

FogHorn

Westport-South Beach Historical Society Newsletter
March 2017

Seahawks Kam Chancellor Mini-Helmet Raffle a Success

- By Don Ross

Westport South Beach Historical Society held a raffle for a Kam Chancellor autographed Seahawk Mini-helmet. We were able to raise \$845 from this raffle.

The Seattle Seahawks donated this helmet to assist with raising funds for the historical society.

Trustee Donald Ross used the museum's bingo spinner to mix the ticket stubs. On Super Bowl Sunday, February 5th, docents in training Dakota and Danielle Ross did the actual drawing while Trustee Donald Ross did a Facebook live video and shared it to the Historical Society's Facebook page.



Trustee Marianne Pence sold the winning ticket to Lacey Bishop, a local real estate agent from Westport. She was very excited to win this as her son is a big Seahawk fan with lots of memorabilia in his room. The autographed helmet helped to round out his collection.

We would like to thank everyone who sold tickets, all the people to purchased tickets, and A BIG Thank you to Debbie Ross for her help in designing, printing and assembling the ticket books.



Trustee Don Ross presenting Lacey Bishop with the Seahawks mini-helmet

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*The Foghorn is a publication
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Message from your President

by Kimmi Kerns

Spring is finally here! Can't you feel the newness, the excitement, the awakening of life all around you? The removing of the dirt and grime of winter and the needing to be out in the fresh air and stretching your arms out wide?

And, like Spring, new and exciting things are happening at the Museum and Lighthouse. We just had our annual board retreat and we have plans, plans, plans. We're dusting off, moving around and creating new things for the community to enjoy. Join us for an exciting evening March 10th 6:00pm to find out about all the 'stuff' that's going on...and how you can help. We will have food and drink... and if you feel like it, bring a dish to share with others. And, of course, there will be CHOCOLATE !

If you need to get out of the house due to 'cabin-fever', I've got something you might be interested in.... a Society work party on March 25th from 9 to 4. We have lots of small tasks you can help with...no heavy lifting required. You don't have to spend all day, just come down whenever and leave whenever. In between, you'll knock off a few things on our 'to-do' list, share some conversation with other folks, and eat a few yummy snacks. You might make a new friend or learn something that you didn't know before. But, you WILL have a good time making a difference.

Speaking of 'stuff', don't forget our annual fundraiser 'Whale of a Sale'. If you have items you no longer appreciate owning, why not bring them to us? You know the saying, "one man's junk is another man's treasure." Details are further inside this newsletter.

Don't be a stranger, come join us, whenever. Spring is calling.

Executive Director's Corner

by John Shaw

There is more fun to be had.....

For those of you who have enjoyed the last few Foghorns (thanks Kimmi) I expect you get the picture that there is a lot happening at the Society. Not only a lot of "Great Stuff", but a lot of fun is being had by all involved.

I know that calling for volunteers has become so common, it's almost just background noise for modern Organizations. Over our history we came together and grew through efforts of folks from the "Greatest Generation" and followed by those "Baby Boomers" we still have around and active. But we need to embrace, engage, and learn to be as meaningful to "Millennials" and "X-gens". I look at the Society rolls regularly and note that over the last 10 years the ageing out has accelerated and we have not been successful in adding much new blood to carry on our "Mission".

I have received so many positive comments about the Foghorn and all the activities that are taking place but in looking at where the Foghorn goes these days.....not many young folks or families on the mailing list.

I am of course calling for volunteers, but specifically ***I am asking members to pass the Foghorn along to a family or younger person when done, or give us a call at the Museum and we will gladly mail out copies to any interested people.*** Let's get the word out about what's happening and our schedule, and also that we have new "Wi-Fi".....that might do the trick.

