

# BIG DIAMOND

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



VOLUME ONE

NUMBER THREE

SUMMER 1998

## NEXT PUBLIC MEETING OF H.L.P.S. TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY AUGUST 12 AT THE PELICAN PUB



The third public meeting of the H.L.P.S. is planned for Wednesday, August 12 at the Pelican Pub, 2635 North Riverside Drive, (just south of the Hillsboro Inlet Bridge). The SOCIAL HOUR will start at 6 PM, and there will be a cash bar available for refreshments. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM. The President, Harry Cushing, will handle a short business meeting. Dinner is available before the meeting at the Pub.

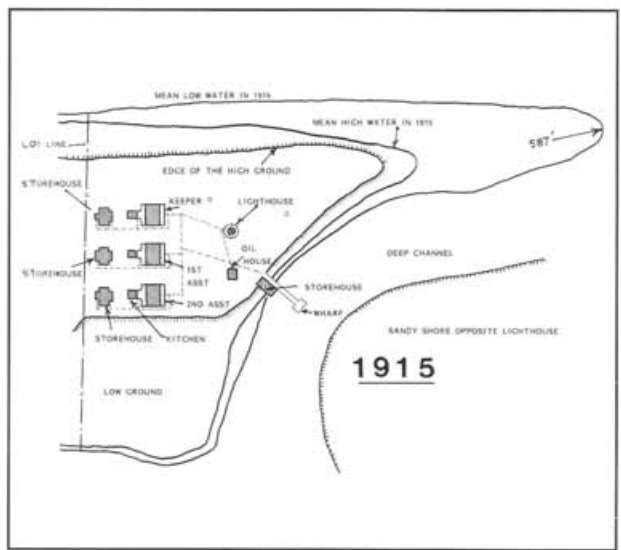
The focus of the meeting will be a report on the progress of the lighthouse renovations. We hope to have Coast Guard representatives to bring information to the meeting. Dave Butler will have progress pictures.

The Coast Guard Seventh District Civil Engineering in Miami has provided some wonderful original detail drawings of the lighthouse to the Society, and colored prints of some drawings will be on display at the meeting.

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## A Letter from our President



Dear Hillsboro Lighthouse Friends,

Wow! Great things are happening at our lighthouse and with our preservation group. Just last fall, plans were developing that would see the removal of the great beacon lens that sits atop the Hillsboro Lighthouse. Now, not even a year later, the Coast Guard has initiated "rehabilitation" plans to bring Hillsboro's great beacon back to full operational status. Our sincere thanks and appreciation to Admiral Saunders and the US Coast Guard 7th District in Miami.

Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society (HLPS) was formed in October 1997. We recently received our initial IRS 501 (c) 3, non-profit certification. We have a growing roster of donations and paid memberships and will hold our third public meeting on Wednesday, August 12 at the Pelican Pub.

Big plans are shaping up to hold a re-lighting and rededication ceremony this fall at the Hillsboro Club for HLPS members. We will be working with the Coast Guard to facilitate tours of the lighthouse. A speaker's program, historical display and dinner will accompany the tour. What a great treat it will be to stand on the beach at sunset and watch the great beacon shine again! Stay tuned for details.

Our next great endeavor will be to work with Pompano Beach officials to develop a visitor's center/museum concept on the south side of Hillsboro Inlet. This facility, in addition to containing lighthouse history and memorabilia, could showcase the local marine environment. Exhibits highlighting the artificial reef program, the Pompano Beach Fishing Rodeo, underwater archaeology and diving are just a few ideas being discussed. The location provides a great view of the lighthouse and would preserve the park-like nature of the location for all time.

But we can't accomplish this without your help. If you're not a member of HLPS, join today. If you're already a member, get a friend to come aboard. Thanks for your support.

**Save Our Light...Keep It Bright!**

Harry P. Cushing  
President

## April 30 Meeting Report

HLPS held its second public meeting at the Pelican Pub on April 30th 1998. President Harry Cushing spoke on the tremendous work done by attorney Fred Bamman in completing all the forms for the Federal and Florida State registrations. The Society was formally incorporated in December 1997 but the complex paper-work to achieve non-profit status was still under way (finally accepted until May 1998). We greatly appreciate the gift of time and skill from Fred Bamman and staff.

