

Keepers of the Light Forever

As fact

By Jon Roland Guthrie

Point Pinos Lighthouse is located on the tip of the Monterey Peninsula. After California became a state, the United States Congress appropriated funds for six lighthouses. One of these was Point Pinos. It's beacon was lighted February 1, 1855. Point Pinos Lighthouse is the oldest, continuously operating lighthouse on the coast and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

During the month of October, 1849, a meeting convened. General Parsifal F. Smith, fresh from battles in the Mexican war, held the chair. The topic: lighthouses, of which California had none. In the East, there were plenty, the first of which was lighted at Boston in 1716. It seemed a remarkable oversight that this new territory should be so shortchanged.

Congress concurred. Primary among the filipps (motives) considered by congress were the desire of the United States to become a marine power and the California goldrush of 1849, which attracted avaricious immigrants by the boatload. Congress didn't want those boats to be needlessly crushed against rocks along the California coast. On September 28, 1850, Congress voted \$90,000 to construct eight lighthouses. A committee for the oversight of California lighthouses formed, and were made responsible for the placement of the eight protective structures. This committee became the nine member Lighthouse Board of Army Engineers; the leader was referred to as "Principal Engineer."

Agreement on some sites was quickly reached—San Francisco, Farallon Island, Point Disappointment, Humboldt—but the advocates of Point Pinos soon found themselves locked in dispute. A few grumbled that, historically, Monterey had enjoyed too much largess, a little to much of everything good.

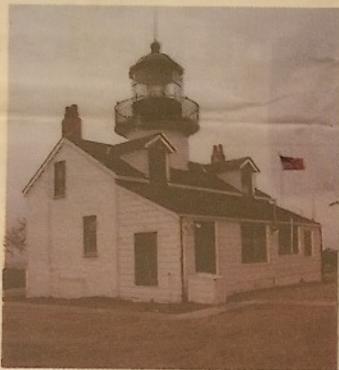
Manuel Dura, a bit tipsy as usual, begged to address the crowd. "Not only has Monterey served as the Mexican capital, territorial capital, and the first capital of the state of California, it serves as the headquarters of the Tenth Military Department, not to mention that it is home to California's only customs house. Without a lighthouse to guide them to port, ships may be unwilling to come to port and pay our customs fees."

The closing argument, based on monetary gain, won the day. On February 1, 1855, the lamp at Point Pinos was lighted. The nearly 1,000 residents of the Monterey area celebrated.

Congress quickly realized that the Lighthouse Board would be appointing a principal keeper for each of the new lighthouses. After extended bickering, the members of Congress decided to set standards for the board to follow; each appointee would be required to understand



Nancy McDowell, above, is a long-time volunteer docent at the Pt. Pinos Lighthouse. The photo behind her shows the lighthouse in one of its incarnations. At left, the light house today. Photos by Jon Guthrie.



Charlotte served with dignity and aplomb (at least according to reports published by the Monterey Sentinel) until 1860 when she resigned to marry George Harris, who had served as Charlotte's helper at the lighthouse, and open a merchandising venture with her new husband. She was replaced at Point Pinos by Andrew Wasson, a gentleman about whom even less is known than is known about the Laytons.

In the meanwhile, a lady named Emily Fish, who had lived first in the Orient and then in San Francisco, was widowed. What should she do next in the absence of her husband, Dr. Eleanthon Fish? At the urging of Commander Henry Nichols, district lighthouse inspector, Widow Fish accepted the job of keeper of the light for the Point Pinos house. She moved to Pacific Grove accompanied by an Oriental friend and housekeeper named Que.

By now, keeping the lighthouse log had become among the job's basics. Emily kept a tidy log that mentioned from time to time the functioning of the lamp, the weather, her diet, social notes, health, visitors, and the word about passing ships. Her style was crisp, terse, to the point. For example, on August 3, 1899, Emily wrote: "Wind light SW. Cloudy. No vessels seen. A coyote near the station yelped at sunset. Thunder and lightning. Emily A. Fish, Principal Keeper."

For another log entry, she wrote: "June 10, 1899. Wind light SW. Calm. Fog hazy. St bid in and out north. Whistling steamer returned toward point. Another steamer bid in. A cablegram announced the death by sunstroke heat prostration on June 10th of Capt. Henry E. Nichols U.S. Naval Commander of U.S.S. Manadnock. Capt Nichols was inspector of 12th Light House District from 1883 to 1893. Emily A. Fish, Principal Keeper."

Besides rampaging grizzlies and marauding varmints, among the most trying of Emily's experiences was her set-to with a herd of buffalo. The Pacific Improvement Company had imported the beasts for the benefit of tourists, but

Emily bore the brunt of this experiment. The buffalo insisted on nuisances such as trampling gardens, breaking fences, and inter-breeding with cattle. The Pacific Improvement Company at last tired of the struggle, especially after the animals learned to attack trains, and ordered the remaining buffalo put to death. Guests at the Del Monte Hotel enjoyed a scrumptious barbecue. Emily Fish joyfully participated.

On April 8, 1914, Emily entered her final log entry: "Wind light S.W. Cloudy, hazy fog-rain—33." Her duties at the lighthouse were assumed by John Jeffrey. Emily moved with Que, her Oriental companion, into a home on Sinex Street. She passed on June 23, 1931. The Pacific Grove High Tide noted that Emily Fish would be sorely missed.

The Pacific Grove City Council honored (the late) Bruce Handy, docent emeritus, for seventeen years of leadership at the lighthouse. Wayne Wheeler, of the U.S. Lighthouse Society also presented docent Bruce with an award for service.

Today, Principal Keepers no longer sustain the light at Point Pinos. After the 1960 departure of Truman Cook, the last civilian keeper, that task fell to the United States Coast Guard. Ten years later, the lamp was automated and the need for human supervision disappeared, as did the sea's usefulness for transporting passengers and goods.

Footnote: A staff of volunteer docents maintains the Point Pinos Lighthouse. Pat Ranquest, a docent for three years, recalls meeting some very interesting people; "one man said that he was a spy during the cold war and told me some of the odd things they did." Nancy McDowell, director of docents, became interested in the lighthouse in 1991 and is still looking for volunteers. (The late) Bruce Handy was honored for being a driving force behind the docent program. Jerry McCaffery began serving as a docent while teaching at the Naval Postgraduate School. During his stints at the lighthouse, MacCaffery authored the marvelous book Lighthouse. Point Pinos, Pacific Grove, California. The Quarters, a not for profit organization, has volunteered time and money for a variety of services around Point Pinos.

Pacific Grove's Point Pinos Lighthouse is open to the public Thursday through Monday, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. For additional information call: (831) 648-5716 or visit www.pgmuseum.org.

Next week
Jon Guthrie's "Keepers of the Light Express" as fiction. Stay tuned, or check out website at www.cedarstreettimes.com

reading and writing. That was it. The board then issued the word to mariners about how navigational guides were to be used in coordination with lighting help from shore, then began seeking Principal Keepers. Charles Layton received the appointment at Point Pinos.

Little is known of the tenure of Charles and Charlotte Layton. According to Jerry McCaffery, author of *Lighthouse*, neither of the Laytons kept a diary, neither was much of a letter writer, and lighthouse logs were not required until 1872. It is known that Charles left Charlotte in care of the light while Charles served with a posse attempting to capture the bandit Anastacio Garcia, a superb shot who proved deadly when he fired at posse member Charles Layton and two other men. Charlotte watched her husband buried, then volunteered to take on the duties of keeper of the light. Charles Johnson, a representative of the lighthouse board, authorized the appointment. Charlotte was to be paid \$1,000 yearly.

From the *lighthouse journal*, April 20, 1875. The coast line steamer Ventura was wrecked on the rocks near Point Sur this evening at 9 ... The vessel and cargo are a total loss, nothing being saved. The passengers and crew were all well care for by people living near the scene of the wreck. Allen S. Luce, Principal Keeper

Keeping the Lighthouse

From a lofty perch at the very top of the Pt. Pinos Lighthouse, volunteers Lowell Northrup and Ken Hinshaw began some much-needed repairs on a blustery Pacific Grove day in November.

Photos by Marge Ann Jameson except where noted



Photo of Lowell Northrup by Ken Hinshaw



When the U.S. Coast Guard maintained the building, an aluminum gallery walkway at the level of the light was installed. Unfortunately, at the junctures where the aluminum meets bronze and steel, severe chemical reactions have taken place causing water to get into the masonry tower wall. Rust, oxidation and corrosion are rampant. Brass vents are green and some are frozen open. Today the Coast Guard only maintains the light itself and repairs to the building are being taken up by the Lighthouse Preservation Committee of volunteers from the Heritage Society. The lighthouse was deeded to the city in 2006, has some serious leaks in the walls downstairs amount other problems.

An evaluation was recently done by East Coast lighthouse specialists and will guide the volunteers in their work. The report outlines the current condition of the lighthouse, prioritizes needed repairs, and discusses what needs to be done to comply with the Secretary of the Interior's standards. In addition, the Lighthouse Preservation Committee has plans to rehabilitate the grounds and return them to the appearance of decades ago. It will be a huge, expensive, and lengthy undertaking.

Donations can be made at the Lighthouse which is open 1-4 Thursday through Monday.

Document Naupholet
Dec 2009
Cedar St. Times

Opinion

Guest Editorial

Student journalist thinks closed

By Erica Howe

Of the many issues at Pacific Grove High School, closing the campus is perhaps the most controversial.

Sure, we saw switching to block scheduling, added homerooms that later were taken away, a girl almost beaten to death on campus, and a teacher with guns in his classroom. But in the eyes of a student, a closed campus is by far the most horrific and difficult to get used to.

As a senior-to-be, I personally have many qualms about closing the campus. I believe my feelings are universally felt throughout the student body at PGHS. Although the administrators have pro-

duced many reasons for closing the campus, these all have been proven insubstantial.

