



1931



Today!

PASSAGES

Issue 38

We'll Keep the Light on for You!

Fall 2017

Seaman Don Ashley, Jr. US Coast Guard Honored for His Sacrifice While Serving on DeTour Reef Light

By Ann Method Green

On a rainy Thursday, August 17, citizens of DeTour Village and Drummond Island joined with the crews of the Coast Guard Cutter Buckthorn and Aids to Navigation Team of the US Coast Guard, Sector Sault Sainte Marie to honor Don Ashley, Jr. who died while serving on the DeTour Reef Light on March 30, 1971. Also attending were his brother, Michael Ashley, his sister, Linda Ashley VandenHeuvel and their spouses from Green Bay, Wisconsin.

In the morning the CGC Buckthorn provided tours of the Cutter at the DeTour Village Ferry Dock before the memorial. A helicopter fly over by the airmen of the Sector Sault Sainte Marie Air Station was planned, but the weather did not cooperate.



USCG Sector Sault Sainte Marie opening the

DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) President Joe Henne opened the ceremony by sharing the story of Seaman Ashley's death. Ashley is the only member of the U.S. Coast Guard to lose their life while stationed at the DeTour Reef Light.



Seaman Don Ashley, Jr.

Lt. Commander Joseph Roach, Chaplain at Sector Sainte Marie, offered the Invocation and Benediction. Capt. Marko Broz, Commander, Coast Guard Sector Sault Ste. Marie, said, "The Coast Guard men and women assembled today continue to stand the watch that Don so bravely stood nearly 50 years ago....Michael and Susan, your brother died in the service of our Nation and while doing his best to protect those mariners who ply these beautiful, but unforgiving waters. We are proud to follow in his footsteps and strive to uphold the standards he set for us."

A local choir also attended and sang the National Anthem and a powerful rendition of the Coast Guard anthem, "Semper Paratus". Barbara Kurciewicz, the widow of Marvin Kurciewicz, who was on the Light when the tragedy occurred, spoke with pride of her husband's twenty-year military service.

Michael Ashley described his brother's death:

"The winter of 1970-71 was extremely cold, producing significant ice which led to a late opening of the shipping season. The United States Coast Guard (USCG) commander was anxious to get the system 'up and running' as the weather had caused the opening to be 'delayed twice already'.

"Three coastguardsmen departed DeTour Village Harbor in a 16-foot tender with limited supplies. The ice was breaking up, but they reached their destination safely, scaled the ladder 20+ feet to the platform, and chipped the winter accumulation of ice off the entry door to the tower. They entered the structure and started the power generator to initiate another season of manning and running the DeTour Reef Light. (continued on page 2)



(continued from page 1)

“Don Ashley volunteered to go back to DeTour Harbor by himself for more supplies and to pick up another crew-member. On his way to shore, the tender was caught between ice flows and capsized. Don was thrown into the water. His two fellow USCG mates heard his distress call but had no rescue equipment available. They watched him make progress towards the lighthouse while swimming for about 20 minutes. After a large wave washed over him Don never resurfaced.

“The Drummond Island Ferry answered the emergency call to no avail. A USCG helicopter was dispatched with divers, but it was judged too dangerous to search for his body at that time due to 'conditions'. Because of an ongoing stretch of harsh weather and

Joe Henne, President DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society with Linda Ashley VandenHeuvel and Mike Ashley, brother and sister of Don Ashley.

significant ice conditions, there was no river traffic for the next 14 days.

Don’s remains were never recovered. The date was March 30, 1971. His tour of duty with USCG began in 1969. He was 22 years old.”

After the ceremony, Mike Ashley shared, “It’s amazing. There are some really nice people here. Forty-six years later they’re doing this for him, there was not much done back in 1971. It’s very touching and very emotional. Since his body wasn’t recovered the lighthouse out there is like a memorial to me, like one you see in the cemetery.” Now thanks to the efforts of the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society and Sector Sault Sainte Marie, USCG a plaque in his memory is now at the DeTour Reef Light, as a way for his family to remember him.



