

FogHorn

Westport-South Beach Historical Society Newsletter
December 2017

“Trinidad” Life-Ring Coming Home

— by John Shaw

When I started, I was very taken with the Coast Guard history and our own famous rescue, the "Trinidad" rescue of 1937. We have a great display on what is likely the second greatest small boat rescue in the annals of the Coast Guard. It's not made a Disney movie yet, but it's a great story. In pictures of the crew receiving their medals, there is this life-ring from the "Trinidad", all white in front of the five dark uniforms.



Hamerlinen, Ray Woods, Hilman, Jess Mathews, Anderson



We have the uniform, we have the medal, we have the story....where's the Life-ring? It's being held by Hilman himself in the picture, the Grays Harbor Station Chief at the time. OK, smash cut to a trip that Jeff Pence and I made to the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center two years ago to check out the lens and in a back corner of a hallway, on the way to the restrooms, we walk into what we are sure is "the life-ring" on the wall.

The details will get filled in later, but while trying to figure out who curates that collection, the ring was gone in my follow up visits and no one was sure where it went. I even got the "What ring?" from the work camper docents. Great mystery and I keep learning that Museum and History stuff all moves slowly.

Back to today.....With the help of the Curator of Collections for Washington State Parks, we will be bringing the life-ring home to Westport for an extended visit to join the rest of the artifacts of that great rescue. We are planning to update and promote the exhibit and hold a real Museum event around this in the new year. As always if this happens to strike a chord with you....we are a volunteer based organization, your help is always needed.

**WESTPORT-SOUTH BEACH
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Message from your President

by Kimmi Kerns

WOW - My 2nd year as President is coming to a close and what an exciting year it has been. We have really 'come out of our shell' so to speak and have been reaching out to our local and state organizations. Thanks to our E.D. John Shaw who really knows how to get in touch with people and "work the crowd", this year our state governor, Jay Inslee, visited us and we just hosted the state parks commission quarterly meeting in McCausland Hall. What a blessing John is to our organization!

And speaking of blessings, THANK YOU to all who donated time, money and expertise to help grow our Society and make it strong. When you are doing your end of year charity giving, please remember us. We are a 501(c)3 organization and your donation is tax deductible as allowed by law.

As you look at your 2018 calendar, please pencil in some time to volunteer. Studies have shown that volunteering can improve your health and even prolong your life - no kidding, I'm not making this up! We have all kinds of 'little' jobs that require no physical strength and have no time limits on them... volunteer at your leisure. Can you write a 'thank you' card to someone? Can you stuff an envelope? We'll even pick you up and bring you home if transportation is a problem. See how easy this is? We still have an open Board position - so now is the time to volunteer and help lead our society into the future.

On a personal note, I would like to give a heartfelt 'thanks' to Sue Thomas. She is stepping down from the Board after 5 years as treasurer. Sue was the glue that kept the Society together when the going got really rough. And it was **really** tough! She has been my sounding board these last two years as president. Most of all, I will miss her great smile and laughter. I know Sue will still be around volunteering even as she and her husband travel around in that spiffy new trailer. Enjoy.

I am always amazed at what a fine bunch of people we have in our Society. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season. See you in 2018.

**Westport South Beach Historical Society
2017 - 2018 WINTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

December:

- **WSBHS Holiday Party**
Friday, Dec. 15th 6:00 pm

February:

- **Lighthouse Opens for the season**
Friday, February 2nd

March:

- **Quarterly membership meeting**
Friday, March 9th 6:00 pm

2017 Volunteer of the Year - Peggy Coverdale



Thank You for Your Dedication and Contributions to the Westport South Beach Historical Society. Your Efforts Have Made a World of Difference in What We Have Accomplished.

2017 Watch Stander of the Year - Will Willard



Recognizing the Countless Hours You Have Given to Our Organization. We Truly Appreciate All Your Service and Dedication.

Coast Guard Appreciation Dinner- Station Grays Harbor

by John Shaw

On a stormy evening in October, with the rain coming down sideways, the Society along with our partners WEfish, hosted the crew and families of our local Coast Guard Station to an appreciation dinner at McCausland Hall. Westport Mayor Rob Bearden welcomed everyone and thanked the men and women from the Station on behalf of the City of Westport and Grays Harbor. WEfish did an outstanding job with the Hall, decorations and linen table cloths. Dinner was organized by Holly Rydman, and Police Chief Rosenow went above and beyond grilling outdoors in the storm to add hamburgers and hot dogs for all the kids.

The appreciation dinner has become a very popular event and by its nature is focused around the crew and families. This does create an issue as many folks would like to attend and thank the crews in person and participate, but space is limited. We are looking into holding a broader event next year in addition to coincide with the official Coast Guard Appreciation Day in August. This would be a time to have broader community engagement and activities beyond just a dinner. We are looking for a few interested folks who would like to work with Staff on this project for 2018.



Executive Director's Corner*by John Shaw*

It's been a great quarter and here are just a few of the "highlights".....

