



PASSAGES



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Issue 24

We'll Keep the Light on for You!

Winter 2011

DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society Completes Seventh Year of Tours and Keeper Program

The weather was perfect for one last trip out to the DeTour Reef Light for the summer of 2011. The tours brought new people out to the Light and the keeper program was enjoyed by both new keepers and returning ones. The annual trip by the Guys on the Light arrived to close up the Light and prepare her for the coming winter.

The guys who ventured out this year were Todd Allen, David Bardsley, and Kevin Corrion, all from Drummond Island and George Leonard, Brian Nettleton and John Witten, all from DeTour Village.

“Good company and good beer” according to Brian Nettleton, Restoration and Maintenance Chair. “Awesome time, everyone pitched in and the work was done in record time.”

This was Todd Allen’s first trip out to the Light and he didn’t know what to expect. He’d never been on any Light before and he was looking forward to being part of the Guys of the Light. He was impressed at the coordination and planning that went into the shutdown.

Pesky roof leaks were caulked thanks to Kevin Corrion with Todd crawling thru the attic. (Todd commented that he enjoyed the story of the Ladies that had hidden in there back the late ‘50s, hiding out from the US Coast Guard Commander’s inspection.) The crane was greased, the water system and the fog horn compressor were drained, the deck was given a minor repair, and the Bird/X was shut down for the winter. (Hopefully those pesky birds are out of here for the season.)

Even with the work items, the Guys were able to spot between 15 and 20 freighters working up and down the river. Todd said he’d absolutely go out to the Light again to help with the shutdown. He was amazed at the restoration and overwhelmed with the sense of history at the Light.



Brian Nettleton sealing the deck

The Lighthouse Tours and Keeper Program are finished for 2011, but next summer the Light will open again to visitors. Mark your calendar for June 15th, the first keepers weekend and June 16th the first tour of the historic DeTour Reef Light.



George Leonard on KP duty



Todd Allen, John Witten, Dave Bardsley, Kevin Corrion, and George Leonard taking a break



Brian Nettleton, Todd Allen, Kevin Corrion, George Leonard ready to go to work

DRLPS Announces the End of the Annual Ornament Series

The Last Ornament, Number 15, will be released in late 2012

DRLPS Annual Ornaments have been part of the DRLPS memorabilia offering since 1998. The first ornament was a collaboration between Diane Werling, founding member of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keeper's Association (GLLKA), and Jeri Baron Feltner, founding Director of the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS). They met in mid-1998 to discuss doing an ornament as part of GLLKA's annual ornaments to honor the formation of the DRLPS. Jeri provided some photos and history of the DeTour Point Light and the DeTour Reef Light to incorporate in the information for the ornament material that Diane prepared – and the first DRLPS annual ornament was born!

The DRLPS decided to continue with the etched-glass ornament series, and each year the ornament celebrated milestones in the restoration and preservation of the glorious DeTour Reef Light. Dotty Witten, DRLPS volunteer and Memorabilia Co-Chairperson, has been dedicated to keeping the program successful.

The 2011 ornament commemorates the successful restoration of the DeTour Reef Light's original F2T foghorn. In 1956, the U. S. Coast Guard placed an F2T Diaphone foghorn on the DeTour Reef Light replacing an earlier type G Diaphone horn. The F2T horn operated until 1974 when the Light was automated. This foghorn is the only **operational** F2T foghorn that can be found.

Next year with the 2012 ornament, this series of ornaments will be completed. The fifteenth ornament's design has not been decided and the DRLPS is looking for the final photo to use on the ornament. The DRLPS would like the last ornament to celebrate the Lightkeeper and Tour programs, a "mission accomplished" picture.

If you have a photo taken at the DeTour Reef Light that you would like to submit for consideration, please e-mail Dotty Witten or Sandy Wytiaz at ornaments@drlps.com. The 2012 final ornament design will be selected in September 2012. More details will be published in future Passages.

The history of the ornaments is:

- 1998 - DeTour Reef Light 1931 and DeTour Point Light 1861 , a Great Lakes Light Keepers Association ornament honoring the formation of DRLPS)
- 1999 - DeTour Reef Light 1955 (photo by Judy Gillett, daughter of a former lighthouse keeper)
- 2000 - DeTour Reef Light 1997 (photo by John Wagner)
- 2001 - Fresnel Lens 1998 (photo by Jeri Feltner)
- 2002 - DeTour Reef Light 2001 with the first crane restoration (photo by Chuck Feltner)
- 2003 - DeTour Reef Light 1934 (from the Jim Woodward collection)
- 2004 - DeTour Reef Light 2003 restoration in progress (photo by Dave Bardsley)
- 2005 - DeTour Reef Light 2004 restored Flag Is Flying (photo by Dave Bardsley)
- 2006 - DeTour Reef Light 2005 Lantern (photo by first year keeper program keeper, Mike Hershberger)
- 2007 - DeTour Reef Light 2004 Restored from the air, honoring Jim Charles a founding director of the Society (photo by John Wagner)
- 2008 - DeTour Reef Light 2004 Flag is Flying from the air (photo by Dave Bardsley)
- 2009 - DeTour Reef Light 2008 Sunrise at the DeTour Reef Light (photo by Hallie Wilson, winner of the 2010 DRLPS photo contest)
- 2010 - DeTour Reef Light 2008 by (Sandra Ledy lantern etching - honoring transfer of ownership to the DRLPS)
- 2011 - DeTour Reef Light Foghorn 2011 honoring the Foghorn restoration (photo by Jeri Baron Feltner)
- 2012 - TBD photo honoring the continuing success of the Tour and Keeper Programs

Note: Most photos can be engraved onto the glass ornament although they may not come out in perfect detail. A write-up on the card enclosed with the ornament will describe the picture and credit the photographer.

