

Sea Isle City New Jersey

A HISTORY



1964

Compliments of . .
THE SEA ISLE CITY
TERCENTENARY COMMITTEE
1964

SEA ISLE CITY NEW JERSEY

A HISTORY

Written by
WALTER M. SAWN

Compiled by
MRS. VINCENT L. LAMANNA
AND
MRS. JAMES COULTER

DEDICATION

To all who hold dear in their hearts, the Sea Isle of bygone years; to all who share in the problems and pleasures of today; and to our children, in whom, with the help of God, we place our future hopes and promises.

Price \$1.00



CHARLES KLINE LANDIS
Founder of Sea Isle City

FOREWORD

The celebration of the Tercentenary of the State of New Jersey in this year of 1964 brought forth from almost every town, city and county in the State tributes of dedication, steps of progress, histories and tales of many locales. Through its Tercentenary Committee, Sea Isle City has attempted, in this history, to pass on for posterity, its beginning, its growth and its progress through the 82 years of its existence.

The purpose of this history is, not in celebration of a certain anniversary, but rather to pause and reflect on the part played by Sea Isle City in the growth of the State of New Jersey. It is the hope of the writer and the committee that all who read it will reminisce with pleasure and be inspired to have a more definite role in the future of this charming seaside community.

THE SEA ISLE CITY TRICENTENARY COMMITTEE



In the early days, Sea Isle City was covered with cedar trees and holly, as this 1881 photo shows.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

HAPPY HUNTING GROUNDS	7
-----------------------------	---

CHAPTER II

A TOWN IS BORN	13
----------------------	----

CHAPTER III

A TOWN GROWS	23
--------------------	----

CHAPTER IV

SETBACKS AND COMEBACKS	30
------------------------------	----

CHAPTER V

NEW VISTAS	38
------------------	----

COVER

*The cover of this booklet is done
in the colors of the City of Sea Isle
City, New Jersey.*

SEAL

*The seal which appears on the back
cover of this booklet bears the date
of the year when Sea Isle City was
incorporated as a city.*

MAYORS OF SEA ISLE CITY

MARTIN WELLS	May 17, 1882-March 11, 1884
THOMAS E. LUDLAM	March 11, 1884-March 17, 1896
JOHN G. WOERTZ	March 17, 1896-October, 1896
AUGUST H. SICKLER	November 6, 1896-March 20, 1899
THOMAS E. LUDLAM	March 20, 1899-January 1, 1906
JAMES F. SHERRY	January 1, 1906-January 1, 1908
BERNARD J. QUINN	January 1, 1908-January 1, 1910
LEWIS STEINMEYER	January 1, 1910-May 20, 1913
RICHARD M. ATWATER	May 20, 1913-May 15, 1917
RICHARD W. CRONECKER	May 15, 1917-June 13, 1919
IRVING FITCH	June 13, 1919-May 13, 1925
MAURICE M. SOFRONEY	May 13, 1925-May 16, 1933
EARL M. WADDINGTON	May 16, 1933-May 18, 1937
G. FRED CRONECKER	May 18, 1937-May 15, 1945
WILLIAM A. HAFFERT, SR.	May 15, 1945-March 29, 1956
CLAUDE A. VAN HOOK	March 29, 1956-May 21, 1957
FRED D. SOFRONEY	May 21, 1957-May 16, 1961
VINCENT L. LAMANNA	May 16, 1961—

CHAPTER I

"Happy Hunting Ground"

LONG BEFORE the white man ever came to what we now know as Sea Isle City, the Leni Lenape Indians came over from the mainland and gathered shells for wampum, which was the currency of that day. Not only were they interested in gathering these shells, but we can imagine them enjoying the warmth of the sun in the cool breezes as they bathed in the ocean. Cape May County, where Sea Isle City is located, was known to King Nummy's tribe as the "Happy Hunting Ground."

"Happy Hunting Ground" to this tribe meant pleasure and all things desirable to the Indians of that day. These are here today for those who now come to enjoy the many advantages offered in this ideal family resort, both as a vacation spot and for carefree year-around living.

King Nummy and his tribe used to come down the center of the county from the north where they spent the long winters in the protection of the forest. When the snows melted and the weather warmed, they would follow the trail through the tall timber and around the cedar swamps, much like our present-day visitors from the cities and towns all over the country. The mode of travel and conditions are different, but the desire for rest and recreation are the same.

In the year 1692, Joseph Ludlam, son of Anthony Ludlam, who came over from Yorkshire, England, purchased a strip of land known as Ludlam's Island. This Island was stocked with cattle and sheep, which were brought over from the mainland for grazing. The cattle were made to swim across the waterway that separates the Island from the mainland and the sheep were brought over in boats. These animals were branded by their owners, and allowed to roam at will. Cattle were still on the Island as late as 1875, and were then owned by the Ludlams.

In those days the Island was covered with a lush growth of cedar, holly and other trees, and a variety of grasses. Much of this virgin growth was destroyed when the land was platted and graded for build-

ing lots. But as late as 1953 Professor Edgar T. Sherry, of the Botanical Laboratories of the University of Pennsylvania, made a survey of the trees, shrubs and grasses still growing in then undeveloped areas, and found that there were 125 different species, the most numerous and most beautiful of which were holly, beach plum and bayberry. (In the geological portion of this same survey, the Island was described as *"a barrier beach of relatively recent origin, not more than 20,000 years old."*)

There must have been many visitors to the Island from the ships which sailed by the coast. Muzzle-loading pistols, found buried in the sand dunes, could have been left by pirates who were either hiding or perhaps waiting to sight some hapless ship that might be worth plundering. It may be that some explorers visited the Island and even had friendly contacts with some of the Indians as they came to hunt or fish. The inlets at either end of the Island would be ideal for those early ships to slip in to evade a bad storm at sea.

There were residents on the mainland, and their names are still well known and respected, such as Corson, Ludlam and Townsend. These were hardy pioneers who carved out of an uninhabited and wild country the beginning of a prosperous and well-planned county. The Island was named after these three families—Corson's Inlet for the Corsons; Townsend's Inlet for the Townsends, and Ludlam Bay and Ludlam Beach for the Ludlams. It was Ludlam Beach that became Sea Isle City.

During the known history of Sea Isle City, there have been numerous ships wrecked off the Island. In February of 1809, Nathaniel Stites, Zebulon Stites and Humphrey Swain were hunting around Townsend's Inlet, when they found some members of the crew of the British ship, "Guatamoozin," which had grounded. The cold and hungry seamen were certain they would never be found. The three rescuers, who had built a hunting shack not too far away, took the sailors there, and then notified the residents on the mainland of the tragedy.

Many of the men from the mainland came over and helped in the rescue of the rest of the crew and in caring for them. Then the work of saving the cargo began. Much of the cargo, made up of tea and silk from China, was salvaged. The hunting shack previously mentioned was the first known building on the Island.

There were others who came to the Island in those days. There were the whalers from New England who sailed the ocean in search

*Life Saving Station No.
33. Moved from the
beachfront, it is now a
private dwelling.*



of whales—a great industry in those days. Duck hunters frequented the Island because there seemed to be an unlimited supply and they were always assured of all they could carry away. No doubt there were beach parties from the mainland on some of those beautiful summer days, especially when the weather became unbearably hot on the mainland. It isn't difficult to imagine a group of people coming over from the mainland on a summer night, when it was too hot to sleep and with a bright moon shining, for the cool ocean breezes, and to be lulled to sleep by the restful pounding of the surf.



*Life Saving Station No.
34. Remodeled, it is
still in use at Town-
send's Inlet.*

During the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, a thriving business of manufacturing salt by boiling salt water in large pots was conducted. Because of the great need of salt for the soldiers, the patriots from the mainland did all they could to help the cause of freedom. This salt-making industry was conducted at Townsend's Inlet and in the meadows in back of it.

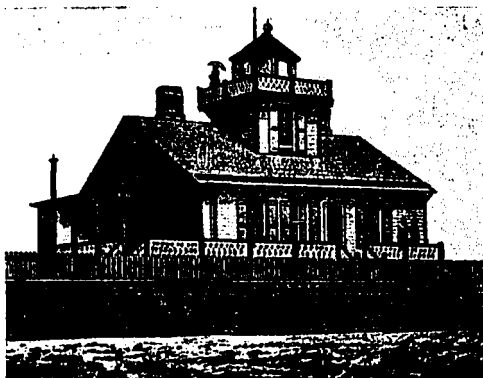
The whaling industry was later supplanted by the coastal trading vessels as a thriving business. There are records which show that it was common to see a horizon white with sails. Ships loaded with coal and all kinds of merchandise could be seen sailing north. Those returning had cargoes of ice and manufactured products. It is said that hundreds of these ships could be counted in a day.

