REFERENCE SERVICE SLIP
Archival Research Room Record Request
National Archives at St. Louis

Date: 9/8/2025

REQUESTER INFORMATION

Name (Please Print – Last, First, Middle)	Researcher ID Card Number
Burns, Andrew	4563213
E-Mail Address:	**Phone Number:**
afbfg4@umsl.edu	636-415-7353

INFORMATION NEEDED TO LOCATE RECORDS (Furnish as much as possible)

Name used in Service (Please Print – Last, First, Middle)	Service Number/SSN	Date & Place of Birth
Welch, Horace, O.		1898 OK

MILITARY SERVICE

Branch of Service:
- ☐ Air Force
- ☐ Army Air Corps
- ☐ Army Air Force
- ☐ Army
- ☐ Marine Corps
- ☐ Navy
- ☐ Coast Guard
- ☐ Unknown

Type of Rank:
- ☐ Enlisted
- ☐ Officer
- ☐ Unknown

Service Period (Check all that apply):
- ☐ 1939 & Prior
- ☐ 1940 - 1950
- ☐ 1950 & After

Date & Place of Death: 1934 TX

State of Residence (upon entry into service):

Other Identifying Information (Parent's Names, CSC Number, etc.)

Researcher Signature: Andrew Burns

CIVILIAN SERVICE

(Agency & Location) Lighthouse Service (TX) 8th Dist

From:	To:
1930	1934

(Agency & Location)

From:	To:

(Agency & Location)

From:	To:

Other Identifying Information (Maiden Name, Job Title, etc.)

This Space Intentionally Left Blank

STAFF USE ONLY

Appointment Time and Date:

Additional Researchers: ☐ Yes ☐ No

CMRS Service Request Number: C-0006282019

CMRS Search Request Number(s): Civilian

Attendant Signature:

Remarks: Archival search 9/15

25 MAR 19 AM 9:48:37

SCREENING NOTES

☑ Reviewed and Nothing Removed RE ☐ Items Removed and User Informed

Hold Requested: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Total Requests:

Screened Items:

☐ Additional charge outs and signatures on reverse side

Time Out:

Final Return:

NOTICE OF EMPLOYMENT OF (print name) Horace (First name) Ona (Middle name) Welch (Last name)

PERSONAL INFORMATION

BORN AT Cherokee, Okla. DATE Sept. 30, 1898 HOME ADDRESS Half Moon Reef Lt. Box 127

LEGAL (VOTING) RESIDENCE: Texas (State & Cong. Dist.) Matagorda (County) Palacious (City) Palacious (City) (Street) Texas (State)

EDUCATION State number of years: GRADE SCHOOL 7 HIGH SCHOOL 4 COLLEGE ---- DEGREES ----- BUSINESS SCHOOL ---- CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL ----

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, NOTIFY: E. R. Allen (Name) Palacious (Street) Texas (City and State)

CHECK	Native-born	Naturalized	Alien	Male	Female	White	Colored	Other Race-State which	Height	Eyes	Hair	Complexion	Identifying Marks, etc.
	X			X		X							
WHICH	Alien, Intentions declared	Married	Single	Divorced	Widowed				5'3"	Blue	Brown	Fair	None
			X										

DEPENDENTS: HOW MANY? one RELATIONSHIPS Mother ARE ANY MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY, DOMICILED WITH YOU, IN THE SERVICE OF THE U. S. GOVERNMENT OR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA? no IF SO, FILL IN THE FOLLOWING:

NAMES	RELATIONSHIP	DEPARTMENT WHERE EMPLOYED	SALARY

PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT SERVICE

(Use separate sheet, if necessary. Give approximate dates when actual dates are not known.)

DEPARTMENT	BUREAU	POSITION	PAY	DATE ENTERED ON DUTY	DATE SEPARATED
Commerce	U.S.L.H.S.	Asst. Lightkeeper	$1250 ~~less~~ 10%	Oct. 21, 1930	

OTHER EXPERIENCE

EMPLOYER	ADDRESS	POSITION	PAY	DATE ENTERED ON DUTY	DATE SEPARATED
E. R. Allen	Palacious, Tex.	Boatman	$100/mo.	June 1925	July 1930

(OVER)

9. Was his physique and endurance excellent, good, fair, or poor? Good .

10. What was his value in:
(a) Handling trucks (driving, greasing, simple adjustments) No opportunity "
(b) Complicated adjustments and repairs on trucks _____ "
(c) Handling small boats _____ "
(d) Operating marine gas engines _____ "

11. Had he, to your knowledge, when he left your employ, any debts or liabilities or was he security for any person? No .

12. Do you consider him reliable and qualified to be entrusted with other people's money and public funds and property? No .

13. Has he, to your knowledge, been suspected of drunkenness, gambling, extravagance, speculation, dishonorable dealings, fraud, dishonesty? No . (if so, specify which one or ones)

14. Previous Survey service - yrs. under _____ (Chief of Party)

15. Was employee, when separated from your party, paid in full for services? Yes .

Earl O. Heaton

Date of this Report: May 15 1935. Submitted by Earl O. Heaton (Chief of Party)

INSTRUCTIONS

This form must be submitted to the Washington office by the chief of party immediately after the employee is separated from the service, or when the employee is transferred to another party, or when the chief of party transfers charge of the party to another officer. A copy of this report should be furnished the employee.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey
(M-40) Form No. 703

NAME OF EMPLOYEE AS IT APPEARS ON THE PAYROLL Horace Ona Welch

APPROPRIATION FROM WHICH PAID N.I.R.A. F.P. 76

MILITARY OR NAVAL RECORD

Check one	NONE	ARMY	NAVY	MARINE CORPS	COAST GUARD	WAR VETERAN? YES	NO X

Date enlisted

Date discharged

Rank held when discharged

Organization in which served

Do you receive a pension, compensation, disability allowance, or retired pay?

If your answer is "yes", give claim number

MISCELLANEOUS

Do you receive annuity under the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund?

