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ABERDEEN ROOM REVIEW

Volume I, No. 2 October 1, 2002

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

ABERDEEN ROOM ABUZZ

WITH VISITORS, DONORS

It has been one busy summer!

More and more people are finding out about the Aberdeen Room, so we are getting more mail,

e-mail, packages and visitors from places afar.

There is no doubt that with the opening of Ripken Stadium, the city of Aberdeen has more visitors and the museum sees the benefits. It's hard to believe the IronBirds baseball season is over for the year. Aberdeen City Manager Peter Dacey donated an unused ticket and program from that opening night June 18 for the files. From that opening on into the summer, it has been an exciting baseball season.

WE GET ALL KINDS OF MAIL

All kinds of mail has been coming in. Bettie and Joe Mullen of Florida have just sent another box of goodies which we have scarcely had time to open, but an e-mail from them tells us there are more Krouse family and farm pictures, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church pictures and much more which will be accessioned.

Another e-mail has come from retired Pastor JoAnn Snapp Leifeste from Alabama. Her grandfather, Numsey Robinson, worked for John Smith. She wanted to get information about that very important part of the Aberdeen community. We researched John Smith, his Ford agency and his obituary ... and sent it on to Alabama.

Larry McCray, editor of "The Squibber," had a e-mail questions about 1890's Major League Ballplayer Lester German, and we e-mailed a reply.

Very heartwarming written thanks came from second grade students from the George Lisby School at Hillsdale. The children enjoyed our Aberdeen portion of the film taken by visitors from Aberdeen, Scotland, when they were making the film "A Search for Aberdeen" last summer.

WE HAVE HAD VISITORS

FROM AFAR THIS SUMMER

Norma Bernstein Tarrow from Laguna Beach, California, visited with her husband after walking around the old school complex on Route 40. She had taught fifth grade at the elementary school back in the 1950's while Helen Price Fisher was principal. She was fascinated with the museum and the growth of the city.

Michelle Baker Nelson and her son from Phoenix, Arizona, spent one morning in the museum catching up on Aberdeen history.

Joachim Bohnet from Dusseldorf, Germany, had read our web page and was determined to visit when he vacationed to visit a friend at Aberdeen Proving Ground with whom he had corresponded over the Internet. He serves in the German Army near Cologne. He was interested in local food and history.

Many of our visitors have found the Aberdeen Room on the Internet. Cyber visitors are welcome to visit the museum on-line virtually anytime.

PART I OF LOCAL BASEBALL

HISTORY HAS BEEN PUBLISHED

Publications chairman Jim Chrismer made a visit, bringing with him copies of the latest Historical Society of Harford County Quarterly bulletins by Fred Liedlich, "*History of the Susquehanna Baseball League 1946-1953 Part I.*" Much of the research for this gem was done in the Aberdeen Room and includes interviews with local ballplayers.

For anyone interested in the game of baseball, there is some very entertaining reading here. Copies are available at the Aberdeen Room.

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.

A NUMBER OF ITEMS HAVE

BEEN DONATED THIS SUMMER

Debby Stern, who has purchased the old Sisk Building, has visited and donated a framed architect's drawing of the old Aberdeen Realty building across the street from her antiques gallery.

Chris McEvoy saw some of the Baker Canning tokens in Grandfather George Baker's basement and brought them in to include in the Baker Canning

display.

Barbara Baker contributed Christmas Street pins from 1994 and 1995, showing Grace United Methodist Church.

Donald Pyle brought in two photos of local football teams, the oldest one taken in 1945. The same players, a bit older, are lined up in the other (no date). Some of the names are: Sterling Pyle, John Hinder, Mac Collette, John Reed, Barney Wheeler, Joe Manley, Larry Connolly, Gerold White, Pete Frankolockus, Kenneth Lamb, Charles Jacobs, Earl Kammerer, Pete Moxley, Gene Holcomb, Kenneth Davis, Bobby Meeks, Nick Fowler and Earl Kapp.

Howard King contributed a clipping from the *Washington Post Weekend* of July 26th about the Ripken Museum. He has also provided brochures about interesting places to visit in Washington, D.C., as well as brochures on the Maryland Transit Administration and the B&O Museum.

Fred Liedlich provided a postcard of the old 1908 Aberdeen High School building for the museum postcard file.

Ron Landbeck brought in five shirts and sweatshirts from the 1992 Aberdeen Centennial. Many memories of that wonderful celebration are kept in storage at the Aberdeen Room.

Jean Mears contributed a copy of "*Military Packaging Illustrated*" from the APG Military Packaging Training Center saved by Arthur Naff.

The Aberdeen Room Archives and Museum and the Historical Society of Harford County work closely when they have more duplicates of some publications than are needed. Judy Plitt brought in "*The History of Aberdeen*" by Richard Cronin in 1976, "*A Century of Service*" by Lloyd Fry in 1973, three "*Aberdeen Diamond Jubilee*" books from 1967, two 1991 Aberdeen directories, "*APG 50th Anniversary*" from 1917 to 1967, APG Telephone Directory of 1983, two 1992 copies of "*The Centennial Almanac*" and two 1953 copies of the "*Harford County Directory*."

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1945 Football Team

APG GARRISON HISTORY OFFICE

DONATE TWO VOLUMES ON

THE CEMETERIES AT APG

Mark Gallaher of the APG Garrison Office in Building 5650 (this is fondly remembered as the Malcolm Mitchell House), brought the two volumes of *"The Silent Sentinels of Aberdeen Proving Ground,"* which are a compilation of cemetery grave markers of the military and private cemeteries. These volumes can be important to local families who lived in the area taken over by the federal government in 1917, as well as more recent graves of military families.

