

FogHorn

Westport-South Beach Historical Society Newsletter
September 2018

GRAYS HARBOR LIGHT STATION 120th BIRTHDAY PARTY - JUNE 30, 2018

It was a dark and stormy day.....that was supposed to be partly sunny. But it is Westport and those who braved the rain had a good time. Music was provided by the group 'The Pleasure Hounds'. There were games and several birthday cakes decorated with Lighthouse photos. Bagpiper Victoria MacDonald played "Amazing Grace" just before the lens lighting. Our State Representative, Brian Blake flipped the switch marking the 120th anniversary of the first time the lens was lit. Thanks to all the volunteers who made this day a success.



'LH Keepers': Jeff Pence shining the lens and Dave Arnold leading tours.



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HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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*The Foghorn is a publication  
of the Westport-South Beach  
Historical Society*

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## Message from your President

by Kimmi Kerns

What a busy Summer! With the 120th party and another successful Old Fashioned 4th of July, our volunteers have been very active. A big 'thank you' to all who helped make these events great.

This summer we also had a record number of work campers helping out with tours and maintenance at the Museum, Hall and Lighthouse. Because of them, we were able to have longer hours at both locations and engage more people. I want to give a 'THANK YOU' shout out to our work campers and tell you a little about them.

**Steve Sox and Cheri Beaulaurier** came to us from Arizona and worked at the Lighthouse July & August. They had been work campers several years ago and came back for more!

**Earl and Marie McPeak** live in California and were here in 2017 as well. They worked at the Lighthouse in June and July.

**Dave and Carol Arnold** have been here since May and are from Florida. They helped everywhere! Painting the Hall, helping out at the Museum and Lighthouse (Dave even donned a uniform as 'LH keeper' for the 120th event), their willingness to take on any task was inspiring.

And I can't forget **Lowell and Shari Deaton**. Lowell retired from the army after serving 20 years, his last post was at JBLM. They have been with us through 4 summers now, giving tours and making sure that our Lighthouse is welcoming and protected.

If you know anyone who might want to be involved in our work camper program, please have them contact Julie at the Museum.

Thank you to everyone who made this summer the best one ever!

## Annual Membership Meeting & Potluck Party Friday, October 12th 6:00 pm McCausland Hall

Come out and meet other members and learn what's happening at the Museum & Lighthouse. We will be honoring our 2018 volunteers of the year and we have some exciting things planned!

**Main dish will be provided** - all you need to bring is your favorite salad, dessert or other accompaniment dish.

**Come and enjoy the revamped Hall.**

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## Executive Director's Corner - 'Coast Guard Stories'

by John Shaw



The Maritime Museum was recently the recipient of a new item for our Coast Guard Heroes room. This is not only a great item to share in the collection but a great story. Our good friend Bob Meneghini stopped in and presented us with a very special ship's clock. I'll let Bob's words below fill in the details.....

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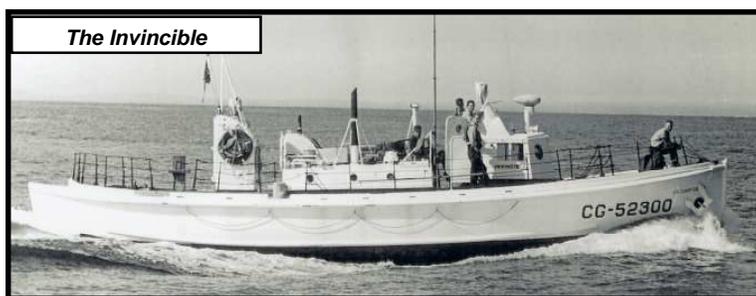
"Thank You George Washington "Benny" Bennet!

In 1955 our next door neighbor who was the OINC on the CG 83527, took me for a cruise aboard the CG 83527. After which I took a vow to join the US Coast Guard when the time came to serve my Country.

