The Great Michigan Lighthouse Trip

by Katherine House

This article highlights some of the lighthouses that my husband Jim and I saw on a trip to Michigan’s Lower Peninsula in late September/early October 1997. Most of the lighthouses we visited were along the shores of Lake Michigan, although we also visited Mackinaw City, where Lake Michigan and Lake Huron meet. We had visited the pier lights at St. Joseph, South Haven and Grand Haven earlier in the year, so we skipped them in the fall. We ended up revisiting Holland because it had been so foggy the day we visited in March. The lighthouses are arranged here from south to north.

Holland Harbor Lighthouse

Everywhere you go in Holland, there are reminders of the town’s roots. It was settled in 1847 by immigrants from Holland, and today it is home to a Dutch Reformed Church college, a wooden shoe factory and a working windmill. Even the Holland Harbor Lighthouse, better known to lighthouse lovers as Big Red, is a reminder of the town’s origins. The twin gables of the keeper’s house roof reflect the Dutch influence.

The lighthouse sits at the end of a pier that runs along the bank of a channel connecting Lake Macatawa to Lake Michigan. Although access to the pier has been a subject of controversy recently, we found the Holland State Park a suitable viewing area. The tower itself protrudes from the western gable of the 1907 brick keeper’s house. The wooden tower is not original to the structure, however, but was added in 1936 to replace a skeleton tower. That tower was erected when the keeper’s house was built and replaced a wooden lighthouse constructed in 1872. Today, the tower and house are covered in steel plate as protection against the elements. The light is no longer operational, and its sixth order lens is on display at the Holland Museum downtown.

White River Lighthouse

Photo by Katherine House

White River Light

As we drove through a densely wooded, residential area, then up a curvy, narrow road on the way to this light station, it
didn’t seem possible that we were so close to Lake Michigan. The 1875 tower and attached keeper’s house seemed overshadowed by trees from the parking lot. The structure closely resembles the Eagle Harbor lighthouse we visited on Michigan’s Upper Peninsula in 1994 as well as a handful of others on the Great Lakes. Author Thomas A. Tag, in this booklet *White River Light Station*, says the Norman Gothic-style design was one of several standard designs created by the Lighthouse Board in the early 1860s.

The light station sits on a bluff above the White Lake channel, which leads from Lake Michigan into White Lake. The station was deactivated in 1941, and Fruitland Township today operates a maritime museum there. Although the museum was crammed full of nautical memorabilia, there was little information about life at the lighthouse or the history of the lighthouse. Visitors can view the original fourth order Fresnel lens and climb to the top of the octagonal tower when the museum is open. Hours are daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day and weekends in September, but it’s best to call for details, (616) 894-8265.

*Little Sable Point Lighthouse*  
*Photo by Katherine House*

Little Sable Point Lighthouse  
This brick conical tower is located in Silver Lake State Park near the town of Hart, Michigan. Sable means sand in French, and this lighthouse stands very close to the Lake Michigan shoreline along a sandy beach. Rip-rap has been placed between the water and the tower in an attempt to protect it from beach erosion. Visitors must climb a sand dune to reach the lighthouse from a nearby parking area. The best photographic vantage point is from a higher sand dune to the south of the tower.

Little Sable lighthouse remains operational, its third order lens is clearly visible. At one point, the tower was whitewashed, today only remnants of white can be seen on the red brick tower. When the lighthouse was built, it was nearly a twin of the Big Sable lighthouse to the north. Both brick towers were 107 feet tall, and today the Little Sable lighthouse is known as the oldest (1874) remaining brick tower on the Great Lakes. The Coast Guard tore down the keeper’s quarters and other buildings at the site in the 1950s. The tower’s architecture renews me of the Seul Choix Point Light on Michigan’s Upper Peninsula and the Wind Point, Wisconsin, tower.

Tip: On the road that leads to Silver Lake State Park, you’ll pass a farm stand. Be sure to stop for cherry turnovers. Cherries are grown throughout northern Michigan, and these turnovers are flaky and mouth-watering — the best we’ve tasted.

