Lighthouses of Wales
And a wee bit o’ Ireland

by Janet Sebastian

I was very pleased to be invited to the book launching party for Irish Lighthouse photographer, John Eagle. It was held in the Maritime Museum in Dun Laoghaire, Ireland, on Tuesday, November 2nd. The book is correctly titled An Eagle’s View of Irish Lighthouses. It is John’s first book and it is very well done. The photographs are beautiful, of course, but this book is also important as a very comprehensive guide to the Irish Lights. John has included over 50 lighthouses in this book, to be followed up soon by a continuing volume.

The party was held at the museum, which is a stone’s throw from the two harbor lights and it is the home to the Bailey Lighthouse original optic. I was introduced to Irish novelist Deirdre Purcell, Irish photographer Liam Blake, author Bill Long, who wrote Bright Light, White Water (which is all about the Irish Lights), David Bedlow from The Commissioners of Irish Lights, and many notable others.

While I was there, John took me to see two lighthouses that I had missed on my previous trips to Ireland. We were able to photograph Dalkey Island Light, a small beacon on an offshore island visible from the mainland, and Wicklow Harbour Lighthouse, a charming little red & white light right in the town’s harbour. We also took a twilight walk out to Wicklow Head lighthouses. The Irish Landmark Trust has taken over the old Wicklow Lighthouse and they have carefully restored her. It is available for rent on a weekly basis as a self-catering accommodation.

Afterwards I was off to Wales with Peter Williams and his wife, Gillian. Peter is the publisher of John’s book and of many other lighthouse books, and of the magazine, Leading Lights. We took the ferry across the Irish Sea to Pembroke, Wales—a 4-hour trip. Unfortunately, we set out at 9:30 p.m. so there was really no chance of seeing the offshore Tuskar Lighthouse. We did enjoy the beam of its light, which was with us for many miles.

Peter was my guide to Strumble Head Lighthouse. Set on St. Michael’s, a tiny island in the Pembroke National Coast Park, it is separated from the mainland by a narrow gap through which the sea rages in stormy weather. The views were stunning. Although it was November, like Ireland it was “Spring Green!” To get to the lighthouse, we had to cross an aluminum suspension bridge. I was holding my breath. The winds were fierce, and as I complained about them, I was told “I hadn’t seen anything!” They spoke of days when they would have to crawl across it. Strumble was
built in 1908 to aid navigation between Ireland and Fishguard Harbour. There were 3 keepers housed there. It has a 4-5 ton catoptric lens. Originally, it was driven by a 6-hour weight system. I found the fog horns fascinating. There were 36 horns, which blast on 3 different frequencies. The Attendant, Jeff, and a Trinity House employee, Steve, explained that they use the 3 frequencies because 1 or 2 can be obscured by rain, wind and the fog itself. It has a range of 16 miles. The lighthouse was automated in 1980 and is monitored from the Operations Control Centre in Harwich.

On we went to Saint Ann's Head Lighthouse where Peter is the attendant. The present two towers were established in 1861, but there has been a light on this site since 1480, when Henry Tudor first arrived. An earlier one, built in 1714, no longer remains. The wind made photography very difficult. An Interpretive Centre is in the making at the site and the keeper's quarters are being restored for summer rental.

I was not able to go by boat over to Caldy Island Lighthouse, but it was visible from the Victorian town of Tenby. In 1131 the island was donated to the Benedictine monks from the Abbey of Tiron in France but in 1536 the monks were expelled from the island. It was not until 1906 that an Anglican Benedictine brotherhood bought the island and erected the present monastery. In the early 1920's it was sold to the Order of the Reformed Cistercians. The monks now produce a wildflower perfume as their livelihood. The lighthouse was built in 1829 and was converted to automatic operation in 1927. It was the last Trinity House lighthouse to be powered by acetylene gas, which was used until 1997 when the light was converted to electricity.

I was able to photograph Mumbles Lighthouse. In low tide, you can actually walk out to the light. Built in 1723, it is in Swansea Bay. Clement Scott wrote a poem about "The Women of Mumbles" who saved shipwrecked sailors.

In Swansea, I saw the Light Vessel Helwick. It is part of their Maritime Museum display.

