

4/5

LIGHTHOUSES

by Jane Ward

NARRATOR:

...and the water level is just about the way it is now. When I started out, the platform here was sort of a grill platform. I didn't cover the whole area, just pieces of it. That's where they stored the wood and the tools first, and later the oil for when they used oil. Also, the generator and the furnace when they started having the generator. Boats would come up the side. That's also where they would have hauled coal and wood upstairs. They had to come out in weather to actually get these supplies. They didn't store food technically, in this house sometimes. I heard a story that they actually had chickens (intelligible) kept chickens on the platform! (laughter) This is a screw pile lighthouse and the first screw pile lighthouse was built in Florida. George Mead, who was General George Mead later, actually worked for the engineering department and he was in charge of that particular lighthouse in Florida. That first _____. You begin to find out (intelligible tape for several sentences- wind in background). The first lighthouse that was built on the site _____ was just a straight pile light and it was carried away by (Intelligible tape again for awhile - the wind).

This one is pretty well chewed up, but this was mounted on the bottom on the pile here and then actually turned by hand into the shoals. It went into the shoals about 25 feet, 24 and a half to 25 feet. The water that this particular lighthouse stood in was 6 fathoms, which I find out is 9 feet! You probably know that, but it wasn't... wait a minute...it's 9 feet so that would be one and a half fathoms (voices agreeing). And then this had about a one and a half turn, until they took it down, it was a pretty significant development this screw pile because there was no way....(man interrupting: "was it just sand down there...?") Yes, muck and sand. Now the Brandywine lighthouse - ice was the biggest problem in the bay actually, _____ winds and high tides. Brandywine _____ was a screw pile also, but in addition to that they put ice-breakers around it. They put ice-breakers even though they used the screw piles to keep it, you know so the ice would mash up against the fenders....(man interjecting: "in other words, the structure beyond the

lighthouse supported structure") Right... they would have taken, I can't tell from the pictures and that's all I've seen, it looked to me, about 15 or 20 feet away from the lighthouse itself and there is sort of like an iron fence, a three rail type iron fence. Later on they capped the top of these and made a walkway so then they had extra storage, but they had to replace that several times because it would have broken from the ice, but the lighthouse never did go down. Any questions out here?

QUESTION: I wonder how they get the (intelligible-specimen?)

NARRATOR: I don't know. I had heard from the Mariners(?)_ Museum , the one in Newport News, that they gave this to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. I haven't followed it through, so I don't know if that's a true story or not, but it's possible. It may have come from some place like Solomon's Island where that's accessible now. Land is there and maybe they were able to dig it up. It looks like it has been used for sure, because it is pretty rusty. I don't think it's been here for a long time.....(a lot of voices speaking) Has it been here since the building was brought in? (voices talking - a few "no's). It's great, I think, to have it because otherwise it's hard to understand how(laughter). Okay, let's go up and (tape turned off).....and it's furnished more primitively now than it was when the lighthouse was inhabited because they were government service people, and it was government issued furniture. They didn't have a lot of fine things from their home. Even if their family lived in the lighthouse they probably didn't bring very much with them because the salary was very low. Six hundred a year in the early 1900s'. You weren't going to buy very much fancy Victorian art to hang up over the curtains on the windows. These windows did have shades on them. Maybe we will get those back, because it is actually very bright in here in the daytime. This closet over here, I hope we can open it up, in it was contained the weight for the fog bell system. When we go upstairs you'll see the hole in the floor. I'll take the little plug out. The weights came down here, this is where they would wind the bell system under the fog deck. It took about an hour and a half. I mean it would run about an hour and a half, and then they would have to rewind. This is a nice picture that someone donated, a lot of screw pile lighthouses on the Chesapeake Bay were identical or very close. These two

lighthouses were Long Point and Cooper's Strait. The one at Solomon's Island is almost identical. The arrangement is a little different in the rooms, but it is pretty much the same floor plan and you can see the screw pile in the shoals here. This sink we don't think was the original one because they had no water faucets, because there was no running water in here. The tanks that we have, there are 5 tanks in this building, and the water was collected from the roof, the rain water came down into the gutter and through the downspout into the tanks. They each carried about 200 gallons of water, that was the fresh water supply. They used a lot of salt water for cleaning because the bay wasn't that salty. Of course down at Hooper's Strait, is saltier than up here I guess, but it really was enough to wash....

