

Excerpts from Keeper's Logbooks, New Dungeness Light Station

Saturday, January 28, 2006

Last night the wind tore at the house like a huge tom cat in search of mice. It roared and pulled and tore most of the night and then suddenly turned quiet. You could sense a shadow waiting, hoping the mice would feel safe and leave. Not me! I stayed huddled in my bed!

This place is a secure haven between a largely forgotten past and an uncertain future. It is literally an island within a wildlife refuge.... A magical place. A place where we can celebrate our roots in the comfort of the present. A place where we can linger over a meal and exchange conversation... not simply eat.

Tuesday, January 31, 2006

The hounds of hell ran around the house trying to pull it apart. The wind and waters raged in mad frenzy. I could almost imagine a particularly large wave depositing a sex starved elephant seal on our front porch. He had a wicked smile on his face!!!

Saturday, February 4, 2006

The storm of the (___!!) has hit. The keeper's house is an island. The barn is totally surrounded. The boat beside the house is afloat. The beams behind the barn from the cable crossing sign are floating. Oh the thrill of it all!!

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Again summoned by the geese & sea gulls. Breakfast was omelets, vegetables. Barry arrives to work. The men join him and

women go garbage walking. The weather is incredible. Slight wind, sun and clouds.

Dinner is lamb stew and salad. Fresh crème brulee and decaf. (If you haven't figured out by now our lives revolve around the beauty of this setting, wildlife constantly in front of us and the food. Enjoyed another movie: "Good Night & Good Luck".

Saturday, May 6, 2006

Will we have to go home today? I thought about hiding in a room so I would never have to go home. This has been the best vacation I have ever dreamed of. I am so lucky to have C_____ as my husband who finds taking me to a lighthouse a thrill. By the way, he does not want to go home either. Hope to do this every year. Great lighthouse, great friends and great food. What more could anyone want? (Keepers from Everett)

Friday, June 23, 2006 (this entry is by 2 young brothers, age not mentioned)

This trip was an experience for all of us (W--- and J_____). We got to build boat models and a wind chime. They turned out great! What I think this trip was it was an experience of work, fun, and more fun. (W_____) Even though I got a few toe injuries giving tours of the lighthouse was rally fun! We didn't even mind cleaning the bathroom because it was worth it to stay at an amazing lighthouse for a week. We were the only ones to remember all the facts about the lighthouse so we got to give the tours. We could complete each others sentences! We thought we would have so much free time but instead we have so much work to do. We thought about Ms. Mendoza (our third grade teacher) when she was on duty when the spit caught on fire in 1999. It was a driftwood fire that got pretty close to the lighthouse.

They had to get rescued by a helicopter and it took the firemen two days to get the fire out of here. We will always remember this amazing trip. J_____ & W_____, signing off

July 25, 2006

We've become attached to a seagull family who built a nest on the lighthouse chimney. The two babies fell out of the nest onto the roof. Barry replaced them while he was up there. Later one fell to the ground, but seems unharmed. Now "mama" is continuing to sit on the nest with one baby and an un-hatched egg while "papa" cares for the other baby in the tall grass near the pond. We hope they'll be o.k.

July 27, 2006

Our seagulls are still tending their young—one on the beach and one on the roof. Mama seems to also be fixing up the nest. Is she planning to lay more eggs? Their parenting instincts are rather amazing.

July 30, 2006

The day started at cloudy but yet sunny later. We had 70 visitors today. My favorite family was D___ & H___ and their nephew. Keeper B_____ thought T_____ from Vashon Island was cute. Though he had a terrible sense of direction and was heading for home in totally the opposite direction (other side of spit and heading for the tip). I caught up to him & got him steered in the right direction. Nice guy & quite embarrassed. Took a walk down the beach and saw a killer whale. As I walked toward it, I realized it was a lady in a black and white wind breaker. (Note to self: See optometrist when I get home).

September 10, 2006

What a beautiful day it was for our week stay on our Anniversary. The sun was as radiant as my husband's smile and in my husband's eyes, and as warm as his touch. We enjoyed it as a perfect day!

November 3, 2006

Awesome, truly a first class experience! Surely, there has never been or perhaps will never be again such a fabulous week! Wow—such a remarkably spectacular, unbelievable decadent abundance of deliciously prepared food. Breakfast - lunch - dinner. Indeed, a feast. Not only a first class, or world class, but a class all its own! Yummy in the tummy. Weight Watchers here we come!

November 4, 2006

The group had a meeting to discuss when and how we should cut the grass. The options put forward were to cut it on Wed. or Thurs., depending on weather, but the more animated debate concerned the direction to cut: a.) North/South, b.) East/West, or c.) diagonal. The discussion focused on the affect of the wind and the appearance primarily, but other minority opinions were also registered. No consensus evolved, and a vote failed to register a majority for any option, so the issue was tabled for resolution at future keeper meetings. Perhaps sleep would help resolve it. Stay tuned.

The day was concluded with a beautiful full moon walk on the beach at a very low tide—with lightning flashes off in distance over Vancouver Island.

November 5, 2006

The discussion and debate concerning the lawn mowing pattern continued. We have two keepers in favor of East/West, one in favor of North/South, one in favor of diagonal, and two in favor

of paisley. While we still have not reached a consensus, we did decide to limit the final choice to these four options.

November 6, 2006

Regarding the lawn mowing controversy, after extensive debate we have abandoned our prior commitment to limiting the choices to four mowing patterns. We now have notes (some fractional) for parabolas, hyperboles, spirals, sine curves, ovals, bell curves, tangent curves, and exponential. We continue to have two votes for paisley.

