

# 'Hack' served as mascot for beach patrol in 1939

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Young Ed Haggerty, known to his friends as "Hack," long had a nose for business. But whatever successes he had, one of his favorite moments was being the mascot for the Cape May Beach Patrol.

Hack was born in Cape May and grew up in a house on the corner of Lafayette and Elmira streets, now an estate jewelry store. He attended Our Lady Star of the Sea School.

His father was a lieutenant in the CMBP, which gave him an immediate attachment to the city's beach patrol. His introduction to the business world began when he was 8 years old.

"My grandmother would take me out to Cape May Point and we'd pick water lilies and sell them on the corner across from the Catholic church in Cape May," he said. "When my grandmother passed away, I continued to sell the flowers every day.

"I would hitchhike out to the Point and back. I'd set

up an orange crate from the grocery store and I'd have a bucket with water in it and the water lilies like my grandmother had taught me," Haggerty continued. "At noon I would close down and go to the beach."

He said he discovered the lifeguards were hungry at the noon hour, so he purchased olive loaf lunchmeat for 16 cents per quarter pound, cheese and a loaf of bread for a nickel.

"I made them each a sandwich every day and they really connected with me then and started giving me 50 cents a week," Haggerty said.

He said his mother once asked what he was doing with all the sandwiches. "I'd said, 'I'm going on a picnic on the beach.' I wouldn't tell her I was giving them to them for free," Haggerty said.

He became the mascot for the CMBP and was given two special uniforms but went into business at a young age instead of becoming a lifeguard. Haggerty said lifeguards would

ask him to get young children out of the surf if they went in above their knees.

At the end of the summer season in 1939, the lifeguards held a banquet at Batten's restaurant in Cape May, he said. Haggerty gave a speech at the event. The lifeguards treated him with respect for his age, he said.

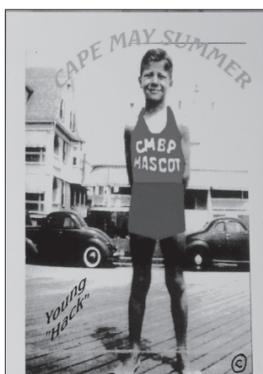
At the age of 14, he opened a hot dog stand on the corner of Beach and Patterson avenues. The property was a former golf driving range.

Haggerty said he wrote to the owners in Darby, Pa., telling them he wanted to open a hot dog stand in a shack on the property. After meeting with the owners, they told him to have his father contact them.

"I said, 'It's not my father, it's me,'" he said.

The shack lacked electricity and running water 'and Haggerty had the utilities installed' including natural gas. He said he had little competition at that end of town for the hot dogs he sold for 10 cents each.

Haggerty said he turned a profit. A meat distributor



Provided

Ed Haggerty was a beach patrol mascot but caught the business bug at an early age.

and Freihofer's Bakery delivered to his small business each day, he said.

"I bought a home freezer and put Breyers ice cream in there," Haggerty said.

At the age of 16, he looked at a shop for sale on the corner of Beach Avenue and Jackson Street for his hot dog business. The price was \$3,500. He said his father told him he was too young

to buy a building.

Hot Dog Tommy's is now one door away from that location.

Haggerty has a connection to the Star and Wave. He sold newspapers on the corner of Perry Street and Beach Drive.

"We were newspaper boys then, we'd go to the Star and Wave and get a bundle of papers and walk around and sell them," he said.

He recalls the day after the invasion of Pearl Harbor in 1941 selling a Star and Wave to Rose Furey, whose nephew was killed there. A walkway on the Washington Street Mall is named for her nephew, Edwin Hill. Later, Haggerty would open a restaurant, the Colonial, on that section of Washington Street.

After he finished high school, his younger brother took over the hot dog business and Haggerty went to electrical school in Chicago. He later attended Temple University and received a bachelor's degree in real estate and insurance in 1957. He opened a real estate

office in his home in 1961 and sold homes, motels and businesses.

At age 86, Haggerty recalls his youth with a gleam in his eye. His entrepreneurial spirit may have come from his grandmother, Sadie. He said she had a Model T Ford truck that she drove to local farms and sold dresses and dry goods to farmers' wives.

"There were no cars then for the farmers to come in to buy clothing and she would buy the clothing and sell them from farm to farm," Haggerty said.

He had a childhood wish similar to Ralphie in the perennial holiday movie "A Christmas Story." Haggerty wanted a Daisy Red Ryder BB gun.

"I saw this ad in one of the periodicals that came in the mail for a Daisy Red Ryder BB gun for \$2.49," he said. "So I sent \$2.49 and lo and behold, the mailman delivered the brand new BB gun with 500 BBs with it."

Haggerty used the gun in his backyard, but unlike Ralphie, he did not almost shoot his eye out.

## Fire destroys home

Continued from Page A1

May, Cape May Point and Cape May. McPherson said

Rio Grande Fire Company responded as a Rapid Intervention Team. Town Bank and Villas fire companies stood by to cover the island for any other calls.

Stahlhuth said ELTC houses some of its actors during the summer and that she was searching for alternate housing for the upcoming season.

"The housing cost in gen-

eral is going to be more expensive than usual, so if people can help us out with that, it would be appreciated and it is tax deductible," she said. "Of course, if anyone can take in an actor that would be great."

East Lynn's new mailing address is P.O. Box 121, Cape May, NJ 08204. Rehearsals start May 7.

Stahlhuth said some per-

sonal items were lost in the fire, some of which had been in her family for two generations. She said current files of East Lynne Theatre Company were located in New York City.

"What was lost were older files that I had not been able to send yet to the archives at Ohio State University at their request," Stahlhuth said.

A number of books and scripts were consumed by the fire. Stahlhuth said she believed the house was a total loss.

"We loved our house. The front part of it was built between 1840 and 1860," she said.

The fire spared the garage, which contained props and costumes, Stahlhuth said.

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### TIDES : April 11-18, 2018

DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
11	5:25	5:57	11:32	11:42
12	6:13	6:40		12:40
13	6:56	7:20	12:29	12:53
14	7:38	7:59	1:13	1:31
15	8:18	8:37	1:56	2:09
16	8:59	9:17	2:40	2:48
17	9:41	9:58	3:24	3:29
18	10:25	10:43	4:11	4:13

### MOON PHASES

New moon, April 16 • first quarter, April 22

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