

Blow to P. G.

CG Holds On to Lighthouse

MPH 3/16/67
Pacific Grove's difficult struggle to acquire the Point Pinos Lighthouse and reservation received another body blow yesterday.

The city, after many months of study, launched a campaign last November to obtain the property for permanent preservation by the city as open space.

It was hoped that should the lighthouse be declared obsolete (and its function taken over by an automated light closer to the shoreline), the city might operate the lighthouse as a kind of museum.

Yesterday, however, a letter to City Manager Muri M. Fritschle from the U.S. Coast Guard Commander of the 12th Coast Guard District threw cold water on the hope.

For Housing

The Coast Guard Commander, Rear Adm. T. J. Fabik, San Francisco, indicated that the lighthouse and grounds will be used

Lighthouse Discussions Turn Rosy

MPH 6-8-67
Just when prospects looked most bleak, everything is turning up roses in Pacific Grove's courtship of the historic Point Pinos Lighthouse reservation.

For some time, the city has yearned for an "understanding" that if the U.S. Coast Guard ever decides it no longer needs the choice 78-acre parcel, that Pacific Grove will be first in line to take it over.

The city has no desire to develop the area — far from it. Rather, it wants to safeguard it against the possibility that its remarkable flora and fauna might succumb to the insatiable bulldozers that sow the seeds of "progress."

Less than three months ago, the city was told in a letter from the U.S. Coast Guard commander of the 12th Coast Guard District in San Francisco that the

(Continued on page 2)

lighthouse and grounds will be used "for housing purposes."

Looking Up

But last night, the city council was advised that things are definitely looking up.

Councilman Edward Whitaker reported to the council on results of a meeting held in San Francisco Monday with Coast Guard officials.

Representing Pacific Grove were Whitaker, who is chairman of the Pacific Grove Lighthouse Acquisition Committee; Mayor Earl D. Grafton, and City Manager Muri M. Fritschle.

"We worked out a basic agreement verbally," Whitaker said, "under which the city will be able to use the lighthouse as a museum, and will take over maintenance and law enforcement throughout the reservation.

"The Coast Guard will continue to operate the light and the fog horn with regular watches until such time (if ever) that those facilities become fully automated."

No Title

17
Whitaker said the agreement would not give the city title to the land, but would enable it to open up the lighthouse to visitors, and to give police protection to the flora and fauna of the reservation, which the Coast Guard is not equipped to do.

Whitaker said that the verbal agreement is now in the process of being put into writing, "and we hope to have it all worked out by July 1."

He said that the surprise new development would in no way change the Lighthouse Acquisition Committee's long range efforts to obtain congressional action to turn the property over to the city in the event that the Coast Guard sooner or later declares it surplus.

Maintain Area

The city would like to acquire title to the entire 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 Crespi Pond, which for some reason not entirely clear, attracts rare birds seldom seen elsewhere, and the Point Pinos tide pools which are famed the world over for their fantastic marine life.

"We want to protect all of this," Whitaker said, "because once gone, they're destroyed forever."