Big Sable Point Lighthouse  
According to lighthouse historian F. Ross Holland in *Great American Lighthouses*, the Lighthouse Board realized in the mid 1860s that Big Sable was the last important point that remained unlighted on Michigan’s western shore. The 107-foot tower was completed in 1867 and is located in Ludington State Park, north of the town of Ludington. Decay forced the Lighthouse Board to encase the brick tower in iron plates between 1900 and 1905, according to Holland. The plates were painted white at the top and bottom and black in the middle to form a distinctive daymark.

Visitors can climb the tower; times in 1997 were May 1-Oct. 31 from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, and from 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. on Sundays. We arrived just past 4:00 p.m. on a Saturday and were disappointed that we couldn’t get inside. Be sure to leave more time than you think you’ll need to reach the site. The hike to the lighthouse is approximately one mile on a flat, unshaded path that hugs the Lake Michigan shoreline. The one mile distance is measured from the Pines campground in the park, but parking is not available there. There is another parking lot nearby, but, nevertheless, the extra distance adds to the time required to reach the lighthouse. A few times each summer, open house tours are held with special bus service from the park visitor’s center. A gift shop is located in the adjacent keeper’s quarters.

(Continued on page 3)
Tip: The Ludington Pierhead Light, a white pyramid-shaped tower, can be viewed from Stearns Park in the town of Ludington. I've also seen this lighthouse referred to as the Ludington North Pierhead Light.

While in Frankfort, we had a special treat. A Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association member whom we met last time we traveled in Michigan served as our tour guide. Our friend grew up in Frankfort, and some of her relatives still live in the area. Her vacation home on Lake Michigan overlooks the Frankfort North Breakwater Light, which was built in 1932.

Tip: Visitors to Frankfort may want to seek out the nearby town of Elberta where an old car ferry sits waiting to be restored. Frankfort was the eastern terminus for the Ann Arbor Railroad car ferries that operated until 1982. In the town of Benzonia, outside of Frankfort, stop by the Gwen Frostic Studio for stationery, books and prints by Frostic, who specializes in nature themes. We purchased one of her books, which she autographed for us.

Grand Traverse Light

Also known as the Cat's Head Lighthouse, this structure was built in 1858 to mark the entrance to Grand Traverse Bay.
scum is open daily during the summer, and on weekends some other times of the year. For information, write the Grand Traverse Lighthouse Foundation, P.O. Box 43, Northport, MI 49670.

Tip: Traverse City, a 4-season resort town with plenty of hotel and restaurant options, is a good jumping-off point to visit Grand Traverse Lighthouse, Old Mission Point Lighthouse and Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Boat service is available from the Lakeshore to South Manitou Island, where an 1872 lighthouse stands. While in Traverse City, don't miss Nautical Works, a gift store located at 102 E. Front St. It sells wonderful lighthouse prints, stationery, hard-to-find books and videos and a variety of sculptures, including the Harbour Lights line.

Beaver Island Lights

Beaver Island is a rugged, remote island in the Beaver Island archipelago in Lake Michigan. It's tough to reach and almost as difficult to get around once you're there. Beaver Island Boat Company (616-547-2311) offers ferry service from Charlevoix, Mich., April through December. The 32-mile trip takes 2 hours and 15 minutes across a sometimes very choppy Lake Michigan. Small plane service is also available from Charlevoix. We took the ferry and opted to rent a Geo Tracker from Beaver Island Marine Rentals (616-448-2300) rather than pay the $100 fee to get our car back and forth. Rental vehicles are limited, so summer visitors should make reservations. Vehicle reservations are required for the ferry; passenger reservations are not. The Beaver Island Boat Company also offers package tours, including hotel accommodations and island tours.

The joy of traveling off-season for us meant an uncrowded island, but also a rough boat trip and limited island services. We nearly canceled the trip when all the passengers coming off our ferry compared seasickness stories. But we were eager to see the lighthouses on the island and had planned much of our vacation around the ferry schedule, so we persevered. The captain said the waves were in the 6-8-foot range and were more typical of a November or December voyage, but we survived thanks to over-the-counter medication.

