

Old Orchard Beach Historical Society

At
Harmon Museum

Newsletter

Spring 2012

Please visit us at www.harmonmuseum.org

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tel. 207-934-9319

Harmon Museum
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Editors Notes:

Greetings from the Old Orchard Beach Historical Society. This newsletter is a new endeavor for the Society, we hope that you find it interesting and informative. We start this year with great anticipation in providing a museum that reflects the yesteryear of Old Orchard Beach. The volunteers numbering between 10 to 14, are hard at work every Tuesday from 10am to 2pm putting together new displays for the coming Summer season, and assessing new additions donated to the Society. On occasion tours are given during the off season months, with advance reservations, to individuals and organizations.

This past year saw many improvements to the museum and the Staff. Mrs. Jeanne Guerin was hired as the Museum's Curator. Jeanne assumed her duties in June of 2011 and has proven to be a great addition to the Museum. She is a lifelong resident of Old Orchard Beach.

Curators Report

Statistics for summer 2011

Hours of operation: June 28th to September 3rd, 11:00am to 4:00pm

Monday thru Friday and 9:00am to 12:00pm on Saturday

Visitors: 316 Accessions: 11 Requests for searches: 9

Featured Display "Then and Now" was chaired by Priscilla Gallant.. The display featured pictures depicting Old Orchard Street, past and present.

Our weekly volunteer Tour Guides were Dan Blaney, Priscilla Gallant, Stan Quinlan, Dick Haskell and Arlene Hanson. The “On Call” Tour Guides were Jim Malloy, Arthur Guerin, Mike Vallante, Steven Nolas, Dick Haskell and Stan Quinlan.

Janet Hamilton, our Data Entry Manager, contributed many hours using her skill at the computer, entering information into and writing and submitting an application for a grant from the Maine State Archives. The purpose of the application is to purchase the “Past Perfect Accessions Program” a program used by the Saco Museum and many other museums in the State and throughout the country. The Maine State Archives approved on September 27th a grant for \$870.00 for the basic program.

Mike Vallante has volunteered his talents to install our new desktop computer and the new laptop computer. The cost of repairs to the existing desktop was not “cost effective”. The laptop computer was purchased so the volunteers could work on more than one project at a time thereby using there volunteer more effectively.

Evelyn Cooper, Faith Litwin, Rachel Theroux and Pat Walsh volunteered on Monday. Their main focus was cataloging and accessing items acquired in past years that had not been entered into the computer.

Stan Quinlan, our treasurer, used his expertise and writing skills to update many of our forms and policies used in the museum, especially in proposing updates and revisions to our Constitution and By-Laws and the Collections Policy. Stan was also our Publicity Chairman and had the opportunity to contact the area news media on many occasions during the summer season. We received excellent press with articles appearing in the Journal Tribune and The Courier.

An Accessions Committee was formed to oversee the acceptance or rejection of artifacts presented to the Society.

Off Season at the Museum

During the off season the Museum is open every Tuesday from 10:00am to 2:00pm. During this time the museum volunteers are hard at work preparing for the new season and doing work on accessions, entering data and other museum related activities.

Janet Hamilton and Rachel Theroux continue to enter data into the Past Perfect Program.

Barbara Delage our Web Master continues to update the Harmon Museum web site when needed.

Priscilla Gallant keeps track of our web mail and answers any requests received.

Betty Curry is compiling information on the churches of Old Orchard Beach for use in a book that the Society hopes to publish in the near future.

Arlene Hanson and Carol King are working on the History of the Pier, compiling pictures and articles relating to the Pier.

Evelyn Cooper and Faith Litwin are working on this summer's featured display, "Ocean Park".

The Hazard film collection purchased by the Society is being reviewed by Dan Blaney and Art Guerin. The collection has many scenes of the Hazard Shoe Co., airplane which was housed in a hangar at the site of the present Friendship Motor Inn on East Grand Avenue, the house the family built on property nearby, is known as the Snow Estate.

Members of the Biddeford Red Hat Society recently made a reservation to tour the Harmon Museum and were pleasantly surprised at what they saw. The Society does conduct tours during the off season by reservation request only.

Harmon Museum Trustees Report

This past year saw many improvements to the building. The entire shingled roof was replaced, the flat portion reroofed.

The attic storage area has been completely sheet rocked the floors covered with plywood making it easier to clean and to work on. (Thanks to Peter Flattery for installing the plywood cover floor and painting it)

The furnace was cleaned and tuned up to keep it in good working order.

Anticipated repairs and improvements for 2012:

- Paint exterior of building.

- Establish a budget for the replacement of the old single pane windows.

- Repair front entrance brick work.

- Start remodeling the stairway to 2nd floor and to replace the old plaster walls to the basement.

The Society is looking forward to 2012 with great anticipation we hope to increase our visitors to the Museum by better signage and exposure in the local media.

Please take time out of your busy schedule and come to see us. It will be a pleasure to see you and to tell you all about our Town in our beautiful Museum.

Old Orchard Beach
Historical Society

Invites you to visit



Harmon House
Museum

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www.harmonmuseum.org

OLD ORCHARD BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/TOWN

STATE

ZIP

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE IS **\$10.00** FAMILY **\$15.00**

Please make check payable to: OOB Historical Society
and mail to P.O. Box 464, Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064