

Umbrella Guide to Washington Lighthouses

By Sharlene P. & Ted W. Nelson
Umbrella Books, Washington, 1990

This book does well, exactly what it says it does: gets one there. Our Head Keep' was asked to write the foreword, and he was happy to do so.

Organized in seven sections, the contents take one to lighthouses from the Puget Sound area, Admiralty Inlet, the San Juan Islands, the Strait of Juan de Fuca and along the Washington coast, from Cape Flattery to Cape Disappointment. Two final segments of the book deal with lightships, tenders, lenses, lamps, whistles and bells. Each section has historical background on the building(s) or vessels, and some anecdotes from keepers' lives — from the early Lighthouse Service era through the current USCG period, depending.

Each entry features a black & white photo of each lighthouse under discussion, provides access information (whether by road, hiking trails, etc.), maps and directions when needed, appropriate times for public visitation where relevant, and warnings when applicable. The authors note which lighthouses are *not* open to the public, and various anecdotes (and photographs!) underscore the danger or dif-

ficulty of access at a specific location; "seeker be wary" is an advice from the first page onward.

The credit citations clearly illustrate the background gathered by the authors: other writers, former lighthouse personnel, librarians, historical societies and museums, large and small. Though "only" a guide, this book offers much information and lore, which satisfies and arouses curiosity at the same time. The authors' choice of anecdotes is diverse and fascinating; they tell about shipwrecks, keepers juggling time and tides, and the lighthouse personnel's struggle with communications to the outside world. The Nelsons' "Lighthouse Characteristics List" (pp 138-141) is just the sort of thing one wants, during forays in foggy weather, to truly understand the personality of each structure.

This book, in the glove compartment of your car while on the road, would be a good companion to Jim Gibbs' books, which you might have back at home on your library shelves. It is a 5 1/2" x 8 1/2" paperback; 151 pages, \$10.95 plus S & H.

Beacons of Light — Lighthouses

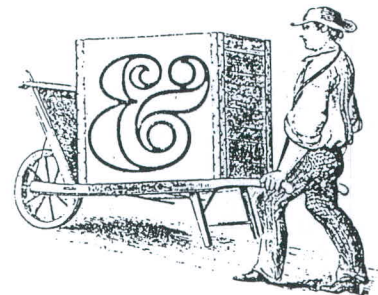
By Gail Gibbons
Morrow Jr. Books, New York, 1990

Several members let us know about this great new juvenile book. We requested a review copy — and agree — it's terrific! Useful for reading aloud to primary grades, this fresh and factual presentation of lighthouse history and technology will be a wonderful addition to the library of any children who have begun to read well by themselves. It will serve beautifully as the "next step" resource book for those young people who — inspired by the stories of "The Little Red Lighthouse . . .," Abby Burgess and the like — want to learn more about lighthouses.

Ms. Gibbons sketches a brief but accurate survey over the evolution of the lighthouse since antiquity, ending with drawings of different types of lighthouses in America; examples from the Great

Lakes, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, Florida, and California. The book omits a Chesapeake Bay type of screwpile structure, but this omission does not lessen the value of the fine material provided. The author explains or illustrates a whole glossary of technical terms dealing with lights, foghorns, lighthouse structures, keepers' duties, and provides a reasonable number of important historical statistics. Her text is cleverly pulled together with an idea of "lighthouse flashings" which brings focus to her abundant information.

The format: 8 1/2" by 10 1/8", with sewn signatures in a hard cover, will withstand lots of use. The illustrations — appealing sea-toned washes, combined with clear and simple watercolor and line drawings — inform while evoking the isolation of the lighthouse settings, the devotion of the keepers and the trust of the mariners. 34 pages. We carry it in our Library Section, for \$12.95 plus S & H.



Bandon Stamp Club Cancel

Bandon, OR

The Bandon Stamp Club has announced that they are continuing their lighthouse theme for their 1990 cancel. This year's cancel will feature the lightship Columbia (LV 604) which is moored at the Astoria Maritime Museum. Other cachets still available are Yaquina Head (1986), Cape Meares (1987), Tillamook Rock (1988) and Cleft of the Rock (1989).

Cost of all cachets is \$1.00 or 3 for \$2.50. Collectors may obtain these by sending a #10 SASE to Larry Casey, 2678 Stanton St., North Bend, OR 97459.