In August of 1965 I followed thru with that vow and enlisted. Boot Camp Alameda California, graduated with my Company Lima 47 as Honor Man.

After graduation was transferred to 13th District and from there transferred to MLB Station Neah Bay. At Neah Bay made weekly runs to

Tatoosh Island and Umatilla Light Ship for resupply and crew exchange. Better than 60% of these were aboard the MLB CG 52300 Invincible. Also many SAR calls aboard her. In her engine room was a big old 6-110 Jimmy diesel and a old Navy 24 hour clock. She was a tough old boat and I liked to crew on her and dreamed of being the Coxswain at her helm one day. Which I did!



In the winter of 1966-67 Neah Bay Motor Life Boat Station got word that the CG 52300 was going to be replaced by CG 44364. That the CG 52300 was going to be sold to the US Navy. Also informed that they were going to gut her and rebuild her. I could not see that her history with the Coast Guard would be destroyed by the US Navy and decided to liberate a piece of her for history.

So on the eve of her transfer to the US Navy, I liberated from the Engine Room the 24 hour Clock that was on the bulk on the back starboard side of the engine room. I was transferred to Cape Disappointment Motor Life Boat Station shortly after departure of CG-52300.

After many decades found the clock packed away in a box and not sure what to do with it. So, did some research and found that the Navy sold the CG-52300 to a fisherman down in Oregon and that he then, after years, burned her. I figured that this 24 hour clock should be in a CG Station Westport. But 9-11 had happened and CG Units were now in lock down.

*Continued on Page 8*

## McCausland Hall is Getting Rave Reviews

The update of the Hall that was launched with the generous donation of new commercial flooring by Paul and Evelyn Robinson, has continued. With the help of volunteers, staff and some very handy work campers (thanks Carol and Dave Arnold), the Hall has been repainted top to bottom and the kitchen has also received a sprucing up. We have hosted several recent meetings: Emergency Management, University of Washington, and the Port of Grays Harbor with the Coast Pilots Association. Our fresh looks, along with our technology capacity is making McCausland Hall a 'go-to' location.



## Westport South Beach Historical Society 2018 AUTUMN CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### September:

- 21st Annual 30 Miles of Junque
- 46th Operation Shore Patrol Beach Clean-up
- 17th Cleanwater Classic
- Reach the Beach - Washington

Friday-Sunday, Sept. 14 -16  
Saturday, Sept. 15  
Friday-Sunday, Sept. 21 - 23  
Saturday, September 29th

### October:

- **Annual WSBHS Meeting & Party**
- Cranberry Festival
- Coast Guard Appreciation Dinner
- **Halloween Haunted Lighthouse**

**Friday, October 12th 6:00 pm**  
Saturday - Sunday, October 13 - 14  
Date to be announced  
**Wednesday, October 31st**

### November:

- Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 22nd

### December:

- Santa by the Sea
- **WSBHS Holiday Party**

Saturday, December 1st  
**Friday, December 14th**

## Lighthouse Vents – The Key to Keeping the Lens Room Windows Clear *by Pete Eberle*

Since I started volunteering at the Grays Harbor Lighthouse, the vent system and how it works has always been of interest to me. The Lens Room is separate from the rest of the lighthouse because of two doors that create an air lock at the watch room level. This was done to keep drafts generated in the tower below from upsetting the lamps flame. Since the lighthouse is in a damp marine environment ventilation had to be provided to keep the windows from fogging up. The ventilation system consisted of 6 each outside air vents and a chimney in the center of the ceiling. Each outside vent consisted of a vertically placed tube in the wall of the watch room. The vent to the outside is covered with a brass screen and on the inside wall the tube terminates in an adjustable rotary damper. The dampers and screens are made of brass and the tube is made of steel. The screen, tube and damper arrangement causes the incoming air to change direction twice. As the air changes direction it sheds moisture which lowers the humidity of the air entering the lens room. In the center of the lens room ceiling is a short chimney that terminates in the top of the decorative vent ball on the top of the lighthouse roof. The air exiting the chimney has to change direction and exit the bottom of the vent ball. This keeps wind driven rain from entering the chimney and falling on the lamp and lens system



Vent # 3 opened up and filled with rust scale and Junk.



