

Bay Head Historical Society

Serving Bay Head, Mantoloking and Lovelandtown

P. O. Box 127, Bay Head, New Jersey 08724

Spring 2019

Dear Members and Friends of the Bay Head Historical Society,

If you pass by the Loveland Homestead during the five months that the museum has been closed, you may think that we have taken a long holiday, you would be mistaken. Our security system has been updated and much needed equipment has been installed to bring our fire alarm system up to code. Work commenced last fall with tree trimming and removal as well as new planting along our Bridge Avenue border. Now that the weather is cooperating, we will re-vamp our herb garden and plant a vegetables garden. A Pocket Project Volunteer has cleaned and identified the tools in the Dale Building and labeled them for a more comprehensive display.

Our season will open with a reception on **Sunday, June 9th**, from 3:00 to 6:00pm. **Law and Order in Old Time Bay Head** is planned to be both amusing and informative. We have read through the Borough of Bay Head Ordinances dating from November, 1887 until May, 1953 and have chosen the most unusual and interesting ones such as Bathing Attire, Hawkers and Hucksters, Firetrucks to Bicycles. Each regulation has been reproduced and will be exhibited with appropriate pictures from our collection. This exhibit will run through the fall. See the article on page 2.

Our Annual Open Membership meeting is set for **Saturday, June 29th**, at 10:00 am, at the Bay Head Borough Hall, Council Room. A brief meeting will be followed by our guest speakers Richard Handschuch and Sal Marino, authors of ***The Beach Bums Guide to the Boardwalks of New Jersey***. Something for everyone, where to go, what to see, learn some history and trivia. Books will be available. The meeting is free and open to the public.

On behalf of myself and our entire Board, we hope to see you at the Loveland Homestead Museum often during our upcoming season.

Cathie Coleman. President

Bay Head Historical Society Board of Trustees

*Catharine Coleman ~ President, Robert Klein ~ Vice President, David Kellogg ~ Treasurer,
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THE BAY HEAD BOARDWALK

The earliest mention of a boardwalk in Bay Head can be found in William Schoettle's 1966 book, *BAY HEAD 1879-1911*. He states that the earliest boardwalk, made of easily removable planks for winter storage, was destroyed by a storm in 1889, and replaced by a new permanent boardwalk. This new boardwalk, built in 1899, was the first to be included as a town ordinance.

An ordinance relating to walk on ocean front and Bulkheads on Streets

Be it enacted by the Mayor & Council of the Borough of Bayhead, that a public walk of plank or other material be laid out and constructed along the Atlantic Ocean in front of the said borough from the north line to the south line of said borough – to be ten feet in width, and Bulkheads be erected at the foot of different streets to protect same.... Approved October 5, 1889.



This wider, longer, more substantial promenade, lighted by oil lamps was built entirely with funds raised by public subscription. Luckily, it still used removable planks, because a hurricane two years later caused substantial damage.

Since the turn of the century (1900) sections of the boardwalk were repeatedly destroyed by storms and replaced by town ordinance. 1927, 1928 & 1930 ordinances replaced substantial sections at the southern end.

Storms continued to batter the boardwalk and it was repeatedly repaired. The March 1962 Northeaster destroyed most of the boardwalk and a storm in the late 1970's was the final blow. The Town Council decided that continual repairs would be too costly, and the last stretch of boardwalk, from Mount Street to Johnson Street was removed in the early 1980's.



Bay Head Boardwalk, looking north from Bridge Ave., C.1935



The last of the Bay Head Boardwalk, February 6, 1978

Visit our up-coming show, *Law and Order in Old Bay Head* where more images and information about the boardwalk will be on exhibit.

JEREMIAH (JERRY) HAYES JR. ~ AN AMERICAN HERO

This year marks 50 years since Jeremiah Michael Hayes Jr. died at the age of 22 on August 12, 1969 in Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam. A soldier and a hero.