QUESTION: Why is the drain over here?

NARRATOR: Yes, they all have spigots. They should have spigots and you can see this one is lined up, the hole is lined up to the drain. It's just practical. They took buckets of water out to be over the drain spout, and I'm sure they had them covered up in the winter, because it's pretty cold with air coming through here, and they being over the water. Okay. From here you can't see it, but the intake is out here, right about this drain here, and you'll see square plates over each tank. You can see the tank from there. Right? If you go around the building you'll see on the other side, right up here, see the square metal plate? The pipe would have come in here through that hole and then gone into the tank. *(man asking -"ever run out of fresh water?")* No, but I never read anything about that. That's a thousand gallons of water between rains is pretty good I think.

This stove is not original with the house. Bob Smith has a story about the stove, but I think it came from Crisfield, I believe is the story. However, the lighthouse keepers did have a cook stove like this and a pot-bellied stove. Those were the only means of heat here. And I found a funny story about the cook stove. One keeper I kept finding correspondence on. He was writing to the lighthouse board to please send him an oven door for his stove. Seven years I found dates of the letters!! (laughter) He was trying to get. He kept describing it and he had numbers, so sure enough I found a letter and the cook stove door had arrived. He went into town to get it, paid 46

cents postage for the door, brought it back and it was the wrong door! So I can definitely show that things change very little....(laughter) What I was trying to do, I went to the Patent Office then, and I said that story is so good I'd like to get a patent of the stove. So I could not find it to save my life. I found the company, it was a company in Philadelphia. My next thing, I figured, the government always buys the lowest bid of anything, and I suspect the stove company lasted about a year and then it was out of business. There was a lighthouse stove without a door on the oven. That's a pretty fancy stove. I think it probably wouldn't have been.

QUESTION: I'm curious about that kettle over there with the two handles. Is that a tea kettle?

NARRATOR: No, it's a waffle iron. It will swivel around. Now these things are not necessarily from the lighthouse. Now this is hollow. This is a hollow plate here that would go over the lid of the stove. Are there any questions?

QUESTION: "Just one question. This lighthouse was moved here. It wasn't the original place?"

NARRATOR: Right. It was about 40 miles south of here, Tangiers Sound.

QUESTION: "it was out in the water..."

Yes, it was about a four or five mile boat trip to shore. The pictures show it to be closer, and if you go there, I went down there, and I really think it was closer than 5 miles, but the 5 miles is where they could get off the boat because the land is all marsh and there was no place to land there. So the 5 mile trip really was true but I was a little upset when I went down and saw that the distance was not 5 miles out of the water but 5 miles _____.

QUESTION: They must have had quite a food supply stored.

NARRATOR: They brought food. They brought supplies once a year, for sure, and then all the time fisherman would go by and they always dropped off food, oysters and crabs. Some of the lighthouses put their own _____(intelligible rest of sentence). But they still.....

QUESTION: *"How about the trash and the waste?"*

NARRATOR: It probably went overboard. Not much paper actually. In the early days, so.....(intelligible). This little area at Solomon's Island, they have it divided, and in the original plans it did have a wall there, and they used it to store coal, even now. So it was a storage area. That's probably the only place they put storage - coal and wood. They brought it up here off the stairwell here and this would be to store. I think they are going to put some display cases here that shows the navigational area. Okay, let's go into the bedroomⁱ which is..... there really is light all around here. You can see the cut line where, when they moved this, some of you probably know more about that than I do, but they cut it at the roof line and took it in two pieces. That's not the way they originally had the lighthouse moved to the site. They built the foundation, put pilings up, and they pre-constructed the iron substructure which is the part underneath, and then built the house and brought both out on a barge and put them together on the site. So the house was brought out to the site intact with the roof on, but I guess it was too hard to bring it back here. Too costly. Any of you heard any stories? I don't know much about....(man interjecting: *"they used to have all that in pictures"*) that's right (voices talking)... Show the way it was done. I hope we'll get volunteers that will come and sit in the lighthouses, because there's nobody that is really doing it, I don't think. (voices talking over)

QUESTION: *Many years ago they had docents in here and then when they couldn't stop it they had to report it, which was very good. That wore out like anything else in the museum. That was the end of that and it just wasn't anybody here. (Man makes intelligible comment).. They asked the other evening for somebody who would chair, getting docents for here, and have some tours. We would stop at each building in tours. We tried taking tours individually, you know. You take a group and go charging around. Then we tried putting somebody in each building and having the*

groups go around, trying to figure out what would be the best. I don't know what they came up with.