Nordic Bocce Tournament Drummond Island 2017

The Nordic Bocce Tournament was held on August 13th, a beautiful sunny day at the Drummond Island Township Golf Course. The Parris family, Esther, Roger, and their son Daniel made it into the winners circles and took home the 1st place trophy.

It was a great day of fun, and plans are to hold the Bocce tournament again next year.

Come join in the fun.



Joe's Presidential Musings and Other Stuff----

Evening Under the Star festivities (July 22 at the TRAILHEAD) were successful again this year. Patrons and friends who attended were pleased with the venue. The chamber music was delightful and appreciated by all attending. We also hope to spice up the auction items a bit more...Any ornithologists willing to do a birding tour for three? I will start the bidding at \$100-----Call or email me if you have an article/book/trip/something you wish to donate for the auction or committee time. We have asked Darlene Bailey Skinner to join the team. She is certain to spark the event with some great ideas.

We initiated a NORDIC BOCCE event this year. A festive event with 32 people playing in a double elimination format. First and Second Place winners did donate their prize money back to the DRLPS coffers. Kudos to the respective PARIS & ANDERSON TEAMS!!! Membership in DRLPS is not necessary to attend. We are tentatively set for Aug 12 starting at 2 PM for the 2018 BOCCE EVENT. Sign up early with Thelia G at 4 Corners. SUNES HARDWARE has already signed on as a corporate sponsor for 2018.

Perhaps the best day of the summer for DRLPS was a deluge. It was the Don Ashley Jr. Memorial. On August 17 a nasty storm was promised (which canceled a USCG helicopter 'flyover'). I moved the event to the cover of the Farmers Market Pavilion. Captain Mark Broz, Base Commander of SSM Sector, led a contingent of 50 Coast Guard brothers to the event. Don Ashley was memorialized and his spirit was laid to rest. Several members of the local choir participated with the USCG Anthem another specially penned song that fit the event. We then recessed to the MAINSAIL for a respite from the 2" of rain! Don Ashley's siblings were in attendance to witness the event. They were so pleased. Thank you for the 100+ who were there for support!

We will wind up 2017 with a Christmas Gathering on December 01 which is a Friday. We are having a seasonal social... Easy appetizers with wine provided. Want to share a special seasonal morsel? Bring it along! We may play some indoor court BOCCEE. Certainly we will celebrate the past year and talk about the next..... You are most welcome to come!!!

Annual Membership Mailing

It's about that time again – time for me to send out reminders to all of our annual members to renew for 2018. (Lifetime and Grand Keeper level members can skip the rest of this article, if you would like. You don't have to renew anything.) Typically, I check the database for those members who have both a summer and a winter address to see who has most likely made the move at the time the mailing will go out. That's why we ask you for your second address, if you have one, and what dates you expect to be there. If the mailing will occur after you make your move, I change the address on the database so that the correct mailing label will be generated. If I really don't know where to find you, I will send you an email and ask. It's not quite so important now as it was when we were sending the membership mailing by bulk mail, because bulk mail usually doesn't get forwarded. We now use first class mail, so there's a better chance that you'll get it even though the forwarding takes longer.

I suspect that this year might be different, however. I know that many of your winter homes are in areas that have been affected by the hurricanes, and you may be leaving earlier than usual, later than usual, or going someplace entirely different. Therefore, if you have a winter address in one of the southern states and I don't know for sure where you are at the mailing time, I'll be sending you an email to verify your address. I don't want to seem pushy – I just want to get it right. We appreciate every single one of our members!

And if you're not a current member, it's very easy to become one. Simply go to www.DRLPS.com, and the first selection under the Get Involved tab is Become a Member. You can download the membership application there, fill it out, and follow the directions on the website for sending it in. You can use this form for membership renewals as well as new memberships.

Paula Bardsley, Membership Chairperson and Database Manager



2017 Jewelry Workshop held on the DeTour Reef Light

By Hallie Wilson



On June 25-27, 2017 DeTour Reef held its second Jewelry Workshop with 3 participants and an instructor in attendance. The weather was beautiful for our time on the Light, and the participants created their individual pure silver jewelry pieces from molds they created from objects they had brought along to use to imprint the mold material. As everyone had picked a meal to prepare, all



enjoyed delicious food and good fellowship. There was time to explore the Light and watch the freighters and beautiful sunsets. During the afternoon, when we were producing our jewelry pieces, a brief shower occurred, and we were then treated to a large beautiful double rainbow just before supper.

