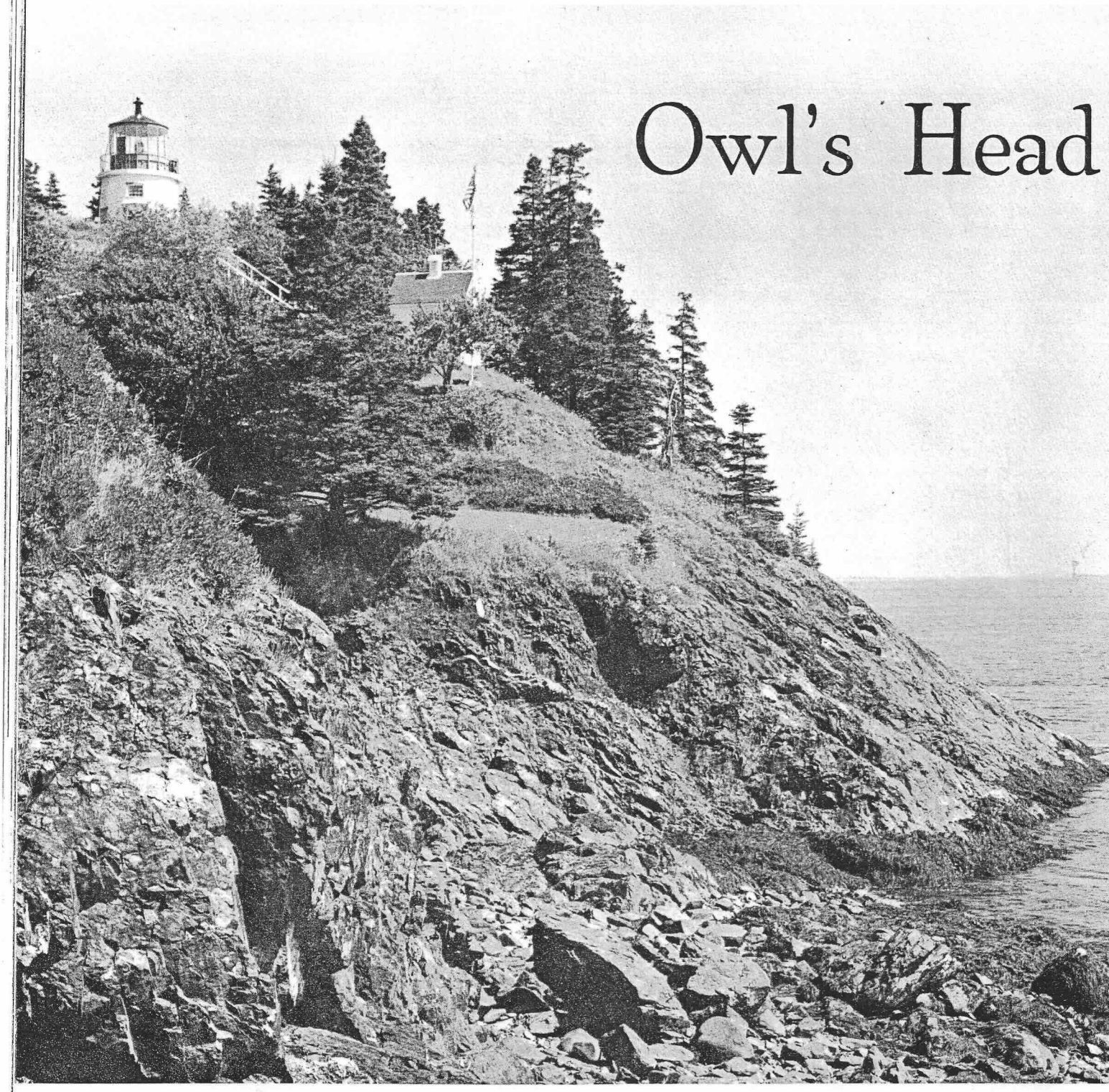
Owl's Head



Photos by Jack Lane

OWL'S Head Light at the southern entrance to Rockland Harbor is one of the oldest and loveliest of the lighthouses on the Maine coast. Nestled among dark spruces on a high rocky promontory one hundred feet above the water, the light has been guiding mariners in and out of Penobscot Bay for 145 years. Although it once revolved, the light is now fixed, and its 25,000-candlepower beam shines fourteen miles to sea.

IN years past yachtsmen cruising north from the Mussel Ridge Channel always saluted Owl's Head Light with a blast on the horn as they came abreast of the headland and saw before them the Camden Hills rising out of Penobscot Bay in one of the grandest of down east vistas. And always the light keeper would come down the wooded slope to the huge fog bell and wave or would ring the bell in answering salute.

President John Quincy Adams signed the authorization for Owl's Head Light in the late spring of 1824. The fifty-foot structure of brick and Maine granite was constructed the following summer, and the light was first lighted on September 10, 1825. Isaac Stearns was its first keeper. Boatswain's Mate First Class James Sullivan now tends the light for the United States Coast Guard, and he and his wife and three children occupy the keeper's quarters. Fourteen acres of land west of the light station were purchased recently by the town of Owl's Head for a park and picnic area.

