



Group in Front of McMakins Atlantic Hotel in the 1880's.

was built. By 1830 there were six boarding houses, three of them very large, to accomodate the increasing summer population.

Bathing suits in those days were strange collections of old clothes which were carried to the Cape in carpet bags. Shoes and stockings were worn to protect feet from pebbles and shells. Later a regular bathing suit was designed with long sleeves, and skirts, pantaloons with ruffles, and draw strings at the neck, wrist and ankles.

By 1850 Cape May was on its way to becoming the leading summer resort in the country. A steamboat made the trip from Philadelphia in half a day. Each spring the natives set out the pier at which the boat tied up, and each fall they took it apart and stored it because of the winter storms.

Among the famous political men who came to the resort at this time was Henry Clay. He was so popular that at one time a group of women admirers chased him along the beach and cut off locks of his hair as souvenirs.

The building of the West Jersey Railroad from Philadelphia to the Cape in