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[www.HillsboroLighthouse.org](http://www.HillsboroLighthouse.org)

January 2010

## HAPPY NEW YEAR 2010 WITH SIX PROPOSED LIGHTHOUSE TOURS NEXT BOAT RIDES & TOURS ON SAT. JANUARY 16TH & MARCH 13TH

We hope you are having a merry holiday season! HLPS is working with the Coast Guard to plan another six-tour-year with four of them planned for the cooler months when more of you are around and winter visitors abound. Remember to invite your friends and neighbors to come to the first two 2010 Lighthouse tours scheduled for January 16th and March 13th. Please note these dates on your calendar. The remaining tours in 2010 are being negotiated with the USCG & Cottage Manager.

You may be surprised to learn that many folks living in Broward County don't even know there is a lighthouse in our County and that even though it is located in an inaccessible spot, we have a U.S. Coast Guard approved

way to get on the property by way of a 20 minute narrated boat ride up the Intracoastal Waterway on a comfortable 49 passenger water craft. The only fee is \$15.00 per person for a one-time transportation fee for nonmembers or \$25 yearly Individual membership for those who may want to come back more times during the year without paying again. The \$35 Family membership includes everyone in your household for a year. \$50 Business & Organization memberships are available for a maximum of ten individuals at each tour. All memberships include newsletters reminding you of two tours in advance plus other lighthouse news. (Cont. Page 2, "For Newcomers")

## The Story Continues ...

Many couples have met or become engaged or been married at a lighthouse because lighthouses are romantic places. But we think perhaps Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse may have broken some kind of record in 2009.

For some of you, we need to review the newest Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse love story. It all began at the January 24th, '09 tour when Todd Tracy introduced himself to Erika Nowling up on the Observation Deck of the lighthouse. It must have been "love at first sight", because at the May 23rd tour, Todd and Erika became engaged when a small plane flew over the shoreline with a waving banner announcing Todd's wedding proposal to Erika at the exact time they were again on the Observation Deck (Thanks for cell phones!). Now at the November 21st tour, here is the story continued on a recent e-mail from Todd himself. "Hib, it was very nice to finally meet you at the Lighthouse on Saturday. Many thanks to you and your wife for making sure our wedding at the top of the lighthouse at 1 P.M. went off without a hitch. Thanks."



Mr. & Mrs. Todd Tracy on beach

**(cont. from p.1, TOURS)** For newcomers, go east on E. Atlantic Blvd. in Pompano Beach. Try to be in the left lane on the Intracoastal Waterway Bridge because a left turn is needed at the base of the bridge. This turn puts you on N. Riverside Drive. Go a short 1-1/2 blocks and turn right into the City Parking Lot. Pay the parking fee for 3 hours, more if you are bringing a picnic lunch. Walk across N. Riverside Drive to Sands Harbor Hotel's north dock (125 N Riverside Dr., Pompano Beach 33062) where members will be gathered to check in and others to join the Society or pay the one-time only transportation fee. We will give you a wrist band to board the boat. We do not accept reservations, but there are seven trips to the lighthouse beginning about 9:00 A.M. and continuing until about 2:30 P.M., depending on waterway travel time that day.

Most people want to climb the lighthouse, but there are other sites at the Station too, and guides from the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Society to tell you about the famous Barefoot Mailman Statue, the original 1906 Keeper Cottages, and plans for the future among other things. A gift shop will be open on tour dates and always on the website (cash or checks only). So consider coming for a visit. Children are welcome, but must be supervised by an adult at all times on the grounds or in the tower. The rules for climbing the tower include: (1) closed-toed shoes and no high heels for anyone; (2) children at least 4' tall, led and escorted by an adult; (3) no food or drink; and (4) do not lean over or under any railing. Follow these rules and everyone will have a happy, safe experience. We look forward to your visit.



