

Official Newsletter of
Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society

Big Diamond

VOI 10 No. 1

www.HillsboroLighthouse.org

October, 2006

NEXT LIGHTHOUSE VISIT SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

We're hoping for a lovely weather day for this very special tour of Hillsboro Lighthouse. Former lighthouse keepers and/or their descendants will be our honored guests that day. These special lighthouse people will have had a gathering the evening before at Cap's Place Island Restaurant, a place well known by them or their forefathers who served as Keepers of the Light.

We are not allowed to drive to the Lighthouse Station. Instead, park at the Pompano Beach's City Parking Lot, two blocks north of Atlantic Blvd. on N. Riverside Drive (the first street east of the Intracoastal bridge). Pay parking fees (allow 2 to 3 hrs.) and walk directly across the street (to the west) and through the parking lot of the Sands Harbor Hotel. Right there at the Sands Harbor Hotel's north dock on the Intracoastal Waterway, a 48 passenger dive boat will be available to shuttle you up to the Lighthouse Station. We will have membership committee members there to verify your up-to-date membership or sign you up for a first time membership - \$25.00 for Individual or \$35.00 for the whole Family. Come anytime between 8:45 A.M. and 2:45 P.M. to take the continuous shuttling boat. Dr. Ray McAllister will be aboard to narrate during your time on the water. The last trip from the lighthouse back to the Sands Harbor will start at 4:30 P.M. Check our Website www.HillsboroLighthouse.org for additional info and maps.

There are many things to enjoy at the Lighthouse Station. Perhaps you would like to bring a picnic lunch along to enjoy before or after seeing the many points of interest. There are two remaining keeper dwellings, a small museum inside the old radio room, original Barefoot Mailman statue, USCG bell, plaques and a gift shop area set up in the gazebo. HLPS guides and Coast Guard Auxiliary people will be there to answer your questions. Some active Coast Guardsmen will be stationed at the entrance of the tower and up at the top to show off the machine room and the beautiful Fresnel lens. Michael Bornstein, a person who walks the Barefoot Mailman Trail once a year, will hopefully be there in costume to tell you about his journeys. Sheldon Voss, grandson of an early Keeper, is usually there to tell stories his mother shared about her early life as a keeper's child. The Stone family and other former Keepers' families will be there, too.

We are just past the middle of the Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse Station's Centennial year. Come and enjoy this special day!

FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE DAY 2006 CELEBRATION

By Martha Casselberry
Photography by :David Shing



HLPS celebrated Florida Lighthouse Day on Saturday, September 16th with a covered dish supper at the lovely Hillsboro Inlet Park across the water from the lighthouse. Kay McGinn, Pompano Beach City Commissioner, who is also a member of the HLPS Board of Directors welcomed over 65 lighthouse enthusiasts who came to honor the 100-year-old light at the Inlet.

Our Congressman, E. Clay Shaw and his wife, Emilie, were honored guests from Washington, D.C. He spoke of his affection for our lighthouse and presented a beautifully framed proclamation declaring this to be Florida Lighthouse Day. He had read this proclamation before Congress a few days earlier. Mayor John Rayson of Pompano Beach also read and presented his City's proclamation. Mayor Rayson marveled that the tower lens here beams a light stream 28 miles to sea, the most powerful working lens light in the world. *(Please go to page 7)*



A LETTER FROM MICHAEL SUTTON, HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER 1981-84

In 1977 while stationed in Miami, I was sent to the Hillsboro Light to make repairs on one of the little cottages. Several years later I found myself offered a chance to take on the Light as Keeper. My wife, Mary, and two dogs jumped at the chance and quickly settled into the lifestyle of being lighthouse keepers while bringing up the grounds and buildings to make them ready for vacation rentals for Coast Guard Officers.

We had our fair share of work and with a tight budget quickly found ways to slowly bring back to life several of the buildings and most noted the trees. I'm very happy to notice the wonderful palm trees that now grace the grounds.