The 41-foot-high Beaver Island Harbor Lighthouse is visible as the ferry pulls into the harbor. The white tower erected in 1870 is all that remains of this light station. Also known as the St. James Harbor Lighthouse, it replaced an earlier light to guide vessels into the harbor. Elizabeth Whitney Van Riper kept the lighthouse here in the late 1800s after her husband died trying to rescue boaters. In good weather, you could walk to this lighthouse from town, although I estimate that it's at least a mile from the ferry dock.

You'll need a vehicle to reach Beaver Head (Whiskey Point) Light along the island's southern shore. Navigating and

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It is located at the tip of the Leelanau Peninsula in Leelanau State Park. Visitors can tour the lighthousekeeper's house, which has been fully restored to reflect its early 19th century appearance. This is one of the best lighthouse museums we have visited, in part because the property's caretaker is the son of lighthousekeeper James McCormick, who served at the station in the 1920s and '30s. The caretaker has guided the restoration, and some of the pieces on display are original to his family. Signs on the wall contain transcripts of interviews with him and his siblings about life at the lighthouse, including a delightful anecdote about how clothes hung to dry outside froze during a sudden storm and resembled ghosts.

Visitors can climb to the top of the tower, accessible from a staircase inside the keeper's house. The tower itself is a short one that protrudes from the roof gable of the house and is reminiscent of the style seen at Sheffield Island, Connecticut. Outside are stone lawn ornaments, including a planter, built by McCormick. The fog signal building has been converted to a nice gift shop, which shows a video of the museum and tower for those unable to make the climb. I believe the lighthouse mu-
driving on Beaver Island's roads can be challenging. Most are unpaved or semi-paved roads that deteriorate to sand in some places. Street signs appear occasionally, and most roads are only about 1 lane wide. We drove to Beaver Head Light late in the afternoon on a drizzly, gray day. To our surprise and delight, we discovered that we could climb the tower. No one greeted us, but the door was open. It was dark and eerie inside the tower, and we wondered if anyone would find us if we slipped on the stairs. The yellow brick tower was built in 1858 and replaced an earlier tower. The attached keeper's house was constructed in 1866. The Charlevoix public school system acquired the property after it was deactivated, and vocational students have done restoration work.

Tip: Ferry travelers get an excellent view of the small Charlevoix South Pier Light as the ferry leaves and returns to Charlevoix.

Old Mackinac Point Light
Photo by Katherine House

Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse
This was my favorite of all the lighthouses we saw on the trip. For starters, the lighthouse is distinctive architecturally. The bright red roof of the keeper's house and light tower are vivid and present a pleasing contrast to the tan brick structures. The elaborate brickwork of the keeper's house and tower resemble the architectural styling of a castle, making this lighthouse different from others I have visited. Unfortunately, a tall antenna (never shown in photographs) detracts slightly from the site's appeal.

The lighthouse's setting in Mackinaw City is special. It sits in a park along the edge of the Straits of Mackinac, where Lake Michigan and Lake Huron meet at the top of the Lower Peninsula. The southernmost tower of the famous Mackinac Bridge stands nearby. On a clear day, you get a magnificent view of the bridge and Mackinac Island from the lighthouse grounds. In fact, the bridge put the lighthouse out of business in 1957 just as the George Washington Bridge was the undoing of New York's Jeffrey's Hook Lighthouse earlier this century (see Beam #30).

Old Mackinac Point Light and the attached keeper's house were erected in 1892. A nearby fog signal building was constructed in 1907. The light station grew out of a foghorn station established on the site in 1890 and was needed because mariners approaching from the east could not see the McGulpins Point Light, according to A Traveler's Guide to 116 Michigan Lighthouses. At one time, Old Mackinac Point Light was open to the public, but it is now closed.