Then we were off to Nash Point Lighthouse, one of the taller lighthouses of the Welsh lights. It was dark when we arrived, so I couldn't get the photographs I had wanted. I'll have to wait till I return with my tour next July.

In the Capital City of Cardiff, I visited the Light Ship 2000, which is set up as an outdoor café. What fun!!!

I was very excited to be able to then visit The West Usk Lighthouse. It is a privately owned B&B. Built in 1821, it was decommissioned in 1987, and then purchased and totally renovated into the fabulous place that it is today. The owner sells "Lighthouse Beer". Of course, I had to try it and it was very good!

I am returning to Wales in July, 2000. I found the country to be very friendly and the lights fascinating.
Society News

Y2K Preservation Raffle

by Al Smith

Enclosed you will find two books of tickets for this year’s Preservation raffle. We hope that with the added prizes you will be able to sell or use the additional book of tickets and make this, our tenth anniversary raffle, our biggest one ever.

As you know, we will be having 10 prizes this year in celebration of that 10th anniversary.

1st Prize is one that everyone seems to like and that is a two-night stay for 2 at the Elms Bed & Breakfast with a weekend lighthouse cruise. Everyone who has been to the Elms has enjoyed the Inn as well as the Innkeepers, Ted & Jo Panayotoff and their fabulous breakfasts. The Panayotoff’s are NJLHS members and transplanted New Jerseyans. For more information about the Elms try their web site at www.midcoast.com/~theelms/.

2nd Prize is a gift certificate for a two-night stay at the Saugetties Lighthouse Bed & Breakfast. Betty and I stayed there several years ago when they were just starting out and we enjoyed it very much. We think you will too.

3rd Prize is a gift certificate for $220 to the Lighthouse Inn in Dennis, Ma. I have heard nothing but good things about the Inn and it is on my ‘agenda’ for a future trip northeast.

4th Prize has been changed. Unfortunately, the ‘Quilting Committee’ could not promise that the Lighthouse Quilt could be done in time for the raffle. We are substituting a merchandise gift certificate for $150 to the Lighthouse Depot. You can get their catalog and have fun!

5th Prize is a professionally matted and framed print of Sandy Hook Lighthouse done by Steve Harrington.

6th through 10th Prizes are woven throws with Barneget Lighthouse on them.

We hope that you will do all that you can to support his effort. Monies raised by our raffle have been used to restore the Fresnel lens that will be used in the replica lighthouse at Tucker- ton, to assist the IPPA at the Absecon Lighthouse with the purchase of educational displays and in numerous ways for other lighthouses in New Jersey.

If you need additional tickets, please call me at (856) 546-7810 or e-mail me at cmagsmith@juno.com or by fax at (856) 546-0514. We will be happy to send them to you.

If you will not be using your tickets for some reason, please return them so we get them out to others. THANK YOU.

Last Call for the...
Annual Photography Contest

by Al Smith

Yes, March 18th is the photo contest meeting. So get hot and get those great photos out and ready to win! We haven’t received many photos to date so if you are waiting until the last minute, PLEASE bring them to the meeting as early as possible.

Last year we had 140 photos so you can imagine how much work that is to get up. Those who helped last year will be welcomed with open arms as will any first time helpers.

Remember, for those in the Master’s Category, it is two photos only. Any lighthouse, any size. For everyone else, it is 3 photos TOTAL. You pick the category or categories in which you wish to enter your photos.

And the categories are:
NJ Lighthouses 5” x 7” and smaller
NJ Lighthouse 5” x 7” and larger
Other Lighthouse 5” x 7” and smaller
Other Lighthouses 5” x 7” larger

How large? How large can you go??

Don’t forget, Mr. Edd Mathisen, a Kodak Ambassador, will be here to help us take better pictures. I’m sure he will offer many insights for everyone from the ‘point and shooters’ to those with more sophisticated equipment. There is a rumor that there may be some “little yellow boxes” for door prizes.

Mr. Mathisen will also comment on what he feels made the winning photos winners. That alone should help us all with our picture taking.

So bring those pictures out of the dark albums and expose them to the light and the admiration of your fellow lighthouses.

