



The Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor

eWheel

Your Rotary News
Straight
To Your Inbox

JULY 6, 2015

Let Freedom Ring! What a jam-packed weekend with all the fireworks and celebrations we shared while celebrating the continued independence and freedom that America is known and loved for. How lucky we are to live in a country where there is always hope and where there is freedom of religion, freedom to study, freedom to work, and freedom to play without discrimination. We hope all Rotarians had a fun-filled 4th of July weekend! We apologize for this week's e-Wheel delay but it can be hard remembering how to be a grown-up after a long holiday weekend. But we are excited to start a new Rotary year with our new fearless leader Mike Kinney and happy to see Maria Kibler kickin' back and enjoying the afternoon from the round tables.

A BRIGHT LIGHT IN OUR COMMUNITY

It's hard to imagine St. Joseph without the iconic lighthouse. John Hodgson, Assistant City Manager for St. Joseph, joined us on June 6 to share both the history and the future of this structure in our community.

The first lighthouse was authorized in 1832 and planned to be located where the Whitcomb building currently stands. However, documents from the 1950s show that no structure was ever built there. The first lighthouse was actually placed where the Curious Kids Museum is now. This location seems curious because one would assume a lighthouse would be placed at the mouth of the harbor...but at the time, that was the mouth of the river.

In the late 1830s, the local government began building a system of piers. It was thought that the flow of the river would self-dredge the channel...which has admittedly not worked perfectly. The first lighthouse was built on the south pier in 1846.

In 1859 original lighthouse on bluff replaced with the structure on the left, a keeper's dwelling, and was located on the north side of curious kids property.

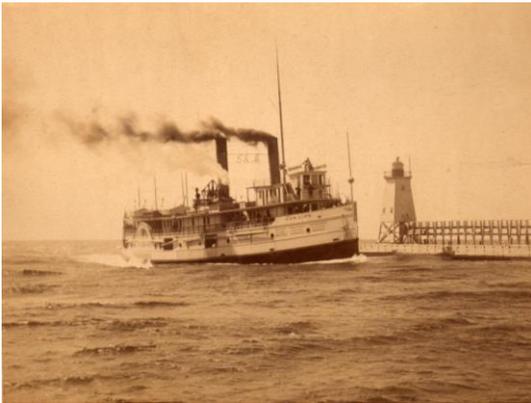


By the 1860s, the end of the Civil War, the north and south pier start to look a lot more like what we're used to seeing now. A second lighthouse built on south side in 1871 and featured the first catwalk (right picture).

In 1881 it was relocated to the North Pier.



The third lighthouse on the pier was much larger and was relocated multiple times as the pier was extended.



And here we see the view of the harbor as it appeared in 1890.



In 1895, the lighting system was upgraded, the pier was extended and a new lighting system was built at the end of the catwalk. At this time a fog signal house was also built.



This lasted about 7 years until the new lights were built and by around 1910, the configuration looks very similar to what we see today. The next big upgrade came in 1933-1934 when the lighting transitioned to an electrical system.



Here is a picture of the original Fresnel lenses. These lenses projected the light horizontally. Both have been restored and now have a permanent home at the Heritage Museum and Cultural Center.



So, why is the community looking to rehabilitate the lighthouse? We don't want the picture on the left to turn into the one on the right.



A group of community members came together to start the Lighthouse River Fund to raise funds to rehabilitate the lighthouse. Several Rotarians need to be recognized

or their work with this group: Bob Judd serves as one of chairs, Bill Johnson, Bill Marohn, Joan Braembilla are among those who have worked fervently. The efforts of all who have contributed is immensely appreciated. This was originally planned as a 1-year fundraiser with a goal of 2 million. At this time, 1.7 million has been raised which speaks highly of the generous nature of our community.

The plan is to restore the lighthouse to the 1932 configuration in consultation with the National Park Service and State Historic Preservation Office. Plans also include reconstructing the chimney and the fog signal building. The first phase of this work includes restoration on the inner light and outer light along with repairs to the catwalk from the blue railing lakeward.



There's an additional \$400,000 worth of work that would like to be tackled but is currently not in the budget such as work to the oil storage house. Depending on the use of the \$170,000 contingency fund this summer, additional projects may be considered.

The City of St. Joseph is incredibly appreciative of the support from the community as well as their patience while the north pier is closed to accommodate the work being done. The goal is to reopen the pier by September.

