

# the FLA FLASH

A quarterly newsletter of the Florida Lighthouse Association, Inc.

## QUARTERLY MEETING TO BE AT PENSACOLA LIGHTHOUSE!

### THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

A lot of exciting things are happening here in Florida with regard to lighthouse preservation. Tom Garner, our Fourth District Commissioner, is keeping an eye on the preservation of the endangered Cape San Blas Light Station keeper's dwellings which Eglin Air Force Base was going to let disappear in the winter storms. Tom set up meetings with the State Historic Preservation officers and with local Cape San Blas residents to encourage them to form an organization to help make sure the Air Force abides by its duty with regard to Federal historic preservation law.

In another exciting venture, the FLA is gearing up for a major fund raising campaign to raise \$250,000 for the restoration of the St. Mark's Lighthouse. When restored, the lighthouse will be opened to the public, the first Gulf Coast Lighthouse to be opened! We need corporate addresses for our mailing campaign!

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### NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING

On SATURDAY, APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup>, our second Quarterly Meeting for 1999 will occur at the Pensacola Lighthouse. The meeting and luncheon will occur at the MUSTIN BEACH OFFICERS' CLUB on the PENSACOLA NAVAL AIR STATION. When coming into Pensacola, follow directions or ask for directions to the Main Gate of the Naval Air Station. At the Main Gate, ask for directions to the Mustin Beach Officers' Club, Building #258 on Radford Boulevard.

The Board of Commissioners will be meeting at 9:00am, and the membership meeting will begin at 10:30 am.

Lunch will be served after the meeting at about 12:00. A Registration Form is provided with this newsletter. The luncheon will be a buffet and will cost \$10.50 which includes all taxes and gratuity.

Reservations must be made on the enclosed "Meeting-Luncheon Reservation Form" and received by Cindi Para no later than THURSDAY, APRIL 8TH.

After lunch, District Commissioner Tom Garner, author of the book *The Pensacola Lighthouse*,

will provide us with a talk about the history of the lighthouse. Afterwards, we will be permitted to visit and climb the historic 1859 Pensacola Lighthouse.

[NOTE: For those also going on the Tour of the Northwest Lighthouses, April 14-16, please check the separate registration form which must be sent to Adventure World Travel by FRIDAY, MARCH 12th!]

### JANUARY MEETING AT CAPE FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE

Our first meeting of 1999 took place at the magnificent Cape Florida Lighthouse on Key Biscayne. The weather was perfect with bright sunny skies, and a gentle breeze blowing just enough to make it a nice fresh day and not too hot. We were particularly blessed with exceptionally clear weather which made Fowey Rocks Lighthouse stand out very clear and stark. Thus, we really had a chance to see two lighthouses rather than just one.

The Board met at 9:00, at the rustic, but beautiful Lighthouse Café, and several very important issues were decided. First, to alle-

The *FLA FLASH* is a quarterly publication of the FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC., and is a benefit of membership in the organization. The FLA is a non-profit Florida corporation which promotes the preservation of Florida's lighthouses and interprets the history and significance of those lighthouses and of Florida's unique maritime heritage.

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*FLA FLASH*  
Tom Taylor, Editor,  
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viate the attendance problem we have had with getting a quorum from the entire board, the Executive Committee was formally empowered to serve as the primary management arm of the corporation, the decisions of which will be reported to all board members through the minutes. Secondly, an official budget was adopted for the FLA for the first time, and thirdly, the Annual Appeal campaign was discussed and the various lighthouses which could be assisted from this. After the discussion, it became clear that the St. Marks Lighthouse restoration project was the one in which the FLA could have a most notable role and from which Florida could shortly gain one more restored lighthouse opened to the public.



*Our hosts, David Gonzalez  
and Lee Niblock.*

The Membership meeting began at 10:30 am with a welcome from Lee Niblock, manager of the Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Recreation Area. It was through the courtesy of Mr. Niblock that the entrance fee to this beautiful state park was waived for our members, and we

are grateful to him for his kindness and courtesy to us.

After the introduction of the FLA commissioners present, the minutes were approved, and George Diller gave the Treasurer's report. As of the meeting, we had \$9,242 in the bank. Hib Casselberry reported that we now have 260 memberships in the FLA. President Tom Taylor reported the actions of the Executive Committee, and said that we now have 2,000 signatures on the licence plate petition. Executive Vice-President Rick Schultz will take over the license plate petition project. He proposed that the FLA design and sell a front auto plate, the proceeds from which could help us meet the financial obligation required for getting the rear plates! Sounds like a great idea! Taylor announced that the FLA has signed the contract with Pineapple Press for the publication next year of our *Florida Lighthouse Trail* book. Now, we just need to write it! Barbara McClure's research project into the Cape St. George Light Station journals continues, and the sale of the FLA Christmas cards got started. We got them out a little late this year to sell all of them, but we'll have them ready for next year!

Under new business, Taylor outlined the up-coming Annual Appeal Campaign which will focus on a single lighthouse restoration project. A flyer on the "Project St. Mark's 2000" was passed out. The membership voted to ask the Florida Trust

for Historic Preservation to join with us in this campaign. Two Board members from the Trust were at our meeting and heartily endorsed this possibility.

Taylor also discussed the latest news concerning the endangered keeper's dwelling at Cape San Blas and passed out a flyer with addresses of organizations to whom our members could write to help us encourage the Air Force to do what is right ethically and according to Federal historic preservation law to save and restore these historic structures, the only ones of their particular design in the state of Florida!

Discussion of the creation of the grants committee and a reimbursement for the Memorial Endowment Fund were tabled until the next meeting.

Vice-President Cindi Para, who will be coordinating our meetings and special events this year reported that the details of the proposed April Tour of the Northwest Florida Lighthouses were being finalized and that information and registration forms would go out in February. The tour will be April 14-16, just before our April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting at Pensacola. The July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting is proposed for Amelia Island Lighthouse, and our October 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting is being scheduled to coincide with the National Lighthouse Conference to be held in Key West, October 13-16th.