Laura & Carl Brooks, Boca Raton



Ashley & Annie Williams, Ft. Lauderdale



Alan & Sandra Wilcox, United Kingdom



Mary & Bob Effinger, Pompano Beach



Hib Casselberry between Keeper Kids  
Lonnie Bennett Kubik & George Stone



Gary, Marlene, Diane & Ron Hagerman,  
Avada, CO



Ellen Kirby, Lauderdale-By-The-Sea



Scott Natvig, Iowa



Carol & Denny Roarty, Deerfield Beach

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER JANUARY 2010

By the time you are reading this letter, The Holiday Season should be behind us as well as the year of 2009. I sincerely hope that you and your loved ones enjoyed the holidays together, and Santa was kind to you all.

You have read in our past issue of our loss of Commander Jim and Mrs. Trish Pruett. I am pleased to announce to our members that the Hillsboro Light Station has a new Cottage Manager and her name is Kim Wizst. With 17 years duty with the CG, Kim served under many unit commands. However, as a young mom, family obligations led her to become a CG Reservist. At the present, she shares her dual role as the Cottage Manager at our light station and as a paralegal at the District 7 Legal Affairs Office. Not to forget that she is still the mom of three children and the wife of Bill Wizst.


2009 brought many visible changes to the light station. The restoration of all three keeper's cottages was far beyond our expectations. All of them look like they've just been built. The new boat dock also fits in the same category, with quality and the appearance that will be here to stay for many years to come. The new landscape and replacing of trees brightened the lighthouse to better exposures for photographers.

HLPS met all their goals and expectations for the past year thanks to all of our volunteers. Part of the volunteers include the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the people behind the scenes who you do not meet during the lighthouse tours. We are looking forward to another productive year in 2010. Our new website will have all the activity details.

Without your help, this organization will cease to exist sooner than you think. If that happens, then all of you and your loved ones will lose the privilege of enjoying this important piece of local history. So please come forward and offer your help for at least two eight hour days a year helping the existing team of volunteers.

See you all this year at the lighthouse.

### ACTIVE HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER'S SON DEAD AT 84



Frederick Everett Stone, oldest son of Hillsboro Lighthouse's third Principal Keeper, Benjamin F. Stone and his wife, Annie Jane, died Tuesday, October 6, 2009. Fred was born April 21, 1925 at one of the Keeper Cottages when his father was an Assistant Keeper. Back in 1925, the keepers took turns lighting the oil lamp operated by a clock mechanism that had to be wound by hand every hour and watched through the night. When it was Keeper Stone's turn to do this job, the young couple would put their infant son, Fred, in a basket and take him up to the watch room where Annie Jane and the baby would spend the night while the young Keeper Stone did his job up higher in the machine room. As Fred grew older and his father became Principal Keeper, he and his three younger siblings helped with light keeper duties at the Station.

Fred was interviewed at our Lighthouse Station in 2005. He said, "I do not have a day go by that I do not remember the years we spent at the Hillsboro Lighthouse and the things my Dad taught me that helped me in my own career. Remembering these things I can honestly call them the 'GOOD OLD DAYS'."

Fred and his wife, Sue, have come to our Lighthouse Tours and Special Events over the past 12 years despite the fact they were living in North Florida during the 1990s and then moved to the mountains of N. Georgia about 10 years ago. Fred's younger brother, George, came to the last two tours from his home in Palm Beach County to remember his brother. All the Stone family has supported HLPS with their generous donations, enthusiasm, and attendance. We convey our deep sympathy to Sue and all members of Fred's family.

In lieu of flowers, the Stone family asks donations be sent to Fred Stone Memorial, % of Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society, P.O. Box 610326, Pompano Beach, Florida 33061-0326.

## AN OVERVIEW OF OUR LIGHTHOUSE, PART III

### CPO Warren Bennett (USCG retired)

*By: Art Makenian*

On our website, there is a complete section strictly devoted to all of the keepers of our Lighthouse. Notice that after 1939, the Coast Guard Keeper assignments were shortened to a period of three to four years. Although Benjamin Stone spent 18 years at the station, the first twelve he served as a Lighthouse Service Keeper, only four of his last years were served as a Coast Guardsman, which brings us to the story of Warren Bennett, USCG Stone's successor.