Vent screen #1 showing plugged vent holes.

The system seemed to be about 75 % complete and in an operational condition. I took on the task of cleaning and rebuilding the vents back in 2011. For record keeping sake, I numbered the vents from 1 to 6, with one being on the south east side and number 6 being on the north east side. Vent # 6 was already missing its screen which we found lying in the watch room, so it was the first one that was cleaned up. Unfortunately all the screws that had held it on had broken due to rust jacking and need to be drilled out. The first vent screen that we removed was from vent 5 and it was replaced with a cleaned and painted screen from #6. Two screws were broken off and one was drilled out and replaced. While cleaning we removed a couple handfuls of rust scale from the tube. We also replaced the stop pin in the damper and need to find a new knob. This summer we opened three more vents, #4, #3 and #1. The last two were completely clogged with rust scale and junk. The #1 tube is in poor condition and will need to be addressed during restoration. It is also missing its damper adjustable plate. Some of this work can be accomplished by us and some will have to wait for the major restoration, but in the mean time we will be able to make the system work better.

As the paint was stripped we were able to determine that the Lighthouse has been repainted at least 8 times since the 1930's. During WWII we believe that the top part of the Lighthouse was painted black. The layers of paint from newest to oldest are as follows: GREY; WHITE; GREENISH GRAY; FOREST GREEN; BROWN (PRIMER); GREY; YELLOW (PRIMER); BLACK; REDDISH BROWN (PRIMER); GREY; GREENISH GREY; ORANGE (PRIMER). Note that the earlier paint jobs used a primer along with a top coat.



Cleaned screens ready for paint and reinstallation.

The main objective in doing this work is to stabilize the system and keep it in working order to maintain the lens room and its contents. Our hope is to have all of these systems restored to their original condition in the near future.

**PLEASE support the following businesses  
who support US by their membership and/or donations:**

Alaskan Motel  
American Sunset RV  
Basket House Gift Shop  
Blackbeard's Brewery  
Brady's Oysters  
Brumfield Construction  
Chateau Westport  
First Interstate Bank  
Glenacres Historic Inn  
Gold Rush Charters  
Grayland Hardware  
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Pine Tree Sports Bar & Grill  
Riley Jackson Real Estate  
Rogers Engineering  
Sea Bird Gift & Candy  
Security State Bank

Select Automotive, LLC  
Shoalwater Bay Casino  
South Beach Repair & Towing  
Twin Harbor Drug  
Washington Coast Real Estate  
WEfish  
Westport Beach Escapes  
Westport Charters  
Westport Marina Cottages  
Westport Shop 'n' Kart  
Westport Winery  
Windermere-Westport

### Ocosta Students Visit Museum

Students from the Ocosta Lighthouse project visited the Maritime Museum, learning from members Peggy Coverdale and Alan Rammer. Peggy is a longtime member of the Society and Education Committee. She gave the students a special tour of the Maritime Museum and Lens Hall. Marine Educator Alan Rammer gave hands on classroom work to the groups covering local marine biology and environmental issues. Alan also led the Ocosta 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes this year in classroom activities as well as educational beach walks and clean ups.



**Peggy in Glass Float room at museum**



**Alan in McCausland Hall with students**

## Councilman Summers Donates Rare Glass Floats to Museum



Westport City Councilman Louis Summers donated from his collection two phenomenal examples of old and large floats. Both were collected locally by the Summers Family. The items were reviewed by noted expert Alan Rammer who advised that the large jumbo roller would have been part of a sardine trap. This specific one was found floating in 1933.

