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PBS
Odyssey Productions, Inc.

"LEGENDARY LIGHTHOUSES:
LIGHTHOUSES OF ALASKA"

Final Script

"LEGENDARY LIGHTHOUSES:
LIGHTHOUSES OF ALASKA"

TEASE (suggested :50)	<p><i>Quotes from interviews:</i></p> <p>"There's a great mystery about lighthouses in Alaska; there is a huge and wonderful maritime history of Alaska that is represented by these structures."</p> <p>"Alaska is really a maritime State. It's very rugged. Very Remote. It's very harsh and the lighthouses that are here reflect that."</p> <p>"There's no phones, there's no TV, there's no computers there's nothing out here. It's just like it was a hundred years ago."</p> <p>"The thing that makes Alaska special is its pristine wilderness environment."</p> <p>"Lighthouse have been saviors of lives, not just beacons for people to look at, but those beacons were beams of safety."</p> <p>"Alaska is a place where America turned its attention as its last vast country to open up. These lighthouses played a unique important role in making that happen."</p>
TITLE.	
<p><u>dissolve to:</u> MONTAGE OF ALASKA SCENES / MAP OF ALASKA</p>	<p>NARRATOR:</p> <p>ALASKA IS CALLED "THE GREAT LAND." AND IT IS THE <u>LAND</u> THAT SO INSPIRES PEOPLE:</p>

<p>ENTIRE MAP OF ALASKA</p> <p>ENTIRE MAP OF ALASKA WITH "LIGHTS"</p>	<p><u>BUT ALMOST MORE THAN THE LAND ... ALASKA IS ABOUT WATER.</u></p> <p>PEOPLE HAVE COME TO ALASKA BY WATER.</p> <p>COUNTING ALL ITS BAYS AND FIORDS, ALASKA HAS MORE THAN 33,000 MILES OF COASTLINE MORE THAN ALL THE REST OF THE UNITED STATES COMBINED. YET DESPITE ITS DEPENDENCE (ON) MARINE NAVIGATION... IN ALL OF ALASKA ONLY ELEVEN LIGHTHOUSES REMAIN.</p>
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POINT RETREAT LIGHTHOUSE

<p>AERIALS OF POINT RETREAT.</p> <p>ENTIRE ALASKA MAP ZOOMS TO POINT RETREAT AREA.</p>	<p>NARRATOR: MORE MARINE TRAFFIC PASSES BY POINT RETREAT THAN ANY OTHER ALASKA LIGHTHOUSE. IT IS LOCATED AT THE NORTHERN TIP OF HUNDRED-MILE-LONG ADMIRALTY ISLAND... ... ASTRIDE THE MAIN SHIPPING CHANNELS BETWEEN JUNEAU AND THE REST OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA.</p> <p>TO DATE, FIVE OF THE ELEVEN LIGHTHOUSES HAVE BEEN LEASED BY THE COAST GUARD TO NON -PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS...</p> <p>... TO ASSURE THAT THEY WILL BE PRESERVED AND ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC.</p>
<p>BEGIN POV TRAVELING ON WATER. Cut away to Dave Benton at the helm of his boat.</p>	<p>AFTER CO-FOUNDING THE ALASKA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION TO ADOPT POINT RETREAT ...</p> <p>DAVE BENTON LEFT HIS JOB AS ALASKA'S INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES NEGOTIATOR. NOW HE CAN DEVOTE MORE TIME TO RESTORING THE LIGHT STATION.</p>
<p>APPROACHING THE LIGHTHOUSE BY BOAT. As the light station gets closer and closer we see the dock and the ladder up the side of the dock. We see a montage of getting up the ladder.</p>	<p>(DAVID BENTON--ALASKA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION)</p> <p>"When you pull up to Point Retreat, first thing that happens is you pull around Barlow Islands out here and you see the buildings and everything off in the distance on the point. And everybody looks at that</p>

