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ABERDEEN MUSEUM REVIEW

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

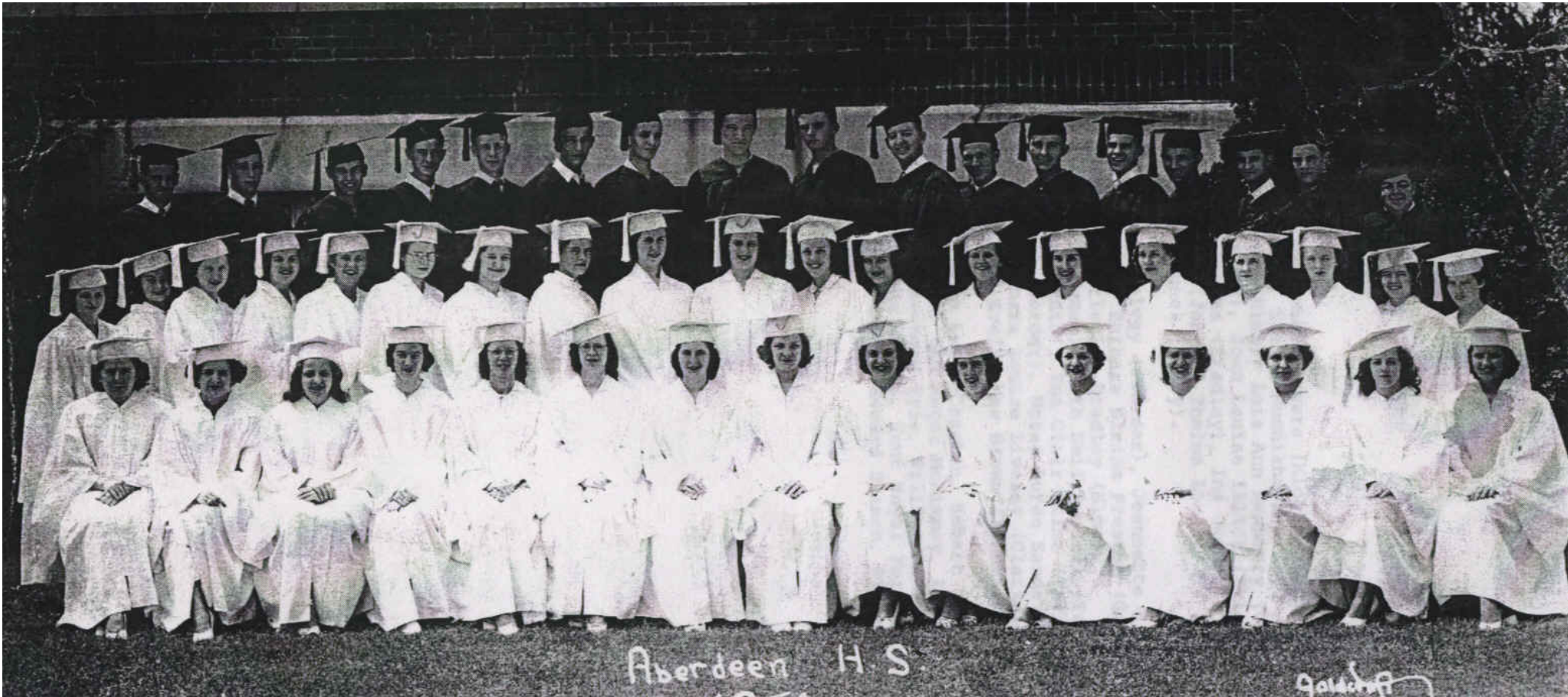
PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN IN THE  
PAST TELL MANY STORIES

When old photographs are donated to the Aberdeen Room Archives & Museum, they always tell a story. Many times, it is a story that had been forgotten. The sight of forgotten scenes and faces invariably start interesting discussions.

Talking with Louanne Munnikhuyzen Burns Ehlers at the annual banquet of the Aberdeen Fire Department, she mentioned a photo of the graduating class of 1951 from Aberdeen High School that she would like to donate. Several days later she came to visit, bearing the picture which included the faces of Louanne, Eldon Budnick, Elaine Munnikhuyzen Denbow, Wanda Denbow, Joan Daniel Tamkus, Kemp Lee McCracken, among others. Members of the class have had reunions to share memories of their days at AHS.

As we talk about the many storms we have survived this winter season, the photos from Louanne of the 1979 hurricane in Aberdeen remind everyone of a warm-weather storm that made the news.

