



"Work and play are words used to describe the same thing under differing conditions." ~Mark Twain



WILDWOOD by-the-sea: Nostalgia & Recipes Bowman's HEATING & COOLING

"Wildwood-By-The-Sea: Nostalgia and Recipes" is the newly published book by Anita Hirsch

In 1947, Robert Bowman came to Wildwood to establish a refrigerator sales and repair business. He had joined the Navy in 1940 and after the war, decided to come to Wildwood. He was familiar with Wildwood because during the depression, his father had brought his family to Wildwood to live for several years before moving back to Anville, Pennsylvania.

Robert met Carol Griffith at one of the "local drug store soda fountain hangouts, possibly Fitzpatrick's," and they eventually got married and started their family here. They had three children: David, Susan and Marian.

Robert worked hard and developed his business into a heating and air conditioning company. Bowman's Cooling and Heating, Inc., has been installing and servicing HVAC equipment from the same Pacific Avenue location since 1948. The original building sustained some damage during the flood of '62 and a new store front was added after that. During the flood of 1962, the store had two feet of water in it. There has only been one time since 1962 that water came into the store and that was recently during the Nor'easter that went through this past year on September 10-11, 2009.

Some of the jobs that Bowman's Cooling and Heating did over the years include some of the landmark businesses and properties of the area such as the Marine National Bank on Pacific Avenue, Groff's Restaurant on the Boardwalk, Silen's Department Store, WCMC radio station in Wildwood, and Watson's Merion Inn in Cape May.

The business has been in the Bowman family ever since Robert started it. His son, David started working in the business at an early age and eventually took over its operations in the late 1980's.

David is married to his high school sweetheart, Diane Shivers, and they have one child, a son, name Jesse. Jesse is now working with his dad in the family business.

Thank you to David and Diane Bowman who helped with the story, recipe and photos.



The Bowman's
Dave, Diane & Jesse

AMISH WET BOTTOM Shoo-fly Pie

This recipe is a favorite Pennsylvania Dutch recipe of the Anville, Pennsylvania region.

- 9 inch single prepared pie dough
- 3 tablespoons solid vegetable shortening or butter, room temperature
- 1 1/2 cups all purpose flour
- 2/3 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 3/4 cup hot water
- 3/4 cup dark molasses
- 1 egg



Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Prepare pie pastry. Using a floured rolling pin, roll pastry 2 inches larger than an inverted 9 inch pie plate. Fold pastry into quarter folds and ease into pie plate, pressing firmly against bottom and side; set aside.

In a large bowl, using a pastry blender or two knives, cut shortening or butter into flour, brown sugar, and salt until mixture is crumbled and resembles the size of small peas. Set aside.

In another bowl, add baking soda and hot water; stir until baking soda is dissolved. Add molasses and egg; beat until well blended. Pour into prepared unbaked pie shell. Trim overhanging edge of pastry 1/2 inch from rim of plate. Place the pie on a baking sheet to catch any overflow if there is any.

Gently sprinkle prepared crumb mixture evenly over top of the pie. Crumbs will partly sink and partly float.

Bake 10 minutes and then reduce temperature to 350 degrees. Bake an additional 35-40 minutes or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from oven and cool on a wire rack before serving. This pie is best served at room temperature. Yield: 8 servings



L-R: Bob Koeneke & Bob Bowman
Bob Koeneke was the President of the Marine National Bank when Bowman's did the job for them.



Marine National Bank



Above & below are photos of the original storefront before the Storm of 1962

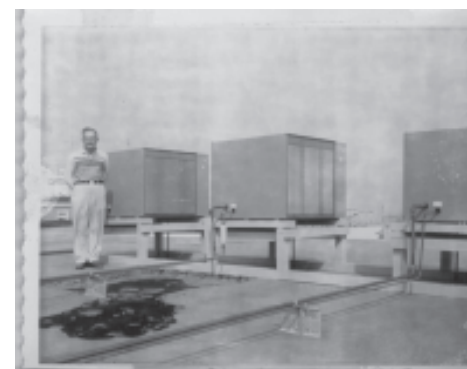


The storefront as it appears today

Photos from the Bowman Collection include many of the places on the island that the Bowman's installed air conditioning in for the very first time



Groff's, 86 years on the Wildwood boardwalk.



Al Groff by his new cooling units. 1963



Joan's Beauty The building is still there at Preston & NJ across from Suncrest Market





"If you're yearning for the good old days, just turn off the air conditioning." ~Griff Niblack



Bowman's employees
Dave James & Tom Sinex



Silen's, still a Wildwood staple



inside Marine Bank



Boardwalk information center



WCMC~ you can still tune in 1230AM
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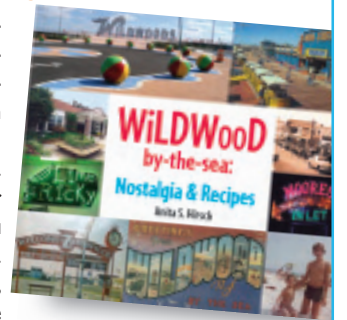
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Wildwood Memories Make the Perfect Gift!

WILDWOOD-BY-THE-SEA: NOSTALGIA AND RECIPES

the newest book by Anita Hirsch, is available now at the Wildwood and Wildwood Crest Historical Societies. This collection includes her columns which have appeared in The SUN-BY-THE-SEA, which are nostalgia-packed, lavishly illustrated with photos and includes more than fifty recipes in all. Revisit people and places that make the Wildwoods so special. Read how Wildwood-By-the-Sea came to be: stories of your favorite places with more than 250 photos that will take you back to the best times of your youth and your family vacations. Memories of the boardwalk, the beach, the ocean, the sand, sand castles, the tram car, and the food...here is your chance to revisit your favorite memories of Wildwood-By-The-Sea.



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