

Thacher Island Association Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

October 2000

Thacher Island Ramp is a Reality!



Finished ramp at mean high tide with only 90 feet exposed of the total 174 foot length.

It's official, the new Thacher Island Boat Ramp is complete! Thanks to all our members as well as U.S. Representative John Tierney who pushed for federal funding via the Coast Guard budget, a variety of Town Committees including Granite Pier Committee, D.P.W., the Harbor Masters,

Conservation Committee, Thacher Island Committee and Association board members and Chesterfield Associates, the contractor, who all worked as a team to get to this point. The new ramp is 120' long and 12' wide (added to the 54' remainder of the old one). It's supported by

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Parsons' book on Thacher Island is reprinted in limited edition

Eleanor Parsons has had her definitive history of Thacher Island entitled *Thachers island of the twin lights* reprinted. First published in 1985 this is a limited edition which TIA is excited about offering to our members. It is a remarkable book, a comprehensive and enjoyable tale of romance, heroism, sorrow, privation, resourcefulness, and fun. Author Eleanor Parsons turns the pages of history since 1635 to share the exciting and often unbelievable events that took place on the tiny island but half mile long by half wide.

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Second Lighthouse Cruise of the summer takes care of the demand.

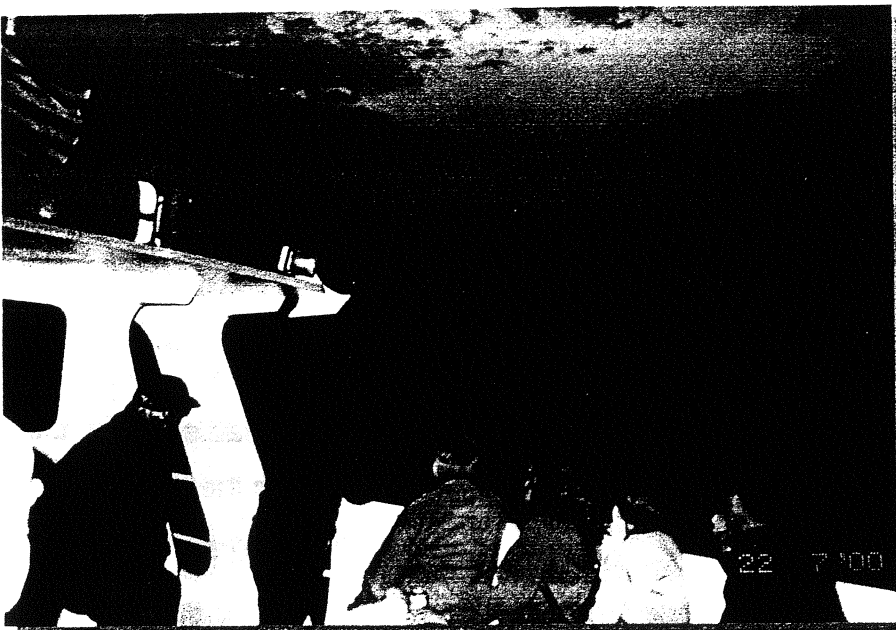
When we ran the 3rd annual Lighthouse Cruise on July 21 we were overwhelmed by the interest and participation. So much so that we sold out all 94 spots in a week ! We started a standby wait list which amounted to 65+ people. It was obvious we needed to run a second event. Thanks go to Kathy and Andy Heinz of the TIA board who volunteered to run it. We had another great success. Seventy nine

people signed on for the 3 hour trip around Cape Ann on August 6. They saw all six lights and got a great narration by Jeremy D'Entremont of the American Lighthouse Foundation and Lighthouse Digest Magazine. In total we netted over \$2600 for the two cruises. Thanks also to Adam Visnick ,captain of the *Navigator* for donating his time. Thanks to all of you folks who joined us and we look forward to doing it again next summer.

Committee volunteers needed for reopening celebration.

