Hereford Inlet Lighthouse Lantern Removed

On May 5, 1999, a crane removed the cupola of the Hereford Inlet lighthouse as part of a $190,000 project that will restore the lantern room's original copper, glass and steel look.

The project will also stop water leaks that have plagued the lighthouse since 1924, when machinery was added to convert the light from a fixed to a group flashing light. Workmen installing a weight and cable system to rotate the lens cut through a primary support beam and created a water leak that eventually led to beams that were damaged by water rot.

The restoration work will involve resurfacing and resloping the desk of the lantern room. The steel cupola will be sand blasted and re-coated. New glass and glazing will be installed in the lantern. The iron railings around the edge of the lantern room will be replaced by reproductions of the original wood railings. The ornamental wooden brackets under the lantern deck will also be replaced. The restoration work is expected to be completed by July. The firm of Haverstick and Borthwich of Plymouth Meeting, Pa., is doing the restoration work under the direction of Hugh McCauley of United Architects in Bryn Mawr, Pa. Most of the money, about $120,000, came from the City of North Wildwood and the Lighthouse Commission. The remaining $70,000 came from a grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust. The Commission would like to raise another $500,000 for other needed renovations, including replacing the rotting porch roof, rebuilding the chimneys and restoring the interior staircases.

A crane preparing to remove the lantern of the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse, May 5, 1999
Photo by Betty Mugnier

The Hereford Inlet Lighthouse was built in 1874, in a style known as Swiss Gothic. It is the only one of this type on the East Coast. It went into operation on May 11, 1874. In August, 1913, a severe storm damaged the foundation of the lighthouse requiring it be moved 150 feet to the west.

In May, 1938, there was a fire in the lighthouse that began in a bedroom and quickly spread to the nursery causing extensive damage. Just a few days earlier, Keeper Ferdinand Heinzman had been awarded a pennant for efficiency. He was busy painting the exterior of the lighthouse when the fire broke out.
Pioneer Era Cards

The first postcards were sold at the Columbian Exhibition in Chicago, in May, 1893. They proved to be popular and the success of the postcard industry was assured. Cards from this era are distinguished by having an undivided back. If they have a stamp on them it is a Grant or Jefferson head stamp. The postage rate was 2 cents. Usually the postcards have the words "Souvenir of" or "Greetings from." They are frequently multiple view cards, i.e., having more than one small scene on a card. Cards produced during this time of the infancy of the postcard industry are called Pioneer Cards. The era began in 1893 and lasted until 1898. Cards from this period are scarce and expensive.

Private Mailing Cards

The success of the Pioneer cards was such that on May 18, 1898 the federal government gave private printers permission to print and sell postcards. These cards bore the inscription "Private Mailing Card" and today they are referred to as PMC's. The era lasted from 1898-1901.

Post Card Era

Beginning December 24, 1901, permission was given for the use of the words "Post Card" to be imprinted on the backs of privately printed post cards. Thus began the Post Card Era (1901-1907). All cards during this era had undivided backs and only the recipient's address was allowed to appear on the back. Cards of this era often have a white area above or below the scene so a short message could be written. Sometimes the message was written over the picture. While the cards with the writing over the picture aren't as desirable, other cards from this era are highly prized by collectors.

Divided Back Era

Beginning March 1, 1907, publishers were given permission to split the back of the card so that a message could be written on the left side and the address of the recipient on the right side. Thus began the Divided Back Era. In most cards from this period, the picture fills the entire card, and there is no border around the picture. Cards from this period are highly collectible. Many of the finest cards were printed in Germany. The era lasted until 1915 and the beginning of World War I.

White Border Era

With the onset of World War I, postcard imports from Germany dried up and publishers in the United States began producing cards to supply the demand. Many of the postcards produced were reprints of earlier divided back cards. Most of them had white borders around the picture, and hence, this became known as the White Border Era. This period runs from 1915-1930.

Linen Era Cards

American-produced cards improved in quality. Printers began using a textured linen-like paper with a high rag content, and cards produced on this paper are called linen cards or linens. Logically, the era is called the Linen Era, and

Collecting & Dating Lighthouse Postcards

by Kim M. Ruth

Collecting old postcards of lighthouses gives us an interesting glimpse into their past. In many cases old postcards are the most accessible pictures we have of these structures. In attaching historical value to the cards it is important to try to ascertain the date of the card. There are seven eras in the postcard industry that help to date the age of a postcard. While this helps us to give an approximate age to the lighthouse in the scene, it is not an exact science.

