

FogHorn

Westport-South Beach Historical Society Newsletter
March 2018

The “Lighthouse Proposition”

- by John Shaw

This is the story we know well and share with our visitors. For the 120th year celebration, I did a bit more digging into the details from the day and there is always something new to add to our story.

In 1858, even before the first permanent settlement took root on the Harbor, the citizens of Washington Territory asked Congress to fund a Light at Grays Harbor. Congress appropriated \$20,000 in 1859. However, nothing happened, no doubt because the Civil War preoccupied federal officials until 1865.

LH & Foghorn building 1899



As soon as the war was over, territorial officials began reminding Congress of the need for a beacon at Grays Harbor. When commercial logging began on the harbor in 1881 it brought a dramatic increase in shipping and also in sinking's (Shipwrecks) and tragedies. The United States Light-House Board recommended that a light station be built on Point Chehalis at the Grays Harbor entrance. Earlier proposals had called for a light on the north side of Grays Harbor at Point Brown. But the Light-House Board focused on Point Chehalis at the south entrance to the harbor and then, after surveys, recommended the current location about two miles southwest of the Grays Harbor entrance.

In 1884, Congress appropriated \$15,000 for a Grays Harbor Light. The Light-House Board decided that the type of light that could be constructed for this amount would not meet mariners' needs and Congress responded with a \$60,000 appropriation for a seacoast light.

In 1890, there were thirteen sawmills at Grays Harbor that exported sixty million board feet of lumber, and the harbor's shipyards built nine steamers and three sailing vessels that year. The Lighthouse and Life Saving station for Grays Harbor were still not underway.

In February 1892, the Weekly *Vidette* newspaper (representing all of Chehalis County) ran an editorial in follow up to the much publicized loss of the Ferndale (the location of which you can find on the “Shipwrecks of Grays Harbor” Map). The Op-Ed piece states that the loss of the Ferndale has “Caused many to inquire about the Lighthouse Station for which Congress had made an appropria-

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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

I've dubbed this issue the 'Kid's Issue' because it's chock full of interesting things for children.. We have the winning poems from our poetry contest. The kids were so creative. Thank you to Noel Kreicker for funding the contest and doing a lot of work to make it happen. And Noel also made the puzzle and artwork for the kids corner.

Our education committee headed by Julie has given the Kid's Discovery room a makeover. It is now focused on Coast Guard Search and Rescues and opens March 10th. Thank you to everyone who worked on the room for a job well done.

The Lighthouse Restoration exploratory work is progressing. Pete & Debi Eberle have further improved the LH gift shop - it's looking real good - nice job! Take your kids and grandkids to the LH as well - it is a great place to visit.

As always, if you have some spare time come volunteer at the museum or Light-house. And a big "THANK YOU" to those of you who do. Happy Spring !

## Meet your 2018 Board of Trustees and Staff



**From left to right: Nicki Kollar, Julie Smith (Education/Operations Manager), Evelyn Robinson, Joni Rodgers, Bobbi Willard (Secretary/Treasurer), Kimmi Kerns (President), Winnie Cragg, John Shaw (Executive Director) and Pete Eberle (Vice-President).**

**We have an open board position.  
Don't you want to be part of this fun, smiling group?**

### SPRING POTLUCK

**Friday, MARCH 9th, 6:00 pm McCausland Hall**

**Bring your favorite dishes to share. Afterwards, tour the new Coast Guard K9 Search and Rescue Exhibit at the museum BEFORE it is open to the public.**

**WINTER BLUES?  
GOT CABIN FEVER?  
COME ON DOWN AND VOLUNTEER !**

info@westportmaritimemuseum.com / (360) 268-0078

**Westport South Beach Historical Society  
2018 SPRING CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**March:**

Quarterly WSBHS Meeting & Party  
Coast Guard K-9/SAR Exhibit Opens at Museum

Friday, March 9th 6:00 pm  
Saturday, March 10

**April:**

WSBHS Whale of a Sale  
Coastal Clean-up

Saturday-Sunday, April 21-22  
Saturday, April 21

**May:**

Weekend with the Fleet  
Blessing of the Fleet  
VFW Memorial Ceremony

Saturday-Sunday, May 26-27  
Sunday, May 27  
Monday, May 28

**June:**

Quarterly WSBHS Meeting & Party  
*GH Light Station 120th - Lighting of the Light*

Friday, June 16th 6:00 pm  
*Friday, June 30 6:00 -10:00 pm*

**Coast Guard K-9/SAR Exhibit Opening**

The education committee is working to complete the Coast Guard K-9/SAR (Search and Rescue) exhibit opening March 10th.

