

# FogHorn

Westport-South Beach Historical Society Newsletter  
June 2017

## New Flagpole to be Dedicated

On Saturday July 4, 1987, at 8:35 AM, what was billed locally as the "largest flying American flag in the World" majestically rose up the new 110 foot pole on the grounds in front of the Westport Maritime Museum.

The 30x50-foot flag was originally slated to fly at the Street of Flags on S. Montesano Street just south of the City limits. Public Works Director Randy Jones said at the time that the decision to place the giant flag in front of the Maritime Museum was made for security reasons. Dignitaries present for the 1987 official flag raising, some of whom were City Council members at the time, included Randy Jones, Dave Fenton, John Brumfield, Jack Williams, Mike Kitchell, Mel Leach, Bruce Myers, Joe "Bananas" Mulivrana, Daniel Hatch, Thurston Brooks, Eric Johnson, and Pam and Jeremy Gerhart.

The "Big Flag" has been a staple of the Westport Marina district flying over festivals and events for a generation. Visitors could see the flag flying when they crossed the Elk River bridge and on the drive down Forrest to the Marina. It drew people to the Heart of Westport and was the subject of thousands of pictures and memories.

Fast forward 30 years and this July 4, 2017, the City of Westport and the Westport South Beach Historical Society will dedicate a new composite flag pole and compass rose near the original that is being retired on the grounds of the Maritime Museum. Time and local conditions took their toll on the original steel pole and the City of Westport, through its Lodging Tax revenue, took the step to replace the pole and to continue the flag flying tradition.

The Historical Society is planning to display the original top segment and truck in the whale building along with a collection of photos from years past.

-by John Shaw



**The former Flagpole with Flag flying proudly**



**Original Installation of Flagpole in 1987**



**New compass rose Flagpole base 2017**

**All are encouraged to attend the  
Ceremonial RE-dedication this July 4th,  
2017 at 10:00 AM on the Museum Grounds.**

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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*

Time flies when you are having fun.

I'm sure you've heard that old saying before, but it is a true one none the less.

Here I am halfway through my three years as President and yes, it has been fun. Challenging, but fun. And the time has gone by so quickly. I am so blessed to have been working with great people – on our board of Trustees, on our staff, in our membership and in the community. You can see the difference all around us – new stuff happening in Westport, new stuff happening at the Lighthouse and new exhibits in the works at the Museum. There is a lot of work going on, but when you work with great people it seems like fun, not work.

I encourage each one of you to come down to the Museum on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and enjoy our 'Old Fashioned 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration'. Come enjoy some food and games, see all the new 'stuff' and see how you can become involved. Or better yet, sign up to work an hour or two at the event - just call Julie at the museum. Experience the fun yourself!

## Executive Director's Corner

*by John Shaw*

The Mystery Disc from last issue.

There are many activities that I do as Executive Director that fit under that, "and any other duties" part of the job description. One Sunday morning while picking up the odd bits of trash and checking the new crop of snails on the base of the Lighthouse, I found a rather innocuous looking tag in the grass between the base, and the North Oil House. I thought it might have been a dog tag at first, plenty of them at the Beach.



The real story is that this is a cremation tag. Under the laws of most states and the State of Washington as stated in the WAC 308-47-02, "An identification number assigned each human remains and inscribed on a metal disc or metal tag. The metal identification disc or tag must identify the crematory and accompany the human remains through each phase of the cremation, processing and packaging. The disc or tag identification number must be recorded on all paperwork regarding a human remains." Most folks don't realize that within that urn of your loved ones ashes, is the tag required by law. So we expect that "5018" or maybe their loved ones were Lighthouse Enthusiasts and spread the ashes around the base of the column.

Finding these tags seems to be rather common place with metal detectors and beachcombers' in some areas. Some threads talk about them being returned to the deep or just thrown away as they are in no way part of the deceased, just an administrative endpoint and require no special handling.