The jewelry material that was used, had a clay-like consistency which was pressed into or onto a mold. It was removed from the mold, and then dried on a candle warmer. After drying, it was fired with a small butane torch, leaving a piece of pure silver jewelry. The jewelry pieces then could be either tumbled in a polisher or oxidized and then tumbled to produce bright silver with black highlights. The participants made some interesting pieces and enjoyed good fellowship, and the beautiful views from the Light.

Watch the web site for information for next year's workshop.

Tour Guides Wanted for Summer 2018 Tours



L to R: Keepers and visitors gathered on the deck after a tour of the DeTour Reef Light. It was a kite flying kind of day. Do you see it?, John Trelford, Nancy Hibiske-Reed and Kay Brown; Erick and Jennifer Rumphol are all smiles after their tour.



The Tour Season on the DeTour Reef Light is over and what great fun it was! The two and half hour tour includes the entire Light from basement to lantern room, multiple stories from the Keepers days on the Light, lots of pictures and of course, memories of the adventure there.

Our tour guides Hallie Wilson, Joe Henne, Mike Horton, Joan Meyer, and Ann Method Green love sharing the history of the Light with the people on the tours and would like to add guides to the program. We will get you started by touring with us to learn the ropes. It's a great opportunity to spend time on the Light and share your enthusiasm of the Light.

For more information, please contact Ann Method Green at DRLPS@drpls.com or call 906-430-8169.



Tamea Clark Helland scrubbing.....and Jennifer Townsend rinsing.....
L to R Jennifer Townsend, Lisa Zubal, Tamea Clark Helland, & Wednesday Townsend

The Ladies of the Light Opening the Lighthouse....

Thank you to Candis Collick, Tamea Clark Helland, Jennifer Townsend, Wednesday Townsend, and Lisa Zubal for their work on opening the lighthouse for the 2017 season. You can see from the pictures that clearing the seagull droppings from the deck was the hardest work of all. (You will notice that the photographer, Candis Collick is not in any pictures, she was always behind the lens!) Thanks to the hard work of all five ladies, the deck and lighthouse was once again sparkling clean for the many people who toured and stayed at the Light this summer. (read the excerpts on pages 6-7, everybody loved it!) Thanks again ladies, for a job well done!

