

FogHorn

Westport-South Beach Historical Society Newsletter
March 2020

Wild Floats is Back in 2020

Photo courtesy Capture, Share, Repeat and City of Westport



The Society's 'float wranglers' will release floats between now and Memorial Day with focus on the weekends. There will be an increased number of floats released for the three day weekends and Spring Break week. This event is to promote tourism and create more buzz for Westport's off and shoulder season. Remember that this is "funded" by the **City of Westport** through the use of lodging tax funds. If you happen to be a successful beachcomber and run into a number of floats, please **leave some for others**. Being a wild release, they will bunch up at times with the wind and tides. We hope many new visitors "experience" a little of the magic and the memory of finding a wild float on our beaches. If you find a float, please share via social media (#wildfloats2020 or #experiencewestport) or report it to the Museum and encourage others to do the same.

For those reporting their finds, there will be raffle drawings for larger 'premium' floats like the one above.

Remember to be safe out there and be aware of the wind and tides. Best chance of success is from folks hitting the beach early and or after the tide has crested and receded, as floats will work to the highest level. They don't just lay on the beach and in most cases will be up high in the grass at the edge of the smaller driftwood and trash lines. Beach debris expert, Alan Rammer, advises people to look up high; think like a float. Good advice!

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2020
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*The FogHorn is a publication
of the Westport-South Beach
Historical Society*

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Message from your President - Pete Eberle



Dear Members of WSBHS:

As we start a new year with lots of work to catch up on and projects in hand, I would like to thank the City of Westport and Chamber of Commerce and all those businesses that support the LTAC funds for their implicit support of the Westport South Beach Historical Society. This keeps the doors open to the Lighthouse and Westport Maritime Museum. Without this support we would not be able to continue to offer the leadership in the community and programs that we provide.

The support that we receive also comes with expectations from the city that we can expand our hours and provide more access to our programs. In order to achieve this we need to have more member and citizen volunteers. Our friends need to understand that the great cast of volunteers that have served us all these years no longer have the energy to do this work. So, a new generation must take the torch and carry it to the future - if the community is to have the benefit of these wonderful facilities. If you have time to give, we have many watch stander and tour guide positions to fill. If you would like to help with other jobs like maintenance, cataloging of artifacts, or setting up new displays call us. We will be grateful for any help we can get. Our facilities are some of the biggest tourist draws on the harbor and as such deserves to be supported.

On a happy note, our Lighthouse is once again open for the season and we are looking forward to hosting inquisitive visitors. Again, I will ask for anyone that enjoys meeting new people and telling a good story, to join us by giving us a call at the museum or just drop by and see how you can help.

And a big thank you goes out to Kimmi Kerns and Joni Rodgers for their work in getting the donate buttons installed on our webpage and the links from our FaceBook, Pinterest, You Tube, Bloghorn and Instagram pages. Check us out on all these platforms.

A good way to find out what we are all about is to join us at our Quarterly Membership Potluck that will be held on March 13th at McCausland Hall on the Museum grounds. Bring a side dish or desert and join your neighbors to find out what we have in store for this coming year. We usually open at 6 pm and hang out until after 8 pm. We tend to be very informal to provide an enjoyable experience. I encourage everyone that reads this to attend. Hope to see you there.

2020

Board of Trustees and Staff

From left, Front Row:
Sherrie Williams, Julie Smith,
Evelyn Robinson, Bobbi
Willard and Winnie Cragg

From left, Back Row:
Pete Eberle, Kimmi Kerns,
Nicki Kollar and John Shaw



**Spring Bazaar At McCausland Hall
Arts and Crafts Vendors and Bake Sale
Saturday, April 18th 10 am to 4 pm**



**City Of Westport
Coast Guard City USA Designation Ceremony
Rescheduled to:
Tuesday, May 26, 2020
Ceremony begins at 11:00 am**

Dignitaries from our Coast Guard Service as well as elected government officials will be in attendance.

Come and join us for the Celebration !