One excuse is that a closed campus will increase school spirit. This follows the idea that since we are forced to be at school, we'll make the best of the situation. Fat chance.

Even ASB President Jessica Pratt comments: "We (student council) had more noontime activities, but they were always the same. The students were forced to be there even though they didn't want to be. Overall, the spirit went down."

Perhaps if we were given a choice whether to leave or stay, the people at

the activities would really want to be there, and make each event more successful.

And about drugs

Another supposed product of a closed campus—fewer drugs on campus. As a matter of fact, the exact opposite is happening.

The campus has been gradually closing, grade by grade, year by year. However, from the classes that are forced to stay on campus, evidence of increasing drug use on campus is evident.

To quote from a story I wrote last year for the *PGHS Newsbreaker* on this

Coast Guard did great job on lighthouse

With an unusual degree of community spirit, that should be acknowledged, the U.S. Coast Guard command at Monterey has just completed a major renovation of the Pt. Pinos Light in Pacific Grove.

At an expense of more than \$100,000, the Coast Guard has completely overhauled the lens and its mechanisms and replaced or refurbished all the exterior cupola brass and wrought iron work.

The circular tower leading from the ground floor to the light has fresh paint

inside and out. New shingles are on the building's roof.

Supervising the construction was Chief Warrant Officer Craig Bitler, who took the original Fresnel lens, brought to Pacific Grove from France in the 1850's, and cleaned, repaired, and polished it himself.

Complementing the Coast Guard repairs is the work begun, in the past two weeks, by the local chapter of the National Questers who are painting, finishing, and furnishing the lighthouse liv-

ing quarters with furnishings and decorations from the 1850's.

Bruce Handy of Pebble Beach, who has spent 10 years on weekends guiding visitors through the lighthouse, is back on the job.

The City of Pacific Grove leases the building from the Coast Guard and is responsible for its upkeep and now has a high standard to meet, thanks to the Coast Guard's first class renovation. EC

Council minority vote on tree ordinance was to make a point

A letter this week from Jim Willoughby complains that our city tree ordinance is flawed. And he gives thanks for the sensibilities of the council majority for getting him off the hook.

The ordinance states that if you remove a tree from your property, you must replace it or plant two more somewhere else in the city.

Or, if you can't manage that, you pay the city \$150 per tree to do it for you. The ordinance required Willoughby to donate \$370 to the city's Environmental Enhancement Fund. The ARB has routinely enforced this ordinance.

We agree with Willoughby and others who reasonably believe the ordi-

nance is unfair.

We also understand that the council minority who voted to enforce the ordinance may have done so only to make a point.

That is, to illustrate how serious its inequities are to those who drafted and supported it, by forcing them to vote against it. A few members seated on the council approved this and other discriminatory ordinances such as our so-called "Fast Food Ordinance."

When faced with enforcing the ordinance against Willoughby, an environmental writer who couldn't be labeled as a "developer," the council majority had to recognize they had a bad law.

Political letters— nix, nay, nada!

Political season brings up choices. Viewing the Nov. 8 election, The Beacon has decided it will neither endorse candidates nor editorialize on the various council candidates.

Our plain and honest wish is for a campaign which explicates real issues without slinging mud.

A related decision: We will not publish letters-to-the-editor which speak for or against candidates. The inherent repetition of political letters would only flood us and bore you.

P.G. adds surcharge for golf pass holders

By KEVIN HOWE
Herald Staff Writer

The cost of golf in Pacific Grove is going up.

On Wednesday, the City Council voted 5-0 to impose surcharges on holders of annual passes for the Pacific Grove Municipal Golf Course.

Players holding passes will pay \$1 for a nine-hole round of golf and \$2 for 18 holes, in addition to the annual pass fee.

Resident and avid golfer Jim Willoughby objected to the fee, saying the "nickel-and-dime" surcharge amounted to a 32

percent increase for players like him, who play two rounds a week at the course.

An annual senior's pass costs \$650, and the surcharge would run up to \$208 more a year in his case, Willoughby said, adding that it is an undue burden on seniors living on fixed incomes.

Steve Thomas, a member of the Pacific Grove Men's Golf Club, said the surcharge "will create ill will."

At \$8.58 per golf round, Willoughby and others are still getting a bargain, said Councilman Dan Davis. Non-residents pay \$45 a round.

"You'd be hard-pressed to find another place to play golf for \$6," said Councilwoman Susan Nilmeier. Councilwoman Lisa Bennett said golf rates overall are "ridiculously low" and the city should look at raising them.

City Manager Jim Colangelo said the city gets national publicity for having one of the best low-cost golf courses in the country and has strived to keep the greens fee under \$50.

The city is seeking to raise additional revenue, in part to help maintain the historic light house that was deduced to the city by the Coast Guard, along

with the golf course's back nine holes.

Darlene Blistrom, president of the Pacific Grove Heritage Society, said she no longer opposes the golf surcharge because it could help with the lighthouse preservation effort.

"It's the perfect time for surcharges," she said.

In other action, the City Council voted 5-0 to impose a 15 percent surcharge on permit fees for projects to help finance the city's long-range planning efforts, and to require a deposit for a historic analysis of older houses in the city that is now

required by the California Environmental Quality Act.

The surcharge would add approximately \$950 to the cost of a \$200,000 remodel project, said Jim Becklenberg, city manager and budget director.

The guidelines requiring a historic survey apply to houses more than 50 years old, he said, and 70 percent of houses in Pacific Grove are older than that.

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Doc. Newspaper
Mark Paul Knorr
6-20-08



Nadine's Notes

by Nadine Annand

ADOBES ARE AGOG. Representatives of Adobe Questers 375 who attended the transfer of Point Pinos in a formal ceremony on Wednesday, August 23, 2006 were justly excited and proud to have played a significant role in the long history of the Pacific Grove landmark. Shirley Eljeholm who spearheaded the refurbishing of five rooms in the oldest continuously operating lighthouse on the Pacific Coast was one of several attending the impres-

sive event which attracted a large audience. Betsy Taiigawa Adobe President, Elaine Viau, Jean Stumbo, Rochelle Slogan and Nadine Annand were also present. In 1994 through the diligence and actually **MANY HOURS OF DEDICATED** labor, Shirley along with Merrill Leslie, Marion Martine, Jean Stumbo and other volunteer Adobes began several years on the adopted project. With support and approval from California State **QUESTERS** Preservation Committee and matching funds the labor of love was underway. The parlor and bedrooms and a bath were refurbished in Authentic Victorian as it reflected the years of Emily Fish, lady Socialite Lighthouse Keeper. Jean Stumbo wrote a descriptive small history of the project which has added to

the knowledge and provoked interest. Adobes have been docents at the local outstanding tourist attraction and continue today. Sam Farr, Congressman, U.S. house of Representatives, 17th District of California spoke of the history of Point Pinos and reminded those present "It's your Lighthouse now." Questers are not only anti-questers but of course history oriented and this was the second local restoration project undertaken by the Monterey Peninsula group. Earlier, the Bell Tower at Chautauqua hall was reinstated after much study and perseverance also with approval and a matching grant from California State Quester. Not only do Adobes maintain an interest and support locally but as **QUESTERS THEY RECOGNIZE THE EFFORTS OF OTHER** State

chapters and have contributed to the Pioneer Mother Statue in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco honoring the ill fated Donner Party of gold rush Days as well as several other California chapter restorations. Note: Along with Pacific Grove City officials who participated in the long awaited transfer of the lighthouse (reminder was made that the upkeep, etc. was no up to the City) it was great to see Muriel Pyburn, longtime Point Pinos and Pacific Grove Museum volunteer at the event.

ALTRUSA AGAIN. Always looked forward to and always a lot of fun besides helping the treasury, the Annual August barbecue with Noreen and Walter Erwin as hosts

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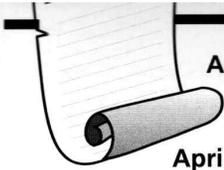
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*Doc Newspaper
Pg. 16, HomeTown
Bulletin 9-16-06*



April 12—Windy and cold, rainy and some mud/rock slides.

April 19—Condor sitting on old telephone pole in dunes. Was there for 45 minutes.

April 29—Cold and foggy. Saw three otters in the south cove. Mother whale and calf in very close.

May 3—Great tour. No wind!

May 14—Slight wind but lots of sun.

May 17—Howling wind and fog.

May 18—Bunny seen at bottom of rock... Bunny sighted at top of rock... Very quick bunny?

May 31—Very windy. Couldn't see rock from Hwy. 1, but fog cleared during the tour. Saw dolphins on south side.

June 3—Foggy and windy. Frog in Fog Signal Room.

June 10, am—Gorgeous day. Exquisite wild flowers.

June 10, evening—Fog and fog. No sunset; no moonrise to be seen. Only a faint glow in the distance under the dark, gloomy clouds. ■

Point Pinos Update



by Irene Slaiter

Pt. Pinos Revisited

When Marian Anderson and her sister Millie visited Pt. Pinos Lighthouse two years ago, they were surprised that their father, Walter Davis, was not among the keepers listed on our history wall. He was a First Class Bosun's Mate and was assigned to Pt. Pinos as Principal Keeper in 1961. He served here for just one year. Marian is not sure why the short assignment, but remembers the year as one of the family's happiest. Their Dad was home all day every day—not the usual work schedule for an active duty Coast Guardsman.

At the invitation of Jerry McCaffery, our Lighthouse Historian, Marian and Millie came back to the lighthouse one evening in May to share with the docents some of their experiences living here. Marian was in 7th grade and Millie graduated from Pacific Grove High School that year. Their classmates thought that living in a lighthouse had to be the greatest—actually they lived in the house closest to the lighthouse and an assistant keeper and his family lived in the lighthouse itself. Field trips, a chance to get out of class for a day, were scheduled for the children. Marian thought that was a bummer, going home for a field trip.

