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*"Proud To Be Seen In Aberdeen"*



**ABERDEEN MUSEUM REVIEW**

**Volume I, No. 1 July 1, 2002**

**OUR NEWSLETTER ~ A link to the past and present. ~**

*The Aberdeen Room acquires, records, and displays memorabilia and artifacts that relate to the social, economic, and cultural development of the city of Aberdeen. All interested persons are welcome and are invited to visit, utilize, and enjoy the museum and archival facilities provided..*

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**DOCUMENTS SAVED FROM TRAGIC FIRE**

Documents saved from tragic fire are donated to the Aberdeen Room. Even when a tragedy strikes, thoughtful citizens think of what can be donated to the Aberdeen Room Archives and Museum.

On the fateful Sunday in April of this year, when families were left homeless by a tragic fire at the Hillside Terrace Apartments, one faithful resident retrieved photos, pamphlets and magazines of historical value to bring to the museum.

**Howard King**, who has been donating to the museum for years, brought more of his collections that had been water damaged. Many have been carefully spread out to dry so they could be logged into accession lists. The total of about 500 photos taken by Mr. King, dating back to the 1970's and continuing through more than 30 years, cover many events in Aberdeen. More binders will be compiled for these after they have been throughly dried.

Just in time for the museum's Military Appreciation Open House on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> and continuing through July, King's collection of military magazines were made available for public view, both in the display window and inside the exhibit area. *"The 100 Greatest Military Photographs," "The American Century - a Salute to American Fighting Men and Women,"* the *"Stars and Stripes"* from June of 1944, as well as recent issues from 2001, are among those donated. Included is a red silk bookmarker with Presidential names from President Washington to Reagan. Continued on page 5

## **ABERDEEN ROOM - HOURS OF OPERATION**

Tuesdays and Thursdays - 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

First Saturday of Month - Noon "till 3:00 p.m.

The museum is also open for special events in Aberdeen. Call 410-273-6325 for information about upcoming - Special Events and to set up prearranged tours - small groups are always welcome.

## **ABERDEEN MUSEUM, FOUNDERS**

### **RECOGNIZED BY HARFORD COUNTY**

On Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup> at Liriodendron Mansion in Bel Air, a group of civic and community leaders gathered to celebrate the Harford County Historic Preservation Commission's presentation of the seventh annual historic preservation awards. Commission Chairman W. Paul Thompson, Jr., presented the awards.

Which included the recognition of the founding of the Aberdeen Archives and Museum fifteen years ago, by Curator Charlotte Cronin and Director William Cronin.

The history of the museum in Aberdeen is one that has involved our directors' in three moves - from a damp basement, to sunlight above ground to an even larger facility close to Festival Park and the Ripken Museum. The effort began when we presented a proposal to the Historical Society of Harford County in the spring of 1987 for a "room" as a repository for collections of Aberdeen history. In July of 1987 we were informed that we could share the basement room of the old Elementary School (now the Harford County Community Services Building) with the Courts Records department of the Society.

When renovation of the building by the County necessitated the move of both the Historical Society and our fledgling museum, the City of Aberdeen allowed us to move to the vacated District Court at 58 North Parke Street (first built as a library in 1957) in April of 1991 - just in time for Aberdeen's Centennial in 1992. The move to the present site at 18 Howard Street was made possible by the City before the Parke Street building was demolished to make way for the beautiful new Aberdeen Municipal Center.

Charlotte and Bill were invited to the ceremony at the Liriodendron to receive the 2002 honor preservationist award. We quote from the Aegis May 24 pg A2 "in recognition of uncountable hours of volunteer work on behalf of the Aberdeen Room Archives and Museum and 50 Years of Preservation Efforts."

*Your Aberdeen Room Museum is celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of storing and providing, family history and memorabilia about Aberdonians We welcome comments and suggestions about our first newsletter*

## COMCAST INSTALLS CABLE

Special thanks to Comcast High Speed Internet Service of Baltimore Metro Counties for installing cable and Internet at the Aberdeen Room. We are most grateful to **Doug Samson**, V. P. and General Manager of Comcast Cable of Baltimore Metro Counties, for this kind consideration.

## DONATED VIDEO'S CAN BE VIEWED UPON REQUEST

**Mr. Fred Bull** of Aberdeen, Scotland has donated a copy of the film he has made about his adventures visiting 28 Aberdeens around the world. "*Search for Aberdeen*," is a must see for anyone interested in seeing a positive view of our beloved community. The elementary school children that visited us this spring loved watching the part about our City.