The following article was derived from Sunshine Magazine dated Friday June 2, 1972, by Mike Frey, Sun Sentinel Writer.

HILLSBORO BEACH- CPO Warren Bennett (USCG retired) was responsible for the old light for only a few brief years. Yet this period was perhaps the most colorful and turbulent in the entire history of the lighthouse. Bennett, of Pompano Beach, took over operation of the lighthouse in 1943 as a Chief Petty Officer in the USCG, commanding the recent government installation for the duration of WWII. Bennett had visited the lighthouse five years earlier when the CG was taking over the installation from the Lighthouse Service in 1938-1939.

"I flew into Pompano Beach in 1938 and landed at what was then the old Naval Air Station. When we got to the lighthouse we found buildings full of old equipment the Lighthouse Service had been keeping on its books since the old Indian days," Bennett reminisced. After completing the inventory for the CG take-over of the light, Bennett left for a tour of sea duty, but returned after being injured early in the war.

His assignment to the Lighthouse Station was in many ways responsible for the quiet, unheralded visits of top military and political leaders during the war years, Bennett said.

"I was in the hospital recuperating from some injuries when I got a visit from the CG District Commandant, V Admiral Russell R. Waesche. He asked me if I'd like to have temporary duty at the light and thinking it would be an easy job, I jumped on it. Funny thing is that it turned out to be the roughest tour of duty I ever had in the CG," Bennett said.

Bennett said it was his close relationship with Vice Admiral Waesche which led the Commander to suggest his friend, Navy Fleet Commander Admiral Chester N. Nimitz, come visit the Light Station for a brief rest. He said it was through Admiral Nimitz's visit to the Station for fishing and his enjoyment of the quiet atmosphere at the small station that led to later visits by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill and General Douglas MacArthur.

"A lot of important decisions were made out here that few people were ever aware of", Bennett said, standing on the cement foundation of what was once the headquarters building. Churchill, he said, had a fantastic capacity for concentration and at times kept 10 personal secretaries working busily. In contrast, the famous British leader showed periods of quiet introspection when he would sit in an easy chair, a scotch in hand, and stare out to sea. "I remember one time when he became fascinated by a little sand flea on the beach. He watched that sand flea for an hour, turning him over and over, watching his movements and after observing his habits he was able to tell almost everything there was to know about that little insect".

Of President Roosevelt, Bennett said, "He had an uncanny memory. On his first trip down here he recognized me from an inspection tour he had made years before of another installation. Roosevelt liked it here and I remember him saying once this would some day be the tourist center of the world. Those were the days when this area was still mostly woods," Bennett said.

"I guess I met about all of them with the exception of Hitler during those years." German submarines were torpedoing ships off Florida's coast on a regular basis during the early part of the war and the Hillsboro Light Station played an important part in sinking one of the enemy subs, he said. The incident in early 1943 has become known as "The Battle of Hillsboro" and is well documented in CG records. "One night a flare suddenly went off just off the shore at the light and I rushed out of my quarters to see what was going on. By the time I got half way to the light the guard on duty on the top had come all the way down, and was running toward me yelling, 'sub, there is a sub out there!' Sure enough, a German sub was caught on the coral reef and sending up flares like crazy trying to make enough light so they could maneuver off. "Well, I had everything I could do to keep my boys from opening up with our 50 caliber machine guns. That's all we had at the station and that sub would have blown us right off the map. We

...pt one eye on her and notified all of the air bases in the area. Finally a pilot from Boca Raton air station got in the and dropped depth charges just as the sub was making it into deep waters. Next day we went out in a small boat and found debris from the sub and confirmed the kill," Bennett said.

