

BIG DIAMOND

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
**HILLSBORO
LIGHTHOUSE
PRESERVATION
SOCIETY**



Volume One Number Two

April 1998

April 30 Meeting

The second public meeting of the H.L.P.S. will be held at the Pelican Pub on THURSDAY APRIL 30, 1998. The SOCIAL HOUR will start at 6 PM, and the formal meeting will started at 7 PM. The President, Harry Cushing, will introduce the Board, and discuss last January's meeting with the U.S.COAST GUARD in Miami. It was at this meeting that the Coast Guard announced plans to renovation the Hillsboro Lighthouse and the grounds.

Dave Butler will talk briefly on the recent Engineering developments. The Coast Guard has hired a Chicago firm to perform the Engineering work, and he attended a working session at the Lighthouse on March 19, 1998. The ARCHITECT is James Peterson, and the PROJECT ENGINEER is Mike Garlich. The Hillsboro Club took over security and maintenance of the Hillsboro Station in April 1, 1998.

Planned Program

Dr. Ray McAllister, whose mother grew up at the Lighthouse will speak on the early years of Lighthouse Operation. We plan to include many illustrations of the early days.

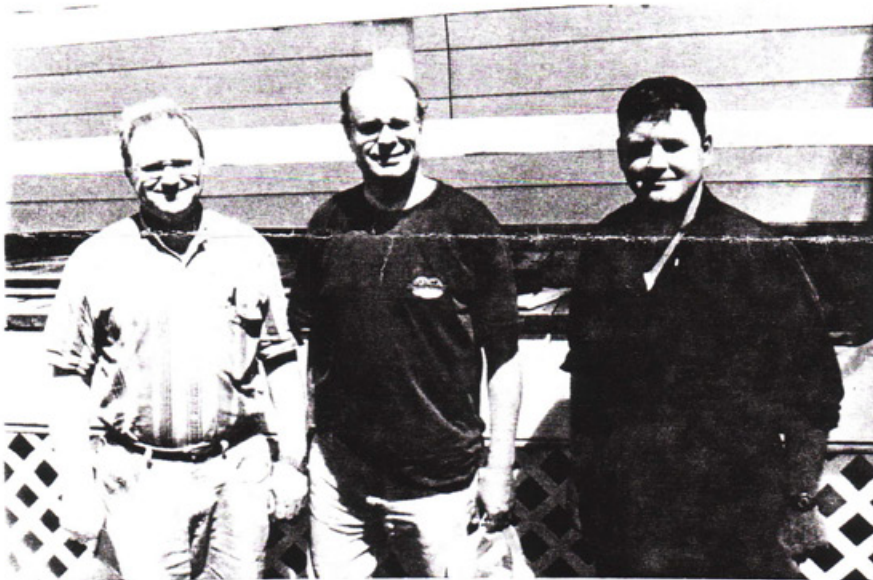
PLEASE COME AND JOIN THE PARTY !!

October Meeting

The first public meeting was held at the Pelican Pub on October 22, 1997. There were 85 people interested in preserving the Hillsboro Lighthouse at the meeting. A social hour started at 6 PM, and the meeting started at 7PM. Harry Cushing, acting President, outlined the goals of the new organization, and introduced members of the Board. Dave Butler then gave a slide show of the history of the Hillsboro Lighthouse.

Meeting at Lighthouse

On March 19, 1998 Dave Butler V.P of the Preservation Society met with the U.S.C.G. Station Manager and the men who will be Engineering the restoration of the Hillsboro Light and Station. Shown below are left to right: Mike Garlich, Vice President Collins Engineering, and James Peterson, Architect, both from Chicago. On the right is the current U.S.C.G Hillsboro Manager Robert Kogan



Planned Work

The planned work at Hillsboro is extensive. A new BALL BEARING assembly will be placed inside the old mercury trough. The Lens DRIVE MECHANISM will be repaired and new MOTORS will be installed. Every effort is being made to have the restoration HISTORICALLY ACCURATE in appearance, and to combine it with MODERN RELIABILITY.