So we are keeping "5018" at the Lighthouse and for my part I am not too concerned about finding out "who" it might be. I think some mystery at the Lighthouse is very fitting.

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## Westport South Beach Historical Society 2017 SUMMER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### June:

- **Quarterly WSBHS Meeting & Party**
- Rusty Scupper's Pirate Daze
- **GH Light Station Lighting (119th 'Birthday')**

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

### July:

- **Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration**
- Eastside Street Rods Show & Shine

**Tuesday, July 4th**  
 Saturday, July 15th

### August

- **GH Light Station Lighting (National LH day)**
- 9th annual Tuna Classic
- 20th annual Westport Art Festival

**Monday, August 7th**  
 Saturday, August 12  
 Saturday-Sunday, August 19-20

### September:

- 71st annual Seafood Festival & Craft Show

Saturday, September 2nd

## Old Fashioned 4th of July

The Westport South Beach Historical Society's annual Old Fashioned Fourth of July celebration will be held on Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. The event runs from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and access to the grounds is free.

Our old fashioned family celebration starts with the Re-dedication of the Flagpole followed by the US Coast Guard, American Legion, and VFW posting of the colors. The National Anthem will be sung at 11:00 AM.

We'll have plenty of fun with activities including children's games with prizes, cakewalk, plant sale, bake sale, vendors, food including strawberry shortcake and root beer floats, live music, raffles, and silent auction.

The Museum will be open with regular admission, make sure you stop in to see our beautiful Destruction Island Lens and tour the exhibits at the museum.

At Dusk, the City of Westport will be sponsoring a Fireworks display which can be viewed from the museum grounds.



## CURATOR'S CORNER

by Jeff Pence

Recently, volunteer David Cragg and I while working on the third floor of the Museum discovered a framed, original signed Edward Curtis photograph. The photograph, circa 1907, was donated by former Westport Mayor and Museum founder Orville Engle (now deceased).

Edward Curtis was born in Wisconsin in 1868. At an early age he became keenly interested in the burgeoning field of photography and at the age of 12 built his own camera and learned to process his resultant photographs. At age 19 he moved to Seattle with his family and became partners in a photographic studio. Curtis began photographing the native cultures of the West and during his lifetime took more than 40,000 images of more than 80 tribes. 1500 of those images were reproduced as photogravures in The North American Indian, a monumental work of twenty volumes accompanied by twenty portfolios of the photogravures. The project was financed by J.P. Morgan and eventually 222 complete sets were published. Edward Curtis died in 1952. His works today sell for anywhere from a few hundred dollars to many thousands.



This particular photograph is known as the Maricopa Water Girl. I recently had the photograph authenticated by the Flurry Gallery in Seattle, a world renowned authority and dealer of the work of Edward Curtis. They recommended that we have the photograph restored and conserved, including remounting and reframing, by the Oppenheimer Gallery in Chicago, Illinois. At the May Board meeting the Trustees approved the cost of restoration and conservation of the photograph and we hope to have it on display in the Museum in the near future.

In an effort to refine the Museum's mission as a "maritime museum," I have been working with the members of the Collection Committee on deaccessioning certain items in the Museum's collection that do not fit that mission. In particular, much of the logging artifacts that were removed from the second floor exhibit room that is being prepared for the new native culture exhibit (see March 2017 Foghorn) were sold off as part of this year's Whale of Sale resulting in raising more the \$800 for the Collections budget.



Lastly, Trustee Evelyn Robinson and her husband Paul have graciously donated several family heirlooms to the Museum's collection including a vintage W. Ludolph sextant, a United States Naval Officer's dress sword with belt and hanger and officer's cap. They also donated a Vibroplex telegraph key and a British merchant marine cap. All items belonged to Evelyn's grandfather, William Henry Roberts. A big thank you to the Robinsons for these wonderful additions to the Museum's Maritime Collection.

(Jeff Pence and Evelyn Robinson examining items)

**Lighthouse Improvements***by Pete Eberle*

Debi Eberle & Lowell Deaton  
at new gift shop counter

When the Lighthouse was opened for business this February the Lighthouse Committee was made aware of shortcomings that impact the ability of volunteers to easily and comfortably do their jobs.

