On Saturday, October 25th, HLPS volunteers, Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team crew and local Coast Guard Auxiliary members will welcome you to the Hillsboro Lighthouse Station via our chartered shuttle boat. Come yourselves and invite friends and neighbors to join our Society that day at tables set up at the north dock of Sands Harbor Hotel on the Intracoastal Waterway at 125 N. Riverside Drive directly across the street from the Pompano Beach City Parking Lot where your car should be parked. There is a parking fee of $1.00 an hour (estimate 2 1/2 hours for the tour). A one year membership is $25.00 for an individual, $35.00 for a family or $50.00 for an organization or business. These memberships allow you to attend any tour or activity for a full year with no additional fees except for any meals or very special activities.

After checking in at the dock, you will receive a wrist band and wait for the chartered boat that will shuttle to and from the Light Station beginning at 9:00 A.M. with the last trip to the Lighthouse approximately between 2:45 and 3:00 P.M. The Station closes at about 4:30 P.M. and all remaining guests will return to the Sands Harbor Hotel at that time.

The highlight of your tour will be climbing the Lighthouse stairs to enjoy the 360 degree spectacular views. The original Barefoot mailman Statue in on the property and you can talk to a modern barefoot mailman who will retell the original story. Some members in orange colored vests can answer questions you may have and others will retell stories about their parents who were children living at the Lighthouse during the 1920s and 30s. Our on-line gift shop manager, Joyce Hager, will have our sale items available to you throughout the day at the West Gazebo, close to the boat dock.

Pictures from August 2008 Tour with New Dock, courtesy of David Shing & Dave Noderer.
The Truth at Hillsboro Inlet, FL and The False at St. Louis, MO

by Martha Casselberry and photographs from Hib Casselberry’s Archives

Sometimes a falsehood is repeated so often that even historians get it wrong. That is the case with the building of Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse. Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse tower was constructed by the Russel Wheel & Foundry Co. in Detroit, Michigan in 1906. It was disassembled (in April 1906) and shipped by steamer from Detroit thru the Great Lakes, Illinois & Mississippi Rivers and into the Gulf of Mexico to Southeast Florida.

The false account states that Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse tower was built in Chicago in 1903 and shipped by steamer to St. Louis for display at the 1904 World’s Fair and afterwards disassembled and sent down the Mississippi River by barge to Hillsboro Inlet, Florida in 1907.

The truth is that at the 1904 Fair, also called The Louisiana Purchase Centennial Exposition, was a large model, 60 ft. tall shown above at the right. Perhaps Hillsboro’s beautiful lens manufactured in Paris, France was on display in the same Great Room. We do not know any other way the model lighthouse on the right could be mistaken for the Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse manufactured in another city two years later.

The picture of the model at the right was taken from a book titled Inside The World's Fair Of 1904, volume one by Elana V. Fox. The picture on the left of Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse came from Florida Photographic Archives in Tallahassee. See the comparison.
The Keepers of the Old U.S. Light House Service from 1820 - 1939

The US Coast Guard did not take over the duties of lighthouses until 1939. Before that time keepers were appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury on the recommendation of the Light-House Board. Neil E. Hurley, of Chesapeake, Virginia, and a friend and honorary member of HLPS, in 1990 published a book to provide research on Florida lighthouse keepers during those early years. We often speak of the three Keepers - Alfred Bergholl, Thomas Knight and Benjamin F. Stone at Hillsboro Inlet during that thirty-two year period. Those three men were principal keepers. There were eighteen other hard working 1st and 2nd Assistant Keepers to assist the principal keepers - one staying only 13 days at Hillsboro, many less than a year or two average stay. Then there was J.B. Isler who stayed almost 20 years!

Light keepers were paid an average of $600 a year with the principal keeper receiving much more and the assistant keepers receiving much less. Each keeper was furnished with quarters for themselves and their families. Boats were provided for stations inaccessible to land as Hillsboro was from 1907-1920s. A teacher was also provided for the children. However, dress and fatigue uniforms for keepers were introduced in 1883 and although required, became the keeper’s personal cost.