NARRATOR: Last year I made a little sign and put it on the pilot house that I give tours at 11:00. Well, 11:00 isn't very good, because people aren't up and around. If we could have a guaranteed afternoon tour around 1:00 or 1:30, you know, somebody is going to be at this lighthouse or any of the other spots and actually give a tour. I think that might be the thing....

QUESTION: *With the school tours that might ... (man interjecting: "it won't work")*

NARRATOR: I was thinking of the adults, the visitor's during the summer.... (voice says, "it might, but our problems with touring in this building is people...") .. That's right, it is a little hard to get around.

VOICE: *"you have a group of 10 supposedly, but all of a sudden they have not gone where they are supposed to go and if have a group of thirty")....*

Some of those things.. (voice, "those kids are slick....(laughter). The little kids can hide around you. The exhibit there are three books I'm dying to get my hands on because I haven't read those years and Peter said he would open it up for me one day. There is also an article here from **National Geographic** and maybe we could get a Xerox of that. Have a handout of this building, it's about the lady at Turkey Point... Mrs. Flightier(?SP). Some things say she is the only woman lighthouse keeper. Technically that is not so. There were a lot of lighthouse keepers that were women, and generally they took over from their husbands who died. They just stayed on for years. But she was the first one officially appointed by the United States Government as a lighthouse keeper. The others were just sort of pensioned, and were allowed to stay. I found an obituary the other day on her. She died at 83, in 1956 or something I think she spent 40 years at Turkey Point _____.

And some of these other things were moved upstairs and maybe labeled. Keeping the light and the lens was of course at the time _____ the lighthouse keeper. They had all these special tools, and special cloths, and whiting. I'm not sure I know what it is, but it's a polishing agent. They were given strict instructions not to use anything else on the glass because it would scratch (intelligible rest of sentence)... So some of these things were probably relayed over _____, it would be easier to describe _____. The other night at the volunteers meeting, asked about a smaller bed. I think they only had a twin or three-quarter size bed which was regulation size.... *(voices commenting)*...This looks like a double. It takes a lot of room. It may not be that critical and they have chest-of-drawers and they would have to have a wash stand like this, and chairs... but that's about it.

(tape turned off and then back on narrator's voice in distance for a while)

NARRATOR: I heard you say wash down. They were very fussy about these doors. They stripped them down every year and washed and waxed them every week and then they began to breathe. They were told not to use paint when you could use a scrub brush and elbow grease (laughter) because technically I guess it was easier to paint than it is to scrub. The lighthouse board inspector would come three times a year, generally unannounced by _____. He would stay here actually for 3 or 4 days, inspecting not only the equipment but the routine. They really had to be quite good at bookkeeping. You can imagine all kinds of records they had to keep. Correspondence back and forth, so it would be a pretty well rounded man that would run the lighthouse. They would have to be able to be good at mechanical things, in order to (intelligible). They had to be carpenters to keep things running...OOPS... we have a leak here! *(comments on the leak)* This stove is original with the house. That's the only thing that is. We'll have to keep track of that. The clock over here is a lighthouse establishment clock. An authentic one. Yes, it's going now. That Homefeld(?SP) took it home and reworked it then it started to fix the box looks beautiful too. I don't know if he's a volunteer, but this was donated. Peter knows who the man was who gave this radio. Sorry I don't. It was one that the Coast Guard had used in the thirties, about '38 or '39. This desk was.... *(woman makes unintelligible comment)*,

NARRATOR: "No, because this was in service until '54 and electricity, they did have electricity later on, because they used the lightbulb light downstairs. They had two generators and they started them up about every ten days. Start them up in the middle of the day and have those..... *(man interrupting - intelligible comment)*... Think they will?... Well, it's close enough, as I said, it is not really 5 miles from the lighthouse..*(man again: .."generators going in an emergency...because that light had to go....")*...right and once they converted to electricity*(another intelligible comment)*.. well you probably had _____..... Let's go upstairs. Are there any questions about this first floor? *(someone asks intelligible question)*...No. I don't know where the desk came from.. I think we are going to keep it *(murmur)*... and not to be so special about how we _____, just an idea about the working lighthouse.