...And The Guys of the Light Closing the Lighthouse

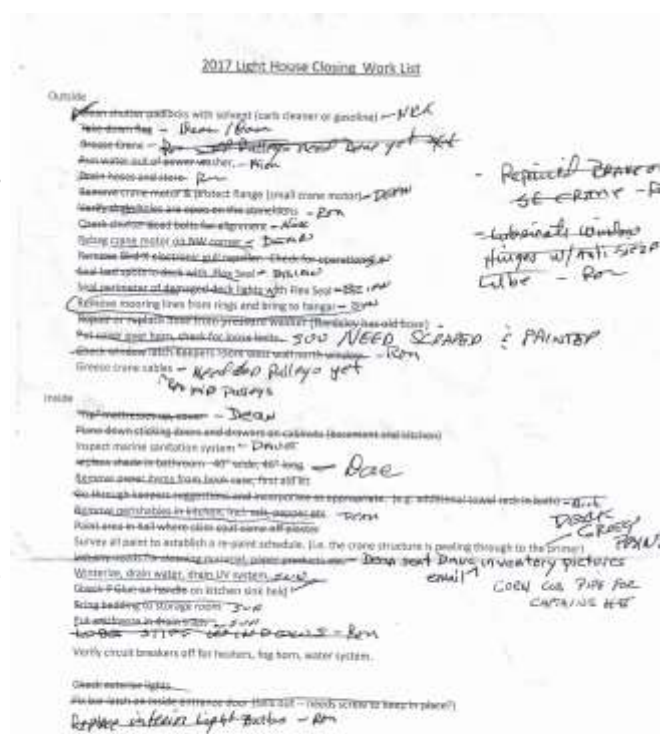


L to R: Dean Smith , Ron Sherman, Brian Nettleton, Nick Meier, and Dave Bardsley

Five men took the weekend of September 23-24 to do maintenance tasks and secure DeTour Reef Light for the winter. Dean Smith, Ron Sherman, Brian Nettleton, Nick Meier and Dave Bardsley completed a page long work list, with Brian Nettleton tackling the difficult task of sealing the damaged perimeter of the deck lights that allow daylight into the lighthouse basement. (For a long term fix, a professional historic restoration contractor will be hired to re-surface the deck and seal the deck lights.) The "guys" enjoyed adult beverages, a lasagna dinner with many sides and pies on Saturday evening. Sunday provided a hearty breakfast, more work and winterizing the light station. The weather was warm, dry and calm with a beautiful sunset and sunrise. A good time was had by all. To join "Guys on Light" next year contact Brian Nettleton our preservation and maintenance chairman.



Brian, Ron and Dave working on the sealing the deck lights.



The Model of DeTour Reef Light in the 4th of July Parade



Joe Henne and his granddaughter, Violet, rode on the float sponsored by DRLPS in the 4th of July Parade on Drummond Island. This is the exact same model that was unveiled at the Fogcutter in 1999 (see picture below). It has weathered very well and looks as good in 2017 as it did in 1999. This was a beautiful addition to the parade and the only thing missing was the second crane!



Bob Jones, the first president of DRLPS and Jim Charles, Founding Director unveil the model of DeTour Reef Light.

The model was first used at the DeTour Village 4th of July Parade in 1999



In Their Own Words -Keeper Log Excerpts 2016-2017

Volunteer Keepers of DeTour Reef Light are requested to write in the Lighthouse Log Book. Excerpts from some of these entries from last summer are copied below. DRLPS already has reservations for the summer of 2018. We encourage potential keepers to make their application early, so they get the weekend they desire. Keepers can extend their stay extra nights at half the weekend rate and minors (under 18) are always half price.

The sunsets and sunrises, passing freighters, friendly fishers and cruisers, visiting loons, fast-changing lake from glass-calm to white caps and back; so many stars, so much sky. The funniest for me has been living in these historic rooms just like the keepers did, working some of their chores, feeling a little of what they might have felt. Michelle Obama was right in her accolades to the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society; Its members' hopes, hard work and perseverance have give the nation a beautiful piece of its history back. Thanks for this.

Lawrence & Darryl Trump, Dayton, OH

This was another great weekend. As each of my grandchildren (5) turn 10, they get to go to the "Lighthouse" with Papa. Every minute of the weekend was perfect. Time to relax, reconnect with family that no longer live home, great conversation, food, reading and games.

Rudi Edel-Gaylord, MI

My first time here!! I loved it!! Sitting outside in the sun relaxing with a glass of wine was wonderful. I love explaining the lighthouse [to the tour guests] and learning about the history of it. It was a great experience and I can't wait to come back.

Sandi Edel-Gaylord, MI

What a wonderful culmination to a two week 50th Anniversary celebration at Drummond Island. Bob enjoyed looking at the "man stuff" – the working machines in the basement. Jan counted all the steps up to the light and used the beautiful spiral stairs as a "Jacob's Ladder" – praying a specific prayer on each step. This was a wonderful spiritual experience. Back on deck we counted 12 freighters going north up the St. Mary's to the Soo and 5 freighters southbound. We want to return again and bring our 9 year old grandson Jacob with us. He is just crazy about lighthouses! A big THANKS to the DRLPS for your dedication to the preservation and upkeep of DeTour Reef Light.

Jan and Bob Lynn-Richland, MI

We have enjoyed God's wonderful creation. The sun rising and setting. The moon coming out reflecting it face as the sun on the beautiful lake. We give Him praise, honor and thanks for the opportunity to be here at DeTour Reef. What a pleasurable experience.

Norb and Ruth Ann Karmel-Toledo, OH

This trip was more than I could have ever hoped for and I hope it's one I never forget. Good luck to you all – make the most of your days here—it's well worth it.

