



THE OVERFALLS BEACON

The Newsletter of The Overfalls Maritime Museum Foundation
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There Will Be a New Slip And She's Coming Home!

It has been a busy spring and things were still happening fast as *The Beacon* went to press. The big news is that the Foundation is on the State's list for \$400,000 of stimulus funds for construction of the new slip. Because it is federal money which will be combined with non-federal money, the procurement process needed to acquire a contractor is long and complex. We will receive administrative support in the process from both the City and DelDOT, but we don't anticipate construction starting until early fall.

In the meantime the ship is coming home. The expected date to leave the shipyard in Norfolk is May 29th (too late for coverage in this issue), with weather being the big variable. Wilmington Tug just happened to have the tow vessel in Norfolk for maintenance and we had our clearance from the Coast Guard in all three districts (Norfolk, Baltimore and Philadelphia).

If the weather off shore cooperates, the trip will be up the Atlantic coast. As the trip down to Norfolk was the inside route (Delaware and Chesapeake Bays), the trip home will complete the circumnavigation of the Delmarva Peninsula...what a way to begin her next 70 years and with new hull plating to boot!

The ship will come back to her slip where she will stay until construction starts. Then she will move to a nearby interim berth. She should be back in her brand new slip in time for Santa's annual visit. Shortly thereafter site improvement work should start. So, for the 2010 season, we will have the fully preserved ship, in her new slip with the site improvements completed. After ten long years, the end is in sight.

The Opening Party

The Foundation held our Diamond Jubilee Opening Party at the Virden Center, on May 22. This year, as in years past, the party was better than the one before. How the committee is able to do this is a mystery but it might have something to do with the six months they spend in intense planning and preparation.

The weather was perfect so many of the party goers were able to sit out on the patio and enjoy the Art Curly combo's choice of favorite tunes. Others in the crowd were getting their bids in for the bargains in the Silent and Chinese auctions. All were making frequent visits to the tables where they found copious amounts of fine food and beverage.

As the combo took a break, Dennis Forney worked the crowd auctioning off works of art, jewelry, vacation rentals, sports tickets, social gatherings, electronics and more. In addition to being barrels of fun, many of the party goers went home with real bargains.

This is the Foundation's major, on-going fund raising event and it was a great success. That success is due to the tremendous support that the Foundation receives from the community, both individuals and businesses...our most sincere thanks to all. Through ticket sales and donations, the Foundation raises a significant amount of the funds needed to sustain the ship and supporting operations.

So, will the committee out do themselves for next year? Mark your calendar for May 28, 2010, you be the judge.



Dennis Forney educates the crowd on the value of a beautifully framed Steve Rogers print. (more on page 3)

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. . . tip of the hat

to Phyllis Soboczenski, who submitted the following in response to our efforts to identify the location of the Overfalls in a circa 1973 photo reprinted in a recent *Beacon* issue.

"The 1973 picture of the Overfalls was taken out by the old College of Marine Studies dock at Roosevelt Inlet by Beach Plum Island...a painting by Annabel Evans of the inlet that shows a similar antenna and buildings. Another painting by her of the same scene also appeared in the 'Looking at Lewes II' at the Peninsula Gallery in Feb. 2008.

Good eye, Phyllis!

We're in the Movies

The Foundation used a grant from the Delaware Tourism Office to produce a video to tell the ship's story. John Kyritsis, the project manager, secured the services of Mike Camillo from Salisbury University to create the 20 minute video covering the history of lightships in general and then specifics about our ship and the Foundation.

The video debuted at the Opening Party and copies are now for sale in the Ship's Store for \$5.00 each. And, while you are at the Ship's Store, check out the new line of merchandise along with all of the old favorites.

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

Bob Humes, President



The view is the brightest ever. While official notice on the \$400K stimulus money will take a couple more weeks, it sailed through the public comment period with overwhelming support. The ship returns to Lewes the weekend of May 30/31, and we have a place to dock her when construction on the bulkheaded slip begins, this fall. So we expect a normal summer with lots of tours and new merchandise available at the Ship's Store.