Dave Butler covered the meeting with the Coast Guard in Miami in January where the renovations were announced. He mentioned that 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, with the project engineer, Michael Garlich, and the architect James Peterson.

Dr. Ray MacAllister, whose mother grew up at the lighthouse during the 1920's spoke on the early years of lighthouse operation. After this, Dave Butler gave a short slide show illustrating the Hillsboro Lighthouse in early days, and showing slides of the visit of 44 members of the U.S. Lighthouse Society during April.

Hib Casselberry, Florida Lighthouse Association (FLA) District Manager and HLPS board member, spoke of the role of FLA and its desire to assist local groups like HLPS.

Our thanks to "Uncle Bob" Wescott and the great staff at the Pelican Pub for the use of their facilities.

# UNITED STATES LIGHTHOUSE SOCIETY VISIT

On April 6, 1998 a group of 44 lighthouse buffs from all over the United States toured Hillsboro Lighthouse. The Coast Guard was represented by Chief Dennis Dever, and Lt. Arthur Makenian and John Deam of Flotilla 3-6 U.S.C.G. Auxiliary. Members of the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society also served as guides, and Dave Butler gave a short talk on our new society and the lighthouse at the luncheon which followed the visit. The weather was perfect with sunshine and a cool breeze to encourage climbing.



*Above from left is Hib Casselberry, who handles our membership/ mailing list. Next is Paul Bradley, a nationally known lighthouse artist. Wayne Wheeler, President of the U.S. Lighthouse Society is next. The Society is based in San Francisco, so the group came a long way to tour Florida Lighthouses.*

*Below, the Coast Guard provided guides for the Lighthouse Society visit. From left: John Deam (USCG Aux) and Lt. Art Makenian (USCGA) on the right. In the center is our 7th District Manager of the Hillsboro Project Chief Dennis Dever.*



## POMPANO FISHING RODEO A REEL CATCH FOR H.L.P.S., THANKS !

The Pompano Beach Fishing Rodeo has grown into one of the largest fishing tournaments in the United States. The 33rd annual event was held May 7th - 10th at the Sands Harbor Hotel & Marina. Over 200 boats competed in the 1998 Rodeo.

At the awards ceremony on Sunday May 10 the Rodeo awarded \$1,000 to HLPs. Our thanks to President Phil Maus and Executive Director Patricia Carr and all the committee members of the Pompano Beach Fishing Rodeo.



*On the right is Jack Carr of the Pompano Beach Fishing Rodeo making the presentation to HLPs President Harry Cushing in the center, and HLPs Vice President Dave Butler on the left receiving the donation.*



## CHANGES DURING THE 1990's AT THE HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE

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

In 1991, after 85 years of service the 3,600 pound Fresnel lens with a 1,000 watt bulb 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" with a 35 watt bulb was installed. This small rotating beacon is mounted on the outer railing of the lens chamber, and provides a brief flashing light for navigation. It is basically designed for harbor marine markers using solar-powered panels. This 190 mm optic is still operating today.

In July 1992 after the lens stopped rotating, 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. The entire lighthouse was sandblasted and repainted in 1995. The mercury pool in which the 3,600 pound lens assembly floated was drained, and the mercury sold.

In July 1997 Mr. David Sparkenbaugh, Petty Office Second Class and family arrived, and took over the duties. They were on station when the the meeting of the Florida Lighthouse Association were held in July 1997 with 360 in attendance. The Hillsboro Club hosted the event with a luncheon, and Chief Petty Officer Dennis Dever U.S.C.G. and Dave Butler President of the Pompano Beach Historical Society spoke on Lighthouse subjects.

In January 1998 the Coast Guard announced that the beacon would be repaired and put back in service. Hopefully the end of the 1990's will see our great light fully operational and shining out to sea once again.