Rileigh Bryant

Keepers for the weekend: Raymond W. Paris sr. – former [DeTour Reef] lighthouse keeper from 1966 – returning 50 years later, Angela R. Paris (daughter), Ocean City, MD --- Saige P. Figgs (granddaughter) Ocean City, MD Delaney B. Williams Ocean City, MD. We unpacked, then went out on deck and did a through clean up. 5 ships came by going up river and 2 down river. Angela and the girls then started dinner and I lit the charcoal grill, was a beautiful day & then dark clouds rolled in and we all experienced the sudden & violent storms of the lakes. We all ran for cover & closed up all the windows. After some time the storm passed & the charcoal grill was ready for cooking dinner. We had a great meal, cleaned up after & the two teenage girls & my daughter started to build a puzzle. [Next day] The charter boat captain stated that we should not eat all of our food as we may be here an extra day, due to the storm.

Ray Paris-New Salem, PA

Around 2:30 pm Turkish fleet sailed into the DeTour Passage and landed at the DeTour Reef Lighthouse. Four of us, are native Turks, although we all live in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Ladies of the Light showed little resistance and we captured the lighthouse with ease. Despite a cloudy weathercast, the afternoon was very pleasant and even sunny. Three of us even jumped into the lake for a swim, however brief it has been. A few of us tried their fruitless fishing attempts. Overall an exceptional experience. Leaving with wonderful memories.

Nilufer Esen-Bilgin. Remzi Tayfun Bilgin, Ozgun Ulupinar, Hurol Ulupinar

HE PROPOSED! I SAID YES! WE ARE GETTING MARRIED!! Proposed right in the light room, ring set in the beacon, at sunset with the light filling up the space around us – so much love & light. Unforgettable. Now, we will have to come here for every anniversary! *The stars were amazing! With the sound of the water & the stillness of nature all around us this night has no words to describe it. "lighthouses do not fire cannons to call attention to their shining – they just shine" or in our case they blow a huge foghorn!!

Aleece Balcheck. Petosky, MI

Flew kites, relaxed in conversation, -- greeted passing boats & saluted the freighters. Windy at night, but the viewing of the meteor shower was perfect. ...Thank you DRL [Detour Reef Light] for giving each of a visit to remember for a lifetime.

Tom Smoots, Brayden Leggett, Eric and Gavin Wachterhauser – Clinton Twp. MI

(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7)

I woke up early this morning. Everyone else was still asleep. I made coffee and started cooking the bacon (2 pounds). Walked down to the deck and watched the sun finish rising –surprising the sea gulls and a couple of fishing boats. The pure amazement of this structure is overwhelming. I somehow feel very at peace in this place even with 3 others along. The solitude of the morning is sublime.

Adam Slowinski-Petoskey MI

What a grand place! Loved every part, seclusion, solitude, wind, sun, waves, friends, great views, food & drink. Top of the lighthouse is spectacular, especially dawn or dusk. Wasn't expecting to be this enjoyable compared to camping but the experience surpassed all expectations. ...

Robert Simons

We will never forget: Traci – Sheplers tour boat interrupting our sunbathing cat naps & blowing the foghorn for them, the whole boat cheered with joy & did a return salute. Rob -- Endless skies & endless smiles. Adam -- The lighthouse. Once in a lifetime experience! Aleece – getting engaged! The endless \$1,000,000 views 24/7. True natural beauty at its best.

EXCITEMENT! The Coast Guard came to the lighthouse to check some of their equipment. They were going to test the [modern, not the restored F2T] foghorn, but something was malfunctioning. ... Enjoyed sitting out on the deck watching sailboats & freighters.

First time to DeTour Reef – The AlgoCanada passed by out of the St. Mary's River around 7:50 pm. He turned east and headed into the Georgian Bay. Next came the 1000 ft American Spirit at 8:10pm. He was headed up the St. Mary's River and came from Lake Michigan. We blew the [F2T] foghorn at him and he answered back! Nest in the parade of freighters is the 739 ft CSL Laurentien heading up bound and from Lake Huron at 8:42 pm He also replied with his horn! At 9:50 the CSL Spruceglen leaving St. Mary's River. He also returned our salute! ... This is a busy place! ... Its been a great weekend despite the cool weather. Thank you DRLPS for restoring this awesome light and for the opportunity to share it with !

