



The Beam

Journal of the United States Lighthouse Society - New Jersey Chapter

Number 9

September 1992

F. Ross Holland to speak at October Meeting

The next quarterly meeting of the New Jersey Chapter will be held on October 3rd in the Auditorium at Gateway National Recreation Area - Sandy Hook Unit, at 10:00 a.m. F. Ross Holland, noted lighthouse historian and author of *The Old Point Loma Lighthouse* (1968, 1978), *America's Lighthouses* (1972), *Aransas Pass Light Station* (1977), *Lighthouses of the Pacific Coast* (1977) and *Great American Lighthouses* (1990) will be the featured speaker. If you haven't attended a meeting in a while don't miss this meeting! Guests and friends are invited. Highlights of a short business meeting will include the first call for nominations from the floor for officers and board members for the 1993 year.

"Harbor Lights Walk" at Sandy Hook

by Debbie Torres

There will be a "Harbor Lights Walk" on November 15th, 1992, at 3:00 p.m. Meet at the Sandy Hook Education Center. The program will include a slide program on lighthouses around the harbor followed by a car caravan to the Sandy Hook Lighthouse and on to Twin Lights. The program is free but reservations are required. Call (908) 872-0115 to register.

Twin Lights Staff Thanks Chapter's Volunteers

by Tom Laverty

Kathy Dwyer, Volunteer Coordinator at Twin Lights Historic Site, and Tom Laverty, Twin Light Curator (and N.J. Chapter Director) thank all the volunteers who came out on July 3rd and 4th to help with the crowds of visitors at Twin Lights Lighthouse. About twenty tall ships graced Sandy Hook Bay below the lighthouse. The ships were anchored there prior to the Op-Sail '92 parade in New York Harbor on Saturday, July 4th.

Chapter volunteers who helped included: Jane and Charles Bachman, Nancy Hackney, Kathy Hackney,

Annette Colt, Marion McKillop, Nancy Matthews, Rena and Henry Goehl, Annie and Lou Rush. Jack Granger, who regularly volunteers at Twin Lights, was also on duty for the event.

Twin Lights had close to 5,000 visitors from Thursday, July 2nd, to Sunday, July 5th. Thanks to the help of the Chapter's members, everything ran smoothly and a good time was enjoyed by both visitors and volunteers.

Penn's Landing Meeting - June 20th, 1992



NJ Chapter members at *Barnegat Lightship*

by Jack Granger

Sixty-five members attended the quarterly meeting at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia on a beautiful Saturday in June.

After a short business meeting held in the auditorium of the Philadelphia Maritime Museum, we were welcomed by and given a very interesting video presentation of the museum by Diane Eacret, Information Officer of the museum.

After adjournment, the members were allowed to

browse the museum, which has a great collection of ship models, paintings, scrimshaw and other marine memorabilia. The museum is one of the top museums in the world. We then scattered around Penn's Landing to eat our lunches in the very festive surroundings beside the Delaware River where a host of summer activities were taking place.

At 1:30 pm we met at the *Barnegat Lightship* where we were allowed to explore and take pictures. The ship is not open to the public but thanks to the Ship Preservation Guild, it was made available to our group.

From the comments of the members, I feel that everyone had a great day!

Upper Michigan Peninsula, Wisconsin and Illinois Lighthouse Tour

by Jack Granger

In eight days I covered 3,300 miles and saw 27 lighthouses in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois. This was a continuation of a Great Lakes odyssey that I began last year when I followed the entire shoreline of the Lower Peninsula, visiting 30 lighthouses and the *Huron Lightship* and travelling 2,800 miles.

The Lower Peninsula of Michigan is gorgeous with the eastern shore being flat farm country with beautiful lake (Lake Huron) communities, marinas and very accessible lighthouses. The western shore of the Lower Peninsula is hilly and tree covered with beautiful lake (Lake Michigan) communities with lighthouses that are not quite as accessible. The Upper Peninsula of Michigan is completely different with miles and miles of desolate highways and lights that are quite remote.

My itinerary was as follows:

Day 1	To Ann Arbor, MI	695 miles
Day 2	To Mackinac City, MI	320 miles
Day 3	To Sault Ste. Marie, MI	137 miles
Day 4	To Houghton, MI	369 miles
Day 5	To Memominee, MI	380 miles
Day 6	To Manitowac, MI	309 miles
Day 7	To South Bend, IN	331 miles
Day 8	To Toms River, NJ	769 miles

Obviously, the first and the last day were heavy driving dates since there were no lights and sightseeing was cut to a minimum.

