

the FLA FLASH

A quarterly publication of the Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc.
www.floridalighthouses.org

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND NEW MILLENNIUM!!! JANUARY, 2000, MEETING TO BE AT SANIBEL ISLAND

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This has been a most remarkable year! The FLA has really made a mark with regards with helping to save the endangered Keeper's dwelling at Cape San Blas, helping to derail a drive to move the historic St. Johns River Lighthouse, and, most recently, trying to lobby the United States General Services Administration (GSA) to turn over to available governmental or non-profit organizations those lighthouses which the Coast Guard is wishing to dispose of. Many thanks to Tom Garner, Charlotte Pierce, Herman Jones, Andy Liliskis, Barbara Revell, and John Lee for all the hard work they have done towards the saving of Florida's lighthouses. It has been a wild and trying year, but things are swinging our way. Government officials are beginning to find out that people like lighthouses and that lighthouses are worthwhile to save.

THANK YOU ALL!!

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SANIBEL ISLAND MEETING

Thanks to the efforts of Cindi Para, Jody Brown and Charles LeBuff of Sanibel Island, and through the courtesy of Chief Mark. S. Voynovich of the Coast Guard, and officials of the City of Sanibel, it appears that we shall have a truly great experience for our January Quarterly Meeting at Sanibel Island.

The venue for the meeting and programs will be at a wonderful facility located right on Sanibel Island. There will be a Board of Commissioners meeting at 9:00 am, and the Membership meeting will begin at 10:30 am.

After the meetings, lunch will be served, and then Charles LeBuff, our FLA representative for the Sanibel Island Lighthouse and author of the book *Sanybel Light*, will be our guest speaker. Mr. LeBuff has a special relationship with the lighthouse, as he lived in one of the keeper's dwellings from 1958 until 1979. Although the light had been automated by the time he moved in, the Coast Guard gave him the keys to the lighthouse, and Mr. LeBuff did serve as an "unofficial" lighthouse keeper. When the original Third-Order

lens was disassembled and replaced by the 500 mm drum lens in 1962, Mr. LeBuff assisted the Coast Guardsmen in that operation. His years at the lighthouse and as a wildlife officer with the Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge are ably told in his book *Sanybel Light*.

After Mr. LeBuff's program, we will be fortunate to have Margaret England, daughter of the last official keeper of the Sanibel Island Lighthouse, speak briefly to us about her life growing up at the lighthouse. Both of her parents are still living, and it is possible that her father, WILLIAM ROBERT ENGLAND, JR., the last keeper, may be able to attend with us.

In the afternoon, we will visit the light station. Because of the narrow confines of this skeletal tower with its stair column, only ten people at a time will be permitted up the tower. This is an important safety consideration which we will need to observe strictly. In the meantime, we will be invited to visit and tour the two keeper's dwellings. These are now private homes. We also recommend that you visit the Sanibel Historical Village and Museum where the 500 mm lens from the lighthouse is displayed

The *FLA FLASH* is a quarterly publication of the FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC., and is a benefit of membership in the organization. The FLA is a non-profit Florida corporation which promotes the preservation of Florida's lighthouses and interprets the history and significance of those lighthouses and of Florida's unique maritime heritage. For information, contact:

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FLA FLASH

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THE KEY WEST NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE CONFERENCE October 12-16, 1999

The National Lighthouse Conference at Key West was a resounding success and many congratulations are due to JOE PAIS of the Key West Art and Historical Society for putting on this worthy event. It was only very unfortunate that Hurricane Irene decided to crash the party, so the end of the Conference was a bit altered, and, of course, the much anticipated tours to Sand Key and the Dry Tortugas had to be canceled for the majority of us. A few stalwart members stayed in Key West, and by Monday, the weather did clear enough for them to get out to the Tortugas.



Socializing with other lighthouse enthusiasts before Hurricane Irene. (Photos courtesy of Hib Casselberry.)



FLA ANNUAL MEETING October 30, 1999

Because of the rough weather and requested evacuations, our Annual Meeting at Key West became a casualty of Irene, and we had to re-schedule it for Saturday, October 30th at the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse. We are fortunate to have the support of a lighthouse association which is able to accommodate us at so short notice. Despite the short notice and the re-scheduling, we did have about fifty members who attended.

At 11:30 am, we held an informal "on-your-own" lunch at the Inlet Harbor Restaurant where Elinor DeWire spoke to us in January, 1998.

We adjourned to the conference room at the lighthouse at 1:00 pm for the Annual Meeting. Vice-President HIB CASSELBERRY offered the Invocation. The question immediately came up as to what was going to be done about the canceled Key West tours. President Taylor stated that he had been in contact with Joe Pais about a possible re-scheduling of the trips or a refund. These alternatives are still being considered, but if anyone needs current information on this, they should call Joe

Pais at (305) 296-1702. Taylor said that we need to recognize the hard work that Joe did on this Conference, that the cancellation was due to unforeseen and completely uncontrollable events, and that we need to give time for Joe to sort out the alternatives. Taylor hoped that the tours might be rescheduled, but that if Joe felt it necessary to refund the money instead, Taylor thought that maybe the FLA could go ahead and reschedule the trip to the Dry Tortugas sometime maybe next year. We were originally planning to organize the tour there ourselves when Joe offered to do it for the Conference attendees.