ATTENTION: Volunteers

by Al Smith

The training sessions for the Sandy Hook tour season went as well as those things can be expected to go. Thanks to Betty for the great lunches. If you haven’t sent back your schedule, please give them to me at the meeting or send them to me at any of the numbers listed under the raffle.
If you didn't make the training sessions (3/4 & 3/12) don't despair. We can train you on the spot. Let me know what you would like to do and when and we will work something out to pair you with a veteran for some OJT (On the Job Training). We have an expanded schedule this year with the addition of the Thursday nights in July and August, so we can use additional help. LET'S FACE IT, WE CAN ALWAYS USE ADDITIONAL HELP. Come join the fun!

Keep in mind that NJLHS is also providing volunteers for Absecon and Tuckerton. If you are interested, see Elinor or Rich Viet (609-652-1876) for Absecon or the Megenigals (609-268-0779) for Tuckerton.

You may not think you can do this; take it from me, it is just like talking with friends at the meeting. You can tell when someone is interested and what makes it more fun is when the children start asking questions that indicate real interest.

**NJLHS Calendar**

We are publishing a calendar here to help you better plan your calendar. Watch future issues of *The Beam* and our website at njlhs.burlco.org for up-to-date information.

**March 18, 2000**  
See Program Signals on page 8  
General Meeting (10:30 a.m.)  
Angelsea Firehouse  
North Wildwood, NJ  
Hereford Inlet Lighthouse  
NJLHS Photo Contest

**May 20, 2000**  
Lighthouse Cruise  
Departing from Waterford, CT  
5 hours, 11 lighthouses

**June 24, 2000**  
General Membership Meeting  
Tuckerton, NJ  
Tuckerton Seaport, NJLHS 10th Anniversary Picnic

**August, 2000**  
Celebrate National Lighthouse Month

**August, 2000**  
Week-long Bus Trip to Prince Edward Island  
More Details at later date

**October 14 & 15, 2000**  
New Jersey Lighthouse Weekend  
Statewide Event

**December 2, 2000**  
General Membership Meeting

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**Notes from Near & Far**

**Alice Hillary Receives Volunteer Recognition Award**

The McGraw-Hill Companies sponsored a Volunteer Recognition Award for its employees. Nominees must be actively engaged in volunteer activities outside of the company. Based upon criteria including length of service, impact of service, and type of service, 8 employees were selected to receive the award. Each employee was presented with an award and a $1,000 check. The check will be donated to the non-profit organization of the employee's choice, in his or her name.

Alice Hillary was selected as one of the recipients for her work with the Tincum Rear Range Light Society and chose to designate her award to the Tincum Rear Range Lighthouse Society.

**Ambrose “Lighthouse” Revisited**

The editor received a couple of comments about his article on the new Ambrose Lighthouse, taking him to task for calling it a lighthouse. Wayne Wheeler, of the USLHS, wrote to say that while the earlier Ambrose Tower could be called a lighthouse since it did have keepers for a while, the new Ambrose could not. Wayne classified it as a Large Navigational Aid. An NJLHS member made a similar comment. While I technically agree with both, "New Jersey's Newest Large Navigational Aid" just didn't have the same ring to it nor would that convey to most people its significance and size. I did not intend the title to be taken in a strict technical sense; and knew full well I was taking a little "license" with the term. I should have put the word 'lighthouse' in quotes for the purists among us.
White River Light Station to Celebrate 125th Anniversary

On July 22, 2000, the White River Light Station in Whitehall, Michigan, will celebrate its 125th Anniversary. Among the planned festivities are: A family concert featuring Lee Murdock singing Great Lakes Maritime songs, a children's program and storyteller dedication to the lighthouse, the unveiling of a lighthouse artifact, tours of the lighthouse museum and an art show featuring White River Lighthouse paintings and drawings. A shuttle service from the Fruitland Township Hall in Michilinda is also planned.

Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands Sponsor Lighthouse Cruise

On April 29, 2000 at 10:00 a.m. the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands are sponsoring a lighthouse cruise. The trip leaves from the Long Wharf next to the NE Aquarium. The itinerary will include a tour of the Inner Harbor, past Boston Light and the Graves Ledge, then out to Massachusetts Bay to Race Point, tour all of the lights of Cape Cod Bay (Long Point, Wood End, Sandy Neck, Cape Cod Canal Entrance Light), Gurnet Point, Duxbury Pier Light, Scituate Light, Minots Ledge Light, Boston Lights, the Narrows Light runs, Lovells Island Range Light runs, Deer Island Light, Long Island Light, Spectacle Island, Point Allerton, Great Brewster Island (second beacon), Fort Warren Light and more. John Forbes is coordinating the lighthouse trip which will be aboard the MV Nora Victoria. Call 781-740-4290 for information and tickets.

Tinicum Rear Range Light to Undergo Restoration Work

Beginning in March, the Tinicum Rear Range Lighthouse in the village of Billingsport, Paulsboro, New Jersey, is scheduled to undergo stripping and repainting as well as other necessary restoration work to the building at the base of the tower. The cost of the work is estimated at $59,000.

Minots Ledge Light Keeper's Memorial to be Dedicated

On May 21, 2000, a memorial will be dedicated to the 2 assistant light-keepers who perished at the first Minots Ledge Lighthouse on April 17, 1851. Ceremonies will be held at 2:00 pm. At the Government Island Lighthouse property on Border Street, Cohasset, Mass. Refreshments will follow the ceremony in the restored keeper's residence. Representatives from the USCG will preside with officials from the town of Cohasset.

The first Minots Ledge lighthouse was built in 1847-1850 on the outermost of the Cohasset Rocks. It was lighted on January 1, 1850. It was the first lighthouse to be built in the United States that was exposed to the full force of the ocean. Stephen Pleasonton, on the advice of Captain William H. Swift of the Topographical Bureau, erected an open skeleton tower of wrought iron. It was thought that the open framework would allow the fury of the ocean to pass through without harming the lighthouse.

The body of the Portuguese keeper Joseph Antoine was washed ashore at Nantasket. The Englishman Joseph Wilson was found to have reached Gull Rock, where he died of exhaustion and exposure. After the failure of the first lighthouse on Minots Ledge, the steam tug R.B. Forbes was anchored off the rock to serve as a lightship. A temporary lighting apparatus was installed aboard her. Later that year the former Brandywine Shoal Lightship was sent up the coast to serve on the station until the new lighthouse could be built. The captain in charge of the lightship was John W. Bennett, the former Principal Keeper of the first Minots Ledge Lighthouse, who was ashore when the catastrophe occurred.

"The light on the Minot was last seen from Cohasset on Wednesday night at 10 o'clock. At 1 o'clock Thursday morning the 17th, the lighthouse bell was heard on shore, one and a half miles distant, and this being the hour of high water, or rather the turn of the tide, when the opposition of the wind and the tide it is supposed that the sea was at its very highest mark, and it was at that hour, it is generally believed, that the light-house was destroyed; at daylight nothing of it was visible from shore, and hence it is most probable it was overturned at or about the hour named." (Lighthouses and Lightships of the United States, by George R. Putnam, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1933).
MAC Sponsors Delaware Bay Lighthouse Cruise

Cruise the Delaware Bay aboard the Cape May Whale Watcher to see lighthouses and World War II history sites. The Delaware Bay Lighthouse Adventures takes visitors to seven lighthouses, most only visible from the water. Enjoy refreshments and a cash bar while listening to narration about the Delaware Bay lore and legend. This five-hour cruise departs at 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays, June 10 & 24, July 8 & 22, August 26 and September 9, May 21, and Fridays July 21 and August 18. The cost of the trip is $50.00.

Lighthouse Stamp Society

The Lighthouse Stamp Society was established to promote the collecting of lighthouses on stamps and other philatelic related items. Memberships run from September to September so if you join after that month you will receive all back issues of the journal for that year. Dues are $10.00 US. Their Journal, The Philatelic Beacon, is an 8-page bi-monthly publication and contains informative articles about stamps from around the world. Contact Daleen Thomas, 8612 West Warren Lane, Lakewood, Colorado 80227-2352, call 303-986-6620, or e-mail daleenl@uswest.net. The Lighthouse Stamp Society has a web page at http://www.lighthousestampsoociety.homepage.com. An application form is available on the site as well as a wealth of information and pictures about the subject.