The other thing they had to keep from boredom, I guess, they had a library that was housed in a suitcase like thing that carried about 50 volumes. anything from a bible to the latest novel. How-to-books. Just a great variety and I found that the Library Association of America sponsored these and whatever their fundraising projects were, they spent the money to buy these libraries and they rotated around the lighthouses and some of the light ships. I think they had somewhere around 1,000 volumes in the mid-1900s' and they kept circulating them every three months. Within a year you had a pretty good collection of reading material.

The actual lens from early days used clockwork and if it was a revolving light and I don't understand why clockwork _____...I write everything down so that *(laughter)*..it's just a calldor.... can you explain that..

QUESTION: *This as you probably saw, I don't know if the tablets were made by a fire alarm manufacturer or not, but this here....they have taken the works out over here, that was marked...*

NARRATOR: This would have been when they converted to steam...no, *(man: there's no steam)*. It was for the clockwork? Later on they did convert it to steam....*(murmur...steam? here?)*... That's a vague point. I don't really understand it. Do you think it was clockwork entirely? *(voices:*

"I think so") ... I found in one of the that they would still use the weights in _____ (voices: "I doubt it" "I wouldn't know")... I have to do this but I don't..... (voices talking)..... oh, I know, you're right. It was a gasoline motor, so steam was for the day ____ air whistle I get everything all mixed up. That's what it was. So this would of been a gasoline engine, but this is not the original bell either. The original bell was 1,200 pounds and it was 36 inches in diameter and this is no way near 36 inches. It's a good sounding bell anyway and the original bell rang every 12 seconds. When I hit it, it won't be as loud as it would have (she strikes the bell).... (intelligible)... but you can feel the vibration on the floor couldn't you?

The lighthouse inspector stayed in this room or that room. These were the guest rooms. I think he didn't stay too long (laughter), but he was here.

QUESTION: "I wonder who made the bell?"

It was made by George Steven's Company and they seemed to have made almost all of the ____ working lighthouses that I've read about. that was from Boston.

COMMENT: "This says Philadelphia....."

Yes, this is not the original one.

COMMENT:: "And Baltimore also...the chain.

Did they make bells too?

COMMENT: "Yes and we had some right here _____..."

some of those big bells.. (Man: "Yes). Finding the bells apparently were a real problem because fog changes the sounds so much. They did a lot of experiments and the Smithsonian had a

project going with Professor Henry. Fog bell experiments. They added concrete to the inside of the bell, that was one thing. I would think that would deaden the ringing sound, and they had it all calibrated and equations about how far a sound would go(intelligible sentence)... Someday I will get it all together and get the technical aspects of it. Most of the bouncing in the early ones (sentence trails off).. Again that's a project I'm looking for at the PAT knockers - the professional _____ association (intelligible).... See, down here, you can see the light from the fog. It would be fun if this could be Plexiglas too, to see the water.

QUESTION: What about this closet?

NARRATOR: This closet would have had things to take care of. Equipment that was needed to shine and polish. The lens probably were kept here. The lens and the lantern had covers, there were curtains that had to be put on the lantern. The lantern referred to the little house that the lighting _____. All of those windows had curtains on them in the daytime and they also had a cover that went over the lens in the daytime to keep it very clean. Again they had to have optimum visibility there. They would have been kept here as well as the cleaning equipment. I think they are going to replace this shallow door and maybe put in a permanent glass. We'll use this to bring up maybe the light bright box (intelligible rest of sentence trails off).

COMMENT: I would think that the (narrator: .."whiting) that was the _____(talc?) because the compass.....

NARRATOR: Because it would scratch, wouldn't it? And it kept saying whiting... back to the dictionary...(voices talking)... Now they are going to redo this. I think Peter wants to have a large.... and Gene Snyder is working on the designs for this. A large one piece map of the Chesapeake using these pictures, because they are pretty good photographs. Rather than having numbers, have a string from the picture to the place. I think it would be easier to read. I think they are thinking of something really big, and I think they are going to put it in the office downstairs on one of those big walls so then you can see there are some lighthouses

COMMENT: *"that's the crux of it right there"...*

and to come all the way upstairs before you see it is kind of ...