Howard King brought in photos he had taken of parades in which has Aberdeen participated over the years. They include the 1989 Havre de Grace July 4<sup>th</sup> parade, 1986 Military Appreciation parade, the 1997 All America City parade showing the corner of Howard Street and West Bel Air Avenue with the "2131" banner on the side of the old bank building. Remember the snow of 1986? There are also photos taken in Aberdeen and at Aberdeen Proving Ground showing snow covered tanks.





**Photo of the graduating class of 1951 from AHS.**

**MUSEUM RECEIVES BOOKS  
AND COLLECTABLE MEMORIES**

Some memorable occasions come to mind when the museum receives donations.

Ron Landbeck brought the binder containing the working layout pages from the "Centennial Almanac" that was published as part of Aberdeen's Centennial celebration of 1992.

Ron later brought a scarf and headband from the Aberdeen High School Eagles that he had saved, which are now a part of the AHS display at the museum.

Jean Mears answered our request for a history of Havre de Grace with the 1947 "History of Havre de Grace" by Elias Kidwiler, published by the "Havre de Grace Record."

Selma and Sid Wise have collected many souvenirs from establishments and events in Aberdeen over the years. On her last visit, Selma brought the "Aberdeen Directory" of 1991 and "The Ordnance Corps." There is also a key case bearing the name Aberdeen Beauty Charm, 31 Howard Street, a souvenir pen from Bata Shoe Company that is patterned after a bullet.

Selma also brought with her a number of match covers, included names of Ideal Bowling Lanes, Aberdeen Cigarette and Amusement Service, Tarring Funeral Home and San Lin garden at 913 Pulaski Highway. Many pool patches from the Aberdeen Proving Ground are also among her donations.

Jeannette and George Engleson have replaced the music control boxes at the tables in the New Ideal Dinner, and donated one of the old ones to the museum to remind everyone of the "old Days."

From Tucson, Arizona, Karen Paxton Gustafson sent her copy of the "Aberdeen Centennial Almanac" from 1992, and the beautiful calendar from the same memorable event that contains many old photos obtained from the Aberdeen Room Archives and Museum.

Howard King brought a little wooden train whistle to be included in the museum rail road exhibit. Aberdeen first heard train whistles in 1831!

Jim Lindsey donated a "press metal plate" for "Goodbye No. 8" given him by Don Herrod from the "Sun" newspaper. (Of course, we recognize that to be Cal Ripken, Jr., Orioles # 8.) There is also a promotional booklet, "The Sun Now Delivers a Sunday Harford County Edition!"

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**GROUPS OF VISITORS  
ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

School and scout groups are always welcome at the Aberdeen Room. In between snow storms, Committee Member Cathy Pritts scheduled a tour for Boy Scout Troop 200 from St. Joan of Arc Church. The well informed group included Eddie Klein, Matthew Schachte, Jimmy Pritts, Daniel Oldland, Brandon Collier and Ryan Groleau.



**Pictures of Boy Scout Troop 200s visit to the Museum.**

To visit the Aberdeen Room, open hours every week are Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. However, by calling 410-273-6325, appointments can be made for any day. Visit our website at We are closed on major holidays and if schools close for snow.

**MEMORIES OF AN OLD PHARMACY**

What fond memories we have of our first pharmacy in Aberdeen, and how fortunate we are to have a part of that early establishment in the Aberdeen Room.

Dick Wilkinson recently visited and brought an antique pharmacy scale from Murray Pritchard, that was used in the E. Dell and Company Drug Store, established as a partnership in 1896.

The wooden scale, which now has a prominent place in the museum, can tell the story of how pharmacist Dr. Eugene Dell and dentist Dr. Thomas Arthur Cronin became partners and first rented a small building on the east side of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad to start the first drug store in Aberdeen.

The business grew, and in 1907 a new building was constructed at 15 West Bel Air Avenue (where Eckerds now stands). After the death of Dr. Dell in 1910, Dr. Murray Hopkins, a most amiable druggist, joined the Company in 1911, and remained until his death in 1921.

So how did the donor, Murray Pritchard, come by this wonderful piece? His mother, Mary Hopkins Pritchard, was the daughter of Dr. Hopkins and worked with her father in the drug store. She named her son after his grandfather. Before her death in the 1990s, Mary had donated pictures taken by her husband and developed in their kitchen sink in their house on the way to the newly established Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Dr. Rudolph Spang, a veterinarian and druggist, purchased the pharmacy business in 1922.