Tip: Mackinaw City is the name of the town in which the lighthouse is located. The body of water is known as the Straits of Mackinac (with a C). Mackinac is also the name of the famous island. Both spellings are pronounced the same way—Mackinaw (rhymes with saw). When visiting Mackinaw City, don't miss the reconstructed French fort, Colonial Michilimackinac, adjacent to the lighthouse. If you take a ferry to Mackinac Island (ferries depart from Mackinaw City and St. Ignace, Mich...) you'll get a good view of Round Island Light, although you'll probably need at least a 200mm lens and smooth sailing to get a decent photo.

Don't Leave Home Without It!
If you are exploring Michigan's lighthouses, you'll need A Traveler's Guide to 116 Michigan Lighthouses by the Penrose family. It contains maps, invaluable directions, black and white photos and descriptions of Michigan's lighthouses. The Michigan Department of Transportation publishes a wonderful map-like brochure with color photos of Michigan's most famous lighthouses and a large map of the state with dots indicating lighthouse locations. When we picked up the brochure at a Michigan Welcome Center, we got one of the last ones at that location and were told supplies were limited. Even so, it might be worth your time to write the Michigan Department of Transportation, Public Information Office, P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, MI 48909 to request a copy of the Michigan Lighthouses brochure. Michigan residents are very proud of their lighthouses, and lighthouse photos grace the covers of many local tourism brochures.

Katherine House is an NEHS member living a life of lighthouse deprivation in Iowa. You can correspond with her by sending e-mail to khouse3676@aol.com. Her address is 233 Linden Court, Iowa City, IA 52245.
A Visit to the
CONEY ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

By Flo Greco

On a Saturday in November a group of NJLHS members embarked upon a trip to the Coney Island Lighthouse and met with its lighthouse keeper, Frank Schubert (and his dog Blazer). We were given a tour of the entire U.S. Coast Guard facility including Frank’s home, with its tons of lighthouse memorabilia.

This lighthouse is 80 ft. high and originally housed a 1,000 watt, fourth order Fresnel lens (now at the South Street Seaport Museum). The present lamp is 150 watts and can be seen for 14 miles.

Romer Shoal is on the left, Old Orchard and West Bank are on the right. Ambrose Light was further out in the Atlantic, Swinburn Island, which is across from the lighthouse, was a quarantine station/crematorium during WW1. Hoffman Island is also across from the lighthouse and was used as a Merchant Marine Training Station during WW2. Frank informed us that at one time the water was polluted but is now swimmable. We were surprised to hear that, by tradition, all lighthouses around New York had red roofs.

Frank was a seaman and later Quartermaster of the buoy tender Tulip. In 1939, he was assigned as keeper of Old Orchard Light. He spent three years there. He was later stationed at Governor's Island before being transferred to the Coney Island Lighthouse in 1960. At the present time the lighthouse is also used as an experimental station.

Frank told us the story about all the lamps in the area that kept breaking down during a power surge. The Coast Guard would pay the manufacturer $500 to come out and “repair” all of them. When Frank was contacted about the problem (because his light was the only one working), he informed them that all they needed was the replacement of the 2-amp fuse that blew during the power surge!!

One of the highlights in Frank’s career was in 1988. He received a call from his boss, who was an Admiral in Boston, to make a trip to Washington, DC in honor of Frank’s fifty years of service. For the trip, a helicopter was to fly him directly onto the White House lawn but due to heavy fog, a limo picked him up at the lighthouse instead and drove him to the train station for his journey to Washington. Once there, he was greeted by two lieutenants who accompanied him into a stretch limo which took him to the White House. There he met with President Bush, and even had lunch with him in honor of Frank’s fifty years of service. It was a moment in his life that he’ll never forget.

Frank Schubert
Coney Island Lighthouse Keeper since 1960

Frank Schubert is the last of the Coast Guard’s civilian lighthouse keepers.
Lighthouse Reef, Belize, Central America

by Rosemary Dixon

When reading through my diving magazines to choose my next diving destination, the name of Lighthouse Reef leaped from the page! Of course, such a name was intriguing to me, so after a few phone calls I decided that a week of diving the second largest barrier reef in the world in this special location would be perfect for me. My own small cottage hammock right on the beach! The only timetable was to show up for meals, and get to the boat for three dives a day.