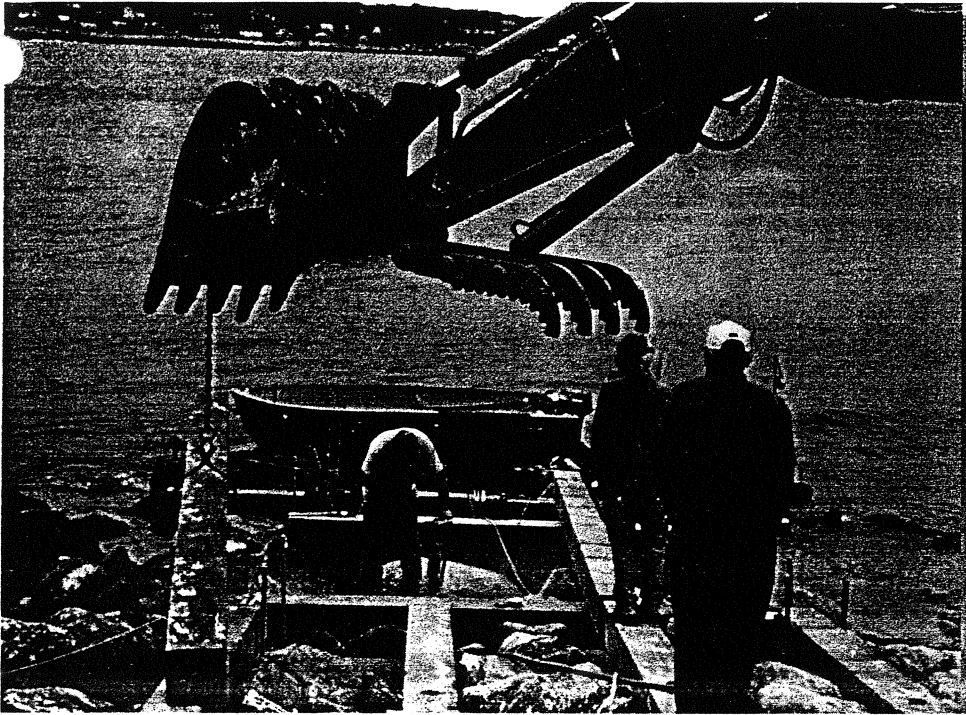
The TIA is forming a committee to handle the details of a planned celebration to re-open the island. We hope to also celebrate the new ramp, and the acceptance of the island by the Town from the Coast Guard. Our plan is to do this sometime next spring. All details are open for discussion. We need to find a place to hold it, determine who will be invited, what we will do at the event etc.

Any member interested in helping please contact Paul St. Germain at 978-546-7214 or Dottie Carroll at 978-546-7697.



Cruise goes view Thacher light at twilight aboard the "Navigator" whale watch vessel.

Boat Ramp is Completed



Excavator claw sets in place 16 foot long 10"x10" timbers as a base for the ramp.

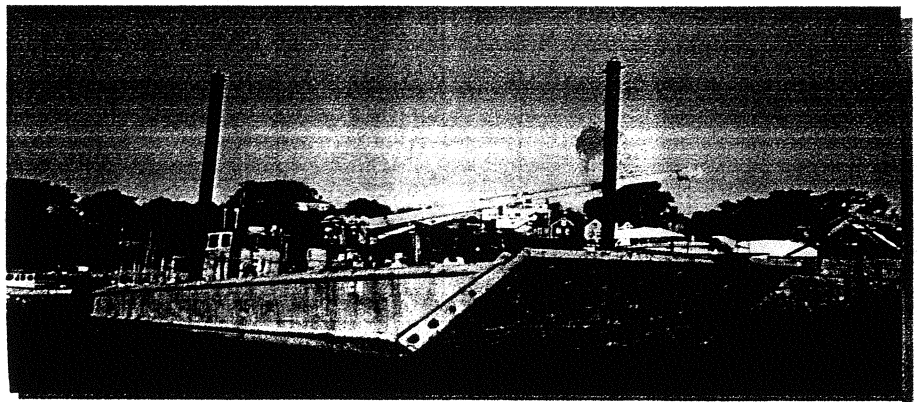
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added to the 54' remainder of the old one). It's supported by 8 cribs filled with stone and surrounded by 400 tons (28 truck loads) of Cape Ann granite acting as a riprap armor wall. Over three truck loads of pressure treated timbers and galvanized hardware were used to complete the job.

Construction started on August 14th. Davies Allan, project manager of Chesterfield Associates of Westport Maine, arrived in Rockport with a 74'

Former U.S. Navy landing craft, 5

ton army truck, an excavator, 16'skiff, and thousands of pounds of drills, compressors, welding and scuba diving equipment. His formen, and 3 coworkers set-up shop and lived in the keepers house on the island during the 2 month project. Because of the great weather they were able to



Seventy four foot landing craft loads up for another trip to the island.

complete the job on schedule. Having to work within the tide schedule, often they would work under portable lights late into the night in order to finish on time.