This room will take the place of the Discovery Room, upstairs in the museum.

Plans include K-9 information in the “cubbies” and a knot board with a hands on, tie your own knot feature. Time yourself while donning an exposure suit and try to beat the Sea Scout record of 27 seconds. Once in your suit, experience the challenge of climbing into a real survival raft.

The education committee is on board with plans for the upcoming season, including school tours, knot tying classes, and marine education programs such as beach walks, cleanups and more.



**Chief had lots of visitors at his ‘kissing booth’ on Valentine’s Day.**

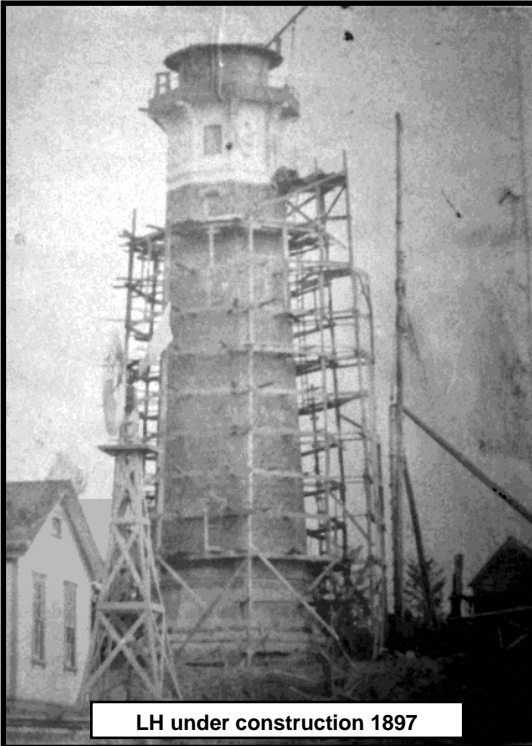
Chief, the museum mascot, has his own newsletter “Chief’s Club”. The monthly one page newsletter, has pictures of Chief and a paragraph or two about what he’s done over the past month.

If you’d like to sign up for notifications on future educational programs, you’d like to receive the Chief’s Club newsletter or you have an idea for a program, call or email Julie at the museum: (360) 268-0078 [operations@westportmaritimuseum.com](mailto:operations@westportmaritimuseum.com).



## The "Lighthouse Proposition" *(continued from front page)*

tion of \$60,000. It seems that when the appropriation was made the matter was dropped, and our representatives seemed to have considered their work on this matter finished." It goes on to state that, "had the light been burning on the morning of the disaster, the chances are the wreck would never have occurred."



LH under construction 1897

The *Vidette* states that there was no Light between Willapa Bay and Cape Flattery. For our Lighthouse aficionados, the Light on Destruction Island had only been lit since November 15, 1891, only two months before the loss of the *Ferndale* and the *Vidette* editorial. The *Vidette* continued that over the past 12-15 years the fact that there was no Light has led to ship losses and the fact that there is "still no Life Saving Station has resulted in a hundred or more men finding a watery grave". "Our representative should be stirred up in the matter. Let everyone interested in a Lighthouse and Life Saving Station for Grays Harbor write our Congressmen and Senators a personal letter. It will prove effective."

Seems like the editorials were just getting started. The *Vidette* followed up its initial piece on Friday, February 19, 1882 with an editorial headed "The Lighthouse Proposition". This re-stated the earlier call to action and not only called for the Light to protect the ever increasing levels of commerce but addressed the loss of life that had occurred during the previous years and laid the blame as lack of actions in establishing the Light and Life-saving Station.

