

# To Acquire Lighthouse

By JOE FITZPATRICK

Famous old Point Pinos Lighthouse and its 78-acre pristine reservation have stood fast through 111 years of history at the northernmost tip of the Peninsula.

And the City of Pacific Grove doesn't want to wake up one morning and find it has succumbed to a bulldozer in the name of "progress."

Thus, after many months of study and careful preparation, the Pacific Grove Lighthouse Acquisition Committee yesterday took the first formal step in a campaign to acquire the reservation for the city for permanent/preservation as open space.

## Urge Resolution

The committee unanimously passed a motion urging the Pacific Grove City Council to adopt a resolution calling upon Congressman Burt L. Talcott, R-Salinas, and U.S. Sens. Thomas H. Kuchel and George Murphy to initiate the proper legislation in Congress to bring about the acquisition.

Inasmuch as six of the seven city council members were present at the committee meeting and enthusiastically supported the proposal, there seems little doubt such a resolution will be formulated and adopted.

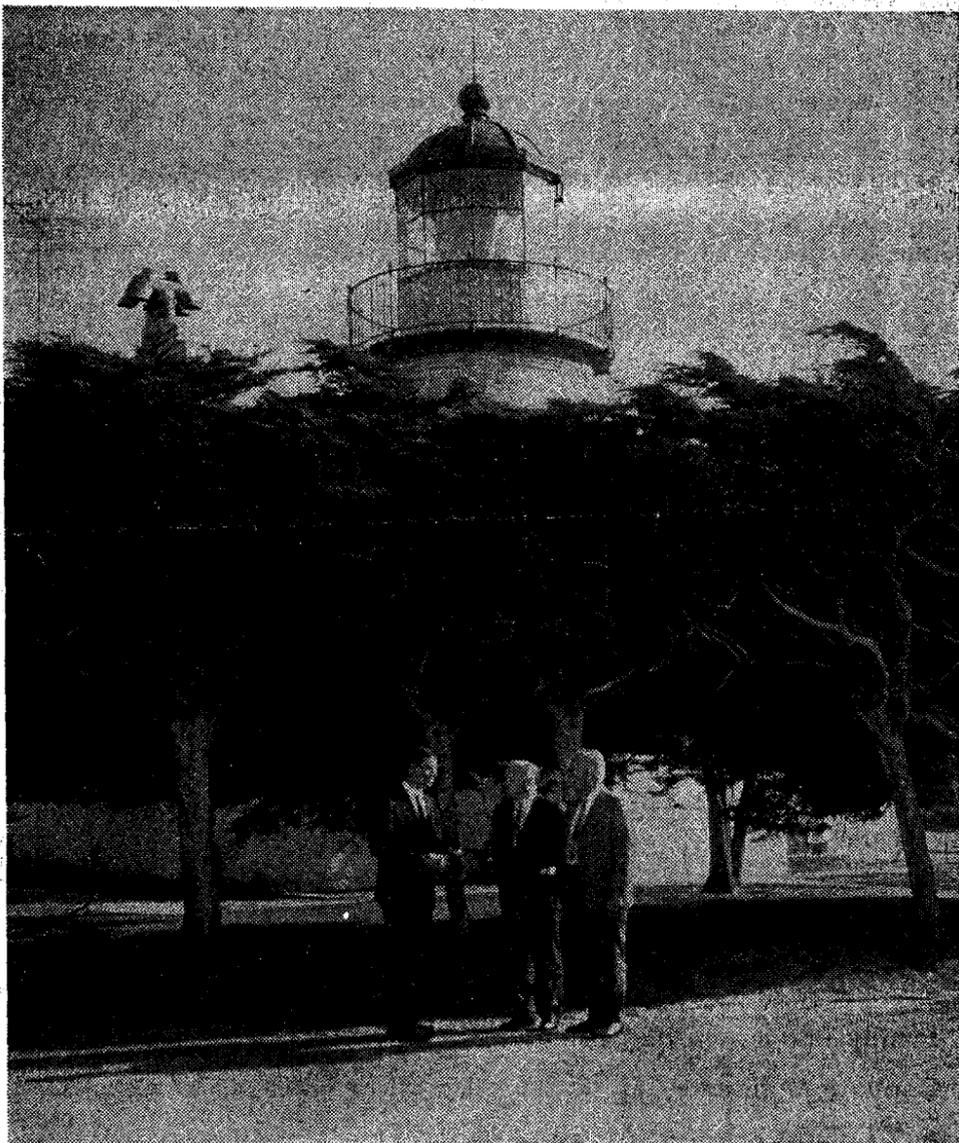
The six were Mayor Earl D. Grafton, Dan Turrentine, Vera G. Moffat, Pete M. Dinkel, Allen Foulkes, and Edward Whitaker, who is also chairman of the acquisition committee. Not present was council member Daniel E. MacMurray.

## Brochure

The committee yesterday also brought forth copies of a handsome 20-page brochure, which will be used in support of the effort to obtain favorable Congressional action on the proposed acquisition of the reservation.

It will be recommended for acceptance by the city council.

Containing spectacular photographs of the reservation area—including several in color—the brochure



(d'Angelo photo)

## Discuss Point Pinos Landmark

Rep. Burt L. Talcott, left, Mayor Don Grafton and Councilman Edward Whitaker, right, stand near the Pacific Grove Lighthouse as they discuss the city's hopes to acquire the ancient landmark and its surrounding property.

chure outlines history of the lighthouse and enumerates natural wonders of the reservation surrounding it.

Whitaker explained that at the present time, the U.S. Coast Guard has given no indication that it may soon consider the reservation as no longer necessary for use in aid to navigation.

However, he said, technology has caught up with lighthouses as we have known them in the past, and it is now possible to provide an automated light of greater intensity at less cost.

"If this is done," he continued, "it's logical that the new facility will be placed down closer to the shore and will make the present facility obsolete.

"We would like to ac-

quire this old lighthouse for a Coast Guard Museum maintained and administered by, and at the expense of, the city of Pacific Grove."

In addition, he said, the city would like to acquire title to the entire 78-acre reservation with the stipulation that it be maintained in perpetuity as open space to preserve the matchless natural beauty and resources.

For instance; the reservation contains some of the great rarities of the plant kingdom—a few of which are found no place else on earth.

Also located there is the natural sump known as Crespi Pond which interests ornithologists from near and far because, for some reason, it attracts rare birds seldom seen elsewhere.

## Tide Pools

Another natural resource of the area are the Point Pinos tide pools, famed the world over for their fantastic marine life.

"But all these things need protection against the encroachment of imminent urban expansion," Whitaker said, "because once gone, they're destroyed forever."

He pointed out that the City of Pacific Grove is in far better position to offer

ful of marine specimens and rare plants—all to be thrown away in short time, we can only stand by and wish they wouldn't do it for we have no jurisdiction there to prevent it."

## City Willing

He emphasized that this was intended as no criticism of the Coast Guard, because they're not equipped for such enforcement activities, "but it only points up the desirability of letting the city do what it is already ready, willing and able to do."

Congressman Talcott pledged his full support to the committee and suggested the first step after adoption of the resolution by the city council would be the preparation of a bill to be submitted to Congress.

He offered the assistance of his office in the drafting of a bill, but cautioned the committee that it "could be a very long, involved process" in getting the measure through Congress.

"We can wait," said Whitaker.

"For the preservation of rare flora and fauna and 111 years of history, it's worth it."

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