Bennett stayed at the lighthouse for a few years after the war. In 1947 he had to weather out a hurricane at the Inlet Station. Bennett said he spent much of his last years at the lighthouse station rebuilding quarters. But through it all the lighthouse survived and today it is still one of the few operating beacons on America's shores. ( End of the article. )

CMM Warren Bennett USCG - Born 08/30/1910 Died 08/25/1980, resting at Pompano Beach Cemetery. Survived by daughters, Lonnie Bennett Kubik and Mary Anne Bennett Harris. Read the article titled Reliving a Childhood at the Lighthouse in the September 2005 issue of Big Diamond by Maggie Delp

## PLEASE PATRONIZE HLPS BUSINESS MEMBERS

*The following local businesses have joined HLPS at the business/corporate/company level of membership. We thank them for their generous support of HLPS and our projects. Please patronize their businesses.*

- \* **Atlantic Rehabilitation, Inc.** 5026-B North Federal Hwy, Lighthouse Point 33064, phone 954- 426-8884
- \* **Ben & Jeannie Ellis, CRS, Real Estate Brokers,** PO Box 2103. Pompano Beach, 33061, phone 954- 401-6471  
www.WaterfrontHomesAndLiving.com E-mail: WaterfrontHomes@bellsouth.net
- \* **Beacon Images,** Photographs by Von Staden, Nicholas & Sandy Von Staden of Pompano Beach,  
954-695-0918 or 954-401-0932, E-mail: nvonstaden@comcast.net
- \* **Black Rhino Hurricane Shutters & Impact Glass** 1384 SW Third St., Boca Raton, FL 33486  
954-734-4411, www.BlackRhinoShutters.com E-mail: alexm@ blackrhinoshutters.com
- \* **Computer Ways, Inc.,** Dave Noderer, CEO, 10 Fairway Dr, Suite 133. Deerfield Beach, 33441  
954-418-9799, www.computerways.com E-mail: daven@computerways.com
- \* **ControlAltDispute** Glenn Curran 2400 E. Commercial Blvd., Suite 206, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308  
Service Provided: Christian Dispute Mediation & Resolution, Website: www.ControlAltDispute.com  
954- 334-1883, FAX: 954- 938-9923 E-mail: sandy@controlaltdispute.com
- \* **Doc's Plumbing, Inc.** 1058 NE 43 Court, Oakland Park, 33334, phone 954-566-1100, Web: www.docsplumbing.com  
E-mail: Dan@docsplumbing.com
- \* **Golden Passport Photos, Inc.,** Joe Suggs, 1891 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, 33311 Ph: 954-739-5190
- \* **Helen S Fishing Fleet** Skip Dana, 2705 N. Riverside Dr., Pompano Beach, 33062 phone 954-941-3209,  
E-mail: Skiplisa@bellsouth.net
- \* **James Balboni Maritime Photography, Inc.,** 2809 NE First Ave., Wilton Manors, 33334 phone 954-540-3500  
E-mail: JB@JamesBalboni.com
- \* **JenCo Plumbing Services,** Wayne Jenkins, 901 E. Sample Rd., Pompano Beach, 33064 phone 954-788-2802  
E-mail: JencoPlumbing@bellsouth.net
- \* **L.M. Wilson Plumbing, Inc.** Barbara W. Lippincott, office administrator, 862 S.E. First Ave., Deerfield Beach,  
33441 Phone: 954-480-9005, E-mail: bwlippincott@bellsouth.net
- \* **Martin Kidwell, CPA,** 950 N. Federal Hwy. #211, Pompano Beach, 33062, phone 954-784-0090  
E-mail: Marty@Kidwellepa.com
- \* **NUVOX Communication Co.** Richard McIntyre Phone: 954-826-8562, E-mail: rmcintyre@NUVOX.com
- \* **Palm Tree Doctor,** William & Linda Giles, 430 S. Dixie Hwy W, Pompano Beach, 33060 phone 954-946-3600  
E-mail: Linda@Palmtreedr.com
- \* **Pompano Waterway Development, Inc.,** Richard L. Niebling, 2629 N. Riverside Dr., Pompano Beach, FL 33062  
Office/FAX: 954- 943-9738 Cell: 866-678-5997 E-Mail: NieblingRichard@gmail.com
- \* **Triton Publishing Group,** 205 SE First Court, Dania, FL 33004 phone: 954- 921-9500 E-mail: sar@rapdev.com
- \* **William A. Webb & Associates, CPA,** 404 E. Atlantic Blvd., Pompano Beach, 33060, phone 954-782-5250  
E-mail: Bill@webbcpa.com