December 1, 2006

A short dissertation on the perils of the lightkeeper must be included in this chronicle. Due to a logistics failure, this keeper (C___) failed in his role to provide sufficient provision for his self and his wife (S___). Had it not been for the gracious generosity of fellow keepers B___ and V___, and the contributions of some of our kayaking visitors, we should most surely have perished. Actually C___ forgot the main food supply container on the counter top at home! Well, this capital offense resulted in some very interesting entrees. Cheerios with ovaltine and water. And a true gourmet dinner of Tuna Redenbacher (a can of tuna and a bag of popcorn). Despite the dire circumstances, we had a great time and even accomplished a bit of maintenance work.

One group composed a poem. (Their stay was 9/30 - 10/6/2006)

"Our Stay at Serenity"

Six ladies from Denver are we,
The lighthouse and ocean to see.
We heard it from
A keeper who'd come.

We thought it'd be our cup of tea!

Our trip to the store took a while.
The driver helped load with a smile.
Low tide's half past four. (a.m.!)
We took off with a roar.
The sand was hard packed on each mile.

We hosted the hikers who came
And told them the history and fame.
We picked up beach trash;
It made a big stash.
The stuff people toss is a shame.

We saw seals and gulls by the score.
One eagle, but hoped we see more.
Sandpipers at play,
Glad the skunks stayed away,
And hikers saw orcas from shore.

We each served our turn as the cook.
We can't count the pictures we took.
It's sad to depart
And touches our heart.
This lighthouse has caught us, by hook!

2007 Logs:

Jan 2nd, "Woke up this morning thinking it was Wednesday and feeling sad that we only had two days left. Someone finally figured out it was only Tuesday. I feel that the Dungeness God's changed us back to Tuesday.

Jan 21, "Yesterday we spotted with the telescope - "Big Boy", the elephant seal on the end of the spit. We watched until he slipped into the water - ugly snout!! Lot and lots of eagle action!"

Feb 7, "Rack of lamb for dinner with roasted potatoes, bok choy, and salad. Quiet evening of a puzzle, reading, and conversation."

Feb 8, "Dan reads to us from Thomas Merton, *A Year with Thomas Merton*, ... fidelity to grace in my life is fidelity to simplicity, rejecting ambition and analysis and elaborate thought or even elaborate concern..." Sunrise - An event that calls forth solemn music in the very depths of ones being.

Feb 20, "The day ended with a family dinner which was excellent and the conversation fun. The evening was topped off with a movie and popcorn."

Feb 23, "The morning began with a high tide of 8.1 which washed over the spit and again made us an island for awhile. We all watched from the driftwood once in a while getting sprayed by the waves!"

Feb 25. "Another wonderful day in paradise...calm and beautiful, perfect setting in which to enjoy our morning coffee"

Feb 26. "Our visitors from Lifestyle magazine, took a tour of the keeper's quarters and were amazed at how nice, cozy, and well appointed the house is.... I do believe we made some more converts!"

March 1, "I happened to be looking out the dining room window and caught a startling sight. A Bald eagle suddenly took off after a seagull, pursuing it into the water. The eagle dove on the

hapless bird once and missed. The second dive finished the pursuit and the seagull."

March 2, "Well this is our last day in this wonderful place. Tonight we get back to reality. But I know that all of us will carry this unique experience with us into our work-a-day routines, thinking back on the good fun, good food, good stories and good friends who shared this week. We are already planning another get-together."

March 4, "An early morning walk, many birds: common loon, great blue heron, harlequin duck, surf scoter, bufflehead duck, red breasted merganser, bald eagle, kill deer, mew gull, glaucous wing western gull, robin, winter wren...chestnut backed chickadee, song sparrow, double breasted cormorant, Canada goose, long tailed duck, common golden eye, pigeon Guillemot, and common raven"

March 5, "Roy is singing in the lighthouse, Susan and Mike are enjoying the view from the bench overlooking the straight, Mike and Leila basking in the sun on the porch.

March 6, "Oh what a beautiful morning!!! Living in a picture postcard! Clear, sunny, dew on grass sparkling. Have to remember to breathe while viewing the Olympics'." Sue found a very old shoe polish bottle today as she and Mike were wandering and Susan's Mike found a large agate.

March 9, "Saw two otters from the top of the lighthouse. One climbed over logs and debris and hid while the other stayed in the surf and ate a ray! Great sighting.

March 10, Welcome to our replacements. I hope you enjoy as much as we did!

May 28, "Bob and I were busy all morning greeting visitors. It was just wonderful to sit outside the tower at the top in between visitors and watch the eagles glide by and the seals frolic in the Strait.

June 15 [teen]; My first week at the lighthouse was a blast! I don't remember exactly what happened all week cuz the days are a blur. My favorite thing to do on this trip was going to the beach. I love the Beach!

July 25, Suppertime - yeah - Salmon and Chicken breast was on the menu. We sure have eaten well this week. For some reason no one has eaten those 10 cent packs of raman noodles.

July 26, One of the best things about being a Keeper is the fascinating variety of people to meet. So many stories, from so many places. They all have the same kind of reaction to the view from the top of the tower. I find it exciting to cross paths with others for this one brief moment, and I can't help to wonder about how this fits into the web of life.

Sept 8, This is my 3rd stay here - each year I have been blessed with gorgeous weather. It is wonderful to introduce my family and my mother to this special place.

Dec 15, The lighthouse has not changed much in the two years since we've been here, but we sure have. Our kids are now 18, 16, 14, and 11 years old. This vacation is the highlight of our year. We have talked about this sweet little lighthouse for two years, waiting to come back.

Dec 24th, A blustery Christmas Eve! Winds gusted to 40 and above, the tides were very high. Waves were washing over the spit in several places. But the keeper's house stayed warm and

snug and dry. The sun was bright and the air was crisp. What more can you ask?