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ABERDEEN MUSEUM REVIEW

Volume 2, No. 4 August 1, 2003

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



Obverse & Reverse of Medallion

Obverse & Reverse of Medallion

STORY OF ABERDEEN

MEDALLIONS ARE HERE

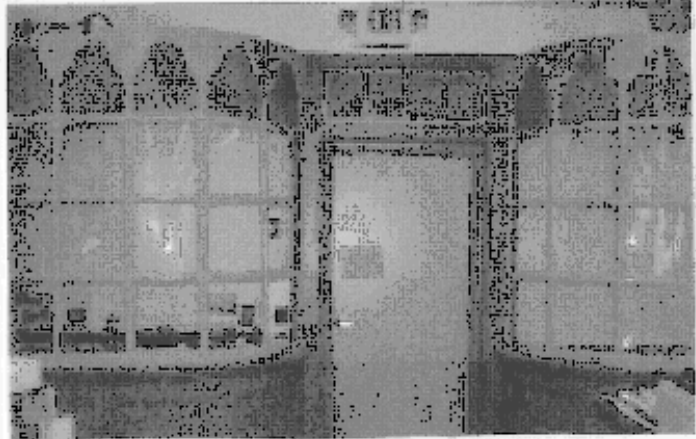
The Aberdeen Room Gift Shop has received the anticipated shipment of golden medallions bearing its seal and representative figures of Aberdeen life: canning, baseball, family history and museum doors. The Story Of Aberdeen Medallions are a limited edition of 500 medallions. For a donation of \$ 7.00, to the English Tea Room Fund you can have one for your very own. For a donation of \$ 9.00, there is a gift boxed medallion available to present to a loved one or friend. It's not too early to put a few away as stocking stuffers for Christmas.

McCORMICK SPICES MUSEUM

Exciting changes have been taking place at the Aberdeen Room. Now, as part of the ongoing English Tea Room display addition, the museum now has interior windows that will be used for expanded exhibits.

Anyone who remembers the McCormick English Tea Room at the Inner Harbor in Baltimore will be pleasantly surprised to see the front of the Old English McCormick Tea Room as part of the Aberdeen Room Archives and Museum at 18 Howard St. in Aberdeen.

Most of the early settlers in this part of Maryland were from the British Isles, so it is quite appropriate that an authentic copy that dates from the early 1900s will be used to display collections from the Aberdeen area. Capt. John Smith, himself, probably left England with tea rooms that were very similar in design.



Picture of reassembled Old English McCormick Tea Room Front

Picture of reassembled Old English McCormick Tea Room Front

McCormick and Co. is also a familiar part of Maryland life associated with its sweet smells of cinnamon and spices at its headquarters in Baltimore, and now a part of Harford County. **Gary Lindsay** and his staff distribute the McCormick spices throughout the world from Belcamp ! As for a home in Aberdeen, for many years the museum building at 18 Howard St. in Aberdeen had long been associated with good things to eat. The Aberdeen Room staff still has visitors who remember coming for gourmet deli specialties.

Through the expertise of **Jimmy Swearingen**, with helpers **Mike Smith**, **Dan Jamison** and **Marcus Walton**, the pieces of the tea room donated by **William Cronin** were installed into the interior of the museum. It is remarkable how exactly the pieces fit !

THE B&O RAILROAD COLLECTION

OF HARRY & ANNE WEBSTER

The B&O Railroad collection of **Harry and Anne Webster** has attracted much attention since it was brought to the museum for the 175th Anniversary of the B&O. A different railroad display is promised for the Christmas season - to be a part of the McCormick Spice Store front which is an eye-catching display case.

The first railroad in the United States celebrates its 175th birthday this year. The important date in transportation was 1828, the year when a most memorable image was born.

The Baltimore and Ohio, known as the Royal Blue Line because of its regally painted blue, gray and black coaches with touches of silver and gold, was truly a class act.

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THE B&O RAILROAD COLLECTION

The Royal Blue meant different things at different times, but it symbolized one thing - the B&O's regal route from New York, Philadelphia, Aberdeen, Baltimore and Washington.

For almost 70 years, the Royal Blue was B&O's show piece. Its passenger trains were the finest, and remained so until the end when it was obvious that the service was no longer financially feasible.

They are remembered fondly by all who loved trains, traveled trains, and collected models of trains.

The "line" was much more than just a passenger service. As the B&O's main line, it was a major carrier of food to Philadelphia and coal to New York.

It was the birthplace or proving ground for some of the most important innovations in 20th century railroading. Its route through Baltimore was the country's first main line electrified railroad. Its first diesel locomotive was the second diesel put into service on any American railroad.