The **Harford Cable Network** sent a copy of the video on Harford MagaSene that was shown on Chanel 3 in February and March of 2002. The video includes Billy Ripken at the Ripken Stadium, RSVP (the volunteer connection), the Decoy Museum, the Aberdeen Room Archives and Museum and Cal Ripken, Jr. at the Aberdeen Boys and Girls Club. The video represents attractions in the Aberdeen - Havre de Grace area of Harford County very well.

All are invited to view any of these and many other videos at any time during open hours, and special tours at the Aberdeen Room by calling 410-273-6325, and making a request for it to be shown.

## CAL'S FUTURE AND

## BASEBALL PAST IN WINDOW DISPLAY

Cal Ripken's future and Aberdeens baseball past is the subject of a window display at the museum through July 2002. The window has many baseball items of memorabilia from the permanent collection of the museum. Aberdeen Cannons photos and uniforms, and items from Aberdeen's canning past are on view. Also Orioles baseball items about Cal, Jr., a recent donation from **Mr. and Mrs. Barry Schultz**, is included in the display. They had the pages laminated of the "The Sun" from September 7, 1995 - "Immortal Cal," and from April 16, 2000 Cal Ripken's "3000 Career Hits." From the "Aegis" of October 10, 2001 is an article "Lifetime Fan, Dr. Fred Hatem" - the physician who delivered young Cal, Jr.

## SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS VISIT MUSEUM

School displays, and tours of school children, are a very important and popular function of the Aberdeen Room. Every spring, many children visit with their teachers.

Most recently, the students from the Inclusion Program from the Aberdeen Middle School paid a visit. Also, the second grades of the George Lisby Elementary School at Hillsdale had a tour of the Aberdeen Room, as well as the Municipal Building, the Ripken Museum, Festival Park and other points of interest in downtown Aberdeen.

All the children who visit receive activity sheets, composed for them by the staff of the Aberdeen Room, to take back to their classrooms to review their tours.

Tours are encouraged for all children. Everyone seems to learn something they didn't know before - including the staff of the museum. All are welcome to call for appointments at 410-273-6325.

### HOW LIFE WAS LIVED IN

### ABERDEEN'S PAST, FROM

### ABERDEEN ROOM RECORDS

The Aberdeen Room records show how life was lived in the past. As we have said so many times before, collectors have brought from their attics, garages, desk drawers and basements, bits and pieces of memories of everyday life as it was lived many years ago. Thousands of pieces of memorabilia have come to the Aberdeen Room, some of which are displayed, and others filed or stored safely. All of them give us an insight into a way of life that may have been forgotten.

Remember the Pump Room at the Colonel's Choice Restaurant? Now that this once popular meeting place has been closed, 2 tankards that used to hang there have been donated by **James Lindsey**, and **Lilma Huntley** (from her late husband Bob).

**Virginia Rothwell** has sent us a clipping of the "*many things*" column from 1983. That long ago? Did Bill and Charlotte Cronin look like that? We as a community were distressed over traffic conditions back then - and we still are. And (we looked it up), they have been writing this column in the "Record" for 20 years now.

**Howard King** brought in photos of the northbound tracks of Amtrak in 1983 and the vehicular overpass

finished that year. He also contributed the booklet *"On Track"* with the article *"Transit and the American City,"* Conrail photos, and a *"Rail Pave"* magazine clipping about the cessation of rail service at APG.

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Reminding us of the Depression Years, **John Kapinos** brought a Liggett & Myers buckhorn hand cigarette roller and a Sir Walter Raleigh tobacco pouch.

**Selma Wise** found her husband Sid's library card from 1962, and an APG Officers' Club membership card of the same year, and a copy of the *"Bargaineer"* from 1977. Remember when civilian workers and some Aberdeen citizens held memberships at the lovely stone landmark on the bay?

There is always representation of life at Aberdeen Proving Ground. **Ed Illick** brought a copy of that old classic *"The Big Gun"* that was presented to his father Ralph when he retired after 30 years in the Army Air Corps and Air Force. He also brought a photo of his father at Phillips Air Field..

**Trudy DeForest** contributed the March, July and November 2001 publications of the *"Harford County Genealogical Society"* that list funeral home records.