The lighthouse is 80 feet tall. It is a red and white open tower and I must say when climbing the open stairs it seemed MUCH HIGHER. The fact that the ironwork is broken there and there, especially at the upper levels, did not inspire confidence.

On my last day I wanted to climb the lighthouse, but was quite hesitant due to the condition of the stairs. My divemaster assured me that visitors do indeed make the climb safely. Upon reaching the top deck, I knew it was certainly worthwhile! What a view of turquoise Caribbean, sandy beaches and palm trees!

The sky and clouds made a beautiful background for my close-up picture of the lens.

I did see one other lighthouse on Half Moon Caye. This is a bird sanctuary. The lighthouse is so closely surrounded by palms that I was unable to get a clear picture of it.

Diving and lighthouse-keeping go together nicely. However it's difficult to gather historical information on the lighthouses in such remote locations.

Palau, South Pacific

My next diving trip in November, was to Palau, in the South Pacific, about 800 miles from Guam. It took two days to get there, crossing the date line. Palau is fourteen hours ahead of New Jersey.

Palau is composed of several island groups; one is the Rock Islands, another is the Seventy Islands National Park. The main island is Koror, where the airport is located.

(Continued on page 8)
Progress in Absecon Light Restoration

by Rich & Elinor Veit

Just a few years ago the historic Absecon Lighthouse in Atlantic City was deteriorating rapidly. It was suffering from the ravages of weather and neglect and covered with graffiti. Today this proud beacon is taking on a fresh look, thanks to the efforts of the Inlet Public/Private Association (IPPA).

Malakal Lighthouse, Palau
Photo by Rosemary Dixon

Our small group of four divers from New Jersey stayed in a hotel and was picked up each morning by the divemaster at 8:00 a.m.

We were on the boat all day, doing three dives. Every day we passed a lovely lighthouse out in the water. It is named Malakal Lighthouse. That is all the information I could find out about it. The tower is masonry with steps down to the water.

It is a crumbling old tower with quite a tilt to it. I had an inclination to try to correct for this angle in my photographs, thereby committing the cardinal sin of a inclining horizon in almost every picture!

I read in a brochure of another lighthouse on Koror. It is at the top of a mountain surrounded now by a very dense wooded area. It would have been quite a hike to reach it and time was short so I passed. My divemaster said that the reason we couldn't see any of it from the water when passing by the mountain is that the lighthouse is so broken that the trees are higher than the remains.

The rebuilding of the light-keeper’s house is progressing on schedule. Behind it, the newly renovated tower displays its new colors (yellow and black).
Photo by Elinor Veit

The tower has been restored and painted yellow and black, the colors it displayed from 1925 when it was electrified, to 1933, when it was decommissioned. The actual color surprised (Continued on page 9)
a lot of people. The first order Fresnel lens will remain in situ in the lantern room. The light-keeper's house is being reconstructed to reflect the same time period.

The house, which will serve as the visitor's center, museum, and gift shop, will be painted white with a red roof. The final phase of this restoration project will be to landscape the two-acre site. The IPPA hopes to open the lighthouse to the public as early as June 1998. As this date approaches, Sara Cureton, Executive Director of Absecon Lighthouse, is training NILHS members and IPPA members to act as tour guides. Because of the size of this project more volunteers are needed. If you would like to be a tour guide (Sara calls them light-keepers) and have not signed up, there is still time to do so. Send your request to:

Yvonne M. Miller
7 Chairville Rd.
Medford, NJ 08055

If you haven't seen this exciting project in progress, we suggest that you take the time to go to Atlantic City while the restoration is still in process. You won't be disappointed!