Sailing along the coast in those days was extremely hazardous as there were no lighthouses to warn of shoals or other dangers. Storms, fog and darkness were constant threats to these ships, which sailed within sight of land. Many were wrecked. One of the largest ships to be wrecked on our beach was the brig, "Mortimer Livingston," which came ashore on what was then Ludlam's Beach. There were 300 German and French immigrants aboard, all of whom were rescued and taken to the mainland where they were cared for in homes, school houses and churches until arrangements could be made to take them to New York. The cargo consisted of oranges and lemons, which covered the beaches. Mainland residents cooked big pots of lemon potpie for the shipwrecked immigrants and sailors. The recipe for lemon potpie can be found in a Cape May County cookbook today.

The story is told of one man who was shipwrecked, taken to the mainland, liked what he saw and came back later to build a home in what is now Ocean View. The house still stands, just south of junction of the Sea Isle Boulevard and State Route 9.

Because so many ships were wrecked, the government decided to erect Life-Saving Stations No. 33 at Ludlam's Beach and No. 34 at Townsend's Inlet. These were part of a series of such stations placed every three miles along the coast. The life-saving crews, stationed on the mainland, were alerted by the firing of a gun when a shipwreck occurred. The captain and crew would rush to the Island by boat, get their equipment and go to work saving the shipwrecked sailors and salvaging what they could of the ship and cargo. There were always others who would come over and lend a hand in the rescue in whatever way they could. In those days everyone had boats or scows

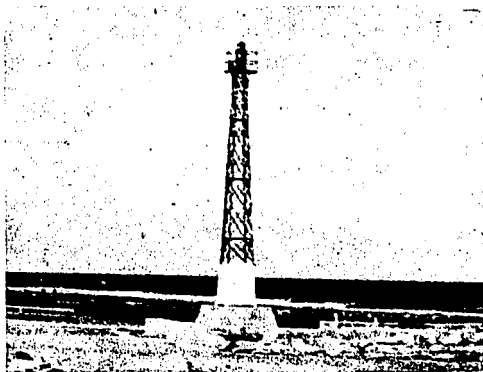
*Lighthouse built in 1885.
It was replaced in 1923
with a tall steel light
tower.*



as the sole means of transportation to and from the Island and mainland.

In 1880, the captain and crew of the life-saving stations came to live on the Island for nine months of the year. Ludlam's Beach lighthouse was erected in 1885. It was 36 feet in height above high water and could be seen for 11½ miles in clear weather. The lighthouse flashed white every 15 seconds and was of the fourth order.

This lighthouse stood until about 1923 when it was replaced with a modern steel tower to hold the light. This is still operating to guide ships at night.



*Steel light tower which
replaced the 1885 light-
house.*

Things began to happen rapidly from this time on. The Island was purchased by Charles Kline Landis in 1880. Mr. Landis had already established Vineland in adjoining Cumberland County—now the largest city in area in the State of New Jersey. Mr. Landis readily perceived the possibilities of this beautiful island by the sea. A man of vision, he saw hotels, homes, places of amusement, a city. The beauty of the island captured his imagination and he set out to make his dream come true.

CHAPTER II

A Town Is Born

THE BIRTH of a town is not an easy matter. It begins with a dream, a vision and becomes a reality only through faith, hard work and sacrifice on the part of many. The birth of Sea Isle City was no exception. Sea Isle City began as a dream in the mind of Charles K. Landis after returning from a trip to Italy. After seeing the picturesque Mediterranean towns, he was impressed with their beauty and decided to act. In 1880 he purchased Ludlam's Island, which was destined to become the second resort community in Cape May County.

Mr. Landis' dream was of a resort community, well-planned and filled with old-world beauty. Many statues were brought over from Italy and placed in appropriate places in the new community. Canals or waterways were planned, patterned after Venice, and the beautiful sloping beach to the ocean combined to make the new town potentially a thing of beauty. The canals or waterways still remain and have been improved, but all of the statues have disappeared except one. (This may still be seen on the easterly side of the home at 312 44th St.)

Someone has said, "Each age is a dream that is dying, or a dream that is coming to life." So, each succeeding generation has added something to help make this dream of Charles K. Landis come to a fuller life. It is not yet complete, but we believe that in the years to come it will have greater fulfillment through the efforts of the citizens of Sea Isle City. They can bring the founder's dream to *complete* fulfillment through honest industry, good government and the sacrifice of personal interests for the good of a bigger and better resort.

A dream without action is a dream that is dying, but Charles K. Landis was not one to sit and dream. He was a man of action. The earliest advertisements appearing in the newspapers and in brochures describing Sea Isle City reveal not only his ambitious plans for the new community, but also his ability to portray the beauty and advantages of this new resort in such a way as to attract others.

To see how quickly this dream began to be realized, the following was taken from an early map of Sea Isle City:

“It has been only a year since Sea Isle City first started, and its name is no longer a misnomer. It has been made accessible by railroad and turnpike, and hotels and cottages can be seen upon all sides, stretched along the beach for a mile, whilst numerous streets have been opened. This rapid improvement is the result of selling the lots upon improvement stipulations. These stipulations, the provisions for public and private decorations, the sanitary regulations, the magnificence of the beach and safety of the bathing, and the nearness to Philadelphia, will make Sea Isle City one of the most beautiful, attractive and successful places upon the New Jersey Coast.

“The Island is now connected with the mainland by a well-constructed turnpike, making a beautiful drive, and by the railroad now built, connected with the main line of the West Jersey Railroad, owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad, and in this way with the system of 8,000 miles of the great Pennsylvania Railroad Company.”

On May 1, 1882, two years after Mr. Landis started the new resort, the Sea Isle City Improvement Co. petitioned Jesse D. Ludlam, Freeholder of Dennis Township, and Alexander Corson, Freeholder of Upper Township, to make Sea Isle City a Borough. Election notices were posted in five places on the 5th of May of that year and a notice of this election was printed in the “Cape May County Historical Gazette” on May 6, 1882.

An election was held on May 16, 1882. On the facing page are the names of the first officials of Sea Isle and the positions they held.

The first meeting of the newly elected officials was held in the Lancaster House on May 17, 1882, with Mayor Wells presiding. William A. House was appointed Borough Solicitor and Henry Ludlam was elected Marshal.

The problems that faced the newly created Borough are common in our own day: What hours should bathing be permitted? Laws enacted to prevent animals from running at large. Ordinances to regulate the sale of spirituous and malt liquors, for the prevention of disturbances and disorderly assemblages, or indecent conduct or drunkenness, and for preserving peace and good order in the Borough limits.

On June 13, 1882, action was taken to suppress gambling houses and to provide a jail for offenders of the ordinances. The salary of the

THE FIRST OFFICIALS OF SEA ISLE CITY, NEW JERSEY

Elected May 16, 1882

MAYOR

MARTIN WELLS

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

JAMES P. WAY

ROGER DEVER

WILLIAM L. PETERSON

HUDSON LUDLAM

BOROUGH CLERK

JACOB L. PETERSON

TAX ASSESSOR

THOMAS E. LUDLAM

COLLECTOR

JAMES P. WAY

CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

WILLIAM L. PETERSON

THOMAS E. LUDLAM

SURVEYORS OF THE HIGHWAYS

ROGER DEVER

HUDSON LUDLAM

COMMISSIONERS OF APPEALS IN CASES OF TAXATION

HUDSON LUDLAM

MARTIN WELLS

JAMES P. WAY

JUDGE OF ELECTIONS

MATTHEW HAND, JR.

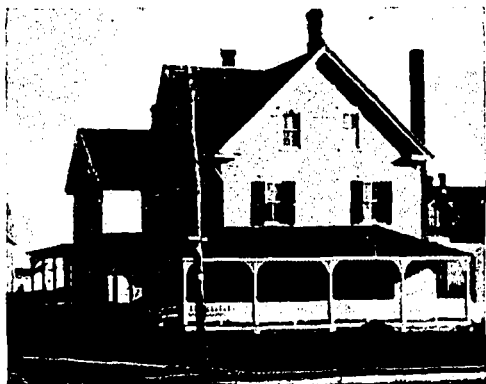
INSPECTORS OF ELECTION

ALEY HILDRETH

HENRY LUDLAM

POUND KEEPER

CHARLES HACKMAN



In the early days, school was held in this building, then known as the Dolphin House. It still stands at the corner of Landis Avenue and 49th Street.

Mayor was set at \$300 per year and the salary of the Marshal at \$60 per month.

Street lamps were to be obtained through contributions of the property owners, and the Marshal was authorized to light them at the expense of the Borough until further orders.

The first loan obtained by Sea Isle City was for \$500 in July of 1882. It was to be paid in six months at 6% interest. In August of 1882, Charles K. Landis and Henry Whelan received the exclusive

The first Sea Isle City Post Office was in this building. Remodeled a number of times, the building is at the corner of Landis Avenue and 44th Street.





The Continental Hotel was built in 1889. It was one of the largest resort hotels on the Jersey Coast.

right and privilege of installing gas or water works, or both, in the Borough on condition that the installation be completed by July 1, 1883.

