MEMORANDUM

TO:        Gary Bales, City Manager
           City of Pacific Grove, Ca.

FROM:      Vern Yadon, Museum Director
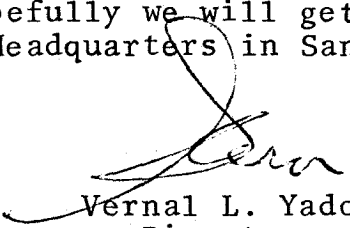
SUBJECT:   Lighthouse Security


On the morning of January 3rd, the person who acts as docent at the Point Pinos Lighthouse arrived at the facility to check the premises for cleanliness. He telephoned me stating that both entry doors (east & west) were standing wide open, not just ajar, but fully opened. No Coast Guard personnel were on the premises. This is the second time this situation has been discovered by us. (see letter file Lt. Ryan, Sept. 2, 1979)

It has also come to my attention that Coast Guard personnel have been entering the building by forcing the lock with a screwdriver or other similar instrument. This has been going on for some time, but I could not definitely state who was entering without a key until both the museum maintenance man and the Lighthouse docent were told by the contractor who installed a new radio beacon within the reservation, that the Coast Guard said that the Lighthouse could be entered with a screwdriver, and not to worry about a key.

It is known that various people have been in the facility at times other than when our docent was present. We know this because they sometimes write their names in the registry. Whether they enter by their own initiative or with Coast Guard personnel is unknown to me.

We have luckily had only one object stolen from the Lighthouse (see memo August 23, 1980) but it is a forgone conclusion that a much more serious theft or even arson of the building could result from the blasé attitude presently in vogue.

It is my opinion that the Coast Guard should be reminded that Federal Law requires the protection of facilities in their care, and especially those on the National Registry of Historic Sites. I have therefore written Lt. Ryan asking for a meeting to discuss security procedures. Hopefully we will get cooperation. Otherwise the 12th District Headquarters in San Francisco should be contacted.

                                    Vernal L. Yadon
                                    Director


Encl:  letter to Lt. Ryan
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