Cape Cod's Highland Light, Will it go Dark?

By Timothy Harrison

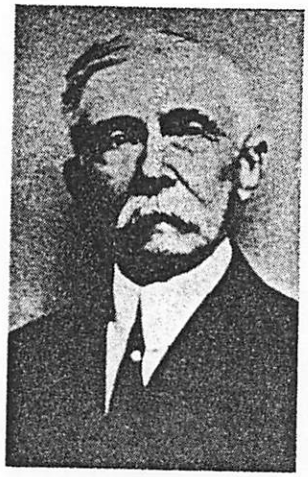
Pictured on the front cover of this month's issue is a dramatic photo, by Paul Andrews of Aerial Photo of Cape Cod, which clearly shows this lighthouse is in danger of toppling over into the sea.

In 1961 Highland Light stood 232 feet from the edge of the cliff. Because of erosion, today the lighthouse is less than 115 feet from the edge. By comparison the original Highland Light stood 510 feet from the edge of the 120 feet high cliff.

Plans and fund raising efforts have been underway for a number of years to move the lighthouse. The move will be a collaborative effort between the Coast Guard, the National Park Service, the town of Truro, and the Truro Historical Society. Although the Congress of the United States has mandated that the lighthouse be moved, it has yet to appropriate any money and the only funds raised to date have been done so by the Truro Historical Society. The State of Massachusetts has also promised to give $500,000 toward the move, but the money must also be used to help move Nauset Light which is also in danger from erosion.

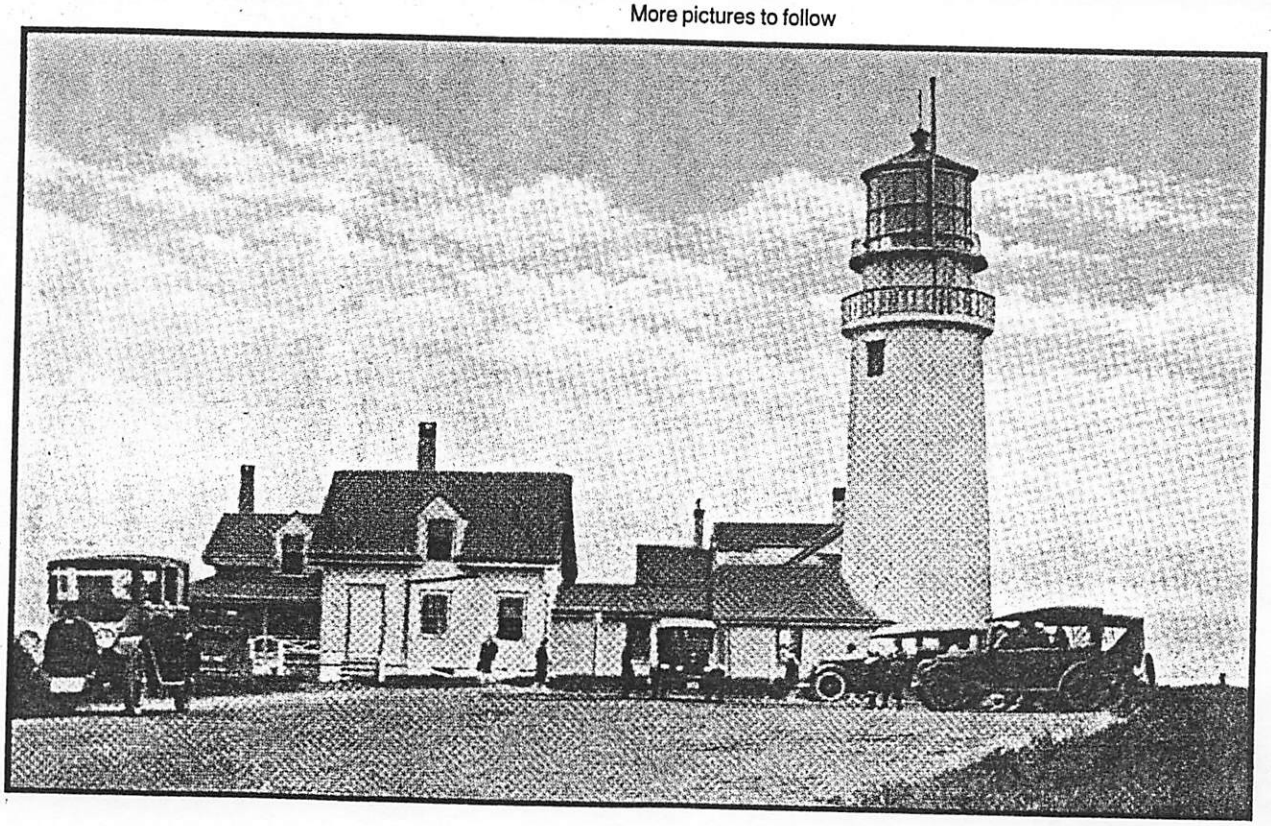
Highland Light weighs an estimated 500 tons and has brick walls that are three feet thick. It is expected that the tower which is 66 feet high will be moved on rails, similar to the way Block Island's South East Light was recently moved.

However, at the rate of erosion, the move must be soon, or it may be to late to save Cape Cod-Highland Light.



Pictured is Isaac Morton Small (1845-1932) who grew up at Highland Lighthouse where his father was Keeper. The land that the lighthouse is now on was originally purchased by the Federal government from his grandfather.

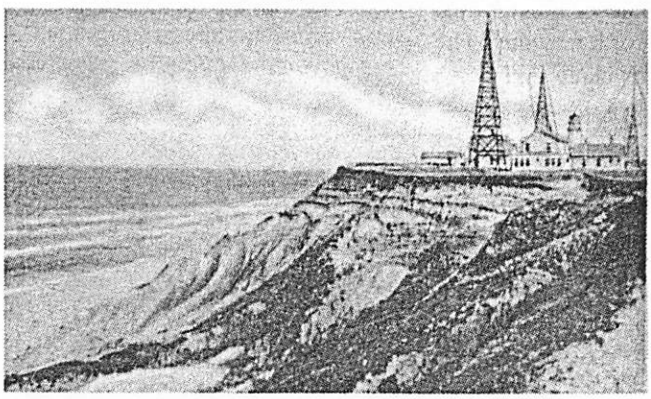
More pictures to follow



Cape Cod's Highland Light from an old postcard.



Above is an aerial view of the Highland Light, before the eroding cliffs claimed two of the buildings on the land. Compare to our cover photo and notice where the circular drive is in both photos.



Notice in the old photograph above, the radio towers at Highland Light which have long since disappeared.



Look closely and you will see the horse drawn carriages in front on Cape Cod's Highland Light.



William A. Joseph who was keeper of Highland Light from 1923-1947.