Some of the 27 lights I visited are:

Old Mackinac Point, Michigan

Built 1892, it remained active until 1957. The lighthouse was very important to the car ferries that traveled between Mackinaw City and St. Ignace, and the ferry that serviced Mackinac Island. Now owned by the

Mackinac Island State Park Commission, it is a maritime museum.



Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse - Photo by Jack Granger

Whitefish Point Light, Michigan

The original lighthouse was built of split stone, bricks and mortar and completed in late 1848. It was replaced in 1861 by the present iron tower. The lighthouse is a twin of the Detour Point lighthouse on Manitou Island. The area around Whitefish Point has long been a menace to shipping, largely due to the many dangerous shoals in the area. The *Edmund Fitzgerald* was lost off Whitefish Point on November 10,



Whitefish Point Lighthouse - Photo by Jack Granger

1975. The Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society operates a museum at the station.

Eagle Harbor Light, Michigan



Eagle Harbor Lighthouse - Photo by Jack Granger

The first lighthouse at Eagle Harbor was completed in 1851 at a cost of \$4,000. By 1868, the lighthouse had fallen into a disreputable state and Congress appropriated \$14,000 for its replacement. The octagonal tower is ten feet in diameter and measures 44 feet from base to the top of the ventilator ball. Once equipped with a Fresnel lens, it now is equipped with a rotating aero-beacon.

Michigan City Light, Michigan City, Michigan



Michigan City Lighthouse - Photo by Jack Granger

Built in 1858, it replaced an earlier wooden tower and dwelling built in 1837. According to legend, it was

blown down during a violent storm, just after the keeper, Miss Harriet Colfax, had lit the lanterns. The Michigan City Historical Society leases the lighthouse from the city and maintains the facility as a lighthouse museum.

Sturgeon Bay Canal Light, Wisconsin



Sturgeon Bay Lighthouse - Photo by Jack Granger

This metal tower was constructed in 1899 by John P. McGuire of Cleveland, Ohio. The design was an experiment in lighthouse design which failed because the architects did not consider the fierce winds that are prevalent in the area. In 1903 the structure was almost completely rebuilt. The original tower, which was 8 feet in diameter and supported the whole structure, was converted to a cylindrical stair tower that supported only the stairs. A new skeletal framework was constructed to support the tower, with larger buttresses anchored to a foundation which was expanded from 25 to 36 feet. The old watch room and light crown were added on top the new tower which increased its height from 78 to 98 feet. It is equipped with a 3rd order Fresnel lens built by Henri LePaute of Paris, France.

Grosse Point Lighthouse, Evanston, Illinois

Built in 1873 at a cost of \$50,000, the light served as a major landmark for vessels serving the port of Chicago. In 1914 the deteriorating brick walls were encased in 4 inches of concrete. The light was automated in 1935. The City of Evanston took over most of the station in 1935 and by 1941 were granted the lighting apparatus and tower as well. It is still maintained as a private aid to navigation, the buildings are used as a museum. It is said to be the only 2nd order lens on the American side of the Great Lakes still in its original location atop

a light tower.

Wind Point (Racine Point), Wisconsin

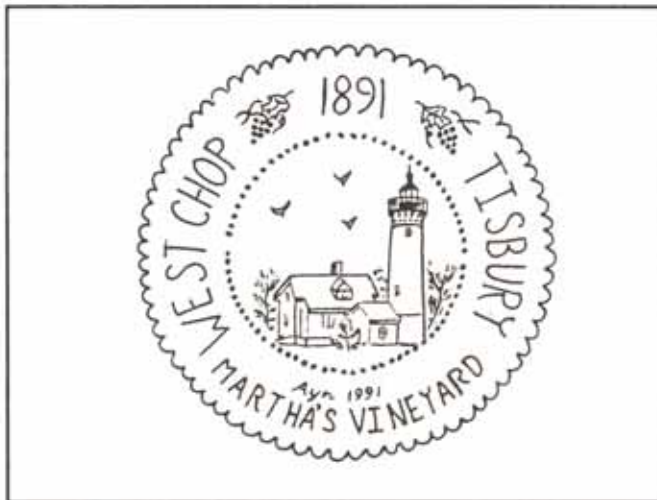
Constructed in 1880, it featured both a 3rd order Fresnel lens, which provided a white flashing coastal light, and a 5th order red light which marked the Racine Reef located to the south and marked also by a buoy. Today it is equipped with a rotating aero-beacon. The tower is 108 feet tall.

Lighthouse Cup Plates

by Ted and Jo Panayotoff

As with many fellow lighthouse enthusiasts, we have acquired various lighthouse collectibles in the years since our interest in lighthouses began. Some of the more interesting items are lighthouse cup plates.

