

FogHorn

Westport-South Beach Historical Society Newsletter
June 2018

HAPPY 120th BIRTHDAY GRAYS HARBOR LIGHT STATION



Please join us Saturday, June 30th from 6:00 to 10:00 pm to celebrate the 120th anniversary of the first lighting of the light in 1898.

Refreshments include cake and ice cream, popcorn and soda pop.

There will be activities for the kids and a horseshoe competition starting earlier at noon.

We will have lots of music (including a bagpiper!) and starting at 7:00 pm, the Pleasure Hounds will be playing live.

All culminating with the lighting of the light at 10 pm by one of our dignitaries.

The event is FREE but donations are always cheerfully accepted for the Lighthouse Restoration Fund - to keep the light shining for another 120 years.

**WESTPORT-SOUTH BEACH
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*

The Times - They Are A-Changin'.....

Borrowing the lyrics from the Bob Dylan song, there are a lot of exciting things happening this summer! Kicking summer off, we will be having a 'birthday party' in celebration of the 120<sup>th</sup> lighting of our Lighthouse in 1898. Mosquitos will **not** be invited. And a few short days after the birthday bash will be our 'Old Fashioned 4<sup>th</sup> of July' – it will be a busy week for sure – but a lot of fun. Please join us!

McCausland Hall is getting a 'facelift'... a big 'TY' to the Robinson's for their generous donation. And after various illnesses and setbacks, the Coast Guard room is finally opening.

A firm believer in 'term limits' and getting new people and ideas in an organization, I will not be seeking re-election as your Society president at the end of my term this year. That doesn't mean I will be stepping away from volunteering though...far from it! I know how important the society is to the local community and I am honored and proud to be a part of it. What it does mean, is that we will need new members to serve on our Board. Please be involved...it is work, but very rewarding.

Enjoy the summer!

## Some Grays Harbor Light Station Facts

**Our Lighthouse is the tallest lighthouse in Washington State and the third largest lighthouse on the West Coast.**

**In 2017, we had over 13,000 visitors to the Lighthouse and Museum. Visitors came from all 50 states and 31 countries. Which countries you ask? Here is the list:**

|                       |                    |                  |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Australia</b>      | <b>England</b>     | <b>Portugal</b>  | <b>Sweden</b>      |
| <b>Austria</b>        | <b>France</b>      | <b>Romania</b>   | <b>Switzerland</b> |
| <b>Bavaria</b>        | <b>Germany</b>     | <b>Russia</b>    | <b>Thailand</b>    |
| <b>Brazil</b>         | <b>India</b>       | <b>Scotland</b>  | <b>Turkey</b>      |
| <b>Canada</b>         | <b>Ireland</b>     | <b>Serbia</b>    | <b>Ukraine</b>     |
| <b>China</b>          | <b>Japan</b>       | <b>Singapore</b> | <b>Vietnam</b>     |
| <b>Columbia</b>       | <b>Kenya</b>       | <b>Slovakia</b>  | <b>Wales</b>       |
| <b>Czech Republic</b> | <b>Netherlands</b> | <b>Spain</b>     |                    |

## McCausland Hall 'Facelift'

Thanks to a generous donation from Society Board Trustee [Evelyn Robinson and her husband, Paul](#), a new floor was purchased and installed in McCausland Hall.

In addition to the new flooring the Hall will be getting a new paint scheme and window treatments.

Volunteers are needed to help paint. If you can spare an hour or two, contact Julie at the museum at (360) 268-0078.



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

### June:

- **Quarterly WSBHS Meeting & Party**
- Rusty Scupper's Pirate Daze
- **GH Light Station 120th - Lighting of the Light**

**Friday, June 15th 6:00 pm**

Friday-Sunday, June 22-24

**Saturday, June 30 6:00 - 10:00 pm**

### July:

- **Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration**
- Run Like the Wind Fun Run
- Eastside Street Rods Show & Shine
- Bikers at the Beach

**Wednesday, July 4th**

Saturday, July 8th

Saturday, July 21st

Saturday-Sunday, July 27-28

### August

- **National Coast Guard Day**
- 10th Annual Tuna Classic
- **GH Light Station Lighting (National LH day)**
- 21st annual Westport Art Festival

