



(Herald photo)

Leased by Pacific Grove

A dog stands guard before historic Pacific Grove Lighthouse, which has been leased from the Coast Guard by the City of Pacific Grove.

P.G. Takes Title to Lighthouse

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By JOHN HALLISEY

The City of Pacific Grove has moved a step closer to a dream it has cherished for many years: acquiring use and title to the historic Point Pinos Lighthouse, the oldest lighthouse on the West Coast.

City Manager Murl Fritschle told the Lighthouse Acquisition Committee at a luncheon meeting yesterday that the city has completed negotiations with the U.S. Coast Guard and has signed a five-year lease for use of a small portion of land, including the lighthouse.

The light will continue in operation.

Under a mutual agreement with the Coast Guard, Pacific Grove also recently took over police jurisdiction of the 78-acre area at Point Pinos and agreed to uphold government regulations prohibiting camping, vending,

hunting and disturbing sea life in the area.

It has always been the intention of Pacific Grove to open up the lighthouse to the public as a museum — as well as save the area from progress in the form of a bulldozer blade.

The historic lighthouse was built in 1855 by the Coast Guard which installed the big lens that is still part of the lighthouse.

Since that time, the big windjammers that used to hug the coast northward to San Francisco have disappeared; but to many mariners returning to Monterey Bay, the old light, while not very strong, and its accompanying fog horn, has often been a welcome sight and sound.

Fritschle told the committee yesterday that the Coast Guard will retain control over some parts of the lighthouse and will have unrestricted access to the area.

With the first hurdle in the process of acquiring use of the lighthouse cleared, the acquisition committee yesterday settled down to the task of preparing the historic site for public use.

Committee Chairman Edward Whitaker, a Pacific Grove city councilman, appointed a subcommittee to outline methods of making the lighthouse ready for the public and, at the same time, protecting Coast Guard property.

The subcommittee will be headed by Vern Yadon, curator of the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History and recently named president of the Western Division of Museums. Working with Yadon will be Councilman Vera G. Moffatt and Elgin B. Hurlbert.

Fritschle and city Building Inspector Al Page will be ex-officio members of the subcommittee.

Local Coast Guard officials will be notified of all decisions made by the acquisition committee as will Rep. Burt L. Talcott (R-Salinas) who, the committee hopes, will use his influence in Washington D.C. in an effort to persuade the federal government to turn the land over to Pacific Grove.

Outright acquisition of the Point Pinos area, instead of the newly acquired five year lease, is the ultimate goal of the Lighthouse Acquisition Committee.

LIGHTHOUSES

*INCORRECT
ONLY A 5YR
LEASE - NOT
OWNER SHIP*