Help Support the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society

Would you be interested in participating in the planning of this summer's Evening Under the Stars? This fund raising event is scheduled for Friday, July 6th on the shore at Bayside Dining. You'll have the opportunity join with an enthusiastic group of volunteers to plan the event that supports the continuing restoration and maintenance of the DeTour Reef Light.

The planning has already begun and, if you'd like to be a part of this well-attended and successful event, please contact Ann Method Green at 906-493-6303 or by e-mail PR@DRLPS.com.

Presenting the 14th Annual Limited-Edition
2011 DRLPS Ornament

Commemorating the Rehabilitation of the
 DeTour Reef Light Foghorn



The 2011 DRLPS limited-edition annual ornament (#14 of 15 in a series) commemorates the rehabilitation in 2010 of the DeTour Reef Light 1956 F2T Dia- phone Foghorn, funded by a Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program grant and DRLPS and managed by DRLPS volunteers Don Gries and Chuck Feltner. A four-inch circle clear bevel-edged glass is etched with a photo taken by Jeri Baron Feltner in 2010. Ornament **includes** a hanging ribbon, gift box, and description card.

Each ornament is priced at \$18 each.

Retro – Diner Style Coffee Mug
DeTour Reef Light 1931 Pen and Ink
Drawing

The newest offering from the DRLPS is a Retro, diner-style coffee mug featuring a pen and ink drawing of the 1931 DeTour Reef Light on 2 sides. It's a heavy duty mug, designed to keep liquids hotter and the 10 ounce mug is microwave and dishwasher safe.



The mug is priced at \$10 each.

For ordering information on either of these items, please see page 11.

All proceeds from the sale of DRLPS memorabilia go to the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society, a nonprofit organization established in 1998 dedicated to the preservation of the DeTour Reef Light for all to enjoy.

Notes from a Lighthouse Tour-Guide
 by Sunny Covell

Ho hum. Another weekend on the lighthouse. Same old same old. Been there done that, got t-shirts to prove it. But hold on there just a minute. This wasn't just any weekend, and definitely not just any lighthouse. This was the De-Tour Reef Lighthouse. This is the lighthouse you see directly to the south as you traverse the passage between De-Tour and Drummond. The picture of this lighthouse graces the front page of every monthly issue of the Drummond Island Digest. This is the lighthouse the Coast Guard turned over to the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society over a year ago. We were privileged to spend a whole weekend on OUR lighthouse! I can say that because my husband and I are members of the DRLPS, and the lighthouse is theirs...OURS! Upon our arrival Friday afternoon, July 8th, several hours of "light" lighthouse keeping ensued. We had the whole place, top to bottom, inside and out, looking really pretty spiffy. Thanks to the Bird X which is doing its job of keeping those nasty birds at bay, the laborious pier-deck scrubblings are no more! All I had to do was get out various brooms and start sweeping. From the lantern room down to the pier deck....that's all??? Not bad really, when you compare the hours spent with a power washer....Several dust pans full of dead and dying flying insects made it to the deck where all were hosed away. Did some vacuuming too. Did the basement, and even vacuumed out the crib model! (that chore had been done once before by another keeper, whose name was also Dave). We knew we would be too tired for much cooking this first night. After leaving our cabin down on Big Shoal Bay, we decided to check out Chester's Chicken. Have heard good things about this new establishment on the island. This was made to order for our adventure. No muss, no fuss, and quite delicious. More time to spend admiring the sunset with adult beverages, and.....my camera.

I have to tell you why this particular weekend was so different from our usual weekend tours. John and I schedule tours to the light, and Dave Bardsley is in charge of the Keeper program. I had scheduled a tour for Saturday, the 9th, but there were no keepers booked. Solution?? The Covells could be the weekend keepers! As it turned out, we were the only keepers! Perfect! In 1970, we spent the second weekend of July in Munising, Michigan. July 10th fell on a Saturday, and that was the day we committed matrimony in my grandmother's church. In



(Notes continued on page 7)

Notes from the Lighthouse Keeper Program Chair

By David Bardsley

Seven summers of Tours and Weekend Keeper Programs!!! What was only a dream in 1998 when DRLPS was organized became a dream come true in 2005! DeTour Reef Light provides an outstanding lighthouse experience that is unmatched. Don't miss what past keepers of DeTour Reef Light have called "A once in a lifetime opportunity."