**Saturday, August 4th**

Saturday, August 4th

**Tuesday, August 7th**

Saturday-Sunday, August 18-19

### September:

- 72nd Annual Seafood Festival & Craft Show
- Corvettes at the Marina

Saturday, September 1st

Saturday, September 1st





## Old Fashioned 4th of July

The Westport South Beach Historical Society's annual Old Fashioned Fourth of July celebration will be held on Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> on the grounds of the Maritime Museum. The address is 2201 Westhaven Drive - just look for the huge American Flag at the marina. 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 officially starts with a ceremony and the singing of our National Anthem at 11:00 AM.

We'll have plenty of fun 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 tour the exhibits and see the Destruction Island Lens. Visitors can examine the first order Fresnel lens up close and rotating in all its glory.

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

### How can you help make this event a success, you ask?

We need volunteers to man the various booths and activities throughout the day. You don't have to work the whole day - just volunteer for a couple of hours and enjoy the rest of the day with your family.

Also, we need donations of plants for the plant sale and baked goodies for the ever popular cakewalk and bake sale. You can bring your items to the museum Monday and Tuesday.

**Thank you for your help in making this event a fun and successful one.**

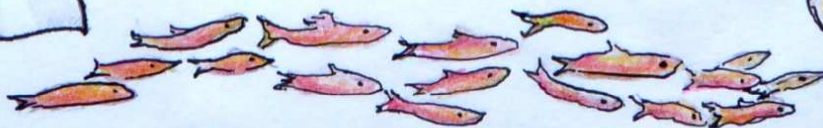
**See you there!**

## Kid's Corner

Artwork by Noel Kreicker

## Fishy Riddles

1. What do you call a fish without an eye?
2. How do oysters call their friends?
3. Why don't oysters share their pearls?
4. What is the strongest creature in the sea?
5. Where do fish sleep?
6. What do fish use for money?
7. What birthday party game do fish like to play?
8. Why did the squid cross the road?
9. Why are fish so well educated?
10. Where does a fish keep his money?
11. How do fish know their weight?
12. What is the difference between a piano and a fish?
13. If fish lived on land, which country would they live in?
14. What do fish need to stay healthy?
15. What is the most valuable type of fish?
16. Why did the fish go to Hollywood?
17. What did the Pacific Ocean say to the Atlantic Ocean?
18. What kind of fish goes well with peanut butter?
19. Which fish do you find in heaven?
20. What is the best way to catch a fish?



(Answers on page 9)

## SUMMER MEMBERSHIP MEETING &amp; POTLUCK

Friday, June 15th, 6:00 pm McCausland Hall

The theme is 'Lighthouse'. Bring your favorite dishes to share.

Come see the new Coast Guard K9 Search and Rescue Exhibit at the museum.

## Executive Director's Corner

by John Shaw

## South Beach History, "The Shell Box"

This spring saw the Society having a chance to participate in the North Cove Remembrance and Preservation Day event at the Willapa Grange Hall. Looking for some North Cove related stories I ran across that of the shipwreck of the Poltalloch. Being ever up for a good shipwreck I started chasing this down. It was on all my shipwreck charts and mentioned in all the works of Jim Gibbs but I quickly found this was not really a "shipwreck".....it was more an extended "grounding". All OK, at least for the Insurance underwriters of the day but sounded a little light on history for me, no actual wreck.

So the nuts and bolts of the Poltalloch's visit to North Cove as documented by Lloyds of the day are as follows.

*POLTALLOCH, "of London, official No. 102,822, at Willapa Bay, Washington, on or about the 26th day of November, 1900, whereby serious damage was done to the ship, and to investigate the cause of such stranding, and to enquire into the conduct of the master, certificated first mate, certificated second mate, and crew of the said POLTALLOCH, "and of all others connected with the subsequent floating of the vessel."*