Eric & Lorinda Maki-Goodrich, MI

We arrived in calm water and sunshine. We enjoyed exploring every inch of the lighthouse. The 360 degree horizon view at sunset was quite amazing and the sound of the waves was a soothing lullaby. One thing about having young kids here is we got to see the sun rise. A beautiful orange sunrise reflected across the water to start our day. We lost count of the freighters and saw a couple large sailboats. We'll miss the solitude, the water & the views, but we'll be back I'm sure. Parker says his favorite parts were: watching all the boats, climbing up to the light on the "circle stairs" and sharing the cookies and lemonade with tour guests. Marion's favorite part was getting to the top of the ladder, and they both enjoyed sounding the foghorn.

Dennis, Cindy, Michael, Parker (5yrs), Marion (3yrs) and Nathaniel (6 months) Panik, Cassie Ayers-Dafer, MI

60 years ago Roger [US Coast Guard] was on the lighthouse. Nothing has changed – the water still flows by – clouds & sky are the same & solitude is still incredible. Magnificent sunset – still rays of rose at 10:20 pm. What a wild night, saw gulls fight all night long on the lee side!

Roger Jansen and Bette Jo Jones – Holland, MI

New Lighthouse Keepers have arrived, mother & 2 daughters – so excited to be here. We have sailed past this light house so many times. Boats going every which way – freighters, tugs & barges, fishermen and pleasure craft. ...[Tour] guests arrived! 5 people from Texas, 2 grandparents and their granddaughter and another couple. ...It was fun learning why they chose to come to the lighthouse. It has been a very special time for our family, many memories made – a wonderful adventure to remember always.

Cindy & Melissa Tonkavich-East Jordan, MI and Marsha Zimmerman-Dewitt, MI

The sunshine provided great views and moments for photos. The night sky and myriads of stars were a sight to behold. The [tour] visitors and many ships passing by provided entertainment and new friends. Our Saturday night dinner and wine with my brother David and sister in law Bonnie was a 5 star, or filion star movie waiting to be created with a cast of pirates and damsels in paradise on the open sea. May the Good Lord continue to guide your path with His light. We had a blast.

Kevin Van Horn-Lebanon IN

On arrival, we all were very excited, to say the least. Kevin & I dressed pirates for the whole weekend. People passing by loved the show we put on for them. We are now true SWASHBUCKLERS. (You can have the lighthouse back now). We are leaving with our wenches (Bonnie and Kathy) taking them back home ARRRRRRR!! Matey. In short we had a blast & will be back. Thanks for a great time.

David Van Horn-Indianapolis, IN

Floyd Colvin “Chief” - OIC on the DeTour Reef Light 1969

By Ann Method Green

The DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society was saddened to learn of the passing of Floyd Colvin on October 13, 2017. Floyd served on the DeTour Reef Light for two seasons. He was the Officer in Charge (OIC) during the 1969 season.

He served his country in the United States Navy from 1956-1960 on the USS-LSD Monticello in Santiago, CA. Later he served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1962 -1980 retiring as a Chief Boatswains Mate. During his time in the Coast Guard, he served as officer in charge of: **USCGC Tamarack** - Sault Ste. Marie, MI; **Cox'n 40'** Life Boat – Station Sault Ste. Marie, MI; **DeTour Light - DeTour, MI, (1968-69) OIC**; 1969 **USCGC Naugatuck** - Sault Ste. Marie, MI; **Ambrose Tower** - New York; **USCGC Mariposa** - Detroit, MI; **USCGC Sweetbrier** - Cordova, AK. He was a member of the Chief Petty Officer Association.



Floyd was interviewed by Historian Chuck Feltner in 1999 and shared information on his time on the Light. The following are excerpts from that interview. Floyd shared: *“I put two seasons in. We opened the light up in March of 68, and closed it down in February of 69. We stayed opened longer, because of that extended ship-ping season at the time. So I was off from that first part of February in 69 to late April. Normally I would have been back to work in March of 69, but they sent me to school in California...I was the head keeper at the light-house in 68-69, the Office in Charge (OIC)...*

My main responsibility out there was mostly navigation, making sure that the light was working correctly all the time, making sure that the reader beacon was in sequence. We also had boxes out there that had to stay in radio sequences, basically keeping it sharp and clean all the time. All the paperwork had to be completed; the reports had to be sent in on time, things like that. ...my monthly base pay in the Coast Guard was probably about \$400 a month. I believe we used to clean the lens weekly.”