**Westport South Beach Historical Society
2020 SPRING Calendar of Events**

March:

WSBHS Wild Float Release
Green Sturgeon Talk
Quarterly WSBHS Meeting & Party
Weed Board/Stream Teams/Museum Weed Pull
Chehalis River Talk

NOW thru Memorial Weekend
Monday, March 9th 6 - 8 pm
Friday, March 13th 6:00 pm
Saturday, March 21st 10 am - 1 pm
Monday, March 23rd 6 - 8 pm

April:

Beachcombing Talk & Landry Project
Driftwood Show & Glass Float hunt
WSBHS Spring Bazaar
Crab Races
Coastal Clean-up

Friday, April 3rd 6 - 8 pm
Saturday-Sunday, April 4th & 5th
Saturday, April 18th 10 am - 4 pm
Saturday, April 18th
Saturday, April 18th

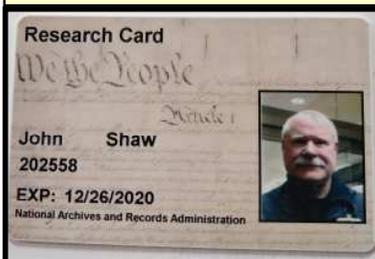
May:

Comcast Cares Weed Clean up on Ocean Ave
38th Annual Oyster Feed
Tokeland & North Cove Art Studio Tour
Blessing of the Fleet
VFW Memorial Ceremony
Coast Guard City Dedication

Saturday, May 2nd 10 am - 1 pm
Saturday May 2nd 3 - 7 pm
Saturday, May 2nd 10 am - 4 pm
Sunday, May 24 1:00 pm
Monday, May 25 11:00 am
Tuesday, May 26 11:00 am

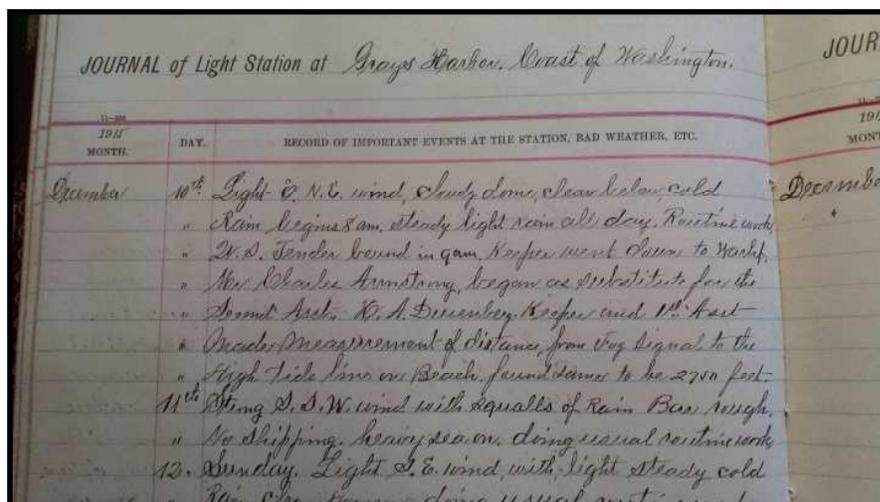
Executive Director's Corner

- by John Shaw



In late December 2019, my wife and I had a repeat visit to the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Our trip the previous December ended with us at the door on Pennsylvania Ave only to be advised it was closed as of the day before as part of the government shut down. This second visit was without issue and we found picking up our credentials and working with the Archives staff to be a delight. If there is the possibility of feelings about the taxes we pay for the greater good, a visit to the National Archives is the ticket. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is for everyone.

I am planning to cover the nuts and bolts of the process in the main research room and the pulling of records in more depth at a future date. The simple version is, I explained what I was looking for and the Archives staff brought a rack from the stacks that included Lighthouse Logs from Destruction Island, Willapa, (Shoalwater Bay Lighthouse) and the Grays Harbor Light.