Priority for choice of weekend is based on date of application and payment. Keeper weekends run from mid-June to the end of August to coincide with our schedule for public tours. Extra days (at half the normal rate) can be scheduled on either side of the weekend. Already we have full payment for the last two weekends in July. Once the scheduled weekends are full, we will consider mid-week programs and weekends in September. Details of the program can be downloaded from www.DRLPS.com. Keepers are required to view the two DVD set "Gateway to Superior – saving the DeTour Reef Light" which is available from DRLPS. This video set includes programs from three lighthouse keeper weekends as well as historical background on the lighthouse and the restoration.

It's three AM and the phone is ringing...something is happening at DeTour Reef Light!

Half asleep, I answer and it's the watch officer from the Coast Guard Station in Sault Ste. Marie. A freighter has called the Coast Guard to report that people are on DeTour Reef Light!! I reply that indeed six people are on DeTour Reef Light and that their presence is authorized, as they are volunteer lighthouse keepers. As I try to get back to sleep, I think about a one thirty am call two weeks ago from the keepers on DeTour Reef Light when some drunks visited the lighthouse. From the DeTour Reef Log Book:

"8/7/11, 0110 hours [1:10am] We had visitors – 5 drunk guys with a small outboard boat came up the ladder. When told they should leave because it was private property – one of them stated he had to finish peeing first – lucky us. They all went down the ladder at the same time – then on the way away from the light threw us a present of Labatt beer light, which spilled on the deck. Clay hosed it off right away to save the deck. "Our Hero." I think these guys have been here before -- when asked to leave they responded – "You know how it is – you came out here when you were younger, didn't you?" He also said- "usually there's nobody out here." Hmm...not dangerous though." [this entry was followed by 2am, 3am, 5am, 7:10am, and 8am entries after which I presume the log keeper when to sleep.]

Wondering if DeTour Reef had yet another visit from local celebrants, I called keeper Rick Witten's cell to advise the keepers that they may have visitors and if so to chase them off the lighthouse [the fog horn would surely blow them off the deck.] From the DeTour Reef Log Book:

8/21/11: "Saturday was wonderful, light wind to keep the flies on the move. Pleasant visitors, lots of freighters and fishing boats. Good meal, wine, cards, sunset, starwatching and off to bed. And then -- The second visit of the ghost keeper!

Things that went "Bump in the Night" We were adjusted to the BirdX squawk and the occasional exhale of the air from the air pressure tank [automatic moisture ejector valves] but bumps suggesting footsteps on the stairs alerted Dotty to the visitor. An elbow in my ribs got my attention. Down we go to the deck turning on lights etc. After exterior lights revealed nothing extraordinary, we returned to the bedroom and noticed a down bound freighter. Evidently, the driver observed the lights and grew curious. He turned on the ship spotlight and washed the lighthouse in blinding illumination. He evidently saw us watching him. The boat passed by and we went to bed.

The third visit of the ghost keeper. Back to sleep was I when I was jolted awake and in our doorway was "THE KEEPER", complete with keeper hat, shining a flashlight in my face! Then he said, "All is well, go back to sleep."

Post Log: The Freighter spotlight woke up everyone in the bunkroom except Rick. The Freighter called the Coast Guard and reported light and people on the lighthouse. Coast Guard called Dave Bardsley and Dave called Rick's cell phone. Rick having slept through all of the above told Dave he would check for intruders. As a sign of authority, he wore the keeper hat should he encounter invaders. None found. Ghosts are often heard but not seen.

Excerpts from The DeTour Reef Light Keepers Logbook

Volunteer keepers of DeTour Reef Light are requested to record some of their experiences in the light station log book. Records of ships passing, weather conditions, tours, menus and personal observations fill the many pages of the log. Below are excerpts from the log book that were recorded during the summers of 2010 and 2011. While we have faithfully copied the exclamation marks, capitalization and underlines, the many smiling faces don't exist on my keyboard. Poems, raps and songs have been saved for another time.

"A beautiful day in a beautiful place with great friends" Kirsten Clemens

"The rest of the day...was totally beautiful. We took the TV outside and watched movies sitting in the deck chairs. What a cool way to spend an evening! We topped it off stargazing. Wow! The stars were beautiful again. ... The weekend went way to fast! P.S. Total freighter count this weekend 36." Karen Cote'

"It's a little bit of a challenge to climb the ladder with 2 artificial knees for one of us but we all made it.Rain showers in the night and early AM, then a beautiful sunny afternoon when we sat on deck, had wine, and watched freighters & pleasure boats. ... What a lonesome sound is the foghorn of the ships as they pass by in the fog last night. ... It's been a wonderful chance to create new friendships and renew and deepen old relationships, time to play games, tell funny stories that make us laugh until we cry, time to share, time to support each other, time to reflect.As I sit and reflect on this experience and weekend I can't help but have a few tears!! Tears of joy, a couple of fear, and now of sadness. As a huge lighthouse enthusiast, this has been my ultimate dream come true! How could any lighthouse experience top this? The tears of joy at the first sight of DRL [DeTour Reef Light] as the boat inched its' way closer & closer. Am I really here? Tears of joy at my new friends' stories of life and wisdom. I thank God for their openness to share a little of their lives with me. Finally, tears of sadness – to leave the light, to leave the seas, to leave my new found friends. ...Thank you to the many people who gave so much (blood, sweat, tears & \$\$) to preserve this lighthouse for me and the many people who will visit DRL!!!" --- Susan Shoemaker, Mary Ardner, Judy Pence, Janice Hesse, Judy Wojnowski