Westport South Beach Historical Society 2017 SPRING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March:

- **Quarterly WSBHS Meeting & Party**
- Westport Charterboat Assoc. Fishing Derby
- **WSBHS Museum & LH Work Party**

Friday, March 10th 6:00 pm
Mar. 15 - Oct. 15
Saturday, March 25

April:

- Driftwood Show & Glass Float Hunt
- K9 Scooters NW goes to the Beach
- Tokeland & North Cove Art Studio Tour
- World Class Crab Races, Derby and Crab Feed
- **WSBHS Whale of a Sale**
- Coast Clean-up

Saturday-Sunday, April 1-2
Saturday-Sunday, April 7-8
Saturday, April 15
Saturday-Sunday, April 15-16
Saturday-Sunday, April 15-16
Saturday, April 29

May:

- Annual Oyster Feed
- Weekend with the Fleet
- Blessing of the Fleet
- VFW Memorial Ceremony

Saturday, May 6
Friday-Sunday, May 26-28
Sunday, May 28
Monday, May 29

June:

- **Quarterly WSBHS Meeting & Party**
- Rusty Scupper's Pirate Daze
- **GH Light Station Lighting of the Light**

Friday, June 16th 6:00 pm
Friday-Sunday, June 23-25
Friday, June 30

Profile: Meet Sherrie Williams

by Peggy Coverdale



I've got a new friend, and so do you.

Her name is Sherrie Williams, she has become a regular Friday afternoon Watch Stander since September. Sherrie and her husband John moved to their new home in Astoria Lane, over a year ago. Once settled in Sherrie began looking for interesting places to volunteer and folks - - she chose us!

Sherrie comes to us from Kingston, WA where she worked as an operation specialist for Puget Sound Energy. She volunteered in Kinston and thought that volunteering in this area would be a good way to meet people so - - come meet Sherrie and become a volunteer too. It's great fun!

CURATOR'S CORNER

by Jeff Pence

I am pleased to announce a major new acquisition for the Museum. Yvonne Thorpe (nee Vonnie Jean Fry) has donated a fabulous collection of glass floats collected in the Grayland/South Beach area in the 1940s by herself and other members of the Fry family, who have a long history on the South Beach.

Many of the floats are quite rare and valuable. In addition to the actual float collection, Mrs. Thorpe also donated a professionally built display case for the collection.

On Thursday, February 16, Mrs. Thorpe officially presented the collection to the Museum. The collection was reviewed by noted local float expert and Society member Alan Rammer, and was arranged for display by Mr. Rammer and Trustee Marianne Pence.

The collection is now on permanent display in the Day Room on the main floor. Be sure and stop by the Museum and check out the new collection.



Yvonne Thorpe donating her collection to WSBHS

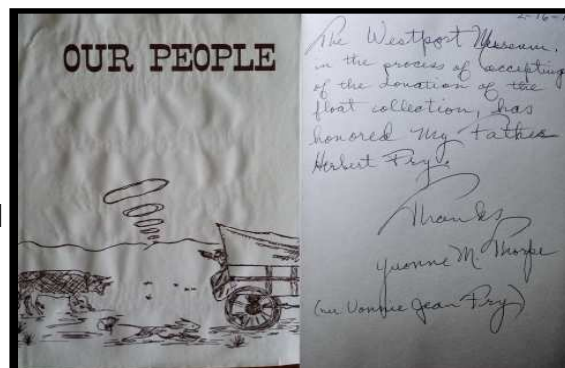


Jeff Pence & David Cragg cleaning display



Alan Rammer & Marianne Pence arranging items

In addition to the float collection, Mrs. Thorpe also donated a copy of Our People, a story of the Fry family authored by Edwin Van Sycle, and included an inscription honoring the event and her father Herbert Fry. The book will become part of the Museum's library collection.



Fry Family History book with dedication to WSBHS

A Brief History of the Fry Glass Float Collection

by Barb Aue

Below are excerpts from an article written by Barb Aue that appeared in the *South Beach Bulletin* on February 23rd, 2017 chronicling the glass float donation to the WSBHS.