Hillsboro Lighthouse  
1998



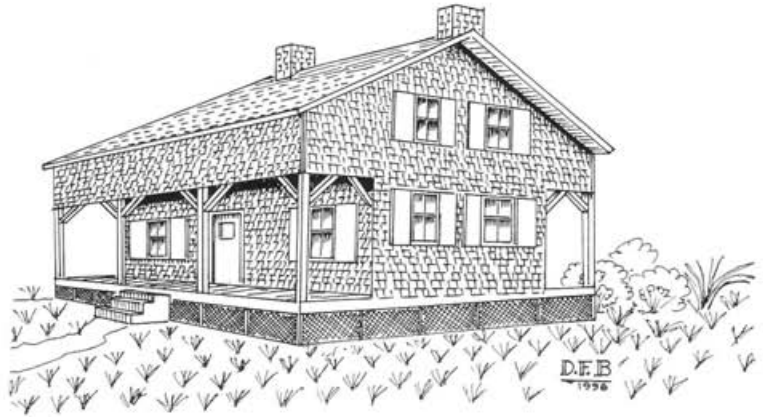
## PROPOSED LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM

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, except from the water. An idea is being developed for a museum and visitor's center located on the south side of the Hillsboro Inlet in a Pompano Beach City Park just east of the Hillsboro Bridge.

A few of the possible exhibits could include: • *Lighthouse History and Memorabilia* • *Marine Environment and Artificial Reef Programs*

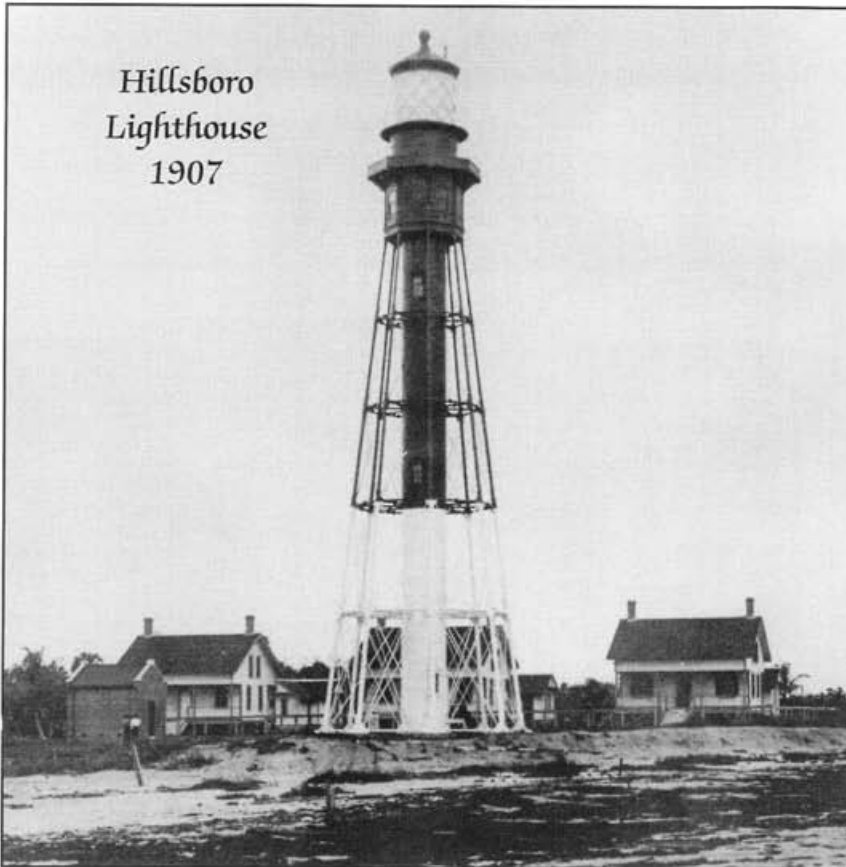
• *Local Underwater Archeology* • *Local Diving and Fishing* • *Intracoastal and Inlet History* • *Legend of the "Barefoot Mailman"*.

