**G**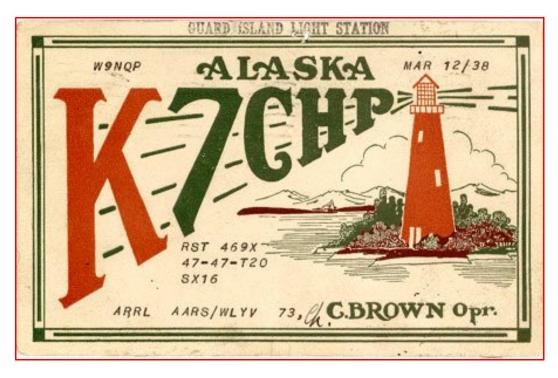uard Island Light Station, Alaska - I've written about lonely spots in the world, this one would qualify for sure. Guard Island in the channel north of Ketchikan Alaska, a beacon entrance to Tongass Narrows. Finally a Ham Radio Operator graces the compound.



In the beginning and up into the 1960's this sentinel was manned 24-7 - It was thus so until 1969 when the place was automated and the last soul left.

This place was considered isolated duty and were for short one year terms. Guard Island Alaska District 17, was only one of three light stations where families were permitted. Completed in 1904, modernized and rebuilt in the 1920, communications and radio installed in 1938-39, in 1956 the radio beacon was modified to serve both aircraft and marine shipping.

Hark! A ham operator arrives! K7CHP Chas Brown, probably the Unit In Charge. Active ham radio when communications were first installed in 1938-39 - Of all things Brown was a CW operator and had a Hallicrafters receiver model SX16. I can see Brown installing his ham antenna at the residence as I once installed wires at the CG Base in Ketchikan about 8 miles away. Thanks to K8CX historical Ham Gallery card file. What became of K7CHP?

There was one nasty antenna experience when I used pole climbers and being inexperienced slid down the pole on my belly with the leather strap. Yes, it is difficult and one must learn how to pole climb! - A lady wrote a book about the island, Misty Memories of Guard Island, a time when she was there with her parents who were light keepers in 1952-54. It is a good read.

Coast Guard Bosn Tom Whalen was UIC here in 1964 and thus far communications have not been established with him. UIC's that we can find thus far were C.Brown 1938; Otto Gibbs & family 1947-49; Dan Moore and Family 1952-54; Tom Whalen UIC 1964.

The old radio and TV Truth or Consequences reported to Guard Island with a bucket of ice. Read the story with a Google search. Also check out the Internet pictures of this beautiful place.