Second Annual People's Choice Photo-Contest!
And the Winner is...

by Al Smith

This year's photo contest was bigger and better than last year's thanks to you, the members, who were willing to share the product of your talents with others. This year, the addition of the Master's Category for previous winners gave more people a chance to win. And speaking of winners, here they are:

Master's Category
1st Roland Fulde
2nd Lillian Fulde
3rd (Tie) Roland Fulde
Honorable Rosemary Dixon
Mentions Al Smith

Landscape Category:
1st Steve Lichi
2nd Jim Wolfram
3rd Steve Casper
Honorable Skip Billis
Mentions Skip Billis
Sue Greco

CloseUp Category:
1st Judy Swiencki
2nd Rick Weber
3rd Doreen Lagattuta
Honorable Ed Davis
Mentions Jan Tabor

Documentary Category:
1st Jim Wolfram
2nd (Tie) Bill Geilfuss
Honorable Walt Kushner
Mentions Barry Wood

I didn't even tell the committee about the final category because I wasn't sure if it was going to work. The award goes to the photograph that received the most votes.

BEST OF SHOW:
Mary Beth Doherty
(Diamond Head Lighthouse)

(Continued on page 10)
The members of the Harbor Lights of New York group asked it they could participate in the Photo Contest and we welcomed them to join us. They judged our pictures and our members judged their pictures. Jim Crowley took the first, second and third place ribbons and Henry Stevenson won an honorable mention. My apologies to them for not having the names of their pictures.

To all the winners, Congratulations! To Mary Beth and all the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners, Welcome to the Master’s Category! Those of you in the Master’s Category will be notified before the next photo contest.

We hope everyone enjoyed the contest this year and we look forward to even more competition next year.

Once again, we invite your comments and suggestions. Just because you suggested something and it was not done doesn’t mean it wasn’t taken seriously or discussed thoroughly. It may even show up in some form at a future time.

President’s Corner

By Tom Laverty

The Society has been receiving many inquiries from schools for information on New Jersey Lighthouses. I just answered requests from more than a dozen students in one school alone. As the organization becomes better known, we are fulfilling the role of being a source of information about the State’s lighthouses, and that is great. It is one of our purposes. The down side is that someone has to provide answers when a student writes to us for information. At the moment that person is me, with the help of a couple other members who do this in our spare time. While we would like the requests to keep coming, perhaps members could promote the use of our Web Site on the Internet. In most cases schools have Internet access. Much of the information students are seeking is located on our Web Page with photographs and historical background about each lighthouse. Our Web Page address is njlhs.burlco.org. Teachers can also locate us by using one of the Internet search services, like Yahoo, and typing in New Jersey Lighthouses. The search “engine” will locate the Web Page for you. If you know a teacher planning a unit on lighthouses, please suggest this to him or her. We will of course continue to answer written requests, but the use of the Society’s Web Page will make it a little easier to provide that information.

For our members who have Internet access, we are also publishing the hours many NJ lighthouses are open to the public. At this time Sandy Hook, Twin Lights and Barnegat are listed there, along with tentative hours for Absecon. We plan to expand that list as schedules are received from the different lighthouses. Tinicum Rear Range Light has been open on short notice and we are using the Internet Site to let our members know. If you are not connected to the Web - nor have any desire to be involved with it (no way no how), we will still publish the information in The Beam.

I hope to see everyone at our June meeting at Fort Mott State Park. Our annual picnic there will give people an opportunity to socialize and visit Fort Delaware (via Ferry Service from the Park across the Delaware) as well as visit another of our favorite lighthouses, Finns Point.

If you don’t make the meeting, have a great summer and we will see you in September!

Ways and Means Committee by Al Smith

This name came about because organizations can find many “ways” to spend money. The “means” to earning it is another matter!

Most of you have seen the new Sandy Hook tee shirts, sweatshirts and hats. We will be adding a pin and, possibly, a patch to that. We also will be doing some bags with the hat logo.

A new pin is also in the works for the Society. We expect to have it by the June meeting. A new patch may also be available. Bill Gately will be proposing some new books for sale.

The Preservation Raffle is going well and we ask that if you haven’t returned you raffle tickets yet, would you please do so as soon as possible. Any tickets sold can be returned right up to the time of the drawing on June 28th.

