signs that are being developed by this sign committee. The goal is to have signs displayed around town for the History 101 walking tour in the fall. The sign committee invites everyone to view the signs when complete and will welcome any comments and suggestions for revisions.

Historic Downtown
MOUNT AIRY

COMMERCIAL BANK
CIRCA 1909



Photograph courtesy of
the Historical Society of
Mount Airy.

This building was originally the home of the Mt. Airy Savings Bank, which was taken over by the Commercial State of Maryland from Frederick in 1916. Since, then, it has been home to a number of businesses and institutions including:

- Hamilton Homes
- The American Store operated by Harry Bellison
- The Carroll County Public Library (shown above)
- Mount Airy Town Hall

Sample Town Sign

Mount Airy May Add Community Center

July 8, 2013

By Kelcie Pegher Times Staff Writer

Reprinted with the permission of the Carroll County Times

MOUNT AIRY – Mount Airy’s historic Flat Iron Building, which sits between Main Street and Park Avenue, could be redeveloped and include a community center, if the town can afford a \$2 million project.

Principals from George Vaeth Associates and Morris & Ritchie Associates presented options to the Town Council and public Monday evening.

The concrete structure from the building is currently deteriorating, Town Engineer Barney Quinn, said. There’s water damage on all three floors, and the roof needs to be replaced, he said.

Currently the Flat Iron building houses the town’s resident trooper program and the Historical Society of Mount Airy Museum. Five Maryland state troopers act as the town’s local police in the town from an office in the building.

The building has sat since the 1890s at the bottom of Park Avenue, which slopes down and connects to Main Street.

Architect Chris R. Lester presented three new options for the future of the building: renovate the existing building, close off Park Avenue and add a plaza and parking in addition to the building, or demolish the building and replace it with a new building and a community center.

A new street would be developed that would connect to Center Street for the final two options.

The last site design would include a full sidewalk along Main Street, a plaza with an amphitheater effect and the opportunity for the town to lease out space to office owners.

In any case, because Park Avenue is on a hill, a retaining wall would likely be added, which can cost anywhere from \$350,000 to \$1 million, depending on how much landscaping is done, Lester said.

The approximate cost for the three options also ranges. To renovate the space, it would cost approximately \$342,000. To make the space larger and cut off Park Avenue, it would cost \$882,000. For a large community center and new building, which would still cut off Park Avenue, it would amount to approximately \$1.62 million.

“This site is like a lynchpin site in this town,” Lester said.

Pete Bowlus, of the Mount Airy Historical Society, said while the Flat Iron building is the iconic building residents associate with the town, development is a great idea.

“I am not wedded to the existing building, but I think there are a lot of things that need to be addressed,” he said.

Bowlus asked if the town wants to be in the business of leasing out the potential mixed use space that could come out of the development. Tim Madden, a civil engineer with Morris & Ritchie Associates, said there would also be utility work between water, sewer and electric.

The cost of the projects concerned Councilman Chris Everich. The town could end up spending \$2.9 million for stormwater management, due to a state mandated law which requires municipalities and counties to collect a tax on impervious surfaces.

“No doubt we want to do this,” he said. “[But] I don’t think anyone in town wants their taxes to go up.”

Everich asked for the minimum the town could do in order to keep the building structurally sound while the town gets through the stormwater management mandate from the state.

Quinn said according to the 2012 estimate from a structural engineer, there would need to be \$200,000 of work in the structure of the building alone.

Lester and Madden estimated the cost to repair the building would cost approximately \$560,000, which includes replacing the roof, floors and windows.

Councilman David Blais said the Town Council has to weigh what would be more beneficial.

“Do we say \$500,000 now, hedging we’ll get more use out of the building? Or take the \$500,000 and put it into a new building?” Blais said.

The Town Council asked for a larger breakdown of the cost for each project. Councilman Bob King said he would also like more information from people who live in the town.

“I’m hoping today we help start the conversation,” Madden said.

Editors Note: This article is reprinted here to keep the members of the Historical Society updated on the latest news concerning the Flat Iron Building, home of the Mount Airy Museum.

Historical Memories from Fifty Years Ago

Compiled by Althea Miller

The information for these Historical Memories was compiled from articles in the May, June, July, August and September, 1962 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.