If so, how much?$ no When did annuity start? ---

Are you on administrative furlough or on leave with or without pay from Federal or District of Columbia Government? no If your answe "yes" from what organization? ---

REQUIRED ONLY FOR SEAMEN

City and State in which shipped Does not apply

Entitled to receive longevity of $ ____ per ____ on ____ 19__

HEALTH AT TIME OF SHIPMENT: Check which - Excellent ___ Good ___ Fair ___ Poor ___

(Signature of Medical Officer)

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURE

The statements given above are true to the best of my knowledge and

Horace Ona Welch

(Signature of employee as it will appear on payroll)

INSTRUCTIONS

B/7

This form must be filled in by each employee, other than commissioned or appointed personnel, and must be mailed to the Washington Office of the Bureau by the Chief of Party, IMMEDIATELY after the employee enters on duty. Chiefs of Party, before sending the form to the Office, should be assured that each item on the Form is filled in properly; and the Chief of Party must fill out and sign the first line of the "SERVICE RECORD" below. This record and signature will be used as a basis for auditing the payrolls and maintaining service records of all unclassified employees in the field service.

SERVICE RECORD

ACTION	DATE EFFECTIVE	DESIGNATION or RATING (Title of position)	PAY Amount	PAY per	ALLOWANCES Amount	ALLOWANCES per	SHIP or PARTY	REMARKS	Reported to Civil Ser. Com.
Entered on duty	SHIPPED FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED July 1, 1934	Tide Obs.	$5.00	mo.	------		Party #8	Earl O. Heaton Signature of Chief of Party	
Disch	7/31/34	do							

MISCELLANEOUS

RETIREMENT FUND DEDUCTIONS MADE FROM COMPENSATION BEGINNING

Name of employee ... COPY OF DISCHARGE FOR SEAMEN RECEIVED: PERIOD 7-1-34 to 7-31-34 PERIOD

Department Of Commerce U. S. Coast And ...

PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS: Half Moon Reef Lt., Box 127, Palacious, Texas.

1. Employed from 7/1/34 to 7/31/34 at $ 5.00 per month.
2. Designation, or kind of work performed Tide observer.
3. For what kind of work is he best fitted? Laborer.
4. Why did he leave the party? Incompetent.
5. Did he express a desire for reemployment? No.
6. Would you hire him again? No If not, why? Unable to do the work.
7. Give your views of employee's ability and characteristics in the following particulars, by striking out the qualifying terms which do not express your opinion.

(Amplification of answers may be made on separate sheet if desired)

ATTENTION TO DUTY:	~~Exceptional~~	St	~~Satisfactory~~	~~Indifferent~~	~~Unreliable~~
CONDUCT:	~~Excellent~~	C	~~tisfactory~~	~~Poor~~	~~Troublesome~~
PERSONAL HABITS:	~~Exce~~	C	~~ory~~	~~Poor~~	~~Objectionable~~
ADAPTABILITY:	~~Exc~~	C			

RS ON THE PAYROLL Horace Ona Welch

AID N.I.R.A. F.P. 76

MY	NAVY	MARINE CORPS	COAST GUARD	WAR VETERAN? YES	NO X

Organization in which served

Do you receive a pension, compensation, disability allowance, or retired pay?

If your answer is "yes", give claim number

MISCELLANEOUS

Do you receive annuity under the Civil Service Retiremen

If so, how much?$ no When did annuity start?

Are you on administrative furlough or on leave with or with Federal or District of Columbia Government? no If "yes" from what organization? ---

Does not apply

Check which — Excellent ___ Good ___ Fair ___ Poor ___

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURE

The statements given above are true to the best of my knowle

Horace (Signature of e

INSTRUCTIONS

PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS

1. Employed from 7/1/34 to 7/31/34 at $ 5.00 per month.
2. Designation, or kind of work performed Tide observer.
3. For what kind of work is he best fitted? Laborer.
4. Why did he leave the party? Incompetent.
5. Did he express a desire for reemployment? No.
6. Would you hire him again? No If not, why? Unable to do the work.
7. Give your views of employee's ability and characteristics in the following particulars, by striking out the qualifying terms which do not express your opinion.

(Amplification of answers may be made on separate sheet if desired)

ATTENTION TO DUTY:	~~Exceptional~~	Steady	~~Satisfactory~~	~~Indifferent~~	~~Unreliable~~
CONDUCT:	~~Excellent~~	Good	~~Satisfactory~~	~~Poor~~	~~Troublesome~~
PERSONAL HABITS:	~~Excellent~~	Good	~~Satisfactory~~	~~Poor~~	~~Objectionable~~
ADAPTABILITY:	~~Exceptional~~	~~Good~~	~~Average~~	~~Meagre~~	Inadequate
CONFIDENCE:	~~Exceptional~~	~~Good~~	Average	~~Very little~~	~~Timid~~
COOPERATION WITH OTHERS:	~~Exceptional~~	~~Good~~	Average	~~Very little~~	~~Inadequate~~
INITIATIVE:	~~Exceptional~~	~~Good~~	~~Fair~~	~~Very little~~	None
JUDGMENT:	~~Excellent~~	~~Good~~	~~Ordinary~~	Poor	~~Rash~~
LEADERSHIP:	~~Exceptional~~	~~Good~~	~~Average~~	~~Very little~~	Inadequate
QUANTITY OF WORK:	~~Very large~~	~~Large~~	Average	~~Small~~	~~Very small~~
QUALITY OF WORK:	~~Exceptional~~	~~Good~~	~~Average~~	~~Fair~~	Poor

8. Did employee render loyal and wholehearted support irrespective of his own personal views? Yes.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

APPOINTMENT DIVISION

Horace O. Welch
(Name)

Texas
(Legal Residence)

STATUS

DESIGNATION	SERVICE AND GRADE	SALARY	ACTION	BUREAU	STATION—DISTRICT	DATE OF EFFECT
Keeper	–	1320	Prob	L H	8th Dist. Halfmoon Reef, L.S.	Nov. 1, 1930
			Died Dec. 14, 1934			

11—3940

Form 78
LEC

REPORT OF DAMAGE TO PROPERTY OR INJURY TO PERSONS

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
JAN - 3 1935
APPOINTMENT DIVISION 10

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, 8th DISTRICT,

INACTIVE

New Orleans, La., December 21, 1934

Name of vessel, station, or other aid to navigation involved:

Date of accident: December 14, 1934

Nature and cause of accident: Drowning

Estimated cost of damage { to property of the Department: $
to private property: $

What steps have been taken to recover cost of damage to Department property?

Where accidents result in injury to, or death of, any employees, or others, furnish following information for each person injured:

NAME	OFFICIAL TITLE, IF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE	NATURE OF INJURY	HAS WORK TIME BEEN LOST BY EMPLOYEE
Horace O. Welch	Assistant Lighthouse Keeper, Halfmoon Reef Light Station, Texas	Drowning	--

Remarks or recommendations:

E. S. Lamphier
Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Date December 31, 1934

Submitted, in duplicate, to the Secretary of Commerce, for his information. Report is being duly submitted to the Employees' Compensation Commission.

