

California Lighthouse Life in the 1920s and 1930s.

by Wayne C. Wheeler

This is a photographic history of the lighthouses of California's South Coast, San Francisco Bay, and the North Coast, as well as lightships and support facilities.

This compact volume features over 175 never before published, early photographs, mostly dating from 1929 to 1932, taken by former Lighthouse Service employee Irving Conklin. The book depicts lighthouse life in a quieter era – a time when our keepers were thankful to have secure employment and when they kept the lights burning to protect the continual parade of vessels plying the waters along California's rugged coastline.

As you would expect from this well-known author and historian, well researched and beautifully arranged, a feast for the eyes. [Reviewed by Jim Clafin, U. S.' leading nautical antique dealer specializing in Lighthouse Service, Life Saving Service and Coast Guard.]

Published as part of the Images of America series by Arcadia Publishing. 128 pp. Over 175 vintage photographs and engineer's drawings and maps. Available through Lighthouse Gallery & Gifts, 685-B Hwy 101, Florence, OR for \$18.99 plus shipping and handling. Contact them at (800) 320-2130.

Bansemer's Book of Carolina and Georgia Lighthouses

By Roger Bansemer

Illustrator Roger Bansemer has done it again. In what appears to be a continuing series, artist Bansemer has created another stunning book of lighthouses in the vein of his earlier work on Florida Lighthouses (see *Keeper's Log* Vol. XV No. 3).

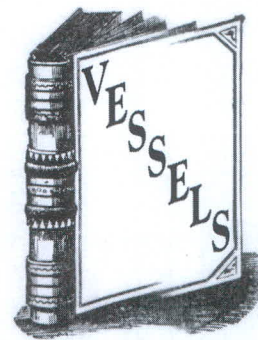
After a nicely-illustrated section on optics used in lighthouses over the years, he starts south from the Roanoke River Lighthouse, which was relocated to Edenton, NC years ago. He faithfully illustrates the lighthouses of North and South Carolina and Georgia, showing various lighthouses at different times of day. Accompanying each color rendition are small color details of the lighthouse and/or pleasant line drawings. A short historical sketch is included and, where appropriate, current information about the availability and status of the light station. Small maps pinpoint the location of each lighthouse.

One of the many strengths of the book is the manner in which he captures the setting of the lighthouses, injecting flora and fauna to set the mood and capture the locale. Salt air, lap of wave and grittiness of sand are all too evident as one pages through this visual delight. It's all there: accurately rendered lighthouses, the setting, the mood and snippets of detail that bring you to each locale.

My only disappointment is the inclusion of the Harbor Town Lighthouse, which, as Bansemer explains, is not a lighthouse. It is a very poor facsimile of a lighthouse tower, looking more like an airport control tower, and certainly not in the same league as the other architectural treasures the book covers.

Still, Roger Bansemer's latest effort is as accurate and colorful as his first. This is a coffee table book you'll want to leaf through again and again, noticing a new detail with each visit. You will want to set this wonderful book along side his Florida volume in your lighthouse library.

Hard cover, 9 1/2" by 12", 128 pages, numerous color and black and white illustrations. Available through Lighthouse Gallery & Gifts, 685-B Hwy 101, Florence, OR for \$24.95 plus shipping and handling.



United States Lighthouse Service Tenders (1840 - 1939)

By Douglas Peterson

Douglas Peterson, a retired Coast Guard Warrant Officer, spent a great many years researching the history of the vessels, which were the backbone of the Lighthouse Service, the tenders.

The Lighthouse Service encompassed more than light stations. Lightships, supply depots and tenders were all part of the fabric of that fascinating service, and the tenders were the thread that bound the components.

Tenders, more recently called buoy tenders, are the unsung heroes of the Lighthouse Service, and after 1939, the Coast Guard. Tenders serviced buoys and minor shore aids, and their crews were engaged in minor construction projects. The vessels transported keepers and their furnishings between light stations, made periodic visits to light stations and lightships to deliver supplies and transported the district inspector on his inspection rounds.

Surrounding the chapters of this book are, an introduction, a brief overall history and some valuable appendices. The chapters are broken down into: The Early Years, 1840-1869, Under the Lighthouse Board, 1870-1910, With the Bureau of Lighthouses, 1910 - 1939 and the Epilogue: Into the Coast Guard, after 1939.

The first tender constructed especially for the Lighthouse Service was the Shubrick, named after Admiral Shubrick, the first chairman of the Lighthouse Board. Prior to that time, vessels required to conduct service business were contracted for or purchased from private parties.

Reaching back to 1840 to obtain vessel

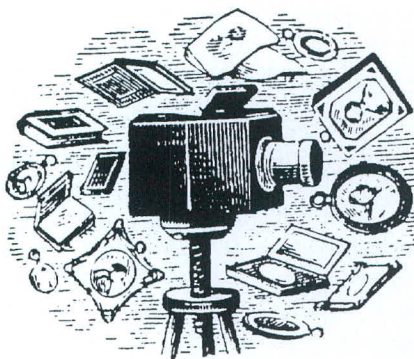
information required a lot of tenacity on the part of Mr. Peterson, yet he was able to dig out a considerable amount of information on those early tenders.

Generally, the data on each vessel includes the shipyard in which it was built, the year constructed and commissioned, a physical description of the hull and machinery, cost and disposition. Where information was available, there is a short paragraph on the history of the vessel and mention of any sister vessels.

This meaty book is laced with wonderful photos that are worth the price of the volume alone. It is a must for the serious student of the history of our Lighthouse Service and should be part of every maritime library. It's also a fascinating read for even the casual student of the subject.

Hard cover, 10" x 10", 164 pages and hundreds of wonderful black and white photos. Available through Lighthouse Gallery & Gifts, 685-B Hwy 101, Florence, OR for \$39.95 plus shipping and handling. Contact them at (800) 320-2130.

Video Review



Scotland's Lighthouses— An Exploration of Working Landmarks

A Morgan Video

An outstanding video came our way recently. While there are a great many lighthouse videos flooding the market, along with books, most leave a lot to be desired. Many are amateur productions; lacking, in fact, character, substance and quality. Scotland's Lighthouses, however, is a cut above the mainstream lighthouse video. The photography is absolutely stunning. The story line revolves around the creative reuse of some of Scotland's lighthouses. Inexpensive bed and breakfasts, high-end lodging, museums and

private use are all shown. Much of the hour-long video is accompanied with various styles of music and most of the time the selections blend in with the story line. One might think there is a tad too much bagpipe music at the beginning, but overall, the sound track is very well thought out.

The video begins with a short piece on the Stevensons and early Scottish lighthouse development. From that starting point it skips around the country touching on several areas of the coast and a few of the island lighthouses. It opens aboard the Northern Lighthouse Board's tender The Pharos, which is landing supplies at the famous Bell Rock Lighthouse via helicopter. Subsequent stops include Ardnamurchan, St. Abbs Head, Holy Island, Turnberry, Stroma Island, Kinnaird Head (containing Scotland's lighthouse museum), Corsewall, Rua Reidh, North Ronaldsay, Balta Sound, Brough of Birsay and Eshaness, which was purchased by an American couple as a retreat. The journey touches on several different styles in varied locations and provides a good overview of the lighthouses and coast of that country. It's a fascinating, educational and enjoyable video and one that you'll want to watch several times.

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