If anyone has an idea for a fund raiser or sales item, please let us know. All suggestions will be discussed by the board. If you have special “expertise” in a particular area of fund raising, let us know. We are always looking for new ideas. Also ideas for future raffles are invited and encouraged!

Thanks to everyone who works on this committee but particularly to Steve & Ruth Martorano who have taken over the ordering, storage, transportation and sales of our merchandise.

(Continued on page 11)
Thanks to you, our members, for your purchases. Remember, the new Sandy Hook items will make great gifts — NO NJLHS LOGO!

Sandy Hook Lighthouse and Keeper’s House by Al Smith

The tours have started again at Sandy Hook and we’re looking at a full schedule this year with tours on both Saturdays and Sundays right up to November. I hope that everyone remembers what dates they volunteered for and shows up. If you can’t make it for some reason, please call Tom Laverty as far in advance as possible. It makes it difficult working short handed.

We have had several work details at the keeper’s house and could use a little more help. Even after making mention at the meeting of the next work date only 3 additional people showed up and one wasn’t even a member. My thanks go out to Rich & Elinor Veit, my wife, Betty and to Brooks Robinson (a non-member) and especially to Rick Weber for their help in the recent past.

The board is negotiating an agreement with the National Park Service to use half of the keeper’s house in return for the upkeep of that part of the house and providing tours. Here is an opportunity for the society to FINALLY have a place to call home, a place to make our archives available for their intended purpose and establish an office where business can be conducted, mail delivered and do some preservation work at the same time! This is a huge undertaking. There is much to be done, especially initially, and it can’t be done by a few people nor can the society afford to pay to have the work done. We have over 400 members with 100 to 125 active members who have many different skills. If EVERYONE gave just a little time we could turn this place around. A few people have gotten a fair amount done and the house, while not done, looks much better inside. The outside will need painting soon and to do the job right (the ONLY way) will take a number of people a couple of weekends and I’m just talking about our half, not the whole house.

What needs to be done NOW? How about, ALL the windows need to be reglazed. Because it wasn’t done right in the past, the glazing is falling out and must be replaced. Two panes of glass must be installed and another cleaning of the windows wouldn’t hurt. They were cleaned last fall but were so dirty that it just got the worst off. Most of the first floor rooms have been painted but the hall, stairs and upper floor rooms still should be done. Light fixtures on the second floor need to be replaced (we have them). We need a new round down-spout on the back of the house. Look around, there is plenty to do!

The Park Service would like to see us devise displays pertaining to the lighthouse in a room or rooms on the first floor as a “museum.” If you have any ability in this area we can use your help to turn our vision into reality. How about it? Do we do it or not? We can, with everyone’s help!

Notes from Near and Far

East Point Spiral Stairs for Sale

As NJLHS members know, the East Point Lighthouse is undergoing restoration. The spiral stairs leading to the lantern is for sale. The iron stairway was installed in 1971 after the fire, and is not historically accurate. The Maurice River Historical Society is soliciting offers on the stairway. It has 16 treads, 2’10” radius, 11’3” to top tread. It is iron with a hand rail. Best offer.

East Point Annual Open House

The Annual Open house at East Point Lighthouse will be held August 1, 1998 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Maurice River Historical Society is partnering with the Cumberland County Cultural and Heritage Commission which will sponsor the Artists’ Day and music concert portion of the event. There will be nature walks, sales of lighthouse souvenirs, kite-flying, tours of the lighthouse, food, displays, and other events. Bring a lawn chair for the concert. The day will also include recognition of the folks who have helped the Society with the first phase of the restoration project. Volunteers are needed to help with the events. Call them at 609-654-5934 if you can help out.

Work Days at East Point – Volunteers Needed

Work Days at the East Point Lighthouse are Saturday May 23, Saturday June 27 and Saturday July 25. Due to restoration work on the lighthouse, work days will concentrate on making the lighthouse grounds presentable. If you can lend a hand please contact Jim Gowdy at 609-965-3485 or Gail Robinson at 609-691-5934.

