

Carr's Beach the Musicians and the DJ

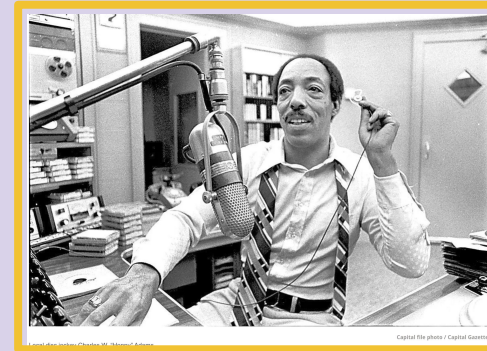


*DJ Hoppy Adams
Carr's Beach*

"The Beach" then and now united people. It was ours in a land and a time that tried its best to deprive us and keep us "in our place." When you talk to people today about The Beach, they can't stop talking. You see in their faces and hear in their voices ..**GOOD TIMES.. PRIDE... A SENSE OF BELONGING.** "The Beach" was sacred ground.

carrsbeach.com

*DJ Hoppy Adams
WANN*



The entertainment venue called **Carr's Beach** was founded in 1926 by the family of a formerly enslaved Black farmer named **Frederick Carr**. Carr had originally purchased 180 acres of farmland on the Chesapeake Bay at the mouth of the Severn River in 1902.

To find a venue where talented Black performers could present their music was challenging in the segregated era of the 1940s-1960s. The musicians looked for very special locations facilitated by very special hosts. In 1947, **Charles W. "Hoppy" Adams** was hired as a disc jockey (d.j., deejay) at Annapolis based WANN radio station. Carr's Beach, on the banks of the Chesapeake Bay near Annapolis, was one venue where Hoppy Adams could broadcast WANN live, showcasing the skills of Black musicians. The available venues for music may have been mostly segregated in the 1940s-1960s, but radio could reach all people. Black deejays played an indispensable role in the success of Black radio as it promoted Black culture and music.



photo credits: Maryland State Archives

***Ella Fitzgerald
Carr's Beach***

Hoppy Adams and James Brown at Carr's Beach Auditorium. These images are a part of the Smithsonian National Museum of American Archives collection titled "WANN Radio Station Records."



photo credit: National Museum of American History, Archives Center

James Brown and Hoppy Adams Carr's Beach

The Sunday afternoon concerts hosted by Adams featured artists including:
Ella Fitzgerald, Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles, Otis Redding, Chuck Berry, Ike and Tina Turner, Jackie Wilson, James Brown, Little Richard, the Shirelles, Billie Holiday, the Drifters, the Temptations, the Coasters and Stevie Wonder.
To underline the significance of Carr's Beach, Adams and the performers, the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History has a permanent exhibit honoring WANN, Adams and the musicians of Carr's Beach. In 2022, the leaders of a coalition of public and private organizations near Annapolis banded together to purchase the remaining undeveloped five acres of the waterfront property. The group has established a park there to honor the site's heritage.

Additional credits: <https://hoppyadams.org/photo-gallery/>

<https://www.visitannapolis.org/blog/stories/post/remembers-carrs-beach-the-most-popular-african-american-beach-and-music-venue-on-the-chesapeake/>

<https://artsandculture.google.com/story/golden-age-of-black-radio-part-2-deejays-archives-of-african-american-music-and-culture/KQWBWDGh2AvJJw?hl=en>