From the past Aberdeen political scene has come a "Kent Stewart for Commissioner" card from his son **Kent Stewart, Jr.**

**Mary Ellen Volkart** dusted off a large framed composite photo of all Harford County attorneys in 1940 - 3 from Aberdeen - Judge Ernest Volkart, J. Wilmer Cronin and N. Paul Cronin, are included.

From the **McCracken estate** (brought in by **Lilma Huntley**) has come an Army raincoat and shoes, as well as an Aberdeen map from 1965-70.

**Carolyn Mitchell** contributed a post card of the Grove Presbyterian Cemetery.

**Barbara Baker** brought a City of Aberdeen Annual Report from 2001 and a bookmark from the opening of the new Aberdeen Library in 1975.

**Linda Kemp** contributed a 1967 photo of the Diamond Jubilee "Lilly of the Valley" and "Post Toasties" softball teams.

**Rosemary Robinson** found a 1981 Bloomingdale cup, money clip, souvenir 1980 Safety Day medal, pencil and 1978 cup.

**Susan Osborn** found the 1957 Fire Department Proceedings records that had been kept by her father,

Charles Osborn, III.

**James Eustace** presented us with a canning token marked HPCO, which he told us was from the Hickory Packing Company. There always seem to be reminders of the canning industry in Harford - and especially Aberdeen.

**George Hipkins** sent us a letter with all kinds of memories inside. Hipkins Corner was a landmark on what is now southbound Route 40 between Aberdeen and Havre de Grace. He included a business card from the Swan Creek Lunch Room run by his family from the early 1930's until World War II when it closed down. He told of a "guest" who stayed long enough to be invited to eat with the family and sang "*I Wish I Was Single Again*" (George included all the verses). To be included with memories of businesses that have passed from the Aberdeen scene, George Hipkins sent a business card from Moore's Super Store on northbound Route 40.

It seems we always have something "new" from the "old" Aberdeen Fire Department. This has come from the **Eleanor Stegall** estate, brought in by her son Scott - a 1920's uniform from the Firemen's Band - worn by Carl Brown! What a beauty it is! There is also a history of the Ordnance Museum and a March of 1943 "*Groundhog*" which is smaller than the others that the Aberdeen Room has in its Aberdeen Proving Ground files.

**Paul Ciesla** donated the photo he took of Reverend Samuel Young and William Cardinal Keeler at the St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church on April 13, 2002 when the beautiful new addition to the church was dedicated. Ciesla, who serves as webmaster for the Aberdeen Room, also brought in the program for the dedication.

**Joan Pyle** donated a copy of the Reunion Book from the Class of 1951. These reunion books are wonderful reminders of the Aberdeen High School's alumni classes, and are very popular attractions for visitors, along with copies of the yearbook, "*Arrivederci*."

Aberdeen High School is always represented among recent donations. **Mary Wolfe** sent 2 copies of "*The Keyhole*," the school newspaper in the early 1930's. It is interesting to note that the February 1934 paper was priced at 2 cents. By December of the same year the price had gone up to 3 cents! School activities included names of Mae Eustace, Mary Wolfe, Ed Volkart and others.

**Beth Carroll** donated the "Maryland Genealogical Society" Volume 28, No. 3 which contains a segment on the Garrettson Family of Maryland, by Richard Buckingham. The Garrettson family lived on what was Broadway (now northbound Route 40) and were our curator Charlotte Cronin's ancestors.

Photos of the J. Smith Michael Cannery and workers were contributed by **Beverly Close** so that they could be copied for the Aberdeen Room. They cover the period 1920 through 1942, when the cannery closed.

**James Lindsey** brought in a copy of the program from the Dedication of the Replica of the

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Senior Center on Franklin Street by Casimir Widowski. Widowski passed away in 1999, and the replica was completed by others.

**Joe Regan**, from his retirement home in Hanover, Pennsylvania, sent a copy of the *"History of Aberdeen"* by Richard Cronin, and *"The Thrilling Days of Yesteryear"* - a historic perspective on Agnes Berger from 1909 which had undoubtedly been saved by his late wife, Alice.

**Howard King** continued to bring in publications that he saved from the recent Hillside Terrace fire. "Highlights of American Railroad History," "Quiz on Railroads and Railroading," and "America's Battlefields and Memorials."

**Chuck Baker** brought in his Aberdeen Fire Department Band uniform (now we have 2, a much older one from Carl Brown and now the most recently worn before there was no more Fire Department Band).

