Book Review
by Wayne Wheeler

A Lighthouse Family
by Harold Jennings
Lower Cape Publishing Co.

Keeper Harold Jennings has finally finished his book, the book that wife Hattie has prodded him all these years to write. It's about growing up on Lovell's Island in Boston Harbor where his father was keeper of the Range Lights. It's about life in the 1920's and 30's without electricity, long boat rides (on a number of different vessels) to school. Harold weaves his tale of life at a lighthouse, as an only child, with staccato bursts of memory in short personal sentences, much like the "sea stories" told by lighthouse keepers over the years.

Author Jennings spent 18 happy years on Lovell's Island and experienced a world apart from what children ashore would know. He learned, to an extent, the lighthouse business and how to row a boat at an early age. He witnessed, first hand and close up, ship wrecks and nor'easters and "rum runners." Young Jennings had a world to himself, sometimes lonely, and perhaps lacking in things that mainland kids had. But then he had buried treasure and his own fort replete with disappearing guns and parapets to play around. A life at sea anchored in Boston Harbor...on Lovell's Island. The memories of another day and a work that many of you will want to add to your lighthouse library.

The book is liberally laced with photographs from the family album and other sources which help to paint the picture of that vanished way of life. My only criticism is that the photos were not handled properly by the publisher and many are somewhat murky. But, overall, a delightful book that speaks of life on a light station.

Hard cover 5/" 8/", 118 pages, 85 black and white photos. Available through the Keeper's Library at $15.00 plus $2.00 shipping and handling.

Bicentennial Lighthouse Poster

Our full color Bicentennial lighthouse poster "Lighting the Way for 200 Years" features the photograph that won first place in our 1988 photography contest. It was taken by Wanda LaBorde of Houston, TX and developed with the Mystic Seaport people. Wanda states that she is a legal secretary by trade but photography is one of her passions. She started avidly taking pictures with a Brownie at seven, driving her parents crazy. She has won numerous local, state, national and international photography contests and her work has appeared in magazines and on calendars. Like many of you keepers, Wanda states that she has a huge collection of lighthouse items: post cards, ceramics, books, magazines...you know! all that stuff. She says that Lighthouses really make a perfect picture... "nothing like a lighthouse at sunset for peace and serenity." Thanks Wanda.

Our Bicentennial posters are available at your local lighthouse gift store. For those not near a lighthouse gift store (Kansas and the like) you may order one through the Keeper's Locker at $15 which includes shipping and handling. Not only is this a most handsome poster,