Jane Eide (left) with Vonnie in late 1940s

All of the floats were discovered and collected by Yvonne “Vonnie” (Fry) Thorpe, who is now 81, on the beach in Grayland between the ages of 6 and 16 from 1941 to 1952.

Vonnie was raised in Tacoma, where her parents, Herbert and Stella Fry, were in the grocery business. Vonnie spent her summer-long school vacations at the former Dunes Cabins in Grayland, located for many years in the 1900 Block of SR105.

“We’d always stayed in Cabin #5 from the day after school go to until Labor Day. My parents always let me bring my friend Jane Eide and we’d spend all day every day on the beach,” said Vonnie. “As far as we were concerned, the cabin was just for eating and sleeping. We never hung around there any longer than we had to because we might have to do dishes,” she said.

All that time on the beach resulted in lots of nautical treasure finds, among them, more than 50 glass floats, with Vonnie hauling home her prizes at the end of each vacation. Her parents stored the collection for many years until Vonnie had a home of her own, where they since have always shared a special space wherever she’s lived.

THE NAME WAS JO-DY-A

by Peggy Coverdale

Ken Dyas had married Josie Whitmore. In the early 1970’s they went fishing out of Westport almost every weekend. They purchased the old ‘Western Lady’ boat out of Joe Bordeaux’s Western Charters – renamed it ‘I-U-2’, then changed that to ‘Jodya’. Later they moved to Westport with Josie’s two sons and often set off to sea. It was the “hay day” of charter fishing out of Westport. Now that’s a story that can be repeated by many families in the area...but that’s not the Jodya story I’m telling today.

Josie had been in a car wreck and found that being on the boat was too difficult for her so she and the boys stayed home while Ken chartered the boat, and also did commercial fishing. She couldn’t stand not knowing if Ken was safe and how the fishing was going so they set up a CB connection at home and for the next 30 years she was known by the call name JODYA. She became the conduit between fishermen and their homes...between fishermen and help...between boats and weather reports...between Coast Guard rescues and boats in distress. She was known to stay up all night keeping contact with a boat waiting for rescue. People like Larry Hale in the Marlar who was stranded when a freak wave washed in at the North Jetty. Or like the pregnant lady in the kicker boat who was out with her husband when they got stranded and she went into labor. She became known as the Angel of the Airways. Her son Kevin says “our house was a constant CB radio. It’s what we fell asleep by.”

NOAA received weather information from her that she was getting directly from the ships at sea. These reports were helpful in the issuance of Marine Warnings to the boating community of the

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WSBHS Presentation to Marine Archeology Society

by Jeff Pence

Executive Director John Shaw and Collections Curator Jeff Pence have been monitoring two local shipwreck debris sites. One site is located on Washaway Beach. This debris field has appeared on and off for the last several years. More recently in November a section of the wreck debris in excess of 100 feet became openly exposed. Director Shaw contacted the Marine Archeology Society (MAS) in Astoria, Oregon. (MAS was created to help document and share maritime history with the public. Its primary mission is to seek out, investigate, and document shipwrecks and other maritime archaeological sites.) Representatives from MAS visited the wreck site on November 22, and took extensive photographs and measurements in a first attempt to identify the wreck (see December 2016 [Foghorn](#) article).



Beardslee Slough debris site

More recently Shaw and Pence learned of another shipwreck debris site located at Beardslee Slough in the Elk River estuary. Director Shaw advised the head archeologist at the Dept. of Natural Resources in Olympia, WA as well as the Marine Archeology Society of the existence of this second wreck site and has since been monitoring its condition. Both DNR and MAS have expressed interest on conducting a site visit and doing further research into its history.

Earlier this year, Christopher Dewey, President of MAS, contacted Director

Shaw and invited him to present at the annual MAS meeting in Astoria regarding the Westport South Beach Historical Society and the two wrecks. Director Shaw accepted the invitation and created an excellent PowerPoint presentation that included information about the Society, the two shipwrecks, and the anchor. Due to a conflict with a Coast Guard memorial event at La Push, Director Shaw could not attend the meeting. Instead, Curator Pence and his wife, Society Trustee Marianne, attended the MAS annual meeting in Astoria on February 11 and presented the PowerPoint to the attendees. It was very well received and we anticipate more interaction with MAS in the future.

