

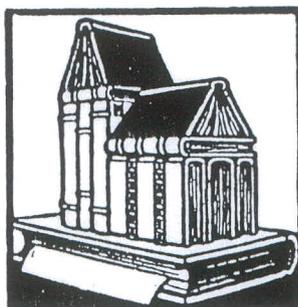
## Lights and Legends

By Harlan Hamilton

The title also states "A Historical Guide to Lighthouses of Long Island Sound, Fishers Island Sound and Block Island Sound." This work encompasses an area of the country which the author felt comfortable writing about, his own backyard. After a very brief background on lighthouse history the book proceeds in chapters of 2 to 6 pages, each chapter being a brief introduction to a lighthouse of the region covered. Every lighthouse chapter begins with a short fact column listing the date constructed, rebuilt if applicable, discontinued, aids installed, etc.

Some "chapters" are more complete than others, one gets the feeling that if information was readily available it was included and if not readily available, left out. The book has modern aids to navigation equipment explanations sprinkled throughout and three ending chapters dedicated to technology, lenses and illuminates. Although there are some erroneous "facts" the book is a fairly good reference source as it contains basic historical information on each light station included and a picture of that structure. A Post Card collector trying to identify a particular Post Card from this area would do well to have this resource book at hand.

Soft cover, published by the Wescott Cove publishing Co., 6" x 9", 286 pages, 46 black and white photos, 12 drawings and a chartlet of the area.



## Robert's Tall Friend

By Vivian Farrell

This absolutely delightful children's book is about a young man's visit to and eventual friendship with a neglected Fire Island lighthouse. Over a period of time he learns about lighthouses in general and the Fire Island tower in particular. He learns to "talk" to the tower and becomes obsessed with saving the tower from further decay. In his own way, he begins the process by cleaning the lantern room and polishing brass. The story has a happy ending that is real, the old keeper's house and tower are restored and the Coast Guard even placed an optic back in the lantern room.

This story, anchored in history, is made even more delightful by the outstanding water colors, illustrating the tale, from the talented brush of Christy Edwards.

There is a short historical section at the back of the book that provides a broad brush history of the light station that includes the first tower as well as the present tower up to the dramatic, and touching, relighting ceremony in May of 1986. I was fortunate enough to have been invited to the ceremony and awarded one of the limited metals struck for the occasion. This is one book that is guaranteed to turn some young reader into a lighthouse lover for life.

Soft bound, published by Island Metro-Productions, 6" x 9", 15 water colors plus other illustrations. Available through the Keeper's Library at \$8.95 plus s 7 h.



## Crossed The Bar

Norma Engel, author of the excellent book *Three Beans of Light*, "crossed the bar" this past January. Miss Engel was a little girl when her father accepted the position as Head Keeper of the Ballast Point lighthouse in San Diego Bay in 1914. Her father retired from the Lighthouse Service and that station in 1931. Norma, who never married, spent the rest of her life in San Diego as a schoolteacher. Her book chronicles her parents' life in the service at three California light stations.

## And Then There Were None

This column is Roll Call to that endangered and vanishing species. Manned Lighthouse Americanus. And then there were 8...

### MAINE

Goat Island (1859)

Kennebec River (one station)

Squirrel Point (1890)

Doubling Point Range (1890)

Owls Head (1826)

Portland Head (1790)

### MASSACHUSETTS

Boston (1789)

### RHODE ISLAND

Block Island, SE (1875)

### NEW YORK

Coney Island (1890)

### FLORIDA

Egmont Key (1848)