



President's Newsletter – Spring 2021

2020 - a year to forget... but, hopefully, not the lessons from it!

The Museum was able to open on a reduced schedule (11-2 Mon-Sat), with Covid restrictions starting June 29th, and we maintained this schedule through Labor Day. We also opened for a single 11:00-2:00 shift Sat & Sun during September. Most of the smaller museums in Ocean County did not open at all. The Walking Tours were operated as usual since they were outside. Covid restrictions made it nearly impossible to run our other events; although we ran the Trash & Treasures in August, the Labor Day Weekend Flea Market, and the October Ghost Fest. These were events where we could have a significant portion outside. We planned for the Elves Workshop - Celebrate the Season on Thanksgiving weekend, but cancelled it because of the late fall virus surge in New Jersey.

Fisherman's Cottage: In the fall of 2019 we started the final work, and the spring 2020 Covid restrictions caught us halfway through. After Board Discussions, we realized that completing the work this year would be less expensive than interrupting it and resuming later. Work done included: *1. carpentry to add firestops, reinforce/repair floors, adjust door openings, and increase roof ventilation 2. plumbing, 3. fire sprinkler piping and sensors, 4. addition of hear/AC and ducting, 5. electric wiring, 6. insulation and 7. drywalling.* These were done by paid outside contractors supervised by Jamie Ciardelli who served as our unpaid "General Contractor". Jamie donated his time to do the trim out, and our Museum volunteers did the interior painting and floor refinishing.

All of the restoration and construction work was completed by early January 2021. We then emptied the (rented) storage POD where items for use in the cottage were stored during the work; and we have begun to relocate items from the Museum's kitchen and bedroom displays into the cottage. While setting up the displays in the cottage, we doing repairs on, and cleaning/refurbishing of the various exhibit items; many of which have been on display in the museum for 30 years. The exhibit repair and set-up costs have already exceeded \$1000, and will probably reach \$3000 including interpretive signage for the exhibits.

In Quickbooks (our accounting program) we show total Fisherman's Cottage Fun construction cash outlays of about \$230,000 from 2008 until January of 2021, and total cash donations of about \$205,000 through January 2021. The difference of about \$25,000 was supplied by general Museum funds.

The combination of reduced income activities this year, repairs from two summer windstorms with associated rain leakage, and increased Cottage expenditures, means that we had only about \$79,000 in the bank this December versus about \$111,000 last December. Any additional donations that you can make to the Museum will be helpful for our 2021 opening.

None of what we were able to do this year would have happened without our hard-core of Board Members and volunteers that manned the Admissions Desk and ran the various activities. **Thank You to all**, and especially to Jamie Ciardelli who coordinated the Fisherman's Cottage work and did all of the trim himself.

Stay Healthy, - Ron Marr

P.S.: a shout out to Daves Electric who did the wiring in the Cottage and returned a nice donation to the cottage of over \$12,000.

New Web Site: A group of 4-5 spearheaded by Helen Harvey set up a new website for the Association (You are here!). Our previous website: LBIMUSEUM.COM was abandoned by mistake and has been take up by a "Troll", who was running soft porn on it the last time that I looked. The new site: lbihistoricalmuseum.org is much more modern and will allow us to take prepaid reservations for events and to eventually sell shop items on-line.

Volunteers: Tracy Anderson will continue to be our Volunteer Coordinator this year, at least through late July, when she is expecting her first grandchild! You should hear from her later in the spring. Last year we were limited in our hours and activities because of a shortage of volunteers - please consider volunteering this year. We anticipate continuing our Covid procedures of masks, hand sanitizing and plastic counter shielding through the summer until the vaccinations are completed.