
Crisp Point Light Historical Society

P.O. Box 229, Paradise, MI 49768

Phone (906) 492-3206 or 492-3496

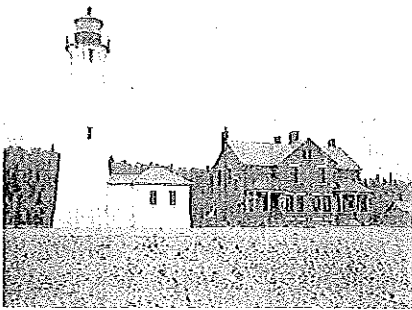
Newsletter # 15



February 2004

Happy Anniversary to Crisp Point Lighthouse.

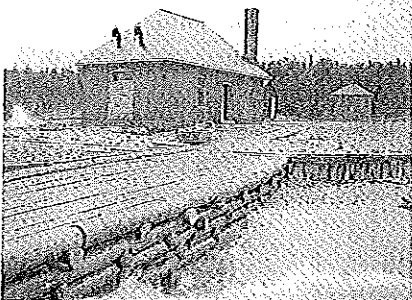
May 5, 2004 marks the 100th anniversary of Crisp Point Lighthouse.



Crisp Point Lighthouse was first proposed in 1896 but wasn't approved by Congress until June 1902.

1903, the newly constructed foghorn building had its boiler destroyed by a fierce Lake Superior storm. When the new machinery for the foghorn was installed it was a chime whistle, which replaced the standard whistle.

1935



1903-1904 the lighthouse was constructed. It wasn't until 1906 that the service building was built and connected to the tower. Prior to Crisp Point lighthouse being built, Crisp

Point Life Saving Station was situated in the area of Crisp Point.

Due to the many ship wrecks such as: the propeller, Indiana in June of 1858, the steamer, City of Cleveland in November of 1864 and the schooner, Southwest in May of 1870 along the eastern end of Lake Superior, the U.S. Congress authorized the establishment of life saving stations for the eastern end of Lake Superior. In addition to the station at Crisp Point, there were stations at Vermillion Point, Two Hearted River, Deer Park and Grand Marais.



Crisp Point Life Saving Station

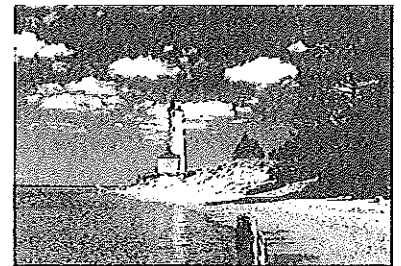
Crisp Point Life Saving Station was built in 1875 and became operational in 1876 and was known as station No. 10.

Crisp Point got its name from one of the Life Saving Station Keepers, an iron-willed boatman named Christopher Crisp who was appointed as keeper of Station No. 10 on October 3, 1878.

In the mid 1950's with the improvements in navigational equipment and the automation of the lighting systems for lighthouses, there wasn't a need for a fully manned lighthouse station, thus Crisp Point Lighthouse station was closed, but the light still shined with an automated system.

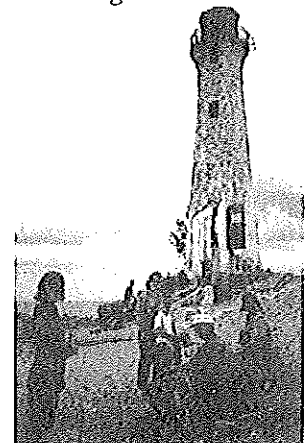
In 1965 the Coast Guard destroyed all the buildings on the grounds only leaving the lighthouse and the attached service building.

1993, Crisp Point Lighthouse was decommissioned and all lighted navigational devices removed. The lighthouse was left to the fate of the big water.



In 1988 while on a vacation in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Ohio residents, Nellie and Don Ross, were on a narrow back road with no place to turn around when they came upon Crisp Point Lighthouse. This trip down a narrow back road led to the establishment of the Crisp Point Light Historical Society in 1991.

In November 1996 while still trying to acquire funds to stop the erosion the C.P.L.H.S. lost its battle to save the service building.



Continued on page 5

Crisp Point Light Historical Society

Newsletter # 15



February 2004, Page 2

Eighth Annual Crisp Point Lighthouse Conference - 2004

The eighth Annual Crisp Point Lighthouse Conference will be held Saturday, July 17, 2004 at the Paradise (Whitefish) Township School. The Conference will begin at 10:00 a.m. with coffee, juice, and donuts.

We will be reviewing past projects and upcoming projects. Additionally, a box lunch will be provided.

After the day's events, we will be venturing to the lighthouse to enjoy a bonfire and hotdogs. With the weather permitting, a beautiful evening sunset is a sure bet.