Reading of the minutes by Secretary RICHARD JOHNSON was deferred as the minutes are posted on our Internet website.

Vice-President Casselberry reported that he will be contacting the new list of lighthouse managers. He has sent out letters to all FLA members seeking out committee members to help us out. We now have 335 FLA members here in Florida of various categories and 54 from out-of-state. He has been sending out dues reminders each month and an extra reminder if the member has not responded.

Treasurer GEORGE DILLER presented our financial report. The new budget for 1999-2000 was approved by the Executive Committee and will be about \$24,000 for the next fiscal year. Our Treasury currently has \$12,243 in the bank.

In the President's report, Tom Taylor reported that the Board of Commissioners have

approved a change in the quorum required for Board meetings to better reflect the difficulty that most board members have in attending the meetings in this widely-scattered State. HAROLD BENNETT was approved to continue service as our corporation's accountant.

The Board decided to defer our lighthouse preservation grants program until the Executive Committee can better define some projects which we should support. The possible collaboration with the DAR on the highway historical markers for lighthouses has not progressed to date and may not come to fruition at this time. ANDY LILISKIS of the Mayport Lighthouse Association, however, may be applying soon for a grant to assist with exhibit construction in a building his organization is re-habilitating for their lighthouse museum.

The Board has also authorized the Executive Committee to begin looking into the possibilities of producing a video about Florida's lighthouses. This should be done after the restoration work on the St. Johns River, Ponce de Leon Inlet, and Jupiter Inlet are completed, so the video will catch all of our East Coast lighthouses at their best. JOHN LEBEN, an FLA member from Michigan who has produced a lighthouse video, has offered to produce one for us, and to seek funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, but the Board felt we should look into this further before making any commitments. We do have many other

major projects already in the works that need to be completed before we can put a major effort into a video.

The Board authorized President Taylor to secure a local volunteer to assist him with the volume of informational requests which sometimes flood into our headquarters. This assistant would be designated the "corresponding secretary."

After the meeting, two people responded to Taylor's plea for help. CAROL MOORE of New Smyrna Beach has offered to come in for six hours every Tuesday to help with the correspondence, and RICHARD ATWOOD, although he lives in Orlando, may be able to help with the e-mail correspondence. As the holidays approach, we are entering a relatively slow period, but this is a good time to work out the procedures. President Taylor would like to welcome Carol Moore as our new local "Corresponding Secretary" and will get with Mr. Atwood on procedures for him to handle some of our e-mail requests from Orlando.

President Taylor then reported on the state of the lighthouse preservation projects:

CAPE SAN BLAS: The Air Force has moved the two endangered keeper's dwellings and has renovated the better one for adaptive use as offices. The Air Force hopes to enter into a cooperative agreement with Gulf County for the restoration of the second keeper's dwelling as a public museum and for the restoration and maintenance of the tower.

CAPE ST. GEORGE: Florida's

most endangered lighthouse has been straightened and no longer is in imminent threat of collapse due to the hard work of JOHN LEE and his colleagues in Apalachicola. Work on the new foundation was delayed by the hurricanes but is underway.

JUPITER INLET: This major restoration project is underway at this time. The tower is scaffolded and closed, but the museum and grounds remain open.

PONCE DE LEON INLET: JIM DUNLAP explained that this project is now in the hands of the architect and could begin as early as January. It will include a lot of iron work and interior and exterior cleaning and repair.

ST. JOHNS RIVER: It now appears that the drive to move this lighthouse has been diminished, and even the Mayor of Jacksonville no longer supports it. The Navy has promised to perform a major renovation of the lighthouse next year and has continued to grant the Mayport Lighthouse Association use of a nearby building for a museum and gift shop. The Association will also be in charge of providing tours of the historic tower as well as the 1954 concrete lighthouse also on the Naval Station.

ANCLOTE KEY: Although Governor Bush vetoed the million dollar restoration budget approved by the legislature for this year, he did approve enough funding to provide security for the tower in the form of a full-time park ranger, some housing (probably a trailer at present) and a new dock for the landing of the State Park personnel. A local state senator will continue

to lobby for the full funding next year.

ST. MARKS: The Coast Guard let us down on our collaboration with them to restore this tower for the National Wildlife Refuge for this year. Instead of providing \$50,000 this year for the full engineering study, the Coast Guard has postponed the project and only allocated \$15,000 for absolutely necessary repairs. The FLA will continue to crank up our Annual Appeal campaign for the restoration of this lighthouse. The Coast Guard has also decided to solarize the light, but removal of the 1867 lens was forestalled by the objection of the state historic preservation officer. We hope other alternatives can be found for the solarization so that the tower can retain its historic appearance. President Taylor hopes to meet with the Wildlife Refuge people on December 7th to coordinate our fund-raising efforts.

CROOKED RIVER: We are hoping that the GSA will grant this lighthouse to Franklin County and then lease it to the new Carrabelle Lighthouse Association. As the County Council is still not in full agreement with this, BARBARA REVELL and Taylor plan to attend the County Council meeting in Apalachicola on December 7th to help assure the holdouts. (However, a new law going through Congress may permit the GSA to grant historical properties directly to non-profits. If passed, this could allow the CLA to petition directly for the lighthouse!)

