

# BIG DIAMOND

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



## A BUSY YEAR 2000 AT THE HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE

It has been a busy year at the Hillsboro Lighthouse, with a great deal accomplished. The year started with 300 members and friends of HLPS visiting the lighthouse on February 6. A second visit was arranged for April 2. Both events started at the Sands Hotel, with a trip on a 60-foot open boat up the Intracoastal to the Coast Guard dock at the Inlet. The Florida Lighthouse Society, Pompano Historical and HLPS set up exhibits, and refreshments were served. The weather was perfect for both visits.

### NEW BALL BEARING FOR LENS

A new commercial Ball Bearing was selected for carrying the 4,500 pound weight of the lens, and after complicated negotiations the bearing was ordered by the Coast Guard. Preparation for installation was complex, with the construction of a full sized bearing model by HLPS to test procedures, and the complex removals of the vertical drive shaft (300 pounds) by the USCG Auxiliary

### BALL BEARING (CONTINUED)

volunteers. Finally the bearing was received in late spring, and installed with great difficulty over the summer. The Coast Guard Auxiliary members gave nearly 3,000 hours of volunteer time this year

### RE-LIGHTING CEREMONY

After many tests a re-lighting ceremony was held August 18. HLPS President Harry Cushing was Master Of Ceremonies, and Mayor Bill Griffin of Pompano Beach was a key speaker. Vice Mayor Rick McCarty of Hillsboro Beach spoke and Commissioner Mike Long of Lighthouse Point. Captain Larry Yarborough USCG Commandant, Seventh District, spoke and introduced Captain Mark Kerski and key members of the USCG team. Lighthouse Keeper Art Makenian spoke of the 2,500 hours of labor donated by the USCG Auxiliary to complete the work to get the light shining again. With the crowd counting down from 10 to zero the switch was thrown and the 1,000 watt power of Hillsboro shone again over the Atlantic Ocean.

## HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE



### CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ON THE LIGHTHOUSE

HLPS is working on adding Christmas Lights to dress up the Observation Platform at the 120-foot level. Permission was granted to try out some ideas. In October two strings of the regular outdoor lights were purchased by HLPS, and Dave Butler installed them using a mixture of white and colored lights. Tests at night showed that the 7-watt bulbs are dim in colors such as Red, Green and Blue. The color absorbs so much light that even on the platform you cannot tell if the green and blue are lit.

In mid-November two strings of white 7 watt lights were installed with an automatic timer which goes on at darkness, and turns off at dawn. Two more strings and a second timer will be installed later. The Board hopes all will enjoy the white lights, which should be



## PRESERVATION SOCIETY

### FLOODLIGHTS AT THE BASE OF LIGHTHOUSE.

Mr Al Siefert of Siefert Electric Company has proposed lighting the legs of the Lighthouse using FLOODLIGHTS installed at ground level. Initial studies indicate each floodlight could light two of the white legs. More electrical power is available at ground level and this light flooding up from the base would be visible for greater distances than small Christmas bulbs. In November meetings were held at the Lighthouse to plan out the work. HLPS will provide the material for the project, and Mr. Siefert has offered to donate the Electrical expertise and skilled labor.

### PIONEER DAYS PARTICIPATION

Pioneer Days is an Annual Broward County fair, which rotates from City to City. This year was in Deerfield Beach at Pioneer Park. We had a very

visible from the beaches near Hillsboro,  
Hillsboro Inlet and highway A1A near the  
Lighthouse.

## Florida Lighthouse Assn. Update

by Hib Casselberry

The FLA's membership is growing and so are our activities. **Crooked River Lighthouse** is being transferred from GSA (General Services Admin.) to the Town of Carrabelle, in Florida's Panhandle. Similar to **HLPS**, they have up-and-running an existing preservation group. Several other lighthouses are also being preserved and/or transferred to non-military entities.

The FLA has been invited to sponsor awards for the Florida state history fair which occurs in Tallahassee in May. The topic will be on Florida lighthouse history and the keeper's life there on the station. With the blessing of the majority of the Board, the Education Committee, chaired by Hib Casselberry, is working with the State Historical Resources in Tallahassee to get high school students involved in lighthouse history state-wide in **Florida's History Fair 2001**. Prize money (about \$1500 for the top winners & honorable mentions) for the lighthouse segment is being raised by public solicitation. Contact Hib Casselberry at 671 SW Sixth St.#118, Pompano Beach, FL 33060, Phone = (954) 782-3313, or E-mail [lighthouse-fl@usa.com](mailto:lighthouse-fl@usa.com) for more information.

Pineapple Press of Sarasota will be publishing FLA's book, **Florida Lighthouse Trail Guide**, in January 2001. It is authored by a group of 19 known writers.

The FLA's next meetings and tours are =  
Sat.Sun.Jan. 20-21 Carrabelle = Crooked River & others Lts.  
Fr. Sat. Sun. April 13-15 Upper Keys' Lights  
Sat. July 14 Pompano Beach = Hillsboro Inlet Light.  
Oct. weekends = St. Marks Light & nearby lights.  
also . Oct. Cedar Key (Seahorse Key Lt.)  
There may be other lighthouse tours between meetings.

**EDITOR...Dave Butler**

successful display on October 14 and 15. We were  
located in the center tent next to the Pompano

Beach Historical Society and were fortunate in having walls on the booth allowing excellent display space. We had a series of pictures of the Lighthouse in the early days, plus a four foot high detailed model of the Hillsboro lighthouse built by Harvey Villa, which took him a year working from detailed plans.

We also had a series of paintings and stories of shipwrecks close to the Lighthouse by Dave Butler. Our exhibit won a First Prize for the Lighthouse Model. Pompano Beach Historical Society also won a First Prize. Sample-McDougald house had an adjacent display.



**HARVEY VILLA AND HIS PRIZE-WINNING MODEL**

# JANUARY 21 VISIT TO HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE

The next member trip to the Hillsboro Lighthouse will be on Sunday January 21. HLPS President Harry Cushing has worked hard on arrangements. These include the dive boat AQUA VIEW to run from the SANDS HOTEL to the Lighthouse starting at 10 AM, running hourly. The last trip back will be at 4 PM. All members in good standing are welcome to go and new members can join at the HLPS booth at the Sands Hotel. There will be refreshments at the Lighthouse, and displays of the Florida Lighthouse Society, and our Society on the grounds. Those feeling vigorous may climb the 175 steps to Observation Platform (Children must be 8 years old to climb)

The visit is made possible by the Coast Guard, Lighthouse Keeper Art Makenian, and the many dedicated members of the COAST GUARD AUXILIARY.



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