My wife, Mary, who had a green thumb, had taken courses at the University of South Florida. She was connected with a group from a botanical course project who had developed a new breed of disease tolerant palm trees to combat the lethal yellowing disease that had killed most of Florida Coconut Palm trees. Up until this point we had been injecting the coconut palm tree trunks at the Station with serum to keep them alive. Most died anyway and the Hillsboro landscape began to take on a desert look. Several large storms washed through the property killing most of the grass and adding to the poor conditions of the site.

With Mary's connections at the University, we were able to plant about 30 new trees all around the grounds. The hardest part of the job was digging up the old roots and keeping the then 3 foot tall trees alive. What you see today along with other plants we placed along the dunes are a direct result of Mary's work. When I see new photo's of the grounds, I get excited knowing that in true Coast Guard tradition, 'We left the place better than we found it'.

Other interesting stories include various boat wrecks and incidents that kept me busy almost every day. The unique story happened when one Coast Guard Admiral was visiting for the weekend. Mary and I had taken the week off for a short vacation and while away the Admiral made a drug bust on the beach by the light. Seems a boat ran aground and the driver walked up to the cook-out area by the dock. Seeing a man cooking there, the driver asked if the gentleman could assist by calling a towboat company. The driver also mentioned that he did not need any other assistance like the Coast Guard or Police. The Admiral agreed to make a call and headed into the guest house. The man walked back to his boat and the Admiral took a quick peek over the dunes from the house. Things did not seem right so the Admiral called the local police. The Hillsboro Police Department responded and found that boat was attempting to run drugs into the Hillsboro Inlet

As an active wind-surfer while stationed at the light, I knew the waters around the inlet. Through the years I assisted many operators aground near the inlet and developed a reputation as a good source for local knowledge on the inlet. Several times during winter storms the inlet would get closed off due to large seas. Fishing vessels that had made it out early in the morning often could not get back in by late afternoon. On one occasion after dark, a large sport fisher had missed the inlet to the south and found itself at the inside of the reef. We called this area the 'Meat Grinder' due to the number of people hurt attempting to make it over the reef. The sport fisher skipper was on the radio calling the Coast Guard to get someone to assist. The Coast Guard does not allow their boats to drive this close to the reef and the responding crew could not get close enough for a rescue. The skipper made several attempts to break through the heavy waves to get back outside the reef line, but continued to strike the hard bottom. As the situation started to get dicey, I called the Ft. Lauderdale Station and advised the radio operator that I was going to assist if the vessel owner was willing to listen. With permission granted, I came in on the VHF and from the top of the Lighthouse, guided the vessel out of the reef by watching its lights and telling the skipper when to turn. I was able to guide the vessel north inside the reef line and back to what we call the back door of the inlet. Very few local operators knew of the path,

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BEN STONE KEEPERS STORY

By his oldest son: Fred Stone

My name is Frederick E. Stone, the oldest son of Benjamin Franklin Stone, who was the last keeper of Hillsboro Lighthouse before the U.S. Coast Guard took over the lighthouses of the United States in 1939. Here is a short story of his life and the life of our family living in one of the cottages at the Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse Station.

My father was born in Titusville, Florida on December 28, 1900, the oldest of the five children of Franklin E. Stone and Annie Osban Stone. The family lived in Ponce Park where his father was postmaster. Their home was in the shadow of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse, Florida's tallest lighthouse. Dad joined the Lighthouse Service at the age of 18 and started his career serving on the lighthouse tender, WATER-LILY. It was during this time that he met and married my mother, Annie Jane Dowling. Around 1923 he was transferred to Hillsboro Lighthouse as Assistant Keeper under Keeper, Thomas Knight. My mother visited her girlhood home in Nahunta, Georgia and brought her sister Minnie May back to live. Later, Minnie May married Burnham Knight, son of Keeper Knight.

In 1925 I was born right there at the lighthouse cottage. When my dad stood watch at the lighthouse, they would put me in a basket and carry me up the stairs to the top. The light was an oil one and was operated by a clock mechanism that had to be wound by hand every hour. My later lighthouse duties and interest in the sea must have started here at this very young age.