Preliminary plans for the museum have been suggested, with an exterior resembling that of a Hillsboro Lighthouse keeper's home of 1907. The inside would be a large exhibition area with cathedral ceiling. The idea will be presented to Pompano Beach city officials in the near future. Possible future workshop sessions may be scheduled by the City. To make the museum and visitor's center a reality will require support from H.L.P.S. members. To make this dream a reality will eventually require major fund raising efforts by our organization. Stay tuned!



*Above is a rendition of the 1907 Hillsboro Lighthouse Keeper's home which could serve as a model for the museum and visitor's center.*

Hillsboro  
Lighthouse  
1907



## LIGHTHOUSE ENGINEERS



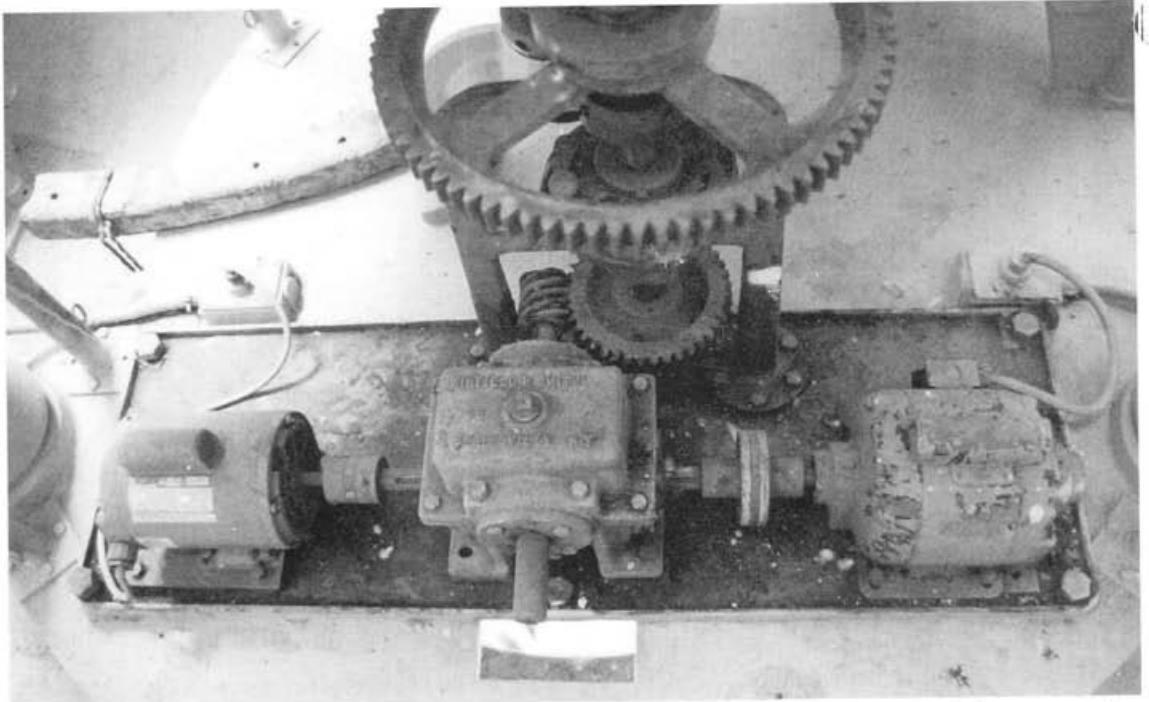
The Coast Guard has hired two Chicago firms to do engineering and design for the lighthouse renovations. On March 19, 1998 Dave Butler met with the project engineer, Michael Garlich, and the architect James Peterson on site. An update of their progress will be discussed at the July 29th meeting of HLPS.