HILLSBORO INLET: Vice-President Casselberry reported that the ball bearing which was developed as a replacement for the original mercury bath float revolving mechanism has failed and that a new, better designed and constructed bearing is in the works. The Coast Guard has agreed to pay for the new bearing, but it may be 12-18 months before it is back in service again.

ST. AUGUSTINE: RAYMOND HAMEL reported that their volunteers report a record number of visitors last year: 150,000! Their gift shop remains the backbone of their fund-raising. They now have more than \$500,000 in the bank which will largely be used in the construction of a new building to be completed in the next nine months. The groundbreaking has already occurred. The new building will be used for offices and a larger gift shop. The lighthouse continues involvement with the marine archeology project which includes 272 shipwreck sites near the lighthouse and the development of artificial reefs using concrete structures known as reef balls. These may help to better control beach erosion. The St. Augustine tower will be re-painted this next year.

AMELIA ISLAND: President Taylor introduced HELEN O'HAGAN SINTES, daughter of the last civilian keeper, and one of our hosts at July's meeting at Amelia Island. She reported that the lighthouse will probably be transferred to the City of Fernandina although no formal meeting with the GSA has yet been held. Taylor noted that we

want to make sure the GSA includes clauses in the agreements which will allow the counties and cities to sublease the lighthouses to the non-profit groups.

As to publications, President Taylor reported that the *Florida Lighthouse Trail* book is almost completed and the rough draft will be sent out to proof-readers soon. The entire work should be ready to send to Pineapple Press by the end of November. The deadline is December 31st. There will be 43 lighthouses and lighthouse sites listed in the book. Paul Bradley, who is doing the artwork for the maps and illustrations, reported that he will also create an illuminated map of the state and is now working on the local maps to show visitors where each individual lighthouse is located.



Paul Bradley presents some of his artwork which will adorn the new book.

The FLA will receive as royalties 8% of the first 10,000 copies sold, and 10% of the amount over 10,000. Because we still have a supply of Christmas cards from last year and the need for Paul to work on the book, there will be no new Christmas cards done this year.

The *FLA FLASH* is still doing well, but Editor Taylor would like to invite more members to contribute articles. If you have taken a recent trip to a lighthouse or have a remarkable lighthouse experience to share with us, please write an article for the newsletter and send it to Tom Taylor.

The Annual Appeal Campaign on behalf of the St. Marks Lighthouse is about to get underway, despite setbacks caused by the Coast Guard's changed schedule and the uncertainty of other urgent lighthouse crises. Kathy Fleming, of the St. Augustine Lighthouse and one of our original FLA officers, is still willing to undertake the preparation of the mail out literature and the printing and postage costs. We will need volunteers to help us type out mailing labels. We already owe LINDA KOESTEL a vote of thanks for all her splendid work on typing out the mailing lists for the businesses in the Orlando area! CAROL MOORE will also start typing mailing labels. THANK YOU LINDA and CAROL!!

Vice-President Casselberry reported that Anclote Key Lighthouse and the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse are in process of being added to the National Register of Historic Places. Cape Canaveral should be transferred by the Coast Guard to the Air Force by summer 2001, and then NASA will negotiate a memorandum of understanding to allow NASA to make safety improvements so that Delaware North can add the lighthouse as part of its NASA tour. At pre-

sent, the tour can stop for pictures of the lighthouse, but the tower remains inaccessible.

Although Executive Vice-President RICHARD SCHULZE was unable to be present at this meeting, he reported that the FLA front license plate is still selling fast at \$6 each (including tax -- \$7.65 with S&H). We now have about 3,000 signatures of the 15,000 that we need to approach the legislature for approval of a specialty back plate which could net the FLA a potential of \$3-400,000 per year for lighthouse preservation projects. This is extremely important to us in order to really be a major factor in preservation. A "downpayment" of \$60,000 is also required, but President Taylor is sure that if we can get the signatures, the funding will come from business support. Although there are probably already too many specialty plates in Florida with all the schools and sports teams now on line, ours would be the *FIRST AND ONLY* specialty plate in support of HISTORIC PRESERVATION!

The most important part of our Annual Meeting began when Tom Taylor introduced BARBARA MCCLURE, Chairman of the Nominating Committee. The committee also included Sherry Reed and Vicki Sweet. As the positions of President and Executive Vice-President are for two-year terms, they were not up for election this year. Most of the current officers agreed to serve another one-year term, but we will see some new faces. The recommendations for the new slate of officers made by the

Nominating Committee was unanimously adopted and the officers for 1999-2000 include:

Vice-President for Membership:
HIB CASSELBERRY
Vice-President for Meetings and
Special Events:
DAVID & ALICE D'AMICOL
Vice-President for Fund-Raising:
PEGGY GLOVER
Treasurer: GEORGE DILLER
Secretary: RICHARD JOHNSON
District One Commissioner:
HIB CASSELBERRY
District Two Commissioner:
JERRY WILKINSON
District Three Commissioner:
RICHARD JOHNSON
District Four Commissioner:
THOMAS M. GARNER
Historian: NEIL E. HURLEY

President Taylor congratulated all of the old officers for a job so superbly done during the past year, and particularly CINDI PARA for her work on the meetings. Her reliability on getting things done will be sorely missed. Taylor also welcomed and congratulated the new officers. DAVID AND ALICE D'AMI-COL will share the duties of the Vice-President for Meetings and Special Events. David is a Coast Guard veteran and will be a good liaison to have with the Coast Guard personnel presently servicing the towers. PEGGY GLOVER is a computer specialist with Atlantic High School in Port Orange, Florida, and will be taking on the reins as our new Vice-President for Fund-Raising. It is hoped that she will be able to work with us and Kathy Fleming on the up-com-

ing Annual Appeal Campaign, and she will be giving much-needed coordination to our sales program.