At a special meeting on August 15, 1882, the Marshal was authorized to take a census of all children between the ages of 5 and 18 years of age and to organize a school district. The first school was conducted in the dining room of the old Aldine Hotel, which was located on Pleasure Ave. and Swain St. Later, the school was moved to the Dolphin House at Landis Ave. and Dolphin St. (49th).

The first Post Office was located in the building which still stands at the westerly corner of 44th St. and Landis Ave. The first Postmaster was George Whitney. One can hardly imagine how swiftly the new resort progressed—so many things were accomplished in such a short time—ordinances regulating the affairs of the community, street lamps, a jail, garbage collection and the prospect of having gas and water works on the Island.

Following its first year as a Borough, we find events taking place rather rapidly. Many hotels were built. The largest and most modern one of that day was the Continental Hotel, located at Prospect (25th) St. and the beach. It had a 220-foot front and a width of 400 feet, and



One of the early hotels was the Hotel Bellevue. It still is in operation, and has been in the Cronecker family for 78 years. Note the trolley tracks at right in this early picture.



The Busch Hotel. Used during World War II to bivouac the Coast Guard Shore Patrol, it was later gutted by fire and torn down.

Another early hotel was the Tivoli, long since abandoned and demolished.



was one of the largest hotels along the coast with the exception of some in Atlantic City. A five-story structure with giant parlors, it had the only steam-operated elevator in Cape May County. It faced the ocean and had a beautiful view of the bay from the rear. The Continental was built in 1889. It was never a financial success and, after being closed for eight years, was demolished in 1921. Some of the other hotels were the Bellevue, Surf House, Tivoli, Peterson's, Gegans, Busch's, Colonade, Lincoln, Star of the Sea, Shick's and the Gladstone.

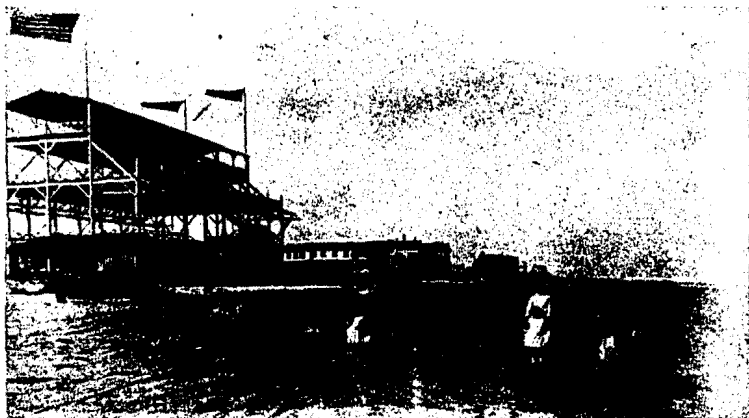
The Excursion House, built about 1882 by the Landis interests, was one of the main centers of attraction. The building was three



The Lincoln Hotel, later known as the Peterson, has now been replaced with stores.



The Depot Hotel stood at the railroad station, at about the same spot where the Sea Isle City Post Office is now located.



Built in 1882 as an open pavilion, the Excursion House was later enclosed and included a large ballroom. It was a center of social activities in the early days of Sea Isle City.

Another early hotel was the Pennsylvania. It still is in use during the summer months.



stories high with stores and a skating rink on the first floor. The second floor was open for all excursionists so they could spend the day enjoying the cool ocean breezes and have a place to eat their lunch. The building later boasted a large ballroom and a dancing school. Boxing matches were also held there. Sea Isle City also boasted an Aquarium, which was located near the Continental Hotel. It was owned by the Academy of Natural Science in Philadelphia.

The broad, flat sandy beach was the scene of many summer activities, such as bicycle races, clam bakes, sack races and even motorcycle races in later years.



One of the first hotels in the Townsend's Inlet section of Sea Isle City was the Inlett Hotel, still in use.

The advantages of Sea Isle City spread rapidly. With the coming of the railroad on July 27, 1893, when the first train ran from Winslow Junction to Sea Isle City, the future of the city was secure. With all of the natural resources and the beautiful white sloping beach, people began to make it their summer home. This trend continues today. Many who first came as vacationists now make their permanent retirement homes here.

Sea Isle City became a thriving community, well-planned and well-organized in a few short years, and has continued to grow ever since. It was and still is an ideal community in which families can spend the summer months enjoying all of the blessings of nature without so many of the frills of other resorts.



Left—St. Joseph's R. C. Church as it appeared shortly after being moved to the corner of Landis Avenue and 44th Street. The rectory adjoins. Both are still in use. Right—the original Methodist Church, built in 1883. Moved later to the corner of Landis Avenue and 45th Street, building still stands.

CHAPTER III

A Town Grows

AFTER THE FIRST YEAR, things really began to happen. The Methodist Church was founded in 1882 with an active membership, many of whom were prominent in city government and civic affairs. The Church was incorporated in 1883 after meeting for some time in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Teleford, whose home was located at what is now 110 39th St. In the year the Church was incorporated, the members began to build a church on the two lots given them by Charles K. Landis. The Church was under the supervision of the Rev. W. R. Brunyate, pastor of the Seaville Methodist Church until the Rev. Henry N. Chessman was assigned by the New Jersey Annual Conference to become the first pastor in 1884. The cornerstone of the church was laid on September 13, 1883, and it was completed and dedicated in July of 1884. In 1897, the Church was raised, a social hall was built underneath and a heating system installed. Later, because of the noise from the trains, it was decided to move it. Two lots belonging to A. H. Sickler at the southerly corner of 45th St. and Landis Ave. were purchased and the church was moved to the new location in 1905. In 1911, a parsonage was built for the sum of \$2,560. The Church continued to grow and in 1958 the congregation moved to a new and larger church, located on the southerly corner of Park Road and 41st St. The old church building was then sold to Garden State Publishing Co., and is now used to house the circulation department of that firm. The parsonage was also sold, and a new one was erected at 41st St. and Central Ave.

In 1882, the Roman Catholics of Sea Isle City were cared for by a priest who came from Millville, N. J. The services were held in a building on the east side of Route 9, in what is now Ocean View. About 1881, Charles K. Landis donated a lot on the southerly corner of 44th St. and Central Ave. to the Catholic Church. The cornerstone of this new church was laid on May 4, 1884, and the church was incorporated in August of 1884, and dedicated to St. Joseph on July 20, 1884, by Monsignor Anthony Smith, Vicar-General of the Trenton Diocese.

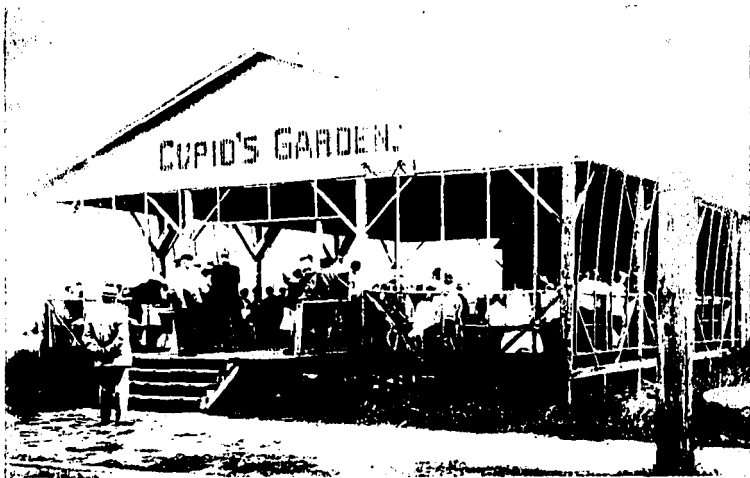
St. Joseph's Catholic Church was made an independent church on May 18, 1889, and Father Edward J. Egan became the first resident parish priest. Later, the church was removed to the northerly corner of 44th St. and Landis Ave. on a lot purchased from Charles K. Landis and was enlarged. About 1940, the church building was again enlarged and repaired as it stands today, by Father Edward Manion. St. Joseph's School was begun in 1953 and the cornerstone of the school building was laid in that year. In 1959, the cornerstone of the Auditorium, adjoining the school, was laid. Sea Isle City achieved some fame in having Father Newland, C.S.C., of Notre Dame University, to assist Monsignor Anthony Pozzi at St. Joseph's Church because it was he who discovered the process by which synthetic rubber is made.

The history of Messiah Lutheran Church in Sea Isle City dates from June 20, 1915, when the first service was held in the Excursion House. The Rev. S. D. Dougherty, D.D., preached the sermon. Regular supply preaching services were continued there until September 12 by the Rev. John T. Gillison, after which Moose Hall was used. A Sunday School was immediately organized and at a congregational meeting on October 29, the Rev. Gillison became the regularly called pastor.

In November of 1916, subscriptions opened for a building fund, and the purchase of building lots. Trustees elected by the congregation at this time were: John Gillison, Clarence Pfeiffer, C. George Cronecker, Herman Schenkel and John M. Ross.