"Unpacked, settled in, dinner and then --- the storm! We watched from the deck as lightning flashed from the western, southern, and northern horizon. As the wind picked up and the waves got higher, the storm closed in. We all reluctantly moved into the living quarters to watch from every window. By this time waves were crashing on the deck, much to our delight. ... As two of us went to bed, the other four had a wave crash on the dining room window—how exciting! All too soon it was time to pack up and look for Captain Gable – another wonderful weekend at DeTour Reef Lighthouse!" Nancy Craven.

"Sixteen Freighters went by today. Two groups of tours. It is wonderful to be surrounded by so much history and fortunate to be able to meet the few people who have dedicated their lives so that we could have this weekend. First and foremost, thank you for all your hard work. ... It was a very positive memory that I will never forget. ... The moon rises orange, the sunset lights the entire perimeter of the sky to create a circle of orange. No one is in a rush to pack. I will miss the tranquility of this place & those of us here this weekend have provided. ... It has ended with Mother Nature's blessings of beautiful weather & gorgeous skies. All four of us are happy to have shared this together. Thanks again. " --- Win Stebbins, Lille Foster, Tina Ostash, Vern Storm.

"What a fantastic weekend! Staying at a lighthouse is on Matt's bucket list, so being at DeTour Reef Light for three glorious days is literally a dream come true. ... Highlights from our time this weekend: blowing the foghorn...sitting on the top deck in the morning with a cup of coffee & the morning sun. ...being able to stand anywhere in the lighthouse & seeing only gorgeous water.... Hanging the "2010 Preserve America Steward" certificate, signed by Michelle Obama & feeling like a true piece of living history. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of the DRL & all you've done to maintain & sustain this remarkable monument. It will be a treasured experience that we'll never forget!" Matthew Swan, Chad Badger.

"Wow what a blast! We had a great group of people, ...blew the foghorn (well at least 'some' of us got carried away with that 'chore'!) ...Had a memory of a lifetime." Jerry & Sue Zaccardelli.

"I had the time of my life and I owe it all to Jerry, Sue, Ric, Scott, and Betsy. I've never felt like this before. I swear that it's true – I need to blow the foghorn AGAIN! Love Robyn – AKA Bambi." Robyn Netz.

"With my stomach full of steak & eggs, it's safe to say this experience was well worth the trip. I'll admit it wasn't as peaceful as expected with the electronic birds & foghorn happy Bambi, but my unbelievably "silent" bunk buddies made up for that. I won't name names, but someone (Ric) is a suspected cheater in the game of Uno. Even so, we are the BEST lighthouse keepers EVER!)" Betsy Davis.

"I had so much fun at the light house. We played cards with Grandpa and daddy . I also wrote in my journal." Kaitlyn, 8 ¾ years old, Colorado.

(Keepers Continued on page 6)

Coming Soon to your Inbox: *Passages* by Email

You have probably discovered that you can see back issues of *Passages* on our website (www.drlps.com, under the "Publications" tab click on "Passages Newsletter"), but we are now offering you the opportunity to receive your current issue of *Passages* by email. The advantages for you are:

- 1) You will get your copy as soon as it is ready for the printer – no need to wait for printing, folding, addressing and mailing;
- 2) Your copy will be in full color, which you can either print or save on your computer;
- 3) Your copy will not be lost in the mail because you were traveling or at a different address when it arrived. It will come to your computer to download wherever you are and whenever you wish; and
- 4) It will save the Society printing and postage costs. Each copy of *Passages* costs DRLPS approximately fifty cents to print and mail, plus the volunteer time to prepare them for mailing.

In order to receive your copy of *Passages* by email, just simply send an email note to membership@drlps.com requesting Passages by Email, and we will put you on the *Passages* email distribution list. Please note if the email address you would like the newsletter sent to is different from the one in your email message. It will be distributed in a PDF format, which requires that you have Acrobat Reader software on your computer. We will include the instructions for downloading this free software if you don't already have it. It would be helpful but not necessary if you have a high-speed internet connection, since the files will be in the 1-2 megabyte size range. Dial-up will work, but it will take a while to accomplish the download.

(Keepers Continued from page 5)

"We had a blast – I slept in the lantern floor with the door open watching the stars and [light] beams of DeTour Light. AW-SOME! We had gourmet food – excellent UNO competition and unforgettable freighter encounters & even participated in a [Coast Guard] search for a kayak 2 miles south of the light. Saw 5 thousand footers and the Arthur Anderson amongst dozens of other boats. Many thanks to DRLPS for leaving the light ON." Ric Mixer

"Enjoyed the sun on the deck. It has been a fantastic weekend! I am ready for more!" Rita Carleski – 2-time keeper.
 "Wow. What a day. What a weekend. And we get to see yet another sunset before we have to leave tomorrow. ... This is our wedding anniversary weekend. Yes indeed, today is the last day of our 40th year together. Life is good. Sure hope we can spend more anniversary celebrations on DRL. ... foghorn is magnificent! ... The hymn "Bless this house" takes on a whole new meaning." Sunny C.