NOTED: W. Gilbert
Chief Clerk,
Department of Commerce

For the Commissioner.

Chief, Personnel Division.

11—11418

CARDED

Form 93
LEC

NOTICE OF ~~RESIGNATION OR~~ DEATH

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE JAN 2 1935 APPOINTMENT DIVISION

1934 DEC 29 AM 9 10

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, 8th DISTRICT,

New Orleans, La., December 21, 1934

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Herewith is transmitted ~~the resignation~~ Notice of Death of the following-named employee:

Name, Horace O. Welch — Position, Keeper in the L.H.Service (Asst.)

Legal residence, Texas — Station, ~~Matagorda~~ Halfmoon Reef Light Station, Texas

Salary, $1320 per annum

Date of death - December 14, 1934

~~The acceptance of this resignation is recommended effective at the close of~~

This employee has not taken leave in excess of the accrued rate.

Remarks: This employee is reported drowned. Advice has not yet been received as to whether his body has been recovered.

CARDED

APPOINTMENT DIVISION
ENTERED ON DUTY
DEC 31 1934
SHEET NO. 4670
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

1935 JAN - 2 AM 11:0
CHIEF CLERK
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

E. S. Lanphier
Superintendent of Lighthouses

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

December 31, 1934

gmp 1/2/35

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved. A copy of the Superintendent's telegram of December 29 is also inclosed giving details in the matter. 11—4623

For the Commissioner:

RG:m

W P Harman
Administrative Assistant

COPY-LEC

WESTERN UNION

LIGHTHOUSES

WESTERN UNION

1934 DEC 26 AM 9:10

NSH157 21 COLLECT- PALACIOS TEX 17 125P

E S LAMPIER
SUPT OF LIGHTHOUSES

H O WELCH ASST LIGHT HOUSE KEEPER HALFMOON MISSING SINCE FRIDAY EVENING C M TELLER IN CHARGE LIGHT HOUSE NOW BACK TO PALACIOS I RETURNED TO LIGHTHOUSE MONDAY TEN AND WITH MR TELLER AND GEORGE MIMS FOUND WELCH MISSING NO LIGHT BURNING RECORDS LAST ENTERED IN BOOK DECEMBER FOURTEENTH SO FAR AS WE CAN LEARN NO ONE HAS SEEN HIM SINCE I HAVE CONFERRED WITH HIS SISTER HERE AND OTHERS WE CANNOT LOCATE HIM MY OPINION HE FELL OVERBOARD AND WAS DROWNED

CLYDE LECOMPTE

COPY-LEC)

WESTERN UNION

NSU 192 85 GOVT COLLECT - PALACIOS TEX 17 343P

E S LAMPIER SUPT
LIGHTHOUSES

I SAW WELCH LAST TIME ABOUT NOON FRIDAY WHEN I TOOK HIM TO THE LIGHTHOUSE LEFT HIM THERE AND BROUGHT GEORGE MIMS BACK TO PALACIOS I RETURNED TO LIGHTHOUSE MONDAY TEN AND WITH MR TELLER AND GEORGE MIMS FOUND WELCH MISSING NO LIGHT BURNING RECORDS LAST ENTERED IN BOOK DECEMBER FOURTEENTH SO FAR AS WE CAN LEARN NO ONE HAS SEEN HIM SINCE I HAVE CONFERRED WITH HIS SISTER HERE AND OTHERS WE CANNOT LOCATE HIM MY OPINION HE FELL OVERBOARD AND WAS DROWNED

CLYDE LECOMPTE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

1934 DEC 26 AM 9 10

Eighth District

Halfmoon Reef Light Station

December 17th, 1934

Superintendent of Lighthouses,

New Orleans, La.

Sir:

The assistant keeper has evidently drowned some time during the night. Probably Friday night. There is no evidence. His body has not been found.

(Signed) C. M. Teller

(COPY)

TELEGRAM

New Orleans, La.
December 29 1934

Lighthouse Commissioner

RELATIVE REPORT DEATH HORACE O WELCH MAILED BUREAU TWENTY FIRST DETAILS FOLLOW CLYDE LECOMPTE EMPLOYED CONVEY KEEPERS TO AND FROM STATION WHILE STATION BOAT UNDER REPAIR REPORTED HE LAST SAW WELCH NOON FOURTEENTH WHEN HE CONVEYED WELCH TO LIGHTHOUSE AND BROUGHT ASHORE LABORER EMPLOYED DURING ABSENCE KEEPER IN HOSPITAL LECOMPTE RETURNED TO LIGHTHOUSE WITH KEEPER SEVENTEENTH FOUND WELCH MISSING SKIFF ON DAVITS AT STATION LAST ENTRY IN LOG FOURTEENTH COAST GUARD REQUESTED HAVE SALURIA LIFESAVING STATION SOUTH END MATAGORDA BAY SEARCH FOR BODY NO RESULTS REPORTED

Lanphier

Standard Form No. 17
Approved by the President, March 26, 1926

LEC

CHIEF CLERK
1931 APR 3 AM 11 17

REPORT ON PROBATIONARY APPOINTEE

This report to be made at expiration of fifth month of service. In cases where the probationary period comprises one year, this report is to be made at the expiration of the tenth month of service.

If service has been unsatisfactory, recommendation for discontinuance under the provisions of paragraph (c) of section 1 of Civil Service Rule VII should be forwarded immediately to the Department. A full statement of reasons should be set forth under "Remarks."

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APR 3 - 1931
APPOINTMENT DIVISION

Commerce
(Department)

Office of Supt., 8th Lighthouse District, New Orleans, La. March 31, 1931
(Bureau or office) (Place and date)

To Commissioner of Lighthouses
(Head of department or establishment)

The probationary period of the person named below expires at the close of business on April 30, 1931, 192 .

The conduct and capacity of this employee have been satisfactory during the probationary period, and (he) (she) is considered qualified for absolute appointment.

