

HERITAGE TIMES

of the

GREATER EGG HARBOUR TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Egg Harbor Township

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Welcome to our
first Newsletter

Things are moving forward believe it or not. In case you haven't heard, we are hoping to have monthly meetings on the same day, same place, every month. If we can find the space and an open day we can lock in, we'll give it a try. This will be good for everyone.

June (Sheridan) is busy generating ideas faster than we can listen. I guess this is because she has been thinking about this for years, all the while trying to get it started while she helped out at the county historical society level. She has a lot of good ideas.

My reason for writing you is to introduce myself to you, just in case you don't know me - and to look for talent, your talent. My name is John Dilks; I'm 67 and grew up in the Bargaintown Lake area of EHT. My mother was a (Linwood) Somers and between the Somers-Dilks clans, history should have been my middle name. I had a daily dose of it, like it or not, while I was growing up. As I so often learned, many of my (great) grandparents were sea captains, farmers and businessmen, and were early settlers of the area, many in EHT. So you can see that I've always had strong ties to our area.

Some of you may be from an old family like mine, or perhaps you are more recent to our area. Never the less it's obvious that you are interested in our history and heritage or you wouldn't have signed up for some of the various committees.

Which bring me to the Talent Search.

As the head of the Publications Committee, I think it is expected that we (on the committee) will produce some things that are interesting about EHT, put them in writing and publish it in one form or another. So I am writing to all of you that I have email addresses for, asking you for your help.

Do you have any talents in creative writing, photography, art; do you like a good mystery and like digging out facts; do you have desktop publishing skills, or want to try learning this skill? Do you have editing skills? I think you see where I am going.....

Collectively we all have some creative skills or the desire to give things like this a try. Since we are a volunteer organization, I can promise you great satisfaction for trying something. And we will double your salary after every project has completed.

If you are a better finder of facts but lack writing skills, some one of us will work with you putting it together. Photography and art skills are needed. We'll need to document as many of our existing and historic homes, neighborhoods, woods, fields, and buildings, as developers come in and reshape our township. Building an archive of these will be important for society members in the future, as they write about "our times today" as the "good old days." For instance, we recently lost "Adventure Village" on the pike. Luckily we have a resident who was one of the owners, who saved memorabilia from there for us. There will be many more "Adventure Villages" lost and we need to be ready to capture their visual memories, and other items of interest.

I am a writer. I have a monthly column in a large ham radio magazine about the history of Radio. Believe me when I say, I'll never run out of things to write about. We have the same opportunity here. With a township as old and as big as ours, we will never run out of things to write about; but write we must!

How to get started?

You don't need any permission from anyone in the group to start a project, but it would be good to share what you want to, or are, doing - this is just in case someone else is doing almost the

same thing or has a good photo that would work. Then you could get together and work on it with a partner.

Getting started on a new article is always the hard part for me. I'll waste a lot of time reading and searching for more facts than I really need. I've learned over the last 8 years of writing, that keeping small items of information in tickler files (folders in my computer) makes finding them easier later on. If a shoe box works better for you, then start there. Remember to put your source (name of book or magazine and page number) with the item. Eventually I open Word on my computer and start to type.

As we all get started, we'll gravitate toward each other as needed for advice or help and some really great things should happen.



What and how will we publish?

In case you haven't visited in a while, please visit www.ehthistory.org/ and check out what's there. You will find resources and an EHT History Book that was written in 1964. Compare what was written then to the way things look today. Can you write an update? If so, please contact me and I'll include it. If you create

something unique and want a separate article on there, send it in. I'll do the web work and do my best to make it look good. Over time things will be pulled from here, and other places, and published in brochures, pamphlets, and perhaps a magazine or book.

It would really be great if we could publish a historic pamphlet that would be given to every new resident, when they move in to EHT, telling them of our proud heritage – and of course, inviting them to join us if they want. We can do this.

Another thing which is needed is a newsletter with some short stories and items of interest. As we write, we'll have plenty to pull from.

And I want to hear from you, your ideas, your questions, your suggestions. And don't forget to ask Aunt Mildred and Uncle Bob what stories they remember. Also don't forget to ask if they have any old photographs that we can copy.

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