During the colder months the gift shop is a cold and drafty place to work, due to an inadequate heater and area lay out.

With Debi Eberle's help we rearranged the lay out and moved the counter to the back of the room away from the door, closed off all the vents to the outside, and have a plan for upgrading the electrical service to allow for a heater that will be able to keep the visitors and staff comfortable year round. We hope to have the new electrical work done this summer. New display shelving was added and existing displays rearranged to make them more user friendly and pleasing to the eye.



The lighthouse displays used by docents to interpret the history of the lighthouse have seen better days so many of these were redone and new ones added. Along with these pictures new descriptions have been added to help interpret history for docents and visitors alike. The docent guide for tours has been updated to reflect these changes and to correct information that we have on the Lighthouse.



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**Two Rooms Getting a 'Makeover' at the Maritime Museum**

Jeff Pence removing the partition in the  
cranberry/logging room

Jeff Pence, David Cragg and Ann Mills have been working to change over the 'Cranberry & Logging' exhibit room to an exhibit that showcases the maritime history of the Native Americans in our area. They have been working with Earl Davis and Tony Johnson of the Shoalwater Bay Indian Nation.

Julie Smith has been working with the Coast Guard to update the Children's Discovery Room so kids can experience what it's like to be 'rescued at sea' by the Coast Guard.

**Both exhibits hope to be open to the public in July. Stay tuned.**

## Paddle Board Raffle



This paddle board is being offered at raffle to benefit the lighthouse (donated by Jeff and Marianne Pence). It is 12 ft. in length and is constructed after the style of early paddle and surfboards utilizing an interior frame construction. This board is fully functional and can be prone paddled, knee paddled, or standup paddled.

**Tickets are \$5 each with The drawing to be held at the Lighthouse on Labor Day, Sept.4th, 2017 at 1pm. You need not be present to win.**

Tickets can be purchased at the Museum, our Lighthouse and the following Westport businesses:

THE ISLANDER (the paddleboard will be on display here)  
AL's SURF SHOP  
THE LOGE (formerly the Sands)  
BLACKBEARDS  
SEA BIRDS  
ALOHA ALABAMA

## Farewell Rex & Sam

We wish a 'happy trails' good-bye to Rex Martin and his husband Sam Martin as they leave Westport to re-locate in California.



Rex was a board Trustee of the Historical Society from 2007 to 2008 and our Executive Director from 2008-2010.



Sam Martin was a Trustee in 2011 and the President of our Society from 2012-2013.

Thank you both for your years of service and well wishes for the next chapter in your lives !

## Steward of Coastal Washington History Preservation will be Greatly Missed by Barb Aue

~~Below are excerpts from an article written by Barb Aue for the GH Newspaper Group~~



Longtime Ocean Shores resident, Gene Leatha Woodwick, 77, succumbed to cancer at her home surrounded by family on May 4, 2017.

Her death culminates a more than 50-year journalism career during which she worked as reporter, editor and freelance writer for a number of Pacific Northwest publications. For many years, Grays Harborites have enjoyed her 'Up the Beach' columns highlighting North Beach history that appeared regularly in *The Daily World* in Aberdeen up until shortly before her death.

### HISTORICAL CURATING

In 1989 Gene earned an Associate Degree in Curating from Grays Harbor College. She was instrumental in developing and served as the director of the Ocean Shores Coastal Interpretive Center for more than a decade, starting in 1997.

### AWARDS AND HONORS

Gene was named the Aberdeen Museum of History's 'Harborite of the Year' in 2011. She also won numerous state and national awards as a reporter and columnist, including but not limited to an Outstanding Achievement award from the Northwest Arthritis Foundation in 1984, a Commendation for Fish Enhancement Work from Vice President Al Gore in 1995 and a Recognition of Outstanding Achievement award from President William Clinton in 1998 for her work in salmon enhancement public education.