- Piano pupils of Mrs. Marion Runkles will present a recital on May 9 at Calvary Methodist Church. The following will participate: Tina Boller, Ann Marie Buckley, Linda Buckman, Gloria Clower, Carol Ann Colburn, Steven Cramer, Barbara Day, Lewis Dixon, Mark Dixon, Dana Fleming, Paula Flynn, Paul Frink, Bonnie Hamilton, Sharon Lathe, Sue Linton, Brenda McPherson, Jean Rhinecker, Dennis Ridgely, Clarice Runkles, Marsha Stroh, Regina Warfield, Mrs. T.O. Warfield IV, Judy Windsor, Edwin Wiles and Annie Wimmer. (5/4/62)
- Parents, relatives and friends of the piano students taught by Mrs. Norman Etzler are invited to the recital at Calvary Methodist Church on May 20. Performers will be: Susan Merritt, John Merritt, Doris Tabler, Shirley Raby, Tommy Boller, Belinda Teague, John Dertzbaugh, Barbara White, Berry Ann Pickett, Nancy Gehman, David Klein, Elizabeth Harris, Carol Middleton, Jane Pickett, Polly Myers, Diane Devault, Michael Mason, Ann Pickett, Sue Norwood, Barbara Raby, Frank Dertzbaugh, Pat Kuhl, Sharon Warfield, Rebecca Klein, Jon Simpson, Sally Myers, May Evelyn Harris, Susan Boller and Jeanie Pickett. (5/18/62)
- Renovations and repairs are being made to the building which houses the Mount Airy Post Office, Groceteria, two apartments and the Masonic Lodge on South Main Street which was damaged by fire early Sunday morning. The building was formerly used as a movie theatre and is owned by L.E. Jones (5/25/62)
- On May 22 the Calvary Weekday Kindergarten was officially organized with plans made to begin the school on October 1. The kindergarten will operate each weekday morning from 9:00 to noon through May 31. Officers appointed were: President—C. Robert Browning; Secretary—Mrs. Harry Nikirk and Treasurer—Russell W. Ray. (5/25/62)
- Stanley Lare was presented the top award of twenty-five dollars for having the highest average (121) during the 1961-62 bowling season in Mount Airy. (6/1/62)
- Barring unforeseen difficulties William L. Rimbey and James W. Linton will move their Community Groceteria into new commodious quarters next September. The business has been in operation since 1947 first at the Mount Airy Locker and they are currently housed in the L.E. Jones building which they have outgrown. (6/1/62)
- Beta Sigma Phi Sorority recently welcomed new pledges in the Retreat of Jewels at the home of Mrs. Bruce Hodgdon. The pledges were: Mrs. Charles Lease, Mrs. Jerry Lowman, Mrs. John Walz, Mrs. John Nelson and Mrs. Dee Moran. (6/1/62)
- Mr. and Mrs. Marion Thompson, Montgomery Ave., are the parents of their second child, second son, Kevin Michael, on June 4. (6/8/62)
- A Diamond Jubilee is slated by the Kiwanis Club for residents of Mount Airy 75 years of age and older on June 13. The Kiwanis Club is anxious to hear from anyone who is over 75 who has not received an invitation. The Kiwanis Club is anxious to have all seniors within the town limits to attend this “night out.” (6/8/62)
- The Alumni of MAHS are planning its’ 50th annual banquet and dance for June 16 at the high school cafeteria. Lt. Col. Richard M. Clendening from Fort Detrick will speak following dinner. The dance with music by Bill Krantz’s orchestra will be held in the school auditorium. (6/8/62)

Historical Memories from Fifty Years Ago (Continued)

- Joseph Gosnell, secretary of the Mount Airy Lions Club and Murray Ryan and his wife just returned from the 42nd convention of Lions International in Nice, France. (6/15/62)
- Lewis Dixon and Basil Gosnell will represent Gold Star Post 191 at Boys State, which is sponsored by the Maryland Department of the American Legion. The boys are co-sponsored by local Lions and Gold Star Post. These boys, seniors at MAHS next year, were chosen for outstanding citizenship and scholastic ability by the faculty. (6/29/62)
- Marine Aviation Cadet Paul W. Culwell, son of Dr. and Mrs. William B. Culwell, completed his first solo flight while attached to Training Squadron One at Saufley Field Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Pensacola, Florida. Cadet Culwell, who entered the service in June, 1961, attended Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, Pennsylvania. (7/6/62)
- Gilbert Buckman, North Main Street, left Sunday for England Air Force Base in Louisiana where as a Second Lt. he will be attending Communication School. (7/6/62)
- At the meeting of the Town Council on July 2 the following items were approved:
 - Paving of Shipley Ave., including the installation of a base.
 - Paving of Beck Drive, base already installed.
 - Resurfacing of Frederick Ave. to finish to gutter line. Work to be done by Preston L. Brown. (7/13/62)
- Members of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Mount Airy Fire Company will solicit on Monday evening for contributions from area residents on behalf of the 35th annual carnival which begins July 23. Each year prior to the carnival persons are asked to donate money or food towards the Fried Chicken and Ham Supper to help defray the costs. (7/13/62)
- Carol Ann Lach was crowned "Miss Fire Prevention of Mount Airy, 1962" at the beauty contest held Monday night in connection with the Fireman's Carnival. 1st runner-up was Sandra Linton and 2nd runner-up was Patricia Dennis. Other contestants were: Virginia Gray, Ruth Davis, Janice Rimbey, Sue Creswell, Diane Moxley, Janet Hobson, Anne Wiley, Virginia Garber, Sandra Sherman and Rosemary Powell. (7/27/62)
- Susan Marie, first daughter, second child, was born to Mr. and Mrs. William Knill on July 22 at Frederick Memorial Hospital. (7/27/62)
- Mrs. J. Raymond Molesworth, Sunset Ave., attended the 20th year WAVES National Convention in Washington, D.C. last week. Mrs. Molesworth was a member of the WAVES from 1943-45 and was stationed in Memphis, Tennessee and New York. (8/3/62)
- The Jones' Building, also known as Old Masonic Hall and the Post Office Building was sold by Lewis E. and Frances C. Jones to Carlie M. and Marguarite V. Jones of Ellicott City. The new owners plan to operate the building as is and intend no changes at the present. The building was built in 1902 by the Masonic Hall Association. In 1912 the deed was transferred to the Mount Airy Masonic Temple Association. The Masons and Order of the Eastern Star have met there ever since. This was the only hall of any size available for public meets and various types of community get-togethers were held there. Organizations and churches sold suppers in the basement of the two story frame building. The elevated stage was the setting for many plays and shows, the favorite being minstrel shows. There being no high school the Hall served as a place for classes when it became necessary to have senior grades here. Commencement and Class Night exercises were always held in the hall. In the 30's when the school burned it was again used for classrooms. (8/10/62)