We continue to make progress at the Lighthouse and you will read more on that from Pete in other articles. In addition, we have received a grant from Grays Harbor Community Foundation and the Neddie Rose Fund, managed by South Puget Sound Community Foundation, to allow us to do the needed professional drawing and development of our vision for the LH site and Surf street extension project. As we engage with our neighbors, the City of Westport, the State Parks and the Coast Guard, it's become clear that we should promote our vision of the Grays Harbor Lighthouse and grounds as the cornerstone of Westport Light State Park's future. We find a lot of support for our ideas and goals but I feel it's proving incumbent on the Society, as owners of the Lighthouse, to put forward the "vision". This grant will fund professional deliverables of the site plan, street development, ADA issues and improved "viewscape" that will help the process with all participants on the road and adjoining development. This allows us to keep the site efforts moving on its own orbit and not impede or dilute the overall "restoration" efforts to the Light itself.

Speaking of grants, we were also fortunate to receive another Capacity Grant from Grays Harbor Community Foundation for some requests at McCausland Hall. The Hall is important to so many organizations and activities and the Foundation recognizes the need to be able to keep up even simple things to benefit multiple groups on the South Beach. This grant helps cover some new and additional tables and chairs, some galley appliance upgrades and more food serving items suitable for group use. Let's all remember the support we continue to get from our local Grantors - its critical to the Society as a non-profit to have these great partners.

Unwanted Brush Removed at the Lighthouse*by Pete Eberle*

On a sunny Sunday morning in September, volunteer Roger Lane brought his track hoe and brush buster out to the lighthouse grounds and removed a majority of the invasive Scotch Broom and Crab apple that was infringing on the view from the viewing platform and the street.



A big **THANK YOU** goes out to Roger who did a job in a couple of hours that would have taken days for a crew of volunteers to do by hand.



SEAS AND GREETINGS

Friday, December 15th is the date of our annual holiday potluck and membership meeting in McCausland Hall. Please join us for the festivities starting at 6:00 pm.

Ham and dinner rolls will be provided so bring your favorite holiday appetizers, side dishes, salads, or desserts.

Instead of a gift exchange, the committee is requesting you bring either non-perishable food items to be donated to our local Food Bank or small donations for the Ocosta Elementary School "Paws-itive" Store. Students at Ocosta earn "Paws-itive" coupons for demonstrating positive behaviors. The coupons at holiday time can be used to "purchase" gifts for family members. New or gently used items for all family members are welcome but items are especially needed for male family members (such as keychains, small flashlights, fishing tackle, gift cards, small tool sets, etc.). The Ocosta PTO will organize and wrap the gifts but donations are needed for the success of the program.

We will be giving out tickets for prizes for those who bring donated items.

Please join us for this happy holiday event. Hope to see you there!

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
Deep Sea Charters
Edward Jones
Five Star Dealerships
Gold Rush Charters
Grayland Hardware
Harbor Marine Supply

Havenwyld Ceramics
Holiday Motel
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
Select Automotive, LLC

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

The Heat is ON !

by Pete Eberle



Lowell, Jeff, Pete and David digging the trench



The new barn door and heater at top right

The north oil house gift shop has been transformed from a cold, damp and drafty place where our volunteers suffered through long hours of uncomfortable watches to a quaint, warm and welcoming shop for our guests and volunteers. It is with great pleasure that we inform the membership that our improvements at the Lighthouse Gift Shop in the north Oil House are almost done for this year! Electricians from Pine Beach Electric finished their work to install a new power sub-panel in the north oil house. All of the work done passed inspection and our electrical is now up to code.

They also hooked up existing lighting and power circuits to the panel, and installed a plug for a new heater which is rated at 4000 watts. This is a big improvement over the existing heater that barely kept the damp at bay. Lots of our merchandise previously was ruined during the rainy season due to the cold and damp.

Our Volunteer crew did a great job digging the ditch, laying conduit for the new power supply cables and covering the ditch, all in one day. This saved us over a thousand dollars in cost versus using the contractor. Volunteers also installed a vintage door inside the oil house on a barn door track to help keep the cold and damp out and the heat in the oil house during the fall, winter, and spring months.

The final step will be to add a couple of new display panels and touch up the paint. Then hopefully we will be done for awhile. We hope to accomplish this while the lighthouse is shut down in December and January. Come and check us out next February when we open again for business!



Will and Lowell

Recap of October's Annual Business Membership Meeting

Our annual membership meeting was well attended with lots of great food and conversation. Thanks to all who came and participated.

Peggy Coverdale was honored as Volunteer of the Year and Will Willard was named Watch Stander of the Year. Both were presented with plaques and Lighthouse 'medals' to show our appreciation for their service and to acknowledge the positive impact they have on our organization and community.

The proposed By-Laws changes published in September's FogHorn were unanimously approved.

