

BIG DIAMOND

Official Newsletter of the
**Hillsboro
Lighthouse
Preservation
Society**



Fifth Year of Publication

Winter 2002-03

ANNUAL MEETING, TUESDAY, 11th

FEBRUARY = PROGRAM & ART DISPLAY

HLPS have obtained a room at the Pompano Beach Civic Center for 7:00 PM on Tuesday, February 11 for an Annual Meeting with a program & art display. We will show a Hillsboro Light video done by Dave Butler a few years ago and give you a short preview of a new Hillsboro video being made by Steven Attis. Sheldon Voss, grandson of Keeper Thomas Knight, will give a character sketch on early pioneer life. We will have books & T-shirts available for your inspection, and have a book signing, too. If you already have one or more of our books, bring them to the signing. Circle that date on your calendar to come and meet some of your fellow members. Bring your friends and any interested lighthouse enthusiasts.

When: Tues. Evening 11 February, Time: 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Where: Civic Center, 1801 NE 6th St., Pompano Beach, (2 blocks west of Federal Hwy., US-1 & 6 blocks north of Atlantic Blvd.) Hib Casselberry, President

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE HONORS HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE

Lighthouses of the Southeast series of five will include Hillsboro Inlet.

The release will be in June 2003.

More on this in our next newsletter.



ART & PHOTO DISPLAY INVITATION

All members and guests of the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society are invited to display any artwork, (photo, paint, or other), featuring the Hillsboro Lighthouse Station or Hillsboro Inlet. The display will take place in conjunction with this Feb. 11th meeting.

1. Participating artists are requested to phone 954-942-2102 before Monday, Feb. 10, to inform HLPS what space will be needed, plus your name & title of your artwork which will be in a little brochure to be handed out at this annual evening.

2. You or a friend deliver your artwork to HLPS personnel at the Civic Center, 1801 NE 6 St., Pompano between 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Tuesday, 11 February.

3. Please recover your artwork immediately after the meeting, about 9:00 PM. Thanks. Paul Bradley, Chairman

COAST GUARD DOCK NEEDS REPAIRS BEFORE USE

See article inside this issue.

HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE VISIT ON OCTOBER 5, 2002

by David F. Butler

The visit for Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society members on October 5 was a great success with over 400 visiting the Lighthouse. The weather was perfect with clear skies and a refreshing breeze off the ocean. Martha Casselberry and Joyce Hager signed in members at the dock of the Sands Hotel. Non-members could join at that time. Captain Jeff Torode took up to 50 passengers at a time on the twin-hulled AQUA VIEW, a 20 minute trip up the scenic Intracoastal, under bridges and through Hillsboro Harbor, landing at the Coast Guard dock at the Lighthouse. Visitors were assisted at the base of the Lighthouse by members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Climbers were guided at the top of the tower by Paul Hicks and other Coast Guardsmen.



Coast Guard Auxiliary at entrance

landing at the Coast Guard dock at the Lighthouse. Visitors were assisted at the base of the Lighthouse by members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Climbers were guided at the top of the tower by Paul Hicks and other Coast Guardsmen.

Below, left: Visitors waiting to climb the tower.

Below, right: Joyce Hager and Martha Casselberry at the Sands Hotel dock.



PLANNED RENOVATIONS FOR OUR LIGHTHOUSE TOWER

Last week the Coast Guard informed us of some lighthouse tower repairs and renovations they are planning. There is deterioration of part of the gallery hand rails (outside observation deck below the lens room). They plan to replace that part of the hand railing and install nuts & bolts as needed. Then the whole railing system will be cleaned and painted. The Coast Guard also plans to install stairs and a catwalk from the existing concrete sidewalk to the tower entrance. Because of hard northeast winds in recent months, some foundation repairs will also be needed. For this foundation problem, they plan to excavate 2' of soil within the boundary of the light, install a 4' retaining wall around the seaward side of the foundation, then clean and paint the entire foundation system. The Coast Guard hopes to award the contract for this work by April and have the project completed by the end of June.