TIA is now working on a policies and procedures document to use as a guide for when we officially open the island to the public some time next summer. We have a number of volunteer keepers who we are interviewing now to set up a schedule .More details will be forthcoming once the Town of Rockport accepts ownership of the southern portion of the island from the Coast Guard. Attorneys are now reviewing the deed and our hope is that next year we will be in a position to open the island to all.

Summer workcrews complete essential projects

Once again Dr. Sid Wedmore has marshalled a number of TIA members to form work parties on the island. This past summer we conducted bi-weekly trips to the island to do the never ending job of cleaning and mowing the numerous trails. A number of important projects were completed including repairing the water system, replacing the pressure pump, window glass, repointing brick work, addition of a new roof on the back porch entry way and enclosing a diesel generator in that room for emergency

power needs, repairing a lightning strike on the stone electrical house and replacing the burned out lamp in the north tower. Members of the work crews included, Dottie and George Carroll, Paul St. Germain, Dick Morris, Seth Cutter, Bob Smith, Dick Douglas, Ted Tarr, and Andy and Kathy Heinz.

Any member interested in joining us next summer are invited to call Dottie Carroll at 978-546-7697. We usually go out on Wednesdays from 9 am til 2pm.

Auditor Needed

We need one of our members with an accounting background to audit the Association books. Our finances are rather simple, so we would expect the audit would not take long to complete. Anyone interested in volunteering to help should contact Bob Eirich, our Treasurer at 978-546-6056.

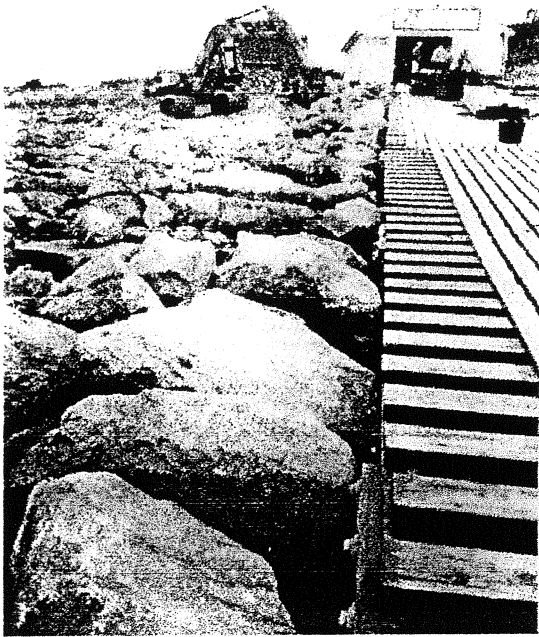
New Members Wanted

The Association has redesigned and printed new membership forms. Now we need your help to recruit new members.

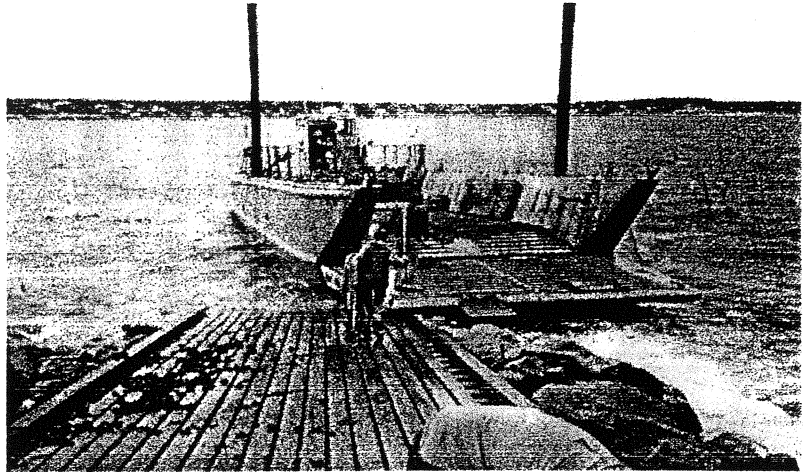
The re-opening of the island should spark interest for people wanting to join with all the privileges that come with membership. One key advantage is member participation on field trips to the island on the Thacher Island launch. Annual membership is only \$25.00 for an individual or \$250.00 for



Doc Wedmore and George Carroll bring her about after a day working on the island. Note the new Honda four stroke outboard, more efficient and more environmentally friendly.