THANK YOU HARFORD BANK

Thank you, goes to Chuck Jacobs, president and Harford Bank, for hosting a night at the ballpark on August 13th in their sky box for museum volunteers and supporters. We enjoyed viewing the game from such a pleasant vantage point. A good time was had by all and the IronBirds win made it even more special. It's so nice to have such a topnotch facility in Aberdeen.

KUDOS TO VOLUNTEERS

I do not know how many of you know this, but the Aberdeen Room Archives & Museum is totally staffed by volunteers. Each of which gives freely of their time and talents, and sometimes money, to keep a record of Aberdeens heritage and history for its community. I would like to thank all of them for their hard work. Volunteers make it happen and we all owe them a deep debt of gratitude for their efforts. They are people who you can count on in this busy world we live in.

Thank you; Curator, Charlotte G. Cronin; Secretary, Lilma J. Huntley; Treasurer, Jim Lindsey; Board of Directors; Charles W. Baker, George H. Baker, Genevieve Brubaker, William R. Cronin, Trudy DeForest, Ruth Duguid, Anna Duguid, Ann M. Kelly, Romaine Morris, Mary Lee Oliver and City of Aberdeen Liaison, Gina Bantam.

THE AEGIS PAYS A VISIT

Our old friend Karen Toussaint, feature reporter and writer from The Aegis newspaper, spent the morning at the museum one Thursday in August. Thank you Karen for the feature article "Aberdeen stories from long ago," it was so nice to visit and talk with you about the Aberdeen Room and tell you some of the stories that make up our displays.

OUR WINDOW DISPLAYS HAVE

A NEW LOOK FOR THE FALL

Our south window has schools as its theme with a collage of old and new views of Aberdeen High School from 1908 to 2004. Aberdeen High School Alumni had their biennial dinner on September 14th at the Bayou Restaurant in Havre de Grace, Maryland.

The north window has our canning heritage as its theme with a collage of canning labels, tokens and picture from the past. There are also tin cans reminiscent of ones sold by local canners of Aberdeen. George Washington Baker started the canning industry in Harford County, Maryland in 1867, at his family home just west of Aberdeen. His five sons also were canners as were over 180 others at one time. Canning in our area ended when F.O. Mitchell Brothers sold their label to Hanover Foods of Pennsylvania.

ABERDONIAN TO BE

HALL OF FAME TRAPSHOOTER ???

People from all over the country are becoming aware of Aberdeen's past.

On the Aberdeen Room Archives and Museum's website , historians and sports enthusiasts from afar are learning about the Aberdeen of years ago.

The most recent of such visitors, Kenny Ray Estes from New Jersey, is working to have Aberdonian Lester German named to the Trap Shooters Hall of Fame. Of course, he had come to the right place. German had been a national league baseball player from 1891 to 1897 before becoming an internationally famous trap shooter.

Trap shooting was a popular sport in Aberdeen for many years. Led by German, sports history includes the well known names of J. Smith Michael and son Calvin who was one of the leading shots in Maryland. A picture of J. Calvin Michael and daughter, Beatrice, appeared in a 1938 issue of "A Weekly Digest of Trapshooting."

The Cedar Gun Club and the sons of J. Calvin Michael established the first annual J. Calvin Michael Memorial Shoot in May of 1989.

An Aberdeen Gun Club tournament on Wednesday, July 27, 1892 showed participants: W. H. Rawhouser, George Roberts, Parker Mitchell, Herbert

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Palmer, J. D. Viridin, F.O. Mitchell, Jr., Harry Cole, Sam Sutton, B. S. Mitchell, Oscar M. Johnson, and Walter Hartzell. Chief Marshall, H. A. Raymond, and assistants, Dr. J. H. Stier and Dr. T. A. Cronin. Some of the same names appeared the following year, adding J. B. Slee and R. P. Hanway.

Setting the pace as a very early shooter, Lester German had already retired as pitcher for the Baltimore, New York Giants, and San Francisco teams in 1897, before becoming a representative for the DuPont Powder Company of Delaware.

Well established as a young sportsman, German married in 1895 and built a large Victorian home on Broadway (now N. Philadelphia Blvd.). After an illustrious career, he passed away in 1934 at age 65, and is buried in Baker's Cemetery.

The "*Sportman's Review*" of October 2, 1916 showed German on the cover - "A New World's Record for Registered Tournament Shooting made by Lester S. German with Winchester loaded Shells at the Panama Exposition." The same publication of January 4, 1913 showed Complete 1910 Professional Averages with L. S. German of Aberdeen shooting at 2360, breaking 2277, with a percentage of .9648. German's picture appeared in issue after issue of the sports reviews.

In a "*Would You Believe?*" column of 1949, "Would you believe that Lester German, of Aberdeen, Maryland, in the year 1915 during the Westy Hogan's Annual shoot at Atlantic City, broke 499 out of 500 single targets and 647 out of 650 mixed targets." This established a new world's record in this tournament class.

From the "*Trap and Field Official ATA Magazine*" of August 2002, the article "The Road to Yesterday" shows a picture of Lester German of the Parker Gun Co. with friend Neaf Apgar of the Peters Cartridge Co., at the 1933 Clarence Marshall old-timer's reunion. "The two ran tournaments together for almost 50 years but never saw each other after this day." True, because soon after the picture was taken, German was taken, German passed from his wonderful world of sports.



LESTER GERMAN

Lester German Aberdeen sportsman.

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