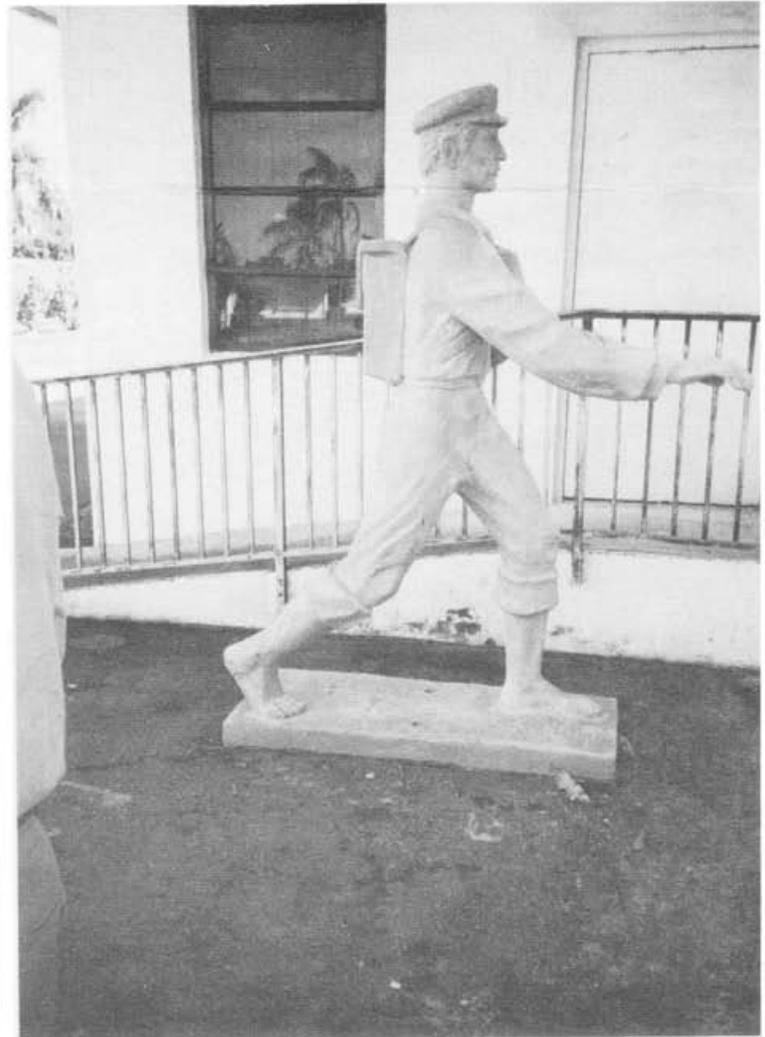
During our April tour, the observation will be from the "Watch Room" where there are four large windows to view the ocean, Pompano Beach, Lighthouse Point, and Hillsboro Beach.



Deteriorated Gallery Hand Rail.

BAREFOOT MAILMAN STATUE COMING SOON

In 1971 Frank Varga designed & constructed the stone statue of the Barefoot Mailman that once stood in front of the Barefoot Mailman Hotel in Hillsboro Beach. This statue has been donated to us. The Hillsboro Club has agreed to pay for a foundation for it to stand upon on the Lighthouse Station where it can be seen by boaters entering and exiting the Inlet. We find we must submit our proposal and site plan to four Florida environmental groups before the Coast Guard can approve the installation. We have drawn plans of our proposal and this week it will be sent to Tallahassee for their consideration.





Top: Approximate location where the Barefoot Mailman statue will replace 2'x4' sod of St. Augustine grass near the Inlet beach.

Right: Artist's Day at the Lighthouse station.



Below: HLPS booth at Broward County's Pioneer Days, November 2002, in Weston.