**Walter Coppersmith** brought in a framed Korean War Plaque in time for it to be included in a military display window.

**David Simons** brought an old baseball bat, a vintage baby carriage, a hay rake, and a milk box from the Pennsupreme Dairy, recalling the days when milk was delivered to homes, and the metal box sat on the front or back porch to contain the bottles.

**Jim Lindsey** brought a ticket from an Aberdeen Chamber Orchestra Concert from May of 1994 to benefit the Aberdeen Boys and Girls Club, and a copy of "The Peake" newspaper showing the "Future Home of the Ripken Museum," Volume 1, Number 1.

**Susan Osborn** brought in a news magazine for Orioles Fans "Curtain Closes on Cal's Career" from 2001.

Keeping up the file on Aberdeen High School, and its historic graduation at Ripken Stadium, **Judy Hinch** donated the 2002 Commencement Program of the high school.

Just from this group of donations, you can see just how we lived years ago? It was pleasant with neighboring Aberdeen Proving Ground with its service personnel and civilians. There were the ever - important railroads and canning houses, dependable Aberdeen Fire Department, restaurants, anniversary fun celebrations, libraries, sports activities and people who thought enough to save their memories of them.

## ARMED FORCES DAY SALUTE

May 18<sup>th</sup> was a big day in Aberdeen. The City of Aberdeen saluted Armed Forces Day with "United for Freedom" as the theme of the exciting events for everybody in our community to enjoy.

Never before has there been more meaning attached to this annual celebration. Since the last annual event, much has happened to make us aware of the importance of those men and women who make our lives more secure. The event of 9/11/2001, shocked a nation and ultimately united it in the fight against world terrorism.

Aberdeen, ever since 1917 when the Federal Government purchased the lush corn fields to build the facility, has always had a very close relationship with the Armed Forces as good neighbors.

Honoring this relationship, special displays at the Aberdeen Room Archives and Museum were open for viewing starting at 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Introducing the public to military events covering the past century with a comprehensive collection of pictures, uniforms and accessories in the display window facing the street.

In the main exhibit area were maps and early pictures of Aberdeen Proving Ground since its initiation in 1917.

Memorabilia from over the years at Aberdeen Proving Ground were on display. Early publications, including the "*Big Gun*" were available.

The front display window shows date lines from the Korean War, now celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1950-53 conflict.

Inside, more was available. All Korean War veterans (or primary kin) were given free commemorative pins. There was also information on the Republic of Korea War Service Medal, Cold War Recognition certificate, and applications for the Korean War Veterans Association.

Those veterans of World War I (or their Families) from Harford County can find their service records on file in binders.

You could have found some familiar family farms on the large Aberdeen Proving Ground acquisition map of 1917.

Veterans of World War II from Harford County could have found their names in roll books in the library. Vietnam veterans looked through pictures that represent the conflict.

At 2 p.m. there was a 5K - "Fun Run" that began and ended at Festival Park in Aberdeen. The run ended just in time for the parade at 3 p.m. It was the biggest Military Appreciation Parade ever! Many groups



and organizations were represented, Aberdeen High School Band, Aberdeen Police Department, Aberdeen Fire Department, Aberdeen Ironbirds, 389<sup>th</sup> Band who later performed at Festival Park, and lots of vehicles and tanks and more than can be related here. A special thanks to all who came out and celebrated the day with us, and the Aberdeen & Aberdeen Proving Ground communities.

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## **DOCUMENTS SAVED FROM TRAGIC FIRE**

Mr. King, a strong railroad advocate, also donated "*A Timebook for Running Trains on Main Stem of the B&O,*" published in 1990. There are also Artrain postcards. The damaged photos also include those taken when the pedestrian and vehicular overpasses were built over the tracks in the early 1980's. From July 1983 are views of the last northbound and southbound runs of Amtrak.

Howard appeared at the May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2002, Monday City Council meeting, where he expressed gratitude for the efforts of the community in helping the victims of the Hillside Terrace Apartments' fire damage.