Following the meeting, the members enjoyed the cuisine of the Lighthouse Café, and David Gonzalez, his wife, and their staff really outdid themselves in

providing excellent meals for us. We congratulate them heartily.

As our members were enjoying their desert, Joan Gill Blank regaled us with a talk about the lighthouse and the history of Key Biscayne. It was a great honor to have this award-winning author speak to us.



Following Joan's talk, the rangers of the State Recreation Area opened up the Cape Florida Lighthouse just for us. Our group split up into several with some making the climb immediately, while others enjoyed the video presentations, and others the exhibits in the keeper's dwelling.



*Charles Milhauser and Carol Dickenson at the top of the tower.*

All too soon, the day came to a close, and another exciting meeting and lighthouse visit by the members of the Florida Lighthouse Association ended. We want again to thank Lee Niblock and his rangers for their special courtesies to us; to David Gonzalez and his staff for the excellent meals; to Phil Taney for splendidly handling the registrations of the participants, and to Joan Gill Blank for her wonderful talk and efforts on our behalf!. All in all, it was a delightful day, and even the weather could not have been better! See you all at Pensacola in April!!



*Dennis and Vicki Duckett and Julia Jackson*

## HISTORY OF THE PENSACOLA LIGHTHOUSE

By Tom Garner

For 140 years the Pensacola Lighthouse has guided mariners into Pensacola harbor. Lumber schooners, fishing smacks, navy ships and pleasure craft have all been beneficiaries of Pensacola's guiding beacon. Yet even before there was a lighthouse at Pensacola, the ground where the lighthouse stands was itself a landmark that sailors could follow to safely enter Pensacola Bay.

To the north of the entrance to Pensacola Bay is a large bluff composed of reddish colored clay. This bluff, called "barrancas" by the Spanish, was the first known landmark used by sailors to mark the mouth of Pensacola Bay. The earliest known reference to the barrancas is found in a letter from the Tristan de Luna expedition which unsuccessfully attempted to settle at Pensacola in 1559. From that point on, the Barrancas remained the principal landmark used for navigating into Pensacola Bay.

In 1821, Florida became a territory of the United States. Although calls were immediately made for establishing a lighthouse at Pensacola, the federal government was slow to respond. In an effort to address the situation, the commanding officer of Fort Barrancas, a

fortification located on top of the old Spanish "barrancas", arranged for a lantern to be hung from the fort's flagpole each evening to help guide vessels as they entered the bay. This arrangement lasted until June of 1823, when the federal govern-

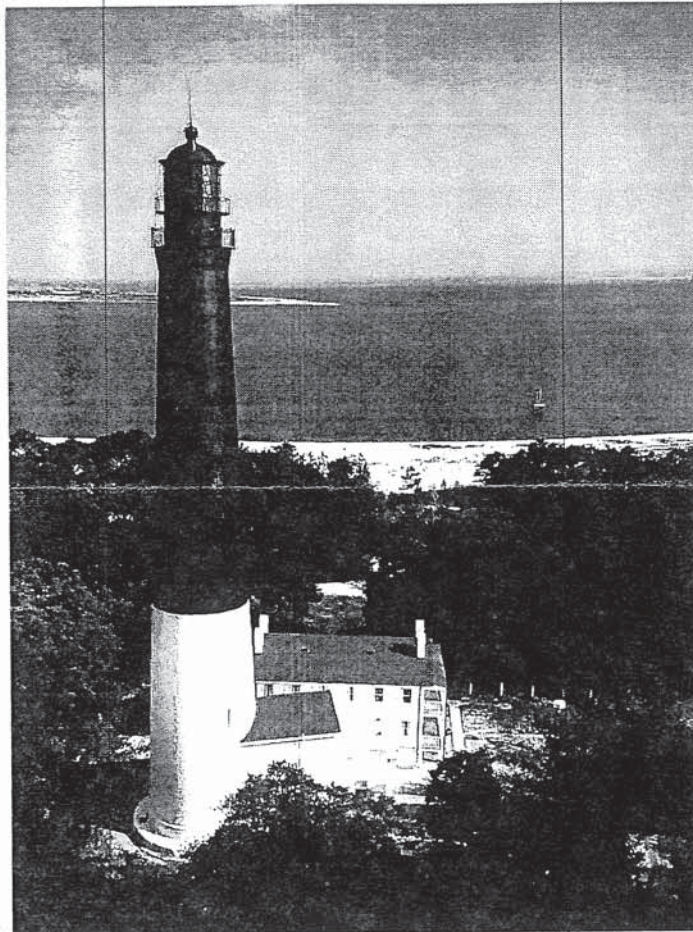
ment placed the lightship *Aurora Borealis* on station at Pensacola Bay. Unfortunately, the currents in the bay prevented the ship from maintaining a useful position as an aid to navigation. Finally, on December 20, 1824, the residents of Pensacola got their wish, when a newly-built Pensacola Lighthouse shone its light into the darkening sky. The spot chosen for the new lighthouse was the barrancas, the red clay bluff that had guided sailors into Pensacola Bay for more than two centuries. Built by New England lighthouse contractor Winslow Lewis, the new Pensacola Lighthouse was a 40 foot tall brick tower, equipped with the standard Argand system of lighting. Although the new lighthouse was a definite improvement, it was not without its problems.

Unfortunately, most of these problems would not be addressed for another 30 years.

In 1852, after numerous complaints about the condition of lighthouses throughout the United States, Congress created the United States Lighthouse Board to investigate situation. The board found that numerous lighthouses, including Pensacola, suffered from similar problems, most notably

that the towers were too short, and that the lights were not powerful enough. In its final report, the lighthouse board recommended new towers and lights at many locations, including Pensacola.