I had my list of dates and events to run down but as we opened the first logbook and read the date and entry, we started trying to go through every page. Shoalwater Bay 1872 is a very interesting story and walking through the daily entries until it was lost to the sea in 1940 was fascinating. Fascinating in terms of days, months and years of routine, interspersed with crew changes, weather, shoveling sand, deaths, shipwrecks, groundings and rescues along with an eroding shoreline. There is also a bit of the flavor of the times living on the Washington Coast.

I found that it is actually easier to read these old cursive written logs in person as opposed to scanned and copied pieces I have found over the years. Noticing after a time the transition to a new scribe and whether that is an "e" or and "a" is part of the hunt.



I was able to find documentation to most of the key dates that I wanted to check. In Willapa starting with the "Poltollack" grounding, "Avalon" and "Trinidad," as well as a few crew changes.

We pulled a few new bits of detail from the Grays Harbor logs and were able to verify the loss of the F/V Pioneer and John Maaenpau on Destruction Island as well as timelines for crew and some flavor of living on the Island.

Lots of work to do as time allows to organize and archive the pages we were able to photograph.

One particular entry we came across in detailed reading is by Head Keeper Christian Zauner on December 12, 1915, mentioning that he and the 1st Assistant Keeper made a measurement from the Fog Signal to the high tide line ... 2750' This was during a king tide cycle as measured locally. It was a long way to the water even back then. Just no trees or outer dune trail at the time.

MARCH POTLUCK

Friday, March 13th, 6:00 pm McCausland Hall

Bring your favorite dishes to share and learn all about the exciting things we have going on this quarter at the Museum.

We will be serving Root Beer Floats for dessert !

Cameras Ready? Photos Needed

A new exhibit is being planned for the Maritime Museum and we need your help. This will be a photo exhibit entitled: "Wildlife of the South Beach". Photographs of any size are needed of wildlife spotted in the South Beach area. Of special interest are those shots of bears in your birdfeeders, deer at the lighthouse, coyotes in your front yard, seagull babies at the Maritime Museum, or anything at the beach.

In addition, if you have memories of personal encounters of the local wildlife kind we'd love to share your stories with or without photos. This can be as easy as a quick email or a short written paragraph (see Evelyn's article below).

Photos or written memories can be delivered to the Maritime Museum or mailed to PO Box 1074 Westport WA 98595. Digital images can be emailed to: wsbhs.specialprojects@gmail.com. **Deadline for submissions is April 30, 2020.**

We hope you will join us in this fun project and at the Quarterly Membership meeting/potluck on June 12th to see the unveiling of our newest exhibit. **If you would like to help on the exhibit or have questions, please contact Bobbi Willard at the above email address.**

A Strange Duck

- by Evelyn Robinson

A strange duck has come into my yard. My research shows that it is a Muscovy Duck, the only domesticated duck not derived from Mallard stock and its own species.

This duck has an interesting history and has been raised in Peru and Paraguay since before Spanish explorers came in the 1500s. Native to warm climates like Central and South America, it has made its way into Florida and Texas in North America, although it is not migratory. They can roost in trees because they have claws on their feet, allowing them to climb. Although they are waterfowl, they don't spend much time in the water because their oil glands aren't developed enough to protect their feathers.



This bird is often referred to as a cross between a duck and turkey because of its vivid red, warty face. Its color ranges from black and white to tawny, so that its red, warty face is the easiest way to identify it. This large bird, about the size of a goose, has been a food source for hundreds of years and has even been domesticated here in the US because it easily adapts to varying climates up to -10F. I thought it odd that I heard no quacking and read that it typically makes a soft hissing sound. The two that I saw appeared to be male and female and the male was very protective of the female.

Breeding pairs can produce 8-21 eggs per laying and are considered an invasive species in most of the U.S., where it is legal to destroy the eggs or adults in all but a few counties in Texas. Those living in the U.S. are usually domestic and are very rare in this area.

The early Aztec rulers used its glossy black feathers to make beautiful cloaks for use in ceremonies, especially those of the wind god, Ehecatl. The lovely teal, iridescent sheen on the black plumage must have been striking in the sun.