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW OFFICERS!!!

As to new business, it was suggested that the FLA issue a membership list which would allow members living in various areas to know who else in their area are members of the FLA. This would make the possibilities of car-pooling to our meetings much easier, but concerns were expressed about the possible mis-use of this list for promotional or commercial purposes. It was decided to mention this possibility in the next newsletter to get further feedback from the members. It was suggested that a form be placed in the next newsletter for members to return IF they did NOT want their names listed in such a membership roster. Those present at the meeting seemed in general to think it was a good idea.

In other new business, JIM DUNLAP reported that he had received a letter from an active lighthouse keeper in India who is requesting postcards of lighthouses. It appears that the lighthouse bug has not bitten the Indians, yet, so post cards of their lighthouses are few and far between. MR. I. C. R. PRASAD, who is the keeper of the Alleppey Lighthouse in the Madras District, also would enjoy corresponding with lighthouse enthusiasts in the United States. If any of our members

would like to correspond with an articulate keeper in India, let Jim Dunlap know.

Jim also reported on the National Lighthouse Museum. The fund-raising is moving ahead towards the \$20 million which is needed. They already have \$5 million committed on a matching basis. The roofs of the most endangered buildings have been stabilized and repaired. The lamp shop and motor shop are scheduled for renovation next year. A private owner who has restored a lightship has offered it to the Museum. Memberships in the National Lighthouse Museum are now available. For more information, contact Jim Dunlap (jim@ponceinlet.org) or see their webpage at: [www:lighthousemuseum.org](http://www.lighthousemuseum.org). We are honored that Jim serves on the Board of Directors for the National Lighthouse Museum.

For the upcoming meetings, CINDI PARA reported that the next Quarterly Meeting at Sanibel is scheduled for January 15th, 2000. CHARLES LEBUFF will do the program, and access to the keeper's quarters and to the tower is being arranged. MARGARET ENGLAND, daughter of the last official keeper will also be present and speak to us, and it is possible that her father and mother may be able to attend. MR. WILLIAM ROBERT "BOB" ENGLAND was the last official keeper of the Sanibel Island Lighthouse. This could mark the first time a true keeper has been able to attend one of our meetings.

For the Cape Canaveral meeting in April, Coast Guard Com-

mander NEIL HURLEY, our historian in Washington, DC, and an expert on the history of the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse, will come down to do the program. We are very fortunate to have Commander Hurley available to speak to us at that meeting.

Treasurer GEORGE DILLER is working on arrangements for the Canaveral meeting in April, and it may consist of a multi-day program which would include not only a tour of the tower but a special tour of NASA as well. More on this later.

ANDY LILISKIS of the Mayport Lighthouse Association will be our host for the July Meeting at Mayport. There may be a chance to visit TWO lighthouses at that meeting. Keep in touch for more details.

For our next October Annual meeting, since we hoped to visit one of the newly-renovated towers and have already met here at Ponce for this year's re-scheduled Annual Meeting, we will look into having our Annual Meeting 2000 at the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse.

The 1999 Annual Meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm.

JIM DUNLAP ON LENS RESTORATION

After the business meeting, Jim Dunlap, Curator of the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse, presented a wonderful slide program about lens restoration. Jim gave this talk at the National Lighthouse Conference right before we had to evacuate, but since so many of our

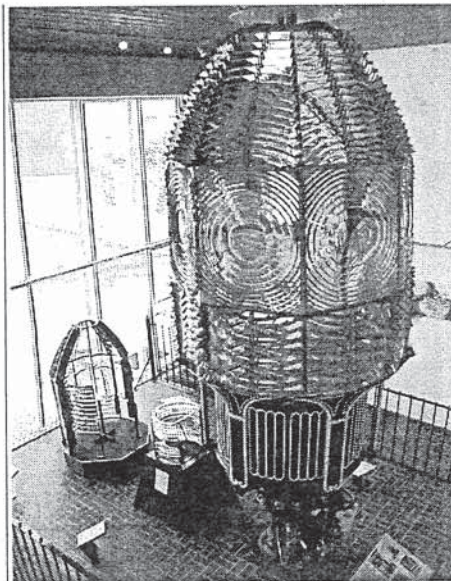
members had expressed a desire to see this program, Jim was kind enough to present it to us at this meeting.

Following Jim's talk, Jim led the group on a tour to the Lens Restoration Workshop at the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse which is the only on-going restoration workshop presently in the country. Here, three lenses and a lightship lantern have already been restored, and now a fourth lens, the original First-Order lens from the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse, is in the process.