## **TEA HOUSE FRONT DONATED TO MUSEUM**

**Bill Cronin**, an active member and Director of the Aberdeen Room, has donated the Old English Tea Room front window that was once a part of a 7<sup>th</sup> floor display designed and constructed by architect Edwin Tunis in 1934, at the former Baltimore Inner Harbor Headquarters of the McCormick Spice Company. When the company moved to the Hunt Valley Industrial Park, their new building had no place for the Old English Tea Room visited by thousands over the years. Bill saw it at an antique building supply shop and felt he had to save it. But he was not sure if it would be possible. The board was receptive to his idea of incorporating it into our building, either as a part of the much needed renovation of the front of our building, or in the display room. In May the antique dealer just wanted to move it, so he made Bill a deal he almost could not refuse. The Tea House front window is now in storage at the Aberdeen Room awaiting its new life.

## **WATER TROUBLES TODAY**

### **RECALL FIRST WATER WORKS**

On June 18<sup>th</sup> many in Aberdeen suddenly faced a challenge - what happens when the water stops flowing? It is a rude awakening when there is a break in a water line. Unfortunately, it happened on the very afternoon that some residents were getting ready for the opening game at the Ripken Stadium. How suddenly we come to appreciate that convenience!

What did people do in the days before a "water works"? We were only inconvenienced a few hours on that warm afternoon and evening. Suppose we never had water in the faucets - or the bathrooms -

supplied without a thought on our part.

In Aberdeen, everyone had their own wells until 1897, when the Aberdeen Water Works began operations. A tall standpipe was erected on the Krouse Farm in the western area of town. We can only imagine the jubilation. The only problem was how many toilets and wash basins could a household afford, since the customer paid by the number in use.

Good pictures of the old standpipe have been very hard to come by, until **Bettie Krouse McMullen** gathered up old pictures saved by Helen Krouse Eustace, sorted them out, and sent them to the Aberdeen Room from Florida. What wonderful pictures of that landmark! The first standpipe when it was new, and then a picture of the old and new, standing side by side, before the old one was taken down in the 1940's.

Remember the farm itself? "Rosie" the mule and hired worker "Joe." The farm animals and buildings are all there. Older Aberdonians remember sledding down the Krouse hill - or ice skating on the pond. What a fun place!

Bettie Krouse grew up there. She included pictures of the first Catholic Church, and communion ceremonies there before the buildings on Law Street were constructed. There are pictures of combined 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades from Halls Cross Roads School and Aberdeen Elementary celebrations where the boys and girls were doing Czech folk dances. (Was that the first Aberdeen Middle School group, she wondered.)

There are pictures of the construction of the addition to the Town Office in the 1970's (now Ripken Museum), and its dedication, and downtown snow pictures in 1983.

All in all, those photos took us on a very nostalgic trip, just as we faced a modern water problem.



Pictured is the 1942 water tower and 1897 standpipe

in what is now the Brentwood development

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## **Current Museum Officers**

Curator ..... Charlotte G. Cronin

Secretary ..... Lilma J. Huntley

Treasurer ..... James Lindsey

## **Board of Directors**

Charles W. Baker

George H. Baker

Genevieve Brubaker

Paul Ciesla

William R. Cronin

Trudy DeForest

Ruth Duguid

Anna Duguid

Ann M. Kelly

Mary-lynn Livezey

Bob Manning

Romaine Morris

Mary Lee Plummer

Gina Bantum, City of Aberdeen Liaison

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## **Aberdeen Room Museum**

**Welcomes**

**All Visitors**

**Free Of Admission Charge**

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**JOIN US ON THE WEB AND CHECK US OUT**

**Our Web-Site is at:**

**[www.aberdeenroom.com](http://www.aberdeenroom.com)**

**E-mail us at:**

**[sayhello@aberdeenroom.com](mailto:sayhello@aberdeenroom.com)**

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Saturday - July 6, 2002

*"Search for Aberdeen"* - Will Be Shown

The film, featuring Aberdeen Maryland, by Scotland's Fred Bull, who visited and recorded the 28 Aberdeens of the World; music by Rod Stewart.

Saturday September 21, 2002 - Aberdeen Heritage Day in Festival Park - visit our booth in Festival Park and win a prize at our interactive display. Just steps from the park, take the opportunity to visit the Museum, open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday December 7, 2002 - Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Christmas Street in Aberdeen. Come to the Museum Open House for a free tour of the Museum and punch & cookies, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Aberdeen Room Museum**

**Welcomes**

**All Visitors**

**Free Of Charge**

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**Our Gift Shop**

**offers**

**Post Cards**

**&**

**Notepaper**

**featuring sketches**

**of**

**Old & New Aberdeen**

**heck us out for your**

**Souvenirs of Aberdeen**

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