The MAS annual meeting was held in the Barbey Maritime Center of the Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria. After a light luncheon and meet and greet, the attendees were invited by Museum Curator Jeff Smith for a tour of the massive collections storage areas located across from the Museum site. Housed in controlled conditions is an extensive collection of boats with historical significance to the lower Columbia River basin as well as a staggering amount of maritime related artifacts. Curator Pence had a chance to visit with Jeff Smith regarding possible artifact loans for future display at our Museum. Hopefully this relationship can be developed further in the coming months and years.

The Pencses were interviewed after the meeting by Public Radio Regional Correspondent, Tom Banse of Olympia regarding the shipwrecks and related topics concerning the Westport Maritime Museum. The interview will be broadcast in the near future. Stayed tuned for that – figuratively and literally!



Jeff Pence presenting at MAS meeting

Grays Harbor Light Station Location

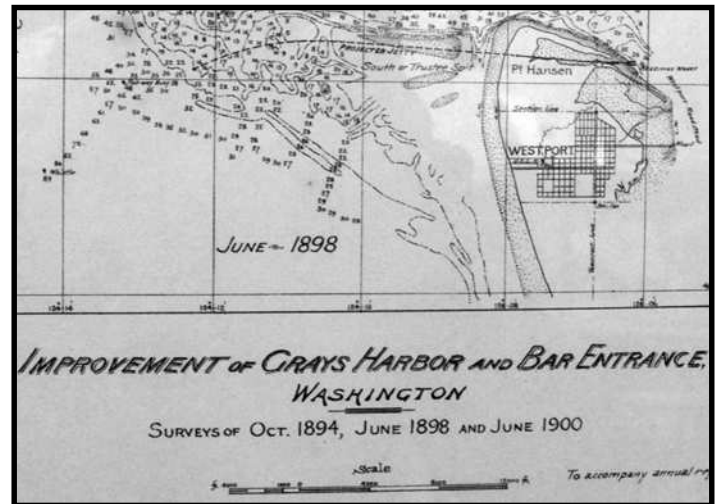
by Peter Eberle

As the tourist season approaches docents at the lighthouse are talking about how to improve our tours. One topic that comes up repeatedly is why is the lighthouse so far inland from the beach.

Over the years misconceptions have lead to several different explanations as to why the lighthouse is where it is. The most repeated story is that the lighthouse was built within a few hundred feet of the beach and once the jetty was built all the land accreted because of it. According to a map provided by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1895 the Lighthouse was sited 2100 feet from the mean high tide mark. The Lighthouse Service choose this location because it was at the high point of the peninsula and the land in between was low dunes and beach at the time. The site around the base of the Lighthouse and oil houses was graded to an elevation of 37 feet 6 inches during construction.

Displayed in the Destruction Island Lens building are a number of historic maps on display that were donated by long time member Ann Miles. Some date back to the mid 1800's and together they tell an interesting story of our continuously changing coast line. These maps show the shore line moving in and out over the years..

According to these various charts the distance has remained fairly constant. In 1900 it was 2400 feet, 3300 feet in 1909, 2400 feet in 1929, and 2500 feet in 1972. A 1983 Coast and Geodetic survey map showed the distance to be 2760 feet. These charts were all done by the Army Corp of Engineers or US Coast and Geodetic Survey, which show the mean High Water Line and the lighthouse location. Using the current version of Google maps, the lighthouse is approximately 2350 feet from the edge of the dune line which is generally considered the high tide line.



Section of one of the historic maps showing the lighthouse location with a scale used to measure the distance.

WHALE OF A SALE FUNDRAISER - WE NEED YOUR 'STUFF'

WHALE OF A SALE Fundraiser at McCausland Hall, Saturday & Sunday, April 15th and 16th from 9 - 5.