Stamps from Aland, a group of tiny islands that belong to Finland. The islands are located between Finland and Sweden and between the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Bothnia. From left to right the lights are Rannö (1962), Säkskär (1868), Lågskär (1859) and Market (1888). Collection of Kim Ruth.

KANGAROO ISLAND

Souvenir Sheet No. 1—Kangaroo Island Lighthouses—South Australia, Top to bottom left to right - Cape du Couedic (1909), Cape Borda (1880), designed by Trinity House of London, Cape Willoughby (1852), is the oldest lighthouse on Kangaroo Island, and Kingscote's. Collection of Kim Ruth.

President’s Corner

by Tom Lavery

While the rest of the world seemed to be preoccupied with whether or not they were Y2K compliant, the New Jersey Lighthouse Society forged on with activities, programs, and educational activities. Here is a sampling of what we did in 1999.

Trips and Meetings:

We took three great lighthouse trips, Long Island II, Cape Cod, and New York Harbor, had four fantastic meetings, in March at the Holly House, Rutgers University (Photography Contes), Tinicum Rear Range Lighthouse in June (it was hot!), Bellefonte Delaware, Marcus Hook Rear Range Lights (the Shell Station mentioned in the directions just wasn’t there – at least not as a Shell station), and a great presentation by Ken Black of the Shore Village Museum at our December meeting in Sea Girt (well attended by more than 150 people).

Donations:

The Atlantic City Inlet Public Private Association received a second $2500 donation from our preservation fund for educational activities at the Absecon Lighthouse, we presented Ken Black with a $100 check for his Shore Village Museum in Maine, and the Sea Girt Lighthouse received $100.

Lighthouse Volunteers:

Members continue to volunteer at lighthouses around the state. At Sandy Hook we decided not to sign a Memorandum of Agreement for use of the keepers’ house, but will continue working there in conjunction with the Sandy Hook Foundation and National Park Service. Our volunteers put in about 1900 hours allowing $700 visitors to climb the tower. At Absecon Lighthouse our members are also actively involved in giving tours.

Outreach:

We sent volunteers to the following locations to do lectures, slide talks, staff information tables, and generally bring New Jersey Lighthouses to the attention of the public.

January - Calvert Museum, Solomons Maryland.
May - Fort Mott Day, Pennsville, NJ.
June - East Point, Heislerville, NJ.
July - Presentation in Highland Park, NJ.
August - Old Lafayette Village, NJ.
September - Tuckerton Baymen’s Museum, Tuckerton, NJ
- Zaslows, Matawan, NJ.
October - Hamilton Square, NJ, - Absecon Lighthouse Fall Festival, Atlantic City, NJ.
November - Atlantic City Teachers Convention, Atlantic City, NJ.
New Jersey Lighthouse Society
Educational Outreach

by Bill Volpe

The membership of the New Jersey Lighthouse Society Inc. recognizes the need to expand its mission of historical preservation, restoration and education to include efforts to inform the youth of our state of the significance of our lighthouses and the need to protect and preserve them for future generations.

This effort, focusing on the primary and secondary educational systems, utilizes the New Jersey Network lighthouse video, Eye of the Mariner, and the book, Sentinels of the Shore by Bill Gately, to engender a consciousness of our lighthouse structures and to begin an awareness of the need to preserve them.

In addition to the video and the book, the lighthouse education kit includes the New Jersey Office of Travel and Tourism's Lighthouse Guide, a learning resource recommendation list of lighthouse books, organizations and Internet links. The kit also includes informational brochures on our Atlantic Coast and Delaware Bay lights.

Kits may be obtained through the New Jersey Lighthouse Society at a cost of $27.00 per kit.

Simply send your tax deductible check payable to NJLHS, P.O. Box 4228, Brick, NJ 08723. Be sure to indicate "NJLHS Education Outreach" on your donation, identify the school or district of your choice and indicate the way in which you would like the acknowledgement to read. If you have any questions, you may call, write or e-mail Bill Volpe as follows:

(732) 846-2196
220 Felton Avenue
Highland Park, NJ 08904
wvfotolite@aol.com

Newsletter Submissions

The Beam is our members' vehicle for exchanging information about the New Jersey Lighthouse Society, New Jersey lighthouses, but our interest extends worldwide. Members (and non-members) are invited to contribute articles of general interest. Deadlines for submissions are 45 days before each general membership meeting. We also appreciate hearing about events at other lighthouses and by other lighthouse groups. Most of this information is also posted on our web site at http://njlhs.burlco.org.