With Jim Dunlap in the Lens Restoration Workshop at Ponce Inlet.

Jim next led the group to the Lens Exhibit Building where the finished product of the restoration process is elegantly displayed in the magnificent First-Order Canaveral and the Third-Order Ponce Inlet lenses which are on display. Following that tour, for those who wished to climb the tower, Tom Taylor opened up the Lantern Room of this, now the tallest lighthouse in the nation on its original foundation (since Cape Hatteras was moved this past summer!).



In the Ayres Davies Lens Exhibit Building at Ponce Inlet

LATE WORD FROM JUPITER FROM GEORGE BLANCK

We are fully into the project. The scaffolding is up and completely covers the lighthouse. We have found lead in the caulking around the windows surrounding the lens. Speaking of the lens, it has been covered, NOT REMOVED, during the restoration.

We are allowing tours to the area of the lighthouse but not inside the tower. We should be finished on/about June. We will have a "Re-lighting Ceremony". For those of you who have done this please contact me with ideas you may have.

George Blanck
Director





**SANIBEL ISLAND
LIGHTHOUSE**
By Charles LeBuff

Knowing the economic benefits a landfall lighthouse would have for the ultimate success of their planned development of what at the time was known as "Sanybel" Island, a group of New York investors platted a settlement on the island in 1833. Their elaborate plan indicated the future location of a lighthouse but their hopes for long-term settlement of the island were short-lived.

A harsh environment with hordes of mosquitoes, frequent hurricanes, and the threat of Indian attack during the Second Seminole War caused settlers to abandon Sanybel Island by 1836. By mid-century, nearby Punta Rassa, on the opposite side of San Carlos Harbor from Sanibel, became a busy cattle-shipping port. This settlement was once the site of Fort Delaney, a U.S. Army post during the Seminole Wars.

Photo by Elaine Gridley

Before the Civil War, local livestock shippers asked the Lighthouse Board to approve a lighthouse for the entrance to the harbor. Frequent applications submitted to the Board during this time, and into the postwar period, were denied because the officials in Washington, DC determined maritime traffic did not justify con-

struction of an additional light station on the lower Florida Gulf Coast. By the early 1870s, as many as 16,000 head of wild Florida scrub cattle left Port Punta Rassa on vessels bound for Cuba each year.

The small seaport at Punta Rassa continued to grow, and in 1880 the Lighthouse Board finally approved the idea of another lighthouse between the Dry Tortugas and Egmont Key. At their urging Congress appropriated the funds necessary to construct, equip, and staff the Sanibel Island Light Station.

Even after approval was granted, obstacles continued to delay the station's construction. The state of Florida had been granted title to public domain lands on Sanibel Island in 1845 when it entered the Union. This included East Point (now Point Ybel), the selected construction site. Quick diplomacy on the part of the Federal government resulted in Florida agreeing to relinquish any land title claims



to the island. The Sanibel Island Lighthouse Reservation was established by an Executive Order on December 19, 1883.



The light tower was prefabricated in the foundry of the Phoenix Iron Works in Ocean City, New Jersey. Construction of the station finally commenced in March 1884. In May, when the parts for the light tower were being delivered by schooner from New Jersey the vessel foundered on an enormous sandbar in the Gulf of Mexico south of Point Ybel. The unique cargo sank to the bottom. Salvagers, including a hardhat diver, managed to retrieve most of the iron parts and the construction timetable continued on schedule.

The pyramidal light tower is made from wrought iron and has a central stair cylinder.



Inside are three flights of spiral narrow-tread stairs. Originally the Sanibel Light was brown with a black lantern. The light tower measures 112 feet, from sea level to the tip of the pinnacle.



When first lit on August 20, 1884, the lamp inside the light's Third-Order rotating Fresnel lens was fueled by kerosene. The light's focal plane is 98 feet above mean sea level. Upgraded in 1923, it was retrofitted with a new burner which ignited timed releases of acetylene gas. That year the rotating lens and clockworks were removed and replaced with a fixed Third-Order Fresnel lens. The Sanibel Lighthouse was electrified in 1962 and fitted with a 500 mm drum lens which remained in place for about twenty years. Today, it has a modern electric optic and although the two Third-Order Fresnel lenses and the turning clockworks have long disappeared, the pedestal with its horizontal turning gear is still in its original location. The drum lens



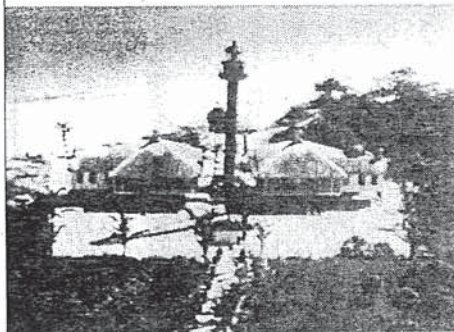
is currently being exhibited inside the Burnap Cottage at the Sanibel Historical Village and Museum.