The lighthouse was open to the public and Keeper

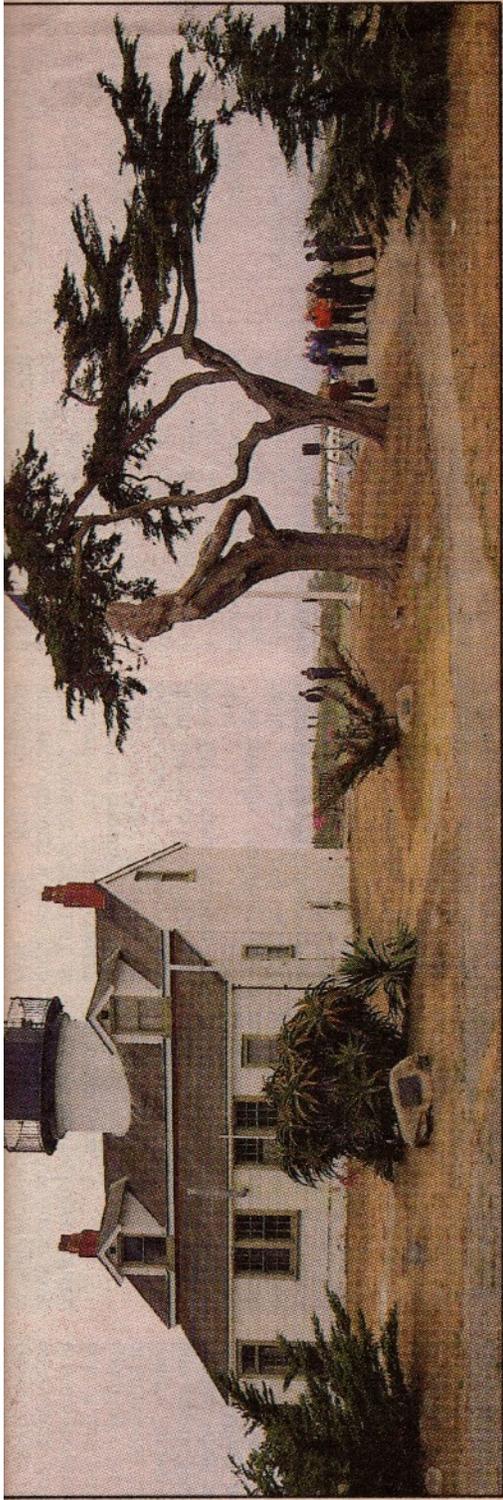
Davis was hospitable almost to a fault. Everyone who came by and had a tour of the lighthouse, often conducted by Marian or Millie, was invited to stay for dinner or at least for a cup of coffee and muffins. Occasionally the children were cautioned by their mother not to ask for seconds at dinner because there wouldn't be enough for the visitors their Dad had invited, on the spur of the moment, to stay.

Three keepers manned the light—all had the same duties which were shared equally at night and on weekends. They painted constantly. The cypress hedge had to be kept trimmed so as not to obscure the light. The hedge was so thick they could walk along the top of it to trim. Walter Davis was an expert with knots and ropes and Marian is firmly convinced that the intricate weaving of rope around the rail of the stairway into the basement was done by her father. The light was on only at night and on overcast days. Its signature was 30 seconds on, 10 seconds off.

By 1961 the land south and west of the lighthouse had been leased to the City of Pacific Grove and an additional nine holes added to the golf course. A condition of the lease was that Coast Guard personnel could play that nine holes without charge. Mrs. Davis found that she had to keep her house in immaculate order—she was subject to such frequent inspections. Of course the inspectors always had their golf clubs with them.

Some eras of the Point Pinos Lighthouse are well documented and some are not. Recent keepers did not generally keep logs and those that were kept were lost in a fire in the 1950s. The visit by Keeper Davis' daughters, in addition to being a happy experience, recovered for us a lost chapter in our history. ■

Doc. CCLK Newsletter
Summer '06



VERN FISHER/The Herald

The Point Pinos Lighthouse was handed over to the city of Pacific Grove by the U.S. Coast Guard in a ceremony on Wednesday.

8-24-06



THE PASSING OF THE TORCH

POINT PINOS LIGHTHOUSE NOW IN PACIFIC GROVE'S HANDS

Above: U.S. Rep. Sam Farr, left, speaks to Pacific Grove Mayor Dan Cort at the ceremony for the Point Pinos Lighthouse. Right: Nancy McDowell, a docent at the lighthouse, explains the technique of the "eclipser light."

By **ANDRE BRISCOE**
Herald Staff Writer

The oldest continuously operated lighthouse on the West Coast is now officially the property of Pacific Grove.

The formal transfer of Point Pinos Lighthouse was made during a ceremony Wednesday.

"This is your lighthouse now," said Rep. Sam Farr, D-Carmel. "The Coast Guard will continue to operate it according to procedures and contracts with the city, but for all intent and purpose, this is your building."

Farr sponsored legislation in 1999 that allowed the U.S. Coast Guard to transfer the property to the city. The Coast Guard has

been responsible for more than 40 lighthouses along the West Coast since 1939.

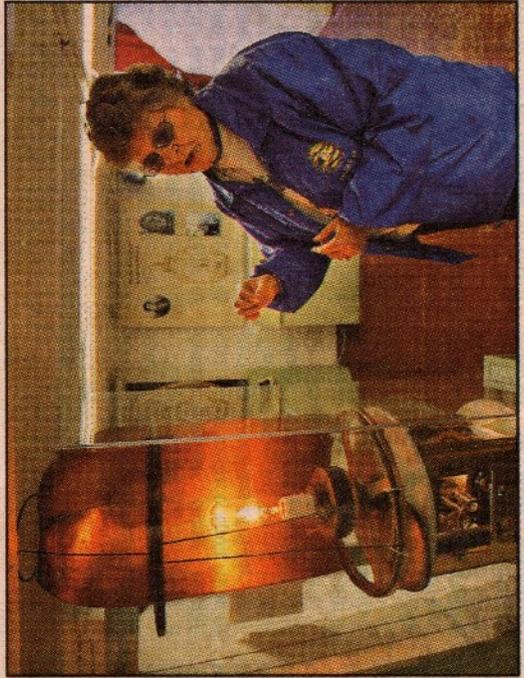
Mayor Dan Cort thanked current and former City Council members and mayors for their work in making the acquisition possible.

"This transfer is the culmination of many years of effort by federal and state agencies, private organizations and the city of Pacific Grove," Cort said.

The ceremony highlighted the history of the old lighthouse.

The U.S. Lighthouse Service commissioned its construction

Please see **Lighthouse** page A12





VERN FISHER/The Herald

The Point Pinos Lighthouse was handed over to the city of Pacific Grove by the U.S. Coast Guard in a ceremony on Wednesday.

8-24-06

THE DAUGHTER



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This room, refurbished to resemble the late 1800s, is one of five that were renovated starting in 1994.

VERN FISHER/The Herald

Lighthouse

From page A1

in 1853, and it was first lit in February 1855, said Marianne Powers, a Pacific Grove resident and docent at Point Pinos for seven years.

The first lighthouse keeper was an Englishman, Charles Layton, who was killed when he joined a posse to track down a bandit several months after his

appointment in 1854. In 1893, Emily Mattland Fish, a widowed socialite from Oakland, became the first woman appointed lighthouse keeper. She furnished the interior of the building with books, paintings and landscaped drawings, earning her the nickname "The Socialite Keeper."

"She stayed a little over 20 years," Powers said. "For that era it was impressive. She moved in as a widow, but she would hire local day labor to help her out."

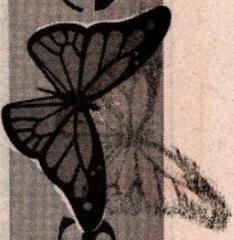
The property, now covered by the back nine holes of the Pacific Grove Municipal Golf Course, was a haven for cattle, chickens, horses — and even poodles, said Shirley Eljenholm, a member of Adobe Questers, an international organization that restores historic buildings. The city had leased part of the land since 1960, when it expanded the golf course from nine to 18 holes.

Eljenholm said her organization renovated five of the lighthouse rooms beginning in 1994.

"This is Pacific Grove's treasure," Eljenholm said. The nearly 70 acres of land and the lighthouse were given to the city at no cost because the Coast Guard considered it "excess government property." Although the land will be under city control, the Coast Guard will hold onto two housing units on the property for key personnel.

Andie Briscoe can be reached at 646-4436 or abriscoe@montereyherald.com.

Pacific Grove Shopping & Dining



LIGHTHOUSE

From page 1A

ally operating lighthouse.

But the deed shows the lighthouse and the property surrounding it contain high levels of lead that can be dangerous to humans. The dunes around the lighthouse are also home to two endangered plants and one endangered lizard.

"Obviously it's a health concern, and we need to take the appropriate precautions to make sure people are protected," said Pacific Grove City Manager Jim Colangelo.

Although a Department of Toxic Substances Control report in January indicates the lead concentrations, which range from low to very high levels, "pose a significant risk to humans," that only applies if people are living there and not for a commercial/industrial use scenario, it found.

"I'm sure in the old days when they didn't have concerns about lead-based paint, they would go in there and scrape it,"

Colangelo said. "And you could have lead chips on everything. But in almost every historic building you have those issues."

Lead-based paints were banned in the United States in 1978.

Besides being present in the property surrounding the lighthouse, the deed indicates asbestos exists in construction materials of the lighthouse building, something not surprising for a building of that age.

"Anything that goes back that far has some aspect of lead-based paint and asbestos," he said.

The lighthouse began operating in 1855, long before the adverse effects of lead and asbestos were discovered.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, high levels of lead can cause convulsions, coma and death. Lower levels of lead can adversely affect the brain, central nervous system, blood cells and kidneys. Fetuses and young children are most vulnerable to lead exposure, which can lead to a host of physical problems.