In August 1854, Congress responded to the situation at Pensacola by appropriating funds for the construction of a



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Finally, on December 20, 1824, the residents of Pensacola got their wish, when a newly-built Pensacola Lighthouse shone its

new lighthouse. This second Pensacola Lighthouse was first lit on January 1, 1859. The lighthouse consisted of a white-washed, conical brick tower, topped by a first order Fresnel lens, 150 feet tall to the focal plane. Ironically, the new tower would be in operation for only a little more than two years before its flashing light would be extinguished.



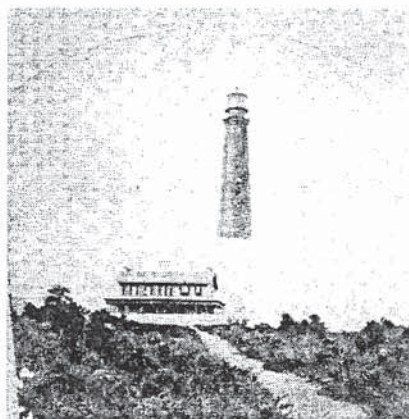
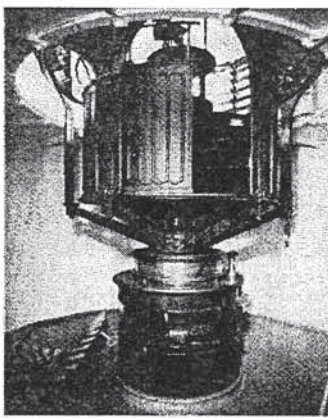
*The new Pensacola Lighthouse as photographed by A. B. Fontaine in 1859.*

In January, 1861, troops from the states of Alabama and Florida seized the mainland federal installations at Pensacola, including the Pensacola Lighthouse and Fort Barrancas. Federal troops stationed at Fort Barrancas had earlier retreated across Pensacola Bay to Fort Pickens. With state troops in control of the mainland and Federals in control of Fort Pickens, a stalemate ensued. Finally, on April 12, 1861, Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter at Charleston South Carolina, and in so doing

began the Civil War. On that same date, the Confederate forces at Pensacola extinguished the lighthouse to prevent it's being used by the Union ships blockading the mouth of Pensacola Bay.

Even though the Civil War had officially begun, the Pensacola area saw little action. Two of the most notable incidents involved heavy artillery duels that took place across the bay between Union Forces at Fort Pickens' and Confederate forces on the mainland. Although the Pensacola Lighthouse sustained some hits, little damage occurred. Finally, in May 1862, the stalemate at Pensacola was broken when Confederate forces evacuated the Pensacola area. The Pensacola Lighthouse was in Union hands again.

One of the first actions taken by the federal government in regard to the Pensacola Lighthouse was to relight the tower. Since the Confederates had removed the lens and apparatus to parts unknown, the Lighthouse Board arranged to have the tower relit with a temporary fourth order lens. It was not until seven years later, in April 1869, that a first order lens was placed in the tower again.



At this same time the Lighthouse Board built a new keeper's quarters to replace the ones that had been destroyed during the war. The most dramatic post-war change to take place; however, was the conversion of the all-white tower to the black and white color scheme that is still in use today.

The years following the Civil War were for the most part uneventful at the Pensacola Lighthouse. In 1938, the lighthouse was electrified, and in 1939, it was transferred to the United States Coast Guard, as were all United States Lighthouses. In 1965, the Pensacola Lighthouse was automated, and the Coast Guard announced plans to demolish the historic keeper's quarters. The local community rallied against the plans; however, and the keeper's quarters were saved. Today the Pensacola Lighthouse remains an active aid to navigation, her first order Fresnel lens guiding mariners into Pensacola Bay as it has done now for the past 140 years.

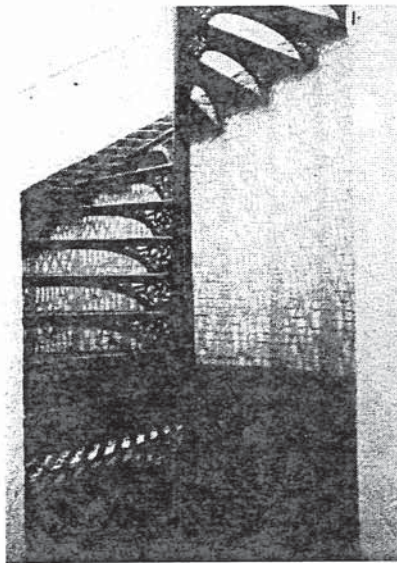
Some Photographs of the  
Pensacola Lighthouse



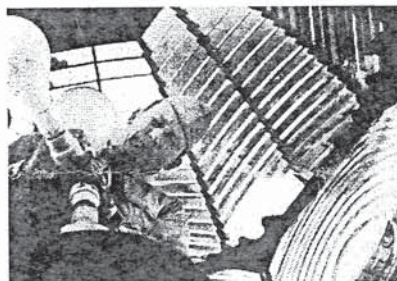
*The Keepers' Dwelling and  
the tower.*



*Aerial View of the  
Pensacola Light Station,  
taken in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.*

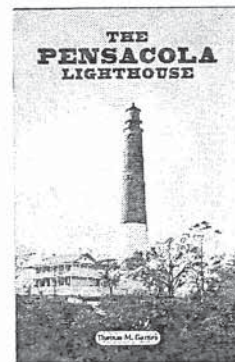


*The Stairway leading up the tower.*



*Picture of the Lens*

As many of you know, one bullseye of this lens was knocked out, and one ring-prism was broken. Dan Spinella, an engineer at Disney, has developed the technology to replicate these ring-prisms from acrylic. Two of his acrylic complete bullseyes have been recently mounted into the Cape Canaveral lens which is on display at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse. As the Canaveral and Pensacola lenses are twins, it may be possible for the FLA to have Mr. Spinella cast the proper ring-prism out of acrylic so that we could help the Coast Guard repair this important lens. We are working on this possibility.



