

# The New Garrett County Museum of Transportation

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The Garrett County Historical Society continues to build excitement as its new transportation museum nears completion and the grand opening event draws near. Final touches on exhibit rooms and the continued acquisition of artifacts makes the museum a dream come true for Oakland and the entire mountain top community. The new facility will showcase modes of transportation used by residents from the late 1800s through the mid 20th century.

Visitors will experience two floors of exhibits. The first floor will feature carriages, sleighs, an Amish buggy, an early 1900s surrey with the “fringe on top,” a horse drawn taxi that served the Deer Park Hotel, and a representation of A. D. Naylor’s Blacksmith Shop, one of the earliest and most prominent businesses in Oakland.

The Naylor family has been part of the Oakland community for more than one hundred years and a generous donation from the Howard and Audrey Naylor Family Trust through the Community Trust Foundation enabled construction to begin in May 2010 on the new museum.

Additional first floor exhibits will include fire department artifacts and automobiles. A 1927 LaFrance fire truck will highlight the former display, while vintage and antique



**Above:** A horse drawn taxi, Omni Bus, from the Deer Park Hotel, circa 1870.



**Left:** A Civil War era doctor’s buggy, made in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania.

cars will capture the attention of automobile enthusiasts. Included in the museum’s acquisitions are a two owner 1916 Model T, a 1911 International auto, an

original condition 1950 Studebaker pickup truck, and a spectacular 1932 Chevrolet sports coupe that will be featured in the front window display area.



The second floor, called the Deep Creek Gallery, will host a variety of exhibits documenting the history of Deep Creek Lake and nearby Maryland State Parks of Harrington Manor, Swallow Falls, New Germany, and Deep Creek. One of the most unusual artifacts in the gallery is a replica of the African Queen, a steam boat made famous in the 1951 movie starring Humphrey Bogart and Katherine Hepburn. The smaller scale boat, dubbed the “Turkey Neck Queen,” was actively used on Deep Creek Lake by the Charles H. McIntire family.

The Number 4 Flying Scot, an original Garrett County sailboat produced by the Gordon Douglass Boat Company in the 1950s, has been donated by W. Clark Ashby of Carbondale, Illinois.

Charles “Skeeter” Bowman, former owner of Bowman’s Marina in McHenry, Maryland, recently donated another unique item — Garrett County’s first snowmobile dating from the 1960s. The early model, dubbed the Fox Trac, is easily distinguished from contemporary snowmobiles by its unusual design.

Another Garrett County resident and avid collector will donate seven toy Model T Fords produced by Buddy L. Buddy L toys, known for their sturdy construction and play value, attracted a devoted following during the 1920s-1930s and continue to have a unique appeal to children and adults. The Garrett County collector’s donation will create the largest public display of Buddy L toys in western Maryland.



**Top: The new Garrett County Museum of Transportation on 107 South Second Street in downtown Oakland.**

**Above: Buddy L toys – the popular steel toys that rolled off the assembly line in the early 1920s – will be a part of the new museum.**

The gallery’s large displays are augmented by a collection of Deep Creek Lake memorabilia dating back to the early days of the recreational area. Long time visitors to Garrett County will enjoy reminiscing about businesses and events that built the lake into a regional vacation land. Educational programming is also planned for a community room in the gallery; a media ready room will host lectures, presentations, meetings and other events.

Bob Boal, President of the Garrett County Historical Society, expects major work to be completed by late spring and a planned opening summer of 2011. He also notes that the current Garrett County Museum, located at 107 South Second Street in downtown Oakland, will be maintained by the historical society and the hours of both facilities will be the same. The new Garrett County Historical Society Museum of Transportation is located along Liberty Street in downtown Oakland, across from the beautiful 1884 Baltimore and Ohio Railroad train station.