CG Aux. Marie Doda with Chris Frazier, Emily Palmer & Judy Wirt



Jack Burrie with group from Quebec, Canada



Keith & Nancy Brooky, Margate, FL



Chung, Cody & Sue from Seoul, South Korea



Jim, Jodi, Audry, Carolyn & Sidney, Pittsburg, PA



Stephanie, Dino & Samantha Finazza, Pompano Beach



Michael Bornstein as Barefoot Mailman



Keeper Warren Bennett's descendants



Descendents of Asst. Kpr. J.B. Isler

### HLPS OFFICERS & BOARD

- President: Arthur A. Makenian
- 1st Vice President: Daniel E. Gordon
- 2nd Vice President: Frederick R. MacLean Jr.
- Secretary: Jack Burrie
- Treasurer: Charles J. Seitz
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- Director/Exec. Chair: Hibbard "Hib" Casselberry
- Director/ USCG Liaison: Ed Dietrich
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- Director/Media: Barry J. Dockswell
- Council: Edward J. Chandler, Esq.

Be a part of history at the 103 year old Hillsboro Inlet Light

Station by buying a brick or two for the Centennial Brick Patio, see attachment "Brick.pdf" and [www.hillsborolighthouse.org](http://www.hillsborolighthouse.org).

We are e-mailing "eNews of HLPS" 1 or 2 times each month. Would you like to get updated news about the progress of the HLPS and the projects in the Inlet area? E-mail your request to Hib Casselberry, [hib\\_cass@bellsouth.net](mailto:hib_cass@bellsouth.net) (hib\_cass@)

"Big Diamond" newsletter is published 3 times a year before each pair of Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse Tours, usually 8 page Martha Casselberry, Editor for 9 years, is now RETIRING from this job. HLPS needs younger people to step up to do this and other jobs for HLPS. Please E-mail your interests to Hib Casselberry, [hib\\_cass@bellsouth.net](mailto:hib_cass@bellsouth.net) (hib\_cass@)

## NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS SINCE H.L.P.S.'s Sept. '09 NEWSLETTER

A Ballatore, Antonia	Dailey, John & Beth	Jacobsen, Nils / Veronica Farr	Rogers, Natasha
Bender, Janet	DAR, Lighthouse Point	Kaehler, Jackie	Rombkowski, Lisa
Bettner, Steve & Jean	Chapter +	Keene, Gary & Linda	Russack, Jeanne L.
Branyon, Kyle & Joy	DeFronzo, Donna	Kingsley, David	Shin, Sue
Brewer, Cal & Lucy	DeHaan, Howard & Verna	Kraft, Robert & Karen	Sierra Club +
Brewer, Raeann	Dow, Katie	Latham, Marion & Terry	Skirdlant, Ronald
Brooks, Dave & Terry	Ferrea, Javier D. **	Long, Barry & Jennifer	Stark, Lee & Dottie
Brooks, Laura	Finazzo, Stephanie	Lupinacci, Deborah A.	Stilley, Geoff & Donna
Broward Sierra Club +	Gardner, Kathleen	Mancini, Jose	Studders, Charlie & Jillian
Buntrock, Mr/Mrs Marvin	Gibson, Don & Arlene	Middleton, Robert & Becky	Vivencio, Thomas & Joyce
Burns, John	Girl Scout Troop #10825-A +	Minear, Joleen	Welsh, Sandra
Clark, Bob & Joanne	Girl Scout Troop #10825-B +	Minimi, Anthony D.	Weyenberg, Mat & Erin
Clark, Deborah	Golden Passport Photos *	Moriarty, Tim & Nancy	White, Joanne & Ruth
Cole, Michael	Grass River Publishing, LLC *	Morris, Robert & Denise	Wilder, Martha
Colody, Jack & Betty	Hager, Mary	Mott, Capt. Joe & Carol Ann	Williams, Richard & Lynette
Comeau, Norm & Jeri	Hecker, Karin	Neil, Joe & Carol	Youngblood, Brian & Gilda
Computer Ways *	Heffner, Bill	Norman, Marcia Voss	
Connolly, Steve & Debbie	Hertner, Thomas & Claudette	Rentschler, Sarah Bennett	+ = Organization
Crimmins, Paula	Hohman, James & Audrey	Riley, Thomas	* = Business Membership
Crosby, Lillian	Hovorka, Michelle	Riopelle, Sandra	** = LIFE MEMBERS
Czocher, Jim & Joyce	Howard, Theodore D.	Roarty, Dennis & Carol	