On April 16, 1916, the congregation held a farewell service of praise and thanksgiving before leaving Moose Hall for the new house of worship on 42nd St., where Pfeiffer's warehouse now stands. The cornerstone laying and the groundbreaking of the present church on the westerly corner of 42nd and Landis Avenue, took place on August 30, 1936. Mr. Dougherty, who had preached the first sermon in the Excursion House back in 1915, delivered the sermon. The parsonage of the Lutheran Church was in the building which presently houses Pfeiffer's white goods. Later, the parsonage was built next to the church. In 1938, the church was renovated with asbestos shingles and new woodwork.

A group of Lutherans decided that there should be a Lutheran Church in Townsend's Inlet and in October of 1922, William Tullner was awarded the contract to build the Townsend's Inlet Lutheran Chapel. On Sunday, November 12, 1922, groundbreaking ceremonies took place for the Trinity Lutheran Chapel with the first spadeful being

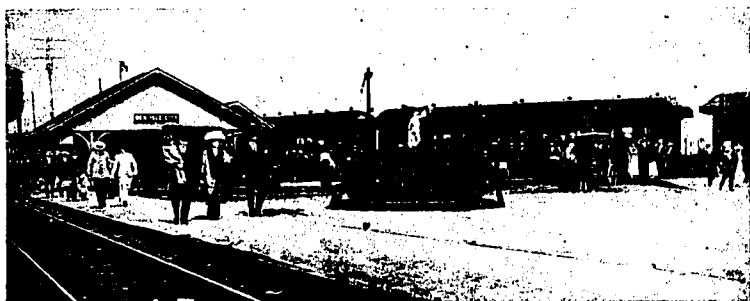


Cupid's Garden was the southerly terminus of the trolley line that ran from Corson's Inlet to Townsend's Inlet. It was a popular gathering place, after a refreshing trolley ride.

dug by the Rev. Dise, pastor of the Sea Isle City Lutheran Church. This chapel has served the people during the summer months under the supervision of the Messiah Lutheran Church in Sea Isle City since that time.

From the very beginning there has been a deep and abiding religious faith in the hearts and minds of the people of Sea Isle City. This has always been one of the factors, which in times of adversity, has been the mainstay of the citizens of this city. Tolerance and understanding has seldom excelled that found in Sea Isle City. The spirit of cooperation and helpfulness is evident on every hand. Each group has worked for the good of the community, without losing sight of its own goal.

Sea Isle City boasted a trolley line which first ran from Sea Isle City to Townsend's Inlet and later was extended the length of the Island. This line operated until 1916, when it was discontinued. At the turn of the century water, gas and electric plants were operating and prospering.



The West Jersey (Pennsylvania) R. R. station. It was a junction point for Ocean City to the north, and Stone Harbor to the south, and was a busy and popular place.

Closely following the establishment of the West Jersey Railroad into Sea Isle City, as mentioned elsewhere, the Reading Railroad followed suit, and both railroads were running excursions daily, and especially on Sunday, bringing thousands from the City during the summer months to the "Sea and Sand Vacationland." The railroad stations were perhaps the busiest places in town.

In 1907, the Boardwalk was built. It extended from 20th to 63rd St. Washed out by a severe storm in 1928, it was reconstructed in the early '30's, from 32nd to 49th St. at a cost of approximately \$30,000. The storm of 1944, which hit the Eastern coast again, washed out that Boardwalk. In 1946, it was again rebuilt and constructed on concrete piers. This Boardwalk remained until the storm of 1962, when it was destroyed. It was replaced by a beautiful promenade with a cool, attractive green coating on the black asphalt. In 1963, when the new promenade was dedicated, four new stores were built and were ready for the summer season. The promenade, which extends from 40th to 44th St., was built upon the sand dune which was pumped in by the Army Engineers as a safety measure, following the storm of 1962. This dune extends the entire length of the Island.

In 1906, Sea Isle's beautiful City Hall was built and has served the community well through the years. Because of the foresight of the administrators of that day, the building has been adequate for the operation of the city's business and has been much admired. On January 18, 1916, the new Public Library officially opened in City Hall.



This much-admired early American-type City Hall was built in 1906, and has been in daily use since.

In 1914, the present Sea Isle City Public School was built. The first public school building was located on 44th St., later known as Moose Hall, and which is now the convent for the Sisters of Mercy who teach at St. Joseph's School. It was built in 1893.

Newspapers have always played an important part in the life of Sea Isle City. At one time, in the very early days of the community, a newspaper printed in German was in circulation because many of



The first public school building, built in 1893. It later became the Moose Hall and is now the convent for the Sisters who teach in St. Joseph's School.



An early view of the Sea Isle City boardwalk, with the Women's Civic Club at the left, and the Excursion House adjoining.

the early settlers were of German extraction. The "Cape May County Times" was founded in 1884 and has continued to be published to this time. The founder of the "Times" was Alfred Cooper, of Cape May Court House. Thomas E. Ludlam, who later bought it, was editor until 1907 when he sold it to Selden Twitchell. It was sold in 1914 to William A. Haffert, Sr., who published it until it was sold to William C. Hunt, of Wildwood, N. J., in 1949. Another local newspaper was the "Sea Isle City Review," which was published by L. I. Bussey from 1908 until about 1915.

Commercial fishing has always been a main industry of Sea Isle City. Pound fishing was the first type of commercial fishing, and in later years, gave way to what is termed "dragging." There have been several companies which operated in Sea Isle City, some of which still remain. Early in the morning one can still see the fishing boats going to sea to either pull up their nets or to drag for the fish. There is also some cod fishing, done with lines and is an exciting occupation, even though it is mostly limited to cold weather. A trip to the canals along Park Road, when the fishing boats are coming in, is always a very picturesque and rewarding experience. This is also a very beautiful sight at sunset with the boats and nets silhouetted against the delicate pastel shades of the fading sun.

Other than commercial fishing, the only year-around industry that Sea Isle City has is the Garden State Publishing Co., founded in 1932 by William A. Haffert, Sr. It publishes five trade journals in the agricultural field, four of which are national and one of which serves the farmers of New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. The firm owns and operates a complete printing plant housed in a complex of buildings at 45th St. and Landis Ave., and employs 40 people in its editorial, advertising, mechanical and circulation departments. It also maintains advertising sales offices in New York and Chicago.

CHAPTER IV

Setbacks and Comebacks

MUCH HAS been said of the "Roaring Twenties" and they certainly had their effect on Sea Isle City. Following the First World War, when many restrictions were placed on pleasure fishing because of the presence of German U-boats prowling the waters close to the shore, this popular sport began with renewed vigor. Sea Isle City became well known for its fine fishing and boating.

In 1921, Sea Isle City was one of the leaders in the fishing industry. To better facilitate the transportation of fish to the markets, a refrigeration truck line between Ocean City, Sea Isle City and Philadelphia was established which made it possible for the Philadelphia markets to obtain fresh fish right from the ocean. There were seven Pounds in operation in Sea Isle City at this time.

Greater and greater crowds flocked to the resort to enjoy the bathing and the many other advantages offered. The first Baby Parade was held in August, 1916, and they have become annual affairs, attracting large crowds every year. They have always been sponsored by the Women's Civic Club.

Also, in 1921, the City bought the gas and electric utilities to provide better and more efficient service. The water works ordinance, which began on January 18, 1896, expired this same year and the water plant became city property by purchase.

With the advent of the automobile, the old trolley line was discontinued in 1916. The automobile changed the entire character of seashore resorts. The railroads began to feel the effects of people driving in their cars instead of traveling by train. Cottages or summer homes began to replace, to a large extent, the practice of vacationing in hotels. Hotels built in the heyday of the railroads were forced to close and many were demolished to save taxes.

The "Cape May County Times" records a Carnival, staged by the Young Businessmen's Association, which lasted a week in August of 1920, and featured shooting matches, fireworks displays, pie-eating

contests, and beach sports. The climax was a masque carnival dance on Friday night with a 21-piece band in the ballroom of the ocean pier.

Motorcycle races were held on the beach during the twenties, featuring bathing beauty contests which proved very popular. Sometimes, according to the newspapers, these motorcycle races had to be postponed because of fog, but the beauty or bathing suit contests went on and the fog didn't seem to dampen this part of the affair.