Some shipwreck history as told by the *Vidette* at the time: Between 1872 and 1882 there were six significant ships lost on the North side of Grays Harbor, between the entrance and the Quinault Agency. The named ships were the *Cambridge*, *Diana*, *Courser*, *St. George*, *Decatur* and *Umatilla*. In 1886, the Bark *Jamsetjee* family lost reckoning and sailed between the reef and Pt. Grenville and was broken to pieces below Cape Elizabeth; the crew being saved by help from the local "Indians". Again, in 1886, the *Nellie Drew* was lost 18 miles north of the Harbor entrance and its crew saved by the Indians of the Quinault Agency. Additionally, the Quinault Agency reported to the *Vidette* at the first of the year, that two other ships of unknown name were lost on "the point" and were totally wrecked and no survivors. The Agency reported the shore strewn with wreckage for many miles.

The worse loss came January 30, 1888 with the loss of the British ship *Abercorn* 13 miles North of the harbor entrance. Of a crew of 25 men, only three survived and its cargo of rail iron valued at over \$500,000 was lost. The tally of these losses along with the recent loss of the *Ferndale* and 17 men of its 20 man crew, focused the *Vidette* in calling for action.

At the conclusion of "The Lighthouse Proposition" the editorial states that "who can tell the number of lives that would have been saved during the past four years had a station been in existence." In closing they stated, "our Government has not acted justly, wisely, or generously towards this portion of the Coast in this matter. Neither have our representatives done their full duty in securing the appropriations and in seeing them applied when made."

*Continued on next page*

## The "Lighthouse Proposition" *(continued from previous page)*

We are familiar with the short version of the Lighthouse and Life Saving Station coming to pass, but there were a lot of politics going on in seeing it come into reality.

Congress appropriated another \$20,000 to the existing request of the Lighthouse Board and approved it on March 3, 1893. The site of the Grays Harbor Lighthouse was purchased for \$500 on December 16, 1895.

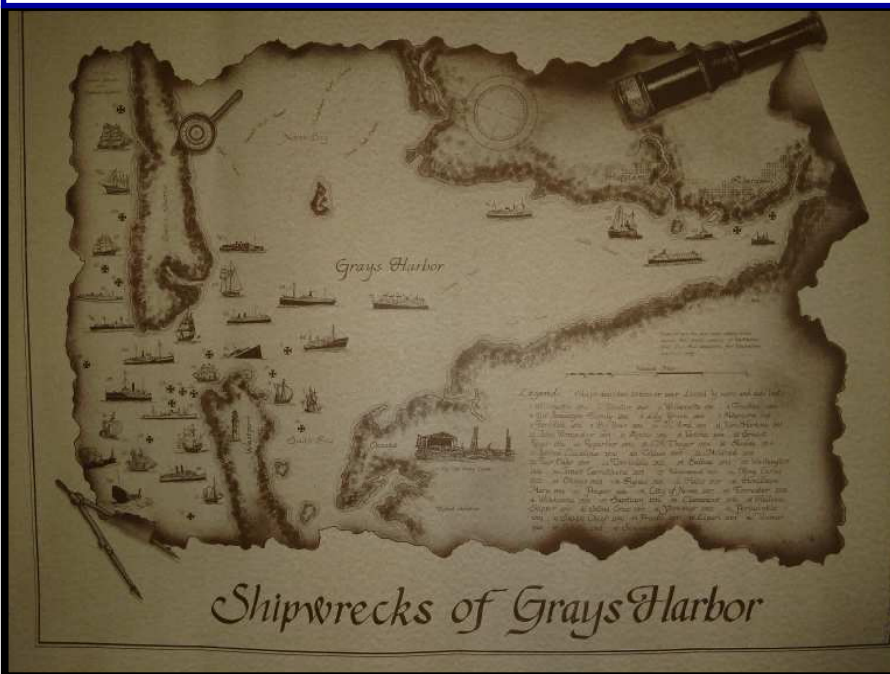
Carl W. Leick completed plans for the Grays Harbor Light Station in 1896 and his plans were approved on October 16, 1896 and the rest is "History".