In 1926 my dad was transferred to the lighthouse tender, ALTHEA. Mother and I moved to a house in Pompano Beach until the great hurricane of 1926 blew the house apart. We moved to Ponce Park to live with my father's parents while Dad was on lighthouse tender duties close by. The ALTHEA was stationed in Jacksonville and his next assigned duty was on the tender, PALMETTO, stationed in Charleston, South Carolina. During those years mother tried to live as close to Dad as possible. Tender duty today is very much the same as it was in the 1920s, to maintain all of the navigational aids such as buoys, beacons and markers in the waterways and navigable inlets. My father worked his way up to Chief Diesel Engineer.

In 1932 my father was reassigned to lighthouse duty as First Assistant Keeper at Cape Canaveral Lighthouse under Keeper Oscar Floyd Quarterman. Quarterman had been born, raised and retired from Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. The best part about going to the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse was that the whole family, now seven of us, was together. It was the first time that the five Stone children really grew to know their father, Benjamin Franklin Stone! Four years later we would all transfer back to Hillsboro Lighthouse where our father would be Keeper.

From 1932 to 1941 I had time to know and learn from my father. I remember all the many things that he taught me, like running a boat, fishing and tending our great lighthouses. As we became teens, we were all involved in the maintaining, caring for and operation of the lighthouses. We learned how to turn the light on in the evenings, turn it off in the mornings and hang the curtains to protect the lens from the sun. When Dad said, "Today we are going to polish the lens," we all knew that we were in for a long, hot day. During those days the Lighthouse Service had inspectors who would stop by unannounced. Everything had to be in "apple pie" order.

Dad was a person always willing to help others whenever he could. I remember a ship that broke down about a mile offshore of the Hillsboro Lighthouse. We knew it was a cargo ship carrying bananas from the Caribbean because those ships were always painted white. Dad got into his 15 foot outboard and headed out to the ship. Arriving alongside, Dad asked the Captain if there was anyway he could help. The Captain said they had mechanical problems, but they would be able to fix them. The Captain thanked Dad for coming out, then lowered several large stalks of bananas into the outboard. We kids were really excited because Mom made some very good banana cream pies.

Now that I am retired and 81 years old, I do not have a day that goes by that I do not remember the years that we spent at the two lighthouses and the things that my dad taught me that helped me in my own career. Remembering these things, I can honestly call them the GOOD OLD DAYS.

INTERESTING HLPS MEMBERS

First in a series by Martha Casselberry



Born with Arthrogryposis in 1947, GREG BURNS has spent all his energy attacking life, inspiring by example, and sponsoring organizations promoting the rights and opportunities of disabled persons.

As an accomplished artist, Greg does finely detailed ink and watercolor works. He draws cradling the pen in his hand and watercolors by holding the brush in his teeth.

Greg has won numerous national art competitions beginning in high school in 1964 and later at the University of Oklahoma in 1967. The Governor's Art Award for the State of Oklahoma followed in 1978. He is a past member of the Oklahoma State Arts Council and a current member of the Oklahoma City Arts Commission.

In 1986, Greg and his charming wife, Patricia, opened the Greg Burns Fine Art & Framing Gallery at Casady Square in Oklahoma City, exclusively presenting Greg's original paintings, hand-pulled prints and reproductions. The gallery has allowed Greg and Patricia to travel to Europe many times for artistic subject matter, experience a safari in Africa, and spend winters in Pompano Beach and summers in Crested Butte, CO.

Greg's many different watercolor originals and prints of Pompano Beach and Broward County grace the walls of many South Florida homes. Recently he received the "People's Choice Award" at Bonnet House Museum. Each winter Greg and Patricia have a weekend showing of his work in Pompano Beach. Call the Burnses in January at their beachfront condo on Briny Avenue (954)781-6836 for the date and times for the 2007 show. I'm sure you will see why his work is the choice of so many Broward County residents.