Name Horace O. Welch

Position Keeper in the Lighthouse Service

Salary $1320 per annum

Appropriation Salaries, Keepers of Lighthouses

Station Halfmoon Reef Light Station, Texas

Date of entrance on duty November 1, 1930

Remarks:

CARDED

✓ Chas M Teller Keeper
(Signature of immediate superior)

Submitted:
E. S. Rankin.
(Head of bureau or office)
Superintendent of Lighthouses

APR - 2 1931
Submitted to Secretary of Commerce for his information.

For the Commissioner,
R J Gross
Chief, Personnel Division

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-0782

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
NEW ORLEANS, LA.
LHC

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

TO Dept.

1931 MAR 21 AM 8 56

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 8TH DISTRICT
NEW ORLEANS, LA.
March 19, 1931

H. O. Welch, Assistant Keeper,
Halfmoon Reef Light Station,
Palacios, Texas
(Through the Keeper)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
MAR 23 1931
APPOINTMENT DIVISION

CHIEF CLERK
1931 MAR 23 PM 2 50

1. The Keeper has made a report to this office of the assistance which you rendered in recovering the body of a girl who was drowned in Trespalacios Bay on Sunday, March 15th, stating that it was necessary to work for five hours or more before the body of a 14 year old girl was recovered.

2. This office takes pleasure in commending you for your actions in this matter.

3. A copy of this letter will be forwarded to the Bureau of Lighthouses, and this commendation will be made part of your official history.

(Signed) E. S. Lamphier
Superintendent of Lighthouses

2 copies to Commissioner

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington
MAR 23 1931

Submitted to Secretary of Commerce for his information
For the Commissioner:

R J Gross
Chief, Personnel Division.

STANDARD FORM No. 6
(Approved by the President March 28, 1924)

PERSONAL HISTORY

(Statement to be prepared by appointee in his own handwriting)

NOV. 7 1930
APPOINTMENT
DIVISION

Bureau, division, or office Supt. of Lighthouses, 8th Dist. (Halfmoon Reef Light Station, Texas)

1. Name in full Horace Ona Welch.

2. Legal (voting) residence Texas 9th. Matagorda Palacios
(State and Congressional District) (County) (City or town)

3. Where born? Oklahoma. Charokee When born? Sept 30. 1898
(State or foreign country) (City or town) (Month—Day—Year)

4. If foreign, state whether naturalized or alien

5. Indicate sex, marital condition, and race by check, thus: √

SEX		MARITAL CONDITION				RACE. (If other, state which)		
Male √	Female	Single √	Married	Divorced	Widowed	White √	Colored	

6. A complete record of your past civil service for the United States Government:

BRANCH OF SERVICE AND PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT	POSITION	SALARY	DATE APPOINTED			DATE SEPARATED		
			Month	Day	Year	Month	Day	Year
	CARDED							

7. Military and naval record. If any, check (√) to indicate branch and other information and give dates of enlistment and discharge:

None √	Army	Navy	Marine Corps	Coast Guard	War Veteran	Pensioner	Veterans' Bureau beneficiary

Enlisted ..... Discharged .....
Organization .....

Enlisted ..... Discharged .....
Organization .....

8.

EDUCATION (Circle number of years)	Common school	High school	College	Degrees, if any
	1 2 3 4 5 6 (7) 8	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	

9. State special qualifications Capetain of a launch
15 ~~Gross tons~~ gross Tons.

10. Name, relationship, and address of person to be notified in case of emergency:

Earl R. Allen ..... (Name) ..... (Relationship)
Palacios Texas, Box 454 (Post office address)

I certify that the foregoing answers are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Horace Ona Welch.
(Name as usually written and which will be used as official signature)

Oct 15, 1930 (Date) Present address Palacios Texas.

10—1659 GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

DEPARTMENT

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

CHIEF CLERK

1930 NOV 7 AM 10 37

5

I, Horace O. Welch

do solemnly [1] swear (See below) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter:

So HELP ME GOD.

☞ Horace O. Welch
(Appointee signs here)

[2] Sworn to (See below) and subscribed before me, this [3] 31st day of October, A. D. 19 30.

(Affix official seal here)

[4] (Name) J. B. Feather

(Official title) Notary Public, in and for Matagorda County, Texas.

My commission expires June 1st 1931.

CARDED

Official Title	Rate of Pay	Name of Station, Vessel, or Place of Employment.
Present Keeper in the Lighthouse Service	$1320 p.a.	Halfmoon Reef Light Station, Texas
Former [5] PROBATIONAL		

(The above should be filled in by the district officer before sending to appointee)

Office of Superintendent of Lighthouses, 8th District

C. S. REPORT DATA ENTERED

New Orleans, La. (Address), November 4, 1930 (Date)

The above-named appointee entered upon duty on November 1, 1930 (Date)

For and in the absence of the Superintendent

F. J. Muth

Assistant Superintendent

[1] Insert here "swear" or "affirm," as the case may be.
[2] Insert here "sworn to" or "affirmed," as the case may be.
[3] The oath may be taken any time on or after the effective date of appointment and prior to the payment of compensation, but no compensation shall be paid until the oath is executed in proper form.
[4] This oath should be taken before a justice of the peace, notary public, judge, clerk of a court, a chief clerk in the office of a superintendent of lighthouses or other employee in the Lighthouse Service designated by a chief clerk, or any other officer having authority to administer oaths, but never before a collector of customs or postmaster, as neither officer has power to administer oaths in such cases. In case the officer administering the oath has no seal, his official character should be duly certified to by the clerk of the proper court or the proper county clerk, except in the case of chief clerks in the offices of superintendent of lighthouses and other employees in the Lighthouse Service designated by them, who are not required to have a seal.
[5] Give this information in all cases where new oath is required.
Failure to fill out this oath properly will result in its return for correction.

11—044

Form A-30

NOT TO BE ACCEPTED AS AUTHORITY FOR INVESTIGATION OPERATIONS UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY OFFICIAL CREDENTIALS

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
APPOINTMENT DIVISION
WASHINGTON

October 22, 1930.

Mr. Horace O. Welch,

Through the Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Sir:

You have been appointed, subject to taking the oath of office,

Keeper

in the Lighthouse Service

at a salary of Thirteen Hundred and Twenty dollars per annum

effective October 27, 1930, or entrance on duty.

CARDED

Nature of appointment: Probationary.

Civil Service authority: Manager, Tenth Civil Service District.

Classification allocation:

OCT 24 1930

By direction of the Secretary:

Respectfully, EDW. J. GARDNER

8
E

Chief of Appointment Division.