The U. S. Coast Guard

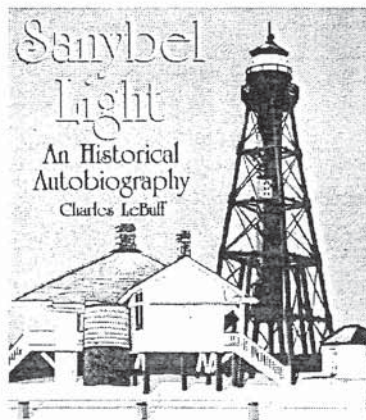
took over responsibility for lighthouses and other aids to navigation in 1939. Bob England, the last of their resident keepers, left the Sanibel Island Light Station ten years later. Because of major damage to the station's buildings and water supply during a 1948 hurricane it was determined the quarters were unsafe to be used by Coast Guard personnel and dependents. In early 1949, the light was listed as unwatched and fully automated.

In April 1949, the US Fish and Wildlife Service negotiated a revocable lease with the Coast Guard and assumed responsibility for the land and structures (excluding the light tower) for headquarters of the Sanibel National Wildlife Refuge (renamed the J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge in 1967). Permanent employees of that agency resided in the lighthouse quarters, and maintained the Refuge office at Point Ybel until 1982. Today, the two quarters are occupied by employees of the City of Sanibel. The City manages the land under a lease agreement with the Coast Guard, but the still-functioning light remains under Coast Guard jurisdiction.

In 1974, the quarters and tower were listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



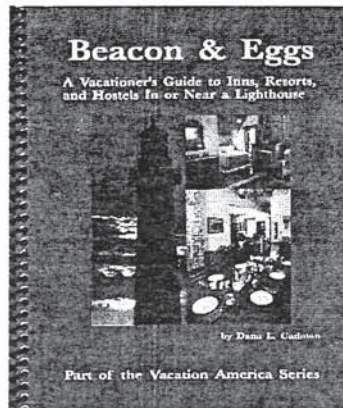
BOOK REVIEWS



A Comprehensive History of Sanibel Island, Its Lighthouse, and the National Wildlife Refuge

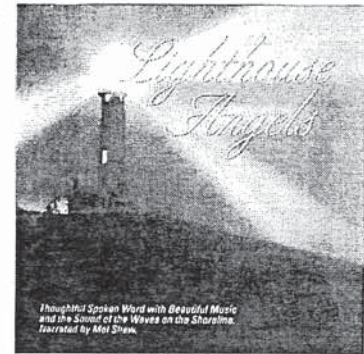
Sanibel Light, An Historical Autobiography
By Charles LeBuff

This fascinating book was written by the man who will be our main speaker at the January meeting at Sanibel Island. Although titled *Sanibel Light* (using the older style spelling for the Island's name), the book is much more than a history of just the lighthouse. It is a symphony of the historic currents that shaped the present day Sanibel Island, recounting interesting tales of the early days B.C. ("Before Causeway") when the National Wildlife Refuge was being established. Those who love island history or environmental stories (saving the turtles, etc.) will truly enjoy this book. From my own personal experiences, I found this a very exciting book. The book will be available for purchase at the Meeting, and this will be an excellent time to have it autographed by the author! The book is also available at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse.



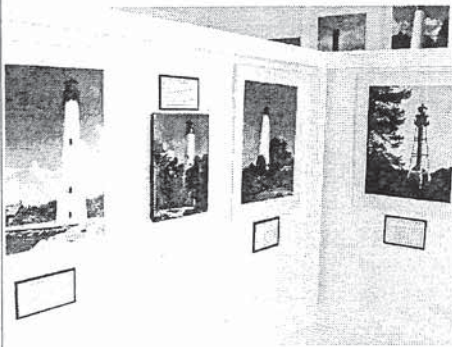
Beacon and Eggs: A Vacationer's Guide to Inns, Resorts, and Hostels In or near a Lighthouse.
By Dana L. Cadman

This interesting book will be essential for those looking to share a unique lighthouse experience in staying at a lighthouse, a structure associated with a lighthouse, or interesting bed and breakfasts located near special lighthouses. The book contains listings for inns, resorts, hostels, and "rustic" accommodations. Ten states and one Canadian province are included, but unhappily, Florida is not included at the present time. However, people traveling to California, Oregon, Washington, Michigan, and the Northeast will find lots of neat places in the pages of this book. Mr. Cadman includes a brief history of the lighthouse, a listing of other points of interest in the area, a description of the accommodations, complete directions and maps for locating the site, and the address and phone of the establishment. The book retails for \$12.95 and is available from Fit to Print, 1071 Kirts Blvd., Suite 208, Troy, MI 48084-4812; <http://f2p.com>.



Lighthouse Angels
a Music CD by Mel Shaw

If you love soothing music, the calming sounds of the sea, and inspirational prose and poetry about lighthouses, this CD is for you. Mel Shaw has created a masterpiece of beauty and art in this remarkable work of word and music. Including poems and recitations about the Split Rock and Cape Hatteras lighthouses and beautiful memorials to those who served in the lighthouses or were lost at sea, the poetry and music of these recordings is truly captivating. Mr. Shaw has dedicated this magnificent work to the "lighthouse angels," those individuals and lighthouse organizations that have worked hard to preserve our sentinels of the seas, including the Florida Lighthouse Association! This CD will soon be available at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse, and we may be able to pick up a few to bring to the April meeting for those interested. If you have come home from work all tense and irritated, this CD will calm you and put you back into the proper frame of mind. It is available from Mel Shaw, Lighthouse Angels, 110 Bellevue Road, Suite 10, Nashville, TN 37221.