COMMENT: *"it used to be downstairs in the office"(voices talking).....*

I think it will make a new map. Maybe not all these great details, but enough for boaters to understand (*voices discussing*). The idea of a book with the photographs might be something...

COMMENT: *"these are so effective when you are doing a tour"...(tape suddenly ends)*

(*voices talking*)...This is not in this lighthouse - this is a third order. The lens go by orders, one through six. There is also a seventh called a hyper- something or other. Yes, the lower number, the higher the power. When they went to categorize them, they went by measurement. For instance, the center of the light was here and this light was something like.... The first order of light was three feet from center to side, interior dimensions, so that made it six foot in diameter and it had a special height also . Also by how much fuel it burned. Now the big lights that were in harbors and out in the ocean, really shone quite a way. The fifth order light, which is supposed to be in this house, which is very small, it's the one that's in the Dobson(?) house. I believe it a fifth order.

QUESTION: *"Oh, the one in the main room in Dobson?"*)...

Yes. I think that's a fifth and that should be the size of this one. Upstairs it is a four. They go down pretty fast. As you see this a three, and the one upstairs is a four, you can imagine what a first order would be.

COMMENT: *"The one at Dobson came from Baltimore Harbor where they didn't need long protection")*

The fourth order that is in this house now has a 12 mile range and the focal point was also critical. Number of feet upon the water. The one in this house was 42 feet. Going by the fifth order, that should be....

QUESTION: *"this is about 20 miles, right?"...*

Yes, I think so.

QUESTION: *"and they are all Fresno(?)aren't they?"...*

Yes, they are. In 1822 he designed them, and that was the last time he designed. The next stage was trying to get the most out of the light. When he came along and developed this, it really changed the whole lighthouse. There were three companies that made them. Then there was a company in Birmingham, England, that made them, but they still couldn't develop quite the same light that the French did. I don't know if it was the glass or the polish, but the French sure took the front seat of this lighthouse. Nobody in America.... I think it was popular in Germany for a while (intelligible comment)...Let's see, I had to the sixth and then I ran across a seventh order called hyperluminis or something. It really was because it weighed about 30 pounds.

COMMENT: *"now they use strobes".....*

Strobes are very powerful and small in fog (intelligible comment, laughter, "right no romance"). They may be raising this light platform, at least through the ceiling, then you'll get a better idea of the actual playing time it took here.(voices) Instead of moving it, you start moving it around

COMMENT: *"how they got the darn thing up here in the first place..."*.

It all comes apart. You see that, and in the back there is a door. They had to have a door panel hooked up to get into where the light was. I have to look it up... (voices talking over) The theory

being, understanding theory of why and what went into this, the light would come out here, your flame would be right behind the bull's eye here, or the center of the flame, and then, because of the candle, the light goes all over the candle flame. Then the first ____ they put a reflector over the candle. You get light rays short here and then they go out - but they still are uncontrolled and go way off to each side. But with this it concentrates the light, because as it gets here, it bends the light forward or down and this light must have been tiny enough so that it would have refracted the light and they could get it into ____ by adjusting all the _____. If you go around and see the different museums, which I'm starting to do now to look at the different lens. This is pretty simple.

Some of them have a half here which is involved in light and some that will see farther and then stop and they'll come up again. Then they would have one that had 22 of them (intelligible) and seven on the bottom. So once they learned this technique, then they started elaborating on it for specific places. *(man made intelligible comment about Mariner's Museum and the old Cape Henry Light)* *(voices talking over)*....and that's a first order light. Have you seen that one?..Okay. Well that's a first order light. They have a first order light on Fire Island. *(narrators voices trails off at this point)*....They have a couple of lens and then the 1876 exhibit at the Smithsonian. They have a display on the lighthouse board and there are a couple of lens there. Looking around, I found out what those exhibits in 1876 that lighthouse *(voice trails off)* and I ran across a description that said they had a full scale lighthouse. It was one that was built and ready to be placed someplace and I couldn't find any pictures *(intelligible)* so I went home to the archives and found scary optic pictures. I went through *(intelligible)* and I found one picture. It's the very one I wanted, so it was worth the two hours I spent because it showed photographs of lighthouses outside. They actually had it manned. *(intelligible - voices trails off)*. So those are two places you can look but unfortunately the Smithsonian doesn't have any information about the lens. They are there, they look pretty but.. I asked them about the centennial *(intelligible)*. They did that exactly as it would have been done and they had no labels and no information *(voice trails off)*. Any more questions?