## RENOVATION WORK IN PLANNING

*The planned work at Hillsboro is extensive:*

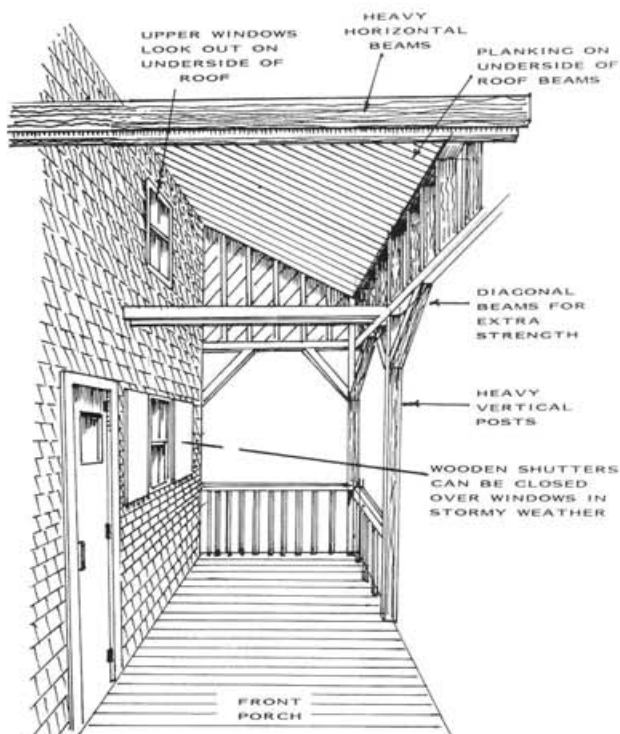
### LENS BEARING REPLACEMENT

A new ball bearing assembly will be placed inside the old mercury trough. Every effort is being made to have the restoration historically accurate in appearance, and to combine it with modern reliability. The ball bearing assembly, for example will be hidden, and will run sub-



*pictured above is the existing motor and turning gear assembly. Both motors will be replaced during upcoming restoration.*

merged in oil. The detailed design was completed by Collins Engineering of Williamsburg, Virginia in drawing 23580106, which is now working through the U.S.C.G. approval process.



### 1907 KEEPERS COTTAGES

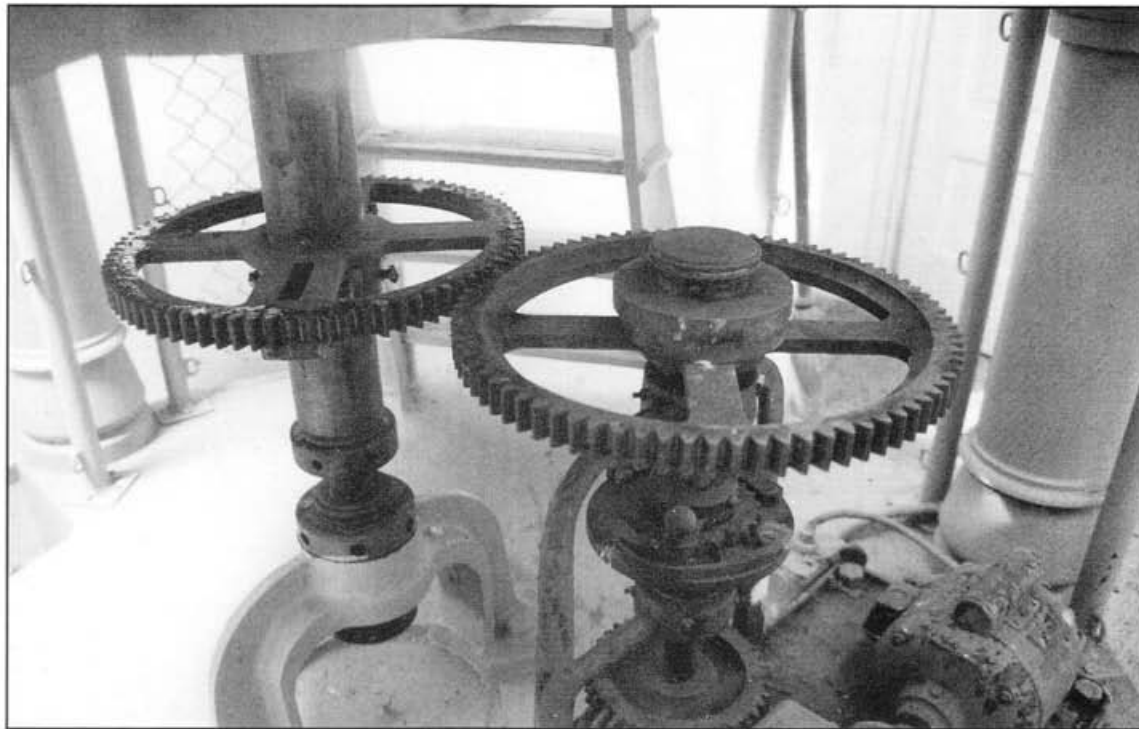
*Extensive weathering has damaged the exterior. New porch railings and other restorations are planned.*