Dr. Cronin continued to keep his dental office on the second floor of the building, and will be remembered as the "first dentist" to many of us. He also helped out in the pharmacy/general supplies store/ice cream parlor on the ground floor. A long time as an important and pleasant part of the small town of Aberdeen began.

Dr. Spang passed away in 1947, and Dr. Cronin passed away in 1963. A new building was constructed in 1965, while Dr. Willard Standiford and Mrs. Mary Spang operated the drug store around the corner temporarily while construction was going on. Dr. Robert Plummer was brought in as a managing partner in 1965.

If only this scale could tell us of the many births and deaths and illnesses over the years as the faithful druggists tended to their customers!

The building constructed in 1965 is today used by Eckerd Drugs, who bought the drug store business in 2000.



E. Dell & Co. Drug Store on E. Bel Air Ave. circa 1890s.



Dr. R. Spang and Dr. T. A. Cronin are shown in front of drug store  
building on W. Bel Air Ave. circa 1920.

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#### TOURIST HOUSES

One donation tells a different story of the days before the modern motels were built to accommodate travelers who visited Aberdeen for their many purposes. From the estate of Mrs. O. P. Osborn have come ledger books bearing the names of guests to her home before, during and after World War II.

Those who have lived in Aberdeen before World War II can recall how home owners were encouraged to open their homes to families from across the country, who came to be with loved ones at Aberdeen Proving Ground, or who worked on the post. Many homes, especially those on Route 40, had "Tourist" signs in front announcing they had rooms for rent. Inside one of the ledgers is a license issued by the State of Maryland in 1947, for 21 North Philadelphia Boulevard.

Today, such establishments might be known as "bed and breakfast"?



Sketch of Ford Tourist Home circa 1940s.

Stood at 204 South Philadelphia Blvd.

#### CANNING HOUSES

Gone, but not forgotten, are the many canning businesses that abounded in Harford County. Bernard Bodt brought a copy of an advertisement from the "Havre de Grace Republican" for Foard Brothers "Whole Packed Tomatoes." Also there is an ad for Warfields Green Corn Cutter. He also brought copies of a letter from C. W. Baker and Sons to Messrs W. R. Valiant and Brothers of Bellview, Maryland - signed "Neu." Older residents will remember Richard Neu who was bookkeeper for Baker for many years. Institutions from the days of old seem never to be forgotten because of a bit of memorabilia, and a story or two. May they live on!

#### SCHOOL DAYS REMEMBERED

As we watch the construction of the new Aberdeen High School, and read of some of the concerns about height of the ceiling in the gym and the addition of a third floor for a magnate math and science academy, we remember the days of the schools that many of us, and our children, attended. Those memories are enhanced when we received copies of many of the literary publications donated by the "Printing Press." Included are copies of the "Emanon" from years 1967 through 1971. The writing and drawings from these publications also remind us of the talent displayed by AHS students over the years.



Picture of the AHS building that opened in 1952.



Sketch of the AHS building opening in 2004.

#### APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup> A SOMBER DAY

#### IN OUR NATIONS HISTORY

by Jim Lindsey

**April 15, 1865, was a somber day in our nations history. For it was on that morning President Abraham Lincoln died at 7:22 a.m., in a first floor bedroom of the Petersens Boarding House across 10<sup>th</sup> Street from Fords Theater. President Lincoln had been shot the previous night by assassin John Wilkes Booth, at 10:15 p.m. during a performance of "Our American Cousin," at the theater.**

**J. Wilkes Booth (1838-1865) was the son of Junius Brutus Booth (1796-1852) and brother of Edwin Booth (1833-1893), they were all famous American stage actors. John W. Booth was born at Tudor Hall farm east of Bel Air on May 10, 1838. He was the son of Junius Booth and Mary Ann Holmes. The family spent the summer on the farm and the winter months at the Booth townhouse on North Exeter Street in Baltimore City. John Booth attended the St. Timothy's Hall military academy in Catonsville, MD. Booth left school after the death of his father Junius in 1852. He spent several years working on the family farm. But his dream was to follow in his fathers footsteps to become a famous actor.**

**The Booth Family most likely were frequent visitors to Aberdeen, MD, where they could board the P. W. & B. Railroad train at the station and make the stagecoach connection to their Tudor Hall home east of Bel Air, their home on North Exeter Street in Baltimore, and as the starting & ending point of the many acting tours of Edwin, J. Wilkes & Junius Booth.**

Visit the Aberdeen Room display windows any time they are always changing. (Info for this article is from the Booth Room at the Harford County Historical Society)

*"See You On The Boulevard In Aberdeen"*

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