Lighthouse History—Ralph Krugler

Hi everybody! I have the honor and privilege to carry on the work as historian for the HLPS, following in the giant footsteps of the one, the only, the original, Hib Casselberry.

It seems like forever ago that I asked Hib one simple question. “So what information do we have on the lighthouse?” He had a little hand out with a layout of the reservation and some tidbits. This was good if you’re just a visitor; however, if you’re a volunteer who wants to be able to answer almost every question, it wasn’t enough. Hib then explained that in the 1970’s he went to the National Archives in MD and made some photocopies of some documents he thought were important for the group to have. These were boxed away at the HLPS storage facility.

Once accessed, the storage facility proved to be a bit more then was expected; (think a tiny version of the end of Raiders of the Lost Ark where the crated Ark is stored away.) Ken Herman and myself began

Ben Ellis ~ 1942 to 2019

Ben was born in Lakeland FL, as a sixth generation Floridian, in 1942. His family moved to Pompano Beach in 1955 and he attended Pompano Beach High School, where he joined the ‘Golden Tornados’ football team and played until his graduation in 1960.

Following high school, Ben joined the U.S. Air Force Security Services and with his aptitude for languages, they sent him to the University of Indiana, where he became fluent in Russian. He was then stationed overseas, in Japan, to monitor radio transmissions between Russian aircraft pilots ~ listening for any aggressive maneuvers or
FROM THE PRESIDENT

So far, 2019 is turning out to be another great year for the HLPS.

First, the primary of our two lighthouse restoration projects for 2019 have come to a successful close. If you haven’t noticed yet, the lighthouse is looking shinier and more vibrant than ever! That is due to the new paint job that was just completed in April. This new paint job should last a while, but I don’t want to steal the thunder of the article later in this issue about this project. It’s a must read. The second major project, which will be starting at the end of August, will be to replace the railing at the very top of the lighthouse. This railing is very important because it allows access to the tip-top of the lighthouse roof. More to come on that project. For these two projects, alone, we’ve budgeted on spending over $90k. But these are just our major renovation projects. We have many smaller and less expensive projects planned for 2019. These include barefoot mailman statue maintenance, interior painting, miscellaneous repairs and preventative maintenance of the monuments and lighthouse – just to mention a few.

Secondly, the 112th anniversary moonlight gala – it was the best one yet! We were sold out three weeks ahead of the event, even after adding a number of extra tables. We are so proud and grateful to all of you that were able to attend and contribute. We raised a record amount, again! And, it is only due to your generosity. We can’t state enough how truly grateful we are to all of you for your support and help in keeping the light on. I would also like to thank our generous sponsors. They are all local businesses and they share our love of the lighthouse. Thank you all. The 2020 gala will be the 113th anniversary. It will be held on Friday, March 13th 2020. Save the date. And, I suggest you get your tickets early. If the turnout is anything like this year’s, the tickets will be gone quickly.

Thirdly, if you have never been to the Hillsboro Lighthouse museum, or if you have in the past, now has never been a better time to go or go again. We just finished the major renovations to the interior and exterior of the museum. This was generously funded by the Pompano Proud, Hillsboro Shores Improvement Association, and the City of Pompano Beach. Many thanks to Sandy Von Staden for her tenacious drive to get this project coordinated and completed. She was successfully able to bring three non-profits together along with a city council. Truly a noteworthy feat! Please take some time to read the article on this project, in this issue.

Fourthly, we had another successful membership meeting in February. The (Continued on page 4)
Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society

Our newly remodeled Museum is located at Hillsboro Inlet Park, A1A, 2700 N. Ocean Boulevard, Pompano Beach. We are open daily except Monday and Wednesday from 11 to 3. We are also open during Tour days from 10 to 3. If needed on a closed day you may contact Annie at 954-226-3566.