Your donations for this sale event are welcome and very much appreciated! You can drop off your items at the Museum during operating hours between April 10th and April 14th. If you have a question about donations please call the Museum at 268-0078 for additional information. New and gently used items, antiques, and collectibles are welcome as donations. We cannot accept large furniture items, appliances, clothing or pick up items from your home. We will be setting up the sale in McCausland Hall from April 10th to the 14th, so you can drop items there during the day all through that week.

We will also have our usual Bake Sale on Saturday & Sunday, so any goodies that can be sold to take home or enjoyed there with fresh coffee are welcome: Cookies, cakes, breads, brownies and pies are big sellers each year. (No fresh egg or dairy products, please....as per health codes.) Wrapped donations should be brought to the Hall on April 14th.

THE NAME WAS JO-DY-A

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Washington Coast, and invaluable to the National Weather Service efforts to protect lives and property. Local families built a second tower for her so she could keep her contacts going. Because of her VHF and HF radios warnings and advisories have been issued, and lives saved, based on timely reports from Jodya. Her cooperation with the Scripps Institute of Oceanography allowed them to install a computer that interrogates their buoy at the entrance to Grays Harbor. NOAA is able to access this information 24 hours a day, which has been a big help in forecasting arrival of large swell trains from offshore storms, and issuing of Heavy Surf Advisories and Coastal Flood Warnings. Josie, aka Jodya, received over a dozen awards from Coast Guard Commanders, NOAA, The Department of Commerce, The Department of Fisheries, Washington State Governors, and local groups for her years of service. She maintained her contacts until a few months before she passed away in 2003.

This is not the first Jodya story. Ruth McCausland wrote about Josie in the book 'Washington's Westport', but it's good to be reminded now and then that there are angels around us – if we just take time to look.

Among the box full of awards that Josie received was a copy of the following Coast Guard Unit Commendation. It doesn't explain her involvement in this crisis at sea – but you just know she was helping in any way she could – for the safety of all.

Quote from J.S. Gracey, Vice Admiral, United States Coast Guard Commander, Pacific Area
To: Coast Guard Station Grays Harbor

From July 24, 1979 to August 4, 1979 a Federal Court ordered closure of the ocean salmon troll season in 13th District waters north of Cape Falcon, Oregon. With very little forewarning and almost no time to prepare, Coast Guard Grays Harbor and other Coast Guard units involved in this law enforcement action entered into the single most explosive situation to confront this district throughout its recent history of very volatile salmon fishery issues. The Federal Court order involved closed ocean salmon trolling during ten of the most productive fishing days of the year. Even before the closure was announced, the trollers were extremely disgruntled over three years of increasingly restrictive fishing regulations aimed at preserving a diminishing salmon resource. This closure, during the prime of the season set off flagrant illegal fishing, massive shore-side demonstrations, harbor blockade, and the deliberate ramming of a Coast Guard 26' motor surfboat. The center of action in this situation was at Westport, Washington the town in which Station Grays Harbor is located. An attempted blockade of Westport Harbor was averted by quick action of station personnel, but the fishermen did manage to form a blockade of Ocean Shores, Washington, a small port six miles north of Westport. The intense volatility of the situation made extreme discretion an absolute necessity to avoid violence and bloodshed, and indeed, violence and bloodshed was avoided. At the same time Westport was the scene of the most vocal and well organized demonstrations. Throughout all this action, personnel of Coast Guard Station Grays Harbor maintained exceptional level-headedness, displayed excellent judgement, and performed in such an outstanding manner that the explosive situation was defused and no harm came to anyone involved. This achievement is in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard..... End of quote.

This story was written with the help of Josie's sons Kevin and Joe Whitmore.