Planned Work (con't)

BALL BEARING ASSEMBLY....The ball bearing assembly, for example will be hidden, and will run submerged in oil.

RAILINGS...Replacement railings will replace deteriorated material on the Observation Deck, and will follow the early design.

DOORS...New doors will replace the damaged doors at the entrance and watch-room levels.

WATCH ROOM...This space will be restored, and wood panelling will be installed if funds can be found. This very worth-while restoration may be an area where H.L.P.S. CAN HELP !!!

KEEPERS COTTAGES...Extensive weathering has damaged the exterior, and new railings and porch restorations are planned.

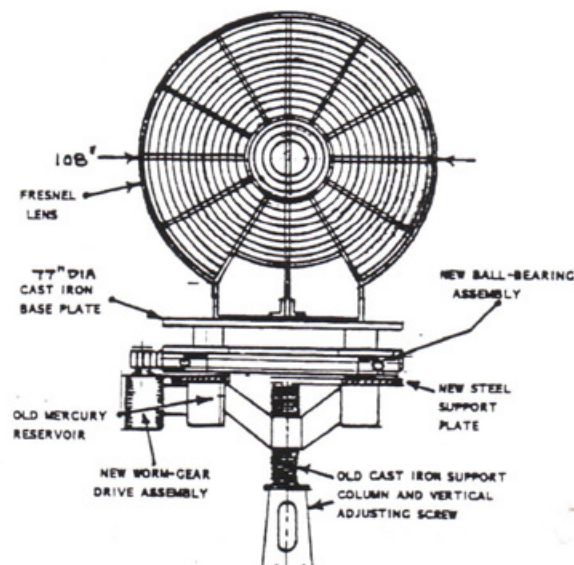


Diagram of David Butler's proposed repair to Fresnel lens at Hillsboro Lighthouse

Florida Lighthouse Association News

We wish to congratulate the H.L.P.S. on the negotiations with the U.S. Coast Guard. The growing public interest is very encouraging. Attendance of 360 at the Florida Lighthouse Association meetings at Hillsboro last July set a record. Your October public meeting with 85 in attendance was excellent. There were 66 in attendance at the March Public Library meeting. We wish you well in your 1998 program.

OTHER LIGHTHOUSE NEWS

F.L.A. is also encouraged by the progress at Amelia Island Light, and the progress at the St. Johns'-Mayport Lighthouse.

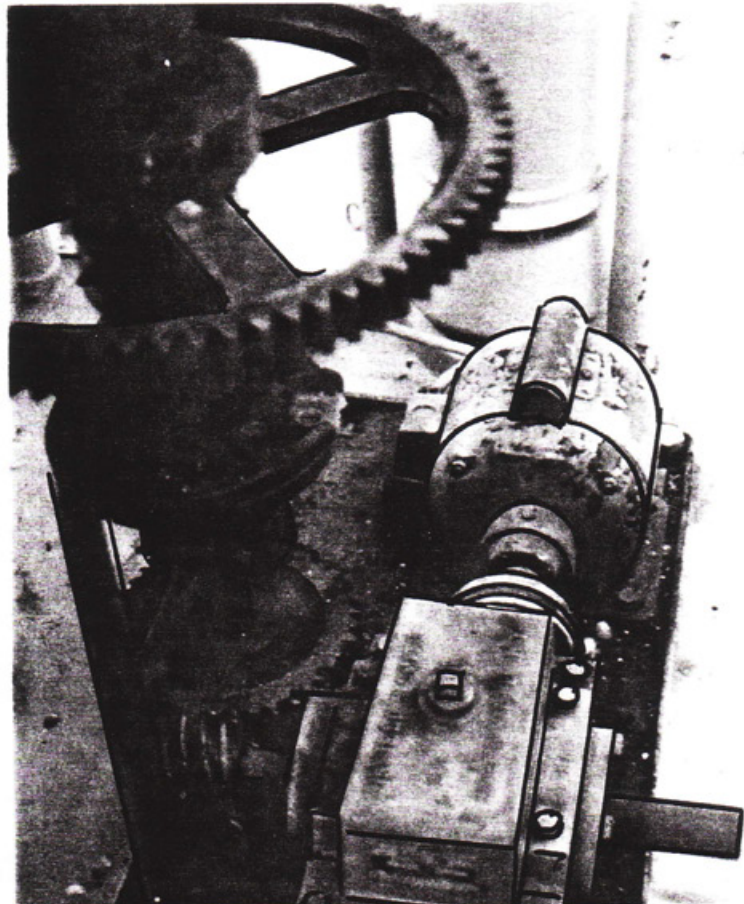
The Cape Canaveral lighthouse group is just at the beginning stage, behind the Hillsboro group. F.L.A. will have its quarterly meeting at Cape Canaveral April 18 at the Space Center. Due to restricted space only F.L.A. members will be able to climb the Cape Canaveral lighthouse. Call 904-761-1821 for information.