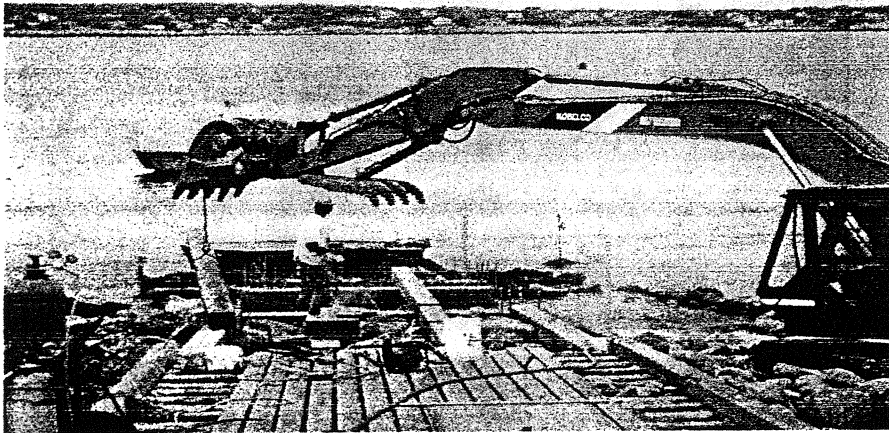


Four ton boulders form the riprap armor wall on the north side of the ramp.

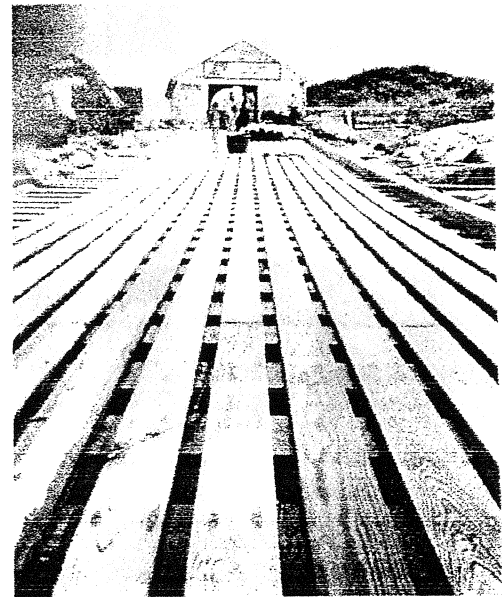


74' landing craft used to deliver heavy equipment and all building materials to the island.

A Ramp In Progress



The claw lifts a 10x10 in place as part of the foundation stringers.



2x6's form the final decking and are spaced 2" apart to allow for water surge. 3x10's form the flooring under these and on top of the 10x10 foundation stringers.



Finished ramp looking north, note the 4-5 ton riprap boulders protecting the edge of the ramp on both sides.

National Historic Landmark Status

On September 8, the National Historic Landmark nomination was sent to all interested parties for their review and comment. The 60 day comment period gives the island owners; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Coast Guard, Senators and Congressmen, local and state officials time to make their comments on this great honor. On November 9 the Advisory Board of the National Park Service will be presented with the nomination by Kevin Foster, Maritime Initiative Historian in Washington D.C. On November 16 the full board of the National Park Service will review the Advisory Boards' recommendation in Miami at their annual meeting. If all goes well it will then be sent to Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt for his final approval. Hopefully the spring 2001 newsletter will have some good news to report on the final action.

Annual Meeting elects new officers

More than 50 people turned out for our Annual meeting on June 26. They listened to our outgoing president George Fisher give a detailed review of the many events that took place regarding island over the past year.

A highlight of the meeting was the silent auction of various art works and island oriented items. The final tally of over \$400 put us over the \$100,000 dollar mark for the first time in our 18 year history!

New officers elected for 2001 were;

Paul St. Germain, President,
George Fisher Vice President,
Bob Eirich Treasurer, and
Dick Douglas Secretary.

Directors elected were Don Dawson, Barbara Fisher, Peter Fleming, Charles Clark and Alan Perdue. These directors serve until 2003.