These odd-looking ducks were strangely beautiful to me and I enjoyed my brief interaction with them. As I learned more about Muscovy Ducks, I came to appreciate their long history with humankind.

PLEASE support the following businesses

They support US by their membership and/or donations:

Aloha Alabama	Gold Rush Charters	Security State Bank
American Sunset RV & Tent	Grayland Hardware	Shoalwater Bay Casino
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Capture, Share, Repeat	Lost River Photography	WEfish
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Glenacres Historic Inn	Seabird Gift & Candy Shop	Windermere - Westport

You can now Donate to us on the Internet via PayPal!

Visit our website at WWW.WSBHS.ORG



And while you're there look for this cute little jellyfish swimming around.



Community Talks in McCausland Hall

There are several community talks at McCausland Hall this Quarter. These talks are open to the public and start at 6:00 pm.

March 9th Green Sturgeon Talk with regional fish biologists Mary Moser, Laura Heironimus & Olaf Langress. Find out about the green sturgeon, an important burrowing shrimp predator.

March 23rd Chehalis River Talk with wetland biologist Lee First. Learn about the proposed Dam on the Chehalis River

April 3rd Beachcombing Talk with Alan Rammer followed by **Landry Project Talk** with Judith Altruda. Alan will talk about advanced beachcombing and Judith will tell the story of Gene Landry and his paintings

There are also several Noxious Weed Pulling Events scheduled in Westport along Ocean Ave. Bring your gloves!

March 21st from 10 - 1. Noxious weeds pulling sponsored by the Weed Board, Stream Teams and WSBHS

May 2nd from 10 -1. Noxious weeds pulling. A part of 'Comcast Cares' sponsored by Comcast, Weed Board, Stream Teams and WSBHS

Debunking the Myth of GHLS Lamp Fuel Usage

- by Pete Eberle

One of the many things that were part of the light keepers duties were lighting the lamps every evening at dusk and then monitoring the operation of the light. In the days before electricity arrived this involved refueling the lamps and winding up the clockworks, removing covers or opening shades, and constant cleaning of lamp and lens.

At stations where multiple keepers were stationed, such as Grays Harbor, the duties were divided between the keepers. The duties were assigned by departments, first and second. The keeper assigned to the first department would immediately, after the morning watch, cleanse the lamps and carefully dust the lenses. He would then supply the burners with wicks, the lamps with oil and have everything connected with the apparatus in a state of readiness for lighting up in the evening. The keeper assigned to the second department would cleanse the glass of the lantern, lamp glasses, copper and brass work, and utensils, the walls, floors and balcony of light room, and the apparatus and machinery there allconnected, together with the tower stairs, passage doors, and windows from the lightroom to the entrance at the base. These duties were rotated weekly. This is taken from an early version of the Instructions to Light-Keepers from 1852.

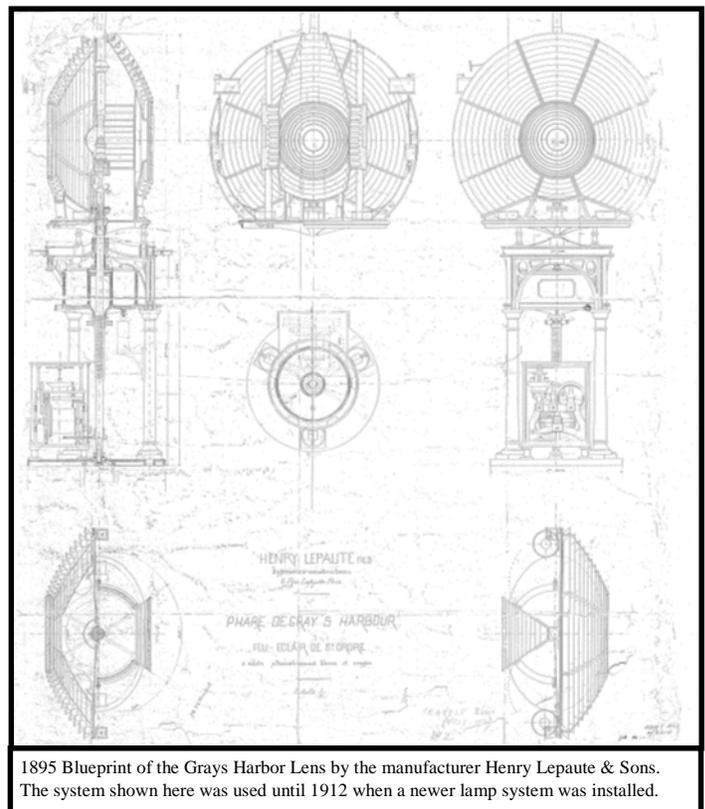
While most of these duties were easily and quickly accomplished, the stories we hear from some of our guides concerning the fueling of the lens have sometimes become overly embellished. Stories of 5 gallon buckets of fuel that were routinely hauled up the tower each day. This is more to create sympathy for the overworked keeper and to tell an interesting story. Many guides probably were taking their cues from the 5 gallon oil transfer cans shown in many museums and books.