Restoration work on the lantern is expected to be completed by July. Photo by Betty Mugnier

The light continued in operation until 1964 when its function was taken over by a nearby steel skeleton tower. In April, 1986, a light was again placed in the lighthouse.

The lighthouse was listed on the National Registry of Historic Places on September 20, 1977. On September 2, 1982, a lease was signed whereby the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection turned over control of the lighthouse to the City of North Wildwood.

Membership in the Friends of the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse is $15.00 a year and includes their newsletter. Contributions are tax deductible. Contact Hereford Inlet Lighthouse at P.O. Box 499, North Wildwood, New Jersey. Call 609-522-4520 for more information, or visit the lighthouse at First and Central Avenue, North Wildwood.
(Left) Undivided Back Era card. This side could only be used for the recipient's address. (Right) The front view of the same card of Twin Lights. This a real photo card. The wooden generator house is known to have been built in 1898. Since the back of the card has an undivided back and we know the present generator building was constructed in 1999 this card must date between 1901-1907.

There are many interesting things about this card of the Chapel Hill Lighthouse for lighthouse buffs. One is the huge sideboards that acted as daymarks to help make the lighthouse more visible in the dark green of the hill. The second is the surrounding area itself which has changed through the years. More importantly is the back side of the card—it was sent by G.H. Porter, a keeper of the Chapel Hill Lighthouse to Mr. Ed. Taylor, the Keeper of the Gould Island Lighthouse, Newport, Rhode Island. The message says “Dear Taylor, This is my place. How do you like it. We are all well and hope you are all the same. Love to all, Yours, G.H. Porter”. The postmark is Chapel Hill—April 5, 1909. This is a card from the Divided Back Era and was printed in Germany.

the period runs from 1930-1945. Until recently collectors ignored these cards as they were considered cheap by collectors. The last few years have brought about a resurgence of popularity for these cards.

Modern/Chrome Era
The modern postcards, or Chrome Era began in 1939 and continues to the present. Many well known postcard publishers, Curt Teich, Dexter Press, Plastichrome and many others began producing cards during this era.

Real Photo Cards
The last group of cards spans the eras, and is not an era in itself but rather a category—Real Photo cards. I mention it because Real Photo cards of lighthouses are highly prized. Real Photo cards were produced as early as 1900. If not post-marked they can be a challenge to date.

While these clues help in determining the age of the card, confirming the date of the picture is not so easy. There are many reasons for this: Scenes were often recycled over and over again over a period of time. Many cards were artistically “enhanced.” I have two cards of Twin Lights by the same publisher showing the same scene. In one card, a daytime scene, there are quite a few people visible in various places around the
lighthouse and generator building. The other card shows the same people in the same places, but has been altered to appear as if it were night-time. A full moon and clouds were drawn in the sky and the southern tower casts forth a bright beam.

**Postcard values**

In general, lighthouse postcards can be purchased for 50¢ to $30, with $2-$8 being the average for a card of the White Border Era or earlier. Condition, of course, affects value. Most dealers have a section for lighthouse postcards, but don’t forget to look in the geographical sections also (usually by state, then town). I found one of my prize cards that way. It is a Chapel Hill Lighthouse postcard, and it was filed under “Chapel Hill” instead of “Lighthouses”. I could see why—the lighthouse was only a small part of the scene. The pay-off however, was the message on the back side of the card. It was a message from Chapel Hill Lighthouse Keeper George Porter to the Keeper of the Gould Island Lighthouse, Newport, Rhode Island. A postcard sent from one lighthouse keeper to another! I was able to document both keepers.

Cards can be obtained from postcard dealers, at Bourses (post card collector shows), and by mail auction (Barr’s Postcard News). These are the best sources if you are looking to buy any quantity of lighthouse cards, but their prices are usually higher. You can also find them at garage sales, estate auctions, and, occasionally, antique stores, but you might go to quite a few before you find any lighthouse postcards.

(Right) White Border Era card of Twin Lights, postmarked July 6, 1923, Highlands, N.J. This is a Divided Back Era card and shows the present generator building. Published by the Sales Printing Corporation of New York City it is number 105037. It is the same scene as card as number 111332, which was “enhanced” becoming a night scene, complete with full moon, different clouds and a beam from the lantern of the southern tower. They neglected to remove the people and the old car from the scene however.