Historical Memories from Fifty Years Ago (Continued)

- In early 1930, Mr. Jones began using part of the building for a theatre. He acquired the building in 1937 and at once began to remodel it. With the removal of 51,000 bricks the building was lowered 9 feet 6 inches. After extensive repairs and the installation of seats from the Ford Theatre in Baltimore the Mount Airy Theatre opened for business. Two apartments were made on the 2nd floor in 1939. On June 11, 1951 the theatre was closed and remodeling began for the Mount Airy Post Office which was opened July 14, 1951. On January 1, 1952 the rear of the building was made ready for the Groceteria, owned and operated kby James Linton and William Rimbey. (8/10/62)
 - The Hoxie and Bordex Brothers Circus will perform at the Firemen's Park here on Saturday, August 25. Two shows will be given. Circus fans will have the opportunity to mingle with animals and members of the circus family. (8/17/62)
 - Henry P. Runkles, manager of the Mount Airy and Damascus offices of the C and P Telephone Co. recently completed his 25th year as a telephone man. A native of Mount Airy, Runkles has been manager since June 3, 1951. He is a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America. (8/31/62)
 - Lyndon Myers, son of Dr. and Mrs. L.B. Myers, is undergoing 8 weeks of basic recruit training at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois. (8/31/62)
 - Mount Airy High School reported an enrollment of 323 on the opening day of school, a sharp increase over that of last year. Nineteen teachers, six of them new to MAHS, make up the faculty. (9/7/62)
 - Ronnie Molesworth, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Raymond Molesworth, Summit Ave., left this week for his junior year at Fort Union Military Academy, Fort Union, Virginia. (9/14/62)
 - The Kiwanis Kids Day activities well be held Saturday at Fireman's Park. Starting the day will be the hobby show at the activities building. The parade will assemble at 1:30 at Wildwood Park and move to the carnival grounds. At 3:00 the All Star baseball game will begin. (9/21/62)
 - The Fourth Annual banquet of the Mount Airy Athletic Club was held Saturday at the American Legion. Joseph MacKenzie, president, introduced several distinguished guests which included Frank Byrnes of Griffith Consumers in Washington, D.C., Mayor and Mrs. Horpel and Walter Hood, Commander of the Legion Post and his wife. Trophies were presented to Benny Hulver and Billy Franklin. Griffith Consumers presented the Sportsmanship trophy to Jack Burdette. Bobby Bellison was presented the trophy for the highest batting average. Two past players (late 20's and 30's) were honored: Bill Wagner and Walter Warfield both received jackets. (9/21/62)
 - The student parking lot at MAHS has a "new look" thanks to the Key Club. Twelve members of the club, under the direction of their sponsor, Mr. Lambertson, and president, Bob Haight, cut weeds, placed cross ties around the boundary and spread 28 tons of stone. Parking association dues will be used to help defray the cost. Working on the lot were: Bruce Clutter, Ron Clower, Doug Day, Lewis Dixon, Mark Eyler, Ron Frizzel, Joe Hagy, Jim Molesworth, Tom Ogle, Ron Runkles and Roland Schmidt. (9/28/62)
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The Historical Society of Mount Airy, Maryland
 P.O. Box 244
 Mount Airy, Maryland 21771

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