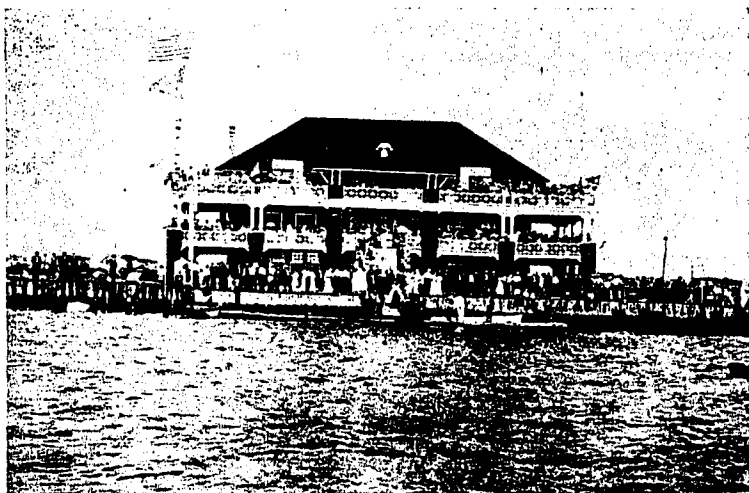
On June 7, 1924, the "Cape May County Times" reported that a Motorcycle Pageant was held in Sea Isle City with motorcycle clubs coming from six Eastern states, bringing with them 75 bathing beauties who were selected by the various clubs represented in this gala event.

A "Big Building Boom" began in 1922 as the result of an increase in advertising by the City Commissioners. In 1924 the Venician Park tract was sold to Sea Isle Realty Co. and was called Sea Isle Crest Realty Co. The newspapers list several articles telling of the building which was being done in the twenties.

The Delaware Ferry (to connect Cape May, N. J., with Lewes, Del.) had long been a dream and in 1921 an announcement was made that the Ferry Bill had passed the State Senate and that the ferry was a certainty. On May 14, 1926, the papers announced that the Cape May-Lewes ferry would be in operation by July 15. But this proved to be a dream shattered. This year of 1964 on July 1, the Cape May-Lewes Ferry really will become a reality.



Motorcycle races were popular on the Sea Isle City beach in the early 1920's. Here is a line-up, ready to take off.



Sea Isle City's first Yacht Club, built in 1910. World War 1 restrictions on boating caused it to close in 1916. It is now a private home.



The Sea Isle City Yacht Club of 1964, a center of boating and social activities.

Several times the citizens of Sea Isle City applied for a bank charter, only to have the request turned down. The persevering characteristic of the people caused them to apply again and again until finally in 1922 the charter was granted and the First National Bank of Sea Isle City was opened on Monday, December 11, 1922, at 9 a.m., with deposits totaling \$124,890.16 on the first day.

On May 20, 1924, a vote was taken to change from Commission to Councilmanic form of government for the City, but it was defeated by a great majority. Postal delivery was also established June 16 of this same year. Louis Lamanna was the first mailman and the only one for several years.

On July 9, 1924, the Cape May County Firemen's Association met at City Hall and formed a Relief Association to pay death benefits. The dues were set at \$1 a year and this is still continued. In this same year the City added two new classrooms and a heating plant to the public school, and the "Cape May County Times" was awarded a prize for the best conducted, best appearing department of country correspondence in the State.

The Sea Isle Hospital and Training School was established in 1926 at 48th St. and Pleasure Ave. for the care of backward children, nervous diseases and cared-for convalescents. This hospital was in operation until 1958, when it was closed and later sold to the Pittsburgh Sisters of Mercy for their summer home.

In 1908, yachting and boating became a very popular sport and the Sea Isle Yacht and Motor Club was organized. A Club House was erected on Sounds Ave. and it became the scene of many exciting and colorful events. The dedication ceremonies for the new clubhouse was held on July 2, 1910, beginning with a reception for Governor J. Franklin Fort and his staff with a regatta being held in the afternoon. In 1940, a new Yacht Club was organized, and the clubhouse is now located at the end of Venicean Road. The club has been active in civic affairs and has attracted many who enjoy boating and social affairs. Dances are held during the summer months and classes for instruction in swimming and life saving are held for children every summer.

A new pumping station was acquired on January 10, 1930, for the Water Department at 50th and Central Ave. to insure a better water supply for many of the residents.

During the thirties, however, the great depression which hit the entire country, seriously crippled the progress of Sea Isle City. Many

residents lost their homes through mortgage foreclosures and many others were sold for taxes. Those able to retain possession of their dwellings were unable to keep them up, so that the people became listless, discouraged and dejected. The local bank, as did many others, failed in 1932 and closed its doors.

Being located near the ocean and inland waters, and also close to farms off-shore, the people of Sea Isle could usually get sufficient to eat, but fuel, clothing and other necessities were hard to come by. However, the City of Sea Isle was saddled with a debt of \$844,000 and hundreds of properties were not yielding as much as a penny's worth of taxes. Being of a hardy nature and used to wresting their livelihood from nature, most all of the year-round inhabitants came out of the depression better in many ways for having experienced the hardships and undergone the sacrifices.

Following the dark years, came the dawn of new hope for the City. Plans were made to forge ahead and a special edition of the "Cape May County Times" in 1940 predicted a "Gala Summer Season Ahead for Sea Isle City." Sales, rentals were at the highest peak in a decade and financial conditions were greatly improved. Even the economist, Roger Babson, foretold the biggest year ever experienced by the vacation trade. The people took heart and rose to meet the new challenge of becoming a thriving community once more.

With the property values at rock bottom, people were advised to invest in buying resort homes and everyone took a new pride in their community.

There was much work to be done. Weeds had sprung up on properties and all the evidences of the depression had to be removed to make it once more an up and coming resort. The City Fathers planned to beautify the City in many ways. This met with some resistance, but the vision of the City of the future finally won out and because of these farsighted men, our community is much better because of their efforts. The City, in order to stimulate sales, offered to sell properties on the installment plan. The sewage system was put in first-class order to better serve the residents. The newspaper report states, "The disposal station has the finest and most modern equipment of any plant its size in New Jersey."

In 1940, the dream of many years finally became a reality. The Ocean Drive, a modern roadway of concrete and steel, stretching from Atlantic City to Cape May, spanned the inlets and opened up forty miles

of scenic travel along the ocean. It attracted many motorists and provided new opportunities for every resort along the route. Many years of dreams, planning and hard work had finally paid off. The entire picture for southern New Jersey resorts changed, because they now were accessible to every important highway from the north, west and south.



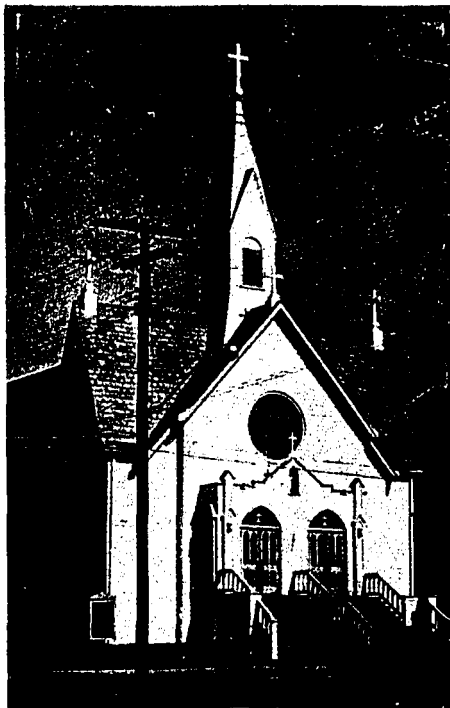
The Ocean Highway bridge that spans Townsend's Inlet is one of those which opened a new Ocean Drive from Atlantic City to Cape May in 1940.

Sea Isle City Tercentenary Committee Salutes . . .

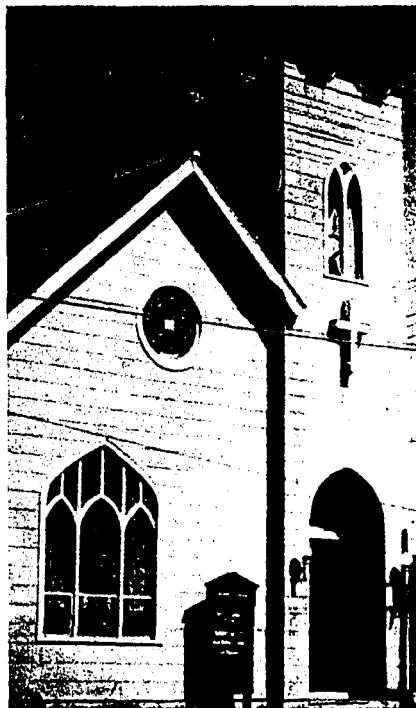
OUR CHURCHES



Methodist Episcopal Church—Rev. Walter M. Sawn, Pastor.

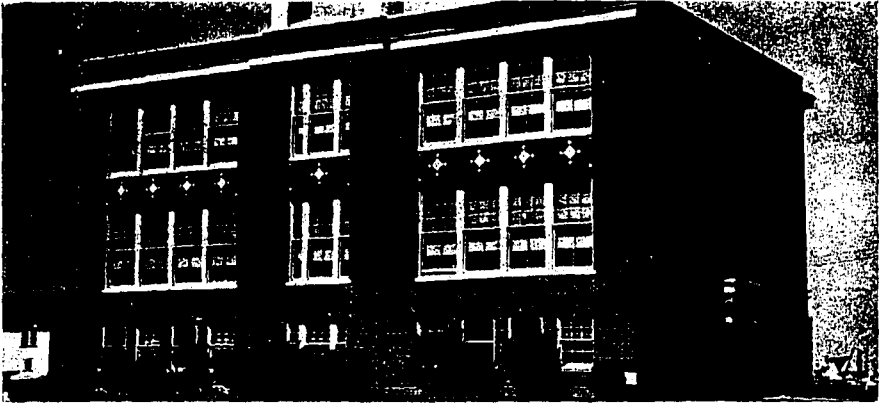


*St. Joseph's Catholic Church
Rev. Cletus V. Moran, Pastor*



*Messiah Lutheran Church
Rev. Frank Adler, Pastor*

OUR SCHOOLS



Sea Isle City Public School—Mrs. Edward Cholerton, Principal.