During the interview, Chuck Feltner asked him about living out there on the lighthouse. Floyd responded:

“Well it was all right, you know from being away from home and all... We stayed on the Light for three weeks, three men on and one man off. It was supposed to be three weeks on and one week off. The one-week off basically consisted of five days, and then you were back on again...my half brother got to come out there and see me. He was only about four or five though.”

Floyd was asked about the most difficult time on the Light. He responded: *“We had waves crashing against the crib now and again, but I would have to say that the most frightening moment that I ever had was when I came back off of leave, it was right after Thanksgiving my first year, and we had this storm, with 25 foot waves, we had water crashing in through the windows, and the floorboards were literally floating, and the day we got out there, the waves were all but coming over the lighthouse that day.”*

During the 1999 interview Floyd expressed the hope that the DeTour Reef Light would be opened up for tours and share what the life on the Light was like. He closed the interview by saying, *“...The DeTour Reef Light is a place that you put your heart and your soul into. You get a good feeling when you go by there. It's just one of them places.”*



In 2003 Floyd donated the dresser that is in the Head Keeper's Room that he acquired in the early 1970's from the DeTour Reef Light-house. He wanted that original piece returned to its home.

Floyd and his wife, Lois, were regular attendees at the DRLPS functions (at left at the 10th Anniversary Celebration) and were most recently at the Don Ashley Memorial. We will miss him.

**Thank you Supporters of the 2017 Evening Under the Stars.
The Evening's Success is because of you! We ran out of space to list all of you but the next issue of Passages will thank you properly.**



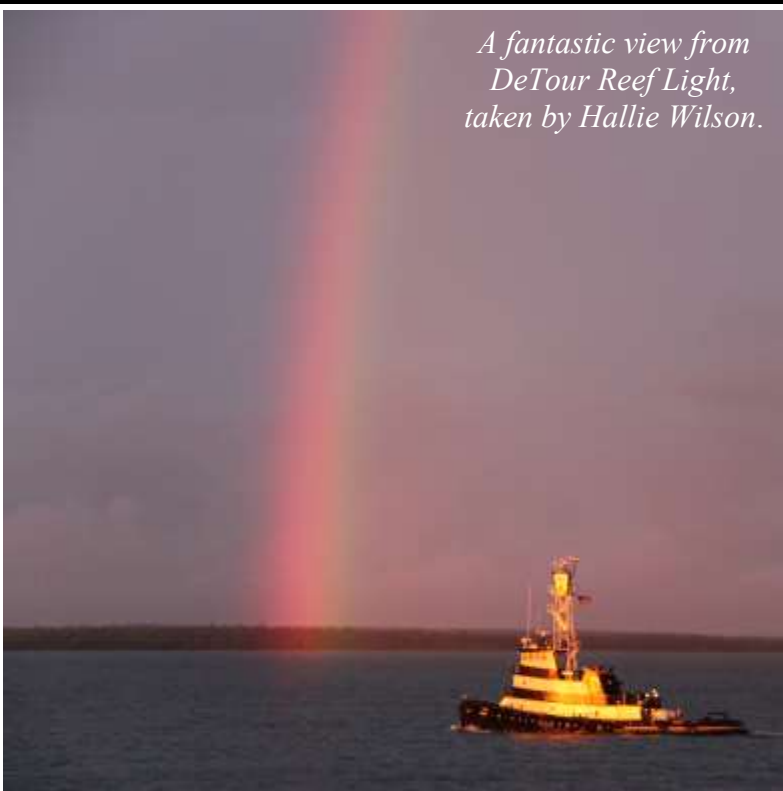
From Top Left,
then clockwise
 Pic 1: Anne Almoney, Dick & Debbie Bennett, Chris Henne, Pam Cooper, Hallie Wilson
 Pic 2: Jo Zeerip, Paul & Kathy Johnson
 Pic 3: Jeri Baron Feltner & Dotty Witten
 Pic 4: Flo Bissell, Mavis Beckman & Chuck Bissell
 Pic 5: Mike & Carrie Horton
 Pic 6: Daryl Ann & Ron Dawes
 Pic 7: Jane Quartel and Dave Kenyon
 Pic 8: Stringed Trio, Dorothy Case, Laurie Zenker, and Maggie Twining
 Pic 9: Paula Bardsley & Chris Henne, Stars Chair
 Pic 10: Joe Henne & Lois Bryant
 Pic 11: John and Sunny Covell
 Pic 12: Frank Taylor, Julia & Nick Meier, Paula Bardsley & Barbara Taylor

