



PACIFIC GROVE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

165 FOREST AVENUE • PACIFIC GROVE • CALIFORNIA 93950-2612

(831) 648-5716 • FAX (831) 372-3256 • E-MAIL pgmuseum@mbay.net

www.pgmuseum.org

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Michael VanHouten 510-437-2968
Deputy Chief,
Aids to Navigation Section
Pacific Area / District 11
Building 42, Coast Guard Island
Alameda, CA 94501

Dennis Spring EMT

901-5468

9/5/01

Sherry Shirkkey

510-437-5901

Dear Mr. VanHouten:

The Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History currently has a U.S. Coast Guard License to operate the interior of the Point Pinos Lighthouse as a historic museum, albeit the Coast Guard still operates the Lighthouse as an aid to navigation.

Most of the interior, except for the light room and part of the basement of the facility, contains historic exhibits about the Lighthouse and the Coast Guard's aids-to-navigation mission. The basement also contains certain Coast Guard electronic equipment which is segregated from the historic exhibits by a locked, metal gate.

Directly behind the metal gate in the electronic equipment area is the remnant of the old metal cylinder which housed the chain-falls and weights that drove the old light eclipser in the tower room. A number of local volunteers would like to have permanent access to the fall-weight cylinder to restore it as a replica exhibit of the old mechanism to complement other Coast Guard related exhibits in the basement. To accomplish this the metal gate must be moved about four feet from its present location to another section of wall which will still afford security to the Coast Guard electronic equipment.

The work can be accomplished by qualified metal-smiths from the City of Pacific Grove's Mechanical Department and at no cost to the Coast Guard. The matter has been discussed with personnel from Coast Guard Station, Monterey, who concur with the project.

It is requested that permission be granted from the Coast Guard to proceed with this project. The point of contact for this project is Paul Finnegan, Assistant Curator, telephone (831) 648-5716, extension 12 or e-mail: Pfinnegan@ci.pacific-grove.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Paul M. Finnegan
Assistant Curator

PMF:bj