Lighthouses of San Francisco Bay
by Shanks

(TRUEMAN COOK)

Re Cook at Angel Island

One of those who manned Point Blunt was Trueman Cook. Cook was perhaps the last of the Pacific Coast's civilian lighthouse keepers. The Coast Guard assumed light-keeping responsibilities from the Lighthouse Service in 1939. Gradually, Coast Guard enlisted men replaced their predecessors until only a handful remained in the 1960's.

Keeper Cook was one of the last of a fine tradition. He and his wife were well adapted to their island life. They would regularly feed a buck deer who banged on their window with his nose when hungry. Cook was almost casual about the frequent arrivals he gave to Sunday sailors who often piled up on the rocks and beaches of Angel Island. Those whom he could not help directly he assisted by promptly telephoning for Coast Guard rescue craft.

According to Otto Plapp of PG Cook was a former Navy man. He thinks Cook died of cancer. He remembers Cook had an assistant named Nelson

July 22, 1957 re Truman E Cook

Upon being relieved as Officer in charge of Pigeon Point Light Station you are to report for duty at Point Reyes Light Station as soon as practicle and take over duties of Officer in charge of that station. This amends paragraph of letter addressed to you under date of July 18.

June 4, 1962 re Truman E Cook, advancement to keeper.

1. This office has no objectment to the assignment of subject individual as Keeper at Alcatraz Light Station and subsequently, if present plans materialize, at Point Blunt Light Station, along with the necessary personnel action to restore him to his former status.

2 It is felt that the man has learned his lesson. Certainly there has been no problem connected with his former difficulty with alcoholic beverages, his conduct nor his dependability for the past two years during which he has served as assistant at Alcatraz Light Station.

3 This does not mean of course, that Commander Group YBI should not pay particularly close attention to his activities under his new status.

Request, June 20, 1962 — effective date July 1, 1962 from Assistant Keeper (Class 3 to Keeper (acting) at Alcatraz Light Station.

Mr. Cook being detailed as Keeper, necessitated by moving of assigned Officer in charge prior to permanent change of Alcatraz Light Station to unattended status. Permanent action will be taken within 90 days.

May 4, 1960

Mr Trueman E. Cook was demoted and appointed Keeper Class 3 at Alcatraz Light Station April 1960 under the supervision of the Military Officer in charge.

May 6, 1960

4 All employees under my supervision have been rated "Satisfactory" except Mr Trueman E. Cook former Keeper and officer in charge of Point Pinos Light Station. Mr Cook has recently been demoted to Keeper, Class 3 in accord with CCGD12 letter of March 30, 1960 and Commandant (PCP) letter of March 25, 1960. Mr Cook has not been rated inasmuch as he has not served in his new position long enough to make an evaluation of his performance.

K. E. Wilson

May 5, 1961

Trueman E Cook rated, satisfactory.

April 6, 1967

1 A persual of official files on the Point Blunt Light Station indicates that Mr Cook has consistently operated an excellent station. In order to make an accurate determination as to his possible elegibility for an incentive award provided for by reference (a) it is requested that I be provided a brief resume of his services during the past year.

June 10, 1957

1. It is planned for Nimmo, B.M.1 now officer in charge at Angel Island Light Station to relieve Mr Cook as officer in charge at Pigeon Point Light Station about 25 July, 1957. When relief is effected Mr. Cook goes to Point Pinos as relief for Mr. Davis who is scheduled for retirement on July 31. Mr. Cook will relieve Mr Wilkinson as Officer in Charge when he retires December 31

July 10, 1957 from Chief Personnel Division
re Truman E. Cook

1 Under date of July 31, 1957 Headquarters approved the transfer of Mr Cook to the position of Keeper (First Asst) at ~~Pigeon~~ Point Pinos Station when such station becomes vacant due to the retirement of Mr Ray H. E. Davis. Headquarters also approved the request for the travel of Mr Cook and his wife and the transportation of their household effects from Pigeon Point Light Station to Point Pinos Light Station at Government expense.

2 Mr Ray H. E. Davis has requested retirement as of the close of July 31, 1957, but approval thereof has not as yet been received from Headquarters

F. V. Helmes

July 18, 1957 — re transfer of Trueman E Cook

1 Upon being relieved as officer in charge of Pigeon Point Light Station, you are to report for duty as Keeper (First Asst) at Point Pinos Light Station, not later than August 1, 1957. The present keeper (1st Asst) is scheduled to retire at the close of July 31, 1957.

J

March 12, 1968

Trueman E. Cook, keeper – re performance of duties (physical requirements)

1 Lighthouse keeper in performance of the duties listed in reference (a) must be physically fit to perform the following general type of work.

(a) climb and descend long steep stairways in buildings and light towers, on hills or cliffs, piers, etc.

(b) climb ladders and work from various reggers to repair and paint buildings and towers. This often requires working from considerable heights.

(c) Accomplish various kinds of gardening, includes digging raking, plantings, trimming, etc

(d) Perform duties under stress of all weather conditions, and frequently perform long hours of duty without rest in case of manpower shortages or needed repairs to station equipment.

(e) Lift, carry, and store station supplies.