### REMEMBERING GENE

While Gene will be long remembered for her prolific journalistic and public service career, she will be best remembered by those who knew her well for her incredible kindness. One of her last wishes was that those who would like to remember her do so with an act of random kindness.

A Memorial Service is set for Saturday, June 17, 2017 at 1 p.m. at Immanuel Baptist Church located at 1200 Soule Ave. in Hoquiam.



**Grays Harbor Light Station Keepers Log - 1915***by Peter Eberle*

One of my winter projects this year was to start reading the Keepers logs that we have acquired from the National Archives, thanks to Jeff Pence who put in the work to get them. Most of the entries in the daily logs described the weather conditions, but also noted daily maintenance at the station and local goings on.

By reading these reports we found that our notions of the fog signals needed updating. The Original Fog Signal building built in 1897 actually was in operation up until October 1923 when it burned and was a total loss. Cause of the fire was unclear, but it caught on fire while the sirens were in operation and the keeper on duty was otherwise occupied.

Maintenance of this equipment was an ongoing and constant duty of the keepers. The fog signals were actually called fog sirens and consisted of redundant equipment to allow for work to be done on one unit while the other was in use. Each unit consisted of a coal fired steam boiler that supplied low pressure steam to the siren, an oil engine that drove the siren mechanism and the 8 foot long trumpet that helped give the distinctive sound. Many entries were made for such work as cleaning boiler tubes, emptying ash boxes, repairing leaky piping, pumping up the water tank that supplied the boilers, overhauling the oil engines and the sirens themselves. Tending to the coal for the boilers and fuel oil for the engines was a constant job. Coal was delivered in 90 lb. sacks which were delivered to the main dock on the bay side of the peninsula. From there a teamster was hired to transport the coal to the Light station. Once at the station the coal was emptied into a storage bunker and the sacks cleaned and dried, so that they could be reused. Fuel oil was stored in the oil houses and at one point in the year the cases of oil were found to be leaking. In order to save the oil, it had to be transferred to the 100 gallon butt in the North Oil House. For more information on fog signals see the United States Lighthouse Society Website publication "The History of Fog Signals by Wayne Wheeler". Got to <http://uslhs.org/history-fog-signals>

Other maintenance involved the lens and lamp mechanism. One day while cleaning the ruby red lens, the curved glass broke and parted the whole length. The Keeper was putting on the small support bracket on top of the red cone glass when it just came apart. He put the broken pieces in the storeroom and replaced it with a new curved glass which they had on hand. This helps us confirm that there was an upper bracket which is missing. The lower mounting bracket is still in place inside the lens. The Lamp itself was worked on more than once to repair leaks in the Vapor Oil Apparatus. The Light House Service contracted a painting crew to paint the lighthouse and associated buildings at the station in 1915. They worked at the station from September thru October. In December the Head Keeper and the 1st Asst. made a measurement of the distance from Fog Signal Building to the high tide line on Beach. They found the same to be 2750 feet.

Personal changes at the station occurred on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 1915 when "Mr. W. H. Hicks, 1<sup>st</sup> Asst. left the station this 10 am on his way to California". He had been transferred to the Los Angeles Harbor Light Station. On October 6<sup>th</sup> Mr. Martin Rasmussen was on duty as substitute for Mr. Hicks. On October 20<sup>th</sup> the new 1<sup>st</sup> Asst. arrived at 11 am. Mr. George Stinsen assumed the 1<sup>st</sup> Asst. duties at that time. Tragedy occurred on October 14<sup>th</sup> to the family of Mr. H.A. Dusenbergh, the Second Assistant when their younger son died from an operation at the Hospital in Aberdeen. He had become very ill the day before and was transported up harbor for treatment.