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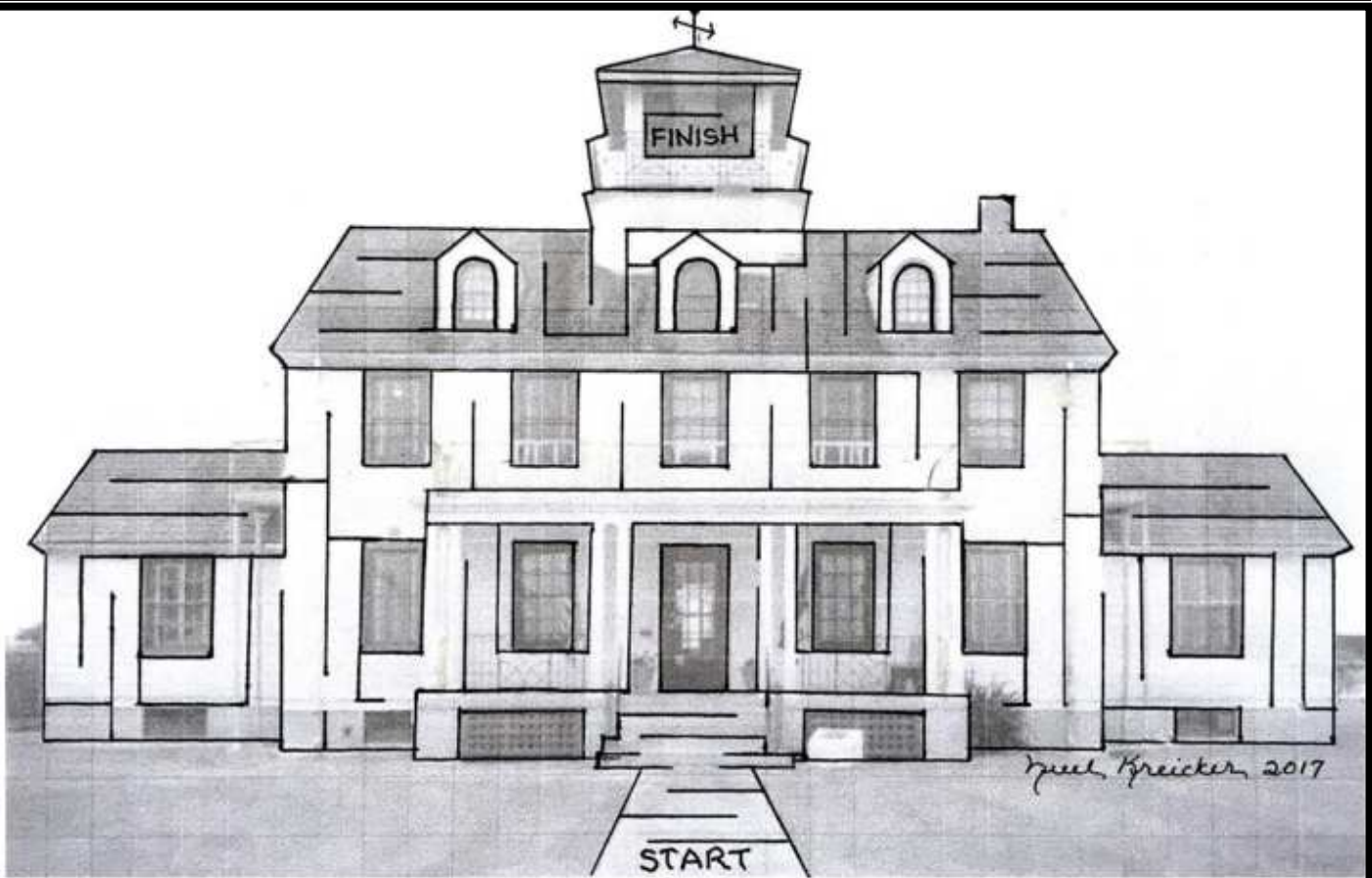
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KIDS' CORNER

artwork by Noel Kreicker



Follow the maze for a tour of the Westport Maritime Museum

Westport-South Beach Historical Society
Newsletter

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