We are very proud of our volunteers who enable the extended days open. Linda Peck, Cindy and Molly Malaney, Barbara Branigan, Kathy Santini, Pam Wunderlich, Brenda Guffey, Betsy Slagle, and Sheldon Voss. Should you take a liking to our Museum and want to be part of our fantastic volunteers, give Annie a call or write to museum@hillsborolighthouse.org
navigating through the surplus until some boxes of documents and photos emerged. These quickly were moved (temporarily) to my home office where it was like Christmas morning or Eve; we always opened our gifts then. Hib had found some amazing documents, but then something grabbed my attention like no other item. These were legal sized copies of handwritten pages that made my eyes hurt. When you haven’t read script writing in 20 years, it can take a few minutes before your eyes uncross. Once that happened, what was there transported me back in time as I was reading the words and thoughts of the first head Keeper, Alfred Berghell.

Hib had copied the first few pages of the first Keeper’s Log book and it was an instant addiction for me. Getting to the last page, I quickly went through every box again looking for more. When nothing emerged, a phone call to Hib immediately followed. If you ever had the privilege of talking to Hib on the phone about lighthouses, you know it wasn’t a fast call. Unfortunately, the most poignant information was that he had not copied more of the Log.

Disappointed with his response, a new addiction compelled further action. Not long thereafter, I met Josh Liller, the historian with Jupiter Lighthouse who also became a huge influence. Between Hib and Josh, a path was laid out on discovering the information desired.

I hired a wonderful lady in Maryland who would take photos of any documents or photos desired. This wasn’t an inexpensive request, but not many addictions are though. What she sent were copies of almost every Log book, all documentation from the proposal of the lighthouse to repairs in the 1930’s and amazing photos. While that was being compiled, my own journey went to historical societies from Miami to Jupiter, large public libraries, and points of interest. Computer investigations went on Ancestry.com, MyHeritage.com, findagrave.com, newspapers.com, lighthousefriends.com, individual lighthouse pages, the National Archives online, the US Lighthouse Society and the USCG Historians office.

I also contacted the National Archives in St. Louis where the Personnel Files are stored. They could supply files on anyone whom I wished... for a price. When the total number of files was revealed, their advice was to fly out there for a couple of days and copy the material myself, as it would be cheaper. I chose to purchase only three files and yes, the plan is to fly there and get the rest; just not sure when.

There were also numerous phone interviews with children/descendants of Keepers, and more emails than you
The volume of material gathered would have been overwhelming had it all come at once. However, this all trickled in over 3 years during which time I was writing what became “The (Almost) Complete History of the Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse.” Josh called it the most extensive coverage of a single lighthouse ever written. Being that it’s the size of a phone book (the old kind, before Smartphone’s), weighs 7 pounds 6.3 ounces and has over 600 pages of text before bibliography and index, I’d have to agree with Josh.

So why was it written? Why so long?

The lighthouse is a historical landmark. A local treasure that most in the area take for granted, but is on advertising and logos everywhere. The little bits of information out on the web and in books is repetitive and often incorrect!

This book tells the story of how the lighthouse came to be, the maintenance and upgrades. It then dives into the people who lived and operated the tower and later the radio beacon. Any book on just the tower would be interesting, but this was meant to capture the lives of the Keepers and their families. Their stories are as much a treasure as the physical landmarks and need to be honored and preserved for our community.

As the material kept coming in, the more people, things, places and events that occurred in south Florida that had a tie-in to the lighthouse kept growing as well. Natural curiosity took this researcher down various fascinating trails, which had to be included. So this isn’t just about the Hillsboro lighthouse, but south Florida as well! My hopes are that this book will build local pride and curiosity for you to get out and see the history all around us.

The 1st edition was purposely kept as one volume. It is limited to 100 copies, with the best quality paper/binding/etc. all signed and numbered. The 2nd edition will be 3 volumes, on good quality paper (roughly guessing $25 apiece – not set in stone) and there will be a digital version (maybe $20-$25 – not sure yet) as well. Volume 1 will be the process of getting the lighthouse to March 6th, 1907. Volume 2 will be the USLHE era (March 7, 1907 - July 6, 1939). Volume 3 will be the USCG era (July 7, 1939 - present day). Those will be made available on all major bookseller websites. However, if you want a signed and numbered 1st edition, they are $100 and only available through my website ralphkrugler.com, email at hlpssubmissions@gmail.com or at a monthly tour. I also run a Facebook page (just look up the book title) and Instagram (my name) with daily posts mostly consisting of a “this day in Hillsboro lighthouse history.”