.... 300 gallon oil tanks and just put those there and chained it. That is so it wouldn't cost anybody very much. It's just a little more authentic.... *(voices talking over)*

COMMENT: "I thought maybe you could put a bed throw over it"

It's wood, but it has a metal cover which of course was for safety reasons. The oil for the lamps was another thing that was interesting. Of course the early lights were just an open fire. Then they had charcoal, and then they went to candles. By the time we get around to it, it's oil and you spray a little oil in. Coal's an oil. That's a new one on me. It's made out of wild cabbage seeds and a few other wild vegetables and that was the oil they used for a while. Then they used mineral oil and lard. Just plain old lard. The problem with the lard was that it would solidify in the wintertime so they would have to keep it warmed up. They would run out and fill it up, but once it got started it was all right (voice trails off)... Yes, when they used the wick lamps. From then, they used kerosene and earth oil. That's petroleum, and they didn't like that very well because it smoked so much (voices talking)..Pardon?

QUESTION: "didn't they use a ___ vapor – where they pumped pressure with a Coleman camper?..."

Yes, there is one downstairs in the cabinet as a matter of fact. Argune, A-R-G-U-N-E lamp. And then I guess with the wick they had to have special scissors. I wish we could find some, because the scissors are curved so that you get a curve on the wick. That makes it burn better, but the candles in Boston(?) might have used it in the late 1800s, they used 30 half-pound hallow candles. (intelligible) That's a lot of work (intelligible).

This is made in France. You can see the label in the bottom here. It's hooked up to electricity and only uses a 60 watt bulb when it went electric. Now it's the code for the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, CBMM. People always ask it's navigational, and I say "no". I can't imagine that you'd want to come up on Navy Point and that's about what would happen. There is no reds. See the red is in the opposite direction. They put the red panels in for the danger sign, and this was a fixed light and didn't move around. The signal was just flashing on and off, from the side walls. You see little holes that we're all standing in front of, and those were ventilating holes when

they used the oil lamps. They had to have good ventilation, so that was to get.....there is a ventilating hole in the roof also. Okay?

I told you about the focal plane that was 42 miles.... I mean it was 42 feet from here to the water line and it shone 12 miles. The 60 watt bulb, people ask sometimes what's the candle power. I had it at about 3,000, a little over 3,000 candle power, on the 60 watt bulb.

I told you about the curtains. You can see hooks here. Some of them hang curtain rods and fancy things. They wanted to keep the light off the land during the day, as well as keep it clean. Bob Smith said that he thought that the light could come in on the prisms and maybe activate, if they were oil _____, could activate a light and that would be very dangerous too.

Some of the lighthouses, when they put the curtains up, had them color coded. They would be dark blue or red or just black, and white on the outside. Then in the daytime, would give you a visual clue of where you were. Just as some of the conical lighthouses are painted different colors. They would use their curtains if they weren't going to that (*intelligible comment/question - "I suppose you are going to keep this painted"*).... Right. The glass had to be polished, because using glass they loss less light by using these prisms. I think as the light goes through them, any kind of glass or no glass at all, you would loose intensity (voice trails off). As a matter of fact, Solomon's Island I think is supposed to be a fourth order, and they have a fifth order lamp in it. We have a fifth order light but a fourth order lamp in it. We ought to switch around!! (laughter) But theirs is a revolving light and it moves from side to side .. Now some of the early ways, they revolved back then was a pop cork and they dropped the weights over the edge. They had a hole through the floor, because it didn't go down the stairs exactly. They would have a drop tube actually, so the weights would turn around and the weights would go down through the tube and just rewind it as was necessary. The big lamps were a kind of problem because of their weight, moving them around. So at one point they used a mercury bat kind of thing, and it would revolve smoothly on mercury. I don't think they did that very long. They'd get mercury fumes if they ever lost some of the mercury... (*intelligible*). You know what a lot of the breakages was from? The birds. Because the birds would be attracted to the light and then in the daytime of course the sun

was shining on it, and so it ____ to replace a pane of glass because the birds....(*intelligible comments - voices laughing.. "some in storage..."*).... Yes they did, and they also would have spare lamps. When the inspector came, he had a regular check list. Some of the books I've found, about five pages long, and some of the questions did not pertain to every lighthouse but pretty much the same thing. They asked how the keeper kept things clean, and whether the cloth, the lantern cover, was kept properly in storage and it had to be folded just right, not get dusty.