1915 was also a bad year for local structures. It was recorded in the logs that there were several large fires. On September 14<sup>th</sup> a fire blazed up about 2 miles south of the station at 9:30pm. The Keeper went up in the tower to see better and thought the fire to be close to Cohasset, The Beach Resort. The Coast Guard sounded the alarm and crew hurried off to the fire. The hotel at that place was totally consumed. Cohasset Beach Hotel burned up 10pm. On October 4<sup>th</sup> fire broke out in the Post office block at 9 pm. The Modses Store, Drug Store, Post Office and one Cottage on the corner burned up. All hands that could be spared from this end helped to save property. The Keepers opinion was that the fire was set.

Many fun hours were spent doing this work and it lead to finding other pertinent information which helps us better interpret the history of our lighthouse. Stay tuned for more updates on the Keepers logs which run from 1915 to 1940.

**Wanna Have Some Fun ??**

It's that time of year again, when the Society asks for volunteers to be on our Board of Trustees.

We have 3 positions expiring at the end of this year. The Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. And we always have goodies and chocolate at our meetings (yes, this is a shameless bribe !)

**Contact Kimmi Kerns or John Shaw for more information on becoming part of this FUN group** leading and creating the vision of the Historical Society for the next few years.

## KID'S CORNER

Word Search by Bobbi Willard, Artwork by Noel Kreicker

## Summer at the Beach Word Search

I	C	T	B	E	A	C	H	C	O	M	B	I	N	G
B	I	K	I	N	G	B	A	H	S	U	J	T	I	B
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AGATES, BEACHCOMBING, BIKING, CAMPFIRE, CLAMS, CRAB, FISHING, FOGHORN, FUN, ICECREAM, JETTY, KITES, LIGHTHOUSE, MOONSTONE, MUSEUM, OCEAN, PELICAN, PICNICS, PIRATE, SANDCASTLES, SANDDOLLAR, SEALIONS, SMORES, SUNSCREEN, SUNSETS, SUNSHINE, SUNTAN, SURFING, TIDES, WAVES, WESTPORT





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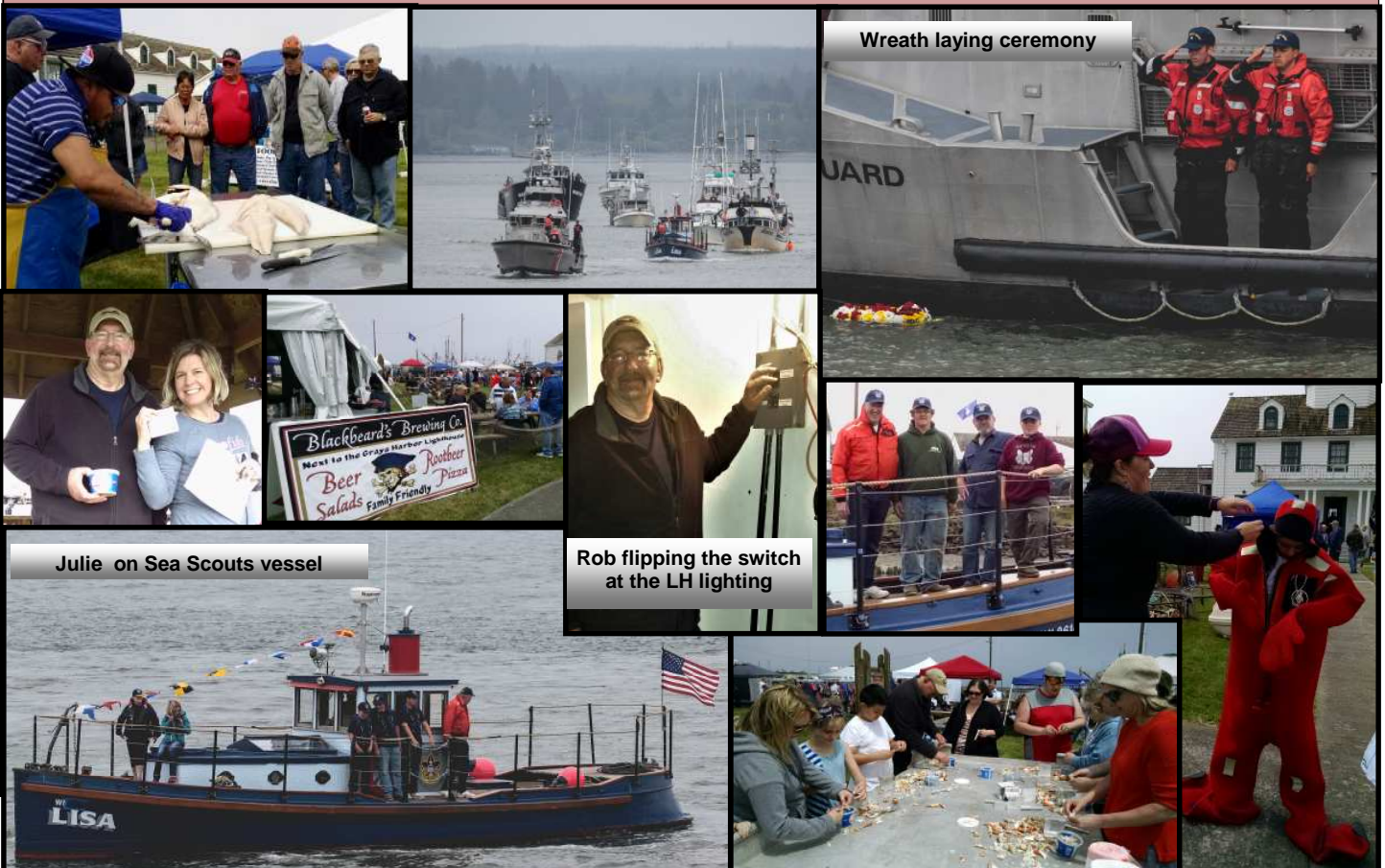
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## Weekend with the Fleet 2017