IMPORTANT REPRINTS FROM "LIGHTHOUSE DIGEST"

In one of the largest awards ceremonies in Coast Guard history 95 Coast Guard people received medals for the heroic efforts in rescuing people in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The highest award, the "Legion of Merit", was given to four members. They are all to be congratulated for these well-deserved awards. Unfortunately, while most people saw the Coast Guard in action during the Katrina event, few Americans realize the major role the Coast Guard plays in our day-to-day lives in the protection of our nation in many various ways.

The United States Congress is still out of touch with the realities needed to provide additional funding for the United States Coast Guard in speeding up modernization to enhance Homeland Security. Only YOU can make a difference by sending letters to your Representative and Senators in Washington, D.C. Tell them that you are concerned about Homeland Security and that you want increased additional funding for the United States Coast Guard.

Continued from page Two:

HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER 1981-84

but with some luck this is about the only way to get past the larger waves often seen at Hillsboro. The skipper was excited to have a voice from the lighthouse to assist him. For several months afterward he would sound his horn as he passed the light.

One of the most stated comments I heard from boaters who had run aground and walked up to the keeper's cottage to ask for help was, 'They should mark this inlet better'.

NOTE FOR MIKE: The Coast Guard ANT Team has new markers and a buoy and the Hillsboro Inlet District has made the channel wider and deeper, although the currents are still tricky there.

NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS SINCE H.L.P.S.'s May '06

Ade, Richard	Grotke, Richard & Linda	Merriam, Robert & Carole	Spear, Mike & Denise Gibbs
Allen, Curtis & Constance	Gruneisen, Donald & Lois	Milarak, Don & Cherie	Stremlo, Gail & Robert
Amato, Jeanne	Mulka and Mike Frances	Milford, Greg & Chris	Cistrelli
Anschuetz, Eric & Dannel	Hager, Mary C.	Miller, Lance	Stempel family
Ashford, Stacy & Geannie	Hainline, Cheryl & Eleanor	Milshaw, Mr/Mrs. Richard	Stockdale, Robert
Bacon, Rick	Crossman	Moccia, Ralph & Roberta	Stuchell, Suzy
Barham, Susanhael	Hamilton, Phil & Susanne	Moller, Horst & Linda	Sullivan, Cynthia
Barrows, Sherry	Happel, Lorelei	Monterrey, Rafael	Summers, Madison
Batchelder, Linda	Head, Kenneth & Maria	Moody, Kathy	Sutton, Jeanne
Beckstrom, Stan & Dottie	Healy, Pat	Murphy, John & Claire	Swinghammer, Charles & Helen
Bender, Donnell & Janet	Heard, Beverley	Nardone, Tom & Lori	Tague, Cinda
Bernasky, Mary	Hilley, Judy	Nichols, Mark & Lara	Taylor, Ben
Birch, Michael	Hirt, Pat & Judy	Norman, Graham & Marcia	Thompson, George
Brady, Tina	Hitchens, Dan & Lou Ann	O'Connell, Bob & Terry	Tierney, Jim & Penny
Brent, Bonnie & Tad Yoder	Hodgman, Stan	O'Sullivan, Brian	Urso, Lori
Bresnahan, Ruth	Hohman, James & Audrey	Pardo, Carlos	Valente, Karen
Capparelli, Fred & Pat	Holland, John	Patterson, Hap	VanHart, Jim
Carter, Lisa	Hollander, Tara	Payne, Carolyn	Villa, Harvey & Alyce
Cervone, Anthony & Mary	Houch, Robert & Faith	Peck, Jim & Linda	Vivenzio, Thomas & Joyce
Checkel, Everett	Ingle, David & Roxanne	Perrelli, Rosemarie & Nicole	VonKantor, George & Christine
Cheftel, Alain	Jaffe, Don & Jeanne	Stone	Voss, Ken & Dianne
Clark, Brian & Deanne	Jones, Ron & Cindy	Peterson, Kathleen	Wall, Michael & Mary
Clifford, Carol	Kaur, Nirvair / Luis Grande	Phelps, Harold	Walz, Denise
Clifton, Russell & M.J.	Kerns, Neil & Suzanne	Plunkett, Steve	Wegener, Barbara
Cogan, Ken & Allyce	Kezer, Barbara	Radice, Robert	Wentworth, Jeff & Stephanie
Colanedo, Michael	King, Ron & Margaret	Redd, Carol	Wilder, Martha
Colody, Jack & Betty	King III, Alfred	Reese, Jodi	Williams, Bruce & Cherie
Conti family	Kinghorn, Bonnie	Regruth, Joe & Kathy	Wilshuson, Susan
Crincoli, Mary	Kingsley, David & Louise	Rehwald, Katherine	Wilson, Frank M.
Dailey, Jack & Beth	Kirbert, John & Ellen	Repo, Jay & Nicole	Wilson, Max and ELizabeth
Darville, Pamela	Kirby, Ellen	Rettstadt, Katherine	Winchell, Larry & Eileen
Davis, Eric	Kittock, Aileen	Richmond, Fred & Janet	Winter, Frances
DeBold, Paul & Linda	Knapp, Sara	Richter family	Winters, John
Decker, David	Koehle, Rudolph & Karen & Patrick McMichael	Roche, Collin	Wohlitka, Charles & Katrin
DeLillo, Dominick & Milly	Kozell, Robert	Rohmann, Marianne	Wohlrab, Paul & Debra
Dennis, Jamie & Beryl	Kristoferson, Wilma	Rollins, Winn	York, Susan & Alex Clark **
Desjean, Robert & Cathie	Lange, Lauren	Rosenberg, Phil & Charlotte	Ziegler, Bill & Jan
Devendorf, Dan & Anne	Larkin, Peter	Rowley, Charles S. Jr.	
Dukate, Rob	Law, Joshua & Jamie	Russack, Jeanne	
Fecteau, Paul	Leone, William & Dee-Ann**	Saathoff, Bob & Barbara	
Feltus, Ruth	Linder, Lee Ann	Salisbury, John & Dorie	
Ferrara, Mr. & Mrs. M.	Lippincott, John & Mary Jane	Satek, Charles	
Forrest / Martinache	Lizan, Jorge	Scherf, Christain & Lori	
Firth, Louise	Lochrie, Brooke	Schettino, John & Alina	
Foglesong, John & Kim	MacDonald, Michael	Schomburg, Debbie	
Ford, Nancy & family	McBride, Nancy	Shoman, Ed & Wendy	
Fulop, Edward	McCabe, Bonnie	Skaug, Shelly	
Furey, Tina	McClelland, Loretta H.	Skirdlant, Ronald	
Galla, Stephen & Nicky	McCorristin, Dennis	Siebert, Margie	
Gassib, Joseph & Terry	McDonald, Rob & Shannon	Siegel, William & Sandra	
Goldin, Leon & Joyce	McGinley, Beverley	Skerry, William & Monica	
Goodall, Eleanor	McKenzif, R. & Bartz, B.	Slattery, Jack	
Gosnell, Mary	Merrigan, Kevin	Smith, Voncile M.	
Gray, Chris & Cathy		Sondou, Steven	

* = Business Membership

** = LIFE MEMBERS

From page two:

FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE DAY . . .

The musical group, "Uncharted Waters" kept feet tapping and Dr. Ray McAllister told stories about navigating his way into the Inlet in foul weather some years ago and how he felt safe at home again to see the light beam through the dark and blinding rain. So it was and will be for countless others for years to come.

Speaking of blinding rain, the evening ended with a short, but drenching rain as the group huddled beneath the sturdy pavilion shelter. As the sky darkened, "Big Diamond's" beam started the night watch, flashing every 20 seconds.

Lighthouse Replica:

Hillsboro Beach Police Chief's son, Charlie Brugnoni poses with his 4th grade school project. The replica is of course of Big Diamond.