Form 78
Ed. April, 1929

Tenth United States Civil Service District
RECEIVED
LIGHTHOUSES
OCT 14 1930

1930 OCT 17 AM 9 49

NOMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

CHIEF CLERK
1930 OCT 18 PM 2 56

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OCT 20 1930
APPOINTMENT DIVISION

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, 8th DISTRICT,

New Orleans, La. (City) October 14 (Date) 1930

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OCT 22 1930
APPOINTMENT DIVISION

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Action recommended, Probational Appointment

Name, Horace O. Welch

Position, Keeper in the Lighthouse Service

Location, Halfmoon Reef L.S., Texas

Effective, October 27, 1930

Legal residence, Texas

Proposed salary, $1320 p.a.

Proposed range, $1320-$1680

Appropriation, Sals.L.H.Keepers

[1] ~~the actual date of entrance on duty~~, or as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

Former position, - - -

Location, - - -

Former salary, - - -

Former range, - - -

Rank on eligible list, 3rd Rating, Asst.L.H. Keeper Percentage, 79.5, Other eligibles considered: John J. Lightbourne, C; Alfonso Barrientez, C.

Previous incumbent, W. W. DeLong - (LT. #189) #1320 to be Services terminated, about Oct. 20, 1930

Reason, To be transferred to Chandeleur Light Station.

Members of family in Government service, NONE

Date of birth, September 30, 1898

Remarks:

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
OCT 14 1930

Selection regular, ~~subject to the action of the U. S. Civil Service Commission~~, 19....

E. H. JENNINGS
Secretary, TENTH Civil Service District.

E. S. Lamphier.
Superintendent of Lighthouses

PROBATIONAL.

C 10-20-30

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

OCT 18 1930

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

APPOINTMENT DIVISION
NECESSARY
ACTION TAKEN
OCT 22 1930
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Action O. K.

Chief Clerk

C. R. Harman
Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses

[1] Strike out the clause which does not apply.

11—2314

W E L C H, Mr. HORACE O. ✓

DATE	LOANED TO	DATE	LOANED TO

Form 78
LEC

REPORT OF DAMAGE TO PROPERTY OR INJURY TO PERSONS

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
JAN - 3 1935
APPOINTMENT DIVISION

1934 DEC 26 AM 9:40

Out File

1367.

To Dept

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, 8th DISTRICT.

New Orleans, La., December 21, 1934

Name of vessel, station, or other aid to navigation involved:

Date of accident: December 14, 1934

Nature and cause of accident: Drowning

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
1935 JAN - 2 - AM 11:00
CHIEF CLERK

Estimated cost of damage { to property of the Department: $
to private property: $

What steps have been taken to recover cost of damage to Department property?

Where accidents result in injury to, or death of, any employees, or others, furnish following information for each person injured:

NAME	OFFICIAL TITLE, IF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE	NATURE OF INJURY	HAS WORK TIME BEEN LOST BY EMPLOYEE
Horace O. Welch	Assistant Lighthouse Keeper, Halfmoon Reef Light Station, Texas	Drowning	--

CARDED

Remarks or recommendations:

E. T. Lauphier
Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Date December 31, 1934

Submitted, in duplicate, to the Secretary of Commerce, for his information. Report is being duly submitted to the Employees' Compensation Commission.

NOTED:

E. W. Libby
Chief Clerk,
Department of Commerce

11—11418

For the Commissioner.

R. J. Grose
~~Deputy Commissioner.~~
Chief, Personnel Division.

HORACE O. WELCH

HORACE O. WELCH

LIGHTHOUSES

Form 73
Ed. April, 1929

1930 OCT 17 AM 9 49

NOMINATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, 8th DISTRICT,

New Orleans, La. (City) October 14 (Date), 1930

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Action recommended, Probational Appointment — Legal residence, Texas

Name, Horace O. Welch — Proposed salary, $1320 p.a.

Position, Keeper in the Lighthouse Service — Proposed range, $1320-$1680

Location, Halfmoon Reef L.S., Texas — Appropriation, Sals.L.H.Keepers

Effective, October 27, 1930 — [1] the actual date of entrance on duty, or as soon thereafter as he enters on duty.

Former position, - - - — Former salary, - - -

Location, - - - — Former range, - - -

Rank on eligible list, 3rd — Rating, Asst.L.H. Keeper — Percentage, 79.5, Other eligibles considered: John J. Lightbourne, C; Alfonso Barrientez, C.

Previous incumbent, W. W. DeLong - (LT. #189) — Services to be terminated, about Oct. 20, 1930

Reason, To be transferred to Chandeleur Light Station.

Members of family in Government service, NONE

Date of birth, September 30, 1895

Remarks:

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Selection regular, ~~subject to the action of the~~ U.S. Civil Service Commission, OCT 14 1930, 19____

E. H. JENNINGS
Secretary, Civil Service District.

E. J. Lauphier
Superintendent of Lighthouses

PROBATIONAL

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

OCT 18 1930

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses

[1] Strike out the clause which does not apply.

11—2314

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS—FRIDAY—DECEMBER 28—1934

Lighthouse Keeper Vanishes From Texas Reef

'Lamp Lighted at 6 P. M. All Is Well'—Last Entry in Log Dec. 13

By United Press

PALACIOS, Tex—Relatives maintained an almost hopeless vigil today for a lighthouse keeper who disappeared without apparent means or motive.

H. O. Welch, 36, keeper of the lighthouse on Half Moon Reef, simply vanished. How and why, none professed to know. Fishermen, Coast Guardsmen keeping a sharp lookout for signs of Welch, didn't know whether they were looking for a man or a body.

Welch was marooned at his station two miles from the mainland on Dec. 10. Three days later a relief boat arrived at Half Moon Reef. From the condition of the lighthouse officers reconstructed his actions until 6 p. m. on Dec. 13 as follows:

He had tended his light and posted an entry in the log: "Lamp lighted at 6 p. m. All is well."

He prepared for the night by removing his watch, money and other personal effects and placing them on a table in his quarters. Then he went to his bed and turned down the covers.

At this point the conjecture dwindled into unsupported speculation. Those on the relief boat found all oil consumed from the beacon light and the wick burned away.

Seamen discounted the possibility of an attempt to swim to the mainland, two miles over water usually whipped to turbulence. Airplanes scouted the territory but there was no sign of Welch.

12/28/34
wired 8th.

