

Official Newsletter of
Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society

Big Diamond

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September 2005

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.

*You are Cordially Invited by
Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society*

General Meeting, Program , And Election of the Board

*TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2005
5:30 PM - 9:00 PM at the HILLSBORO CLUB*

HORS D'OEUVRES, CASH BAR, DOOR PRIZES, & AUCTION

*Each attendee must be a HLPS member in good standing.
Since each person entering the Hillsboro Club Security Gate
must be listed for the gate attendant,
Please RSVP no later than October first.*

If you last name begins with:

A-F CALL Vikki Murphy (954) 298-8897
G-L CALL Suzan Baekkelund (954) 781-0187
M-R CALL Kim Sanecki (954) 914-6657
S-Z CALL Kathy Crozier (954) 907-7550

Reliving a Childhood at the Lighthouse

By: Maggie Delp

Lonnie Bennett Kubik, Daughter of the Light keeper from the early 1940's until 1951, was among the visitors to the lighthouse on August 13th. She is pictured here (right) with her sister, Mary Anne, sitting on the steps of the lighthouse structure about 1946.

Lonnie's father, Chief Machinist's mate Warren Bennett, was the recipient of two medals for his part in saving the lives of seven fishermen off of Deerfield Beach on May 9, 1943. The accident occurred when their dingy overturned in heavy seas. Although there had been a shark warning, Chief Bennett overcame the rough water and brought one of the victims to shore and directed the rescue of the other six who were clinging to the overturned dingy. He served in the coast guard for more than 17 years and retired in 1952 to a successful career in the sea wall business.

Although a youngster at the time, Lonnie can recall the violence of the Hurricane of 1947 which struck the Hillsboro coast with such force that her father moved the family to the safety of the lighthouse itself. They watched helplessly as the the storm destroyed parts of their home. She can still remember the layout of the Third Keeper's Cottage, where the steps were, how the cottage was facing and the fact that, yes indeed, there was indoor plumbing.

This was not her first visit to the lighthouse since the Preservation Society began the tours. She has pictures taken after her long climb to the top of the lighthouse years ago.

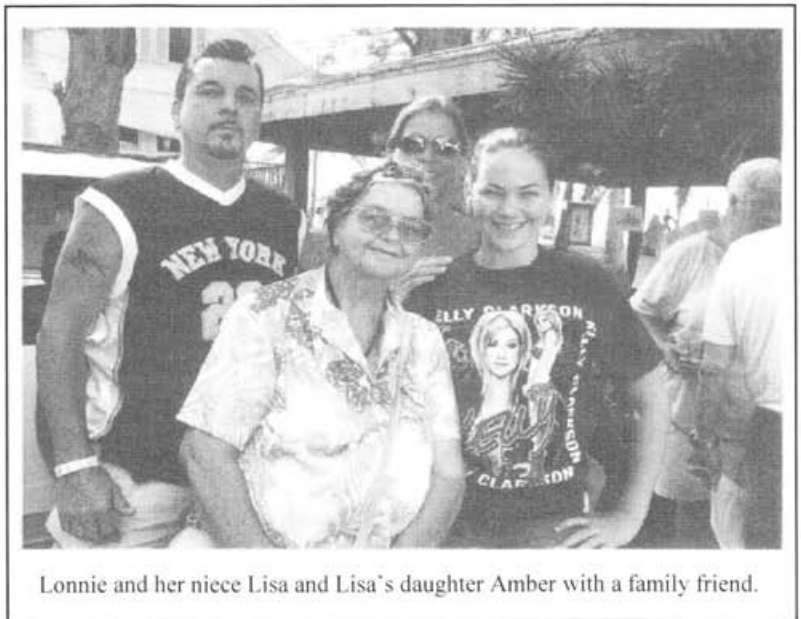
A little bit more of the memory of the history of the Hillsboro Light still exists in the memory of people like Lonnie who spent a few years living and growing up in this special place.



