



The recently rebuilt Long Beach Bar Lighthouse near Greenport, NY closely resembles the original which burned in 1963. Photo courtesy of William Sackmann.

OLD BUG LIGHT

By George H. Morton

West beyond the tip of Long Beach Point
Once stood old "Bug Light";
And for exactly a hundred years;
The government kept her shining bright.

It was a four sided structure
Most are usually round;
And it rested firmly on a bed of rocks;
Just over two miles from East Marion town.

It was known far and wide
As a landmark at the entrance [sic] to Peconic Bay;
Yachtsmen and seafarers alike;
Would pass her night and day.

"Bug Light" stood its vigil for one hundred years
Its kerosene light shining bright across the tides;
When two gas light buoys took its place;
It stood silent and still, but never lost its pride.

For fifteen years after it remained erect
A symbol of times gone by;
And no one in that peaceful locale;
Had any idea how "Bug Light" would die.

It happened one night around ten o'clock
In fact, on July 4, 1963;
When persons with no community pride;
Turned a day of celebration into a tragedy.

They soaked her down with gasoline
These people who aren't known by name;
And set it afire to go up in smoke;
And leave their souls to live in shame.

So, now she's gone, old "Bug Light"
No more does she welcome ships or bid them farewell;
She's gone but not forgotten;
How long she would have stood, no one can tell.