

Just as a teacher often learns from students, Point Pinos docents can learn from visitors.

On a recent Sunday afternoon, a visitor shared some memories with me (Docent Ann). He was a member of the Coast Guard in the 1970's. When he was about to be discharged, he worked at the lighthouse for his last few weeks of duty.

He remembered sitting at his desk, in what is now the kitchen area. His desk was just opposite the door to the navigation room and faced the back windows. He said he would sometimes look up from his work and enjoy watching the deer roam the grounds. Later in his visit, when we were looking out towards the golf course, he noticed some possible descendants of those deer he saw long ago.

He said because he had access to the Coast Guard weather monitoring information, some local radio stations would call regularly to get information for their weather reports.

He also mentioned the special instructions he had to follow and the time it took to clean the Fresnel lens. He thought the lens was beautiful, but I don't think cleaning it was one of his favorite jobs.

As we stood by the foghorn display, he talked about how the foghorn used to be located by the water's edge. He said there was a switch to activate it inside the lighthouse. He remembers the sound as being very loud. In fact, he said there used to be a sign by the foghorn warning people not to walk in front of it because the sound, at close range, could damage their hearing.

One of his duties included doing rounds. He had to check in regularly at certain places on the grounds. There was a clock-like device that he punched at each area to prove he was actually doing the rounds and not dozing off.

He said during his time in the Coast Guard, he was stationed in many places, but regards his time in Pacific Grove as one of his favorite memories. He now lives in Santa Cruz and over the years has visited the lighthouse many times. He said he is so pleased that it has been maintained and is still open to visitors.

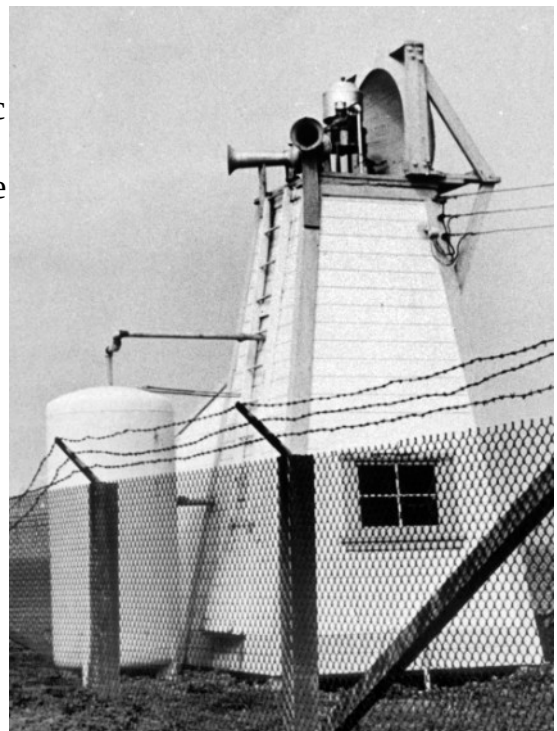


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