The 60" float is rare as they were very difficult to manufacture and were used on the ends of a longline with a special flag that showed ownership of the line being fished.

The unique size makes these a must see for float and beach combing enthusiasts.

## Who Wants to Help Out ?



We ask folks to volunteer and quite often I get asked "Volunteer for what?" So we learn that our potential volunteers are interested in different things. What might interest one will be of no interest to another. So here it goes.... who wants to help save and build a new display with the Bob McCausland promenade ovals? I asked...

I expect most of you will be familiar with the McCausland silhouettes that decorated the Westport waterfront walk for many years. The art was also used by the Society in its yearly Membership certificates.



They fell on hard times, then most fell off, and with the Port of Grays Harbor replacing all the railing system they just fell onto a pallet in the back yard of the Marina Offices.

At the request of the Society, the Port will pass the pile back to us. So I am looking for "volunteers" to see that these get saved, restored and re-displayed, simple as that. Who's up for helping out? Contact John or Julie at the Maritime Museum .

## VOTE for WSBHS for Non-Profit of the YEAR !

The Westport South Beach Historical Society has been advised we are a FINALIST for Greater Grays Harbor's Non-Profit Organization of the year. GGHI will announce the details for the final voting mid September. We encourage all our members and friends to get out the vote for us. We will advise everyone by Chimp mail email as well as including the link on our new website: [www.wsbhs.org](http://www.wsbhs.org).

### Executive Director's Corner

*(continued from page 3)*

The only fitting place for it to be seen would be in a Museum. The Museum for the Clock to be in would be at the CG 52300 Invincible home port for so many decades, would be the Westport Maritime Museum in Westport Washington.

Now without Benny taking me on that cruise on the CG 83527 back in 1955, this piece of history would forever have been lost.

- Bob Meneghini BM-2 Surfman #100"



*Bob Meneghini and John Shaw with clock*

The original Invincible was built in 1936 at a cost of \$100,000.00 to be tested as a heavy weather boat for the US Coast Guard. After its successful trials at Sandy Hook on the East Coast it came west the 6000 nM and served for most of its career at Station Grays Harbor in Westport. It along with the follow up vessel the "Triumph" 52301 were the first Coast Guard Lifeboats to be fitted with diesel engines. In the early 60's with the arrival of the new steel "Invincible" 52313 in Westport, the venerable 52300 was passed along for use at other stations. We are fortunate that Bob had the forethought to "Liberate" this bit of the 52300 before it went to the Navy.....

### Board of Trustees Nominees

Elections to the Board of Trustees of the Society will be at the October membership meeting, Friday, October 12th. **PLEASE** consider volunteering for a position on the Board of Trustees. For continuity, 3 Board positions out of nine expire each year. The Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. If you would like to become part of this FUN group that leads the Society please contact **Kimmi Kerns (360) 589--6695 for more information.**

The following people have been nominated to be on the Board of Trustees:

President: Pete Eberle

Vice President: Evelyn Robinson

Treasurer: Sherrie Williams

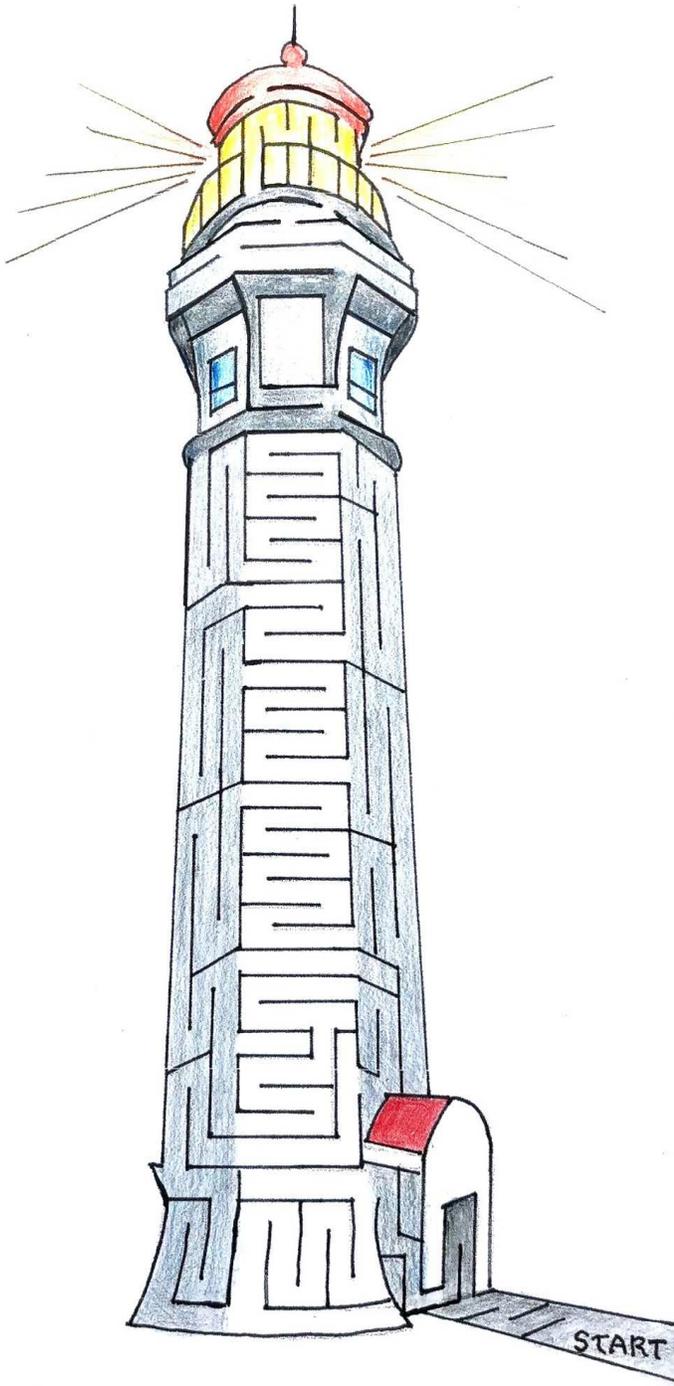
Board Position II: ~~~ open ~~~

Board Position V: Kimmi Kerns

**Kid's Corner**

*Artwork by Noel Kreicker*

Follow the maze and climb up 135 steps to the Grays Harbor Lighthouse in Westport to visit the beautiful Fresnel lens in the Lantern Room. Climb a little further to the top of the lighthouse, which stands at 107 feet, and is the tallest in Washington State.



**HAUNTED LH - CANDY & HELP NEEDED**



We are again hosting the 'Haunted Lighthouse' for the children in our community on Halloween, Wednesday, Oct. 31st.

We are asking for candy donations as well as volunteers to help out at the event.

Please drop off your donations at the Museum or you can bring them to the October membership meeting. If you can help at the event, please contact Julie at the Museum.

**Thank you for making this highly anticipated event a success each year!**

**Sign Up for Chief Finn News**

**Hey Kids** - sign up to follow Chief Finn, the Westport Maritime Museum mascot, on his adventures on Instagram: chief\_finn\_westport. You can sign up for his newsletter by emailing: [operations@westportmaritimemuseum.com](mailto:operations@westportmaritimemuseum.com).



**Education committee members Sherrie Williams and Julie Smith with Chief Finn in front of the Museum**

Westport-South Beach Historical Society  
Newsletter

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Put a stamp  
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## It's Back Home !!



The Life Ring  
from the  
Trinidad rescue is  
now back home  
after 80 years.

It is a great story  
(see Foghorn Dec.  
2017 issue) and a  
great reason to  
visit the Maritime  
Museum.

Come learn about  
one of the most  
daring small boat  
rescues in Coast