BOOK REVIEW:  
*THE PENSACOLA  
LIGHTHOUSE*

*by Thomas M. Garner*

For those of us going to the April meeting at Pensacola, or anyone interested in this spectacular lighthouse, this small but very informative book is a must, and for only \$3.95, how can you miss!

Thomas M. Garner, the author serves the Florida Lighthouse Association as District Commissioner for District Four which covers the lighthouses in Northwest Florida, the area often called "The Panhandle." In his district are the lighthouses from St. Mark's through Pensacola; that is six extant lighthouses and several lighthouse sites (Dog Island, the old St. Georges Island Lighthouse, the original St. Joseph's Bay Lighthouse - on the Point! - and four previous sites of the Cape San Blas towers.)

In this book on the Pensacola lighthouses, Mr. Garner, in a fine and yet easy to read prose, details their history beginning with the very first Congressional appropriation "for building a lighthouse at or near the entrance of the harbour of Pensacola." The lighthouse that was first lighted on December 20,

1824, was the second lighthouse built in Florida, and the first one on the Florida Gulf Coast.

Changing channels and advancements in lighthouse design, however, prompted the building of the present tower in 1859. Mr. Garner's book is very well researched and documented, complete with reference footnotes. Commissioner Garner will be presenting the program to us at the Pensacola Quarterly Meeting. So be sure to come and pick up a copy of his book.

**SPECIAL TOUR OF THE  
NORTHWEST FLORIDA  
LIGHTHOUSES  
APRIL 14-16, 1999**

This is a VERY RARE and special opportunity, open first to our members, to visit five Gulf Coast lighthouses in Florida's Panhandle which are NOT OPEN to the general public.

Through the courtesy of Chief Tom Henlser of the United States Coast Guard, the hard work of District Commissioner Tom Garner, Sally Farrell of Adventure World Travel, and Vice-President Cindi Para, this unique and very special tour has become a reality.

The planned Itinerary is as follows:

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14TH:**

7:00-8:00 PM Tour registration at the Days Inn, Pensacola (Supper on your own.)  
8:00 PM: Program about the lighthouses we will visit.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 15TH:**

7:00 AM - Breakfast (included)  
8:00 AM - Leave by bus for St.

Marks (225 miles)

12:00 PM - Arrive at St. Marks for picnic (box) lunch (provided)  
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM: Visit St. Marks lighthouse  
1:30 PM - Leave St. Marks for Carrabelle (55 miles)  
3:00 PM - Visit Crooked River Lighthouse  
5:00 PM - Drive to Apalachicola to Rancho Hotel (25 miles)  
7:00 PM - Supper in Apalachicola (on your own)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 16TH:**

7:00 AM - Breakfast (included)  
8:00 AM - Group One boards boats for Cape St. George  
- Group Two boards bus for Cape San Blas and St. Josephs Point lighthouses (60-mile round trip)  
12:00 PM - Both groups return to Apalachicola for lunch  
1:00 PM - Group Two boards boats for Cape St. George Lighthouse  
- Group One boards bus for St. Josephs Point and Cape San Blas  
5:00 PM - Group Two arrives back at Apalachicola and leaves by bus to pick up Group One at Cape San Blas. Both groups leave on bus as soon as possible for Pensacola (160 miles)  
7:00 PM - Supper in Panama City Shoneys (on your own)  
9:00 PM - Arrive back in Days Inn Pensacola

**COSTS:**

\$260.00 per person for single  
\$185.00 per person for double occupancy.

The trip includes three hotel nights (two in Pensacola and one in Apalachicola), two breakfasts and two lunches, snacks, (diners are on your own), the bus

trip, boat trips, and guide services provided by Tom Garner and Tom Taylor.

**REGISTRATION AND DEADLINE:** Make your check out to ADVENTURE WORLD TRAVEL and mail it along with the enclosed registration form to:

SALLY FARRELL  
ADVENTURE WORLD TRAVEL  
6417 HILLCREST PARK COURT,  
SUITE G

MOBILE, AL 36695  
(877) 634-9933 (TOLL FREE)  
(334) 634-9966 FAX

**NO LATER THAN  
MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>, 1999**

The tour will be run to this published itinerary, including the activities mentioned, as closely as possible. However, incidents may occur, such as weather, which may force a change of plans. In the event of weather which precludes our taking the boat trip to the Cape St. George Lighthouse, other activities will be substituted or a partial refund will be made on this portion of the price of the tour.

At this time, it is physically unsafe to climb the St. Mark's and Cape St. George towers. These lighthouses, however, are in magnificent National Wildlife Refuges in which we will see some of the most beautiful scenery in Florida. We will have access to the Crooked River, Cape San Blas, and St. Joseph's Point Lighthouses. Historic Apalachicola was a bustling cotton port prior to the Civil War.

For more information, contact Sally Farrell at Adventure World Travel.



NATIONAL  
LIGHTHOUSE  
CONFERENCE  
KEY WEST,  
OCTOBER  
12-16, 1999

This special event will be held in Key West. Our FLA Annual Meeting will occur at the end of the Conference on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. We hope that many of our FLA members will attend this conference, as the FLA will be playing a large role in this event and should gain some national recognition. Joe Pais, one of our FLA founding members, is coordinating this event and has lined up some of the greatest lighthouse preservationists in the nation to attend and share their experience with us. A tentative schedule plus location and registration information is included on a special sheet enclosed with this newsletter. Tours of the Key West and Sand Key lighthouses will be provided as part of the event.

On Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, we are tentatively planning a special boat tour for our members to the lighthouses of the Dry Tortugas. Keep reading the *FLA FLASH* to learn whether or not this trip will occur.