ARNOLD SHORE EXHIBIT

At the end of October, the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse opened a new special, temporary exhibit of the late Arnold Shore's magnificent photographs. Arnold was a charter member of the FLA and served us as our first Secretary. His signature graces our Articles of Incorporation.

From 1987 to 1997, Arnold Shore and his wife Bernice traveled the countryside photographing wildlife, scenery, and historical places. The Shores' last great photographic venture, "Lighthouses of the United States," took them to the Great Lakes, New England, the Gulf of Mexico, and the West Coast besides a complete circumnavigation of their home state of Florida.

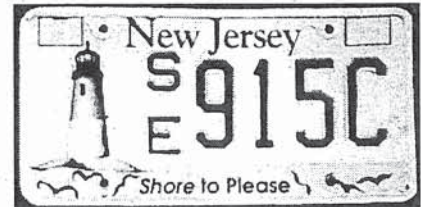
Reflecting a purity that is free of artificial enhancements, Arnold's work has been displayed in many arenas, including the Jupiter Beach Resort, Florida Historical Museum, Palm Beach Community College Eissey Campus Theater, the Juno Beach Town Hall Art Gallery, the City Hall of Palm Beach Gardens, and the Photo Shop on Clematis Street in West Palm Beach, Florida. Now his work can be

enjoyed here at the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Museum. Mr. Shore passed away quite suddenly and unexpectedly in the summer of 1997, but his magnificent photographs will continue to thrill lighthouse enthusiasts for years to come. We are looking forward to developing this fine collection into a traveling exhibit for libraries and museums.



MICHIGAN JOINS Lighthouse LICENSE STATES

One more state, Michigan, now has joined those which have lighthouse specialty auto license plates. Florida is quickly falling behind the other states in this regard, so we need to step up our drive to get our 15,000 petitions collected. Below are pictures of some of the licenses currently used by various states to promote lighthouse preservation. Maine certainly should have been among them as the legislature approved the plate, but it was vetoed by the Governor. A copy of our petition form is included with this newsletter. Please help us!!



Our plate will be much more beautiful!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Hib Casselberry has truly served this organization well as our Vice-President for Membership. During his first year, our membership has almost doubled, and much of the credit goes to his diligence in mailing out the renewal notices. However, in studying the renewals, we have been distressed to learn that many members are so late with renewing that Hib has to send out a second or even a third notice. The postage for this has become nearly the same as the postage for our newsletter, and it has become an unnecessary drain

on our treasury. After your name on the mailing label is printed your renewal month as provided by your initial membership in the FLA. Please make a note of it on the first day of that month on your 2000 calendar so that you can be prepared to mail your membership renewal in a timely fashion. Please do not require us to send a second or third notice. This adds a lot of work for Hib and a lot of expense on our treasury. If your month is marked ***, it means that your dues are in arrears as of that month in 1999, and this is the last newsletter we can send you unless you send in your 1999 dues before January 1st. Please don't force us to cut you from our mailing list Thank you!

NEW LIGHTHOUSE ORGANIZATION

We welcome into our organization and congratulate the CARRABELLE LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION which has been formed in Carrabelle, Florida, for the saving of the Crooked River Lighthouse, one of the several lighthouses which the federal General Services Administration is disposing for the Coast Guard. It is possible that Franklin County may accept the lighthouse for long-term lease to the CLA, but a new law going through Congress right now might make it possible for the GSA to grant the lighthouse directly to the non-profit Carrabelle Lighthouse Association. We welcome this new association

into membership with us and congratulate BARBARA REVELL, its President, on a job well done on becoming incorporated!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The following are new members for the fourth quarter of 1999:

Jeff Bentz, Thomas Biernaki, Dutch Brems, Bob and Lorraine Coffin, Mary C. and Russell Dorsey, Ann Ely, Donald and Eleanor Holen, Mary Dalene Kolessar, Margaret Mabrius, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Menard, Carol Moore, Christel Ross, Dr. and Mrs. John Santosuosso, Stan Neil, the Jay and Sonnekler family, William and Patricia Stusick, Howard A. Sutherland, Jeannine and Emil Trefzger, Tammy Vanden Heuvel, Charles and Marlene Wood,

FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION
4931 S. PENINSULA DRIVE
PONCE INLET, FL 32127

(904) 761-1821; fla@ponceinlet.org
www.floridalighthouses.org





Florida Lighthouse License Plate Project

The Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc., has launched a drive to encourage the Florida State Legislature to approve a specialty license plate which would honor and help to preserve Florida's remaining thirty historic light stations. If approved, this would be the first specialty license plate in Florida specifically designed to promote historic preservation. Nine states already now have lighthouse license plates to preserve lighthouses or marine environments in those states, and the numbers indicate that these license plates have been selling very well. It is now time for Florida to have a lighthouse license plate, and YOU can help. In order to bring this proposal before the State legislature, we need 15,000 names on a petition form and \$60,000 to cover the costs of the first 20,000 license plates. You can help us with both of these requirements:

- 1) If you own a vehicle registered in Florida, you can help us immediately by signing our License Plate Petition Form. Better yet, circulate this petition among your friends and get them to sign it too. The only requirement is that they own a car registered and licensed in the State of Florida. Feel free to print or copy as many copies of this petition form as you wish. Send the completed form to the Florida Lighthouse Association, 4931 South Peninsula Drive, Ponce Inlet, FL 32127 so that we can include it with the others we have so far received.
- 2) If you know of some ways in which the Association can raise funds or know some wealthy people who would like to support a worthy cause, please let us know. As a newly-formed state-wide organization, our funds at present are rather limited, and we need all the support we can get.