Asbestos, a mineral fiber, is commonly found in older homes, in pipe and furnace insulation materials, asbestos shingles, textured paints and other coating materials, and floor tiles. Exposure to asbestos can lead to chest and abdominal cancers, and lung disease.

The greatest threat from lead is when lead paint is improperly removed from surfaces by dry scraping, sanding or open flame burning, the EPA said. Like lead-based paint, asbestos is dangerous when it's disturbed and airborne fibers are released.

The question of liability

Although any property the city owns could lead to litigation, city attorney Dave Laredo said the city wouldn't be exclusively liable if, for instance, a docent sued the city claiming they got sick after being exposed to lead paint or asbestos.

"We are not standing in the federal government's shoes in terms of assuming their liability," Laredo said. "I don't believe the city has taken on any additional liability because of the transfer."

When the federal government began transferring Fort Ord property to the cities of Monterey, Marina and

Docents, for instance, will continue giving tours.

When the city begins major restoration of the lighthouse, recommended to the city by the National Park Service in June 2005, it will have to take safety precautions because of the contaminants. Any landscaping will require the city to follow a special soil management plan.

The park service said the city should, "as soon as possible, replace the lighthouse's exterior, perform window and door rehabilitation, restore the lantern room's metals and replace the cedar shingle roof.

"It's commonplace for asbestos to be in the roofing material and ceiling tiles," Colangelo said.

While the city has no money to do the required work on the lighthouse, it has begun rehabilitating the dunes surrounding it, killing iceplant which has driven out native plant species — something Pacific Grove has required private property owners in the neighborhood to do for more than 20 years but is only now getting around to doing itself.

"We are restoring the dunes to their natural state," Colangelo said. "We're putting Roundup on the iceplant. They have found over time, spraying works better and is less damaging to the dunes."

Habitat rehabilitation also does not require special care for possible hazardous substances, since the ground is not being disturbed.

Colangelo said the lead and asbestos issue caused the land transfer to be delayed by four to five months.

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from the appetizers to dessert."



appropriate precautions to make sure people are protected," said Pacific Grove City Manager Jim Colangelo.

Although a Department of Toxic Substances Control report in January indicates the lead concentrations, which range from low to very high levels, "pose a significant risk to humans," that only applies if people are living there and not for a commercial/industrial use scenario, it found.

"I'm sure in the old days when they didn't have concerns about lead-based paint, they would go in there and scrape it."

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The lighthouse began operating in 1855, long before the adverse effects of lead and asbestos were discovered.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, high levels of lead can cause convulsions, coma and death. Lower levels of lead can adversely affect the brain, central nervous system, blood cells and kidneys. Fetuses and young children are most vulnerable to lead exposure, which can lead to a host of physical problems.

Asbestos, a mineral fiber, is commonly found in older homes, in pipe and furnace insulation materials, asbestos shingles, textured paints and other coating materials, and floor tiles. Exposure to asbestos can lead to chest and abdominal cancers, and lung disease.

The greatest threat from lead is when lead paint is improperly removed from surfaces by dry scraping, sanding or open flame burning, the EPA said. Like lead-based paint, asbestos is dangerous when it's disturbed and airborne fibers are released.

The question of liability

Although any property the city owns could lead to litigation, city attorney Dave Laredo said the city wouldn't be exclusively liable if, for instance, a docent sued the city claiming they got sick after being exposed to lead paint or asbestos.

"We are not standing in the federal government's shoes in terms of assuming their liability," Laredo said. "I don't believe the city has taken on any additional liability because of the transfer."

When the federal government began transferring Fort Ord property to the cities of Monterey, Marina and Seaside in the 1990s, it required the cities to have insurance policies to protect itself against lawsuits involving lead-based paint, asbestos and unexploded ordnance.

For now, Colangelo said use of the lighthouse would remain as it was before.

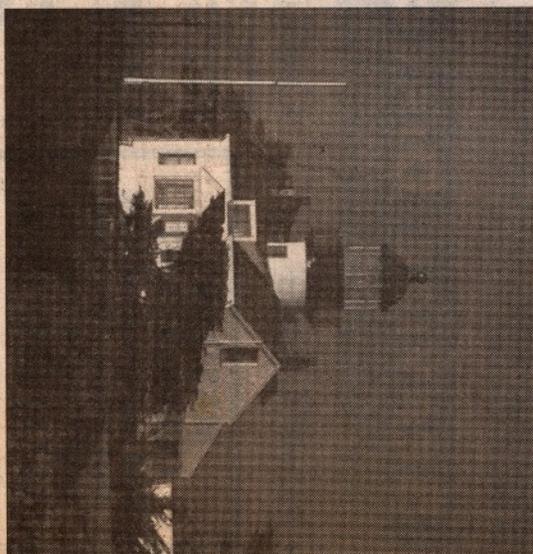
trial and ceiling tiles," Colangelo said.

While the city has no money to do the required work on the lighthouse, it has begun rehabilitating the dunes surrounding it, killing iceplant which has driven out native plant species — something Pacific Grove has required private property owners in the neighborhood to do for more than 20 years but is only now getting around to doing itself.

"We are restoring the dunes to their natural state," Colangelo said. "We're putting Roundup on the iceplant. They have found over time, spraying works better and is less damaging to the dunes."

Habitat rehabilitation also does not require special care for possible hazardous substances, since the ground is not being disturbed.

Colangelo said the lead and asbestos issue caused the land transfer to be delayed by four to five months.



PHOTO/PAUL MILLER
The Pacific Grove lighthouse now belongs to the city. But so do some of the toxic waste problems on the property.

expects Murray's inimitable presence to draw more spectators to entrance gates at the Pebble Beach Golf Links and Del Monte Golf Course



PHOTO/PAUL MILLER
Bill Murray at the 2005 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

See MURRAY page 234

Lighthouse gift comes with toxic strings attached

By KELLY NIX

WHEN THE City of Pacific Grove took ownership of the 1854 Point Pinos Lighthouse from the U.S. Coast Guard last week, the "as-is" property came complete with harmful amounts of asbestos and lead-based paint, and the deed that transferred the property makes Pacific Grove partly responsible for the contamination.

In a ceremony Aug. 23 that drew Congressman Sam Farr, the Coast Guard gave away the West Coast's oldest, continuing-

See LIGHTHOUSE page 244

CITING RISK TO STEELHEAD, FEDS CONTEST C. V. WELLS

By CHRIS COUNTS

A PLAN to drill a well at St. Dunstan's Church in Carmel Valley has come under fire from two government agencies concerned the project will harm steelhead in the Carmel River.

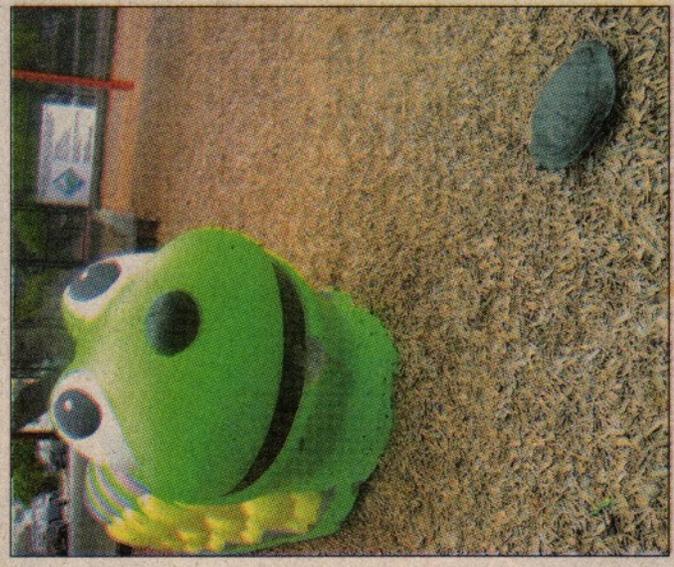
The intervention is the first time either agency has objected to a well application by a single user in Carmel Valley, says a local water official. It also raises the likelihood-

See WELL page 274

In recent years, as state construction dollars have dried up, cities have had to increase their revenues, it is time to approve a slight increase in the business license tax to help the city continue to improve its public services and infrastructure," she wrote. Even after the bump, the BLT would remain lower than

See TAX page 224

Found turtle trying to find his way home



PHOTO/CHRIS COUNTS

Even though his foster family takes him on regular outings to the playground, Clint the turtle would surely like to go home. See story, page 11A.

DESTINATIONS

POINT PINOS LIGHTHOUSE ILLUMINATES HISTORY

BY STEPHANIE WRIGHT
HESSION

Strolling past the windswept trees next to the white cottage and tower housing the Point Pinos Lighthouse, in Pacific Grove at the southern entrance of Monterey Bay, you'll find no hint of its dramatic history.

But after stepping inside the oldest continually operating lighthouse on the West Coast — first lit in 1855 — visitors learn about some of the intriguing women who called it home.

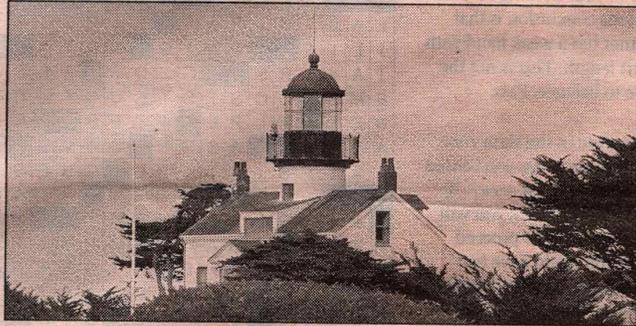
There's Charlotte Layton, who didn't set out to become a pioneering lighthouse keeper. But in 1856, Anastacio Garcia shot and killed her husband, Charles, Point Pinos' first lighthouse keeper, when he was part of a Monterey County sheriff's posse pursuing Garcia. Layton suddenly found herself a widow with four children and no prospects.