A cup plate is a small glass plate about 3 1/2" in diameter. It can be clear or colored and usually has a design in the center. Its practical use was as a dinner table accessory popular in New England in the early



1800's. At that time, most teacups had no handles making them difficult to hold when drinking hot tea. It was the fashion to pour the hot tea into the saucer to cool it and the small glass cup plate was provided to hold the cup so as not to soil the table linen or damage the table finish with the hot tea cup. Over the years the practical use of the cup plates disappeared but they have remained a popular collectible item especially in New England.

Several glass companies, including one here in New Jersey, manufacture the cup plates today for the collector's market. The plates are often designed and produced for a local business or organization such as an historical society in a limited production run and then sold by the organization as a fund raiser. Due to their limited production nature, popular editions become collectors items. The principal manufacturer of cup plates is the Pairpoint Glass Company of Sagamore,

Massachusetts. They have produced several thousand different cup plates, fifteen of which are of lighthouses. The New Jersey company, Millville Art Glass of Millville, New Jersey, has one lighthouse cup plate.

We have been fortunate to be able to locate all except one of the Pairpoint cup plates, number 391. An organization which has been very helpful in our search is the Pairpoint Cup Plates Collectors of America Inc. (PCPCA) of 66 North Second Street, New Bedford, MA 02740, telephone (508) 997-1813. They act as a sales agent and clearing house for Pairpoint and other cup plates. They will supply you with a list of cup plates and can sometimes give information on contacting the organization which commissioned a specific cup plate to aid you in tracking down an example. One caution, their list shows a Pairpoint plate number 499 as a lighthouse, however, a close look at the plate itself shows it to be a tall monument and not a lighthouse.

The last three Pairpoint cup plates are designed by Ayn Chase, the proprietor of Ayn's Shuttle Shop, P.O. Box 2264, Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, MA 02539. She has indicated that in 1992, she will complete the set of five Martha's Vineyard Lighthouses with cup plates of Gay Head and Cape Poge Lights.

Lighthouse cup plates are an interesting bit of Americana and provide a colorful display of lighthouse related items without overtaxing one's limited display and storage space. If you are interesting in more information on lighthouse cup plates, please contact us at the next quarterly meeting.

From Pairpoint Glass Company

No.	Lighthouse	Location
32	Minot's Ledge	Cohasset, MA
91	Cape Cod Light	Truro, MA
125	Brandt Point Light	Nantucket, MA
212	Nobska Point	Woods Hole, MA
237	"Cape Cod 1983"	Generic lighthouse with sea gull
244	Ned's Point Light	Mattapoensett, MA
250	Thoreau's "Cape Cod" Cape Cod Writer's Conference	Light at Truro, MA
369	Bug Light	Duxbury & Kingston, MA
391	Chatham Light -Beach Plum Quilt Guild	Chatham, MA
450	Old Scituate Lighthouse	Scituate, MA
533	Bird Island Light	Marion, MA
594	Nauset Light	Eastham, MA
526	East Chop Light	Martha's Vineyard
595	Edgartown Light	Martha's Vineyard
632	West Chop Light	Martha's Vineyard

From Millville Art Glass

198	Cohansey Lighthouse	Cohansey, NJ
	Historic South Jersey Series	

American Lighthouse Museum Closed - St. Johns Light Station Update

by Ted Panayatoff

Since the article in the June issue of *The Beam*, we have received word from Mr. William Trotter, Curator of the American Lighthouse Museum in Jacksonville, Florida, that the museum had to close for lack of funding support. This may mean that the St. Johns Light Station has closed to the public also, as Mr. Trotter was responsible for both activities.

Visitors to the St. Johns Light Station, Mayport, Florida, are advised to call the Naval Station Public Affairs Office, or possibly, Mr. Trotter at (904) 241-8845.

Friends of the Yaquina Bay Lighthouse

The Beam recently received information on the Friends of the Yaquina Bay Lighthouse, a group dedicated to the interpretation and education of the public concerning the Yaquina Bay Lighthouse and the area surrounding it. They are a small but very active group that publishes a newsletter, and organizes various events at the lighthouse.

Some of the upcoming events include Halloween at the "Haunted Light" on October 31st, and a Victorian Holiday open house on December 5th and 6th. The lighthouse is also available year-round for private tours and weddings - call (AREA CODE) 867- 7451.

Memberships are Assistant Keeper \$5.00; Keeper \$10.00; Keeper's family \$15.00; Patron Keeper \$25.00; Retired Keeper \$500.00. All of the above include the basic annual membership (except for the Retired Keeper status which is a lifetime membership), newsletters, memberships cards and a 10% discount on any purchase in the gift shop.