Our stars aligned recently, not because we're lucky, but as Dennis Forney has stated in an editorial, we made our own luck. The effort started 10 years ago when 24 people responded to Merrill Kaegi's ad in the Cape Gazette and met on the ship. They pledged their support to save a proud ship that had fallen on hard times. Ten years later, the end is clearly in sight but it wasn't easy. Over 30K total volunteer hours made it happen. The 15K hours you may have heard about is just the documented time of the Dirty Hands Gang. It has taken much more than that. Our success is not the result of a few people; it's the result of many dedicated and talented folks who would not stop until the vision became a reality regardless of the amount of time and energy required. After all the fund raising initiatives over many years, sufficient funds are finally in sight. Plus, we will be able to complete the total Overfalls project (saving the ship and building a bulkheaded slip) within the original estimate of \$1.2M, announced ten years ago.

A perfect example of the dedication of our volunteers is the recent opening party, chaired yet again by Joan Reader. She and her committee of 15 put it together. Their enthusiasm and the support from individuals and members of the business community made a great party, as always. Joan and her team begin work on this kick off to the summer season in January. They are but one example of the support and dedication over many years that have made our success possible. **Thanks to all of you!**

VIEW FROM THE STERN

Wayne Kirklin, Associate Historian

LIFE ABOARD LV 118

Between 1958 and 1962 LV 118 held the Cross Rip post and during that time Floyd “Sonny” Guyette was a 3rd class engineman. The seamen worked shifts of six hours on and six off for a month before getting their two weeks of shore leave. Floyd said they had a great cook during that period but they had to use a harness if they went swimming because of the swift current. One of his major chores when on duty was cleaning the strainers for the engine intake. These clogged up with jelly fish and as soon as one was clean the other one needed it. This was done a dozen times on each watch.

One night while on duty Floyd heard a bumping and scratching noise that continued for while. Not being able to determine what it was he joined the bridge watch and they searched the vessel. They found nothing but as the noise continued they woke the mate who turned on the flood lights and they discovered two waterlogged men in a twelve foot cat boat clinging to the side of the lightship. They had been blown out to sea when their sail ripped. Apparently this was their first experience in sailing having rented the boat from Westport.

When the ship was taken off the Cross Rip station to go to Boston the anchor chain could not go through the hawse hole. The crew got it up as far as they could and made for the Cape Cod Canal where they were met by a buoy tender that retrieved the 7,000 pound anchor. Here they found an overhand knot in the chain and Floyd asks what we think about how that could have happened.

One of Floyd’s last duties as a lightship sailor was helping to paint “Boston” on the side of the ship.



Floyd in 1962



Floyd now

Party Pictures



Joan Reader and her committee members put the finishing touches on the Auction tables.



Bonnie Dougherty & Hazell Smith sit for a minute



Gary Stabley & Joe Booth solve the world’s problems

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Mark Your Calendar

Jun 12, 7:30pm Monthly Meeting on the ship. Joe Booth, update on Legislative Hall.

Jul 4, 2:00pm Independence Day Boat Parade on the canal. If you have a boat enter it, if not watch from the ship (free either way)

Jul 10, 7:30pm Monthly Meeting on the ship. Dr. Nancy Targett, overview of the work at the Col. of Marine & Earth Studies .

Aug 14, 7:30pm Monthly Meeting on the ship. Joan Deaver, close up on Sussex Cty.

Sep 11, 5-7:00pm Closing Party on the ship. Bring a dish to share.

Oct 9, 7:30pm Annual Membership Mtg. at St. Peters Parish Hall.

Oct 17, 6:00pm Delaware Maritime Hall of Fame at Lewes Yacht Club

NOTE: All activities on the ship are subject to change due to possible construction.

Sign of the Times

After Lewes was designated a Preserve America Community in 2006, the Foundation and other local organizations joined forces to apply for a Preserve America grant to encourage off-season historic tourism. The theme, *Lewes' Maritime History*, is depicted in ten signs along the Canal, Lewes Beach and the Fishing Pier at CHSP, including one near the Overfalls berth. Each sign shows the location of the other nine, so check out all of them.

This project is a step in implementing the Foundation's third initiative (Museum Without Walls) in the 2006-2010 Strategic Plan.

