

# Pt. Pinos Lighthouse Keeper Retires After 25 Years on Job

George W. Petersen, 67, lighthouse keeper at Pt. Pinos reservation in Pacific Grove for the past 14 years, will retire Tuesday after 25 years of lighthouse service.

Petersen, with Thomas Henderson, operates the lighthouse under civil service. All civil service employees have been replaced upon retirement since 1939 by enlisted men of the U.S. Coast Guard. Petersen's place will be taken by Randal L. Rankin, En. 2, who will be transferred from the cutter Gresham, out of Government Island, Alameda.

Petersen and his wife, Viola, have occupied the main lighthouse building since they came here from Pt. Arguello light in Santa Barbara County in June of 1939.

## AT PT. SUR

Before that time, Petersen had charge of the Pt. Sur light. His introduction to the one-way road which winds up the 270-foot rock, he recalls, was while he was in a truck loaded with furniture with the sun in his eyes. When he looked aside, all he could see was straight down.

"I got used to it," he says. "After that I made regular trips up every week with loads of oil for three years."

Petersen was born in Chicago in 1886, was schooled there, and joined the Navy in 1917. He served on the cruiser St. Louis doing convoy duty until 1920, and then entered the postal service.

When he heard that the fleet was going to make a goodwill trip to Australian waters in 1923, he hurried to get back in the Navy. He served on the USS Colorado 1923-27.

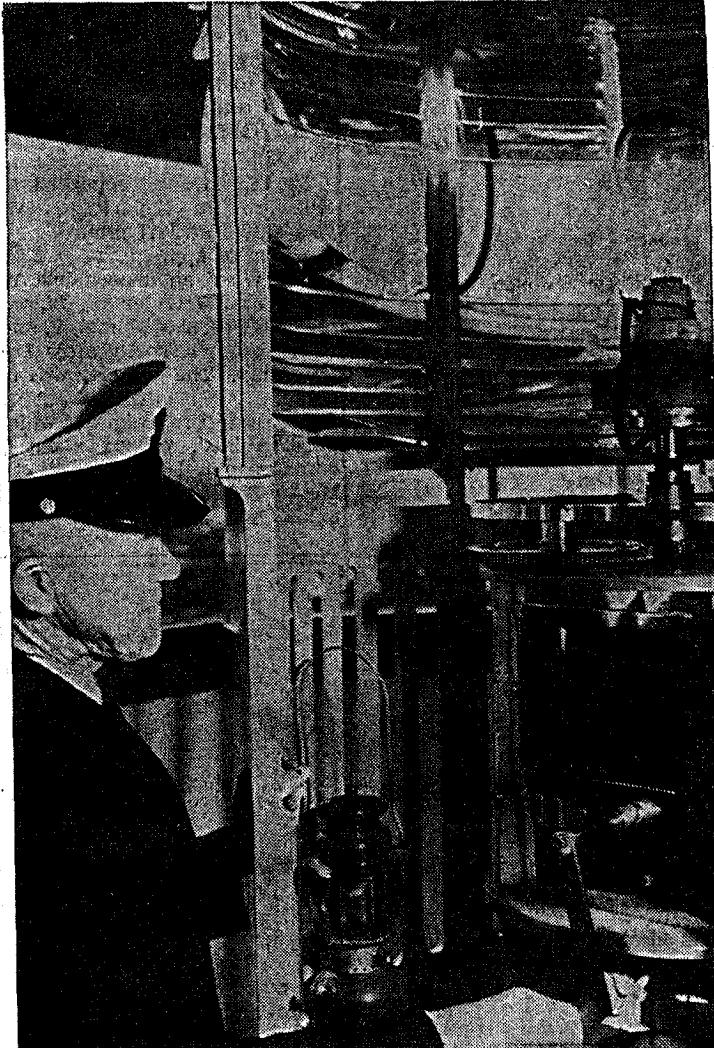
## OTHER JOBS

Other lights where Petersen has served have been St. George Reef, four miles off Crescent City; Pt. Reyes; and Southampton Shoal.

The latter is built on piling in the strip between Vallejo and Richmond, and the ferry boat used to throw the newspaper every evening.

"Eventually," Petersen says, "service men will also be taken off of lights. Everything will some day be automatic. Some lights have been relieved of personnel already."

He looks forward to "fishing and loafing," and enjoying his own home, which he and Mrs. Petersen purchased at 1025 Del Monte Park a year ago.



GEORGE W. PETERSEN

## Point Pinos Lighthouse Aide Retires

AUG 7 '57  
After 24 years of lighthouse service in California, Ray E. Davis, first assistant keeper at Point Pinos light, who says he "enjoyed his work very much," retired last week.

Davis began his lighthouse career in 1933 after a number of years working as a lumberman. His first job in the lighthouse service was at Piedras Blancas light, where he worked for 13 years.

The next four years he saw service in the isolated lights at St. George Reef, near Crescent City, and Mile Rock light just outside Golden Gate Bridge.

In 1950 he came to Point Pinos where he remained until his retirement Wednesday.

The veteran keeper, whose wife Leona died recently, plans to get a trailer, travel around the coun-

try and do some fishing. When asked how he was going to like the fishing he replied with a chuckle, "I expect I'm gonna' enjoy it."