	<p>and goes 'That's really neat. That's a great spot. Look at that place.'</p> <p>" And you pull up a little closer and they start looking at it, 'That is pretty neat. That is sort of a dock isn't it?'</p> <p>"And you pull up a little closer and all of a sudden you realize that you've got this really narrow, metal ladder and it goes up about 35 or 40 feet and at low tide it's particularly intimidating.</p> <p>"You pull up to the bottom, and look up there and all of a sudden you realize you've got to go up that thing and there's not really a landing at the top. There's this big beam and you get up to the top of the ladder and you've got to swing around this big pole and get your feet on this beam and sort of walk down this beam and you're on the landing and some folks they get a little nervous."</p>
<p>TOUR OF THE LIGHT STATION. We see Dave as he walks by some of the buildings other are illustrated with various shots.</p>	<p>(DAVID BENTON)</p> <p>"Point Retreat is really a light station. It's not really just a lighthouse and there's a whole set of facilities out here. You've got the lighthouse building at the end of the point and that was the main facility, obviously, it had the light in it, the power generators, that kind of thing.</p> <p>"The next building was called the oil house. They kept their petroleum products, their lubricants and that kind of thing in there and it's made to be somewhat fireproof so it wouldn't blow up.</p> <p>"You have the keepers quarters and actually there was the keepers quarters and the assistant keepers quarters when they actually built the facility back in '23-'24 and they tore</p>

	<p>out the one house and put in the helipad. Then there's the boathouse and that's where they kept the launches."</p>
<p>MONTAGE OF VOLUNTEERS AT WORK. Walkway being built. Working on the lighthouse. Scraping and painting. Group activity. Volunteers enjoying dinner.</p>	<p>(DAVID BENTON)</p> <p>"Our long-term goal at the light station is to have a maritime history museum and also a natural history center.</p> <p>"Our association is totally voluntary. All the stuff that we're doing out here is volunteer: Nobody gets paid. We've got a core group of about 25 or so volunteers—folks that come out here for long weekends and work and we have a pretty darn good time when we do it.</p> <p>"Right now we're in the middle of a process of putting in the basic utilities, stabilizing the buildings, getting them painted, putting in some walkways—these folks are truly wonderful people because they love this place and they come out, they have a good time, and they put in a lot of hard hours."</p>
	<p>(DAVID BENTON)</p> <p>"One of our major projects out here has been, first and foremost, to get these buildings in shape. And so the lighthouse building was our first priority. Our next biggest priority is getting this keepers quarters together. Obviously, she's gonna need a lot of work. It's a beautiful old building."</p>
<p>THE BOATHOUSE. Shown from the water.</p>	<p>(DAVID BENTON)</p> <p>"To me, one of the most interesting buildings out here is this boathouse. It's really a neat structure. We've got a lot of work to do on it. We're using it right now as</p>

	<p>a place to hold all our building material and our equipment that we're using out here. So it's somewhat getting the same kind of use when they were here."</p>
<p>LEW LOOKS OUT FROM POINT RETREAT REFLECTING.</p>	<p>(LEW DANIELS - FORMER KEEPER WITH THE USCG)</p> <p>"I can remember the very date I arrived-- December 14, 1943."</p>
<p>LEW WALKS LOOKS AT THE LIGHTHOUSE. Lew walks into frame, looks at the lighthouse. We see the reflection of the lighthouse in his glasses.</p>	<p>NARRATOR:</p> <p>THE COAST GUARD'S ONE-YEAR TOUR OF DUTY AT POINT RETREAT WAS SO ISOLATED ... VOLUNTEERS HAD TO BE ENTICED WITH A 90-DAY LEAVE AT THE END OF THEIR STINT.</p> <p>THOSE THREE MONTHS OFF WERE ENOUGH TO MOTIVATE YOUNG LEW DANIELS TO SIGN UP.</p>
<p>LEW ON CAMERA, CUT TO CURRENT LIGHT.</p>	<p>(LEW DANIELS)</p> <p>"There was a big globe up to and that's gone now. They no longer have that. My understanding is the reason they've taken that down is they have a little light up there that does a better job now than it did before. That's hard for me to understand."</p>
<p>VARIOUS LIGHTHOUSE AND EVENING SHOTS.</p>	<p>(LEW DANIELS)</p> <p>"When I arrived I found out that we had to have a watch—we called it a watch—to go into the lighthouse and spend eight hours. If the visibility got low you had two big diesel engines and one of them had to be started up to get that fog horn going and the other one was responsible for turning the light on at</p>

