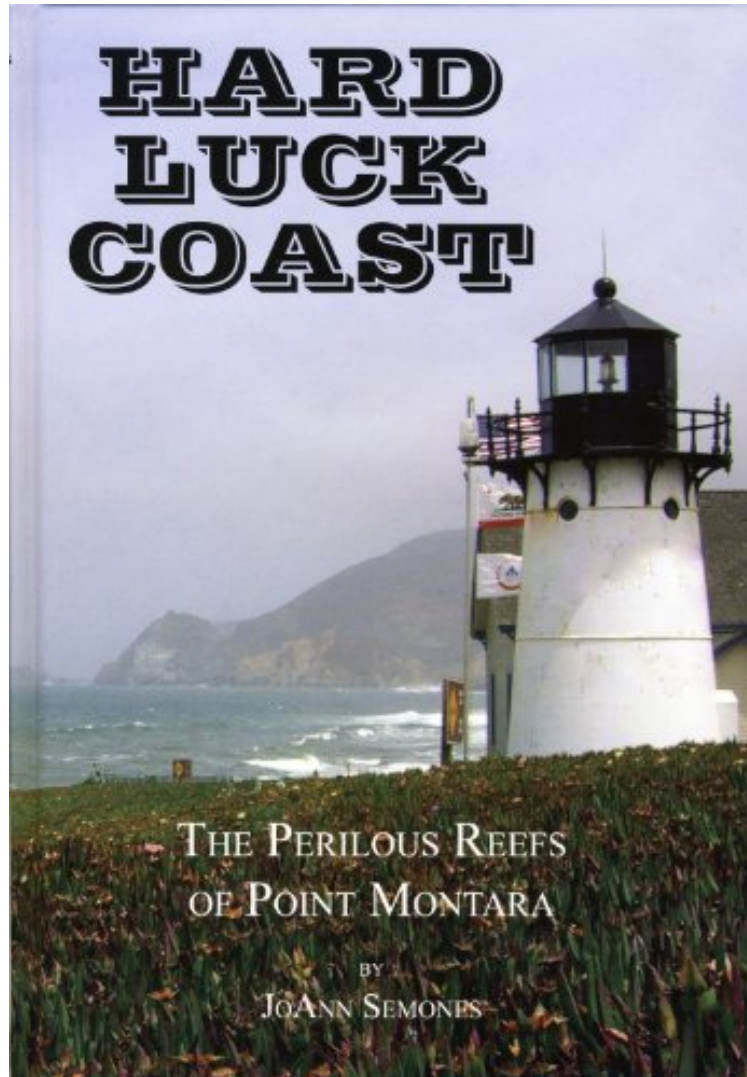


(Free pdf) Hard Luck Coast: The Perilous Reefs of Point Montara

Hard Luck Coast: The Perilous Reefs of Point Montara

JoAnn Semones

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JoAnn Semones : Hard Luck Coast: The Perilous Reefs of Point Montara before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hard Luck Coast: The Perilous Reefs of Point Montara:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. He loves local history and has a love for the seaBy maria robinsonMy brother in law loves the book! He loves local history and has a love for the sea. Great assortment of true ocean mishaps from the past!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. the best of the lotBy mullers1973not a bad read well researched reads quick never bogs down very appealing to West coast Maritime buffsgood to read when the wind howls

California writer John Steinbeck referred to the treacherous strip of shore between Montara and Half Moon Bay as "the hard luck coast." Along this foggy, final approach to San Francisco, vessels were forced to hug the perilous coast, putting them in danger of its rocky outcroppings and unruly seas. From 1851 to 1946, dozens of ships sank in the notorious corridor between Montara and Half Moon Bay. Each shipwreck represents a separate, yet integrated piece of history, linking the reader to the past. Each lighthouse, whether it contains a small lantern or a giant first order Fresnel lens, is a mighty monument to that past. Their beacons are our eyes to the world as it was, attesting to the stories of irreplaceable people, places and times.

This book is 180 pages of engagingly written, fact-rich prose spiced up with old photos. Moving chronologically from 1856 to 1946, each chapter is devoted to a ship that foundered off the northern Coastside. It is rife with visual aids that bring the words alive, such as historical photographs and lithographs of people, places and ships, maps, equipment, graphs and posters, and written in a personable, detailed style that brings alive the ships and the times. --Half Moon Bay , May 12, 2010It's almost heartless to call a shipwreck book delightful, when one considers how many lives were lost to provide the contents. But there's really no other word that jumps to mind when describing Hard Luck Coast. The tales reach back to the 1850s, all having to do with wrecks along a certain stretch of coast south of the mouth of San Francisco Bay, including Point Montara and Half Moon Bay. The city of course, developed quickly after the Gold Rush of 1849, and seagoing vessel traffic into the port increased concomitantly. More ships meant more wrecks. JoAnn Semones gives each disaster the full treatment, from cradle to grave, from the shipyard to the shipwreck. As such, each story introduces numerous remarkable personalities to the book, from sailing captains to Navy officers, even to Clara Blandic, the woman who played Auntie Em in the Wizard of Oz. The depth of research per story is readily apparent, the efficiency with which Semones delivers that information is remarkable. Perhaps even more impressive was the author's ability to put the faces with the names of the heroes, heroines and villains of the many dramas. Photographs of the sailors, owners and their ships converge from around the United States, from museums to private collections, to illustrate the book. Barely an important character slips through the book without some visual reference. There is a breeches buoy rescue in the book, and there is the strange tale of the Point Montara Lighthouse, formerly known as Mayo's Beach Light in Wellfleet, Massachusetts. The light is the only structure of its kind to do duty on both the east and west coasts of the United States, a fact only discovered by historians in 2008. This book provides more than its cost in historical enjoyment. --Wreck Rescue Journal, 2011.About the AuthorJoAnn Semones, Ph.D, boarded her first ship at age three. The voyage, made aboard the military transport vessel E.D. Patrick, left a lasting impression. She has loved sea sagas ever since. Her first book, Shipwrecks, Scalawags, and Scavengers: The Storied Waters of Pigeon Point, was published by Glencannon Press Maritime Books in October 2007. As a consultant with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary program, she also developed concepts and text for the Pigeon Point Lighthouse Interpretive Center. JoAnn's stories have appeared in a variety of publications, including Mains'l Haul, Professional Mariner, Lighthouse Digest, Anchor Light, La Peninsula, Gold Old Days Magazine, A Light in the Mist and Surviving Magazine, as well as in Stanford University's anthology, Learning to Live Again, and in the Chicken Soup for the Soul international book series.