(Left) A Linen Era card. Even in black and white you can see the texture of the paper which gives the era its name. While the Linen Era ran from 1930-1945, the card is probably pre-1941 since that is when the iron tower in front of the old light was moved to Leonardo and became the Conover Beacon. This is a Curteich “C.T. Art-Colortone” card.
Notes from Near and Far

Hereford Inlet Lighthouse 11th Annual Arts and Crafts
The Hereford Inlet Lighthouse 11th Annual Lighthouse Celebration Arts and Crafts show will be held on Saturday, June 19, 1999 from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Rain date – Sunday, June 20th). Other upcoming dates for the shows are:

Saturday, July 17, (Rain date—Saturday, July 24).
Sunday, July 18, (Rain date—Sunday, July 25).
Saturday, August 14, (Rain date—Saturday, August 21).
Sunday, August 15, (Rain date—Sunday, August 22).

Vendors please call (609) 522-4520 or (609) 522-2030 for more information.

East Point Lighthouse Open House.
The Annual East Point Lighthouse Annual Open House will be held on August 7, 1999.

Society News

NJJLS Photo Contest Winners by Al Smith
The 1999 Annual NJJLS Photo Contest was, indeed, a winner. We had 120 entries from 53 members. Congratulations to everyone who entered; I heard many comments on how hard it was to choose which photos to vote for. They were all good! Sorry about the cramped conditions, neither Yvonne nor I were expecting so many exhibits at the meeting, let alone photos.

Before I get to the winners, let me mention some real winners. Thanks to those who helped put this together, especially to Betty Smith for doing the ballots and signs; Mike Smith for helping register the photos and all around general help; Janet Cerame, Rebecca Colesar and others whose names I don’t have for putting out the “stands” and pictures. Without your help, we’d still be putting them up! Thank you.

The winners of the 1999 NJJLS Photo Contest are:

Best of Show – Camille Guerriero – “Old Barney”

5x7 and Smaller – Other Lights
1st Joan Murtha Pemaquid, Maine
2nd Joan Murtha Cape Bonavista, Newfoundland, Canada
3rd Joan Murtha Windmill Point, Canada

Honorable Mentions
Betty Smith Owls Head, Maine
Susan Mazza Portland Head, Maine

Larger than 5x7 – Other Lights
1st Nancy Craven Pemaquid, Maine, “Reflection”
2nd Ed Downs Jeffrey’s Hook, NY
3rd (tie) Howard Wright Nobska, Massachusetts Kathi Borden “Eagle Island Grandeur”

Honorable Mentions
Dixie Amento Nobska, Massachusetts
Cindy Mitzen Marshall Point, Maine

5x7 and Smaller – New Jersey Lights
1st Camille Guerriero Sandy Hook
2nd Lee Sliwa Sandy Hook
3rd Camille Guerriero Left Tower of Twin Lights

Honorable Mentions
Cindy Mitzen Barnegat Light
Sandra Baumann “A Single Twin Light”

Larger than 5x7 – New Jersey Lights
1st Katie Moser “East Point @ A Distance”
2nd Katie Moser “East Point @ Dusk”
3rd (tie) Pat McCarthy Sea Girt Lighthouse Rick Weber Sandy Hook

Honorable Mention
Pat McCarthy East Point

Masters Category
1st Roland Fulde Heceta Head
2nd Carole DiNapoli “Painter of the Light”, Marshall Point
3rd Roland Fulde Castle Hill

Honorable Mentions
Bill Volpe “Brownstone Beacon”, Twin Lights North Tower
Bill Volpe “Silent Navigator”, Sandy Hook
Lilian Fulde Michigan City Lighthouse
Lilian Fulde East Quoody Lighthouse

As usual, everything did not go as planned. Somehow, I moved the Fort Wadsworth lighthouse to New Jersey (wonder how the Staten Island group feels about that!). I put a picture belonging to a member of the Masters Category in another category and it won, although not a top prize. Sorry about that,
I will try harder next year! Those who will be in the Masters Category next year will be notified by post card, probably after the September meeting.