	the evening when it got dark and turning it off in the morning when it got light."
A VIEW OF POINT RETREAT FROM THE WATER, RETURN TO LEW ON CAMERA.	(LEW DANIELS) " The only time I was off the island is when we went fishing—and it was right out here. We could see the lighthouse the whole time. I caught my first fish of my life—a 45-pound salmon—and then I also caught an 89-pound halibut. Now that was exciting for me.
DAVE ON CAMERA. CUT BACK TO LADDER.	(DAVID BENTON) "When the coast guard decommissioned this light station in about '73, they pulled everything out of here. They took the electrical, the water system out, the sewer system out, everything was gone. "When we got the lease there were no utilities at all. We're in the process now of putting in a water system, hooking it all back up, re-plumb the house."
LORI AND DAVE CLIMB THE STAIRS FROM THE LOWER DOCK.	NARRATOR: LORI TELFER SHARES DAVE'S LOVE OF POINT RETREAT AND FASCINATION WITH ALASKA'S MARITIME PAST AND FUTURE.")
AERIAL OF LIGHT STATION, CUTS TO LORI ON CAMERA.	(LORI TELFER - ALASKA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION) "Point Retreat has a story to tell and that story needs to be told. It's an eclectic story. It's not just about maritime history. It's also about the keepers that lived here, the steamboats that went past."
MONTAGE OF EXHIBIT MATERIAL.	(LORI TELFER)

	<p>"We plan on having a maritime heritage museum out at the lighthouse at the point and this is just a small sample of the collection we've built up already and plan to expand on it."</p>
<p>ARCHIVAL IMAGE OF LIGHTHOUSE WITH CUPOLA.</p>	<p>(LORI TELFER)</p> <p>"This photo shows one of the things we really want to do in the future is to put the cupola back on the lighthouse to restore it to the way it used to be in 1923-24 when it was first built."</p>
<p>IMAGES OF POINT RETREAT AND BEAUTIFUL ALASKA SCENICS, CUTS BACK TO DAVE ON CAMERA AND ENDS WITH THE LIGHTHOUSE.</p>	<p>(DAVID BENTON)</p> <p>"A lot of people just think of lighthouses as lighthouses and on the coast and associated with the ocean and this one really is -- but we also have a phenomenal forest here behind us and a lot of wildlife so we're going to have some natural history interpretive trails try and put together something out here so people can come and see the wildlife and the environment—both the marine environment and also in the coastal rainforest of southeastern Alaska."</p>
	<p>(DAVID BENTON)</p> <p>"Alaska really depends on the oceans. Everybody that's come to Alaska, virtually—not everybody—but almost everybody, comes by the sea. Alaska was discovered by the ocean. These lighthouses are part of that historical continuum.</p> <p>"These lighthouses right now, guide mariners on their way and warn them off of dangerous shoals and reefs. They were put here because of the need to open this country up. They are a key part of our history and they are a key part of Southeast Alaska right now. People depend on them</p>

	today just like they did almost 100 years ago."
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FIVE FINGER LIGHTHOUSE

<p>AK MAP/TO INSIDE PASSAGE TO UPPER INSIDE PASSAGE</p>	<p>NARRATOR:</p> <p>EIGHTY MILES SOUTH OF POINT RETREAT, IN THE INSIDE PASSAGE, IS FIVE FINGER LIGHTHOUSE.</p>
<p>MONTAGE ON THE BOAT. On the Whale Watching Boat headed to Five Finger Lighthouse. We hear the passengers' reaction to the whales and icebergs.</p>	<p>NARRATOR:</p> <p>ON THE FOUR-HOUR BOAT TRIP SOUTH FROM JUNEAU, MEMBERS OF THE JUNEAU LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION MARVEL AT ICEBERGS THAT HAVE CALVED FROM NEARBY GLACIERS ...</p>
	<p>... AND AWE AT THE SEASONAL RESIDENTS IN NORTH AMERICA'S LARGEST HUMPBACK WHALE BREEDING GROUND.</p> <p>NATURALIST CLARE HAWKS SHARES HER EXPERTISE OF ALASKA'S ASTONISHING MARINE LIFE.</p>
<p>CLARE HAWKS ID SHOT</p>	<p>(CLARE HAWKS, INTERPRETIVE GUIDE FOR THE DOLPHIN JET BOAT COMPANY OUT OF JUNEAU)</p> <p>"These guys are humpback whales. When they're full-grown they're 52 feet long and weigh a ton per foot. Their tongue alone weighs 4,000 pounds."</p>
	<p>(CLARE HAWKS)</p> <p>"Here we're seeing a blow. They come up to breathe and the water between their</p>

	<p>blowhole and the surface gets shot up into the air up to 25 feet high.</p> <p>"That one's pretty far off but it's coming up to 200 miles an hour from their blowhole so you can actually see it for eight to ten miles away here in Alaska. "</p>
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This is page 12 of 55 pages

To see the complete script, contact me at matrazzo@msn.com