St. Joseph's School—Sister Marie Fidelis, Principal.

OUR HOSPITAL



Mercy Hospital—Sister M. Adrian, Administrator; Rev. James M. Melvin, Chaplain.

CHAPTER V

New Vistas

FOLLOWING the great depression and the progress made in the early forties, things looked real good for Sea Isle City. By 1950, the resort had changed completely—many new homes were being built; summer visitors were increasing each year, and more and more people were making Sea Isle City their year-round retirement home. A new bank, a branch of the National Bank of Ocean City, was opened in the former bank building which was completely remodeled. Today, the bank is known as the Cape May County National Bank.

An outdoor skating rink and basketball court was built by citizens and friends of the city on 41st St. between Landis and Central Ave. A Youth Center was opened up in the old Excursion House on the Boardwalk, which made it possible for the youth of the community to have a place where they could play games, dance and gather under adult supervision.

The Knights of Columbus organized a council and erected a building on 41st St. near Landis Ave. St. Joseph's Catholic Church built a parochial school at 45th and Central Ave. and the old school house adjoining this property became the convent for the Sisters of Mercy who staff the school. Later on, a large auditorium was erected on 45th St., which was connected to the school and is used for the Sunday services during the summer months.

Surf Hospital, which had been built by Dr. Frank A. Dealy in 1946 and had served the community in an outstanding way, was sold to the Sisters of Mercy of Merion, Pa., in 1953 and became Mercy Hospital. It is located on Landis Ave. between 58th and 59th Sts. Many improvements were made by the Sisters and through their tireless efforts, the City and the surrounding area has been served faithfully and efficiently in the healing of the body. It would be impossible to relate or evaluate the good work that Mercy Hospital has accomplished in our city.

The land south of Mercy Hospital from 60th St. to 70th St. was sold and many homes were built in this section, greatly adding to the popu-



From the old trolley car barn at Townsend's Inlet came this handsome civic center, scene of many social and civic activities.

lation and value of the city. Before too long, the remaining land between Sea Isle City and Townsend's Inlet was sold and a shopping center was built at 63rd and Landis Ave. with a large parking lot for shoppers. A swimming pool was built close by with a miniature golf course, which proved an attraction for many. This section of Sea Isle City is continuing to grow and many homes of all types are being added year after year.



Sea Isle City Shopping Center, built in 1957.

Townsend's Inlet Improvement Association provided recreation for children of the community and also catered to the adult population of the community in many ways. The repairing and renovation of the building at the end of East Landis Ave. made a very decided improvement in Townsend's Inlet. Many new homes were built in this section, adding greatly to the value and charm of the City.

New wells were drilled at 55th and 82nd Sts. to provide better water service for Townsend's Inlet and for the lower end of Sea Isle City. These wells, like the others, are drilled down over a thousand feet to tap the underground rivers that flow down from the mountains in Pennsylvania. Sea Isle City has one of the purest and most adequate water supplies along the coast.

One of the newest organizations in Sea Isle City is the Volunteer Ambulance Corps. This was established in 1957 and since then has provided the community with well-trained and efficient ambulance service. The need for such an organization was seen and the movement was sparked by the Sea Isle Rotary Club. The Ambulance Corps this year purchased a new and better ambulance, fully equipped to cope with any situation.

On March 6-8, 1962, came the "Hundred Year Storm." It was the worst in Weather Bureau history, and struck the entire East coast from Florida to Maine. Sea Isle City did not escape. Many buildings along the beachfront, some of them very old, were completely destroyed by tide and wind. Many others, especially in low-lying areas, were water damaged. Streets were filled with sand and debris. The clean-up task was tremendous. However, by the summer of 1962 almost all traces of the storm had been removed and a protective sand dune, designed and erected by the U. S. Corps of Army Engineers, had been completed along the entire beachfront. In an article in the *Atlantic City Press* (April 1, 1962), Atlantic City Weather Bureau meteorologist Stanley McGrail described the causes of this great storm in non-technical language, and added, "The odds against such a combination of sun, moon, tide, wind, pressure and waves occurring in the same manner are very great . . . fortunately this area is not plagued by the earthquakes, blizzards, river floods, tornadoes and forest fires of other sections of our country."

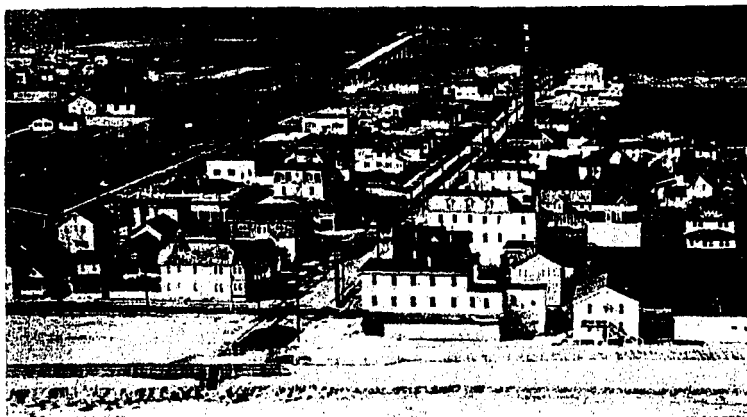
Now, after two years have gone by, this storm is only a memory. New homes have replaced the ones destroyed and damaged homes have been repaired and Sea Isle City is a bigger and better community be-



The "Hundred Year Storm," worst in Weather Bureau history, hit the Atlantic Coast from Florida to Maine in March, 1962. Sea Isle City did not escape, as this debris-strewn picture shows.



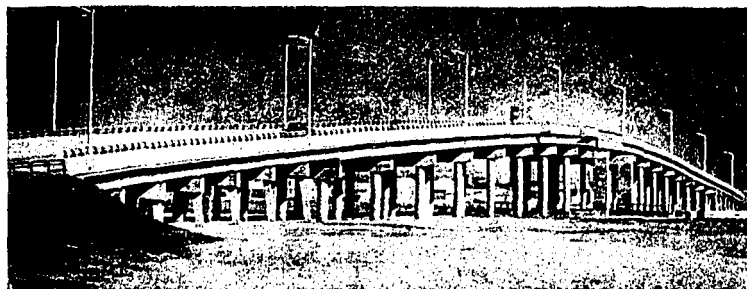
A section of Sea Isle City looking North, as it appears in 1964. The new promenade can be seen along the ocean edge. It is protected by a permanent seawall.



This aerial view of Sea Isle City's central section in 1964 shows the new bridge (background) completed in November, 1963, and formally dedicated on Memorial Day, 1964.

cause of the determination of its inhabitants. The people of Sea Isle City are now building more substantially under a strict building code, to weather whatever may come in the years ahead.

In 1963, a new \$1.7 million bridge replaced the old span over the Inland Waterway and the highway to the mainland was raised considerably to provide a means of egress in case of future storm tides. The new bridge and the wide entrance provided by 41st St. gives Sea

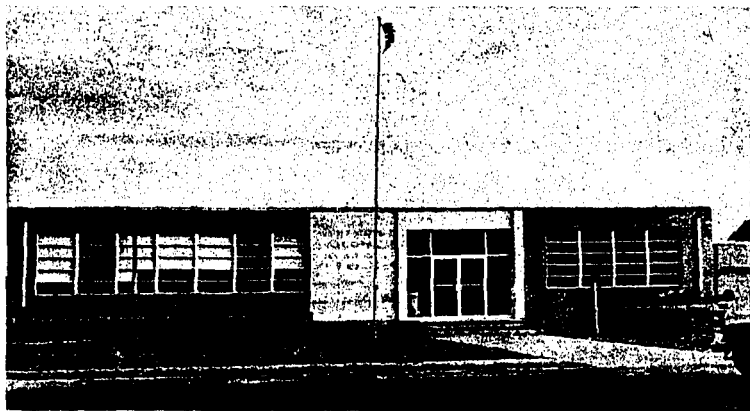


A close-up of the new \$1.7 million bridge leading from Sea Isle City to the mainland.

Isle City the most beautiful approach of any resort along the coast. This was all made possible by foresight and vision of the City Fathers years before. They knew that some day a new bridge would be built into the city and they provided just the right approach to it.