But it was a belated birth for the Baltimore and Ohio. Although the first railroad in the country, it was the last large railroad to enter Philadelphia, and the last into New York. By then, the best locations were already taken by the Pennsylvania Railroad. What do they say - location is everything ?

Baltimore was the birthplace of the B&O. The businessmen in the Chesapeake Port City created it with the purpose of linking Baltimore with the Ohio River.

In 1858, these leaders picked John Garrett as their president, and he ruled the railroad for 26 years, and under his direction the railroad flourished. But it wasn't until the 1880s that the B&O extended east of Baltimore. By 1883, Garrett could begin work all the way from Baltimore to New York. But John Garrett died in 1884, and his son, Robert, took over the presidency, and the railroad declined under his weak leadership.

The station located on the Philadelphia Line in Aberdeen since the mid - 1880s - future is in serious question. To commemorate the 175th birthday of the railroad, the

Aberdeen Room Archives and Museum is displaying the collection of Royal Blue model trains, silverware, china and linen from Anne and Harry Webster of Aberdeen.

The collection is exciting with its model of the station, its tracks and model trains, and B&O Centennial china, silverware and linen.

The Staffordshire "flow blue" china pattern was designed for use on Royal Blue dining cars. The design generally included a central scene along the B&O ringed by a procession of historic engines.

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The Webster's have been adding to their collection for many years, and the museum is truly fortunate to be able to display it in the newly arranged Old English McCormick Tea Room front.

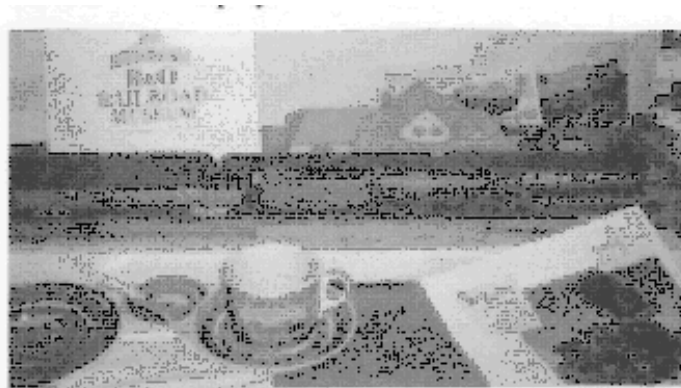
There are also copies of portraits of John Garrett and his son Robert from the "Royal Blue Line" by Herbert Harwood, Jr. there are also photos of Camden Station in 1856, and the Furness designed Queen Anne Aberdeen station as it stares blankly out at a mixture of power from the New York, Susquehanna and Western, and Norfolk and Western, heading east with a Delaware and Hudson train from Potomac to Binghamton, New York.

There are photos reminiscent of New York bound Royal Blue at Aberdeen in September of 1953, and the Capitol Limited in December of 1953.

Finally, in the display is a photo of the Royal Blue as it passes Aberdeen on the first leg of its last round trip on April 26, 1958.

For all those who hold a fond place in their hearts for trains and the Royal Blue, the welcome mat is out to see the display.

Picture of Webster B&O Train Collection



Picture of Webster B&O Train Collection

DONATIONS CONTINUE

TO FLOW IN

Aberdeen Room donations continue to flow in. **Mary Ellen Volkart** has brought ledgers from the Grace Methodist Fidelis Class at its meetings. The Fidelis Class had held its very popular "Nearly New Sale" at the church for many years.

David Strawbridge donated a framed panoramic photo of the Aberdeen Proving Ground Ordnance Training Center in the early 1950s.

Betty Boin brought newspaper clippings about Aberdeen's Gold Star Members & Mothers from *The Record* of Nov. 11, 2001. "Aberdeen Honors War Dead" from the *Harford Democrat* of June 4, 1980. Also a photo of mothers Carolyn Lerwill, Mary Fraser, Virginia Carnes; not shown were Nancy Budnick, Norma Nichols and Gladys Carty. These contributions were used in Military Appreciation displays at the museum. Continued on page 3