If you have photos, stories or know descendants who can help fill out the missing information, please contact me! The goal is to keep all their stories alive for generations to come!

Thanks and I’ll see you at the top of the lighthouse soon.
sightings, as an immediate warning for our Air Force pilots.

Upon returning home in 1964, he joined the Pompano Beach Police Department. During his 25 years with the PBPD, Ben served in every division of the department; and he especially enjoyed his 9 years on Marine Patrol, with his lifetime experience & love of boating, along with his knowledge of our local waterways and waterfront neighborhoods.

As he cruised past the Lighthouse several times a day while patrolling the Inlet area, rescuing offshore boaters, or assisting boaters stranded on the reef, he realized how important our Lighthouse is, as a visual daytime reference.

And during Ben’s nighttime shift, the Lighthouse beam served as an essential navigation aid, guiding boaters to the channel, between the treacherous rocky shoal on the north side of the Inlet and the underwater coral reef on the south side.

After his retirement from the PD in 1989, Ben & Jeannie moved to Sarasota, where he applied his law enforcement background and continued his education, earning advanced credentials toward his "second" career, as a corporate security executive.

While living in Sarasota, Ben joined the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS) and was elected as the Chapter Chairman of the Suncoast Chapter (including 5 counties, from Naples to Tampa). In 1994, he was honored to be selected as the ASIS Suncoast Chapter Security Professional of the Year.

In late 1994 Ben & Jeannie moved to her childhood home in Chevy Chase Maryland, a suburb of Washington DC, to care for her father.

Ben immediately joined the ASIS Washington DC Chapter and was selected to serve as their Law Enforcement Liaison.

Soon afterward, he was offered a position as the Deputy Director of Security Operations for one of the largest industrial corporations in Washington. His duties required interaction between the Metro PD, the Capitol Police, and the Secret Service, to facilitate visits to the corporation’s headquarters by dignitaries.

Throughout their years together Ben & Jeannie have stayed busy as volunteers with several community organizations & charities ~ including the Chambers of Commerce, Leadership Broward (they are both LB alumni), and the American Cancer Society (during the 1980’s & 90’s), serving as co-Chair for several large fundraising events.

In 2001 Ben & Jeannie decided it was time to retire and return to South Florida, to relax and enjoy the waterfront lifestyle in the sunshine.

As Lighthouse Point residents, they were especially interested in joining the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society.
Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society 2019

BEN ELLIS (CONT)

Society and have been active members since 2004.

During the past 15 years, Ben has attended nearly all of the monthly Lighthouse Tours, sharing the history of the "Barefoot Mailman" with the visitors, as the groups gathered by the Barefoot Mailman statue overlooking the Inlet, to hear the interesting story of how the mail was delivered, back in the 1800's.

For the past 2 years, he served on the Board of Directors for the Lighthouse; and as a Community Outreach volunteer, reaching out to local businesses, organizations & schools, etc ~ to promote awareness of our Historic Landmark and its functional & historical value, and its prominent visibility & contributions to our waterfront communities & residents.

After 112 years, our Lighthouse is still guiding mariners approaching at night, to safely enter the channel ~ and with the brightest Lighthouse beam in the world, our “Big Diamond” shines 28 miles offshore.

Ben truly enjoyed these past 15 years, promoting the local community's involvement & support for the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society's mission ~ to ensure its Preservation for future generations.

Our Lighthouse would not exist today, without the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society's ongoing commitment.

Ben was very proud to have the opportunity to contribute to HLPS's mission.

On July 14th 2019 he passed away at Boca Regional Hospital.

STEPHEN J ATTIS 1958–2019 — ART MAKENIAN

HLPS lost another Senior Board member on April 1st, 2019. Stephen J, Attis, a veteran volunteer and a First Vice President and an active Board member during the Carmen Mc Garry's Presidency period 2006-2008.