QUESTION: *This lens was in perfect condition when it was put on there?.....(voices talking over)*

NARRATOR: You know it looks to me that some of the breaks happened just in the years I've been here (*interrupting: "Oh, from school kids...."*) ... hitting it with a pencil. As a matter-of-fact right over your head it looks like a bullet hole. I don't remember that being there. Maybe that hail storm we had (*voices talking*).. is that smooth on the inside?

COMMENT: *I think a lens cover would be a very good idea so that they cannot touch the exhibits.*

NARRATOR: We have to constantly polish with gauze or something, and maybe you could (*voices talking*)..... There was an article about the Sandy Hook light in the Washington paper about a year ago. Vandals had gotten into that and smashed the light. Of course there is no replacing that. Nobody makes these anymore.

COMMENT: *"like when we had the light ship and the vandals took the hatch cover and just threw it in the river"*)

That's why fixing the lighthouse up too much would be a problem too, because you don't want things to be walking away .. (*voice trails off*) Yes they can....

VOICES TALKING: *"but you almost have to stay downstairs and take .."*)

and how I don't know. How much you would save with all this. Sunday afternoons probably..

*** at this point a lot of voices talking - fragments of sentences**

COMMENTS: "I was here last year when they had an art exhibit..." Well, especially if it was special times... but yeah"

NARRATOR: ..Not as a lighthouse keeper. It's too bad because people do like the lighthouse

COMMENTS: " It's a little hard to get docents used to this.....(more voices)

NARRATOR: Are there any questions? ... (*intelligible question asked about the diameter and having enough room*). That's right. You see, it should have a smaller light really. This light is too large for this lantern (*conversation back and forth*). Museums are kind of smart. Sometimes they're cooperative. I don't mean just this museum, they are all over the country that way. They are very generous about some things. When they have something they want, it's a natural exchange. Now at the Solomon's Island light you don't go through without a guide. As a matter-of-fact, I think you can go all the way upstairs but you can't walk through the rooms. It's roped off. They have it completely furnished, everything to dish towels and doilies. It's very pretty and I don't mean to say anything about it but, this lighthouse definitely would not have been like that because the two bachelor male keepers would not have been interested in ironing all those things. There was a family at Solomon's. That's right, but even at that I wonder if they would have had that much fancy equipment. As I said, their salary was very limited. They were always encouraged to grow a garden if they had the land. A lot of the lighthouse keepers had second careers. Some of them had pulpits, and some of them taught school, some of them studied law.

QUESTION: "could they leave much?"

They could. You see, it would be in the daytime and maybe a visit to the parish once a week or something. They could do anything to earn extra money as long as it didn't interfere with the light.

(intelligible question). Cara, are you the one that is working with Jean on the lighthouse? You mentioned that to me the other night. I hadn't watched the name tags too much. That's great. You've been hearing me(laughter)

CARA: *I'm glad I got this background. You've been a wealth of information.*

It's a lot of fun. It's just the lighthouse now but I have to know something about the lens here. I've been trying to find where I'd get that information and a lot of it is in France (laughter). It does snowball, so I said I'm definitely going to spend two days a week, go into the patent office or the archives and Library of Congress and the Mariner's Museum . Once people know they are really helpful to you with any information they have. As I said, the museum's artifacts sometimes don't want to change, but the information everybody

QUESTION: *"Is the ____ best of the book helpful or is that just in the beginning.."*...

Which one is that?..."*Lighthouses of the Bay*"... It's a ____ photo book. I should get a bibliography together. ("no, it's a very thin book and a big book and it's a hard cover and a soft cover"). Well, there aren't very many books on lighthouses, so anything is going to have the information you need and that's where I started. I went to the children's library and just went from there. A lot of it is technical (voice trails off)...most of the books are not specific. There is a little bit about a lot of lighthouses you realize, that because there are a lot of lighthouses, and so I always try to stay in the Chesapeake Bay. Even at that, there are about 70 of them and only a few that are still left (laughter and comments).

Thank yous - end of tape.