Lonnie and her sister Mary Anne



CMM Bennett receives his medal in 1943



Lonnie and her niece Lisa and Lisa's daughter Amber with a family friend.

Proclamation



FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE DAY

- WHEREAS:** Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse has played a significant economic and historical role in the settlement and development of Broward County for ninety-eight years; and
- WHEREAS:** this lighthouse has protected coastal shipping and guided mariners past dangerous reefs before sonar since 1907; and
- WHEREAS:** it is one of the thirty still standing lighthouses of the fifty-nine lighthouses constructed in the State of Florida on the land and in the waters of the Sunshine State; and
- WHEREAS:** it is a tourist attraction where hundreds of curious visitors come to explore it each year; and
- WHEREAS:** its beam shines further out to sea than any other lighthouse beam in the world; and
- WHEREAS:** this lighthouse represents the romantic spirit and sense of adventure of Floridians by being chosen to represent the lighthouses of Florida on a 37 cent postage stamp produced in 2003; and.
- WHEREAS:** it is in Broward County's best interest to preserve, protect and promote this treasure of our seashore.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John C. Rayson, Mayor of the City of Pompano Beach and on behalf of the City Commission, extend greetings best wishes to all observing September 17, 2005, as *Florida Lighthouse Day*.

DONE, this 17TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2005.



John C. Rayson
 JOHN C. RAYSON
 MAYOR

1997 to 2005: An Overview History of Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society

For eight years, beginning in 1992, Hillsboro Lighthouse's great beacon was dark. The only light at the tower was generated from a small rotating beacon with a 36 watt bulb bolted to the lighthouse railing, plugged into an outlet with an extension cord! The cause of this dilemma had been a broken gear in the turning mechanism. The mercury that floated the lens had also been removed after the gear broke.

The Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society was organized in October 1997, primarily to oppose the removal of the beautiful Fresnel lens and "store" it in some Coast Guard warehouse or have it placed in a Broward County museum.

This dream could not have been achieved without the leadership of Founding President, Harry Cushing, Founding Vice President, David Butler, seed money of a \$5,000 gift from Miriam Hood, 3,000 hours of volunteer manual labor hours from Coast Guard Auxiliary men, plus seven families who joined the Association as Life Members at the \$500 level, and the hundreds of citizens of Broward County who wrote and called their support for this organization to political leaders (local-state-national). The dream became a permanent reality in less than two years after HLPS was founded, a real feat!

April 6, 1998 a group of 44 lighthouse buffs from all over the USA toured Hillsboro Lighthouse. Members of HLPS served as guides and Dave Butler gave a talk on our new society at a luncheon following the tour.

In the summer of that same year the U.S. Coast Guard initiated "rehabilitation" plans to bring the great beacon back to full operation through Admiral Saunders, the U.S. Coast Guard Commander of the 7th District at that time. The Coast Guard chose a Chicago engineering firm to make the repairs.

It was a magical evening, January 28, 1999 when hundreds of well wishers listened as Rep. E. Clay Shaw of the U.S. House of Representatives, congratulated HLPS for making a difference in getting government to respond to the will of the people. At 6:27 P.M. the countdown began. The crowd roared in accompaniment and at the count of "zero" the great 92-year-old beacon burst into a brilliant, prismatic, white glow. The crowd fell silent until the first sweep of the beam passed over the crowd. There was a wild chorus of applause and shouting and several moist eyes. All went well for 29 days. Then darkness returned and the temporary light was once again reactivated. Immediate repair efforts began to take shape. Dave Butler, not only HLPS Vice President, but a registered Marine Engineer, found a company, the Torrington Bearing Company, that could produce a commercial grade bearing that could carry the 4,500 pound lens. Preparation for the following year's installation was complex with Dave's construction of a full sized bearing model to test procedures, and the complex removal of the vertical drive shaft (300 pounds) by the Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteers led by Art Makenian.

