Marquette Harbor Light Station is Inspiration for Playwright
Lake Superior, Marquette, MI

A historical musical, "Beacon on the Rock," is being written by Northern Michigan University Professor Shelley Russell-Parks. The performing arts professor is developing a musical about the amazing varieties of immigrants who came to Michigan's Upper Peninsula to mine iron ore, sail the lakes, and log the forests. A central theme in the production is the construction of the Marquette Harbor Light Station. The play is partially financed by grants from the Michigan Council for the Humanities, and Northern Michigan University. A previous play by Russell-Parks was selected to be presented at the week-long Kennedy Center/American College Theater Festival in Washington, D.C. The lighthouse was originally constructed in 1853, but the current structure dates to 1866. If you are visiting Michigan's beautiful Upper Peninsula (goin' to da U.P., eh?), try to catch "Beacon on the Rock," which opens June 30th and continues with about 20 more shows during July.

In a related story, the old lighthouse functioned as a haunted house this past Halloween. Wet weather and a half-hour wait didn't dampen the spirits of the nearly 1,000 people who paid $2 to get frightened over the two-night event. Personnel from the U.S. Coast Guard Station and the Marquette Maritime Museum conceived and conducted the tours, with the proceeds benefitting the Marquette Maritime Museum.

Book Reviews
By Wayne Wheeler

LIGHTHOUSES AND LIFE SAVING ALONG THE MASSACHUSETTS COAST
By James Claflin

We recently received a copy of a delightful new book of 19th century images of lighthouses, lightships and life saving stations along the Massachusetts coast.

The book was fashioned by James Claflin, a dealer in items relating to the Lighthouse Service, Life Saving Service and the Coast Guard. From his holdings he has selected some wonderful images of the 19th century which give the 'flavor of the bean' of what life was like in the good ol' days on light stations, life boat stations and lightships. Many of the images are rare and have not been published in the hundreds of lighthouse books presently flooding the market.

The book is sectioned into chapters: The Early Years, The North Shore, Boston Bay, Cape Cod, The Lightships, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard and Buzzards Bay (which includes the Elizabeth Islands). This is basically a photo book with some lengthy captions relating some history and/or explaining some interesting aspect of the photo.

Lighthouses and Life Saving Along the Massachusetts Coast is a wonderful book and one which you will scan through over and over, discovering some new element to a photograph each time.

Soft cover, 6 by 9 inches, 128 pages with 177 photos, maps and drawings. Available through the Keeper's Locker for $18.99 plus shipping and handling.