

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.

The 11 side bars (New Lamps to Light the Atlantic Coast, Adoption of the Fresnel Lens, etc.) are a clever, non linear idea, but a few are laced with errors or fail to provide clear explanations.

Still, even with its few warts, this is a charming and informative work which should be of great interest to all lighthouse fans and especially the distaff set.

Soft cover, 7 x 9, 192 pages, 78 illustrations or photos and an appendix listing 138 official women lighthouse keepers. Available through the Keeper's Library for \$19.95 plus shipping and handling.

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).

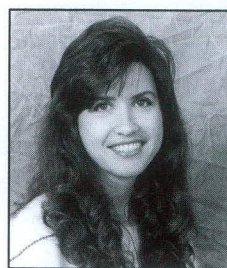
Each article on a lighthouse, or unmanned light, relates a brief history, and where possible provides a small map on how to reach the lighthouse. If you are going lighthouse "shooting" in Michigan this book is a must. The Penrose family (the whole family was involved) also have provided wonderful side bars of information. In the front of the book is a listing of charter boats and aircraft to take you to various lighthouse areas (off shore stations) by water or air. In the rear of the volume are valuable lists of lighthouses whose interiors you can gain access to, lighthouses with towers you can climb, lighthouses with museums and a list of those still active.

The book boasts 116 lighthouses, but again, many are not classical lighthouses but merely pierhead aids to navigation. 8 1/2 x 11 soft cover format, 110 pages, numerous black and white and eight color photos and many valuable maps on how to reach certain light stations. Available through the Keeper's Library at \$14.95 plus shipping and handling.

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