The "Poltalloch" sailed from Santa Rosalia, Mexico, on the 23rd day of October, 1900, bound for Astoria, Oregon. with about 1300 tons ballast and a crew of 31 hands . On the 25th day of November, at noon, they found by observation that the current had set the ship to the north of the Columbia River. At 1 p.m. they sighted Gray's Harbor lighthouse, bearing E. 3/4 N., estimated about 11 miles distant. Upon making sure of the position, the ship was braced up and hauled out on the starboard tack with the wind at W.S.W. and the ship heading from S. to S. by W. During the afternoon the wind gradually decreased with a heavy S.W. sea rolling in and they saw the ship was setting in towards the shore frequent bearings of the lights having been taken. At midnight a cross bearing was taken of Gray's Harbor Light and the light on Cape Shoalwater, which gives a position 4 1/2 miles west of the North Spit, and shortly afterwards the lead showed 11 fathoms. The wind by this time had almost fallen to a calm and the master, finding the ship was drifting towards the coast, prepared his anchors for use. About 1 a.m. of 26th November, the master went aloft and discovered breakers to leeward on port side. He at once returned on deck and let go the starboard anchor with 50 fathoms of cable, then let go the port anchor and paid out 30 fathoms of cable, but when the strain came on it at this length it parted. The vessel then drifted on Spit and bumped heavily.



Ultimately she brought up in 18 ft. of water on the middle of North Spit and remained in this position until about 10 a.m. A tug and two lifeboats came out of Willapa Bay, but being unable to reach the ship they made signals to those on board to approach. The master, after consultation with his officers, decided that it would be advisable to slip the anchor with the view of allowing the ship to drift over the bank into the deep water channel. This was done between 11 and 11.30 a.m., and the ship appears to have drifted a short distance in the direction of the tug when she was caught in an eddy and driven on the beach about mid-day, and remained fast. Seventeen of the crew then left, being afraid to remain on board, and on the 27th November the remainder of the officers and crew went ashore in lifeboats. They remained on shore two days, when they re-boarded the vessel.

Continued on Page 7



**Executive Director's Corner***(continued from page 6)*

Prompt measures were taken by the master to get the ship afloat but were unsuccessful. Finally on the 5th June, 1901, the vessel was floated through the efforts of the master and was taken to South Bend on the 6th June, making no water. After being re-ballasted she was towed to Victoria, 21st June, arriving there 23rd June. She was then docked, repaired, and brought into the Columbia River, arriving in Astoria on the 20th July, 1901.

Hence the basics of the Poltalloch's "visit" to North Cove.

Having seen some photo's of the ship that Marcy Merrill had been archiving from the Petersen family collection I did a bit more digging. I heard from the Cottrell's that the grounding had been quite an event in the day and stories of crowds of visitors to see the large ship up close. Chris and David Cottrell told a story of local North Cove folks collecting sea shells that were cast off from the ship while aground. Chris Cottrell mentions that the Petersens had a box made and decorated with the shells from the event that was done by Rasmus Petersen for his wife Charlotte. A few emails and a couple calls and I am in Tokeland at the Petersen's looking at a wonderful bit of folk art, a box decorated with shells. The story seems to be fitting together but I am skeptical of sea shells left from the grounding. A bit more homework and the fact that the boat grounded "in ballast" and that ballast was sea water filling the holds pumped in at its last port of call to trim the vessel for its sail north. This now made sense, even today's ships that use seawater ballast have issues transporting various species and even invasive ones around the globe. So the idea that there could be shells and marine life from almost any Port of call having grown or been suctioned and pumped in the bilges was a real possibility. As I read about cleaning and draining the ships bilges to allow her to re-float. Cast off sea shells fit the story very nicely.

I still felt like we could do a bit more so we arranged with our favorite shell guy, Alan Rammer to take a look at the box. This was almost a magic moment as Alan proceeds to identify shell species from around the work and that really fit with the travels of the Poltalloch. Money Cowries from the South Pacific fit with the ships almost record breaking sailing runs between Australia and San Francisco. The ship had made port starting in Britain and along Africa, South America, the Gulf of Mexico and Alan advise that there were shells from all around the globe. It is such a "WOW" moment when all the pieces fit together so nicely and the provenance really works.

So we had a great bit of history from the Petersen's of North Cove that we could help to share at the event and also add to our collection of stories at the Society. That Rasmus was also the Head Keeper of the Willapa Bay Lighthouse will tie into future stories.