#### LATEST NEWS OF CAPE SAN BLAS

An article in the February 4, 1999 issue of *The Star* of Port St. Joe, apparently written by someone from Eglin Air Force Base, attempts to detail the history of the Cape San Blas Lighthouse

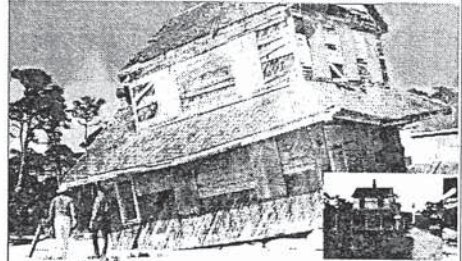
and to show how the Air Force has had good intentions in preserving the historical structures. The article tells how the Air Force has been hampered by governmental red tape, an unclear train of responsibility designations, and a lengthy and confusing process of the transfer of the property from the Coast Guard.

There are a few historical errors in the article, the most glaring one being the statement that the clamshell lens was damaged by Confederate gun fire. (The first clamshell did not come to the United States until 1893, and the manufacturer of this particular clamshell, Barbier, Benard & Turenne, did not exist by that name until 1901!) Although the article is good in documenting the difficulties Eglin has had in getting a clear title to the properties so that they could restore them and states that funds for restoration have been appropriated, the article is still disconcerting in that the Air Force is still proposing to dismantle the most endangered dwelling to use its parts in the restoration of the better structure. We already know from the State Historic Preservation Officer that the state is completely opposed to this plan.

We hope that Eglin will decide, what is truly in their own interest, to comply with Federal law and to fulfill the wishes of the preservation community (both local and national) by saving both dwellings.

Initially, Eglin had planned to do this, but a few months ago, the base commander decided to

renege on the project, preferring to allow the winter storms to finish the job that Hurricane Earl had begun.



*The endangered keeper's dwelling at  
Cape San Blas.*

Although these structures, although NOT on the National Register, they are on the State Inventory of Historic Structures and thus have been deemed eligible for listing on the N. R. As such, the buildings are protected by Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended, 16 U.S.C. 470h-2. Under these regulations, Federal agencies are required by Federal law to preserve and maintain National Register and eligible properties. To allow the structures to deteriorate or be destroyed while it would be possible to save them, would thereby be a violation of Federal historic preservation law.

At the time of our January meeting at Cape Florida, we had just had assurance from Walt Marder, state historic preservation specialist, that Eglin would do its duty by the structures. However, a couple of weeks later, he called FLA President Taylor with news that the base commander had once again decided to neglect the buildings.



We knew it was time to act. We put a "Preservation Alert" on our website, and our President and many others e-mailed and contacted many people to begin a letter writing campaign.

Thanks to the hard work of Tom Garner, Charlotte Pierce, Herman and Trip Jones, Don Butler, and many other residents of the Cape San Blas area, of Coast Guard Chief Tom Hensler, Walt Marder, and the letters from our FLA members, it appears that the Air Force may yet decide to do their duty with regards to preserving the Cape San Blas Lighthouse keeper's dwellings.

Senator Bob Graham has also joined the fray on our behalf, writing: "Thank you for your recent letter. I can fully understand your concerns and appreciate your taking time to bring this to my attention. I have contacted the Air Force on your behalf and have brought this situation to the attention of the appropriate officials. They have been asked to review this matter and provide us with a written response. As soon as I have something further to report, I will contact you."

Daniel G. Carey, Assistant Director of the Southern Office of the National Trust in Charleston also wrote Eglin's commanders to urge "the Air Force to honor its obligations to applicable Federal [preservation] law." He reminded the Air Force of the significance of the structures and suggested ways in which the National Trust could help financially with the restoration of the light station. Mem-

bers of the National Trust actually visited and surveyed the condition of the buildings the first week of February and reported: "It is our opinion that the costs associated with relocating and rehabilitating both buildings will not be great, and we are willing to lend technical and financial assistance to the Air Force as we can. . . In the end, we envision the rehabilitation of these buildings serving as a model for other Department of Defense installations and perhaps being considered for a national honor award."

Danny Raffield, FLA member and owner of the St. Joseph's Point Lighthouse, got a quote from a local moving company which showed the structures could be moved for about \$16,000, a bit less than the \$50,000 which the Air Force had originally allocated for the project. The fact that the community is thus working hard to show the Air Force that they wish to help, we think, should be a powerful inducement for the Air Force to follow the proper course.

So, thanks to many people, and especially our own Tom Garner, the "Big Guns" have been rolled out, and it appears the Air Force will be highly urged to comply with the need to preserve these structures.

Unhappily, the commander of the base has said he would do this before and then changed his mind. Also, we have not seen any kind of time table by which the Air Force hopes to have the structures moved, so we are not out of the woods yet. One

winter storm could still destroy all that we have hoped to save.

Now, we need letters, urging the Air Force to move quickly in relocating these structures. If you have not helped the cause by writing a letter, please do so now. Express your concern for the preservation of the Cape San Blas keeper's dwellings, state that you hope that they will be moved as soon as possible, and remind the commander that there are many people concerned about this matter and that they are willing to help. Address your letter to:

Col. Richard E. Perrault, Jr.  
Commander, Eglin Air Force  
401 W. Van Metre, Suite 106  
Eglin Air Force Base, FL  
32542-6802  
(850) 882-4571

We, and all of Florida's future generations will thank you for your kind assistance in this matter!