Harbour Lights Releases Sea Girt Miniature

Harbour Lights has their 1998 Members Exclusive depicting the Sea Girt Lighthouse. Built in 1896, it’s known for its handsome brick Victorian keeper’s cottage and red French chimney. The Harbour Lights Sea Girt miniature will be available only to Harbour Lights Collectors Society members via a special redemption certificate through authorized Harbour Light’s dealers. The sculpture measures 5.25” x 5.75” and has a suggested retail of $80.
Program Signals

By Yvonne Miller

Summer Meeting - June 27, 1998

The annual anniversary picnic meeting will be at Fort Mott, Pennsville NJ. Hospitality will be served from 10:30 a.m. at the pavilion. Look for the big white tent and our NJLHS tents. The meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m. There will not be a speaker at this meeting so that we can all enjoy the various activities available at the park. They include the "picnic," visits and/or tours of Ft. Mott State Park, Finn's Point Lighthouse and the ferry to Ft. Delaware. Please bring your lunch and your own lawn chairs for seating. Lemonade, ice tea, watermelon and our anniversary cake will be provided. Also bring your lighthouse photo albums and adventures to share with members. We always try to plan to do this but everything gets frantic and we have too little time. However, this time there should be ample time to sit, chat, exchange pictures and lighthouse stories. Memorabilia sales will be available. Ways & Means has some new items for sale. The ferry will leave from Ft. Mott going to Ft. Delaware. There should be a 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. ferry in the afternoon and the last ferry returning to Ft. Mott will be at 5:00 p.m. I am sure there are earlier crossings but these times were checked to give time for the meeting, picnic and lighthouse visit.

Superintendent Scott Mauger of New Jersey Park Service will be on hand to greet us and his park rangers will be available for tours of the fort and cemetery, as will the members of the Friends of the Finn's Point Lighthouse.

Directions to Fort Mott State Park

From the North:

Take either the NJTP or I-295 south to the end. Exit onto Rt. 40 travelling West to the Rt. 49 Pennsville jughandle. Follow Rt. 49 through the town of Pennsville to the signs that say Coastal Heritage Trail, and Fort Mott State Park. Bear to the right and follow this road. When you see the lighthouse, stay to the right at the fork. This will take you to the Park. Park in the parking lot closest to the pavilion.

From the East:

Rt. 40 to Rt. 49 and then above directions.

From the South:

Rt. 47 to Rt. 49 to Pennsville then turn left at the intersection with the Coastal Heritage Signs.

From the West (Delaware):

Rt. 295 over the Delaware Memorial Bridge, stay to the right, follow signs to Pennsville and then go through town as above.

Fall Meeting: September 26, 1998

Stony Point, NY- A hall for the meeting has not yet been finalized but the meeting will take place in the general vicinity of the Stony Point Park area. This is the Lighthouse T-shirt & Sweatshirt Contest. More information will be posted on the NJLHS Web site (njlhs.burlco.org) as it becomes available. The September Beam will also give more details.

Winter Meeting: December 5, 1998

East Point Light and The Bingo Hall at Heislerville, NJ. This is the election of officers meeting. The construction of East Point Lighthouse has begun, and it should be completed by fall, so we should be able to tour the light.

Spring Meeting Recap

The spring meeting was one of the outstanding meetings since I have been Programs Chair. Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island, NY was a great meeting place. Unfortunately, the weather didn't cooperate for picture taking but it certainly didn't dampen anyone's enthusiasm. The chemistry of the facility, the members of the New York Chapter of the USLHS, the outstanding entries in the Photo Contest, and our speaker, Elinor De Wire, blended into a most pleasant experience. One hundred two members and guests (20 new members) along with the fifteen members of the New York Harbor group listened intently to Elinor's hour-long presentation. The Photo Contest was one of the best. The category and entries of the New York Harbor group added to the excitement surrounding the contest. The organization and hard work of the Smith family and the Photo Contest Committee was evident. Thanks to all the members who helped, from the contest to hospitality to moving tables and chairs - you made my job easy. The spirit of pitching-in and helping-out is growing and The Board and Committee Chairs appreciate it!

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