Steve was introduced to HLPS by Dr. Ray McAllister, PhD. And a Founding and a Board member of HLPS. Both Ray and Steve were avid and expert divers within our nautical communities. Stephen was the President and a Founder of Vone Research, a 501 (c) (3), an Ocean conservation group. The loss of Stephen was premature, his accomplishments to our local community is immeasurable, Steve was only 60 years young. Steve and Ray were responsible of saving our precious coastal reefs from distraction and preserving many treasures recovered by scuba diving.

His popularity was clearly felt and visible during the April 15th Mass and Burial Ceremonies at St Coleman’s Catholic Church and the Forest Lawn Cemetery at Pompano Beach. Estimated 750 to 1000 people attended both the Requiem and the Burial.

The entire Board of Directors and the Volunteers of HLPS offer their condolences to the Attis Family and their Friends.
Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society

Hillsboro Lighthouse Presents
Shipwreck at the Lighthouse
Fundraising Gala
March 13, 2020
Sunset to Moonrise
(7 PM to 11 PM)

Join us in costume (optional), bring your sea legs and batten down the hatches for a rip roaring time!

Dinner by Hugh’s, Full Open Bar, Live Music by The Promises, 60’s Soul and Motown Band, Silent Auction plus a live auction for a Goodyear Blimp Ride and Online Auction for a Stay at the Lighthouse Cottages.

Bid on a 2-night stay in our 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom keepers cottage for the weekend of March 13-15th. Opening Bid starts at $1,000. Email your bid to: president@hillsborolighthouse.org

Bids close February 15 at NOON.

The winning bidder will be notified February 16, 2020.

Captain’s Table of Eight (8) $1,313.00
First Mates & Pirates Tickets $170.00 per person

To buy your tickets at Eventbrite
https://hillsborolighthousegala.eventbrite.com

Questions? Call Debbie Divich (786)251-0811
media@hillsborolighthouse.org
The lighthouse is going dark. The plan is that for the month of October the light will be turned off. Unlike previous issues, this time it isn’t that there is a problem with the light. Instead, the lens will be covered for its own protection.

The reason for this is that the upper roof railing has corroded beyond repair. As seen in the photo, the iron mounting braces have rusted away; some almost completely. Originally, the purpose of the ring was to help the Keepers gain access to the roof. This was incase the vent ball needed attention, or to paint the roof.

The mounting braces are screwed through the roof, and to access them the interior ceiling panels will have to be removed. An exploratory mission was performed, removing a single panel to assess if further damage was hidden and if special tools would be required to remove the mounting braces. Fortunately the answer to both of those questions was – no.

With that good news in hand, the US Coast Guard has agreed that the month of October, weather permitting (no hurricanes) would be when the project would be done.

To protect the lens, a wooden frame will be assembled around the lens and covered with non-abrasive padding. Rather than assembling and removing this daily, it will just remain covered for the duration.

While the panels are removed, it’s planned that they will be scraped and repainted prior to reassembling. The panels have needed a fresh coat of paint for quite some time as much of it as crack and peeled.

To prevent future corrosion, the newly fabricated mounts were made of brass rather than the original iron.

This, like many of our restoration projects isn’t cheap and we get no federal funds. If you wish to donate to our cause, please go to our webpage hillsborolighthouse.org. Right on the home page is a donation button. Please, wear out that button!
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Join today to help preserve our lighthouse’s heritage and receive these benefits: Join online: http://hillsborolighthouse.org/join-us

- A subscription to our newsletter "The Big Diamond"
- Free admission to all tours, programs, and lectures for the membership period
- Timely updates to events related to the lighthouse

Membership rates:
- Individual $35.00 / year
- Family (of 4) $50.00 / year
- Family (of 6) $75.00 / year
- Business (non-profit) $125.00 / year
- Business (for profit) $150.00 / year

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DONATIONS JUNE 2018 TO PRESENT

In honor of Hib Casselberry: David Bean, Al King

To the MUSEUM: Pompano Proud, Hillsboro Shores Improvement Association Inc.

Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society: Pompano Beach Historical Society, Pompano High School 50th Reunion, City of Pompano Beach, City of Hillsboro Beach, City of Lauderdale By The Sea, George & Doris Rodormer

SUPPORT THE LIGHTHOUSE WITH A CLICK! - JENNIFER BURNS

Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society has partnered with AmazonSmile. When you shop on smile.amazon.com and select Hillsboro Lighthouse as the organization you’d like to support, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% (five cents on ten dollars) of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization you select. You pay the same price for items purchased on smile.amazon.com as you do for purchases made on Amazon.com. Your purchases can add up! Orders only generate donations if they are placed at smile.amazon.com and meet eligibility requirements. Not all items are eligible for AmazonSmile donations, but many are. Here’s how:

- Go to smile.amazon.com
- Log in using your Amazon.com email address and password
- When prompted to select an organization type Hillsboro Lighthouse click the Search button.
- Click the yellow Select button to the right of the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society Inc. listing.

For more information about the AmazonSmile program, go to http://smile.amazon.com/about.

LIGHTHOUSE LINKS

- Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society: HillsboroLighthouse.org
- Memorial Bricks: http://www.hillsborolighthouse.org/memorial-bricks
- Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society Store: HillsboroLighthouse.org/store
- Florida Lighthouse Association: FloridaLighthouses.org
- Florida Keys Reef Lights Foundation: ReefLights.org
- Florida Trust for Historic Preservation: FloridaTrust.org
- National Trust for Historic Preservation: PreservationNation.org
AUGUST 26, 2019 BOARD MEETING  5:08 pm

Attending
Ken Herman, Ed Dietrich, Debbie Divich, Fred MacLean, Annie Garrick, Linda Peck, Art Makenian, Bill Slager, Susan Williams, Ralph Krugler, Jack Burrie, Chris Doone, Jeannie Ellis

- Introduction of Chief Raymond Coleman, new ATON Chief
- Accepted minutes - add Ralph Krugler
- 2020 Gala - March 13 7-11 pm—Reviewed financials, Discussed initial planning - outreach for auction items, Will look at different date for 2021
- Storage Unit rental - $160 (ac) 10x10, $394.79 15x30. Send Ed an email about moving to a new unit.
- Lighthouse Garage - will have a cleanup day and Chris will reorganize for easier access. Coast Guard side & HLPS side.
- Finance—Accepted Financials—Charles & Ed worked on insurance. New bank - Pacific National Bank, Ken can sign checks
- 2020 Tours—Listed tour dates, Mostly on 2nd Saturday, 3 Sundays, days at LH, Keith Campbell will be cooking most days
- Annual Membership Meeting - Feb 15, 2020 at Pompano Beach
- Possible Yoga classes on LH grounds on Tour Days - Amber Thompson. Similar to art classes.
- Boat Tour data - see agenda
- Leadership Broward - Jeannie will try to get HLPS on their schedule for 2020.
- Status of LH repair—October - turn off light for replacement of top handrail. (Razorback is coming to review job) Estimate - $20,000 labor + $22,000 materials. Painting contractor will look at some rust spots on tension rods.
- Museum/ Giftshop update—Put together a red book of info on operation of museum. Annie reviewed success of Gift shop's sales. Suggest to get an easier to use point-of-sale system for credit cards. Attended Souvenir & Gift Show
- T-Mobile account - Will look at moving phones and PayPal access to HLPS account instead of what Ken has been providing at no charge.
- LH stamp at mini museum needs replaced.
- Hillsboro Shores Improvement Assn—Has donated $5,000 for the museum update - inside & out. Have spent $2,505.
- Endowment—Looking at $1-2 million. Discussed operating independently or with Community Foundation of Broward. Website or webpage. Committee - Fred Ken & Chris
- Big Diamond - publish Sept/Oct
- Memorial bricks for Ben at Barefoot Mailman statue.
- Adjourned at 7:21 pm
Support Florida lighthouses by purchasing a 'VISIT OUR LIGHTS' auto tag.

www.saveourlights.com