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES

WESTERN UNION

WASHINGTON D C DECEMBER 28 1934

Lighthouse Superintendent
New Orleans Louisiana

WIRE REPORT DISAPPEARANCE KEEPER HALFMOON REEF

PUTNAM

- - - - - - - - - - -

RADIOGRAM

RECEIVED AT

DEPT. OF COMMERCE
BRANCH
Tel. No. 5060

STANDARD TIME INDICATED ON THIS MESSAGE

Mackay Radio

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Commercial Cables

All America Cables

Postal Telegraph

RADIOGRAMS TELEGRAMS CABLEGRAMS

ACCURATE
FAST
COURTEOUS

DEC 29 1934

Ask for duplicate

DCC—4 G

WB16 86 SER GOVT=RN NEWORLEANS LOU 1000A DEC 29 1934

LIGHTHOUSE COMMISSIONER=

12-29-34- Wired 8th Dist -

RELATIVE REPORT DEATH HORACE O WELCH MAILED BUREAU TWENTY FIRST DETAILS FOLLOW CLYDE LECOMPTE EMPLOYED CONVEY KEEPERS TO AND FROM STATION WHILE STATION BOAT UNDER REPAIR REPORTED HE LAST SAW WELCH NOON FOURTEENTH WHEN HE CONVEYED WELCH TO LIGHTHOUSE AND BROUGHT ASHORE LABORER EMPLOYED DURING ABSENCE KEEPER IN HOSPITAL LECOMPTE RETURNED TO LIGHTHOUSE WITH KEEPER SEVENTEENTH FOUND WELCH MISSING SKIFF ON DAVITS AT STATION

Apparently not received in Bureau

FOR MESSENGER—RING THE POSTAL CALL BOX OR TELEPHONE NEAREST POSTAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE.

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES

LIGHTHOUSES

WASHINGTON D C DECEMBER 29 1934

LIGHTHOUSE SUPERINTENDENT
NEW ORLEANS LOUISIANA

RETEL DISAPPEARANCE KEEPER HALFMOON YOUR REPORT TWENTYFIRST NOT RECEIVED

FORWARD DUPLICATE

PUTNAM

CJL/C

CONFIRMATION.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

LEC
Incls.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

LIGHTHOUSES

1934 DEC 31 AM 9:05
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 8TH DISTRICT
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

December 29, 1934

Commissioner of Lighthouses:

H. O. Welch, Assistant Keeper, Halfmoon Reef Light Station, Texas. Drowning.

1. Referring to Bureau telegram of December 28 and reply of this office of to-day and Bureau's second telegram of to-day, there is forwarded herewith copy of the report of death of Horace O. Welch, dated December 21, 1934, also a copy of Form 78 which accompanied the report.

2. As stated in telegram of to-day, the Coast Guard was requested to have the Life Saving Station at Saluria search for the body of Mr. Welch.

3. Mr. Clyde Lecompte, who had been employed to transport the keepers and supplies back and forth during the time station boat was under repair, telegraphed this office, under date of December 17, reporting that H. O. Welch was missing since Friday evening (December 14). He was requested to wire in detail in regard to this matter and his reply follows:

"I saw Welch last time about noon Friday when I took him to the lighthouse Left him there and brought George Mims back to Palacios I returned to lighthouse Monday ten and with Mr. Teller and George Mims found Welch missing No light burning Records last entered in book December fourteenth So far as we can learn no one has seen him since I have conferred with his sister here and others We cannot locate him My opinion he fell overboard and was drowned."

4. Mr. Lecompte was then requested to advise whether the skiff or yawl was at the lighthouse Friday, and whether it was still there, and he replied as follows:

"George Mims released by Mr. Teller yesterday at ten AM Mr. Teller is in charge at light house Skiff was on hangers in usual place at light house Had not been used So far we have not heard anything from Assistant Keeper Welch."

For and in the absence of the Superintendent.

E. A. Braun Jr.
Chief Clerk

COPY

Form 93
LEC

NOTICE OF ~~RESIGNATION OR~~ DEATH

LIGHTHOUSES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

1934 DEC 31 AM 9 08

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, 8th DISTRICT,

New Orleans, La., December 21, 1934

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Herewith is transmitted ~~the resignation~~ Notice of Death of the following-named employee:

Name, Horace O. Welch — Position, Keeper in the L.H.Service (Asst.)

Legal residence, Texas — Station, Halfmoon Reef Light Station, Texas

Salary, $1320 per annum

Date of death - December 14, 1934

~~The acceptance of this resignation is recommended effective at the close of~~

This employee has not taken leave in excess of the accrued rate.

Remarks: This employee is reported drowned. Advice has not yet been received as to whether his body has been recovered.

(Signed(E. S. Lanphier
Superintendent of Lighthouses

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES

WASHINGTON

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved.

11—4023

WESTERN UNION

1934 DEC 31 AM 9 05

NSH157 21 COLLECT - PALACIOS TEX 17 125P

E S LAMPIER
SUPT OF LIGHTHOUSES

H O WELCH ASST LIGHT HOUSE KEEPER HALFMOON MISSING SINCE FRIDAY EVENING C M TELLER IN CHARGE LIGHT HOUSE NOW

CLYDE LECOMPTE

WESTERN UNION

NSU 192 85 GOVT COLLECT - PALACIOS TEX 17 343P

E S LAMPIER SUPT
LIGHTHOUSES

I SAW WELCH LAST TIME ABOUT NOON FRIDAY WHEN I TOOK HIM TO THE LIGHTHOUSE LEFT HIM THERE AND BROUGHT GEORGE MIMS BACK TO PALACIOS I RETURNED TO LIGHTHOUSE MONDAY TEN AND WITH MR TELLER AND GEORGE MIMS FOUND WELCH MISSING NO LIGHT BURNING RECORDS LAST ENTERED IN BOOK DECEMBER FOURTEENTH SO FAR AS WE CAN LEARN NO ONE HAS SEEN HIM SINCE I HAVE CONFERRED WITH HIS SISTER HERE AND OTHERS WE CANNOT LOCATE HIM MY OPINION HE FELL OVERBOARD AND WAS DROWNED

CLYDE LECOMPTE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

Eighth District
Halfmoon Reef Light Station
December 17th 1934

Superintendent of Lighthouses,

New Orleans, La.

Sir:

The Assistant Keeper has evidently drowned some time during the night. Probably Friday night. There is no evidence. His body has not been found.