Unfortunately, Mr. Edd Mathisen, Kodak Ambassador, who was going to give us some pointers and discuss our winning entries came down with a very bad case of bronchitis and was disappointed that he couldn’t join us. We will try to line him up for next year, maybe as the principal speaker. I heard from several members that they, too, had great experiences with the Kodak Ambassadors and looked forward to hearing his comments and recommendations for better photography.

Ways & Means Committee
The Ways & Means Committee (Ruth and Steve Martarano) need your help. Anyone who can help set up and sell at the beginning of our meetings and at the breaks, please see Ruth or Steve at the June meeting. Greeters, this is a great way to use your skills. Thank you.

We will be having a couple of new items at the next meeting. We have received Sandy Hook mugs and we now have Sandy Hook postcards. We are looking into a different type of mug and possibly window decals for the Society. That way, when we are at various lighthouses we can look for other members with whom to get acquainted. Also Steve and a small group are coming up with 2 new T-shirts that will be super. I’ll let you be surprised at the next meeting.

Long Island Lighthouse Exhibit
NJLHS member Carolyn Ortiz has a photographic exhibit on Long Island Lighthouses at the Art Museum in Stony Brook from May 15 – October 31, 1999. Also on display is her quilt of 25 East Coast Lighthouses. Carolyn will giving a slide show on June 20, 1999 at the museum, entitled “Unusual Lighthouses.”

Preservation Raffle Tickets
If anyone has not received their 1999 NJLHS Preservation Raffle tickets yet, or wants more to buy or sell, please contact Al Smith at njlhs@burlic.org, or NJLHS Preservation Raffle c/o Al Smith, P.O. Box 63, Audubon, NJ 08106. Time is short—the drawing will be held at 1:00 p.m. on June 26, 1999 during the NJLHS Summer Meeting at the Tinicum Rear Range Light in Billingsport, Paulsboro, New Jersey.
NJLHS Long Island Lighthouse Bus Trip

by Yvonne Miller

The second trip to Long Island on April 24 and 25, 1999 was a lighthouse success. We were blessed with sunshine, a blue sky and puffy white clouds both days. The 30 members of the society spent two days traversing Long Island to see 5 lighthouses. That doesn't sound like many lighthouses, but the drive to Montauk took three hours alone. On Saturday, we met at Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn and traveled the scenic ocean parkway by way of Jones Beach to Fire Island Lighthouse where the Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society gave tours of the light tower. While several of our group climbed the light, some of us watched a video of the tower and spent time and money in the gift shop. We all took advantage of the photo opportunities and watched the deer who would come right to us if we let them. We left Fire Island, driven by our very professional bus driver, Pepe, on our way to Montauk. The three hour drive gave us time to catnap, watch the videos on Long Island and Montauk Light and snooze some more. We arrived at 3:00 p.m. and were escorted into the lighthouse by Tom Ambrosio, Executive Director, where we climbed the light, continued our photo ops and visited the gift shop. We were then surprised with a wine and cheese party give by the Montauk Historical Society under the direction of Tricia Wood, Site Manager. After our visit at Montauk we turned westward to Sag Harbor where we settled into Baron's Cove for the night and dined at the Spinaker Restaurant.

Sunday morning after a buffet breakfast we moved on to Greensport by way of two ferries, aptly maneuvered by Pepe who had never seen them before. On our arrival at Greensport we headed toward Southold and the Horton's Point Light. The view of Long Island Sound from the top of the tower was spectacular. We could see Faulkner Island Light in Connecticut with the naked eye. Departing Horton's Point we returned to Greensport for lunch and great lighthouse shopping at S. T. Preston & Sons and gifts by Lindon. Our next stop was Old Field Light which was a surprise on our agenda since this stop was not accessible to our first bus trip. Thanks to Gayle Haines, our Tour Director from Long Island Lighthouse Safaris and the new mayor of Old Field, we were able to take advantage of the beautiful grounds and view at the Old Field Lighthouse. This lighthouse is right behind the town court and Clerk's office and the light itself had offices on the first floor and caretakers living quarters on the second. With the advantage of Daylight Savings Time we moved on to Eaton Light Coast Guard Station where we climbed the light and had juice and cookies. We then moved on to Lloyds Light at Huntington Harbor but not without a little delay caused by the big red rooster that wouldn't move out of the middle of the street.