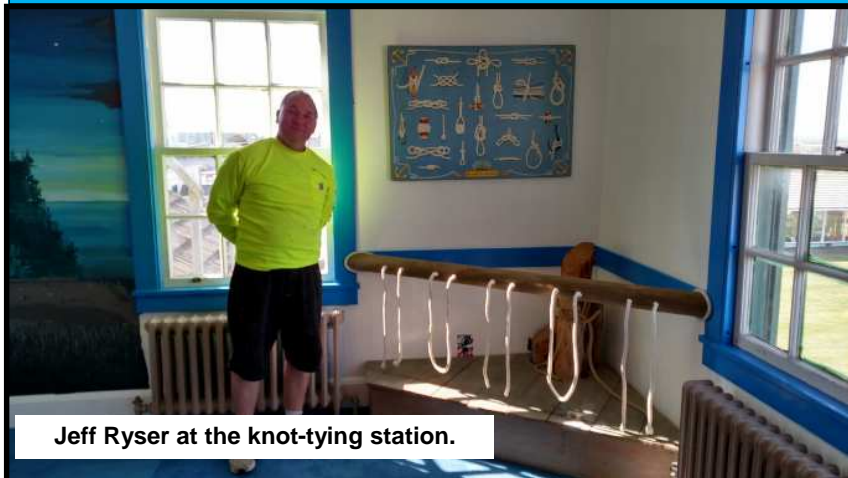
**VOLUNTEERS FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEEDED !!**

**There are several positions up for election at our annual meeting on October 12th.**

**Be a part of the group that will be leading the Society and creating the vision for our future and the well-being of our community.**

**Nominations and volunteers are now being accepted - Call the museum to throw your hat in the ring (360) 268-0078. Thank you for volunteering!**

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



Jeff Ryser at the knot-tying station.

The Education Committee (Peggy Coverdale, Sherrie Williams, Julie Smith and John Shaw), would like to thank all the handy volunteers that helped us make our new exhibit possible.

The Coast Guard K-9 and SAR room will be opening soon thanks to volunteers Jeff Andrews, David Cragg and Keri Jones. Special thanks to Jeff Ryser and Dave Jones for volunteering their professional skills. Extra special thanks to Jerry Diles and Jeff Ryser, who volunteered their artistic and creative

minds. The room information will focus on K-9s in the Coast Guard, there will also be a survival raft to climb in, exposure suits to try on (you can time yourself and try to beat the Sea Scout record) and a knot tying station to try your hand at tying maritime knots.

### PLEASE support the following businesses

who support US by their membership and/or donations:

Alaskan Motel  
American Sunset RV  
Bank of the Cascades  
Basket House Gift Shop  
Blackbeard's Brewery  
Brady's Oysters  
Brumfield Construction  
Chateau Westport  
Glenacres Historic Inn  
Gold Rush Charters  
Grayland Hardware  
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Havenwyld Ceramics  
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Pacific Northwest Web Works  
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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



Society stalwart Jean Tweedie shared from her scrapbooks of North Cove History to add to the video roll of images for the Remembrance event at the Willapa Grange.

Jean Tweedie (on right) and Loretta Brockhoff share the frame with a remembrance of Jean being presented her Golden Sheaf Certificate in 2012 in recognition of 50 years of Continuous Grange Membership.



## The Lighthouse of Rio de Janeiro

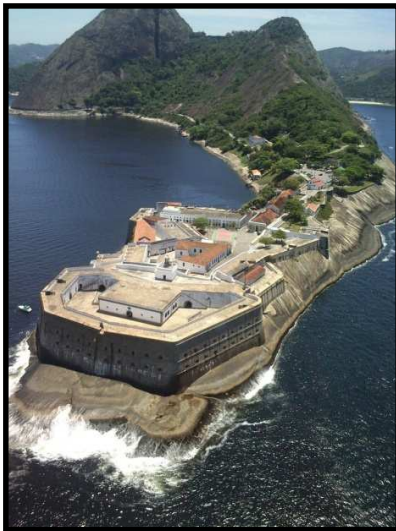
by Pete Eberle

During my stay in Rio de Janeiro I have been looking at this fort and lighthouse from my hotel room for the last month. Every night it faithfully blinks its red beacon to guide ships in and out of the harbors of Rio de Janeiro and Niterio. I have been plotting how I was going to get out there and see this light and finally had the chance to drive out there.