"In 1855, this was the Wild West, and there were grizzly bears roaming the area," says Point Pinos docent Bob Shaffer.

So Layton became the first female lighthouse keeper and continued until 1860, when she married her assistant lighthouse keeper, George Harris, and they traded jobs.

Another woman, Emily Fish, widow of doctor Melancthon W. Fish, took the reins of Point Pinos in 1893. Instead of inheriting the position because of her husband's death, she actually applied for the post, with the assistance of her naval officer son-in-law, who worked for the U.S. Lighthouse Board.

Accompanied by her Chinese servant, she brought a sophisticated ambience to Point Pinos, decorating the living quarters with antiques, fine china and silver. Her fondness for entertaining gar-



The Point Pinos Lighthouse in Pacific Grove is the oldest continually operating lighthouse on the West Coast.

nered her the nickname the Socialite Keeper.

A tour of the lighthouse reveals the 19th century parlor, containing chairs topped with needlepoint cushions, an ornately carved piano, a fireplace and floral curtains. It's easy to imagine Fish hosting a graceful evening here for guests including artists, writers and naval officers.

From 1893 to 1914, she kept meticulous logs that visitors can still view. One of her most compelling set of entries documents the 1906 earthquake, which damaged the lighthouse tower.

Fish beautified the sandy grounds surrounding the lighthouse by covering the area with topsoil and planting trees, grass and other vegetation. She also ventured into farming and kept an array of animals, from French poodles to Holstein cows. Today, some of the landscaping remains, but it's difficult to find traces of the farm.

Back on the tour, the kitchen displays historical exhibits and books. A cellar features stations demonstrating how the light works at Point Pinos and who invented it. Maritime enthusiasts will delight in knowing how the

third-order Fresnel, consisting of prisms, lenses and a mechanism made in 1853, works.

"It was made in France and shipped around Cape Horn," says docent Sue Shaffer. "The beehive arrangement of the glass prisms gathers the light and focuses it out to sea."

Invented by French physicist Augustin-Jean Fresnel, the design allows more light to shine through, enabling ships to see the lighthouse from a greater distance. Originally lit by a lantern fueled by whale oil, the light was regularly blocked by a falling weight mechanism that moved a metal shutter around it for a specific number of seconds. This created the lighthouse's distinct signature, so a ship's crew would know its location.

"It eclipsed the light for 10 seconds, and the light shined for 20 seconds," Sue Shaffer says of Point Pinos.

Point Pinos Lighthouse offers a wonderful glimpse into 19th century California maritime history. Allow an hour to take the self-guided tour, chat with the docents and browse the books for sale. Outside, settle in on one of two wooden benches and gaze at the expansive vistas of the sea. No need to worry about grizzly bears anymore. ■

Stephanie Wright Hession is a freelance writer.

POINT PINOS LIGHTHOUSE:

THE CHRONICLE 2007

Monterey Peninsula
n 27, 2008
F. Chronicle

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Fort Gratiot Lighthouse on Lake Huron. Photo by Roger Schultz. 1989.

Fort Gratiot Lighthouse Tours

Fort Gratiot, MI

The 1829 Fort Gratiot Light Station is located near where the Blue Water Bridge crosses from Canada to America. The station is now a Coast Guard Small Boat Station with the Coast Guard occupying the old keeper's house and fog signal building. However, the 1829 tower is open for tours from May 1 to October 1 and are conducted by member Bob Hanford who has some colorful tales about prior keepers, as well as the history of the station. Bob would rather give his tours on weekends or, if during the week, after his normal working hours. But, he will make himself available to members who are from out of town and can only visit during a week day. Give Bob a call at (810) 385-7387 to arrange a tour of the Fort Gratiot tower.

Tibbétts Point Renovation

Cape Vincent, NY

Last winter's harsh weather took a toll on the Tibbetts Point Light Station leaving a large crack in the 34 inch thick wall of the tower. Cape Vincent town employees pulled off two layers of bricks and repaired an area of the tower 20 feet high and 8 feet wide. Once the bricks were replaced, the area was given a coat of stucco. The Tibbetts Point Lighthouse Society is funding the repair work and "selling" bricks at \$1 each to raise funds. If you are interested in helping the Society raise funds to restore the 1854 tower of this 1826 light station you may write to: P.O. Box 683, Cape Vincent, NY 13618.



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(All West Coast states)

District Superintendent

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Piedras Blancas Lens Restored and Replaced

Cambria, CA

When the coast Guard removed the 1st order Fresnel lens from the Piedras Blancas Lighthouse in the late 1940's, it was given to the Lions Club of Cambria, CA. That organization placed it on a pedestal next to their building where it remained subjected to weather and vandals until recently. Although the lens suffered somewhat from weather, luckily it escaped vandalism. In recent years, two Society members (since deceased) worked to have a proper enclosure constructed to contain the lens. The structure was recently constructed and the Coast Guard removed and refurbished the lens and this past summer installed it in its new home. Our hats are off to the

Lions Club, people of Cambria, Coast Guard Group Monterey and especially now deceased members Norman Frances (son of one of the last Keepers of the Piedras Blancas Lighthouse) and Robert Carter. Those two gentlemen were the prime movers behind the lens project, a project which they gave their last full measure of devotion on this earth.

Point Pinos Refurbished

Pacific Grove, CA

The Coast Guard recently did an outstanding job of refurbishing the Point Pinos lighthouse in Pacific Grove, CA. The building was reroofed, and the dome of the lantern room taken down to the original copper and left to oxidize. All wasted metal railings and support brackets were replaced along with certain metal panels and glass storm panes (windows).

The original 3rd order lens was removed, paint stripped from the brass, caulk replaced and then replaced in the lantern. The interior of the lantern room was repainted.

Once the Coast Guard finished their work, a California Chapter of the Questers installed period furniture and drapes in the parlor to reflect the late

19th century, an era when lighthouse heroine Emily Fish was in charge of the station. The Questers mission is historical education through antique furnishings.

The Point Pinos Station was one of the first eight lighthouses constructed on the west coast (1856) and is the oldest still in operation with the original (3rd order) lens in operation. Although owned by the Coast Guard, it has been licensed to the Pacific Grove Museum of

New Tenants for Admiralty Head Lighthouse

Whidby Island, WA

Until recently the Admiralty Head Lighthouse, in Fort Casey State Park, was closed to the public due to budget cuts. However, an agreement between the park and several groups of the Washing-

ton State University Extension has opened the lighthouse to the public. Three rooms on the second floor are now being utilized by the Beach Watchers, Waste Warriors and other environmental groups of WSU. This past year Peter Linton, a Beach Watcher member, coordinated volunteers which ushered some 20,000 visitors through the lighthouse between April 1 and Labor Day. A park ranger stated as many as 50,000 visitors a year have toured the lighthouse when it was fully staffed.

A gift shop has been installed in the lighthouse to raise funds for the environmental programs and the resident groups are opening the structure to visitors on a Thursday to Sunday basis between April 1 and Labor Day.

Ms. Susie Nelson, a Beach Watcher member, said a Friends of the Lighthouse campaign has started to raise funds. They are also seeking donations of time, talent and furnishings for the lighthouse. If you are in the area or interested in becoming involved, call the WSU Cooperative Extension at (206) 321-5111 ex. 391.



Point Pinos Lighthouse. The enclosed porch was added to this 1856 lighthouse circa 1910 along with the small dormer window. The original lens can still be seen in the lantern. USLHS photo.

Natural History for a number of years. Society member Bruce Handy, this issue's Keeper of the Quarter, has been in charge of the historical aspect of the lighthouse for the last 12 years, leading tours, raising funds, arranging historical displays and rounding up docents. The Museum and Bruce are actively seeking people to become docents. For years the lighthouse has only been open for tours on weekends. With ample docents this west coast treasure can be made available more often. If you are interested in becoming involved with the Point Pinos Lighthouse contact Mr. Paul Finnegan, Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, 165 4th Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950 or call (408) 648-3116.



The Admiralty Head Lighthouse in 1991. This house was abandoned for many years and when refurbished the lantern was rebuilt with vertical astragals (the metal bars which hold the glass in place). Originally the lantern had diagonal astragals. Photo by Sandra Shanklin in 1991.

Coast Guard did great job on lighthouse

With an unusual degree of community spirit, that should be acknowledged, the U.S. Coast Guard command at Monterey has just completed a major renovation of the Pt. Pinos Light in Pacific Grove.

At an expense of more than \$100,000, the Coast Guard has completely overhauled the lens and its mechanisms and replaced or refurbished all the exterior cupola brass and wrought iron work.

The circular tower leading from the ground floor to the light has fresh paint

inside and out. New shingles are on the building's roof.

Supervising the construction was Chief Warrant Officer Craig Britel, who took the original Fresnel lens, brought to Pacific Grove from France in the 1850's, and cleaned, repaired, and polished it himself.