When looking at the drawings for the Grays Harbor lens we know the following. It originally came with a wick style lamp, most likely a 3 wick lamp of the Argand type. This included two cylindrical tanks mounted on the outer frame of the lens each containing approximately 1.18 gallons of oil, which supplied oil by a gravity feed. By this time in the evolution of the lighthouse lamp, manufacturers were good at designing the systems to be able to run through the night without interruption. The lamp rotation was driven by a clockworks mechanism that was mounted underneath the lens. It was driven by a weight attached to a cable which unwound from a drum. As the drum turned it imparted the rotational motion to the lens. Both oil capacity and length of run time of the clockworks should have been adequate to run the light through the night. Further investigation in "Instructions to Light-Keepers" from 1902 gives us the following information on lamps used. Plunger or Air Pressure lamps were the most common type used in 3rd order lenses. They typically had 3 wicks of 1", 1 13/16" and 2 5/8" diameter.

Oil usage was different during the different times of the year, which was divided into Quarters. In the first quarter 189 gallons was the average, in the second quarter 141 gallons, in the third quarter 150 gallons and in the 4th quarter 205 gallons. The length of nighttime was the determining factor in how much oil was used. The fourth quarter average consumption was 2.28 gallons per day during hours of darkness, according to the "Instructions to Light-Keepers".

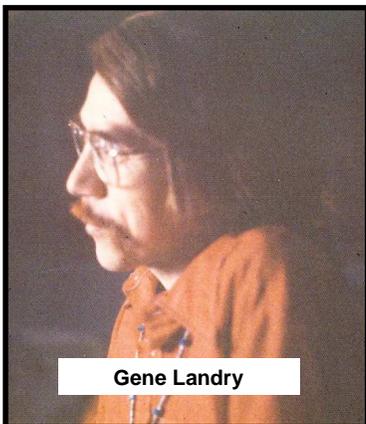
A chart found at Lighthousefriends.com states that a second order 3 wick lamp would use 17.5 ounces of oil per hour. From the Instructions to Light-Keepers it states that Second and Third order lens would use the same number of wicks. This would mean that during the longest winter night of 15.5 hours usage would have been just over 2.119 gallons. On the shortest night of the year in June with only 8 hours of darkness, usage would have been 1.09 gallons of oil per day. While both of these calculations are for the same type of lens apparatus they are slightly different because the first calculation most likely takes into account an average of all light houses southern to northern latitudes. The further north lights would have longer nights which then have larger daily consumption. For Grays Harbor Lighthouse we can safely say that the original tanks on the lens were designed to hold sufficient fuel to run the lamp uninterrupted through the longest night. Which means that the keepers would have to carry from 1 to just over 2 gallons of fuel oil up to the lens room every day for refueling purposes. While it was still work to lug up to 20lbs including bucket up the 135 steps of the lighthouse every day, Light-Keepers did their job dutifully.