HILLSBORO'S EARLY KEEPERS

Second in a series

by Martha Casselberry

We often think of lighthouse keeping as a life of drudgery and loneliness, but there must have been something magical about that profession because so many children or in-laws of lighthouse keepers chose it for themselves. Thomas Knight, Hillsboro Inlet's second head lighthouse keeper came from such a family. His grandfather, Capt. Mills Burnham had become the first permanent keeper at Cape Canaveral in 1853. Burnham's sons-in-law, George Quarterman and James Knight also served there as assistant keepers. It was at the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse in 1879 that Thomas Knight was born. At age 19 he also became an assistant keeper at Canaveral. In 1911 he was promoted to head keeper at Hillsboro Lighthouse Station and brought his wife, three sons and a baby daughter, Mary, mother of our HLPs members Sheldon Voss and Marcia Voss Norman. Sheldon is a teacher in Broward County.

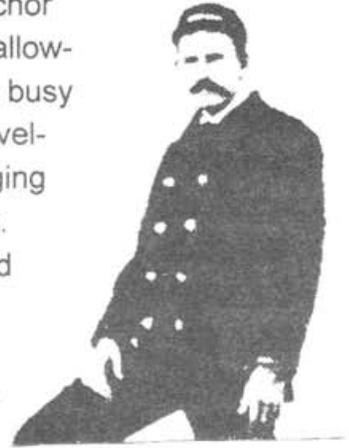
In 1976 Hibbard had the privilege of interviewing Mary Knight Voss. She told Hib about daily life at the station. There were three keepers' dwellings at Hillsboro and she spoke fondly of the fun she had with Assistant Keeper, J.B. Isler's girls who were about her age. They swam daily, fished, rowed a boat up and down the canal to explore, and on special occasions the whole family would row up to Deerfield (population 250) to get fresh vegetables and shop at a little general store on Dixie Highway. All the lighthouse children attended a one room school right on the property, a converted storage house. A few children of pioneer farmers and fishermen of the area joined them for classes. Their young teacher from Indiana lived right in the Knight home.

During World War I, Coast Guard cutters would visit the station and four Coast Guard signalmen were stationed there for the duration. Lighthouse supplies of kerosene, mops, paint, etc. were brought twice a year by the schooner

CYPRESS. It would anchor off shore and send a shallow-draft boat in to shore. A busy tender WATER LILY traveled the inland canal bringing household supplies. Mrs. Voss vividly remembered the 1926 hurricane. It hit in the darkness of night with seas washing under the house.

The boathouse and dock were gone in the morning, but the three houses and the lighthouse withstood, although sand down to bedrock around the lighthouse was washed away.

Thomas Knight retired in 1936 after 35 faithful years of service as a keeper. Daily, he and his assistants had hauled heavy buckets of kerosene up the 175 steps, trimmed the wicks, lit the lamps before dusk, cleaned the lens and reflectors, and at night wound a heavy weight by hand every half hour to keep the machinery for the lens rotating smoothly. Before retiring each day, the keeper entered a daily report in a log book. Other duties for the men would be polishing brass and painting the tower walls "in their spare time".



Sheldon Voss, Keeper Knight's grandson and great nephew of a Barefoot Mailman.

HLPS BOARD MEMBERS ATTEND FLA MEETING

by Paul M. Bradley

Another successful quarterly meeting of the Florida Lighthouse Association took place on Saturday, January 18, 2003, at Jupiter, Florida, at the Crab House Restaurant on the south side of the inlet with a beautiful view of the lighthouse located on the north side of the inlet. The weather was COLD, but there was a good turnout.

