

# THE LOST LIGHTSHIP

Historic book sheds new light on spectacular recovery mission

By **NIKKI DAVIDSON**  
COAST WEEKEND

When people in Ilwaco clean out their attics, they call Donella Lucero. The collections manager at the Columbia Pacific Maritime Museum is no stranger to dust-covered relics from residents who lived long ago.

But last month she received an email from someone 3,000 miles away that stopped her in her tracks. The sender wasn't a name she recognized and offered to donate a book she found in Boston to the museum.

When the artifact arrived last month, Lucero couldn't wait to get her hands on it.

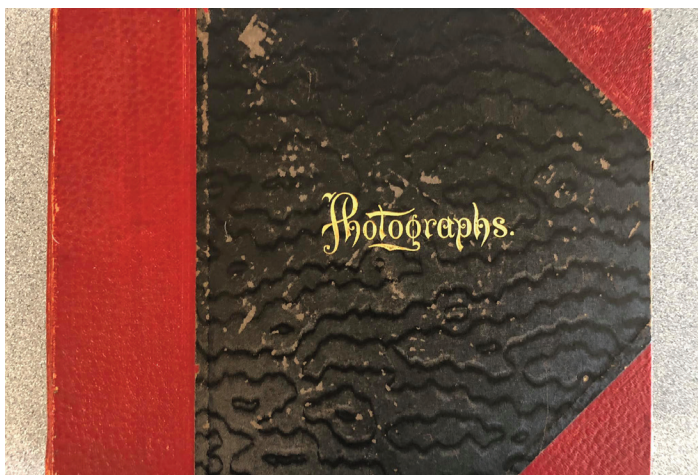
## A rare find

"You start going through the photos and you're going 'oh my goodness, oh my goodness! I hadn't seen this before,'" she beamed.

The black and red tattered album, labeled "photographs," may look insignificant on the outside, but it's as good as gold to Lucero on the inside.

"It's like Christmas, it's priceless," she said as she carefully flipped through the pages of the weathered album.

*See Page 9*



**ABOVE:** The Columbia River Lightship was built in 1891 for a cost of \$60,000.

**LEFT and RIGHT:** 'Photo Angel' Kate Kelley lives in Boston and discovered the lost book at a local antique store.



## COLUMBIA RIVER MARITIME MUSEUM

### GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP

1792 Marine Drive, Astoria, OR  
503.325.2323 • [www.crrmm.org](http://www.crrmm.org)



**MORE THAN YOU IMAGINED**

