

South

Continued from page A1

Canal was amusing to me. I've heard my own kids object to places like Camden and Trenton being referred to as South Jersey. My own daughter said when she thinks of South Jersey she doesn't really think of anything south of Middle Township. I can see her point. Living in this area almost all her life, she almost has no occasion to go to Upper Township; ergo, for practical purposes it doesn't really exist.

My oldest son gave me several answers, the first being, "South Jersey begins at the point where angry North Jerseyans start becoming rare." Then he suggested we could divide New Jersey into thirds and the lower third would be South Jersey.

I tried to see if there was something on the Internet that could help. There is a visitsouthjersey.com, but it really doesn't define South Jersey. The Courier-Post is based in Cherry Hill, and it refers to itself as "South Jersey's Newspaper." The Courier-Post covers news in Burlington, Ocean, Camden and all points south. It doesn't

even list all the counties.

I went online and learned that the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization (SJTPPO) covers the lower four counties - Salem, Cumberland, Atlantic and Cape May.

A number of people said Toms River, Exit 82 on the Garden State Parkway was probably the northern limit of South Jersey. Wikipedia said there is no specific boundary for South Jersey, but suggested anything south of Interstate 195 could be considered South Jersey. Since some consider this road as a boundary, I decided to check with the New Jersey State Police.

Bernie Haas, publisher of Cape May Magazine said. "I believe it's south of the Black Horse Pike, no, south of the New Jersey Turnpike. Some would say south of Exit 6 of the New Jersey Turnpike."

Capt. Frank Davis of the NJSP said the state police do not divide the state into geographic zones. They divide the state by coverage and that changes as resources are reduced. Currently Troop A covers much of what people consider South Jersey.

"It's more of an attitude than anything else. Some people consider the 609 area code South Jersey," Davis said.

"I was going to say Toms River. The people there refer to South Jersey as the 609 area code. They call us 609ers," Susan Tischler, editor of Cape May Magazine said. "I would say it starts at Egg Harbor Township."

Tischler said she believes there was an "Atlantic shore" element tied to South Jersey, which some southern counties lack.

Vicky Clark, president of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce said she believed South Jersey was more of a perception. Some people, she said, include Cumberland and Salem Counties as part of the Jersey Shore because they have a coastline.

"People also affiliate themselves with Philadelphia and New York, and with their sports teams," she said.

Clark said some people in the Toms River area might be bigger fans of New York sports teams, although they might be considered South Jersey.

"But South Jersey mainly includes the lower eight counties," Clark said, referring to Burlington, Ocean, Camden, Gloucester, Salem, Cumberland, Atlantic and Cape May.

Mayor Ed Mahaney of Cape said the question was too politically loaded to answer. Mayor Mike Beck of Lower Township agreed the question had political implications.

"The people in Trenton don't know South Jersey exists," he said.

John McNulty, of Bayshore Landscaping is a lifelong resident of South Jersey.

"They used to say it started at the Maurice River," he said.

"Ask him," McNulty said, pointing to Erik Simonsen.

"I went to college in Trenton, and the used to say anything north of Trenton was North Jersey and anything south of Trenton was South Jersey."

Dale Foster is the Cape May County Engineer, and he oversees all the road projects, bridge projects, and surveying in the county. Asked where South Jersey begins, Foster immediately

answered, "I subscribe to the 'Frank McCall School of Thought' on this. It starts at Mile Post 29."

Frank McCall is the Director of the Cape May County Emergency Management Communications Center, and he has a definite opinion on the matter.

"I perceive it to be just north of the Great Egg Harbor Bridge...at mile marker 28.6. And with regard to Dale Foster, who is probably better at building bridges than anyone, he should enroll in a local geography course at the end of summer. It's mile marker 28.6 not 29."

McCall said he sometimes has to travel to Trenton, Hamilton or Middlesex for meetings, and people from Sussex, Bergen and Warren Counties complain about having to drive to South Jersey to attend meetings in Trenton.

"I tell them they have to travel about another 100 miles," McCall said.

West Cape May Fire Chief Chuck McPherson grew up south of the Cape May Canal, and understands how the sign on the canal bridge came about.

"There has been a joke going around since they dug the canal. The local people (south of the canal) then called it the moat. They'd say 'We built a moat to keep them out'," McPherson said.

From then, McPherson said, people who live below the canal said they were South Jersey, and anything south of the canal was South Jersey.

