



## MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

165 FOREST AVENUE • PACIFIC GROVE, CALIFORNIA 93950-2612 • (408) 648-3116 FAX (408) 375-9863

23 July 1997

Michael L. Van Gorder  
301 Green Farm Way  
Marietta, Georgia 30064-5102

Dear Mr. Van Gorder,

I am pleased that our Pt. Pinos Lighthouse is your favorite among many that you have visited. We agree that it is a special treasure and we take our responsibility of stewardship seriously, even though we do not own the property.

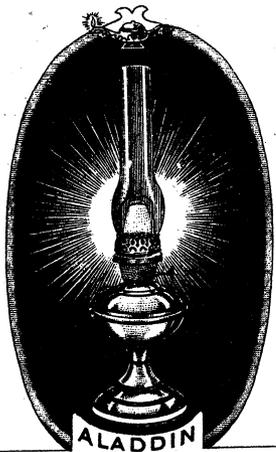
The "Traffic Zone" laminate flooring to which you object so strongly will not be permanent. It was installed as an emergency solution after the wood under the asbestos tiles was discovered to be in very poor condition. There was less than a week before the lighthouse was to reopen to the public, a date that we had advertized widely. If we had not installed an interim flooring, many expectant visitors, yourself included, would have been disappointed to discover that the lighthouse was not reopening as advertized. Delaying your journey south would have proven futile; you would have found the lighthouse closed. Eventually the laminate floor will be replaced by a new wood floor that better represents the history of the lighthouse.

Bathroom fixtures and the big stove have been retained. The bathtub has been restored and replaced where it was. The broken, modern toilet, however, has been replaced by an old-style pull-chain toilet selected by the Questers. The big stove was never part of the historic lighthouse but rather was purchased by the museum in the 1980's just to help make the lighthouse *look* historic. (It does not need that help.) Nevertheless, this big stove has become popular with our docents, so we have retained it. This stove is temporarily in storage while the room that recently housed it is being reconfigured to accommodate interpretive history exhibits. I expect it to return to that room.

I made these decisions and many related ones after extensive input from my staff (including Bruce Handy), our volunteer docents (including Don Dean), and the Questers. We are always interested in suggestions. However, not all suggestions become implemented and decisions regarding the lighthouse never please everyone. I hope these explanations and updates help sooth your concerns.

Sincerely,

Stephen F. Bailey  
Museum Director



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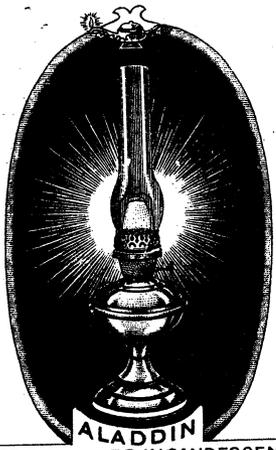
18 July 1997

Mr. Stephen Bailey, Dir.  
PACIFIC GROVE MUSEUM  
165 FOREST Avenue  
PACIFIC GROVE, CALIFORNIA 93950

DEAR Mr. Bailey,

IT WAS MY PLEASURE TO HAVE VISITED, ONCE AGAIN, THE  
POINT PINOS LIGHTHOUSE. AS AN AVID HISTORIAN, I HAVE VISITED  
MANY LIGHTHOUSES AROUND THE COUNTRY, AND I FIND "YOUR" LIGHTHOUSE  
TO BE THE MOST MEMORABLE AND MY FAVORITE.

ON MY LAST, MOST RECENT VISIT, WAS ON THE FIRST DAY OF REOPENING  
AFTER RENOVATION. MY WIFE AND I DELAYED OUR TRAVELS FURTHER SOUTH  
INTO CALIFORNIA SO WE COULD VISIT WHEN OPEN. TO SAY THE LEAST, I WAS  
SHOCKED TO DISCOVER THE FLOOR COVERING ON THE EAST END OF THE HOUSE  
AND THAT ALL BATHROOM "APPLIANCES" HAD BEEN REMOVED. I FIRMLY FELT  
THAT, ALTHOUGH NOT ORIGINAL TO THE FIRST STRUCTURE, THAT THE  
KITCHEN AND BATH ARTICLES SHOULD HAVE BEEN RETAINED AND RE-  
CONDITIONED AS THEY WERE PART OF THE STRUCTURE WHEN  
OCCUPIED BY A FULL-TIME KEEPER - THE TOILET, THE SINK, THE  
ORIGINAL BATH TUB, ETC. THE IDEA TO COVER THE ORIGINAL FLOOR  
WITH "PERGO" IS OUTLANDISH, A DISGRACE, AND WASTA WASTE OF  
MONEY. FORTUNATELY, THIS CAN BE REMOVED AND THE FLOORS



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underneath reconditioned for less money than was spent on "PERGO" FLOORING. This subject is AN AREA of which I am well versed - Having seen results from a 100 year old BANK's heart pine floors - and reconditioned using volunteer labor with professional oversight.

Please consider the future of the Lighthouse - And what a disappointment to me to know that the floor is from 1997 "PERGO". I dare say that the floors underneath have withstood the test of TIME - unlike the covering presently in place.

Incidentally, the lamp depicted on this old STATIONERY is the lamp used as STANDBY ILLUMINATION at lighthouses in the United STATES and in many foreign countries even TODAY;  
HISTORIC FACT!

Looking forward to your kind response, and am willing to volunteer any and all thoughts concerning the preservation of Pointe Pinos.

Sincerely  
Michael M. Gordon