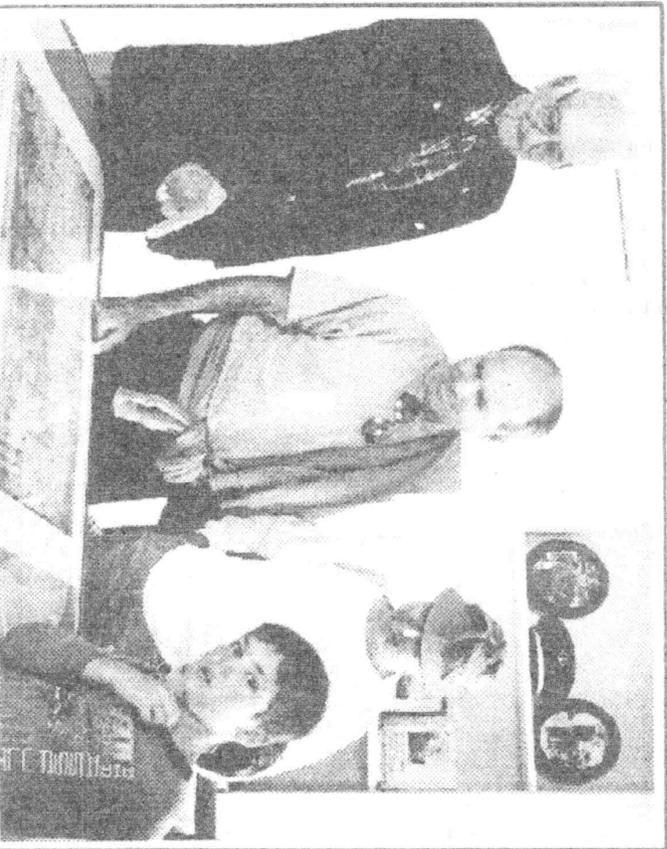
Complementing the Coast Guard repairs is the work begun, in the past two weeks, by the local chapter of the National Quilters who are painting, finishing, and furnishing the lighthouse liv-

ing quarters with furnishings and decorations from the 1850's.

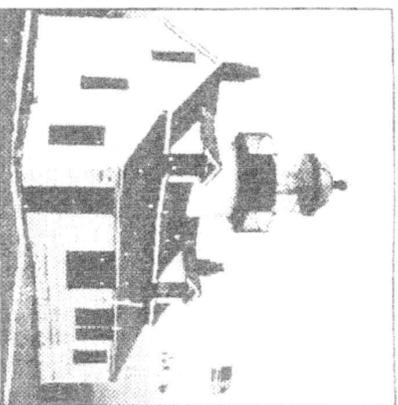
Bruce Handy of Pebble Beach, who has spent 10 years on weekends guiding visitors through the lighthouse, is back on the job.

The City of Pacific Grove leases the building from the Coast Guard and is responsible for its upkeep and now has a high standard to meet, thanks to the Coast Guard's first class renovation. **EC**

Pacific Grove Beacon September 9 1994



BACK ON HIS REGULAR weekend schedule, Pt. Pinos Lighthouse Docent Bruce Handy, calls attention to historical points of interest to onlookers Peter and Deborah Byrne of Paso Robles, who visited the lighthouse Sunday September 4 with their son Kevin (hidden from view) and his buddy Graham Shapiro. **Beacon photo**



WITH REPAIRS to the lens and cupola exceeding \$100,000, the U.S. Coast Guard's Pt. Pinos Light is back in operation. Visitors are welcome again between 1-4 pm Saturday and Sunday. **Beacon Photo**

IN THE OFFICE

RUSSIAN LANGUAGE STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM MUSEUM INTERPRETIVE TOURS

by *Bernie Ferrara*



Not all my work keeps me in the office. Recently I have been ment on-site. By visiting the Museum, each student is intro-



Association

NEWSLETTER

Volume 9, Number 3

July 1995



CWO Craig Bitler (right) dismantles the giant lens, while Fred Wildenrat assists.

FROM THE LIGHTHOUSE

COAST GUARD CLEANS, RESTORES GIANT LENS

The recent interest and popularity of the Pt. Pinos Lighthouse recalls the efforts of the U.S. Coast Guard to bring the giant lens up to date last year.

On May 28, 1994, the then Chief Warrant Officer Craig Bitler, USCG, took on the task of removing the third order Fresnel lens from the Lighthouse to clean and restore this magnificent lens, then return it to its original site where it had been since 1854.

CWO Bitler was assisted by the following volunteers from the Central Coast Lighthouse Keepers: Ed Cope, Mike Baker, Paul Campbell, John O'Neil, Jim Cherry, Bob Llewellyn, Nancy McDowell, Fred Wildenrat, and Lee Worth.

It was necessary for the crew to first remove the lens from the lantern room by carefully separating its complicated glass parts, labeling and categorizing them, cleaning each part with a special solution, then re-installing and recreating the original lens in the same spot.

The process took three months and was a labor of love. Countless volunteer hours were devoted to the restoration effort.



Bob Llewellyn removes an upper section of the lens from the lantern room.



Association
NEWSLETTER

The Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History Association Newsletter is published quarterly at Pacific Grove, California.

Board members are Richard Seidenzail, President; Steve Honegger, Vice-President; Tony P. Avres, Secretary; Emma Dunkel, Acting Treasurer; Neva Halms, Newsletter Editor; Robert Anderson, Gerry Sirocky, Muriel C. Pyburn, Kenneth E. Cuneo, Jerry Tebeck, Kurt Loesch.

Staff Contributors are Stephen F. Bailey, Paul Finnegan, Bernie Ferrara, Caroline Nunn.

Typesetting & production by Colorgraphics.

The Monterey County Herald, Thursday, March 27, 1997

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PACIFIC GROVE

Point Pinos Lighthouse to close for repairs

Point Pinos Lighthouse will be closed for repairs -- removal of asbestos tile and replacement of

flooring -- during April.

The lighthouse will be open from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday and then close until May 1, when it will resume its normal schedule. For more information, call

648-3116.

Coast Guard begins lighthouse restoration

Work began last week to restore the cupola, lens and mechanisms of the Pt. Pinos Lighthouse.

A \$110,000 contract was let to Fernando Oliveira Construction of Hollister and will include exterior paint and new roofs for both the fuel and lighthouse buildings.

The project is supervised by local Coast Guard commander, Warrant Officer Craig Bitler. He initiated the request for appropriation to do the work.

All exterior brass bright work will be stripped of paint and varnished. The original Fresnel lens made in France in 1853 will be polished and repaired.

Missing castings of lion's head roof water spouts are being replaced. All new exterior wrought iron railings are near completion for installation.

Work will be completed in 60 days and is monitored by a Coast Guard building inspector Mike Schisler from Oakland.

The lighthouse was built in 1855 and was the first located on the U.S. Pacific Coast. Its 1,000 watt lamp can be seen 14 miles or seven miles beyond the horizon.

It is one of five lights maintained by the Monterey Coast Guard Stations. The others are San Louis Obispo, Piedras Blancas (Cambria), Pt. Sur and Santa Cruz.

May 28, 1994

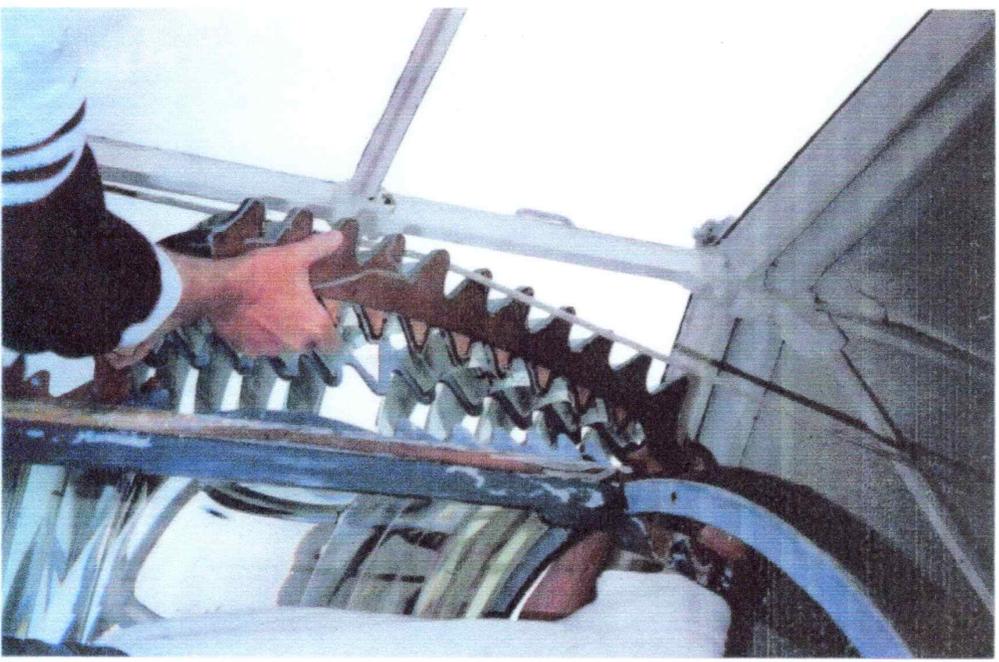
Point Pinos Lighthouse, Pacific Grove, CA
Point Sur preservation volunteers (Mike Baker &
Bob Lewellyn) assist USCC and Point Pinos
volunteers in removing the Third Order Fresnel
lens from the lighthouse lantern room. Volunteers
will clean and restore the lens and it will then be
returned to the lighthouse lantern room tower.



Lower left and right: The lens is in place in the
lantern room prior to its removal.



May 28, 2004
Point Pinos Lighthouse, Pacific Grove, CA
Removing the Third Order Fresnel lens from the
lighthouse lantern room for cleaning and
restoration.



Lower left: Bob Jewellvn assists CWO Craig
Bitler, USCG (inside the lens) to remove the upper
portion of the lens.

Lower right: CWO Bitler is assisted by Fred
Wildenrat, a Point Pinos Lighthouse volunteer.

Photo credit: Mike Baker, PSSHP Volunteer



May 28, 1994

Point Pinos Lighthouse, Pacific Grove, CA

Removing the Third Order Fresnel Lens from the lighthouse lantern room for cleaning and restoration.



Lower left: CWO Craig Bitler dismantling the lens from inside, while Lee Worth and Fred Wilderlat (Point Pinos volunteers) assist from the outside of the lens.

