



LITTLE SABLE POINT LIGHT STATION

By Thomas Tag

Member Thomas Tag has produced what might be considered the perfect format for a small book on the history of a light station. He has covered all the bases beginning with a brief history of the area, details on the construction of the station buildings (initially and in later years), human interest, and the status of the station today.

The book is laced with historic photos, drawings, and excerpts from the keeper's logs. Thomas Tag also provides clear explanations of the lens and lamp. A list is provided of known keepers from 1873, when the station went operational, to the last keeper in 1955 as well as a listing of known shipwrecks in the area.

Little Sable Point is one of the tall tower light stations on the Great Lakes and is located half way down Lake Michigan's eastern shore. The book, almost a booklet, is interesting and reads very nicely. Groups contemplating producing a book about their light station would be well served by reading this book and noticing the format and layout. It's an inexpensive, visual charmer.

Soft color cover 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", 52 pages, numerous photos, drawings, and maps. It is available at \$7.95, plus \$1.85 shipping, by writing Thomas Tag, 6262 Blossom Park Dr., Dayton, OH 45449.

THE LIGHTHOUSE ACTIVITY BOOK

By Elinor De Wire,
Reviewed by Lisa M. Truesdale

My house is packed to the brim with lighthouses big and small — lamps and candle holders, framed prints, figurines, and more — so guests cannot help but inquire about my favorite pastime. It's no different for my seven-year-old nephew, who asks me about them every time he visits. He's very interested, but not quite ready to delve into my collection of lighthouse books.

But I'm pleased to announce that help has arrived, in the form of Elinor De Wire's *Lighthouse Activity Book*. Perfect for children my nephew's age, it's pure lighthouse education, cleverly disguised as stories, poems, puzzles, word games, trivia, and craft projects that kids will love. The great variety of activities presented is especially appealing.

The highlight, for me, was De Wire's opening prose, "Everything I Ever Needed to Know I Learned from a Lighthouse," which includes humorous yet thoughtful reflections like "Life can be a little stormy now and then" and "Leave a light on for those who aren't home yet." I also enjoyed the creative suggestions for throwing a lighthouse party, such as playing "Pin the Light on the Lighthouse" and decorating a lighthouse cake.

Though this is already a fairly well-rounded book, it still lends itself well to expansion in a later edition. For instance, there should be some activities based on the poems and stories, to help children better retain what they've read.

Also, some puzzles may be nearly impossible to complete. One such activity requires matching women keepers with the lights they tended, though with no background information or even hints, I'm not sure what children can do with this except guess.

Still, children as young as five may enjoy many of the book's activities, and this delightful book will provide hours of fun education for "children" of all ages!

Softcover (workbook form), 84 pages, with several black and white sketches. Available from the Keeper's Locker for \$11.95 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling.

THE LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS OF CASCO BAY

By Peter Dow Bachelder,
Reviewed by Lisa M. Truesdale

When I first sat down to read *The Lighthouses and Lightships of Casco Bay*, I wondered how information about only seven lighthouses could fill over 100 pages. By the time I finished the book, however, Peter Dow Bachelder had me yearning for more and wondering why the book wasn't longer.

Chapter one, Portland Head Light, is the longest, and rightly so; with more than a half million visitors in the last decade alone, its beauty and popularity are hard to match. But Bachelder's text delves far deeper than Portland Head's outward beauty to chronicle the history of Maine's oldest lighthouse, beginning even before the station went into operation in 1791.

Throughout the book, Bachelder's well-written text and carefully selected photos and illustrations combine perfectly to capture the distinctive characteristics of each light. In chapter four, for instance, I could truly feel the desolation of Halfway Rock, "a lonely, windswept patch of naked ledge." A photo taken from a Coast Guard tender attempting to land on the three-acre rock in rough waters effectively heightens the drama.

One word of warning: Perhaps only diehard lighthouse lovers and maritime history buffs will appreciate Bachelder's intense detail in some parts (fortunately, I am one of the former). Case in point: I now possess the knowledge that when the iron steamship *Brooklyn* grounded on a submerged ledge near Portland Breakwater Light in 1883, all the cargo headed for Liverpool, England was saved — including 93,000 pounds of bacon, 4,975 bushels of peas, 240 sheep, and more!

This book will be most attractive to those who thrive on detail, yet armchair travelers will also appreciate it for the unusual facts and fascinating photos it contains. It doesn't really work as a guidebook, though, because visitor information is not easily accessible.

Softcover, 112 pages, many black and white photographs, sketches, and painting reproductions throughout. Available through the Keeper's Locker for \$12.50 plus \$4.00 shipping and handling.