Mr. Hurley tells us that the discipline of the Service was rigid. It was the duty of every keeper to stand by his light as long as the lighthouse stood. “For him to desert it when it was in danger was as cowardly as for a soldier to leave his guns on the advance of an enemy”. If any keeper was found intoxicated, he was to be dismissed from the Service and instantly ejected from the station. A keeper who allowed his light to go out was dismissed without considering any excuse or his previous good conduct. Thomas Jefferson had said when he was President, “Keepers of light-houses should be dismissed for small degrees of remissness because of the calamities which even these produce”. By 1894 “the class of men from whom keepers were selected was so good that the punishment of dismissal was infrequently inflicted”.

It was no part of the lighthouse keeper’s duty to take to the sea to save survivors of wrecks, but many did. In those cases when they endangered their own lives, “they received from the Secretary of the Treasury gold or silver medals in proportion to the danger incurred, not as compensation, but rather as marks in appreciation for their services”.

KEEPERS

We are the Keepers of that steadfast light,
The mighty beams that blaze the path aright.
Ours but the hands that serving, keep it bright.
The bringers of the oil, the workers we,
Who day long without pause,
Faithfully toil that its radiance may pierce the night.
Ours to see each wick is trimmed and fit,
Lest on a night of storm it fails to burn,
And a Great Ship goes down in awful seas.
O, Keepers of the light, keep faith with it!
by Theodosia Garrison
President’s Letter

Our eighth re-lighting anniversary tour of the Lighthouse on August 16th was by all means a great day for our members and non members alike. Many of the touring public thanked our staff for making a visit to this historic place possible. Everyone seemed to enjoy the smooth four mile boat ride on the Intracoastal Waterway to the new lighthouse dock at the Inlet.

The HLPS staff in turn thanked the USCG Auxiliary and the USCG Aids to Navigation Team for their contribution. Without them these tours would not be possible. Also our loyal team of volunteers spent very long hours working under harsh and exhaustive heat conditions. Words cannot express our gratitude to all these greatly dedicated and magnificent people. The newly built boat dock worked out beyond our expectations, and for that, we have Mr. Jack Holland, Chairman of Hillsboro Inlet District, and CDR. James Pruett of USCG 7th District to thank.

Our next boat ride and Lighthouse tour will take place on Saturday, October 25th. Please mark your calendar for a fun-packed day, and don’t forget to mention it to your friends, relatives and neighbors.

On August the 2nd, during a Fine Arts Exhibit of the Hillsboro Lighthouse at Emma Lou Olson Civic Center in Pompano Beach, I was honored to present a Plaque of Gratitude to each of two honored, long time Directors of HLPS who recently resigned from our Board. Kay McGinn, past Commissioner and former Mayor of Pompano Beach and Paul Bradley a renown national lighthouse illustrator and well respected Architect, a 58 year resident of Broward County. Both Kay and Paul will be missed by the HLPS Board.

We are in search of some able and willing volunteers who can spare time to contribute articles for this newsletter. We also need at least 5 additional volunteer members to help at the Lighthouse on tour dates, in half day segments. If interested, please call me on my cell phone (305) 799-5621 or Hib Casselberry at (954) 782-3313. Let’s talk.