"A privilege to live for a few days on a Great Lakes lighthouse, and to witness the waters of one of the Great Lakes, a subject enjoyed in primary (elementary) and high school in Scotland. Sincere congratulations and thanks to all volunteers of the DRLPS, without whom there would not be this wonderful lighthouse, and we could not have had this experience." Doug Fyfe (ex Scotland, now Canada).

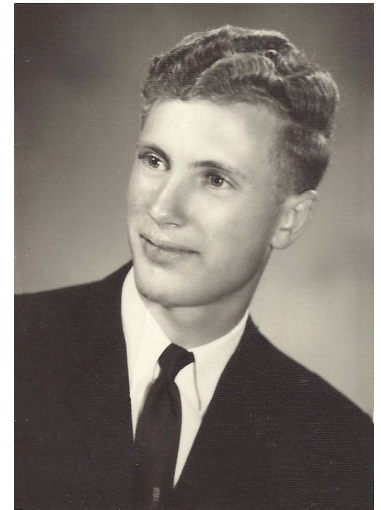
"Thank you for wonderful time with my friends!!! I'm very happy!!!I'm just so happy!" Shiho Utsumi – Japan.

"The seven tourists included a woman, Dorothy Inhelder, who, at 85 years, may have been the oldest visitor to the lighthouse. ... She said (up on the balcony) that this was the best trip she'd had in a long time. (She was from Iowa). She was so glad she came to the lighthouse instead of going to Mackinac Island with the other members of her family... Her face lit up like a kid on Christmas when we let her blow the foghorn. ...We all got up to see the sunrise. How beautiful! What a treat to be able to take pictures of the awakening sun while you're sitting near the top of a lighthouse out in the Great Lakes. "Life is good!" Karen Cote'
 "We enjoyed a beautiful weekend here-even with the interruptions of the "Ghost Keeper"! The weather was clear and the sunsets beautiful – especially with cocktails in hand. ...it's wonderful to be lulled to sleep by the sounds of the water and wind. I felt like we spent the weekend on a tiny private island with great food and company!" Kim Landris.

"Holy Whaa!! One long and two shorts!! According to the Locks & Ships book – page 38, that was a Master Salute! Doesn't get any better than that! And this was a first for the DRL [DeTour Reef Light]. We blew our horn, and we got a salute. How cool is that!! It was the Stuart B. Cort." Sunny Covell

"Yesterday was awesome!! Awoke to a beautiful sunrise and day. Seeing freighters --- wish fulfilled manifold! Even got a salute back – that is something special for a Great Lakes sailor's daughter!! Good weather, awesome/unique accommodations, great food, and most of all great opportunity to meet some wonderful interesting people. So many stars last night!! Clear skies –you could see forever. Wonderful job that I know was hard labors of love that won't end. Thank you and God's blessings to all who do anything to keep this historic landmark alive!!" Mary Jo and Kent Vaughn

Remembering lost keeper, Don Ashley, Jr.



I happened to be browsing the web site for the DeTour Reef Lighthouse and realized this was the lighthouse that my brother, Don Ashley Jr, had been stationed at, from 1969 - 1971 when he tragically died (March 30, 1971). On that day they were opening the lighthouse and Donnie had dropped BM1 Patrick Holmes and Eng/1 Marvin Kurkierewicz at the lighthouse. Navigating a 16 foot Coast Guard outboard tender, he was on his way back to pick up supplies and Eng/3 Samuel Rouse when he hit ice and capsized. We were told that they heard him yelling for help from the lighthouse but they had no boat to rescue him. Holmes radioed for help. The ferry, Drummond Islander, was two miles away and responded immediately and found the overturned boat but no sign of my brother. His body was never found. We were told that it was so cold that day that Donnie had many layers of clothes on with his life jacket but could not latch the lifejacket. This has been a source of great sorrow and anguish for my family. It has been 40 years since this occurred but some days it seems like yesterday.

Donnie was the oldest child of Don and Beulah Ashley. He had one younger brother Mike and a younger sister Linda. We all loved him very much. Donnie was supposed to be married one month (May 1, 1971) after his death. In the 1996 I took my family to put a wreath in the water in the St.Mary's River. The closest we could get to the place Donnie had died was from the shore. We had been told that the lighthouse had been automated. I believed at that time that was the closest I could get to put a floating wreath in the water. Now that I know you are open for tours maybe someday I will get back there to put another wreath in the water.

Thank you for your time,
Linda Ashley VandenHeuvel
Green Bay, WI

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2011, we got to spend our 41st wedding anniversary on a lighthouse! Life can be good!! The only interruption we had on this anniversary was the arrival of Meade Gable in his Luc Dragon out of Whitney Bay on Saturday morning. I was busy in the kitchen keeping watch over the chocolate chip cookies baking in the 1932 oven. My timing was a bit off, so the head tour guide had to start the tour solo. Anyhow, I only had 3 people for our 11:30 tour. With John and I already established on the light, there would be room in the boat for 4 more people. Dave came up with a brilliant idea. Friday night was the much celebrated event known as Evening Under the Stars.