(Signed) C. M. Teller

Form 78
LEC

REPORT OF DAMAGE TO PROPERTY OR INJURY TO PERSONS

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, 8th DISTRICT,

New Orleans, La., December 21, 1934

Name of vessel, station, or other aid to navigation involved:

Date of accident: December 14, 1934

Nature and cause of accident: Drowning

copy

Estimated cost of damage { to property of the Department: $
to private property: $

What steps have been taken to recover cost of damage to Department property?

Where accidents result in injury to, or death of, any employees, or others, furnish following information for each person injured:

NAME	OFFICIAL TITLE, IF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE	NATURE OF INJURY	HAS WORK TIME BEEN LOST BY EMPLOYEE
Horace O. Welch	Assistant Lighthouse Keeper, Halfmoon Reef Light Station, Texas	Drowning	- -

Remarks or recommendations:

(Signed) E. S. Lanphier
Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Date .....

Submitted, in duplicate, to the Secretary of Commerce, for his information.

For the Commissioner.

.....
Deputy Commissioner.

11—11418

TAR, WASHINGTON,

MISSING LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER IS MYSTERY

Police Fail to Find Clue to Man Who Disappears From Reef.

By the Associated Press.

PALACIOS, Tex., December 27.—Police sought last night to plumb the mysterious disappearance of H. O. Welch, lighthouse keeper on forlorn Half Moon Reef, 100 miles southwest of Houston.

Welch was last seen when boatmen took him to the crescent-shaped reef December 13. That night he made his last entry in the lighthouse log. It read: "Lamp lighted at 6 p.m. All is well."

Three days later, when the alternate lightkeeper went to relieve Welch, the beacon was darkened and there was no trace of him on the reef.

The missing lightkeeper's watch, money and personal effects were inside the lighthouse. Apparently, investigators said, Welch had prepared for bed but did not retire.

Form 93
LEC

NOTICE OF ~~RESIGNATION~~ DEATH

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE 1934 DEC 26 AM 9 10

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES, 8th DISTRICT,

New Orleans, La., December 21 1934

COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES:

Herewith is transmitted Notice of Death ~~the resignation~~ of the following-named employee:

Name, Horace O. Welch — Position, Keeper in the L.H.Service (Asst.)

Legal residence, Texas — Station, ~~Matagorda Light~~ Half Moon Reef Station, Texas

Salary, $1320 per annum

Date of death - December 14, 1934

~~The acceptance of this resignation is recommended effective at the close of~~

This employee has not taken leave in excess of the accrued rate.

Remarks: This employee is reported drowned. Advice has not yet been received as to whether his body has been recovered.

E. S. Lanphier
Superintendent of Lighthouses

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

December 31, 1934

Submitted to the Secretary of Commerce, approved. A copy of the Superintendent's telegram of December 29 is also inclosed giving details in the matter. 11—4623

For the Commissioner:

RG:m

Administrative Assistant

IN REPLYING ADDRESS
COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES
AND REFER TO DATE OF THIS LETTER
AND FILE NO.

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
JAN - 4 1935
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

1935 JAN 7 AM 9:02

January 2, 1935

Superintendent of Lighthouses, New Orleans, La.

In reference to your reports, Forms 78 and 93, in the case of Horace O. Welch, assistant keeper at Halfmoon Reef Lightstation, Texas, who disappeared from the station and is presumed to have been drowned:

The Bureau understands that proper report in the matter is being made by your office to the Employees' Compensation Commission.

For the Commissioner:

R. J. Grove
Chief of Personnel Division

H-M

LEC

Office of Supt. of Lighthouses, 8th Dist.,
New Orleans, La., January 4, 1935

apr 1/7

1. Returned to Commissioner of Lighthouses:

2. Report of the drowning of Horace O. Welch, Assistant Keeper at Halfmoon Reef Light Station, have been forwarded to the U. S. Employees' Compensation Commission.

E. S. Lamplier
Superintendent of Lighthouses

St,Marys,Kansas.
Jan.2nd.34.

LIGHTHOUSES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
1935 JAN - 9 - AM 8:43

1935 JAN - 9 - AM 10:06

THE ASST. SECY'S OFFICE
CHIEF CLERK
JAN 8 - 1935
WAR DEPT.

The Honorable Harry H.Woodring,
Washington.D.C.

1/10/35 wrote Simon
copy to 8th

Mt Dear Mr. Woodring;-

I am taking the liberty Of writting you pretaining a Mr. H.O.Welch who resided in St,Marys,Kansas about six years ago and at that time moved into Texas taking up work with the Govermant.

This Mr. Welch according to a clipping is missing off of Guard some where in his line of work, and as his Mother and sister my wife is interested in the welfare of Mr. Welch and the only information we have is the paper clipping ,I thought best to write you and see if you could not help us out in getting information regarding the cause. If this comes under your department kindly take the matter up at once ,and if not kindly give us information where we might secure what information we want.

This Mr. Welch is a single man and his Mother is very anxious to learn more about the accident, and I would appreciate a letter from you in relpy.

I am inclosing a clipping of the accident and when you reply kindly return same.

Respectfully.

Fred Simon

NPC

advise per reports received WRK 1/9

War Department
Respectfully referred to
Commerce Dept
~~and writer so advised~~

January 10, 1934.

Mr. Fred Simon,
St. Marys, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

In reference to your letter of January 2d addressed to the Assistant Secretary of War and referred to this office, requesting information with regard to the death of Mr. H. O. Welch:

Mr. Welch was employed as a lighthouse keeper at Half Moon Reef Light Station, Texas, under the jurisdiction of the Superintendent of Lighthouses, New Orleans, La. In a report to this office the Superintendent reported the drowning of Mr. Welch on December 14, 1934. The body had not been recovered at that time and no further report of the finding of the body has been received by this office. The records further indicate that Mr. Welch returned to his station on Friday December 14, when he relieved the other keeper at the station. The fact that Mr. Welch was missing was discovered on Monday December the 17th, when others returning to the station found that Mr. Welch was missing. No lights were burning and the last entry in the book of the station was on December 14, and so far as has been ascertained up to the date of the report no one had seen Mr. Welch since that date, that is, December 14. In the opinion of the keeper making the report Mr. Welch had fallen overboard and was drowned. If there is any further information in this matter that you desire, it is suggested that you communicate directly with the office of the Superintendent of Lighthouses, New Orleans, La. The clipping inclosed with your letter is returned herewith as requested.