At the present time a new colonial-style building is being erected alongside the new Post Office which will house the Savings and Loan Association. Other colonial-style buildings have been erected and remodeled at 41st St. and Pleasure Ave. The Chamber of Commerce and the City are in the process of beautifying the island dividers down the center of 41st St. with shrubs and flowers which will make the entrance a beautiful one to those coming over the new bridge entering Sea Isle City.

In Sea Isle City the charm of by-gone days is tucked in between the present. As one travels through the streets there is the mixture of the hundreds of new modern homes and every so often one of the homes of yesteryear appears. There are even some of the houses which were floated to Sea Isle City from the Centennial in Philadelphia, held in 1876. One of these homes may be seen on 46th St. between Landis and Pleasure and another at 32 47th St. Some of the older buildings, such as the old Pennsylvania House, now the Pennsylvania Hotel at 40th and Pleasure Ave., may be seen. Another at 46th and Landis Ave.,



The new Sea Isle City Post Office now stands at almost the exact spot of the former railroad station, Central Avenue and 41st Street.

is the Colonnade. Even though these buildings have been changed a little, the old charm peeks through and reminds one of days long ago.

New streets have been built, grades on the streets have been raised. Future planning is considered very seriously by the Sea Isle City Planning Board organized in 1943. An efficient police force operates to protect Sea Isle City the year round. During the summer months the Beach Patrol guards bathing beaches at the most favorable portions of the beach from 38th St. to Townsend's Inlet, to insure safe bathing for all who wish to enjoy the surf. The promenade is the favorite place to take a walk in the cool of the evening after the heat of the day has waned. Boating and bathing in the back waters has always been an attraction which few can resist. The new Sea Isle City would never be recognized by those who worked and sacrificed so much to establish it long ago, but because of their vision, those who live and vacation in Sea Isle City are indebted to them for their well-planned efforts.

Memorial Day celebrations begin with patriotic services. This portion of the celebration still ends with the launching of the floral boat in the ocean—a custom which has continued through the years. The afternoon is set aside for the official opening of the summer season. In 1963, the highlight of the Memorial Day celebration was the dedication of the new ocean-front promenade, with many federal, state, county and local officials participating. In this year of 1964 the dedication of the new Inland Waterway bridge will mark the beginning of a new season and perhaps a new era for Sea Isle City.

In August, the Annual Baby Parade attracts many from all over and it is really Baby's Day. Sponsored by the Women's Civic Club, a Baby Parade Queen is crowned each year, selected by a popularity vote.

The events taking place during the summer are varied and each one has its followers. They include the Boys' League baseball games, the outdoor basketball league, the swimming races, the Life Guard Boat Races, etc.

Sea Isle City has become the family vacation resort and a place for year-around gracious living, where there is something for every member of the family. Recreation, rest, comfort and convenience may be found in abundance. Many who start coming here as vacationers, perhaps in a rented apartment or cottage, find the community so conducive to the good life that they buy or build homes. These are used for summer vacations and for occasional off-season weekends. Then,

instead of just drifting into retirement, they find themselves a vital part of the town and the way of life it offers, and owning their own homes in a community to their liking, find adjustment to retirement an easy and pleasant transition. Almost every new home built in the past 10 years is insulated and heated for year-around use if and when desired.

The Sea Isle City of 1964, developed from the 1880 dreams, hopes and ambitions of Charles K. Landis, is a growing, thriving community, with friendly, sociable, neighborly people—free of smog, dirt and noise, with an unusually pleasant year-around climate, and with every advantage offered by the larger cities, but with none of their disadvantages.



A dream come true! Some of the waterways envisioned by founder, Charles K. Landis, as they appear in 1964.

Some Views of the Sea Isle City of 1964



Sea Isle City has a magnificent bathing beach



. . . And an Olympic-size swimming pool



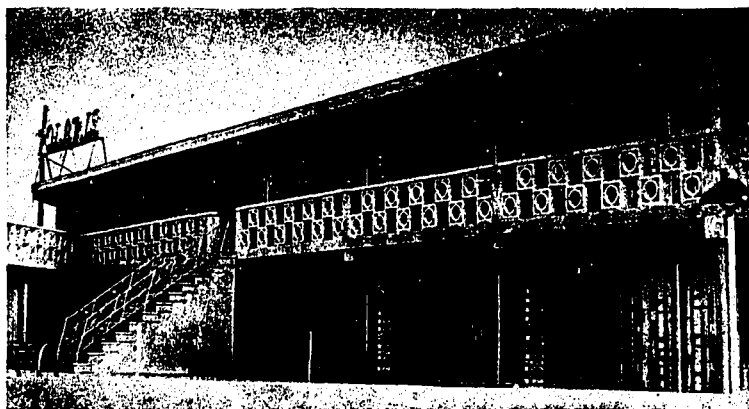
Another recent beach view (1963)



... And canals for safe harbor for boats



Townsend's Inlet, south section of Sea Isle



... And one of the fine modern motels

SEA ISLE CITY STREETS

<i>Today</i>	<i>Yesterday</i>	<i>Today</i>	<i>Yesterday</i>
1st	Polk	49th	Dolphin
2nd	Tvler	50th	Shell
3rd	Harrison	51st	Erin
4th	Van Buren	52nd	Albion
5th	Jackson	53rd	Vineland
6th	Monroe	54th	Hammonton
7th	Madison	55th	Ludlam
8th	Jefferson	56th	Prince
9th	Adams	57th	Union
10th	Washington	58th	Spring
11th	Wisconsin	59th	Knowles
12th	Virginia	60th	Spenser
13th	Missouri	61st	Cowper
14th	Florida	62nd	Williamson
15th	Ohio	63rd	Byrom
16th	Maryland	64th	Shelley
17th	New York	65th	Otway
18th	Douglass	66th	Bulwer
19th	New Jersey	67th	Bryant
20th	McClellan	68th	Burns
21st	Hancock	69th	Cowley
22nd	Pennsylvania	70th	First
23rd	Philadelphia	71st	Second
24th	Girard	72nd	Third
25th	Prospect	73rd	Fourth
26th	Devon	74th	Fifth
27th	Lansdowne	75th	Sixth
28th	Belmont	76th	Seventh
29th	Rosewood	77th	Eighth
30th	Westphalia	78th	Ninth
31st	Whelen	79th	Tenth
32nd	Elm	80th	Eleventh
33rd	Farrand	81st	Twelfth
34th	Maxham	82nd	Thirteenth
35th	Mathilda	83rd	Fourteenth
36th	House	84th	Wharf
37th	Hartson	85th	Cedar
38th	Swain	86th	Rose
39th	Garrison	87th	Storm
40th	Fritz	88th	Surf
41st	Ocean	89th	Raleigh
42nd	Italia	90th	Charleston
43rd	Paris	91st	Atlantic
44th	Minerva	92nd	Miami
45th	Ariadne	93rd	Daytona
46th	Neptune	94th	Columbia
47th	Coral	95th	Inlet
48th	Pearl		

Sea Isle City Streets

Streets running north and south parallel with the Atlantic Ocean are: Marine Place, Landis Avenue, Central Avenue, Roberts Avenue, Kneass Avenue, Cini Avenue and Park Road. Sounds Avenue and Venicean Road run diagonally.

MARINE PLACE—extends the length of the island, from 1st Street to 90th Street, and then becomes Lincoln Drive from 90th to 95th.

PLEASURE AVENUE—begins at 15th Street and continues as a paper street to 33rd Street, then continues Southward to 60th, where it takes a turn toward the ocean and is known as Pleasure Drive. It curves Westward again at 79th to 84th and then a curve toward the ocean again at 84th and on to 95th Street.

LANDIS AVENUE—is the "main" street of Sea Isle City (a county road). It begins at 1st Street and continues south to a point midway between 82nd and 83rd Streets, dividing itself into Landis Avenue and East Landis Avenue for one block, then continues to 95th Street. In the early years of Sea Isle, Landis Avenue was known as North and South Landis Avenue with the dividing line at Ocean Avenue (41st Street).

CENTRAL AVENUE—(formerly Brewster Street)—is still a paper street from 1st to 33rd, and continues southward where it ends at 84th Street.

ROBERTS STREET—begins at 49th Street and continues to 58th Street where it turns into Sounds Avenue. At 69th Street it begins again and goes on almost to 83rd Street, where it enters Sounds Avenue.

PARK ROAD—extends only from 41st Street to 49th Street.

CINI AVENUE—extends from 41st Street to 35th Street.

KNEASS STREET—extends from 49th Street to 55th Street and then again from 69th Street to 74th Street.

SOUNDS AVENUE—extends from 1st Street to 3rd Street. It begins again at 35th Street, runs in a diagonal line to 37th Street and then parallel to Kneass Street to 41st Street.

WOOD STREET—extends only from 35th Street to almost 37th Street when it enters Sounds Avenue.

VENICEAN ROAD—begins at 44th Street and Ludlam's Thorofare and runs diagonally to a point ending on Ludlam's Thorofare, forming a peninsula.