He would make his announcement about the opportunity for folks to take advantage of a Saturday tour. This worked for me last year, and it worked this year too! I'll bet next year's Stars' attendees will be expecting this announcement again! Unless of course, tours will be in such high demand that these notices won't be happening. In fact, when potential tour participants ask me "what's in it for me if I opt for a membership?" Not only will they get the reduced rate of a tour, as members they will now be part owners of the DeTour Reef Lighthouse! How cool is that??

After waving good-bye to a boat-load of satisfied tour participants, we were pleased that all went well, and we had the place to ourselves. Except for one incident when I did a dumb thing. Several times during the weekend, we had pushed a button in the office of the DRL. This button activates the only operational F2T Diaphone foghorn in the U.S. Heck....probably in the world! At one point I spotted a salty coming up from the lower. In my excitement of wanting to give him a shout, I neglected to ascertain where my husband was BEFORE I pushed the button. You guessed it. He was outside on the pier deck directly below the megaphones. I tried to tell him I was sorry, but he didn't hear me. He says he loves me anyway.

As for having the tee shirt to prove we were there, I've got better proof than that. I have not one, not two, but three shirts. Not just your average t-shirt either. Two polo shirts, and a denim shirt now have Sunny Covell embroidered on them. It also has DRL Tour Guide embroidered below my name in the same bold red color. Thanks to Paula Bardsley, these shirts have become part of my tour-guiding uniform. Needless to say, I wear them proudly.

Larry Baron: A True Keeper of the Light

Larry Baron, a dedicated keeper of the DeTour Reef Light, passed away on August 16. He is the twin brother of Jeri Baron Feltner, a founding Director of the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society.

Since the formation of DRLPS in 1998, Larry devoted hundreds of hours of volunteer effort to help preserve the lighthouse by attending marketing events, helping with promotion mailings, and many other various tasks, along with being a major supporter of Jeri's endeavor to preserve the DeTour Reef Light.

A eulogy written by Larry's family:

Larry Baron, a man of great character, integrity, and positive attitude, so loved by so many. We are extremely fortunate to have known this wonderful man who will forever be in our hearts making sure we live our life fully and give our best under any circumstances.

His parents Eddie and Kay brought him into the world in Detroit on May 11, 1943, joined by his twin sister Jeri and greeted by his sister Arlene. Family members that brought him much happiness included nephews Bob, Gary, and Zachary, and niece Jessica, and several special aunts, uncles and cousins. The birth of his son Timothy Lawrence Baron in 1975 became his everlasting pride and joy, the loving product of his marriage to Jill Davis. He deeply touched the hearts of many friends and co-workers along the way, especially his forever friend Valerie. And oh how he loved the animals that came into his life, including his pet squirrel Ranger.

Larry graduated from Fordson High School in 1961 and attended his 50th reunion on August 6, 2011. He joined the National Guard after high school, and attended the Detroit College for Creative Studies for art and design training. He received an Associate in Commerce Degree from Henry Ford Community College, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Degree from Mercy College of Detroit in 1978.

Larry enjoyed a 35-year career as a Technical Illustrator in engine design at Ford Motor Company, retiring in 2002. He volunteered his time and talent to Special Olympics, Children's Hospital, American Cancer Society, Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network, and the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society – and always lending a helping hand to family and friends.

Larry lived in Dearborn all his life. In 2006, he and his son purchased land in Vanderbilt, Michigan, where they together enjoyed the outdoors, nature, and shooting guns.

Along with the great contributions he made during his 68 years, 3 months and 5 days on earth with his talent, caring, and inspirational positive attitude, Larry survived bladder cancer since 2002, bone cancer since 2007, paralysis since 2010, and lived a wonderful life full of joy and love with an open hand and heart for everyone he knew. On August 16, 2011, Larry took his last breath surrounded by loved ones. He is buried at St. Hedwig Cemetery next to his parents. We will miss him tremendously every day of our lives, his loving spirit will be with us always, and we will carry on his goodness.

Here's a quote Larry had on his home office wall which he truly lived by:

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude to me is more important than facts. We cannot change our past, we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it. And so it is with you – we are in charge of our attitudes."



Larry Baron with twin sister Jeri Baron Feltner, and DRLPS volunteers Barb Snider, Mary Rogers, and Tom Snider helping with the DRLPS booth at the 1998 Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival in Alpena.



Larry on the DeTour Reef Light in 2009

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY TO THE DE TOUR REEF LIGHT!!!