(2003 Conference Auctioneers)

The cost of the conference is \$10.00 (again this year, there will be no charge for children under 10) and you can register by mailing in the registration form that is enclosed with this newsletter or by calling: (906) 492-3206 or 492-3496.

Crisp Point Web Site

Be sure to browse by and check us out at the Crisp Point Lighthouse website:

www.crisppointlight.org

Lighthouse Keepers Program for 2004

We need folks to sign up for the summer weekends and week days. The only requirement is being a C.P.L.H.S. member.

You will get the key for the lighthouse so you can keep it open and greet visitors to Crisp Point. You can get involved with a work project or just hunt the beach for agates.

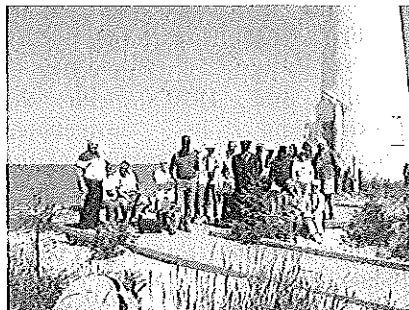
There will be only one family or couple at a time so you can spend the evening alone. You can bring a camper or set up a tent. Some members even stay in a motel and drive out each day.

Please call (906) 492-3496 and talk to Dee Smith to reserve a time to be a Crisp Point Lighthouse Keeper.

G.L.L.K.A. - Annual Conference in Paradise

The Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association held it's annual meeting in Paradise then took a trip to Crisp Point Lighthouse. G.L.L.K.A. took their first trip out to Crisp Point ten years ago.

For more information on G.L.L.K.A you can call 1-231-436-5580



Keeper, Carl Jahn with Hiawatha Sportmans Club

THANK YOU'S

To Luce County Road Commission and employees for maintaining and improving the roads to the lighthouse.

To Eleanor Hastie & Kathryn Hoffmaster for help with newsletter mailing.

To John Rath for C.P. silhouettes.

To Dee Smith, Kay & Bob DuBois, Rick & Terri Brockway, Dianne Sweeter, Don Ross and Carl & Marcia Jahn for all their help with last years conference.

To Paul Freedman for photos.

To Chuck & Inga Spaulding for researching a replacement Fresnel lens.

To Cameron Lovett for maintaining the website.

To all who acted as weekend lighthouse keepers.

New Ramp

The picture below shows the ramp built by Don Ross with assistance from Rick & Terri Brockway. The ramp leads from the east end of the boardwalk down to the beach.

The summer of 2004 anticipates a ramp leading to the beach on the west end of the boardwalk.



New beach access ramp

Crisp Point Light Historical Society



Newsletter # 15

February 2004, Page 3

Membership List: We received many donations that have gone into the lighthouse fund to help save Crisp Point Lighthouse. We cannot thank all of you enough for supporting Crisp Point Light Historical Society. Your memberships and membership renewals are so encouraging. Thank you for all your help and continued effort to support the preservation to keep your lighthouse "THE CRISP POINT LIGHTHOUSE".

2003 New Members:

California

Robert Burn; Miller Castings Whittier

Colorado

Dan & Judith Oliver Broomfield

Florida

Capt. & Mrs. Ken Chombers N. Palm Beach
Dorothy Martin Palm Beach

Illinois

Joan, Bill & Bridget Byrnes Gurnee
Susan Crowell & K.C. Cooke Lombard
Joe & Marie Rakoczy Park Ridge

Indiana

Joe & Linda Shimek Auburn
Rod & Shirley Eaton Batesville
G. Carter & Susan Rothrock Columbus
John & Carol Markley Granger
Mrs. Emily Whalen South Bend
Kevin & Sarah Deiotte & Girls Westville
Lowell & Ann Markley Zionsville

Michigan

Rick Zieseemer Bay City
Barbara Diette Belleville
Beth Hamelund & Kathy Cory Big Rapids
Dick & Peg Charlefour Blissfield
Linda R. Pietrazewski Brown City
Scot McConnell Clinton
Michael & Christine Kramer Clinton Twp
Alan Thayer Family Commerce Twp
Beatrice Naish Dryden
Robert & Jeanette Lamere Eaton Rapids
Nancy A. Duede Elk Rapids
Marilyn Darland Ferndale
Sandra J. Bohn Flint
Timothy & Kathy Weiden Fremont
Jerry & Judy Belcher Gould City