### IT'S WHALE OF A SALE FUNDRAISER TIME ! McCausland Hall Saturday & Sunday, APRIL 21st & 22nd from 9 to 5

Your donations of new and gently used items, antiques, and collectibles are appreciated. We will be setting up the sale in McCausland Hall from April 16th to the 20th, 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 14<sup>th</sup>. Questions? Call Julie (360) 268-0078.



### SHIPWRECK MAPS NOW AVAILABLE

The Maritime Museum and Lighthouse have acquired a stock of the Historical "Shipwrecks of Grays Harbor" Maps. These were issued in the mid 90's and are from the original printing on high quality stock suitable for framing.

They are available at the Grays Harbor Lighthouse Gift Shop or by contacting the gift shop committee at (360) 268-0078 or [wmmgiftshop@gmail.com](mailto:wmmgiftshop@gmail.com). Price is \$12.95.



## Kid's Corner

Puzzle &amp; Artwork by Noel Kreicker

*Fun Facts: Underwater Exploration*

Match the statements on the left with the marine life on the right. (Answers on back page).  
Use colored pens or pencils to color the picture.

Which of the following underwater organisms...

- |                                                              |                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. is the symbol for the Astrological sign of Cancer?        | A. Sea anemone |
| 2. can switch their gender whenever they like?               | B. Jellyfish   |
| 3. can live up to 200 years in the wild?                     | C. Octopus     |
| 4. is around 4 ½ inches at 2 years of age?                   | D. Sand dollar |
| 5. is a close relative of coral and jellyfish?               | E. Starfish    |
| 6. has males taking care of the offspring?                   | F. Crab        |
| 7. can glow in the dark in certain species?                  | G. Seaweed     |
| 8. is also known as sand cake, pansy shell, and sea biscuit? | H. Seahorse    |
| 9. has a hard beak used to break into and eat their pray?    | I. Razor clam  |
| 10. is among the fastest growing organisms on the planet?    | J. Sea urchin  |



## KID'S POETRY CONTEST - Winning Entries

We received 28 responses to our Kid's Poetry Contest 'Winter on Our Coast'. Our panel of judges had a very tough time deciding the winners in each of these categories: elementary school, middle school and high school. First place in each category was awarded \$25, 2nd place \$15 and 3rd place \$10. We had more entries from elementary school students than the other categories. Because there were only two middle school entries, we decided to give another 3rd place prize (the remaining \$10) to an elementary school student. All participants received 2 guest tickets to the museum or lighthouse. GOOD JOB and THANK YOU to all the students who participated! Here are the winning entries.

### Elementary School

#### First Prize

**Creedence Thurman**  
Age 10, Aberdeen

**Our Coast in Winter**  
Perfect, beautiful  
That is our coast in winter  
It's gold to the eyes

#### Second Prize

**Gabriel Matthews**  
Age 9, Westport

**Winter at the Beach**  
At the beach,  
The ocean water is cold.  
The ocean water is blue  
With little, foamy white waves.  
They splash against the soft brown sand  
And rocks that are gray.  
I like to throw small, flat rocks into the water.  
They make perfect rings, of small ripples.  
The beach is peaceful  
And I love to go there.

#### Third Prize

**Swift Blackstock**  
Age 8, Astoria

#### **Winter on our Coast**

The cold breeze blows making us shove our hands into our warm pockets, and our ears turn red.

Dark clouds hang across the only sometimes blue sky.

The freezing rain whips around us, and we are inside most of the time.

Sometimes it will snow or hail, but mostly it is freezing rain. Rain, rain, and more rain.

Winter seems like it lasts for three seasons.

There are whitecaps on the river as I stare out of my window at the boats in the Columbia River. Winter on our coast.

#### Third Prize

**Connor Davis**  
Age 6, Tokeland

#### **The Beach in Winter**

In winter, the water is grey and blue

In winter the beach is cold and wet

In winter I play in the cold and think of summer

*Continued on Page 8*

## KID'S POETRY CONTEST - Winning Entries (continued from page 7)

### Middle School

#### First Prize

***Kyra Manke***

***Age 12, Naselle***

#### **Coastal Gifts**

Pacific Ocean presents  
Delivered to our shore  
Twice-daily unique treasures  
We never can ignore

What will we find today?  
Sea glass or shells or more,  
Perhaps a roaming sea lion  
Some driftwood to explore

Looking out beyond the waves  
Lost tales of sailors past  
Guarded by patrolling gulls  
No nets for them to cast

What will you bring tomorrow?  
High tides, a storm, a mast  
Restless, changing, always new  
Our love for you will last.