Hodgson also shared a few interesting discoveries that have come from this project including clearing out debris to find a basement full of sand and coal. Also found were two steel doors with port holes that will be rehabilitated.

The inside of the building will remain hollow. Equipment is not being returned to the site although it will be cleaned and restored. The aforementioned Fresnel lenses will stay housed at the Heritage Museum. It's actually a four story structure (five if you include the basement) and one of the challenges is figuring out how to make the top floor more safe. And while unfettered access to the building for the public is not likely, there are talks with the Heritage Museum on how to provide docent-led tours.

It was also asked what role the City of St. Joseph will play moving forward to which Hodgson replied that while the restoration is being completely funded through private sources, the city has said it will take responsibility for ongoing maintenance once the project is complete.

You can follow the progress of this project by visiting the City of St. Joe website at www.sjcity.com.

VISITING ROTARIANS

**Terry Allen, Area 2 Assistant Governor,
and member of Lakeshore Rotary Club
was in the house!**

ROTARIANS with GUESTS

Debra Trapikas brought Vineesha Rathnum for a third visit.

Theresa Saggan brought Ken Welch

Jim Roberts brought Brian Berger

Gary Bruce brought Todd Shurn

Jackie Huie brought Matt Gibiec

CLUB CALENDAR OF EVENTS

7/25/15	Rotary Leadership Institute
7/27/15	DG Visit to SJBH Club
8/8/15	Rotary Leadership Institute
8/29/15	Rotary Leadership Institute

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Anderson, Mary L. (MARY)	4	St. Joseph & Benton Harbor
Butzbaugh, Alfred M. (AL)	25	St. Joseph & Benton Harbor
Halsey, Tereck R. (TERECK)	27	St. Joseph & Benton Harbor
Johnson, William E. (BILL)	15	St. Joseph & Benton Harbor
Lieberman, Adam J. (ADAM)	15	St. Joseph & Benton Harbor
Richardson, Fred A. (FRED)	20	St. Joseph & Benton Harbor
Sinn, Thomas (TOM)	1	St. Joseph & Benton Harbor
Ward, E. Horace (E. HORACE)	31	St. Joseph & Benton Harbor
Watson, Thomas G. (TOM)	30	St. Joseph & Benton Harbor
Westmaas, Allan J. (ALLAN)	23	

ROTARIAN ANNIVERSARIES

Anderson, Mary L. (MARY)	1	13	St. Joseph & Benton Harbor
Cotter, Art (ART)	30	13	St. Joseph & Benton Harbor
Miller, Leslie E. (LES)	1	26	St. Joseph & Benton Harbor
Pscholka, Al (AL)	15	18	St. Joseph & Benton Harbor
Watson, Thomas G. (TOM)	15	18	St. Joseph & Benton Harbor
Whittier, Bernard C. (BARNEY)	23	7	

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Duncan, Charles E (CHARLES)	1	60	St. Joseph & Benton Harbor
Kirshenbaum, David (DAVID)	7	52	St. Joseph & Benton Harbor
Ross, Stephen E. (STEPHEN)	10	33	St. Joseph & Benton Harbor
Trapikas, Debra E. (DEBRA)	17	9	St. Joseph & Benton Harbor



HELP WANTED!

Any member interested in serving on the Communications Committee, please call Debra Trapikas and let her know of your interest. Same goes for anyone who wishes to contribute information to the E=Wheel. We need you!
269-429-5468 (home) 269-861-0718 (cell)

JOKES of the WEEK

A drunk staggers into a Catholic Church, enters a confessional booth and sits down, but says nothing. The Priest coughs a few times to get his attention but the drunk continues to sit there, not saying a word. Finally, the Priest pounds three times on the wall.

To which the drunk mumbles, *“Sorry, can’t help you. There’s no paper on this side either.”*

THE ROTARY JOKE

Two guys are sitting at a bar. One guy says to the other, “Do you know that lions have sex 10 or 15 times a night?” The other guy says, “Damn, I just joined the Rotary Club.”

DAN MAXON

The young man who sang at our installation dinner on June 29th, 2015 was wonderful. His name is Dan Maxon and he will next be performing at the Shoreham Village park on Wissing Lane and Lakeshore Drive this Thursday, July 16 from 7-9 pm. The Concert in the Park is FREE and you are all invited. Bring a bring a chair, a drink, and maybe a blanket for some relaxation and entertainment. Parking is available – just follow the signs off of Lakeshore Drive.