"My grandfather always told me, and he never lied to me, that South Jersey began at the center of the bridge over the canal," McPherson said.

McPherson said there has always been a little joke going on through the firehouses related to North and South Jersey. He said people would ask him "Who let you off the island?" and when leaving meetings in Town Bank (Lower Township) he would call the dispatcher and say, "I'm returning to South Jersey."

McPherson said he has been teased about having to have gone to North Jersey to find a bride. His wife is from Middle Township, Cape May County.

Print

Continued from page A1

They displayed the original painting in the theater lobby when the BTF was running the business after leasing it from Frank Investments from November 2007 to the end of 2008.

Jackson said 100 high-quality copies of the vivid marquee painting are being printed right now, and should be ready this week. They will be printed 11.75 inches tall and 18 wide according to the BTF press release.

"Giving supporters this wonderful keepsake of the Beach Theatre's marquee is a big thank you for their financial support. These important donations help us with the legal costs behind our continued efforts to save Cape May's last original theater from demolition," BTF Treasurer Bernie Haas said in a press release.

According to Jackson, the BTF has already pre-sold a dozen prints and there is still a fair amount of interest. Jackson said he has already

spoken with Thomas about making a trip to Cape May for a picture signing in the near future. He said the BTF will try to find a venue for the signing once the prints arrive.

"We want to make it a photo opportunity too. That way everyone can meet Thomas," Jackson said.

He said because the marquee no longer sits atop the theater front, it makes the painting all the more special. He said the signed print would be perfect for anyone

who lives in Cape May or has a summer home here, which is how the idea came along. The prints will be sold by the BTF through the summer and Jackson said they are also trying to sell the prints in local retail shops.

Jackson said he doesn't know whatever happened to the marquee, but hopes it is still in useable condition in case the theater is saved from demolition.

"It's a piece of history," Jackson said of the marquee. "I really hope they didn't

destroy it because if the property is reacquired, we'll put it back up. It's truly one of the city's icons."

Jackson said if the marquee has been destroyed, he would want a replica made to place on top if the theater were saved. He said the painting shows the Beach Theatre marquee the way it should be, resting on top of the fully functional theater. Haas expressed his appreciation for Thomas' contribution to the cause.

"We are deeply grateful to

Clayton Thomas for his generosity in donating his painting as well as adding his signature to the frameable prints," Haas said.

The prints can be received by making an \$80 tax-deductible donation on the BTF website, which is www.beachtheatre.org. Donations can also be mailed to Beach Theatre Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 258, Cape May, NJ 08204.

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Continued from page A1
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The need continues to increase. We encourage people to donate what they can to help," Barham said.

The food pantry at the First Presbyterian Church, 500 Hughes St., Cape May, is supported by the Community Food Bank and offers its services to any residents south of the Cape May Canal.

St. Barnabas By-the-Bay Episcopal Church was not one of those agencies listed by Barham, which continues to work independently to provide food and other supplies to the needy. The St. Barnabas Cares Food Pantry is operated on Tuesdays, 6 to 7 p.m., at the Parish Hall, 13 West Bates Ave., Villas.

Seashore Community Church of the Nazarene, 446

Seashore Road, Erma, also operates a food pantry. Call the church office at 886-6196 to find out more about donating or receiving services.

The Lower Township Rescue Squad has also been operating a food pantry out of its facility on Georgia Avenue, Villas. Items can be donated at Lower Township Hall, where a blue drop-off barrel has been provided.

Items in demand are things like: Rice, peanut butter, jelly, snack items, macaroni and cheese, pancake mix, syrup, ravioli, Spaghettios, canned potatoes, pasta, cereal, canned tuna/chicken/Spam, etc., dry beans and canned fruit.

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Queen

Continued from page A1

court. Flower girls are Mia Maria D'Arco, 5, Kendra Rose Fashaw, 4, Ella Rose Felder, 4, Madeline Elizabeth Gilbert, 4, Cadence Elise Roth, 5, and Isabella April Smith, 2.

The Page Boy is Matthew Aaron Riess, 5.

The festivities are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. with the Honorable Mayor Dr. Edward J. Mahaney Jr. of historic Cape May presiding over the ceremony. Mary Stewart, deputy director of the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities is the Mistress of Ceremonies.

On Friday, Aug. 5, beginning at 11 a.m., Queen Maysea LXXXIX Kamryn Brooke Spicer and her court will be featured in Cape May's 79th Annual Baby Parade.

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