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DONATIONS CONTINUE

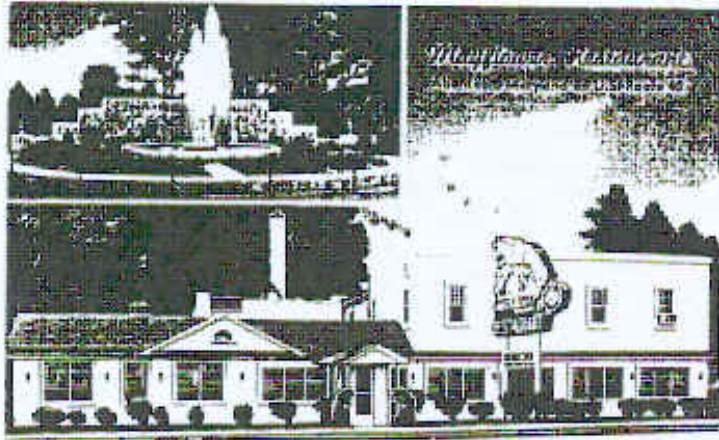
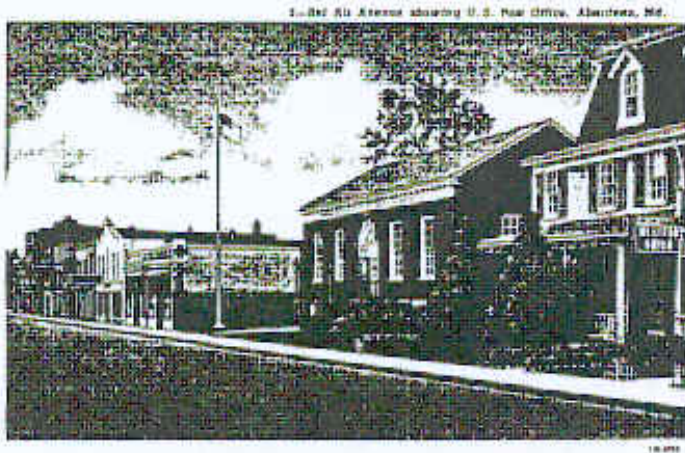
TO FLOW IN

Ray Astor brought a copy of the 2003 Korean War Veteran Appreciation Month Proclamation, as well as pins and flags for display.

Ann Kelly contributed the *2002 Annual Report of Harford Bank* that shows copies of postcards displaying the old Aberdeen Theatre, post office and interior of the Mayflower Restaurant.



ABERDEEN, MD., CORNER BAL AIR AVE. AND PHILADELPHIA BOULEVARD 24-4831



Post cards of Aberdeen Theatre, post office and
of the Mayflower Restaurant.

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Howard King brought Volume 1, No. 2 of 2003 *On Your Marc!* and other railroad publications and timetables, as well as the program from the Memorial Day ceremony May 26, 2003. **Mike Danish** contributed a color photo of the 2002 Ripken Stadium.

Now that the school year has come to a close, **Judy Hinch** brought a program from the Aberdeen High School 2003 Graduation. **Dana Showalter** and **Megan Vuncannan**, both on the AHS *Arrivederci* staff next year, brought copies of the 1991 yearbook, as well as those for 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003.

Other visitors, laden with memorabilia, included **James Eustace** with a lantern and a gold railroad spike from the Canton Railroad presented to **Charles Adkins** in 1972

when he retired from the railroad.

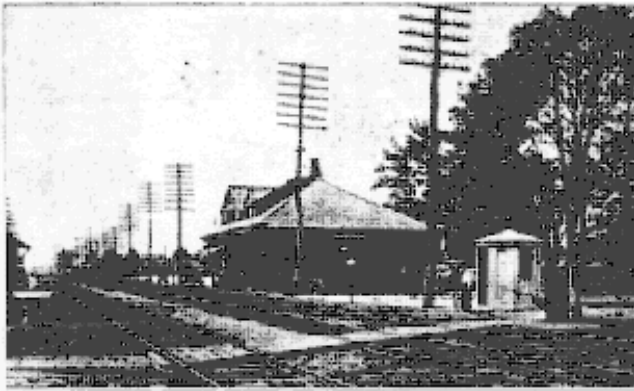
From **Nelson Bowman** at the Steppingstone Museum came 2 soldering irons that were used in the early canning industry in Harford County. Steppingstone is completing an extensive canning display, and had the extra soldering irons which they have shared with the Aberdeen Room.

Photographer **David Hodge** sent the negatives from our old personal photos he had processed for us when Bulletin # 54 for the Historical Society of Harford County was written and compiled out of the Aberdeen Room during the Centennial Year 1992. These are extremely rare photos of the early railroad crews and street scenes in Aberdeen.

Howard King brought in the new railroad rates on the Amtrak Railroad that has seen so many changes since the first rails were constructed in the 1830s. Also included are the summer schedules for the railroad.



B&O Railroad Station Aberdeen, Maryland



B&O Railroad Station Aberdeen, Maryland

WANTED STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

The Aberdeen Room Museum has student volunteer positions available to fulfill community service requirements. The museum desires students to develop presentations on areas of historic interest to include:

- **Families**
- **Houses**
- **Computer development**
- **WWII**
- **Baseball**
- **Canning**
- **Football**
- **Basketball**

Students will create a final project to be presented in front of members of the community as a lecture series sponsored by the Aberdeen Room. Students may contact the Aberdeen Room at 273 – 6325 for further information.

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