#### PROJECT ST. MARKS 2000

Spearheaded by Boatswains Mate Chief Tom Hensler, U.S. Coast Guard, Panama City, a major restoration project is in the works for the St. Marks Lighthouse. Working with Chief Hensler are Cdr. Alex Watson, Commander, Coast Guard Group, Mobile, Alabama; James Burnett, Manager of the St. Mark's Wildlife Refuge; Dale Walker, chief of the Civil Engineering Unit, U.S. Coast Guard, Miami; Walt Marder, State Historic Preservationist from Tallahassee; Tom Garner, District Commissioner for the Florida Lighthouse Association, Pensaco-

la; Hib Casselberry, Vice-President of the FLA, Fort Lauderdale; and Tom Taylor, President of the FLA and historian, Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse.



If this restoration can be completed, the Coast Guard will turn over the lighthouse complex to the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge which will open the keeper's quarters as a visitor center, museum, and gift shop, and open the tower to the public for tours. The Coast Guard is gearing up their engineering and construction units to do the actual work in 2000 if funding can be found for bringing the structure back to its original, historic condition. The FLA can make a major contribution by using its Annual Appeal Campaign to raise the \$50,000 needed to apply for a \$250,000 state special category legislative grant during the summer of 1999. We hope to obtain from the Wakulla Bank, which uses the St. Marks Lighthouse in their logo and advertising, a challenge grant of considerable size.

Walt Marder of the Bureau of Historic Preservation in Tallahassee seems to feel that a grant application by the FLA for the special category grant for the restoration of the St. Marks Lighthouse has an excellent chance for success. The grant money would be approved in September, 1999, for use in 2000, exactly when the Coast Guard needs it to do the work. The lighthouse could be turned over to the NWR perhaps as early as the end of 2000, and the lighthouse could be open early in 2001! The timing of all procedures and the cooperation of all parties involved seem to be fitting perfectly and well coordinated for a successful conclusion of this project by late 2000. We are also hoping for assistance in this campaign from the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation.

The St. Mark's Lighthouse received its last major refurbishment in 1974, and has received little attention since then. In the intervening time, foliage has grown up damaging the foundation, hurricanes have blown out windows which have not been replaced, and general deterioration in iron, wood, and paint have come to the point where immediate work is needed to restore this tower before major deterioration sets in to endanger this historic structure. This tower, built in 1842 of materials from its 1830 predecessor, is the second oldest extant lighthouse tower in the State of Florida.

During the Civil War, Confederate soldiers tried to blow up the lighthouse to keep it from serving the invading Union forces as a lookout tower and as

a navigational aid for guiding their naval vessels to the St. Mark's River. The explosion ripped a hole in the side of the tower around the doorway, eight feet high and around one-third of the circumference of the tower. It is remarkable that the tower did not collapse.

After the Civil War, the hole in the tower was repaired, but to add strength to this weakened side, a new, masonry keeper's dwelling was built attached to the tower, making St. Mark's the only masonry lighthouse tower in Florida to have an attached keeper's dwelling. The repairs to the hole in the tower in 1867, were well done, but can be perceived by a close eye.

At our January meeting at Cape Florida, the FLA adopted the St. Marks project as the focus for our Annual Appeal Campaign. Donors who contribute to this campaign will have the assurance that the funds will be spent for the restoration of the St. Marks Lighthouse with anything left over, if there be any, to be used for other worthy lighthouse projects.

Kathy Fleming, the Director of the Lighthouse Museum of St. Augustine and our Vice-President for Fund Raising is spearheading our campaign and has graciously offered to have the St. Augustine Lighthouse contribute her labor, and the costs associated with printing and mailing the Appeal flyers. This is a tremendous contribution to our organization!

**NOW, IT IS UP TO THE  
REST OF US TO LEND A  
HAND!**

FROM YOU, OUR MEMBERS, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WE NEED BUSINESS CONTACTS FOR CORPORATIONS WHICH MIGHT BE WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE TO SAVING THE STATE'S SECOND OLDEST LIGHTHOUSE.

All businesses with lighthouses as a logo should make a contribution to this, but we cannot discount anyone. Check your Yellow Pages, and please send us a list of 20 or more businesses who might contribute. During the grant hearing stage in September, we will need members willing to go to Tallahassee to help us lobby for the grant.

We hope that we can get the mailings out very soon. Kathy is expecting twins in March, so she will shortly thereafter be out of commission for continued work on the Appeal campaign.

The grant application is due May 31<sup>st</sup>, and the legislative hearings are in September. We need to raise \$50,000 to go before the state legislature by the time we have to present our project in September.

All we need to do is provide the money and try for the state grant. The Coast Guard will do all of the other work, such as survey, planning, and contracting through their own sources

In short, the timing is perfect for us to serve as the catalyst through which the Coast Guard, the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, and the State of Florida can all come together and work together to restore and open to the public this important and wonderful lighthouse.

This, my friends, is truly the mission of the Florida Lighthouse Association! The time has come to take the bull by the horns and run with it. This project will not only change St. Marks Lighthouse, but it will also help to develop us into one of the most dynamic forces for lighthouse preservation in the State of Florida and indeed in the nation! Let's do it!!

#### MAINE LIGHTHOUSE CRUISES

Two of our new members, Ted and Jo Panayotoff, operate the The Elms Bed & Breakfast in beautiful Camden, Maine. They have written to say that they are now sponsoring lighthouse cruises to visit lighthouses in Muscle Ridge Channel, the Fox Island Thorofare, Eastern Penobscot Bay, Northern Penobscot Bay, and to Matinicus Rock. A number of special maritime museums, like the Maine Maritime Museum, the Penobscot Marine Museum, the Maine Watercraft Museum, and Ken Black's Shore Village Museum are also in the area. If any of our members are planning a trip to Maine this summer, this might be a good opportunity to link up with some wonderful Down East lighthouse friends. Be sure to tell them that you are members of the Florida Lighthouse Association. To find our more about this unique opportunity, contact:

Ted and Jo Panayotoff  
The Elms Bed & Breakfast  
84 Elm Street

Camden, ME 04843  
(207)236-6250; (800)755-3567 ;  
e-mail: theelms@midcoast.com  
website:  
<http://midcoast.com/~theelms>

#### FLA LICENSE PLATES

Executive Vice-President Richard Schultz and Paul Bradley are teaming up to design and produce an FLA license plate suitable for mounting on the front of our cars. It is hoped that the proceeds from the sales of these plates will be used to help us with raising the \$60,000 needed to bring our petition for a Florida lighthouse specialty plate before the state legislature. We will have more on this when the new plates are ready.