**CONTRIBUTION, MONETARY:** Mr. & Mrs George McCullar, Jim & Linda Peck. New Life Member, Javier D. Ferrea, **In Memory of Frederick E. Stone**, son of Hillsboro Lighthouse's third Principal Keeper, Benjamin F. Stone: Gale Bittinger, Sara Drew, Karl & Chris Kuenning, Chris Linnell, Michael & Carole McElroy, Laurie Morgan, Diane Shing, Harriet J. Simmons and Lynne Whitmer.

**THANK YOU, VOLUNTEER HELPERS** Since Sept. 2009 Newsletter. **Newsletter Layout:** Hib & Martha Casselberry, Art Makenian **Publisher:** Minuteman Press of Ft. Lauderdale **Newsletter Mailing Sept.:** Hib & Martha Casselberry, Joyce Hager, Art Makenian, Linda Peck, Susan Taylor and Kim Zeman.

**SEPT. 26th TOUR: Lighthouse Tour: Publicity:** Jack Burrie, Hib Casselberry & Art Makenian. **Sands Harbor Hotel** provided use of their dock, tables, chairs & umbrellas. **HLPS Workers at Sands Harbor Hotel dock:** Martha Casselberry, Linda Peck & Susan Taylor. **Narrator on the boat:** Dr. Ray McAllister. **At the Lighthouse: Tables & chairs** provided by USCG Station Manager, Kim Wizst. **BAREFOOT MAILMAN impersonator,** Rick McKenzie; **Coast Guard Auxiliary Sept. 26th Tour:** Ed & Marie Duda, Antonio Viana (34), Art Makenian (36), Gene Cain, Scott Cleary (37), Pat Feighery (36). **HLPS Workers at Lighthouse Sept 26th Tour:** Jennifer Burns, Jack Burrie, Hib Casselberry, Ed Dietrich, Ben Ellis, Joyce & Mike Hager, Steve Hoczak, Dave Noderer, Bill Slager. **NOV.**

**21st TOUR: Publicity:** Bill Slager **HLPS Website Master:** Doug Matthes. **Sands Harbor Hotel** provided use of their dock, tables, chairs & umbrellas. **HLPS Workers at Sands Harbor Hotel dock:** Martha Casselberry, Linda Peck & Susan Taylor. **At the Lighthouse:** Tables & chairs provided by USCG Station Manager, Kim Wizst. **Coast Guard Auxiliary Nov. 21st:** Ed & Marie Duda, (34), Art Makenian and new members, Ted and Becky Lutjen (36).

**LPS Workers at Lighthouse:** Gail Diane Blankenship, Jack Burrie, Hib Casselberry, Dan Devendorf, Ben Ellis, Joyce & Mike Hager, Art Makenian, Dave Noderer and Bill Slager. **DEC. 3rd 2009 Yuletide on Atlantic Parade:** Jack Burrie, Dan Devendorf and Family, and Art Makenian.





“Hillsboro Inlet Light Station at Full Moon” by David J. Shing, Photographer.

Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc.  
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HLPS Newsletter Editor: Martha Casselberry (her last)  
January 2010



FIRST CLASS MAIL

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

Membership Category and Dues Expiration Date.



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