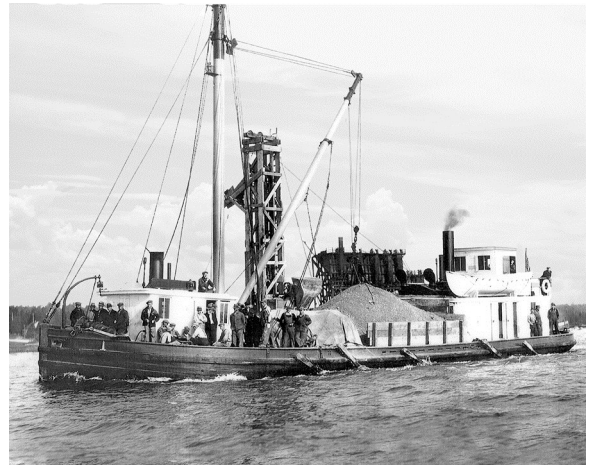
By Jill Lowe Brumwell

The DeTour Reef light was completed in 1931. For eighty years it has stood guard a mile offshore in northern Lake Huron, at the far eastern end of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It was built on the old Watson coal dock and then towed out. During the "light's" construction there was one fatality. A man from Cheboygan was drowned. He was rolling timber and was hit in the head. It knocked him over and caused the drowning.

The crew mixed 600 sacks of cement everyday along with sand and gravel. The bottom part of the lighthouse was built of wood like a double box, 60 feet on the outside and 40 feet on the inside with concrete all around. There was 26 feet of water where the base was set.

At one point there were 35 men working on the lighthouse. Names familiar to DeTour and Drummond Islanders alike – Rae McCulloch, Alvin Shaw, Clifford Bailey, Bill Anderson, Joe Kempainen, St. Onge, Joe Martell, Joe Lemieux, Alfred Lemieux, Ernie Wilkie, Jewell LaMere, Arthur Miller, Junior Sims, and Ted Tellefsen, to mention a few.

The late Alfred Lemieux kept the mixer aboard the barge *Elm* going. Captain Taylor was in charge and one day Lemieux said that he thought it was too rough to take the Elm out to the lighthouse. The captain said not to worry, if a hole was punched in the side they'd fix it. The seas were really rough and a hole was punched in the side of the concrete form. Just like the captain had said, they fixed it, but not before a large amount of concrete ran out and into the lake.



Barge ELM on a mission

The barge that hauled the cement to the site was about 125 feet long and 50 feet wide. It would be loaded at night and head out to the light in the morning. The structure was built for the Lighthouse Service and was turned over several years later to the Coast Guard. Part of the DeTour Reef Light was taken from the first light built in DeTour on Lighthouse Point, about ¼ miles in from the crib. The DeTour Reef Light 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 St. Mary's River.

The DeTour Reef Light, which would change the course of ships over its many years of operation, would also change the lives of its builders. One poignant example was the life of a young man who traveled to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to work on the project. He met the girl he would marry at the 4th of July baseball game in DeTour. His name was Ted Tellefsen and the girl was Joy Bailey from near-by Drummond Island. Joy and Ted raised six children, Ted Byron, Mary Jean (Ledy), Joy Anne (Cameron), John Warren (Carol), Thomas Arden (Rosanne) and Jewel Beth (Wamsley).

The construction of the DeTour Reef Light that began in 1929 was completed in 1931, and lit for the first time on November 10th. Remember the reference to the incredible amount of concrete the crew mixed everyday? Some of the concrete was mixed in wood boxes that had tin bottoms. They were 6 to 8 feet long with planks on either side. My uncle Pat Newell, a young fellow in 1931, remembers making sail boats out the boxes that were used to mix the concrete in. He said there were six or seven boxes and told of Norm Dyer, Glen Shaw, Merlin Kelly, Vern McGuire and himself installing a seat on the back and making sails from canvas. Pat recalled having a lot of fun sailing them in the millpond, (site of the present marina).

Today the DeTour Reef Light is still an important part of marine life and would be missed if it wasn't in view as we travel across the ferry. Its preservation is due to dedicated workers who have worked diligently to "save the lighthouse."

The DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) held its first meeting at the Fogcutter in DeTour in January 1998, and what they have accomplished in those short years is amazing. The founders of the organization were, Bob Jones, James Charles, Jeri Baron Feltner, Barb Snider and Richard Moehl.

(Birthday continued on page 10)

(Birthday continued from page 9)

After 12-years of dedicated volunteer effort, the DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society received the deed and ceremonial key to the DeTour Reef Light from the Federal Government. Over the years the society has received recognition many times. The most recent honor was when Michelle Obama, First Lady of the United States, designated it as one of the nation's newest Preserve America Stewards. The DRLPS was the first in Michigan to receive the award.

Maintaining the DeTour Reef Light is an on going project. The light is now equipped with the only operational F2T Diaphone in the country, making it possible to hear the loud booming voice of the foghorn. Various fundraisers are held and memorabilia is available to purchase. Tours to the DeTour Reef Light include boat transportation to and from the site, light refreshments at the lighthouse and a guided tour. For a unique experience look into being a lighthouse keeper.

Jill Lowe Brumwell is a freelance writer and the author of three books about Drummond Island. Contact her at jlbrumwell@charter.net

Caught Reading The **Courant**

October, 2011



Sharon Patteri is "Caught Reading" the Courant during a "Ladies Weekend" as a Lighthouse Keeper at the DeTour Reef Light in the middle of Lake Huron. The offshore Lighthouse was first lit November 10, 1931. This year marks the celebration of its 80th year. More information on the lighthouse can be found at www.DRLPS.com.

Photo by her sister Claire Kliss.

