



**"Life is faith, family, friends and fun."** ~Peggy Ann Osborne

## 40 YEARS OF MAGICAL Memories by-the-Sea

BY JOSH KINNEY

From the sprawling porch of one of the last remaining guest houses on the barrier island of Ocean City, the sleek wooden floorboards of the Osborne Inn attest to countless stories and memories of deep family bonds, and not all of it is blood related.

"Girls, if you need anything give me a holler. Enjoy yourselves!" says Peggy Ann Osborne through the giant screen door on the front porch as some of her guests settle into cozy rocking chairs, peering down the street at the ocean's horizon, a cool, healing salt-air breeze whisking their faces.

Since 1974 Frank and Peggy Ann Osborne have owned and operated their beautiful guest house on the corner of 15<sup>th</sup> and Wesley Avenue. A 100-year-old home with all the amenities of 2013 and a nostalgically beach-like charm of a Grand Old Shore House, the Osborne's have maintained rich, personal friendships with many of their guests throughout their thirty nine plus years of service. However, for Frank and Peggy Ann, 'customers' wouldn't be the right word because each person who has stayed has become an integral part of their already very large natural family.

"When you think of the ocean, you think of Peggy Ann and Frank," said Camilla D'Annunzio from Allentown, Pa. Since the summer of 1980, D'Annunzio has been coming to Osborne's Inn and wouldn't think of going anywhere else; having claimed the house as her refuge by-the-sea. "You leave everything at home and yet you're still home," she said, "The hospitality and love you find here is a true gift. It's so unusual to find a place like this."

For the Osborne's, every day is a party and the best spot in the five room guest house is the porch which Peggy Ann calls 'The Great Equalizer' a place of peace, healing and relaxation. From the start

the Osborne's have always made it their goal for their home to be a family oriented atmosphere where there are no strangers but only friends they have yet to meet. Each summer the Osborne's anxiously await the arrival of their extended Ocean City family.

"The camaraderie and cohesiveness of their family makes you feel like you're a part of it, and they stop to include you in all of it," said D'Annunzio, who had gone out to dinner with her hosts the night before for her birthday. "You don't even think to say that you're going to the shore to stay at an inn and pay, you think of it as you're going to visit and stay with family." Making their way onto the giant porch after a day at the beach, families and friends stop to mingle and meet each other, swapping stories and laughs as Frank and Peggy Ann chime in.

"We absolutely love what we're doing," said Peggy Ann.

From a plot of sandy ground in 1871 owned by Francis Corson to a house owned by the Munger family in 1913, the giant seaside residence was well taken care of, especially after falling into the hands of the Osborne family in 1974. They arrived at the corner of 15th and Wesley with four children, the oldest being four years of age and the youngest being six weeks old. Peggy Ann often comments that "the days were long, but the years are short." "Where better to spend summers with your growing family than at the corner of 15th and Wesley?" Their "labor of love" has remained a cornerstone in their lives as well as the lives of their five children and fifteen grandchildren, aged 13 and under. This place of peace (at times) and happy chaos (at times) welcomes new guests who might very well become additional members of this large and fun loving crew. For almost all who visit, it's who the Osborne's are that brings them coming back.

**What are your favorite memories of Ocean City?** Do you think of Simm's, Shafto's, Bum Steer, Spence's, Campbell's, Tom Perkins, Green Grill, Copper Kettle, Mr. Townsend, Mayor Winberg or Clarence Fuhrman? How about Tito Mombo, Tony Mart's, Bay Shores and Gregory's in Somers Point? Check out our website [Osbornesinn.com](http://Osbornesinn.com) and include YOUR memories and pictures. Let's all remember the good times and help one another SMILE!



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**The Osborne Family**