Besides the work the keepers had to accomplish, the record keeping for materials used and in particularly the fuel oil consumed had to be documented each and every day. This is because the cost of the oil and its transport to the Light Stations was very costly. This made the inspectors pay particular attention to this item, and keepers were given low marks for not taking care to keep use and wastage at a minimum. This kept the Keepers ever vigilant to prevent leaks, spills or other loss of the precious fuel oil.



1895 Blueprint of the Grays Harbor Lens by the manufacturer Henry Lepaute & Sons. The system shown here was used until 1912 when a newer lamp system was installed.

Rediscovering the Lost Works of Native Artist Eugene Landry - by Joni Rodgers



Gene Landry

For more than a year, local metallurgist Judith Altruda has been on a quest to unearth lost art by Eugene Landry, a Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe artist, whose soulful portraits and rich still lifes captured a watershed moment in the life of the tribe, our coastal region, and the enigmatic artist himself.

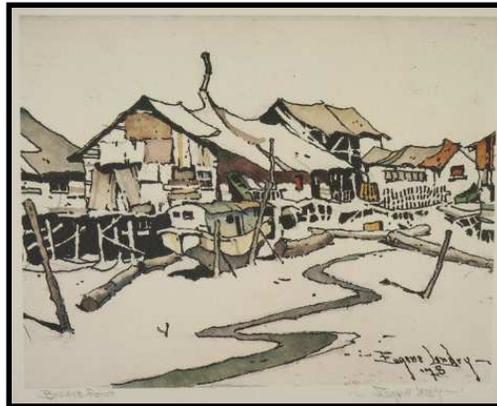
Born in 1937, Landry was a creative, athletic kid, but he was stricken with meningitis at 17 and spent the rest of his life in a wheelchair. When his right arm was injured in a fall, he learned to paint with his left hand, and when his left arm failed, he learned to paint with the brush between his teeth. Landry died at 51, but the art he left behind makes a profound statement about perseverance and creative spirit.

“His paintings are important,” Judith says, “because they represent an indigenous artist’s portrayal of his own people during a time when Native Americans were erased, marginalized, and misrepresented by stereotypes in media and public education. Landry painted contemporary portraits of his people, depicting them as they were.”



Last year, Judith found a hidden treasure trove of art and memories - dozens of paintings and two portfolios of drawings - moldering and forgotten in the attic of an old barn in Grayland. Working carefully and quickly, she began cleaning and restoring the collection. She interviewed Landry’s family and friends, working to identify the people in the portraits, and realized that the paintings told the story of Landry’s life.

Humanities Washington, in partnership with Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, has awarded Judith a storyteller’s grant that will enable her to share Landry’s work and his life story with a traveling exhibit and catalogue. Join Judith in McCausland Hall on April 3 at 7:00 pm to see some of Landry’s most compelling paintings and learn more about his life and work.



- photographs by Marcy Merrill

Kids Corner - Chief's Beach Fun Word Search

-by Julie Smith

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 SUNSET
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ANEMONE
 CLAM
 DRIFTWOOD
 FLOW
 OYSTER
 SANDBAR
 SEAWEED
 SURF
 WAVES

BARNACLE
 CORMORANT
 DUNE
 KELP
 PELICAN
 SEAGULL
 SUNRISE
 TIDE
 WILDFLOATS



Hey Kids !

Follow Chief's Adventures on
 Face Book

(Where you can also find the
 answer key to this puzzle)

Westport-South Beach Historical Society
Newsletter

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Put a stamp
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Mailing Label Here

Carl Lieck was the architect of several Lighthouses, including our own Grays Harbor Light. As Assistant Superintendent of Lighthouses, he would conduct regular inspections of the Lights. This page and inscription in the Grays Harbor Light Logbook from his final visit is a nice find and we should consider that this is written to us as well as future keepers.

*Examined July 23/25
Robert Warrack Supt.
At this my last official visit,
I desire to express my best wishes
to the present and coming Keepers.
June 16, 1926
C. Lieck, Asst. Supt.*