

## Volunteering a Way of Life

Woodrow Wilson felt deeply about giving and especially about the kind of giving that we call volunteerism. He said; "Nothing but what you volunteer has the essence of life, the springs of pleasure in it. These are the things that you do because you want to do them, the things your spirit has chosen for its satisfaction...the more you are stimulated to such action, the more clearly does it appear to you that you are a sovereign spirit put into the world, not to wear a harness, but to work eagerly without it."

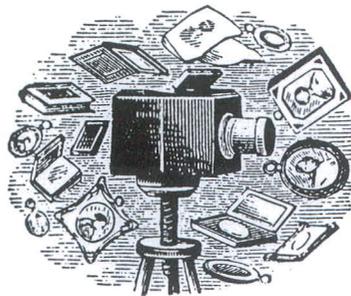
## The Lighthouse Keeper's Wife

By Connie Small

University of Maine Press, 1986

Filled with the charm of a by-gone era, this tale of the twenty-eight year long marriage of Connie and her husband Elson, is a treasure of little anecdotes, lovingly related. Just as Norman Rockwell could share the message of his perceptions of a time and place via paintings, Connie recreates the intimate, isolated world of a lighthouse-keeping couple in Maine. Devoted to each other and the duties dictated by their circumstances, the two share a life of simple pastimes and the richness of days unfolding busily. Some periods were delightful, others anxiety-filled; each place and event was memorable.

When widowed, Connie stretched from the nineteenth century role of devoted helpmate to that of an independent professional woman, making her own way in the world. Our Maine tour group had the pleasure of hearing Connie speak, and everyone fell in love with her. You will too, as you read these timeless observations of a life carefully lived, with its warp threads of discipline intertwined by a weft of adventures, visitors, the wonders of nature, and interests developing late in life. Soft cover 5½" x 8½", 226 pages, 26 black and white photographs. Available through the Keeper's Library at \$9.95 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling.



## Video Review

A fantastic video has come to our attention called Split Rock—The Age of Steel. It was produced by the Minnesota Historical Society and is available through the Split Rock Lighthouse. Clever photography techniques, wonderful scenery and an emotional original musical score all blend to delight you for some 28 minutes. The story is told by Ralph Tinkham who was a Lighthouse Service engineer around the turn of the century and eventually rose to be head engineer of the service. Along the way he constructed lighthouses in Alaska, Hawaii and, Split Rock in 1910. The story is of the age of steel, of the iron ore being shipped 'down lake' to the steel plants of America's heartland. The vast number of ships, and ship wrecks, called for new lighthouses along Lake Superior, one to be built at Split Rock Point (north of Duluth). This is the story of the construction and history of that station. It also provides a glimpse of the keeper's life during the early days of this

century. The entire film is woven together with a clever script, beautiful photography and emotional music to give you the "flower of the bean..er. beam." If this lighthouse story doesn't at least cause a catch in your throat you are a hard man or woman, Charlie Brown.

You may obtain this video by sending \$36.95 and \$1.50 shipping and handling to Split Rock Lighthouse, 2010 Highway 61 East, Two Harbors, 55616...and tell 'em the head keep sent you.



## Foreign Affairs

## Mosher Island Lighthouse to Close

*Nova Scotia*

The government announced recently that the Mosher Island lighthouse would be discontinued. This is sad news for Ingram Wolf, the last lighthouse keeper along Nova Scotia's rugged coast. He has spent his entire adult life working two lighthouses in the vicinity. He thinks it a shame that there won't be any 'eyes' to watch for vessels in trouble. He recounted that when he got his first keeper's job 30 years ago it was difficult, "in those days we had to appear before a Justice of the Peace who quizzed us. We had to be familiar with the sea, aids to navigation, lights and fog horns", he said. Until he is removed he and his assistant stand two eight hour watches seven days a week. They attend to the optic, fog horn, diesel generators, conduct station maintenance, watch shipping and stand periodic radio watches. "Very importantly, we come to the aid of fishermen and