With our trusty GPS in the rental car we threaded our way through several towns to the fort. After awhile we came to a traffic light at a lonely little beach which allowed one way traffic along a narrow road cut into the rock hillside along the coast. Another mile and we came to a military checkpoint where the local soldiers checked our id's and let us continue onto the actual military base. At one point in the road we had to pull over to let a large military vehicle pass that was bristling with soldiers pointing loaded weapons at us. That gave us a warm and fuzzy feeling.



Another 10 min drive and we were at the fort only to find that we could not enter to view the little lighthouse up close. The fort founded in 1612 is still an active military post and is only open to scheduled tours. But once there, the view was so engaging that we forgot about the lighthouse, because of the views of the fort and Rio de Janeiro. The modern light is mounted on a short post atop the lantern room which is in the center of the fort and flashes a red light at 1 second intervals. The fort is officially named the Santa Cruz da Barra Fortress and is located on the eastern side of the Guanabara Bay Bar, in the municipality of Niterói, in the Brazilian state of Rio de Janeiro. It is garrisoned to this day, and is currently the headquarters of the Artillery Division of the 1st Army Division.



This location has been occupied by the Portuguese from 1584, when a battery was erected, under the invocation of Our Lady of Guide, in the second management of Salvador Correia de Sá, "the old man", as governor of the Royal Captainty of Rio de Janeiro (1577-1599). In 1599, this battery repelled the fleet under the command of the Dutch Admiral Olivier van Noort, wrongly reputed by some authors as a corsair. According to the logbooks, the squadron, a victim of scurvy, sought "refreshments" (fresh supplies and drinking water), which was denied by the Portuguese colonial authorities, who were fearing an attack. In 1612, under the reign of Philip III of Spain, with twenty pieces of artillery of various calibers, it was renamed Fortress of Santa Cruz da Barra, and its regiment was approved on January 24, 1613 by the governor of the Captainty, Afonso de Albuquerque (1608-1614). It has been occupied ever since.

So if you are ever in Rio this little side trip away from the tourist areas is well worth the trip and if you are so lucky to get hooked up with a tour you won't be disappointed. Sometimes the journey is the highlight of the destination

## Answers to Fishy Riddles

(from page 5)

- |                              |                                                  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Fish                      | 11. They have scales                             |
| 2. On shell phones           | 12. You can tune a piano but you can't tuna fish |
| 3. Because they're shellfish | 13. Finland                                      |
| 4. A mussel                  | 14. Vitamin Sea                                  |
| 5. On a seabed               | 15. A goldfish                                   |
| 6. Sand dollars              | 16. He wanted to be a starfish                   |
| 7. Salmon says               | 17. Nothing, it just waved                       |
| 8. To get to the other tide  | 18. Jellyfish                                    |
| 9. They swim in schools      | 19. Angelfish                                    |
| 10. In the River Bank        | 20. Have someone throw it to you                 |

Put a stamp  
here or it  
won't get  
mailed !!

Mailing Label Here

## The Peterson Shell Box



Alan Rammer with  
Gail Petersen

The story of the sea shells cast off from the bilges of the "Poltalloch" in late 1900 and collected by "locals" in North Cove, comes together wonderfully in this box. Built by then Willapa Bay Lighthouse, Head Keeper, Rasmus Petersen for his wife Charlotte. This box from the early 1900's survived and has been passed down to the current generation of the Petersen family. We asked noted shell biologist Alan Rammer to review the box. Alan notes shells specific to the South Pacific, "money cowries", as well as shells from South American and Mexican Coastlines and Gulf of Mexico some African species.

The "Poltalloch" was travelling from the Gulf of California with 1300 tones of water ballast at the time of the grounding at North Cove. The ship had made regular runs from Australia and was noted in Shipping Journal as almost breaking the sailing record from down under to San Francisco. "Poltalloch" was a large fast sailing ship that travelled the world. When it became necessary to completely empty the bilge spaces to refloat her, she left behind a great story.

See the full story of the "Poltalloch" on page 6.