WOMEN WHO KEPT THE LIGHTS

By Mary Louise and Candace Clifford

The Clifford mother and daughter team have produced an absolutely charming book which is true to its subtitle: "An Illustrated History of Female Lighthouse Keepers." The book contains a chapter of 23 female lighthouse keepers, women who generally obtained the position much in the same way, when their husbands or fathers became incapacitated or died. The stories reflect a steadfast determination to "keep the lights" and provide fascinating reading.

The book contains numerous fine, and some rare, photos. At the back is a wonderful appendix listing all the female lighthouse keepers which team Clifford could locate. They are listed by their lighthouse by state. Also a comprehensive set of end notes is included.

Sprinkled throughout the book are 11 side bars meant to inform the reader about various aspects of "lighthouse keeping," samples of the women's log entries and reproductions of old Lighthouse Service District chartlets showing the location of all the stations in a particular district.

The log entries and District chartlets are drawbacks to this generally fine work as the small size of both make them hard to read.

A TRAVELER'S GUIDE TO 116 MICHIGAN LIGHTHOUSES

By the Penrose family

Finally, lighthouse guides are starting to be published. They are long overdue and will, no doubt, save numerous lighthouse lovers a lot of frustration trying to locate their favorite subject.

Michigan Lighthouses is a straightforward, no nonsense book which devotes a half or full page to each lighthouse in the state of Michigan and some pier head towers (which aren't really lighthouses, but people love to photograph them anyway).

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