The Friends address is:

Friends of the Yaquina Bay Lighthouse 846 SW Government Street, Newport, OR 97365

Waterfowl Stamp Souvenir Cards Available - Picture NJ lights

From William Burket

The New Jersey Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife is offering for sale special limited edition Waterfowl Stamp Souvenir Cards. All proceeds benefit the Division's Waterfowl Stamp Program and help to secure valuable wetlands for the future of the state's wildlife.

The 8"x10" souvenir card is a replica of the 1991 New Jersey Waterfowl Stamp (Duck Stamp). The 1991 stamp featured a pair of Atlantic Brants flying past Barnegat Lighthouse. It was designed by Tom Hirata. Each card is accompanied by a set of two matching numbered waterfowl stamps (one resident and one non-resident). New Jersey is the first state to offer this souvenir card. The press run is limited to 2000.

Sets can be purchased with cash or check at the Division's main office in Trenton for \$15.00 or by mail (checks only) for \$16.50. Make check payable to the Division at CN 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400. For more information contact Frank Tourine, Program Coordinator, at (609) 292-9480.

Collectors of waterfowl stamps can purchase the resident (\$2.50) or non-resident (\$5.00) stamps during the six month period from the expiration of the stamps until the following December 31st. This means that the 1991 stamp (valid 7/1/91 to 6/30/92) is available now. All unsold stamps are destroyed.

The 1992 waterfowl stamp was designed by Rob Leslie. It features a pair of Bluebills flying over the Navesink River with the Twin Lights visible in the background. They are available only to individuals possessing a valid New Jersey Resident firearm hunting or bow and arrow license until June 30, 1993. A copy of your current license must be enclosed when ordering 1992-1993 stamps.

Stamps can be ordered from: New Jersey Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife, Waterfowl Stamp, CN 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400. We will have some copies of the order form available to interested members at the October meeting.

Photo Contest Extended

The deadline for entries in the 1st United States Lighthouse Society - New Jersey Chapter Photo Contest has been extended to the December 6th meeting in order to give members a chance to prepare entries taken during summer vacations. So far, the amount of entries has been disappointing, so get those pictures developed and send your best to Rich Hellenbrecht, 39 Hillcrest Blvd., Warren, NJ 07059.

Oral History Project

The New Jersey Chapter is beginning an oral history project, in order to preserve the heritage of our state's lighthouses and its keepers. Anyone with experiences that you are willing to share, having served on one or more of our state's or neighboring state's lighthouses, lightships or tenders, either with the Lighthouse Service or the Coast Guard, please get in touch with our historian, George Feirer, at (609) 628-2210 to arrange for an interview.

Chapter Logo Stamps

by Jack Granger



As promised in *Beam #8*, and at the Penns Landing meeting, we now have rubber stamps featuring our logo. The cost is \$7.00 plus \$1.50 postage by mail or \$7.00 at the October 3rd meeting. The stamp is shown actual size. Send your check for \$8.50 made out to the USLHS-New Jersey Chapter to Jack Granger, 21 Channel Road, Toms River, NJ 08753.

Help Save East Point Lighthouse



East Point Lighthouse - Photo by K. Ruth

How can you do that? By joining the Maurice River Historical Society. You can do your part to preserve the last of the Delaware Bay Lighthouses and an important peice of South Jersey's history. Single memberships are \$6.00, Family \$10.00, Life \$45.00, Senior Citizen \$4.00, and Senior Citizen Family \$7.00. Send membership to Dave Ewan, 210 North High Street, Millville, NJ 08332. Please indicate any other ways you might be willing to help also, such as working on the lighthouse, painting, pointing brick, minor carpentry, helping with fund

raisers etc.

Vice President Resigns

by Jack Granger

It is with sorrow and regret that I accept the resignation of Jim Gowdy as Vice President of our chapter. We all owe Jim a debt of gratitude for all the help and encouragement he gave when starting this organization. Jim will remain a member, but will devote his time and energies as Vice President of the Maurice River Historical Society and the renovation of the East Point Lighthouse.

I know you all join me in wishing him success in his new endeavor.

The Beam, the official journal of the United States Lighthouse Society - New Jersey Chapter, is published quarterly. Membership dues are \$15.00 single and \$20.00 family. Memberships are for the calendar year. Back issues are available for members joining mid-year.

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Board Member	Rich Hellenbrecht	(908) 755-8532
Board Member	George Feirer	(609) 628-2210
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