Hib Casselberry, District Commissioner

Lens Turning Gears

Originally the 3,600 pound Fresnel lens assembly was turned by a clockwork mechanism driven by falling weights. Two keepers each night hauled the heavy kerosene can up the 175 stairs to the WATCH ROOM, and wound up the heavy weight every 1/2 hour all night long. The third keeper got a decent night's sleep.

About 1925 the light was electrified, and the third keeper's home sold. Electricity turned the lens and provided light. In 1992 the turning mechanism failed. Studies will determine if the unit can be re-built with new bearings and new twin motors

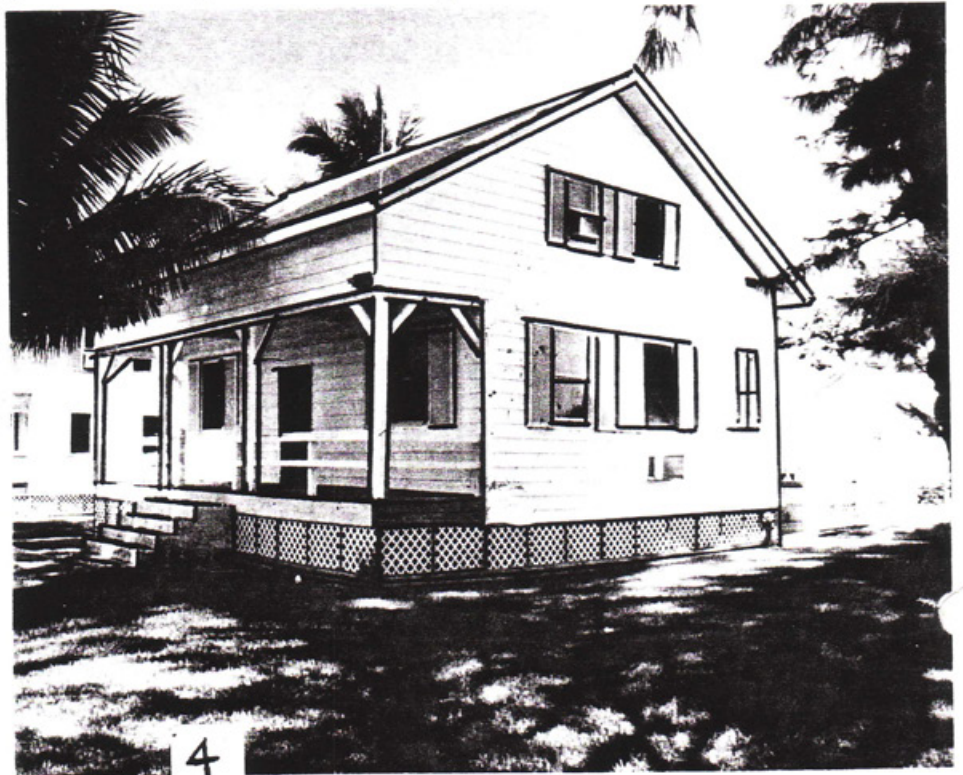


Proposed Lighthouse Museum

Hillsboro Lighthouse is located on a three acre triangular site bounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the east, Hillsboro Inlet on the south and the private Hillsboro Club on the north. There is no public access to the property. The idea is being developed for a "Lighthouse Museum" located across the Hillsboro Inlet in a Pompano Beach City Park just east of the Hillsboro Bridge. The proposed design is sketched below. It would combine a VISITOR'S CENTER with an important LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM. Public toilets would be installed in back.

Preliminary plans have been drawn, with an exterior of a Lighthouse Keeper's Home of 1910, with wooden shingles all over the exterior. The inside would be a large room with cathedral ceiling with art materials and historical materials on display. The Pompano Beach Historical Society has many artifacts for display, and nationally-known Lighthouse artist Paul Bradley has many items for display. The idea has been discussed with Pompano Beach Mayor Bill Griffin, and City Manager Bill Hargitt, and the legal situation is being investigated.

The MUSEUM would require a major funding effort by the Society, but it is a very WORTHY GOAL !!!



Changes at Hillsboro During The 1990's

Hillsboro Lighthouse was lit in March 1907, and the light has been a valuable marine beacon for over 90 years. The 1990's have been a difficult period at the Station.

After 85 years of service the 3,600 pound Fresnel lens stopped rotating. The rotating gears wore out, and the 500 pound pool of liquid mercury was deemed a dangerous hazard. As a temporary measure a "190 mm optic" was installed. This small rotating beacon is mounted on the outer railing of the Lens Chamber, and provides a brief flashing light for navigation. This is basically designed for harbor marine markers using solar-powered panels. This 190 mm Optic still provides the navigational light.

