



Did you ever wonder what happened to the Cape Fear Light Station?

The station was built by the Federal Government in 1903. The lighthouse was an open air steel and wrought iron skeleton supporting a central column 150 feet tall. There were only 5 lighthouses of this style built in the United States! The lantern held a powerful Order One Fresnel lens. This lens, along with its

revolving base, stood nearly 12" high. Its beam could be seen over 18 miles away.

The Cape Fear Station kept ocean going vessels out of harm's way until 1958, when it was replaced by the modern Oak Island lighthouse. So what happened to the light tower when the Coast Guard left Bald

Head Island for good? Why are

only the concrete bases left to mark the spot of this once fabled landmark? They

sold it for scrap! In



the first photo, demolition experts place charges of



dynamite in strategic locations, hoping to weaken one side of the tower so it will topple over. In the second photo, the tower falls.

Finally, all that is left is a pile of rubble. But what about that awesome Fresnel lens? Did it get destroyed along with the Cape Fear Light Tower? Next: The Fifty Year Journey of the Cape Fear Station Fresnel Lens...