#### DISTRICT NEWS DISTRICT 1: HIB CASSELBERRY

The United States Lighthouse Society will be visiting the First District with a Tour led by Head Keeper Wayne Wheeler during April 9-13th. They will be visiting the Amelia Island, St. John's River, St. Augustine, Ponce Inlet, Cape Canaveral, Jupiter Inlet, Hillsboro Inlet, Cape Florida, and Fowey Rocks lighthouses.

#### DISTRICT 2: JERRY WILKINSON:

All seems quiet on the Southern Front, but soon, things will be getting busy as Joe Pais and the people of the Key West Art & Historical Society prepare to host the National Lighthouse Conference. This should bring a lot of national attention to the

Keys and the Lighthouses of this District.

DISTRICT 3:  
RICHARD JOHNSON

Of perhaps the greatest importance to us lighthouse enthusiasts and preservationists is the fact that as of March 12<sup>th</sup>, 1999, Florida will have SIX lighthouses preserved and open to the public. At 10 AM on that day, Marilyn Hoeckel and the many volunteers of the Barrier Island Parks Society will formally open the Port Boca Grande Lighthouse Museum! The new museum will be open to the public Wednesday through Sunday from 10Am to 4 PM. Many of our members will remember our Annual Meeting there last October, during which

we were quite impressed with the work that has been done there. To Marilyn and to everyone else, we send our  
**HEARTY  
CONGRATULATIONS!**

DISTRICT 4: TOM GARNER:

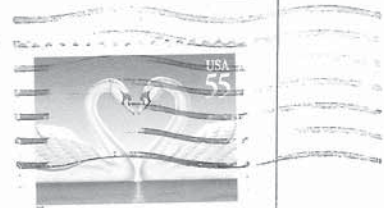
Much has been going on in this district this winter, and more is yet to come. See the other articles of this newsletter to find the details!

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following New Members for the first quarter of 1999: Richard and Betty Atwood; Vivian Brennan; Julio, Pauline, and Terry Carosi; Dorothy Cowdrey; Dr. Robert W. Depuy;

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Dilliner; Margaret England Eichman and Bob and Mae England; Tony and Dorothy Farace; Mr. and Mrs. A. Ward Francis, Jr; Joanne R. Hamilton; Connie Lee Hammond; Salli Harrison; Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Hawes; Mr. and Mrs. Ferrell Holt; Herman and Pamela Jones; Thomas P. Klinker; Thomas J. and Linda Landrum; P. J. Makenian; Mr. and Mrs. David Mastache; Mrs. Katherine McCourt; Elizabeth O. Menschik; Mr. and Mrs. Gene Oakes; Sharon L. Oakes; The Elms Bed and Breakfast Camden, Maine (Ted and Jo Panayotoff); Don Sackrider; Sanibel Historical Village and Museum; Elaine Stutsman; Elaine and William Trushel; Ralph Wolman; Rozella M. Wood; ;

FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION  
4931 SOUTH PENINSULA DRIVE  
PONCE INLET, FL 32127  
(904) 761-1821





FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC.

TOUR OF THE NORTHWEST FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSES  
APRIL 14-16, 1999

This is a VERY RARE and special opportunity, open first to our members, to visit five Gulf Coast lighthouses in Florida's Panhandle which are NOT OPEN to the general public.

Through the courtesy of Chief Tom Henlser of the United States Coast Guard, the hard work of District Commissioner Tom Garner, Sally Farrell of Adventure World Travel, and FLA Vice-President Cindi Para, this unique and very special tour has become a reality.

The trip includes three hotel nights (two in Pensacola and one in Apalachicola), two Continental breakfasts and two box lunches, snacks, (dinners are on your own), the bus trip, boat trips, and guide services provided by Tom Garner and Tom Taylor.

The tour and its related activities will be run as closely as possible to the published itinerary (see back of this page). However, incidents may occur, such as weather, which may force a change of plans. In the event of weather which precludes our taking the boat trip to the Cape St. George Lighthouse, other activities will be substituted or a refund will be made on a portion of the price of the boat tour. Because of the condition of the St. Marks and Cape St. George lighthouses, we will not be permitted to climb these towers. However, they are located in National Wildlife Refuges, and we will thus see some of the most spectacular scenery in Florida. We will be able to climb the Crooked River, Cape San Blas, and St. Joseph Point lighthouses.

COST:

\$260.00 per person for single  
\$185.00 per person for double occupancy.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>, 1999

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TOUR OF THE NORTHWEST FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSES  
APRIL 14-16, 1999

(Reservation Deadline: FRIDAY, MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>, 1999)

NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: HOME ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons, single occupancy \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$260.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons, double occupancy \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$180.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO  
ADVENTURE WORLD TRAVEL, AND MAIL THIS FORM AND YOUR PAYMENT TO:

SALLY FARRELL  
ADVENTURE WORLD TRAVEL  
6417 HILLCREST PARK COURT, SUITE G  
MOBILE, AL 36695  
(877) 634-9933 (TOLL FREE)  
(334) 634-9966 FAX

## ITINERARY

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14TH:

- 7:00-8:00 PM Tour registration at the Days Inn, Pensacola (Supper on your own.)
- 8:00 PM: Program about the lighthouses we will visit.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 15TH:

- 7:00 AM - Continental Breakfast (included)
- 8:00 AM - Leave by bus for St. Marks Lighthouse (225 miles)
- 12:00 PM - Arrive at St. Marks for picnic (box) lunch (provided)
- 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM: Visit St. Marks Lighthouse (second oldest in the State!)
- 1:30 PM - Leave St. Marks for Carrabelle (55 miles)
- 3:00 PM - Visit Crooked River Lighthouse
- 5:00 PM - Drive to Apalachicola to Rancho Motel (25 miles)
- 7:00 PM - Supper in Apalachicola (on your own)

### FRIDAY, APRIL 16TH:

- 7:00 AM - Continental Breakfast (included)
- 8:00 AM - Group One boards boats for Cape St. George Lighthouse  
- Group Two boards bus for Cape San Blas and St. Josephs Point lighthouses (60-mile round trip)
- 12:00 PM - Both groups return to Apalachicola for picnic lunch
- 1:00 PM - Group Two boards boats for Cape St. George Lighthouse  
- Group One boards bus for St. Josephs Point and Cape San Blas lighthouses
- 5:00 PM - Group Two arrives back at Apalachicola and leaves by bus to pick up Group One at Cape San Blas. Both groups leave on bus as soon as possible for Pensacola (160 miles)
- 7:00 PM - Supper in Panama City Shoneys (on your own)
- 9:00 PM - Arrive back at Days Inn Pensacola



**FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING  
 PENSACOLA LIGHTHOUSE, PENSACOLA, FLORIDA  
 SATURDAY, APRIL 17TH, 1999**

The meeting for the second quarter of 1999 of the Florida Lighthouse Association will be at the Pensacola Lighthouse in Pensacola, Florida. The Membership Meeting will start at 10:30 am on Saturday, April 17th, at the Mustin Beach Officers' Club, Building # 258 on Radford Blvd. on the Pensacola Naval Air Station. When coming into Pensacola, follow directions or ask directions for the Main Gate of the Naval Air Station. At the Main Gate, ask for directions to the Mustin beach Officers' Club. Lunch will be at about noon, followed by a talk on the history of the Pensacola Lighthouse by our Fourth District Commissioner and lighthouse author Thomas M. Garner. Tours of the lighthouse will follow. (Be sure to wear comfortable shoes if you wish to climb the tower!) The day's agenda is:

*Venue: Mustin Beach Officers' Club, Pensacola Naval Air Station*

- 10:00 am            REGISTRATION OPENS (Pick up your lunch tickets):
- 10:30 am - Noon    MEETING OF THE FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION
- Noon                LUNCH
- 12:30 PM           PROGRAM: "The Pensacola Lighthouse"  
                              author Thomas M. Garner
- 1:30 pm - 4:00 PM  TOURS OF THE PENSACOLA LIGHTHOUSE
- 4:00 PM             HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME!!!

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**PENSACOLA LIGHTHOUSE PROGRAM AND LUNCH RESERVATION  
 APRIL 17TH, 1999  
 (Reservation Deadline: Thursday, APRIL 8TH, 1999)**

NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
                                   CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE: HOME (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ OFFICE (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.50 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 The price includes a buffet lunch, tax, and gratuity.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO THE FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE  
 ASSOCIATION, INC., AND MAIL THIS FORM AND YOUR PAYMENT TO:  
**THE FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION  
 C/O CINDI PARA  
 1955 BONITO WAY, SOUTH  
 ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33712-4213  
 (727) 867-5615 (h) ; e-mail: cpara@juno.com**

CHECK WITH YOUR TRAVEL AGENT FOR ACCOMMODATIONS IN PENSACOLA.



# NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE CONFERENCE KEY WEST OCTOBER 12-16, 1999

“Lighting the New Millennium”

The Conference will be held at the Casa Marina Resort Complex in Key West. The Registration fee is \$150 per individual. You may register by sending a check or credit card number to:

National Lighthouse Conference 1999, 3501 S. Roosevelt Blvd., Key West, FL 33040.

## OCTOBER 12, 1999 (TUES):

- 9:30 - 12:00 Noon: Registration, Casa Marina Hotel
- 1:30 - 2:30 pm: Welcome Session, Commander, 7<sup>th</sup> District, USCG
- 3:00 - 4:30 pm: Anne-Webster Wallace, The Maine Lights Project  
"New Issues Facing Non-Profit Lighthouse Operators"

## OCTOBER 13, 1999 (WED.):

- 9:30 - 12:00 Noon: Candice Clifford, "The National Maritime Initiative and Your Lighthouse"
- 1:30 - 2:30 pm: Tom McGrath: "Saving Offshore Lighthouses: The Last Frontier of American Preservation or Lunatic Fringe"
- 3:00 - 4:30 pm: Wayne Wheeler, "Lighthouse Heritage Tourism"
- 7:00 - 9:30 pm: Under the Stars Buffet, Casa Marina Grounds

## OCTOBER 14, 1999 (THURS):

- 9:00 - 12:00 Noon: Henry Stephenson, "The National Lighthouse Museum, A Work in Progress"
- 1:30 - 3:00 pm: Lighthouse Lens Restoration
- 3:30 - 4:30 pm: Dick Moelh, "The Great Lakes Lighthouse Experience"

## OCTOBER 15, 1999 (FRI.):

- 9:30 - 12:00 Noon: Coast Guard Tours of Historic Sand Key Lighthouse and Aids-To-Navigation
- 6:30 - 8:30 pm: Reception at Key West Lighthouse Museum

## OCTOBER 16, 1999 (SAT):

- 8:00am - 7:00 pm: Coast Guard Tours  
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION

The primary purpose of the National Lighthouse Conference 1999 is to promote historic preservation of lighthouses and light station properties. Our goal is to bring together lighthouse operators, owners, organizations, historic preservationists, the U. S. Coast Guard and other federal and state agencies responsible for these great maritime treasures.