



## The Lighthouses of Hawaii

By Love Dean

Love Dean has produced another fascinating and very well researched book on lighthouses. Her first, *Reef Lights* was an excellent study of the 'seaswept Lighthouses of the Florida Keys' and, as far as we know, the only study of those unique lighthouses.

Her Hawaiian book is the result of thousands of hours of primary research; it details the development of marine commerce in the islands and the need for navigational aids. It covers aids to navigation prior to Hawaii becoming a territory (when very crude aids were established) to the Territorial days, and then finally the aids to navigation under the federal government. She describes construction, equipment and provides a glimpse of the keeper's lives. She also devotes a chapter to the tenders (ships) that serviced the aids and a chronology of the keepers. This is a fascinating book and is laced with historic photographs.

It is, however, more of a study of the aids to navigation, encompassing more minor aids to navigation than light stations. Because the Hawaiian Islands never had more than a handful or two of light stations she has had to "flesh out" the book with unmanned aids to navigation or secondary lights which, sometimes, had a Light Attendant. As an

example there were five light stations in all the Hawaiian Islands in 1933 and just seven in 1950. Still, this is a scholarly work and deserves to be in the libraries of lighthouse lovers and historians alike.

Hard cover (with a color wrapper), 8½" x 9¼", 224 pages (of which 43 are lists of keepers, glossary, bibliography and index), numerous black and white photographs and location maps. \$19.95 + S & H.



Book Review by Tanja Rabbitt

## THE LITTLE RED LIGHTHOUSE and the Great Grey Bridge

Hildegard Hoyt Swift, Lynd Ward  
Harcourt, Brace Jovanovich, Inc.

Much to the delight of those of us who loved it long ago, this child's classic is still printed. It is based on an actual red lighthouse, known as Jeffrey's Hook, on Manhattan Island. Set during the time of the construction of the George Washington Bridge over the Hudson River, the story tells how the lighthouse felt dwarfed by the apparent importance of the "Great Grey Bridge" — until events and the Bridge's validation of "Little Red" made things right again. The lighthouse is personified in the manner of "Little Toot" or the "The Little Engine That Could." Mr. Ward's engaging drawings encourage young imaginations, and the drama of this little lighthouse becomes completely believable to children. So much so, that this

book did influence a movement to assure preservation of the lighthouse.

First printed in 1942, the story became an icon for millions of children, and on July 11, 1951 the *New York Herald Tribune* featured an article titled "Child Friends of Small Lighthouse Shocked by News It's Up for Sale." The report referred to the overwhelming response from children — received by the Coast Guard, mayor, and the park commissioner — upon the Guard's announcement that the lighthouse was to be abandoned and put up for sale.

The children's appeals were joined by many others, near and far; even Eleanor Roosevelt voiced her objections. And on August 12, 1951, a feature article appeared in the Berlin paper, *Das Neue Zeitung*: "Der Leuchtturm der Kinder." Then, in the May 11, 1963 issue of *Saturday Review*, rebutting a critique from the February issue (in which the personification of the lighthouse was belittled), Ms. Swift sketched the history of her book. She related events over nine years, from the book's conception when she witnessed the first giant cables of the Washington Bridge being stretched over Jeffrey's Hook, to its impact — a groundswell of concern and the subsequent halt of the proposed sale of the lighthouse. Her review concluded with an echo to her own last lines in the book: ". . . the fantasy in the book has come true. 'Beside the towering gray bridge the Lighthouse still bravely stands. Though it knows that it is little, it is still very, very proud.'"

Interest about the fate of the real lighthouse in Ft. Washington Park has continued. Our Society's file on Jeffrey's Hook contains additional entries, reaching from 1979, up through Michael Mooney's 1985 *Sea Frontiers* article on "Li'l Red," and *NY Times* columns from 1985 and 1986, discussing restoration efforts under the Parks and Recreation Department, current guardian to Little Red.

Thanks to Member Mary Davitt, who brought this more recent printing to our attention, we now have it available for you. Hard cover, 7¼" x 8¾", 53 pages, three-tone watercolor illustrations. A time-tested favorite at \$15.95 + S & H.