I'm not sure whether we toured lighthouses more than we ate but we did a lot of both! We arrived back at Floyd Bennett Field just at sundown. We took our leave of our lighthouse companions for the trip home, a tired but congenial group of pharologists.

I would like to thank Sami & Rudy Picardi and Debbie & Harry Megnigal for their help in the preparation and mailing of the flyers for the trip. Their assistance made for the success of both trips.

Program Signals

by Yvonne Miller

Summer Meeting:

The June 26, 1999 meeting will be held at Tincicum Rear Range Light at Second Street in the Billingsport section of Paulsboro, New Jersey.

The meeting will be held outdoors under a tent on the Little League Field right in front of the lighthouse. Please bring your own lawn chairs. This will save us from renting chairs.

The newly formed Tincicum Rear Range Lighthouse Society will be our hosts and the lighthouse will be open for tours. As this is our annual picnic meeting, there will not be a scheduled speaker, but members of the Tincicum Society will be called on to make some remarks about their organization and
the work it is doing with the lighthouse. The Annual Preservation Raffle drawing will be conducted at this meeting. Cake and lemonade will be provided along with watermelon donated by Carole DiNapoli. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be available for sale at the Paulsboro Little League refreshment stand. We hope that you will also support this community service. Bring whatever else for lunch you may want and any goodies to share.

The agenda for the day is:

- **Hospitality** 10:30 a.m.
- **Meeting** 11:00 a.m.
- **Introduction of the Tinicum Lighthouse Society Board of Directors**
- **Business Meeting**
- **Break for Lunch** 12:30 p.m.
- **Preservation Raffle Drawing** 1:00 p.m.
- **Lighthouse Tours** 1:30 p.m.

The Tinicum Society will have their fund raising items available for sale as will our own Ways & Means Committee. Vendors may set up their tables as well. However, you must provide your own tables, etc. SELLING WILL BE SUSPENDED DURING THE MEETING.

**Directions To Tinicum Rear Range Light:**
Take Rt. 295 either from the north or south to Exit 19A & B. From the north take the Exit to Rt. 656 turn right at traffic light and continue to next light. Turn left onto Rt. 44. Go over green bridge to the next light N. Commerce to RR tracks, then bear right onto Mantua Ave. Follow Mantua Ave to Second Street, turn left. You will be facing the lighthouse. Park in the Little League parking lot. Best connections from NJ Turnpike to Rt. 295 are Exit 7 to 206S, follow signs for 295 S. Or NJTP Exit 3, Rt. 168 W. to Rt. 295 south.

**Fall Meeting:**
The NJLHS fall meeting will be September 18, 1999 at the Marcus Hook Rear Range, Bellefonte, Delaware. The meeting will be held at the VFW Hall on Brandywine Blvd. directly in line with the lighthouse. Parking is available at the VFW and it is a 1 1/2 block walk to the lighthouse. The Coast Guard will let me know closer to the date of the meeting if we will be able to tour the light. This is the Annual Lighthouse T-Shirt/ Sweatshirt Contest.

**Winter Meeting:**
The NJLHS Winter Meeting will be held on December 4, 1999 in the Sea Girt area. Through the efforts of Lori and Jim Wolfram, arrangements are being made for the meeting in Wall Twp., with a visit to the Sea Girt Lighthouse from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Speaker to be announced.

**March Meeting Recap:**
The March 20, 1999 meeting at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, at the School of Agriculture’s Holly House was a packed meeting with 138 members and guests attending. Special thanks to Carole DiNapoli, Bill & Ann Volpe and their friend. Paul Remm, who supplied the extra chairs needed for the meeting. Doug Bingham, Co-Founder of the New England Lighthouse Foundation presented his slides of the lightships of the North Atlantic and Cape Cod and the work of the group in the restoration efforts at Race Point Lighthouse. The entries in our Annual Photo Contest again outdid the previous years. Edd Mathiesen of Kodak Ambassadors was unable to attend due to illness. However, we are hoping he will be at our Year 2000 Photo Contest. It was a good thing we didn’t have a lighthouse to visit at this meeting as we never would have been able to squeeze it in. We had members talking to the speaker and comparing notes on lighthouses to visit at 4:00 p.m. Thanks to all who pitched in to help stack chairs, replace the room as we found it and just generally help wherever they saw the need. Our members certainly exhibit the true spirit of lightkeepers and their families.