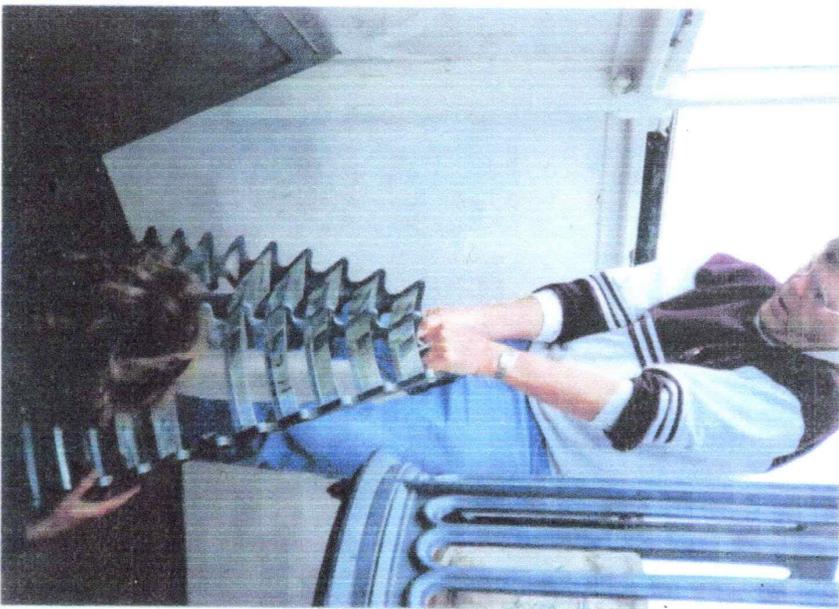
Photo credit: Mike Baker, PSSHP Volunteer

Lower right: CWO Bitler removes lower lens panel #4, while Mike Baker (in blue hat) and Bob Llewellyn (barley visible on right) assists. Bob is also a PSSHP volunteer.

Photo credit: Nancy McDowell, Point Pinos & PSSHP volunteer.



May 28, 1994
Front Point Lighthouse, Pacific Grove, CA
Removing the Third Order Fresnel Lens from the
lighthouse lantern room for cleaning and
restoration.



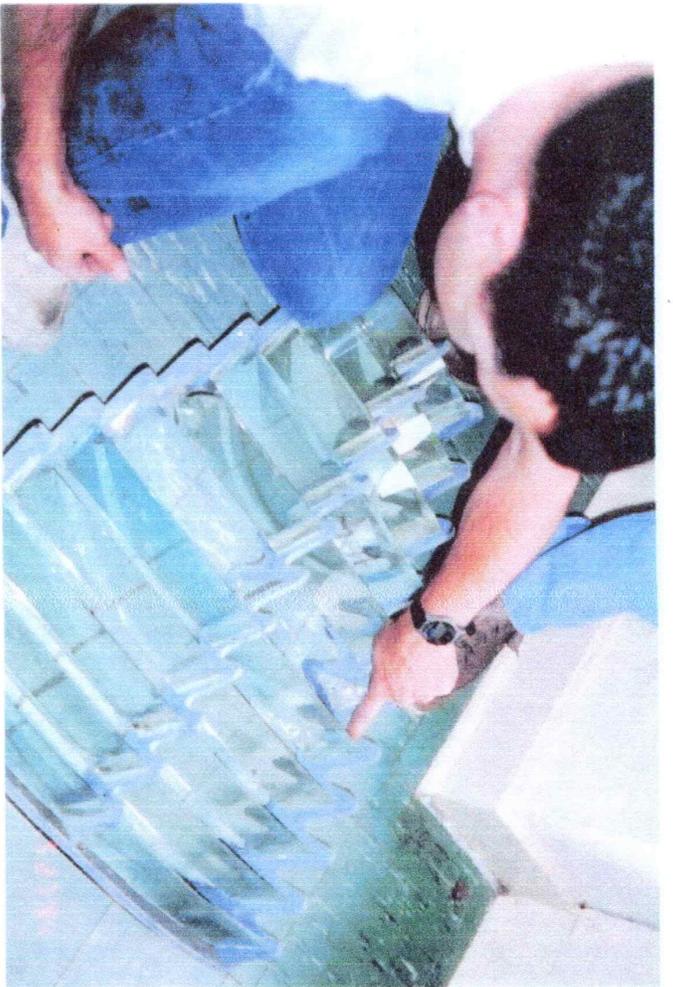
Lower left: Removing an upper portion of the lens
from the lantern room. Bob Llewellyn lowers the
lens section to Nancy McDowell.

Photo credit: Mike Baker

Lower right: The Fresnel Lens panels laid out on
the floor of a lighthouse room (lots of feet too).

Photo credit: Nancy McDowell





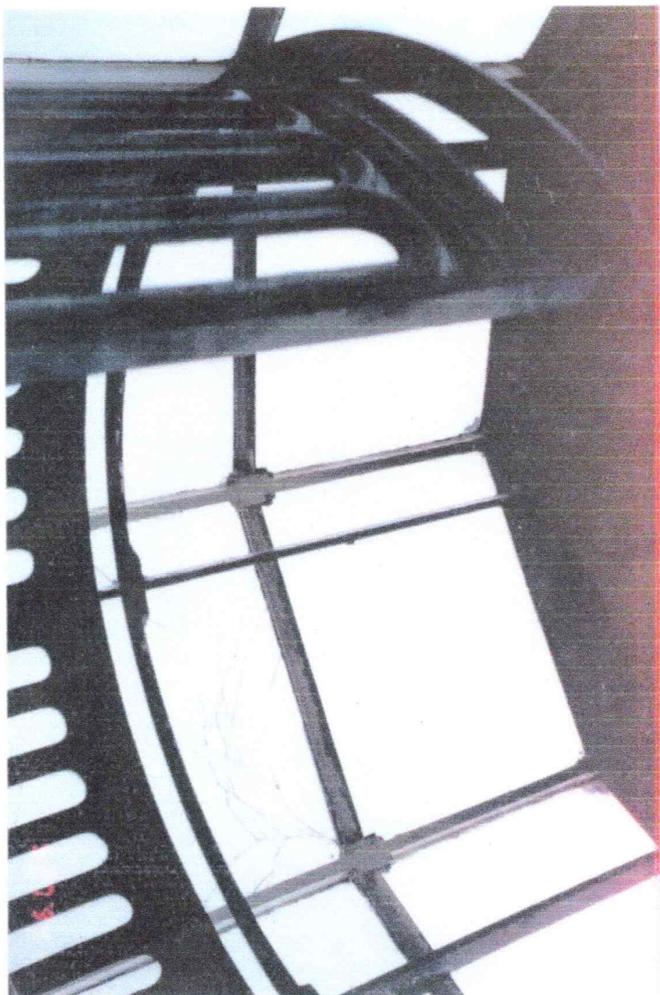
Upper left: CWO Bitler points out damage on a prism in the upper section of the Fresnel Lens. This lens was first installed in the lighthouse in 1854.

Lower right: Volunteers surveying the disassembled lens. From left is Bob Llewellyn, Mike Baker (seated), Fred Wildenrat, CWO Bitler (in t-shirt) and Lee Worth. (Possibly the photo could be captioned "I can't believe we dropped and broke the lens!")

Photo credit: Nancy McDowell.

May 28, 1994
 Point Pinos Lighthouse, Pacific Grove, CA
 Removing the Third Order Fresnel Lens from the
 lighthouse lantern room for cleaning and
 restoration.





Upper left: The lighthouse lantern room after removal of the Third Order Fresnel Lens.

Lower right: The lighthouse after removal of the Third Order Fresnel Lens.

Note: The lens was restored and reinstalled in the lighthouse by the USCG in late August 1994.

May 28, 1994
Point Pinos Lighthouse, Pacific Grove, CA
Removing the Third Order Fresnel Lens from the lighthouse lantern room for cleaning and restoration.



June 7, 1994
USCG Monterey Group Maintenance Building,
Monterey, CA

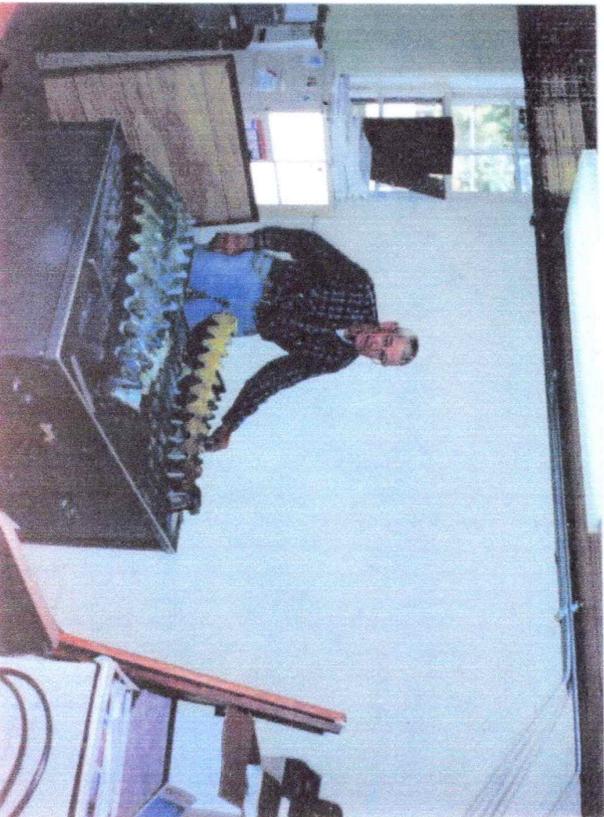
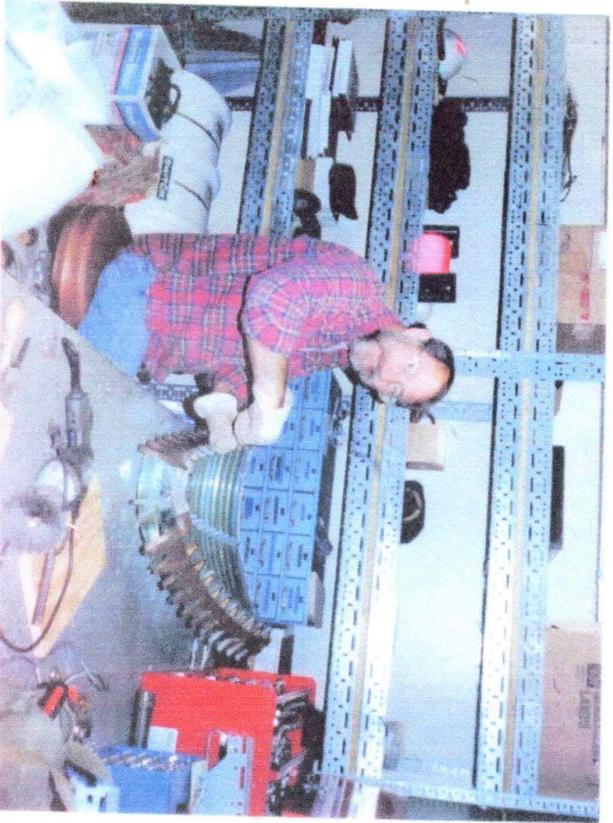
Point Sur Preservation volunteers cleaning the
Point Sur Lighthouse Fresnel Lens.