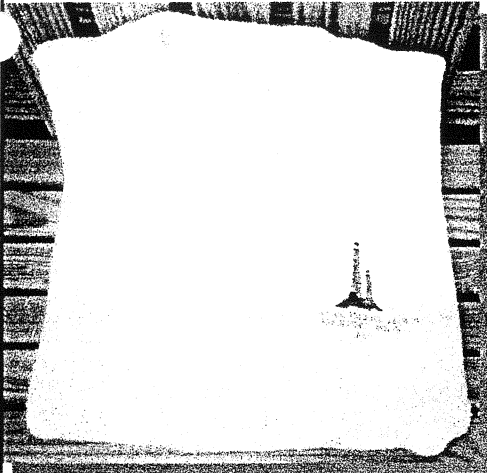
Thacher history available for sale

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It is all here-how the stone towers were built, rebuilt, and repaired; how scientific discoveries were applied to improve the lights over the years; the devotion of the many keepers who kept the beacons burning in spite of obstacles, danger, and discouragement. Each copy is personally autographed by Eleanor. All profits go to the Association to continue the island maintenance and restoration efforts. Price is \$22.00 which includes shipping. A great Christmas item. Send checks made out to Thacher Island Association, 74 Marmion Way, Rockport MA. 01966. Please include your phone number in case we have a question about your order.

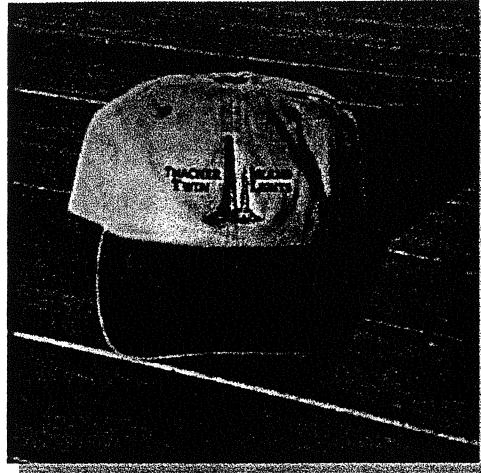
Order Form: Just in time for the holidays.

all profits go to the restoration and maintenance efforts of the island.



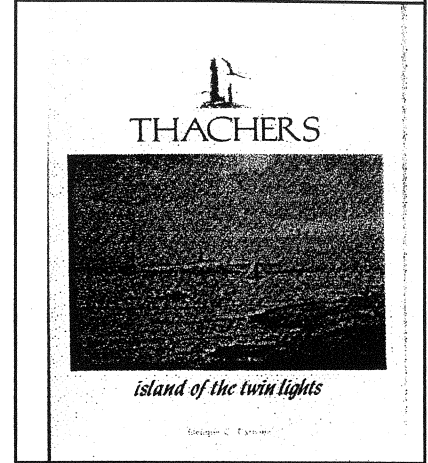
Thacher Island Lighthouse Keeper Sweater

100% Cotton
Available in S.M.L.XL
Natural or Navy
Price: \$55.00



Thacher Island Hat

100% Cotton
Color: khaki/navy visor
Price:\$18.00



Thachers island of the twin lights

Autographed by Eleanor Parsons
Softcover 150pages
Price:\$22.00

Send this order form to :

Thacher Island Association
74 Marmion Way
Rockport ,MA. 01966

Name : _____

Street : _____

City : _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ please include your phone # in case we have question on your order.

Sweater: \$55.00 Color: _____ Size: _____ Quantity: _____

For Sweaters make checks payable to: Gloucester Knitting

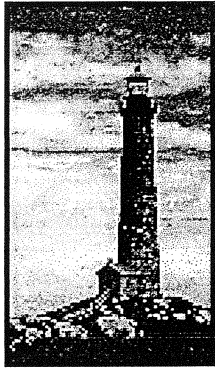
Hat: \$18.00 Quantity: _____ **Book: \$22.00** Quantity: _____

For Hats and Books make checks payable to :Thacher Island Association

Newsletter

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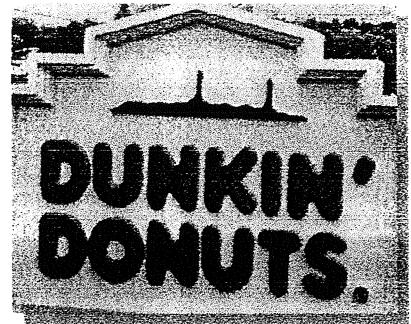
Thacher Island Images

The image of the twin lights of Thacher Island has been seen in a number of interesting places. Here are just a few. Does anyone out there have any more sightings?

Twin Light Soda Bottles



Rockport Dunkin Donuts sign



Town Seal of Rockport



Crest of Coast Guard cutter Maria Bray



Rockport section of Gloucester Times