We thank you for your interest in the preservation and restoration of Florida's sea swept sentinels and look forward to your participation with us in this worthy endeavor. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Tom Taylor
Tom Taylor
President

PETITION FOR A FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE

I/We, the undersigned, hereby state my intent to purchase a Florida LIGHTHOUSE specialized license plate, if approved by the legislature and offered by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

By signing this petition, I/we understand that the plate would carry an additional cost of \$15 annual use fee, plus a \$2 processing fee per year per vehicle. I/we certify that I am/we are the legal owner/lessee of a motor vehicle registered in the State of Florida, and said vehicle is eligible for a specialty license plate.

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RS-20 RETURN TO: THE FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC.
4931 SOUTH PENINSULA DRIVE
PONCE INLET, FL 32127
(904) 761-1821



Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc.

4931 South Peninsula Drive; Ponce Inlet, Florida 32127

Phone:(904) 761-1821; Fax:(904) 761-1821

Website: <http://www.floridalighthouses.org> E-mail: fla@ponceinlet.org

November 30, 1999

MEMO:

TO: ALL MEMBERS

FROM: TOM TAYLOR

RE: Publication of a membership roster

At the October 30, Annual Meeting, it was proposed and accepted that a membership roster should be made available only to members to permit members to find out the names and addresses of other area members for the purposes of carpooling to events and additional fellowship. Although there is always the fear that such a list might fall into the hands of those who would misuse the list for commercial or other purposes, only a few felt that this would not be a good idea.

Therefore, a Membership Roster will be printed up and enough copies made to provide each individual or family membership with a roster. These will be available at the January and succeeding meetings and for those who request a copy by mail. We ask that members please use these lists for membership purposes ONLY and not give them out for other purposes.

If you DO NOT wish your name and address to be published in this roster, please return the following form to our Office by December 31, 1999.

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MEMBERSHIP ROSTER EXCEPTION FORM

(Deadline: Friday, DECEMBER 31, 1999)

I hereby wish that my name NOT be published in the 1999 Membership Roster List of the Florida Lighthouse Association:

NAME (please print) _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
TELEPHONE: HOME () _____ OFFICE () _____
FAX () _____ E-MAIL _____

Thank you,

Date

Signature

CHECK WITH YOUR TRAVEL AGENT FOR ACCOMMODATIONS
SOME SUGGESTED ACCOMMODATIONS

ON SANIBEL ISLAND:

Lighthouse Resort and Club
210 Periwinkle Way
Sanibel, FL 33957-7493
(941) 472-4162
(Close to lighthouse)

Sanibel Lighthouse Inn
367 Periwinkle Way
Sanibel, FL 33957-7431
(941) 395-1277
(Close to lighthouse)

Brennan's Tarpon Tail Inn
367 Periwinkle Way
Sanibel, FL 33957-7431
(941) 472-0939
(Close to lighthouse)

Anchorage Inn of Sanibel
1245 Periwinkle Way
Sanibel, FL 33957-4720
(941) 395-9688
(Close to meeting)

Best Western Inn
3287 W. Gulf Drive
Sanibel, FL 33957-5611
(941) 472-1700

Driftwood Inn
711 Donax Street
Sanibel, FL 33957-6707
(941) 395-8874

Holiday Inn
1231 Middle Gulf Drive
Sanibel, FL 33957-4123
(941) 472-4123

Sandpiper Inn
720 Donax Street
Sanibel, FL 33957-6708
(941) 472-1529

IN FORT MYERS:

Fountain Motel
14621 McGregor Blvd.
Ft. Myers, FL 33908-1947
(941) 481-0429

Sleep Inn (Off I-75 & Daniels Pkwy.)
13651 Indian Paint Lane
Ft. Myers, FL 33912-1837
(941) 561-1117

Holiday Inn
13051 Bell Tower Drive
Ft. Myers, FL 33907-5927
(941) 482-2900

Radisson Inn
12635 S. Cleveland Avenue
Ft. Myers, FL 33907-3866
(941) 936-4300

Comfort Inn
11501 South Cleveland Avenue
Ft. Myers, FL 33907-2839
(941) 936-3993

Days Inn
11435 S. Cleveland Avenue
Ft. Myers, FL 33907-2343
(941) 936-1311

Howard Johnson
4811 S. Cleveland Avenue
Ft. Myers, FL 33907-1319
(941) 936-3229

Budget Inn
2717 Colonial Blvd.
Ft. Myers, FL 33907-1699
(941) 275-3500

Budget Inn
3715 Cleveland Avenue
Ft. Myers, FL 33901-7905
(941) 936-2181