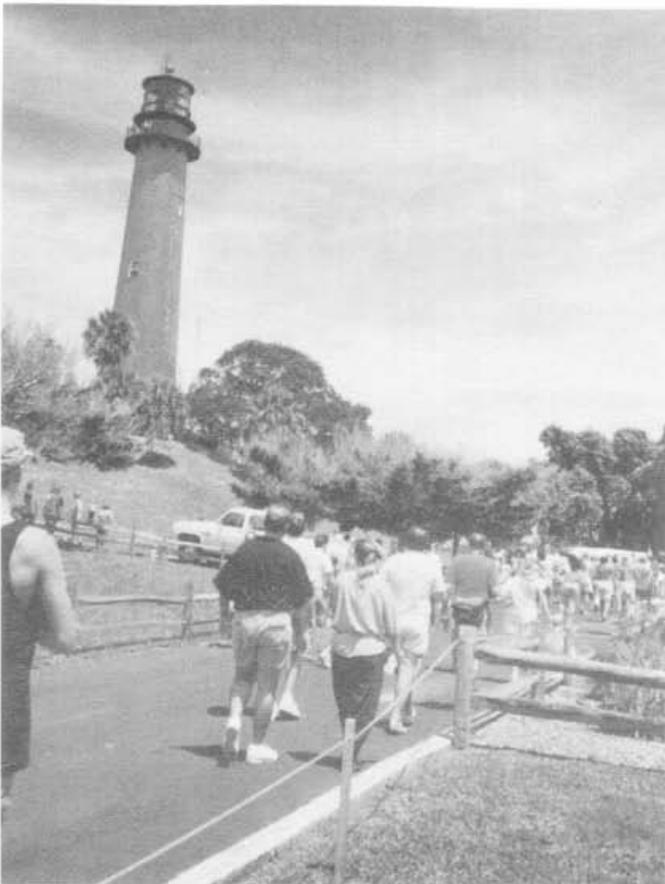
The meeting itself was conducted efficiently and with a sense of humor by our new president, Wayne Hawes from Tampa. He spoke at length in general terms about how our efforts toward lighthouse preservation is going around the State. He called for reports from various lighthouse groups. He also conducted an "auction" of several lighthouse figurines as a fund raiser. "He's good. I really think he could work as an auctioneer in a tobacco barn in Winston Salem, N.C."

He called on Kathy Fleming, Director of the St. Augustine Lighthouse Museum and her guest, Kevin Foster, Chief of the Natl Maritime Alliance to explain the intricacy of Federal/State laws pertaining to transfers of lighthouses from federal control to lighthouse groups interested in assuming control. This path through the various bureaucracies is truly complex, but has to be learned, and followed. Kathy Fleming seems to have a good grasp of these requirements as the St. Augustine light was officially turned over to the St. Augustine Museum in 2002.

Hib Casselberry gave his report on lighthouse education efforts by FLA. He also gave a report as president of HLPS. Paul Bradley's packets of lighthouse note cards and lighthouse prints were well received.

The highlight of the meeting was the featured speaker, Steven Kruspe, Education Director of Jupiter Lighthouse. He spoke of lighthouse education in the lower school grades. It was truly a remarkable speech, enjoyed by all.

Besides Hib and Paul, Joyce Hager and Jack Burrie also attended the day's activities which included the lighthouse climb, the Loxahatchee River Historical Museum and the DuBois pioneer home.



HISTORY MUSEUM

Adventure into the past to learn about archaeology, pioneer fashion and stories, Seminoles, shipwrecks, and locals named Alligator Alice and Trapper Nelson.