#### Second Prize

***Savannah Scott***

***Age 12, Aberdeen***

Where the rainy country  
meets the cold ocean.  
The surfers surfing,  
next to the windy forest.

The empty trees, wishing  
for leaves. The cold ocean,  
hoping for surfers

The cold winds, mixing  
with the salty air.

The lighthouse lighting,  
the boaters' way home.  
With help from the  
beauty of the setting sun.

The plants wishing for  
warm air, to bloom  
and spread their beauty

The plants asleep, the  
tide low. With the lighthouse on,  
and families in their homes,  
all is quiet.

Soon, the snow starts to  
gently cover the  
tops of trees,  
fulfilling their beauty  
once again!!!

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### High School

#### First Prize

***Evening Lyric***

***Age 16, Raymond***

As the rabbits say  
'One cloud feels lonely'  
indeed  
the sky fills with grey  
and dark spatters  
the pale pavement.  
nonchalant shrugs  
blooming umbrellas  
casual swearing.  
winter rain is here.

#### Second Prize

***Brianna Quaschinick***

***Warrenton***

Winter on our coast is like a  
nightmare.

It's so cold like a  
freezer.

It rains like a  
rainforest.

The ground is like a  
rock.

Flowers die like a  
fisherman.

*Continued on Page 9*



**KID'S POETRY CONTEST - Winning Entries** (continued from page 8)**High School****Third Prize****Jayden Matthews****Age 16, Westport**

Rain beating against windows through the night  
 Waves softly crashing over profound rocks  
 The alluring summer far out of sight  
 Sea water to blame for rusted car shocks  
 Overwhelming lightning pierces the air  
 Thunder roars without a quiet whisper  
 It wakes us like an alarming nightmare  
 But we fall asleep with a cold shiver  
 The glowing fires get us through our days  
 Cozy blankets and burning chocolate  
 Help us get through this distraught winter faze  
 So we press on with more tough wood to split  
 For this is not a vacation resort  
 This is the winter life in small Westport.



Photo by Noel Kreicker)

**World Wide Pin Hole Day Event Coming to Light House !****FROM SOUTH BEACH PHOTOGRAPHER MARCY MERRILL'S WEBSITE:**

WPPD 2018: We'll be gathering at the Grays Harbor Lighthouse !  
 Sunday, April 29, 2018 is the next World Wide Pinhole Photography Day.

To celebrate, I'm inviting everyone to join me and my pinholian friends at 11:00AM at the Grays Harbor Lighthouse, 1020 W Ocean Ave, Westport, WA 98595

Pinhole photography is lens-less photography. We've been invited to take advantage of full access to the lighthouse and the Fresnel lens building on the grounds of the Maritime Museum. We'll be photographing these historic lenses utilizing lens-less photography! If you're already a pinhole photographer, or someone who's interested in learning more about pinhole, please join us. An Informal pinhole workshop will be available as well. The event is free.

Bring your favorite pinhole camera!

For more info on this event:

email [marcy@pintoids.com](mailto:marcy@pintoids.com) or call (360)267-1036

Visit WPPD page for more info about World Wide Pinhole Day: <http://www.pinholeday.org/>

PO Box 1074  
2201 Westhaven Dr.  
Westport, WA 98595

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Hungry Whale  
Lost River Photography  
Merino's Seafood  
Ocean Avenue Inn  
Pacific Northwest Web Works  
Pine Beach Electric  
Pine Tree Sports Bar & Grill  
Riley Jackson Real Estate  
Rogers Engineering  
Sea Bird Gift & Candy  
Security State Bank

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Windermere-Westport



Answer Key for  
Kid's Corner

1F, 2E, 3J, 4I, 5A,  
6H, 7B, 8D, 9C, 10G



What does this picture have to  
do with the 120th Light House  
Celebration?

Find out in the  
June FOGHORN !