Westport-South Beach Historical Society  
Newsletter

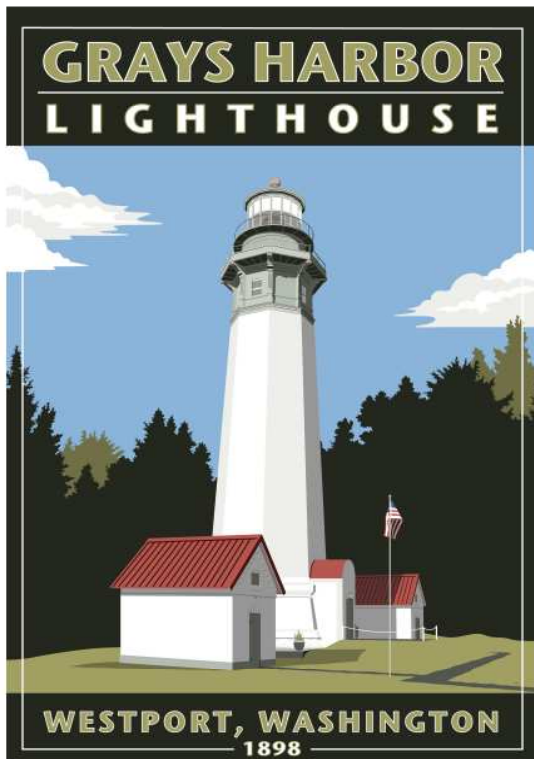
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### New LH Logo



One of the marketing ideas for this year at the lighthouse was to get a fresh new logo. We choose a vintage style like some logos that we have seen at National parks and other venues.

Debi Eberle contacted Marsha Rollinger, a friend who is a graphic artist and had her come up with a design for us. Marsha can be contacted at her web site <https://equinoxart.com/>. The final result is the following logo which we are very pleased with. Thanks to Marsha and Debi for their work on this.

This logo is being used on mugs, shot glasses, key rings, book marks, posters, tee shirts, magnets, and post cards in various styles. So far sales of these items have been good and we are hoping that this is a great success. Check out all the new stuff at the Lighthouse gift shop.