Art Makenian
NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS SINCE H.L.P.S.’s July ‘08 NEWSLETTER

Jean, Richard
Amato, Carmine & Jeanne
Ashford, Geannie
Bettner, Steve & Jean
Bishop family
Bloom, Scott
Bonopane, Joan
Bowell, Wayne
Brooks, Dave & Terry
Brown, Thomas & Jane
Burns, Ted
Campise, Frank
Carey, Bill
Cecek, Lisa
Cicere, Debora
Coliver, Chuck & Heathor
Colody, Jack & Betty
Computer Ways, Inc.
Connell, Dennis
Daniello, Denise
DeHaan, Howard & Verna
Docen, Richard & Marguerite
Evangelista, Debbie
Everett, Bruce
Fox, Bill & Sherry
Garman, George & Jennifer
Gamer, James & Lisa
Gowing, Thomas & Carla
Hammert, Jan & Bill Roe
Harrington, Donald & Judy
Hecker, Karin
Huzinec, V. & John Hoffman
Jones, Cindy
Ketterer, Ken
Kezer, Barbara
Kidwell, Martin, CPA *
Kittock, Aileen
Krugler, Ralph
Langsenkamp, Emily
Lighthouse Pt. Chapter DAR *
Malafa, Eric
Marcie, Norma
Marcinhtt, John
McCarthy-Koppisch, Patricia
Neil, Joe & Carol
Neill, Burnham S.
Neuner, Paul
Nunez family
Oliver, Jan P.
Perrin, Kent & Susan
Pollock, Dorene
Profetto, Joseph Jr.
Pyles, Dave
Reising, David & Sheryle
Remus, Nancy
Robert, Brett & Lisa
Rondone, John
Scanlan, Frank & Tammy
Shapiro, Jay
Shivelp, Sheryl
Smith, Vonicle M.
Stark, Lee & Dottie
Stegman, Gloria
Stolar, Ken
Tanner, Frank & Amie Kay
Thompson, Julie
Trueman, William & Carol
Vargo, Dan
Vella, Vincent T.
Vellis, Katherine H.
Waronick, Kirk
Weigel, Terry
Williams, Richard
Wohlrab, Paul & Debi
Young, Crystal
Zadel, Ed

* = Business Membership
** = LIFE MEMBERS

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEER HELPERS Since July 2008 Newsletter.

N EWSLETTER Mailing Feb.: Jack Burrie, Hib & Martha Casselberry and Kim Zeman.

August Art & Photographic Receptions In Conjunction with City of Pompano Beach Cultural Arts Committee lead by Marcia Hirschby: Jeannie Amato, Jack Burrie, Hib & Martha Casselberry, Joyce Hager, Art Makenian, Linda Peck, Mike Spear and Harvey & Alyce Villa.

H LPS new Brochures Editing: Jack Burrie, Hib & Martha Casselberry, Art Makenian & Ray McAllister.

D etermination of the H LPS DVD Video and Design of its Cover: Mike Spear.

August 16 Lighthouse Tour: Sands Harbor Hotel provided use of their dock, tables & chairs. H LPS Workers at Sands Harbor Hotel dock: Suzan Baekkelund, Martha Casselberry & Lori Kunkel. H LPS Narrator on Boat: Dr. Ray McAllister. At the Lighthouse: Tables & chairs provided by USCG Station Manager, Patricia Pruett.

USCG ANT Ft. Lauderdale: BMCS Mike Winans, BM3 Christopher Darling & MK3 Robert Thompson.
USCG Auxiliary: Liz Clark & Jane Mueller (Flotilla 3-7), Scott Cleary (Flotilla 3-4) Barbara Dombroski & Bob Weisman (Flotilla 3-1). H LPS Workers at Lighthouse: Jack Burrie, Bill Carey, Hib Casselberry, Joyce & Mike Hager, Dave Hoderar, Art Makenian, Linda Peck and Barbara Saathoff.

C ONTRIBUTIONS: Ottographics (Large sign for Sands Harbor dock) and Paul Bradley for the Artwork.

H ELP NEEDED: Please join the “H LPS Writers Team”, or volunteer as a News Release coordinator (distribute to newspapers, TV & radio), File Clerk (to keep business papers in H LPS cabinet), Membership Recruiter, Volunteer Coordinator, School Coordinator for educational programs (History & Social Studies).
If there is a red mark around your expiration date, please send in your renewal payment and form.