## LENS ROTATION MECHANISM

The existing mechanism will be restored, and the old 1/2 HP dual motors replaced by new 3/4 HP motors. The drive mechanism has a tough job. Motors turn at 1,750 RPM and the lens at 1.5 RPM, so the required reduction is over 1,000 to 1. (1,167 to 1)

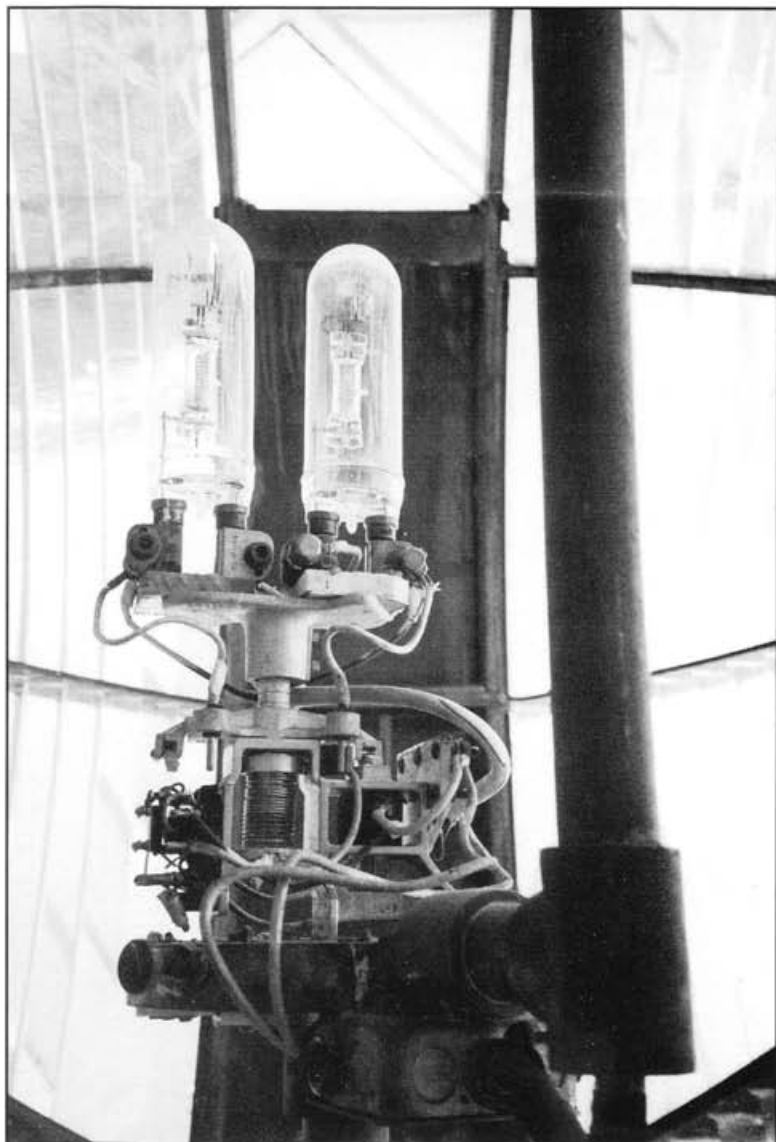


## OBSERVATION PLATFORM RAILINGS

New historically accurate railings will replace deteriorated material on the observation deck, and will follow earlier designs.

## ENTRANCE AND PLATFORM DOORS

The damaged doors at the observation level will be repaired. The modern stainless steel tower door at the entrance will be replaced and the damaged interior doors will probably be repaired.



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