Please Patronize our Business Members

Azure Realty Services (Rene' Sabatini)

3170 N. Federal Highway, Lighthouse Point
954-946-7789

Ellis, Ben & Jeannie, Real Estate Brokers

Office at 125 N. Riverside Dr., 2nd Floor, Pompano
Info@BenAndJeannie.com 954-781-1573

Gulfstream Computer (Ron Pearson)

Rongulf@bellsouth.net

901 SE 5 Ave. Pompano Beach 954-941-2216

Jenco Plumbing (Wayne Jenkins)

901 E. Sample Rd., Pompano Beach

JencoPlumbing@bellsouth.net 954-788-2802

Lighthouse Holding Co. (M. Glenn Curran)

954-727-2204 MgCurran@LighthouseYachts.com

2400 E. Commercial Blvd., #206, Ft. Lauderdale

Lighthouse Insurance (Wm. Roger Grissinger)

2731 NE 8 Court, Pompano Beach 954-786-1640

Palm Tree Doctor (Bill & Linda Giles)

130 S. Dixie Highway W., Pompano Beach

Linda@Palmtreeedr.com 954-946-3600

VOLUNTEER HELPERS H.L.P.S.

Newsletter Mailing: Hib & Martha Casselberry, Laurie Kunkel, Sue Sayre.

June 3rd Tour at the Sands Harbor Dock: Martha Casselberry, Ben & Jeannie Ellis, Diane Hardy, Laurie Kunkel. **At the Lighthouse: USCG-ANT.** Wick Bennet, Pete Dillon, & Karl Mulleady, **USCG-Aux. Flotilla 3-7:** Liz Clark, Dave Friend, Jane Mueller, Joan Ranuert, Isaac Trejo. & **Flotilla 3-4:** Scott Cleary. **HLPS Members:** Suzan Baekkelund, Paul Bradley, Jack Burrie, Hib Casselberry, Mike & Joyce Hager, Linda Giles, & Ray McAllister, Marcia Norman, David Shing, Mike Spear, & Sheldon Voss. **Hillsboro Club.** Provider of tables, chairs, tea, lemonade, water, cups, ice and box lunches for workers at the Lighthouse.

Sands Harbor Hotel & Marina: Use of dock, tables, chairs, also at Board Meetings and help at other times.

FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE DAY, Sept. 16.

Helpers: Broward County Sheriff's Dept., Hib & Martha Casselberry, Tom & Barbara Casselberry, City of Pompano Beach Parks & Recr. Dept., Ben & Jeanne Ellis, Joyce Hager, Josh Kerrigan (parking facilities), Kay McGinn, Norm & Bonnie Parks, Linda Peck & family, Jerry Rickenbaugh (USCG Aux. Pompano, use of tent), David Shing, Capt. James Watson, 7th Dist. USCG.

DONATIONS

Cal & Lucy Brewer, in memory of T.J. Russell.

Vernon E. Kershaw, in memory of Gerry Owsiany

Dennis & Noreen Dawson framed picture donated in memory of Ruth M. Dawson

Rick Hawkins of Deerfield Builders Supply: New boat gangplank.

Doug Matthes for the new & upgraded HLPS Website.

Joe Casselberry, Dillon, CO, gift of Technological Support for phone voice mail.

Pinetree Builders (Randy & Cathy Shropshire)

3418 Dover Rd., Pompano Beach 954-784-8189

Transtech Transmissions (Dino Romeo)

954-587-8650

William A. Webb & Associates, CPA (Bill Webb)

404 E. Atlantic Blvd., Pompano Beach 954-782-5250



This picture was taken by Norm Parks
On Florida Lighthouse Day

The mission of the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc., "HLPS" is to promote the history of the Hillsboro Light Station and the Hillsboro Inlet area through preservation of structures and artifacts, education, and public access tours.

Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc.

Post Office Box 6062

Pompano Beach, Florida 33060

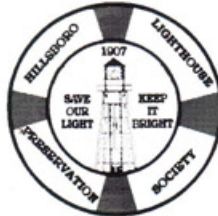
Phone: 954-942-2102

Website: www.HillsboroLighthouse.org

E-mail: Info@HillsboroLighthouse.org

Martha Casselberry, Newsletter Editor

OCTOBER 2006



FIRST CLASS MAIL

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

This is your HLPS Membership Card