Jerry was born in Point Pleasant Beach on July 19, 1947, to Mabel and Jeremiah Hayes, Sr. Mr. Hayes was the popular custodian at the Bay Head School and Mabel Hayes was known to pitch in with the girl's physical education. Young Jerry attended the Bay Head School through 8th grade where his class of 12 students shared a classroom with another grade. Jerry and his neighbor Ralph Pellerito became the best of friends. They spent their fun filled youth working on cars, girl watching and, of course, surfing. Jerry would take his dog "Max" a Cocker Spaniel, up to the beach and give him brief rides on his surfboard. He dreamed of owning a silver Corsair and riding the big surf in Hawaii.

Jerry attended Point Pleasant Beach High School where he is remembered by Andre Groenhoff as a gentle man who became a hero. In Andre's words; "Jerry was a classmate in high school and a member on the cross-country track team. I ran many miles by his side. Jerry was a kind and gentle soul, a real nice guy who just wanted to go to Hawaii and ride the big surf and have a good life."

After high school he attended Ocean County College and was employed by Russell & Wallace, civil engineers in Toms River. Jerry was drafted and after completing basic training and artillery training, he was sent to Vietnam in September of 1968.

Spec 5 Hayes served with the 1st Calvary Division providing artillery support for his unit from Fire Support Base "Becky". His unit, known as the "Hard Chargers", was located on a hilltop in Tay Ninh Province near the southern part of South Vietnam, near the Cambodian border. Jerry was a forward artillery observer, directing fire from a field position. This was an extremely dangerous assignment.



Jerry's running buddy from high school, Andre Groenhoff was in country, not far from Tay Ninh has provided a vivid picture of Jerry's last hours of heroism. This information is based on after- action reports from the Hard Chargers web site:

"On the night of August 11-12, 1969 Fire Support Base Becky was garrisoned by the 2nd Battalion, 8th Calvary, and A Battery, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery. The night was an unusually black one. The moon was in its dark phase that night and the sky was overcast... At 0300, of the August 12th, elements of the North Vietnam Army 95C Regiment attacked the base. It was a night made to order for the "sappers" assigned to the enemy regiment. [Note: Sappers were enemy suicide soldiers strapped with explosives who crawl into the wire perimeter and detonate themselves on order to open holes for the NVA infantry who followed on their heels]. The barefoot sappers had only made their way through the outer string of wire when they were spotted. When the bunkers opened up, the base fire elements of the NVA began pelting the base with rocket and mortar fire, followed by an assault by an estimated two companies of NVA infantry. The 0300 attack was driven back at a cost of 4 killed in action and 14 wounded in action; 7 of the wounded were from Jerry's Battalion.

Although the initial assault was driven back, a second attack, accompanied by heavy rocket, mortar and rifle propelled grenade fire began at 0340. The over 400 rockets and mortar rounds caused most of the casualties sustained by A/1/30, the enemy withdrew by daybreak but there were heavy casualties sustained with 9 men killed and 19 wounded.



One of those killed from the A/1/30 Artillery was Jeremiah “Jerry” Hayes Jr. For his actions in the attack he was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal with “V” for valor in action and the Purple Heart.”

His body was recovered and he was sent home for burial. Bay Head was shocked and bewildered by the loss of one of its own. A funeral Mass was scheduled for Friday, August 29th at Sacred Heart Church with an interment at St. Catharine’s Cemetery, Wall Township. The Mayor proclaimed a period of mourning as well as the closing Bay Head Borough offices. He asked that businesses be closed for the morning of that day. Neighboring towns were asked to fly their flags.

Commemorative plaques have been placed at the Bay Head Borough Hall and the Bay Head School which also offers a scholarship in Jerry Hayes’ name. Bay Head will not forget him.

The 30th Field Artillery ~ Hard Chargers salute Specialist Five Jeremiah M. Hayes every year with their motto “No one is forgotten. No one is left behind.”

Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it...it flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it.

Unknown

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