In July 1992 after the disaster a new Lighthouse Keeper, Mr. Larry Jesse, Petty Officer Fourth Class, arrived with his family. During his five year tour until July 1997 Larry combined careful management with diplomacy and ran a smooth station before moving on to his next assignment at Boston Lighthouse.

Duties included arranging for contractors to maintain the grounds, keeping the Lighthouse and five building on site in good order, and frequent coordination visits to Seventh District headquarters in Miami.

There were many changes in the five years Mr. Jesse was on station. During 1995 the entire lighthouse was sandblasted and re-painted. The mercury pool in which the 3,600 pound lens assembly floated was drained.

In July 1997 the FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION meetings were held with 360 visitors in attendance. The Hillsboro Club hosted the event with a luncheon, and it was by far the largest meeting held by this State organization.

Talks were given by U.S.C.G. Chief Dennis Dever, and Dave Butler, President of the Pompano Beach Historical Society

In July 1997 David Sparkenbaugh arrived as the new Manager, but after six months he left for his next assignment in Groton Connecticut. The HILLSBORO CLUB will be taking over the grounds management and security on the station in March 1998.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, H.L.P.S.
HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY, Inc.

Name _____

Mail Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ FAX _____

E-Mail _____

Type of Committee Interested : (Circle one or more.)
Museum Membership Fund Raising Historical Work
Lighthouse Artifacts Other (specify) _____

The following classes of membership are available:
STUDENT\$10.00
ASSISTANT KEEPER\$25.00
KEEPER (INCLUDES FAMILY MEMBERS)....\$35.00
BUSINESS\$50.00
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP\$500.00

Bring or mail this information to the store, "NAUTICAL TREASURES"
2750 East Atlantic Blvd., Pompano Beach, FL 33062 Phone: (954) 942-7263

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2750 EAST ATLANTIC BOULEVARD
POMPANO BEACH, FLORIDA 33062



FIRST CLASS MAIL



Mr/Mrs. David Butler, Engineer
Pompano Beach Historical Society
600 S.E. 5th Court F
Pompano Beach FL 33060

NOTE: Is your name and address spelled correctly?
Please let us know of any changes.