Michigan

Jim Arnouts Grand Haven
David & Beverly Turner Grand Rapids
Kim & Cathy Evanzo Grand Rapids
Chris Caporale Harrison Twp
Jean Vandenburg Hastings
Jacqueline Lee Brickey Idlewild
The Burns Family Jackson
Tom & Laura Calcutta Lake Orion
John & Kathleen Freeman Lansing
Dean & Jeannie Scheerens Mackinaw City
Vernon & Judy Becker Middleville
Gary A. Borlace Midland
Bob & Julie Floria Mt. Morris
John & Linda Martin Mt. Pleasant
Jim & Monica McDaniel Ortonville
Don & Pat Russell Otsego
Michele Vandervelde Rockford
Richard S. Jackson Rockford
Diane Chapman & Neva Weidig Royal Oak
Robert R. Horn St. Ignace
Larry & Phyllis Irrer St. Johns
John Porter Traverse City
Michael Farrer Traverse City
Nancy Fowler Trenton
John & Tammy Low Warren
Dorothy A. Evans Waterford
Ruth & Melissa Washburn Wayland
Mary Suphar Wayland
Delmar & Betty Crisp Wayland
Damian & Mary O'Connor White Pigeon
Jim Heintz Wixom

Our Sincere Apologies to Norma Hand of Gaylord, Michigan who has been a member since 1998. Somehow we keep dropping her name from our membership lists.

Minnesota

Brian Huntington Plymouth

Missouri

John & Dorothy Herweg St. Louis
Larry Dinges Springfield

Crisp Point Light Historical Society



Newsletter # 15

February 2004, Page 4

New York
Chad Hunter Rochester

Ohio
Dr. J. Ernest Wells Columbus
Doug, Laura, Monica & Jacklyn Parsley Loveland
Larry K. Bernard Toledo

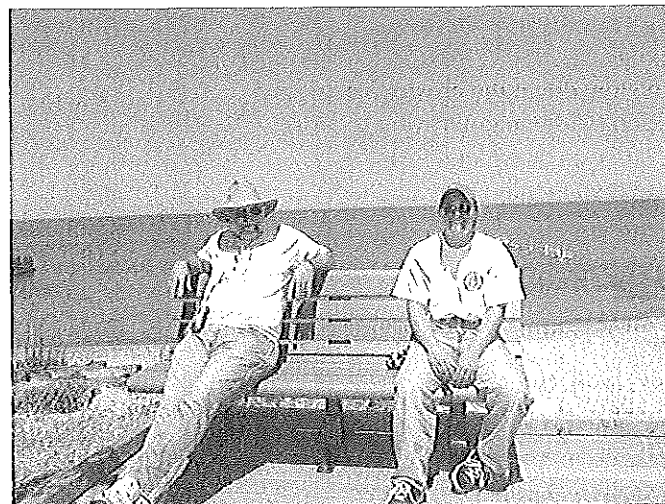
Texas
Dale K. Sparks Livingston

Wisconsin
Steven Lynch Darien
Paul Pakula Green Bay
Paul & Laurie Lata Marinette
Robert Crisp St. Francis
Michael & Lisa Kilmer Verona
Tim & Ann Rutkoske West Bend

New Benches at The Lighthouse

Benches have been installed on the boardwalk so visitors have a comfortable seat to sit on while enjoying the views at Crisp Point. The benches were sponsored:

- * In memory of David Lee Kaan
- * In memory of Anthony J. Czubik
- * By Gerry Schmidt
- * By the Solboda Family
- * In memory of William Kosier & in memory of Esther Tabor
- * In memory of Roy Singleton
- * In memory of Joseph & Margaret Singleton
- * In memory of Tom & Neva Singleton
- * In memory of Max & Serie Gertz
- * By Chuck, Inge & Karen Spaulding & Mary Cowles / Dean & Jeannie Sheerens



Don Ross and Diana Hellstrom enjoying some good conversation while relaxing on one of the new benches

Eighth Annual Crisp Point Lighthouse Conference – 2004

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Attending _____ x \$10.00 = _____

Amount enclosed = \$ _____
(no charge for children under 10)

10:00 am Saturday July 17, 2004
at the Paradise (Whitefish Twsp.) School

Visitor Statistics

1998 - 2,000
1999 - 7,000
2000 - 24,000
2001 - 28,600
2002 - 29,500
2003 - 22,416

Crisp Point Light Historical Society



Newsletter # 15

February 2004,

Page 5

LifetimeMembers list:

Bob & Becky Anderson Family
Patrick & Delores Blohm Family
Rick & Terri Brockway Family
Dave & Julie Buckmaster Family
Paul & Melissa Burns Family
Al & Marge Colagross
Al & Cori Colagrossi
Bay Mills Indian Community
Ryan & Miriam Conner Family
Frank & Carol Crisp
Karen Damoth
Bob & Kay Dubois
Sally Edwards
Smokey Mountain Flame Keepers
Paul Freedman
Marilyn J. Frietag
Jane Gertz
Jean Gertz
Bob & Margaret Goldthorpe
Ann Grasso

Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Assn.
Great Lakes Lighthouse Museum
Dennis & Pamela Hale Family
Tim Harrison
Bernie Hellstrom Family
John & Elizabeth Hyde
Richard S. Jackson, Jr.
Gregory J. Lansfeld
New England Lighthouse Fund
Cameron Lovett
Paul & Barbara Mason
Mark Mather
Jim & Carolyn Michael Family
Al & Rosella Mickus
Dick & Margaret Moehl
Spencer L. Murfey, Jr.
Newberry Lions Club
Mike & Jan Odenweller
Sault Tribe of the Chippewa
Rob & Jeannie Robbins
Richard & Kathy Robinson Family

Charles & Sharon Ross Family
Craig Ross & Kimberley Spinazzola
Don Ross
Mark & Lynne Ross Family
Steve & Bonnie Ross Family
Todd & Melissa Ross Family
Virble & Edith Ross
Harvey & Kathy Sherman Family
Stella Shisler
Steve, Karen, Ryan & Kasey Smith
Dee Smith & Bill Apel
Bruce & Yvonne Summey Sr.
Gerard & Lynette Szydlowski Family
Tony & Melanie Tatarowicz
Bucko Teeple
Marvin & Joy Theut
W. Bruce & Phyllis Thomas Family
Edward G. Voss
Mike & Margaret Warren Family
Stewart & Noreen Warren
Kevin White

Happy Anniversary ...

Continued from page 1

The summer of 1999 brought many changes at Crisp Point. The Luce County Road Commission finished the last ½ mile of County Rd. 412 and put in a parking lot just to the south of the lighthouse. We also had several tons of limestone put in front of the tower to slow down the erosion and "Scotty" the painter went to work to restore the splendor of this historical landmark.

Memorial Day weekend 2000 brought many volunteers to "The Point" to plant 90 assorted pine trees.

In July 2001, a boardwalk was constructed at the lighthouse.

This boardwalk has made the lighthouse much more accessible to visitors with special needs and

has helped slow down the erosion of the sand surrounding the lighthouse. Many thanks to all that donated to make this boardwalk a reality.

February 2003, C.P.L.H.S. suffered its greatest loss when President and co-founder of C.P.L.H.S., Nellie Ross, lost her battle with a long time illness.



Lost but never forgotten –
Nellie Ross

July 2003 brought the second round of erosion control when John Lechner Construction Company placed some very large pieces of limestone in front and to the east and west of the tower.

This ground stabilization should be adequate for the next stage in the restoration process which is the rebuilding of the service building. There are also plans in the works to replace the eight tower windows and build a restroom with an interpretive center.

With all the volunteers and support in the past we have come a long way in just a few short years. With your continued support and volunteerism, Crisp Point Lighthouse will be here for another one hundred years.



John Lechner Construction Co. moving stone – July 2003

Crisp Point Lighthouse Merchandise

Once again this year Crisp Point will be represented at the Michigan Magazine Expo in Cummings Michigan.

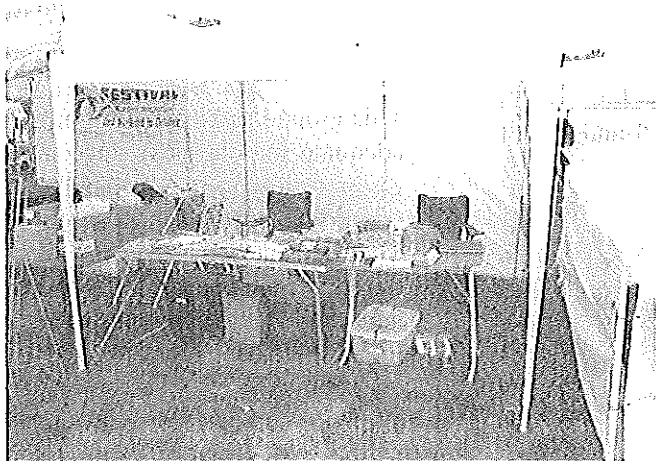
Our display booth will be set up in conjunction with the Alpena Lighthouse Festival. We will have many Crisp Point Lighthouse related items on display and for sale.

The Expo will be held Saturday and Sunday, June 26 & 27, 2004 so mark your calendar and plan to attend and support C.P.L.H.S.

We will also be at the Alpena Lighthouse Festival October 9 & 10, 2004.



Benches on east viewing platform



Michigan Magazine Expo June 2003



Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association
at Crisp Point 2003

Nellie Ross Memorial

Thank you to all who have sent cards and donations. We are still in need of suggestions for the memorial. Please send your suggestions to Crisp Point, P.O. Box 229 Paradise, MI. 49768