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New Dungeness Lighthouse Experience



Spring seed catalogs are beginning to stuff my mailbox. Is it that time already? Here in Olympia, Washington, the crocus are up and eager to burst into bloom. Daffodils in the south facing beds are 6 inches tall already. I have seen flocks of robins gathering in the early morning's pale light. Surely Spring is nearly here. But, wait! What is that? Fat white raindrops? Snow flurries? Put another log on the fire and stack the seed catalogs aside. It is only January. Winter won't give up that easily!

Next Issue: The Joy of Portraits

The New Dungeness Lighthouse stands at the end of a spit of land eight miles long near Sequim, Washington. It's history is colorful and compelling and it's adventures continue to this day. Most recently the (notorious) western Washington rains caused so much water to fill the Strait of Juan de Fuca that the Dungeness Spit was totally inundated, marooning for several days, the hearty volunteer "keeps" that regularly spend time there, maintaining the grounds and quarters.

One woman tells of her lonely life as a coastguardsman's wife who went into labor and had to be bundled into a small boat and ferried to dry land and on to the hospital--- in the nick of time!

"New Dungeness Lighthouse was on my list of places to experience"

New Dungeness Lighthouse was on my list of places to experience, to research for an oil painting. Being avid kite-flyers (as well as adventurous hikers), my husband and I set out, carrying our bags of kites and of course the cameras, etc. needed to research the lighthouse. My intent was to do a painting of the TRLBY® kites in flight, with the lighthouse in the background. Eight miles is a long hike when the tide is in and the only footing you can find is over softball sized rocks that roll under foot, and deep soft sand that drags at

your ankles. Over half way there, we noticed that the wind had died. Kite flying was out of the question! I did not want to give up and turn back, neither would I "wait here" for Ed while he went on to the lighthouse. So, I trudged on. What a good decision!

"The area is a wildlife preserve"

The buildings gleamed in the bright sunshine. The area is a wildlife preserve. As we approached the lighthouse, the spit widened out into a rock-strewn grassy field. We saw a skunk amble across the expanse, while above a bald eagle and his mate soared high on rising air currents, then settled down before us on the high wire pole by the lighthouse. The quiet, tranquil setting seemed to belie the tales of multitudes of shipwrecks in these dangerous waters. It was with a twinge of sadness we started back to the park entrance. With the tide receding, the going was easier, and we made the eight mile return trip before the park closed at dusk.

All the memories of that day came back when the painting of the New Dungeness Lighthouse was executed. What a grand adventure!

Carol Thompson

Featured Artwork

New Dungeness



"A leisurely five to six mile walk near Sequim, Washington, along a narrow sand spit, will bring you to this unusual lighthouse, its tower jutting from the roof of the two story keepers quarters. It's fog signal, light, and radio beacon are vital to navigation in the Straits of

Point Wilson Lighthouse



"North of Port Townsend, WA, the 'Point Wilson Lighthouse' sits near Fort Worden State Park. Its octagonal tower rises forty-six feet above the fog signal building and guides deep water ships, commercial vessels, and pleasure craft between the United States and Canada."

TRLBY's At Sea



"Standing on the jagged rocks of a jetty, kite flyer David Thompson dips and dives his TRLBY's amongst the waves. This is a daring escapade with potential drastic consequences; all worthwhile when the moment of rising breaker and flashing color become this kite flyer's perfect dream."