August 27, 1994 the Fresnel Lens was re-installed
at the lighthouse. Volunteers Paul Campbell, Ed
Cope, Jim Cherry, John O'Neil, Mike Baker and
Bob Llewellyn donated many volunteer hours
cleaning the lens.

Lower left: John O'Neil.

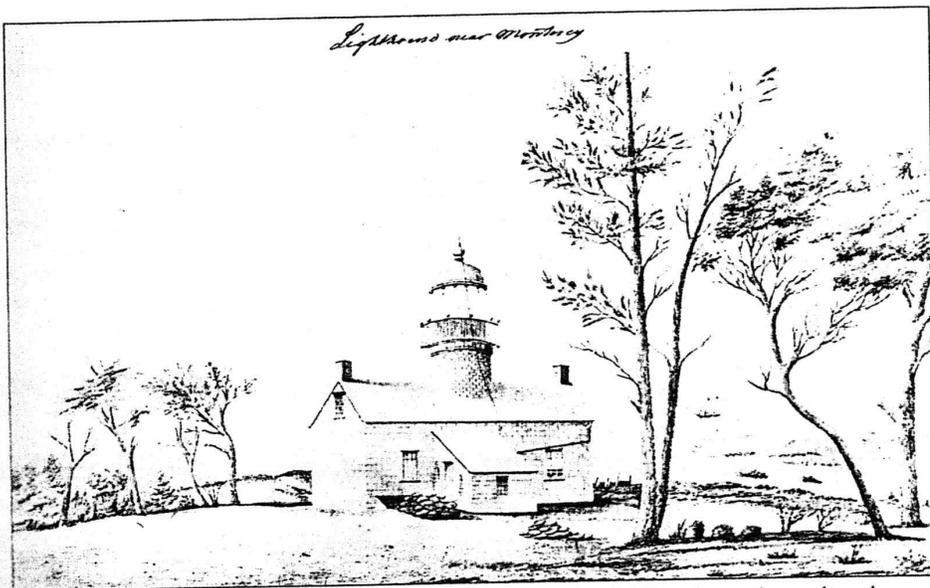
Upper right (from left): Ed Cope & Bob Llewellyn.

Lower right: Ed Cope.



LIGHTHOUSE, SEAVEY II

One IN THE BEGINNING



POINT PINOS LIGHTHOUSE, 1856. This drawing by Henry Miller shows the earliest known seaward view of the Point Pinos Lighthouse. When the United States acquired the Pacific Coast in 1848, there wasn't a single navigational aid from Mexico to Canada. During the 1850s, the Treasury Department constructed lighthouses for the safety of mariners. Indigenous people had occupied the shores of Monterey Bay for at least 7,000 years before the arrival of the Spaniards, who called them Costanoans, or coastal people. They are now known as Rumsien, part of the larger Ohlone group. Cabrillo Point is named for Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, the first European to see Monterey Bay in 1542. During his brief stay, he named the promontory that became Pacific Grove, Punta de Pinos. This was the site of the first invasion of Spanish California in November 1818. Argentine privateer Hipolito Bouchard, under the flag of the Provincias Unidas del Rio de la Plata, landed troops at Lover's Point beach and sacked Monterey. The Rancho Punta de Pinos, first granted to Jose Maria Armenta in 1833, was later regranted to several Monterey businessmen, including Thomas O. Larkin, who grazed stock and harvested lumber. Henry De Graw acquired the property in the 1860s, building a wharf just southeast of Cabrillo Point to ship timber. David Jacks, the largest landowner in Monterey County, later purchased it. In 1875, Jacks donated 100 acres to the Methodists for their seaside camp meeting. (Courtesy Bancroft Library.)

Document
Home Tour Flyer
C. 2004

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Happy 150th Anniversary, Point Pinos Lighthouse!

First flashing its guiding beacon in 1855, our City's beautiful 20x30 foot stone landmark distinguishes itself as the oldest continuously operating lighthouse along the U.S. West Coast. From this quartet of dated photographs, note how little the 1-1/2 story-edifice with its round brick tower has changed over the years. By the mid 1880s, the stone was painted white. During the 1890s, keeper M. Emily Fish planted a hedge. And after its structure was severely damaged in the 1906 earthquake, requiring extensive repairs, dormers were placed in the roof, a porch was added at the entry, and the kitchen addition on the rear was expanded.

1880s

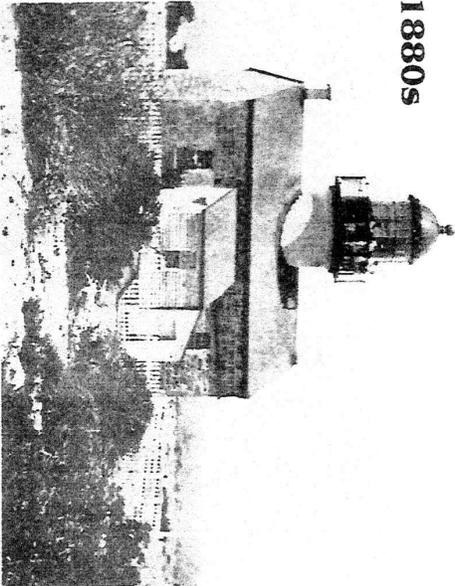


Photo courtesy of Pat Hathaway CV # 96-50-06

1885

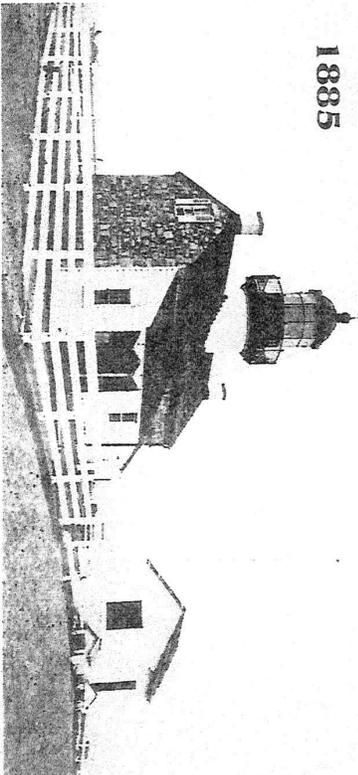


Photo courtesy of Pat Hathaway CV # 86-011-0002

No steamer, schooner or clipper ship was ever wrecked off Peninsula shores due to the failure of the Point Pinos light, and it surely kept coastal accidents from rocky outcrops, treacherous currents, Pacific winds, ocean storms, and low-lying fog to a minimum. As of February 2005, our City has proudly accepted stewardship of this monument from the U.S. Coast Guard, who will continue to keep just the light itself in operating order. With the Museum of Natural History maintaining the interior and Public Works, its exterior, it is now our duty to protect Point Pinos Lighthouse, just as her light served as caretaker for so many, over the past century and a half.

1890s

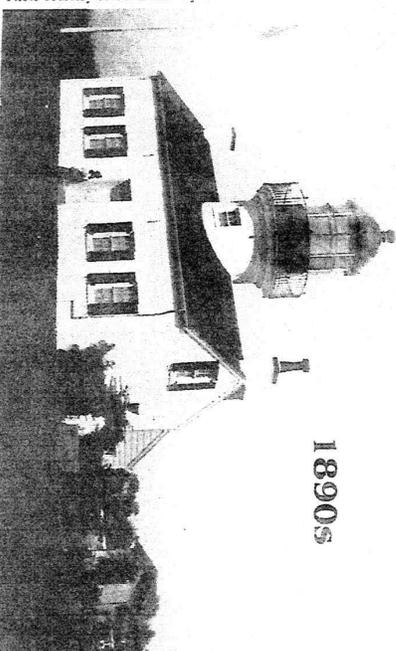


Photo courtesy of Pat Hathaway CV # 72-08-0072

1926

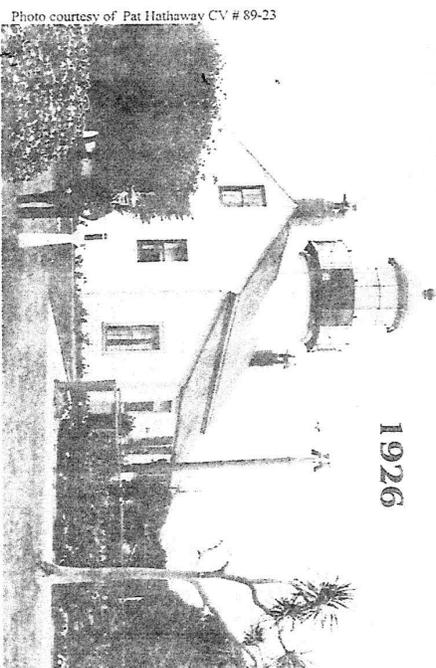


Photo courtesy of Pat Hathaway CV # 89-23