For the Commissioner:

Respectfully,

W. P. Harman

Administrative Assistant

RG-EK

Bureau of Lighthouses, Wash.. Copy to 8th Supt.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

LEC

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 8TH DISTRICT
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

1935 JAN 16 AM 9:04

January 14, 1935

Mr. Ford Simon,
St. Marys, Kansas

File Copy 1/16

Dear Sir:

1. Supplementing letter written you by the Commissioner of Lighthouses, dated January 10, 1934, copy of which has been furnished this office, you are advised that a report, dated January 7, 1935, has been received in which it is stated that the body of H. O. Welch, who was employed as assistant keeper at Halfmoon Reef Light Station, Texas, was recovered by the U. S. Coast Guard on December 28, 1934.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) E. S. Lanphier

Superintendent of Lighthouses

Copy to Commissioner.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

LEC
Incl.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

Received
1935 JAN 23 AM 9

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 8TH DISTRICT
NEW ORLEANS, LA.
January 21, 1935

U. S. Employees' Compensation Commission,
Washington,
D. C.

Dear Sirs:

1. Referring to Form C.A.2 from this office, dated January 4, 1935, reporting the drowning of Horace O. Welch, Assistant Keeper at Halfmoon Reef Light Station, there is inclosed herewith a report from the Saluria Coast Guard Station, Port O'Connor, Texas, giving the facts as to the recovery of the body of Mr. Welch.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) E. S. Lanphier

Superintendent of Lighthouses

Copy to Commissioner of Lighthouses, together with copy of report from the Saluria Coast Guard Station, Port O'Connor, Texas.

E. S. LANPHIER
Superintendent of Lighthouses

SUPERINTENDENT
JAN 12 1935
NEW ORLEANS

SALURIA Port O'Connor, Texas.

EIGHTH 15 January 35.

Superintendent.
Eighth Lighthouse District.
Department of Commerce.
New Orleans, La.

Sir :

Please be informed that the crew of this station picked up a body floating in Matagorda Bay near Pass Cavallo on 28 December 1934.- This body was conveyed to Port O'Connor, Texas where an inquest was held by local county officials.- No marks nor articles of identification on the fully clad body were found, which was presumed to be that of the assistant lighthouse keeper H.O.Welsh of Halfmoon Reef Light Station, who had disappeared on 14 December 1934.-

Mr. LeComte of Palacios, Texas, who holds contract for transporting employees of the Lighthouse Department to the Halfmoon Reef Light Station, was contacted, unable to get in touch with Mr. Welsh's relatives at that time, who positively identified the body as that of Mr. H.O.Welsh.- He was given permission by local county officials to remove the body by boat to Palacios, Texas for interment.-

Respectfully.

Wilfred Pantzer.
Officer in Charge.

MORRIS SHEPPARD, TEX., CHAIRMAN
DUNCAN U. FLETCHER, FLA.
HUGO L. BLACK, ALA.
J. HAMILTON LEWIS, ILL.
MARCUS A. COOLIDGE, MASS.
M. M. LOGAN, KY.
ROBERT R. REYNOLDS, N. C.
NATHAN L. BACHMAN, TENN.
F. RYAN DUFFY, WIS.
ELBERT D. THOMAS, UTAH
SHERMAN MINTON, IND.
LEWIS B. SCHWELLENBACH, WASH.
ROBERT D. CAREY, WYO.
L. J. DICKINSON, IOWA
WARREN R. AUSTIN, VT.
W. WARREN BARBOUR, N. J.
GERALD P. NYE, N. DAK.

VICTOR RUSSELL, CLERK
C. H. TOLBERT, ASST. CLERK

United States Senate

LIGHTHOUSES

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

1936 MAR 9 AM 8 19

Washington, D. C.,

Inclosure Received

March 4, 1936.

3/10/36 Wrote
Sen Sheppard

Dear Mr. Putnam:

I enclose herewith a communication from Mr. Amos E. Duffy, Palacios, Texas, in reference to the funeral service of Horace O. Welch, which will explain itself.

Please look into this matter and let me have a reply which I may send to Mr. Duffy, with return of enclosure and oblige.

Yours very sincerely,

Morris Sheppard

Hon. George R. Putnam, Commissioner,
Bureau of Lighthouses,
Department of Commerce,
Washington, D. C.

OHC called Greas for check no on Gad settlement & they will call back W 3/9

copy

A. A. DUFFY & CO.
Palcaios, Texas

Case #423471

Feb. 28, 1936

Horace O. Welch,
former Asst.Light
House Keeper

U. S. Senator Morris Shepherd,
Washington,D.C.

My dear Senator,-

On Dec. 28, 1934 we were called upon to handle the remains of the later Horace O. Welch, former assistant lighthouse keeper, Half Moom Reef, Palacios, Texas. Upon proof furnished it is shown by the official records that his death was accidential while in the discharge of his duty.

Trusting you will make an investigation with the Commission, we remain

Very truly yours,

A. A. DUFFY & CO.

By: Amos E. Duffy, Mg.

Copy for Bureau files
Orig rec'd to Sen Shepperd

March 10, 1936

Hon. Morris Sheppard,
United States Senate,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Sheppard:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of March 4, 1936, inclosing letter of February 28, 1936, from A. A. Duffy and Company, Palacios, Texas, relative to handling remains of the late Horace O. Welch, former assistant keeper Half Moon Reef Light Station, Texas:

The records of this office indicate that $48.63, representing salary due Mr. Welch for the period December 1, 1934, to December 14, 1934, was paid by General Accounting Office Certificate of Settlement No. 0270629, August 23, 1935, to A. A. Duffy and Company, Treasury check No. 40278 dated August 28, 1935. There is no further amount due Mr. Welch or his estate from the Lighthouse Service.

The records further indicate that Mr. Welch returned to his station on December 14, 1934 when he relieved other keepers at that station. The fact that Mr. Welch was missing was discovered on December 17th when other employees of the station returned. Mr. Welch's body was recovered on December 28, 1934, by the United States Coast Guard, floating in Matagorda Bay near Pass Cavallo. This case was referred on January 4, 1935, to the United States Employees' Compensation Commission in connection with the allegation that his death was accidental in the discharge of official duties, that Commission having jurisdiction over the award of compensation on account of Mr. Welch's death.

The above mentioned letter of A. A. Duffy and Company is returned herewith as requested.

Very truly yours,

H. D. KING

Commissioner of Lighthouses

olc-w
inclos.