CANALS OF SEA ISLE CITY

The canals leading to Ludlam's Thorofare in the vicinity of 42nd Street to 48th Street were named by Charles K. Landis as follows:

42nd-43rd Street Canal — Rio Del Affare

43rd-44th Street Canal — Rio Del Barche

44th-45th Street Canal — Rio Del Amore

45th-46th Street Canal — Rio Delle Luna

46th-47th Street Canal — Rio Delle Stella

47th-48th Street Canal — Rio Grande

Canal on southerly side of Venicean Road — Rio Del Isole

Waters around point of peninsula (Venicean Road)—Porto Del Salute

The streets facing the above canals are known as follows:

43rd Place, 45th Place, 46th Place and 47th Place.



Getting ready for a sail—Yacht Club dock on Rio Del Amore Canal.

THE SEA ISLE CITY TRICENTENARY COMMITTEE SALUTES THE ORGANIZATIONS OF SEA ISLE CITY

American Legion

Smith-Lamanna-Revelle Post 340	Frederick Fourquarean, Commander
Auxiliary of American Legion	Mrs. Estelle Van Sant, President
Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 1963	William H. Graham, Commander
Auxiliary of V. F. W. Post 1963	Mrs. William H. Graham, President
Boy Scouts of America, Troop 76	Alfred Wagner, Scoutmaster
Cub Scouts, Troop 76	Edward Matlack, Cubmaster
Girl Scouts of America	Mrs. Richard Woolston, Leader
Brownies of the Girl Scouts	Mrs. Lawrence Champion, Leader
Parent-Teacher Association	Mrs. Hugh Tullner, President
Board of Education	Charles Maginnis, President
Women's Civic Club	Mrs. Martha Morgan, President
Rotary Club of Sea Isle City	Arthur W. Laricks, President
The Greater Sea Isle City Chamber of Commerce	Joseph Buecker, President
Friends of Mercy Hospital	Mrs. William C. Coleman, President
Auxiliary of Mercy Hospital	Mrs. John Wiggins, President
Yacht Club of Sea Isle City	Frank Myhre, Commodore
Auxiliary of Yacht Club of Sea Isle City	Mrs. Frank Myhre, President
Yacht Club of Townsend's Inlet	Raymond Parsons, Jr.
Sea Isle City Ambulance Corps	Edward Adamczyk, Corps Chief
Sea Isle City Volunteer Firemen	Willard Wright, Fire Chief
Townsend's Inlet Improvement Association	David Bruce, President
Candlelighters Club	Mrs. Claude Town, Jr., President
Methodist Men	Howard Westcott, President
Masonic Lodge	Ernest Keys, Master
Madonna Maria Council, Knights of Columbus	Harry Tracey, Grand Knight
Catholic Daughters of America	Miss Anna Schmidt, Grand Regent
Women's Guild of the Methodist Church	Mrs. Carl Lovejoy, President
Holy Name Society of St. Joseph's Church	William McClory, President
Altar and Rosary Society of St. Joseph's	Mrs. Horace J. Haffert, President
Italian-American Club	Vincent Farina, President
Order of the Eastern Star	Mrs. Mavis Roberts, Worthy Matron
Union Republican Club	William J. Mulligan, President
20-10 Club	Mrs. John Crossen, President
Women's Society of Christian Service	Mrs. Ira Hess, President
United Lutheran Church Women	Mrs. Philip Pratico, President
Sea Isle City Planning Board	Horace J. Haffert, Chairman

THE SEA ISLE CITY TERCENTENARY COMMITTEE SALUTES

RICHARD J. HUGHES
Governor of New Jersey

HARRISON A. WILLIAMS, JR.
United States Senator

CLIFFORD P. CASE
United States Senator

MILTON W. GLENN
Congressman
2nd District, New Jersey

CHARLES W. SANDMAN, JR.
President, New Jersey Senate
Senator, Cape May County

ROBERT E. KAY
Assemblyman
Rep., Cape May County

BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

LEON D. SCHUCK
Director

KENNETH HOLMSTRUP
Director, Roads and Bridges

FRANCIS TOWNSEND
Director of Finance

ANTHONY T. CATANOSA
Mayor of North Wildwood
Director of Publicity

JOSEPH W. RIXEY, JR.
Director of Welfare

ARTHUR W. LARICKS
Surrogate

A. HUPPERT HEIL
Sheriff

RICHARD ANDERSON
County Clerk

JOHN SUDAK
Coroner

JAMES A. O'NEILL
County Prosecutor

JOHN E. BOSWELL
County Solicitor

JOHN C. GIBSON
County Engineer

THE SEA ISLE CITY TERCENTENARY COMMITTEE SALUTES
THE OFFICIAL FAMILY OF SEA ISLE CITY

VINCENT L. LAMANNA
Mayor
Director of Finance

SAMUEL LUDWIG
Commissioner
Director of Public Works

DOMINIC C. RAFFA
Commissioner
Director Public Safety

FLORENCE E. JOSEPHSON
City Solicitor

DAVID BAKER
Magistrate

MARGARET MAZURIE
City Clerk

HOWARD WRIGHT
City Superintendent

HARRY TRACEY
Tax Assessor

CHARLES MIDDLETON
City Engineer

WILLIAM MAKRAI
Chief of Police

WILLARD WRIGHT
Fire Chief

LAWRENCE PETERSON
Building Inspector

JAMES L. GETTINGS
Zoning Officer

HORACE J. HAFFERT
Chairman, Planning Board

CHARLES MAGINNIS
President, Board of Education

WILLIAM WILKIN
Civil Defense Coordinator

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Our most heartfelt thanks is extended to the Reverend Walter M. Sawn for the writing of this History. We gratefully acknowledge the interest, information, pictures and moral support of all who generously assisted in the compiling of this History. If we are guilty of an omission in the following list, please forgive us.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

COUNTY LIBRARY—The Jersey Shore—3 Vol. Edition, Harold F. Wilson, Ph.D.; An Historical Tour of New Jersey, Julius Way, M.D.; The New Jersey Shore, John Cunningham.

SEA ISLE CITY—City Hall records—original minutes, old files and records. Booklets and brochures dated: 1906, 1908-1910, 1963-1964.

NEWSPAPERS—Cape May County Times (old files); Sea Isle City Review—June 2, 1909; Cape Island Historical Review—Vol. 1, No. 2; Atlantic City Press—March 29, 1959.

BOOKS AND BOOKLETS—A Book of Cape May, Albert S. Hand; Historical Cape May County; Historic Cape May County Over Ocean Drive Bridge.

PAPERS—Mrs. Richard Anderson—History written by Third and Fourth Grades of Sea Isle Public School in 1958; Mrs. Sally Horst—History of Sea Isle City.

MAPS—One of the first maps published by the Sea Isle City Improvement Co., Charles K. Landis, president, dated about 1882—sent in by Earl B. McCarthy; map of Sea Isle City dated January 1, 1890; map of Sea Isle City dated 1910.

PEOPLE—Reverend Cletus V. Moran, Pastor of St. Joseph's Church; Reverend Walter M. Sawn, Pastor of Methodist Church; Reverend Frank Adler, Pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church; Mayor Vincent L. Lamanana; Former Mayor, William A. Haffert, Sr.; Florence E. Josephson; Adolph C. Wilsey, Editor, Cape May County Times; William McMahon, State Editor, Atlantic City Press; Mrs. Ida Dever; Roger Dever; James Coulter; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Laricks; Leroy Franks; Paul Minotty; Robert McEwen; Helen Foster; Anne Dougherty; Edwina Travis; Mrs. John Mazurie, Sr.; Harriett Reardon; Elmer Peterson; David Mazzoni; Jack Wright; Fred D. Sofroney; Margaretta Pfeiffer; Sidney Sweetman; Joseph Wick.

THE SEA ISLE CITY TERCENTENARY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN

MRS. VINCENT L. LAMANNA

VICE-CHAIRMAN

MRS. HORACE J. HAFFERT

SECRETARY

MRS. JAMES COULTER

TREASURER

W. MILTON DALE

HONORARY CHAIRMAN

History Committee

WILLIAM A. HAFFERT, SR.

HISTORY COMMITTEE

MRS. JAMES COULTER, *Chairman*

MRS. ARTHUR LARICKS

ROGER DEVER

LEROY FRANKS

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

CATHERINE FEHRLE, *Chairman*

MRS. BERNARD JARGOWSKY

MRS. EMANUEL KOVACS

JOHN PFEIFFER

HISTORYMOBILE

G. B. "DAN" LIBRO

TOURS COMMITTEE

MRS. CLAUDE TOWN, JR., *Chairman*

MRS. DANIEL FAY

MRS. LAWRENCE PETERSON

YOUTH COMMITTEE

CHARLES DALRYMPLE, *Chairman*

MRS. CARL LOVEJOY

WILLIAM MCCLORY

1664



1964

FOR THREE CENTURIES—PEOPLE, PURPOSE AND PROGRESS