The Courant is a monthly newspaper serving Livingston and Washtenaw Counties of Michigan.

Captain Charlie Lampman March 11, 1948 — September 29, 2011

Captain Charlie Lampman, skipper on many of the Father's Day Cruises passed away on September 29, 2011, at the age of 63. Charlie shared many interesting stories and information about the St. Mary's River and especially Neebish Island where he grew up. On the cruises he saluted all the friends he spotted as the boat passed Neebish.

According to Rich Brawley, owner of Soo Locks Boat Tours and Charlie's boss, Charlie had his Captain's license for over 40 years. He worked for the Army Corps of Engineers and spent part of that career mapping the St. Mary's River bottom. When he retired, he joined the Soo Locks Boat Tours (SLBT). He and his wife, Jackie, lived in the Soo and he enjoyed going to his family cabin on Neebish Island.

He had a lifelong knowledge of the St. Mary's River and its history. Even though he had to take a medical retirement from the SLBT, he was on last year's cruise and we were able to share his love of the area with him.



Carley Cruse and Captain Charlie Lampman during the Father's Day cruise in June 2008

Memorabilia Order Form—DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email (very important) _____ Phone _____



ITEM	DESCRIPTION	Price Each	Color	Size	Quantity	Total
1	Ceramic Mug w/ pen and ink drawing of 1931 DRL	\$10				
2	Plastic To-Go Mug with Society Logo	\$3				
3	Bumper Sticker with Society Logo	\$1				
4	Embroidered patch of DeTour Reef Light— 2 3/4 inch square	\$6				
5	DeTour Reef Light Collectors Pin— 1 1/8 inch	\$6				
6	Hat with Lighthouse Crest (khaki, red, grey, yellow)	\$15				
7	Polar Fleece Vest w/Lighthouse Crest (royal blue unisex)	\$38		S M L X 2XL		
8	T-Shirt w/Lighthouse Crest (stone blue, light green, navy, evergreen)	\$20		S M L X 2XL		
9	Golf Shirt w/Lighthouse Crest (men's in black, ladies in red)	\$32		S M L X 2XL		
11	Denim Shirt with Lighthouse Crest (unisex)	\$39		S M L X 2XL		
12	Crew Neck Sweatshirt with Lighthouse Crest (stone, navy, evergreen)	\$28		S M L X 2XL		
13	Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirt with Lighthouse Crest (navy)	\$35		S M L X 2XL		
14	2011 Ornament (4 inch round glass etched with Foghorn image)	\$18				
15	Prior Year Ornaments '01, '06, '07, '08, '09 '10. Indicate year(s) desired.	\$10 each				
16	Tote Bag with Lighthouse Crest (natural/red trim or natural/navy trim)	\$28				
17	Note Pads w/Lighthouse Logo (pack of 3 - 50 sheets per pad)	\$2				
18	Lighthouse Model 3inch Little Light of Mine by Harbour Lights	\$17.50				
19	8x10 Color Photo of 2008 Lighthouse	\$10				
20	Weekend Puzzle of DeTour Reef Light	\$16				
21	DVD of the Lighthouse before/during/after restoration, 2 disc set	\$15				
22	DeTour Reef Light Counted Cross-Stitch Kit, finished size 5 inch X 7 inch	\$10				
23	1931 Limited Edition DRL Window Pane (9 1/4"x11 1/4") w/Etching of Lighthouse	\$300				
24	Custom Framing for item #23	\$150				



Thank You for your Support!

We'll Keep the Light on for You!

Today's Date _____

Method of Payment:

Check or Money Order Payable to DRLPS
 VISA MasterCard Discover American Express
 Account # _____ Expires _____

Signature _____

Value of Order	S&H
Up to \$10	\$4
\$10.01—\$25	\$5
\$25.01—\$45	\$7
\$45.01—\$65	\$9
\$65.01—\$85	\$11
\$85.01—\$150	\$13
Over \$150	\$15

Merchandise Total

Tax 6%
(Michigan Residents Only)

S & H (see chart)

Total Enclosed

Please allow up to 21 days for delivery.

Mail order form & payment to:

DRLPS, PO Box 307
 Drummond Island MI 49726
 www.DRLPS.com
 memorabilia@drmps.com
 Questions? Call 906-297-6801



**DETOUR REEF LIGHT
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\$30 Basic, \$50 Patron, \$100 Keeper, \$500 Lifetime, \$1000 Grand Keeper. All memberships include family.

www.DRLPS.com * membership@drlps.com * 906-493-6609
or by writing: 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.

PURPOSE: the purpose of DeTour Reef Light Preservation Society (DRLPS) 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.

PASSAGES is the official publication of the DRLPS and is published quarterly. Statements and opinions appearing herein are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of DRLPS, its officers or members. The editor reserves the right to edit all material for publication and to publish material which is felt to be in the best interest of the DRLPS. Permission is granted to reprint, providing credit will be given to the author, DRLPS, and provided that copyright is not involved, return copy of the article when published would be appreciated.

To submit comments and/or articles to the Editor, email *newsletter@drlps.com* or send by mail to: Sheila Sawyer, 49434 Tarrytown Ct., Shelby Township, MI 48315

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

