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## West Coast District

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(All West Coast states)

### District Superintendent

Wayne Wheeler

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## Point Bonita

Near San Francisco, CA

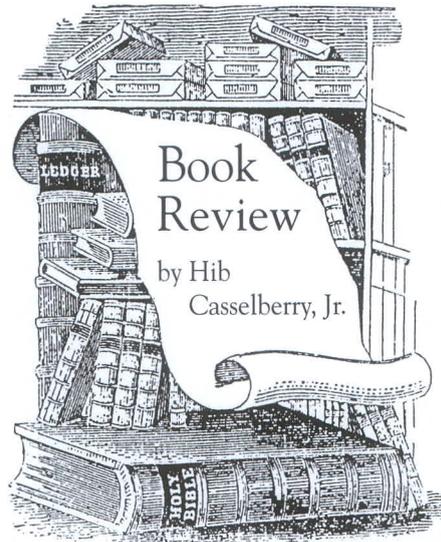
You keepers who visit the San Francisco area on business or for pleasure be sure and schedule some time to take the beautiful walk out to the Point Bonita Lighthouse. The station, established in 1856, was located above the layers of coastal fog, so in 1877 the original lantern room and 2nd Order lens were relocated to the present structure. In the early 1950's the narrow bridge of land leading to the lighthouse and 1902 fog signal building fell away requiring the Coast Guard to construct a 180 foot long wooden suspension bridge to provide access.

The walk to the lighthouse is along the north side of the Golden Gate and provides beautiful vistas of San Francisco, the ocean, and Marin Headlands.

The structure is now under the care of the National Park Service, Golden Gate National Recreation Area and is open for tours on Saturdays and Sundays between 12:30 and 4:00 p.m., and occasionally for evening walks. You may make reservations or obtain information by calling (415) 331-1540.



Point Bonita Light Station circa 1950. U.S. Coast Guard photo.



## FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSES

by Kevin McCarthy  
1990

This book, with text by Kevin McCarthy, paintings by William L. Trotter, and maps by Marjorie A. Niblack, is like a fine all-inclusive dinner — palatable to young and old. The book covers the Atlantic and Gulf Coast lighthouses, including those on the Keys. It is not only an outstanding self-guided tour

guide, but also a collection of mini-historical short stories.

Kevin McCarthy, in a narrative way, includes local history, legends, personal anecdotes, and gives touches of natural history and ecology lessons with the descriptions of our Florida lighthouses and their surroundings. The short, concise chapters are inviting even to the casual reader or non-historian, appealing to broad interest groups — from novices enjoying first lighthouse visits, to lighthouse and Florida history buffs, maritime enthusiasts, and the like.

McCarthy gives the reader a very good introduction: time periods, conditions, and reasons for lighthouses on Florida's coasts are all brought out, setting the framework for the main body of the book. *FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSES* is divided into thirty-one chapters, one for each lighthouse or lightship location beginning on the upper east coast. The chapters travel southward to the Keys and Dry Tortugas, then northward up the west coast to Pensacola. This is very handy for someone wishing to read about a particular area, whether it be for traveling to the lighthouse or to learn about a certain section of the state.

At the front of the book there is a full-page map of Florida, identifying each lighthouse, the nearby community, and the major highways linking them. Each chapter has a beautiful color print by William Trotter, showing the lighthouse in its prime years, with a vivid landscape around it. At the end of each chapter, Marjorie Niblack has provided a dual map. A miniature outline of Florida pinpoints the area, while the larger background map shows the local street and/or highway to the exact location.

*FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSES* gives us glimpses of Florida history. We learn of the land around Ponce de Leon Inlet, "Los Mosquitos," named after the pesky bugs, the barefoot mailmen who struggled and sometimes lost their lives delivering news to South Florida, and early lighthouse keepers and their families who supplemented a once-a-year food supply with plentiful local game. McCarthy points out how each station was affected by our nation's conflicts and achievements, from the Seminole Wars to space-age gantries that sent rockets to the moon and beyond. We learn how the lighthouses were constructed; massive stone and brick towers typical of the New England area were not always successful in Florida. Several alternate designs overcame the problems, mainly the open iron skeleton towers.

About 200 books and booklets on U.S. lighthouses have been published during the last fifteen years, fueled by the bicentennials of our nation and the Lighthouse Service, and the U.S. Coast Guard. Florida has had its share of recent publications. McCarthy's *FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSES* beats them all, covering the entire state and giving the reader a delightful compact book. With one small omission: while this is certainly not a stiff classical book, the inclusion of even a brief bibliography of other material available on Florida's 31 lighthouses would assist the reader who is being introduced to the subject via this friendly guide.

[In soft cover, with 134 pages, 30 color illustrations, it may be obtained through the Keeper's Library for \$9.95 plus shipping and handling.]

## Keepers Around the Nation



Keeper Guy Tower address a crowd of people in Crescent City, CA who have gathered to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the completion of the St. George Reef Lighthouse. The massive structure cost \$715,000 and took ten years to complete. Guy was instrumental in having the huge mural of the station painted on the side of a Crescent City building. The Coast Guard color guard was on hand to assist with the ceremonies.

Guy is one of the founders of the St. George Reef Historical Society, whose aim is to relocate the tower portion of the lighthouse to shore. The station was abandoned in 1972 and the 1st order lens removed in 1984 and transferred to the Del Norte County Historical Society in Crescent City. Photo by David Hill, courtesy of the Times - Standard



Keeper Gwen Lindsey, of Sacramento, CA poses with a doll house modeled after the Block Island, RI SE Light Station. Her father constructed it for her. Gwen states that the light even works.