Evening Under the Stars
 July 22, 2017
 Trailhead Restaurant
 Drummond Island, Michigan

DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society's logo apparel now on sale at the Islander Shoppe Clothing and Gifts on Drummond Island. Stop by and check it out or call 906-493-5092



A fantastic view from DeTour Reef Light, taken by Hallie Wilson.



Keepers: Adam Slawski +
 June 28th 2017 Keepresses: Aliece Balchik + Tracie Simons
 "Oh, my, gosh! We are staying in the lighthouse?!" - was my reaction to finding out what our surprise vacation was!
 Being a lighthouse keeper was on my bucketlist but this experience was once in a lifetime + makes me want it to be permanent! There is so much to this place: history, peace, balance, a getaway, solitude, endless water + light, fun memories + you get to be a part of keeping the lighthouse alive! Every moment here has exceeded my expectations of it all. arbalchik

Sunny 67°F
 Billowy Clouds

 "He proposed!"
 "I said Yes!"

"We are getting married!!"

Proposal right in the light room, ring set in the back, at sunset with the light filling up the space around us - so much love + light. Unforgettable. Now, we will have to come here for every anniversary!

*the stars were amazing! with the sound of the water + the stillness of nature all around us this night has no words to describe it.

- "Lighthouses do not fire cannons to call attention to their shining" they just shine by unknown or in our case they blow a huge foghorn!!

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DRLPS MEMBERSHIP:

\$30 Basic, \$50 Patron, \$100 Keeper, \$500 Lifetime, \$1000 Grand Keeper.

All memberships include the family.

www.DRLPS.com * Membership@drpls.com * 906-493-6609
or write DRLPS, PO Box 307, Drummond Island MI 49726

DeTour Reef Lighthouse Preservation Society

DRLPS is a volunteer nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization established in 1998 to restore and preserve the DeTour Reef Light. Donations are welcomed and are tax-deductible (EIN 38-3387252, MICS 27001).

The Light was automated in 1974. In 1997, the lighthouse was declared surplus property by the U. S. Coast Guard **due to sophisticated navigational systems aboard ships, and the Coast Guard's not having the funding to care for the structure in accordance with historic preservation guidelines.** In January 1998, local citizens joined together to save the Light.

The lighthouse was built in 1931, and proudly stands guard a mile offshore in northern Lake Huron at the far eastern end of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. **The structure rises 83 feet above the water and marks a dangerous reef to help guide ship traffic from and to Lake Huron and Lake Superior via the strategic St. Mary's River.**

The DRLPS received the 2005 Governor's Award for excellence in historic preservation, and the Superior Award in 2006 from the Historical Society of Michigan. The DeTour Reef Light is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2010 the DRLPS was designated a Preserve America Steward by First Lady Michelle Obama.

PURPOSE: the purpose of DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society is to establish, support and promote efforts in the preservation and restoration of the DeTour Reef Light; to achieve the safe keeping of the building, artifacts and records; to educate and inform the public on lighthouse history; to enhance public awareness of the value this lighthouse and its keepers brought to our nation's development; to make the DeTour Reef Light a premier tourist attraction in Michigan's Upper Peninsula as the best example of a faithfully restored offshore lighthouse in the Nation; to provide the public safe access to the lighthouse; to raise awareness about the importance of volunteers in maintaining and preserving the DeTour Reef Light and the DRLPS for generations to come.

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Your input for the future issues of *Passages* would be appreciated. Thank you!