The office of treasurer was combined with the secretary position and Bobbi Willard was elected to this position. Nicki Kollar was elected to at-large position IV. At-large position V remains open. At-large position III was also open, but Joni Rodgers has since volunteered and she was appointed to the Board at November's Board of Trustees' meeting.

We welcome our new Board members and say 'Thank You' to our outgoing Trustees: Sue Thomas, Don Ross and Liz Coverdale.

2017 Haunted Lighthouse Recap or The Rescue by the 'Pirate Lady in the Brown Cape'

- by Peggy Coverdale

What a great Halloween we had this year! The sky was blue and the lighthouse was decked out in cobwebs and spiders. Lighthouse host Lowell Deaton was there in a great pirate outfit. Thanks to the many candy donors, especially Mike and Brenda Dickson who brought many sacks of candy, we had "piles" of goodies and were ready to treat the community children. John Shaw and Julie Smith had pumpkin buckets set to serve. Will Willard had the dry ice machine cranked up and 'smokin' fog out of the oil house. More than a dozen people were there to hand out candy, including several ladies from the Pirate group.



Mike & Brenda Dickson



So-o-o-o from 4PM to 6PM we were there for several hundred children in super cute costumes with many of their parents dressed up too. It was the biggest crowd we had ever had. BUT, as with all good plans, something could go wrong. At about 5:15 one by one we began to run out of candy - the super weather, the great fun, and the treat of being at the lighthouse took its toll.



Our pirate 'Rescuer'

However, a rescue was at hand. One of the Pirate Ladies (and I apologize I don't know her name) came forward with 10 large bags of candy she had in her car. She was ready and willing to save the day! She had heard the call for candy and provided the answer to the problem. Many children would have been disappointed with our Halloween Promise if she hadn't been there.

Thanks to all who came to spend those two hours with this Historical Society Event.

And a special thanks to our rescuer "the pirate lady in the brown cape".



Julie Smith & Peggy Coverdale

-From an old witch who has enjoyed this event for many years.

Historical Society Hosts Washington State Parks Commission -by John Shaw

This November the Historical Society hosted the State Parks Commissioners, Staff, and interested participants from around the state for three days. The State Parks business cycle of meetings both public and private as well as public comment sessions were held in McCausland Hall and the Destruction Island Lens Building. This visit had been scheduled for some time and was actually set shortly after the Society reached out to the Parks to host a town hall for the Recreational Business Activity in April of 2016. The Parks staff found the South Beach to be a very Parks oriented and friendly location.

Across the three day visit, the Commission, Agency Director and staff conducted the regular business of the State Parks. They heard reports on everything from State Capital budget, to current financial reports, development of various parks and programs around the entire state. While there were no specific local issues on the agenda, it was an important visit to let all parties update what's happening along South Beach and our three wonderful State Parks. There is currently a recreational concession activity (RCA) opening for 37 acres along Jetty Haul road and that was part of many unofficial discussions. That RCA is still in the request for qualification (RFQ) process.



Parks commissioners and staff at the Lighthouse



Mark Brown , Parks commission chairman and Rodger Schmitt, commission secretary lighting the lens

The Society took the extra step of hosting the Commission, Director and staff for events after the conclusion of all business. We started with a ceremonial lighting of the Grays Harbor Light for the Commission and were able to give them a firsthand look at the Heart of Westport Light State Park and share some of our ideas for mutual development.

After the Lighting they returned to McCausland Hall for a catered dinner that was also attended by our State Representative Brian Blake, Grays Harbor County Commissioner Vickie Raines, the Port of Grays Harbor and City of Westport staff, as well as the Mayor of Ocean Shores and representatives from Aberdeen and our own Historical Society Board.

This was a very successful event for us all and we look forward to continued Involvement with the State Parks.



KID'S POETRY CONTEST

Photo by Noel Kreicker

All children are invited to write a brief poem about: **WINTER ON OUR COAST.**

Submit your entry with your **name, age, address, email or phone** to: Poetry Contest, Westport Maritime Museum, PO Box 1074, Westport WA, 98595. Or, use the following email to submit your poem: operations@westportmaritimemuseum.com.

Deadline for submissions is JANUARY 31, 2018.

A TOTAL OF NINE CASH PRIZES will be awarded for the first **(\$25)**, second **(\$15)** and third **(\$10)** place winners in each category: Elementary school, Middle school, and High School.

In addition, all winners will receive **2 free guest passes** to the museum or lighthouse.

The winning poems will be published in the next edition of *The FogHorn*.

Westport-South Beach Historical Society
Newsletter

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More details on 120th LH Lighting Celebration

Mark your calendars for June 30th, 2018.

We will be having the 120th Celebration of the Lighting of the Grays Harbor Light. It will be a low-key 'birthday' celebration from 6 to 10 pm, with birthday cake, games and music topped off by the lighting of the Lens at 10pm. More details to come so check our website, Facebook page and the *FogHorn* for more details as we get closer to the big event. See ya there!



WHAT A VIEW !