Pictures can be black & white or color, no larger then 8.5 x 11, or in electronic format. If submitted electronically, we recommend at least 150 dpi. We can handle most formats (tif, jpg, gif) for pictures. For text we can handle Word 6.0 or greater, Word Perfect 5.1 or greater, plain text, ASCII, and rtf.

Education:

Our educational kits for schools and organizations are becoming popular. Several kits were sent out during 1999. The kits include Bill Gately's book Sentinels of the Shore, the Eye of the Mariner video and this year will have an option to include Jim Gowdy and Kim Ruth's book Guiding Lights of the Delaware River and Bay.

We also planned a New Jersey Lighthouse Day, which will actually take place in October of this year. All the lighthouses in the state will participate; details will be announced this summer.

Membership:

Membership was healthy at 992 members in 1999. We are now faced with the problem of finding large enough places to hold meetings (not to mention enough chairs to sit in).

National Lighthouse Museum:

We continue to participate in the formation of the National Lighthouse Museum.

To accomplish all this took a lot of effort by a lot of people. Take a look at the list of directors and committee chairs printed in The Beam. Each of the people you see there and many members whose names you never see have made 1999 an outstanding year for our organization. Thank you everyone. We have a lot in the works for the year 2000 and hope to continue receiving your support to promote New Jersey's Lighthouse treasures.
Program Signals
by Yvonne Miller

The March 18, 2000, meeting will be held at the North Wildwood (Angelsa) Fire House on 2nd Avenue and New Jersey Avenue in North Wildwood.

This is our annual Photo Contest meeting and along with the contest, Mr. Edd Mathiesen, a Kodak Photo Ambassador, will address photographic techniques.

The Hereford Inlet Lighthouse will be open after the meeting and tours will be conducted through the lighthouse. Admission is free to members so please wear your nametag or obtain one from the membership desk when you arrive at the meeting. The stick on nametags will have the NJLHS logo on them.

The members of Hereford Inlet Lighthouse are generously providing hospitality.

Directions:
Using the Garden State Parkway take Exit 6 to Route 147 East, which becomes New Jersey Avenue. Follow this route; it will take you right to the North Wildwood Fire House. There is on-street parking. The lighthouse is a short walk from the firehouse so once you park you shouldn't have to move your car.

Summer Meeting – June 24, 2000
The NLHS will be held at the Tuckerton Seaport & Baymen's Museum on Route 9, Tuckerton, NJ. This is the NLHS Annual Picnic Meeting. Admission to the Museum grounds and the Tucker Island Light will be free to members.

Nametags will be necessary. Information regarding available food will be in the next issue of The Beam.

Fall Meeting – September 16, 2000
The NLHS Fall Meeting will be held at Fort Hancock, Sandy Hook. The exact building is still being decided and will be announced in future issues of The Beam and on our web site at nlhs.burlco.org.

Winter Meeting - December 2, 2000
Location to be published in future issues of the The Beam and on our web site at nlhs.burlco.org.

Recap of the NJLHS December, 1999, Meeting
Our meeting was held at Spring Lake Heights Elementary School in Spring Lake Heights. Thanks to Laurie Wolfrom and husband Jim for making the arrangements for the meeting and for contacting Ken Black, our speaker for the day. I gave Laurie the attendance numbers for our previous Winter/December meetings, which never went higher than 92 members. As a result we decided that seating for 100 would be more than enough.

Standing Notices
Hospitality is served from 10:30 a.m.
Business meetings start promptly at 11:00 a.m.
Lunch break is between adjournment of meeting and speaker/presentation. Bring your lunch as we only take a short break.
Lighthouse openings and tours will be announced in each Program Signals.
Vendors should make prior arrangements with the Ways & Means chairperson to set up their tables at each meeting.