HISTORIC HOME

Tour the second oldest extant home in Palm Beach County built by Harry and Susan DuBois in 1898. The home stands on a 20' high ancient Indian shell mound. Explore early Jupiter pioneer life along the Loxahatchee river and the Atlantic Ocean. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS SINCE H.L.P.S.'s SEPT. NEWSLETTER

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| American Legion 142, Dolan, C. * | Feinberg, Dick | Maljean, Paul & Diane | Rose, Bob & Sharon |
| American Legion 142, Nelson, M.* | Feltus, Ruth | Maly, Jerome & Wilma | Russack, Jeanne L. |
| Antoine, Mary | Foote, Rob & Diane | Masi, Rita | Sandifer, Bill & Marilyn |
| Axelrod, Andrea | Fracasso, Buzz & Linda | Mayor, Barbara K. | Sands, Bob & Pam |
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| Barbarotta, Paul & Catherin | Gabriel, Marilyn/Gallo, Muriel | McNab, Margery | Schuit, Keith |
| Berrios, Yvonne | Gagnon, Kevin & Deborah | McPhail, Tim | Schwartz, Fred & Liz |
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| Bryan, Anthony | Germano, Joseph & Carolyn | Miller, Cheryl | Skirdlant, Ronald |
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| Burton, Mr. & Mrs. Micheal | Giles, Linda | Morris, Carmela | Smith, Jerry |
| Butterfield, M.L. | Gonzalez, Lourdes | Morrow, Charles & Joan | Snoberger, Joan |
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| Duell, Pamela | Loucks, Don & Corie | Roberts, Charles D. | |
| Eastburn, Edward & Esther | Lynott, Joseph, | Robinson, Jim & Leannah | |
| Emery, Carol | Maddrey, Robert D. | | |

* = Business Membership

VOLUNTEERS:

Work on the Lamp Exhibit (new item in the station's Display Room): CPO Eddie Lawrence.

"Keeper" for the Summer: C.W. "Bill" Nickerson, Coast Guard Aux. (Evening check on the lighthouse beam) Help from Group Miami, USCG were: Marty Hughes and Jeremy McGibbony for the August 21 Artists' Wednesday Morning Tour.

OCTOBER 5TH TOUR: Group Miami, USCG: MK3 Andrew Cole, FN Paul Hicks, SN Jeremy McGibbony. Coast Guard Auxiliary: C.W. "Bill" Nickerson, FC-#38; Jane Mueller, #37; Liz Clark, #37; Gene Cain, #37; Edward Duda, #37. HLPs Members: (At Station) Paul Bradley, Jack Burrie, Dave & Lee Butler, Hib Casselberry, Sheldon Voss. (At Sands Harbor Hotel's Dock): Martha Casselberry & Joyce Hager. Charles Seitz, Sands Harbor, Inc.

HOLIDAY LIGHT DECORATIONS: Group Miami, USCG: MK1 Chad Lovado, BM3 Joaquin Medina, SN Jeremy Mc Gibbony, Coast Guard Auxiliary members: Liz Clark and Gunther Noder.

DONATIONS:

Fred & Sue Stone - Photographs of keeper's family; George & Muriel McCullar.

Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc.

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If there is a red mark around your expiration date, please send in your renewal.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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Publication: David Butler, Hib & Martha Casselberry, Ray McAllister, Stephen Attis

Membership: Martha Casselberry,

Program: Ray McAllister, Joyce Hager,

Grants: Jack Burrie, Paul Bradley

Tour Info: J. Hager, J. Amato, J. Mueller
B. Nickerson, Kay McGinn, Sheldon Voss

Art Collection: P. Bradley, Joan Aletto,
Margaret Delp, Martha Wilder, Lee Butler

Education: H. Casselberry, Bob Smith,
Dale Allen, Sheldon Voss, C. Branigan

History: Butler, Casselberry, D. Nickerson

Parade Help: Hager, B & B Slager, Burrie

Meeting Help: M. & C. Branigan,

THE PRESIDENT'S NOTE :

Check out HLPS's Website, www.HillsboroLighthouse.org for updated news posted weekly. Also click on to its "Gift Shop" tab. Joyce Hager has added new merchandise including HLPS patches and pins. She will be adding new items in the future. All will be available at the **Annual Meeting**, Tuesday 11th February. (See article in this issue.) We will start a HLPS Calendar so you can plan ahead. The picture below is from my Hillsboro Light collection. **Hib Casselberry**

