

video starts at the top of Maine and skips down the coast, across New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and ends at the New London Ledge Lighthouse. It shows just a few of each state's lighthouses, apparently those easiest to reach. Although the photography is good, the mundane, staccato, narration and inappropriate music kill the film. A few basic raw facts are mentioned for each lighthouse visited; two old Life Saving Service Stations are shown, but not explained, and mention of five ship wrecks are interspersed throughout. What shipwrecks have to do with lighthouses is not clear. One would hope that a lighthouse prevents a shipwreck. True they are both marine related, but we saw no mention of whales, albatross or submarines and they are also marine related.

"New England Lighthouses" captures a few stations from each of the New England states. The video ends with a recapitulation of the stations visited. A dot appears on a map of New England showing the location of the station. The 'dot' then zooms out to become a still photo of that station. This addition appears to be more of a time filler than informational and this feature would better serve the viewer if it were used before each light station visited.

Overall, not one of the better lighthouse videos we've seen. By John D. Bardwell and produced by Video Services of Lewiston, ME.

## Maine Lighthouses The Last Watch

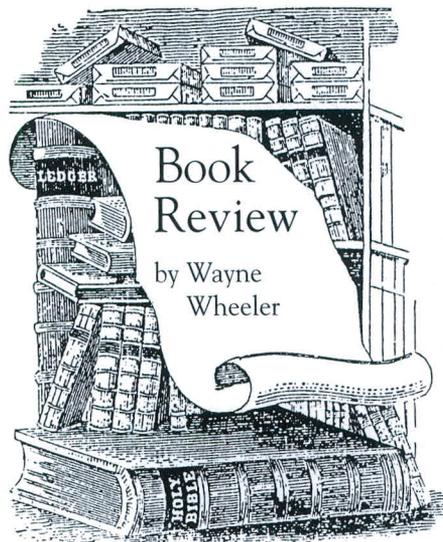
A 30 minute color video by the same people who brought you the above, only worse. Like the "Lighthouses of New England" it spends a few moments at some Maine lighthouses, generally those easier to reach than of importance. Although the annoying background music of the New England lighthouse film isn't used, some rather 'drippy' paintings of lighthouses, and our old friend the shipwreck, punctuate the video. The narration is worse than the prior film. A person with a flat Maine accent is used, hopefully to bring 'character' to the film, when in fact it sounds like Uncle Henry narrating his summer

vacation in a monotone voice. The film is jerky in spots, particularly those scenes shot from a vessel. In addition to seven shipwrecks, the ubiquitous ghost and pirate are mentioned.

Most of the 'facts' are uninteresting (34 stairs to the tower, mahogany windows, etc.) and a few are inaccurate; the bell house at Pemaquid was not an old oil house.

The video ends with a burst of rhetoric and a map of Maine (much like the New England video ending) showing a still photo of each lighthouse and its location on the Maine coast. As mentioned in the New England video review, the location map would better serve the viewer before each light station is introduced.

An amateurish video and not recommended. Written by John D. Bardwell with William O. Thompson. Produced by Video Services, Unlimited of Lewiston, ME.



## LIGHTHOUSES OF THE FLORIDA KEYS

by Love Dean

Several years ago Love Dean published a book on the Florida Keys. It was the first book devoted to those lighthouses we were aware of, and it contained some very interesting material. Parts of the book were somewhat sketchy and the use of blue ink destroyed

the photos. She has now rewritten the book and has produced a winner!

"Lighthouses of the Florida Keys," begins with the basic background information on lighthouses found in almost all lighthouse books and then swings into lighthouses of the Keys. (Although the Fowey Rocks and Cape Florida structures are not in the Keys, they are geographically close enough to be included.) Fowey Rocks is a similar structure to several along the Keys and the Cape Florida Lighthouse has an exciting story attached.

She sets aside a chapter for each lighthouse and has placed them in chronological order. Each chapter is backed with extensive foot notes, *proving* the detailed research involved with this effort. The book is laced with human interest stories and tales of 'moon rakers,' shipwrecks and fierce storms. The book contained numerous photos, drawings and illustrations. One criticism is the use of a very difficult to read chartlet at the beginning of each chapter to show the location of the lighthouse which is the subject of that chapter. The chartlet is very difficult to read and in most cases the lighthouse location cannot be determined. Other than this flaw, and the fact that the book is a tad pricy for a paperback, this is a wonderful book to read, filled with history of the Keys, and quite an improvement over her first effort.

Soft cover, 7" x 10", numerous black and white photos, drawings and chartlets. Available through the Keeper's Library at \$24.95 plus shipping and handling.