On March 27, 2000, the new ball bearing arrived at the Lighthouse Station. It consisted of three, five-foot diameter parts and 60 balls, parts that were hoisted to the top of the tower to be installed by the Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteers. They found one problem in the bronze "ball retainer" and a new one had to be cast and machined. The last components were hoisted to the top by June 22. By the end of June the delicate work of re-assembly was well advanced, tricky work since the lens weight plus the 2,000 pound bearing support had to be raised five feet using hydraulic jacks and other hand-operated tools in VERY tight spaces. The Lens Assembly was carefully lowered to rest on the bearing. Gearing was assembled and carefully tested. It was a back-breaking labor of love from CG Auxiliary Flotillas 36 (Boca Raton) and 34 (Pompano). The re-lighting ceremony was held August 18th. At October's Pioneer Days at Deerfield Pioneer Park, HLPS won a blue ribbon for a 4 foot highly detailed model of the lighthouse built by Harvy Villa. What a year!

There was more bad news than good news in the year 2001. In the early hours of January 30, a 50 ton luxury yacht was wrecked going into the Inlet with seas running 6 feet and 20 MPH winds from the east. Two days later after an all day effort, a salvage barge successfully removed the severely damaged yacht from the Inlet. In February an appreciation dinner honoring the volunteers who successfully renovated the lighthouse was held. Some bad news in March - the Coast Guard deemed the dock at the lighthouse "no longer serviceable for public use". All further tours would need to come by chartered bus. That same month, President Harry Cushing announced his resignation after almost four years of service. His business plans were to move to Washington State. Dave Butler stepped up as president in April. He and Hib Casselberry planned a wonderfully successful Florida Lighthouse Association quarterly meeting and tour for Hillsboro held July 21. In August, Dave felt it necessary to resign as president following two cancer surgeries and impending chemotherapy treatments. Dave continued to take minutes and act as treasurer. Hib Casselberry moved up to the presidency. The October Pioneer Day booth again took honors. Bright, white Christmas lights graced the tower the month of December.

During the winter season of 2002, the former radio room of the Station was renovated into a "mini-museum" In February HLPS had entries in both Lighthouse Point Keeper's Day and Deerfield Beach Town parades using Art Makenian's beautiful 9 foot scaled replica of the lighthouse as the centerpiece. Successful tours were held March 9, June 18, and October 5. During Spring, a Tree Memorial Fund was established with first gifts in memory of Michael Lauter, a high school student from Boca Raton who died tragically. April 20th, Paul Bradley and Hib Casselberry received prestigious Life-Time Achievement Awards from Florida Lighthouse Association. During the summer a powerful dredge was contracted to dig the tough rock bottom of the Inlet to 20 feet depth. More ribbons were awarded to HLPS at the November Pioneer Days in Weston. Christmas lights were put up on the tower again for December.

The year 2003 could be called, "The Year of the Arts" for HLPS. After the Annual Meeting on February 11 at Pompano's Civic Center, members went to adjoining rooms where nautical art (photography and paintings) were displayed. Many local artists who wished to paint or photograph the lighthouse were invited to do just that on April 30th. On June 16th the dedication of the very artistic 37 cent US Postal Service stamp depicting Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse took place at the Inlet Park across from the lighthouse. It was a lovely service with Postal Managers, County Commissioners, and HLPS speakers taking part plus remarks from Rear Admiral Harvey E. Johnson, Jr., Commander of the 7th Coast Guard District. Hundreds of interested citizens came to buy Postal Service Lighthouse Stamp souvenirs. The series of "Lighthouses of the Southeast" was sold out at our nation's post offices within six months. Beginning June for eight weeks, an art exhibit of original Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse art was on display at the Ft. Lauderdale Historical Society building on New River. Vone Research divers discovered undetected damage to our reefs caused by barges still hauling debris from the Inlet. Stephen Attis, vice president of HLPS and president of Vone Research was chosen by the State of Florida to make some reef repairs. On July 4th HLPS entered Lauderdale-By-The-Sea's Independence Day Parade. On September 7th we lost Dave Butler. Later that week many HLPS members attended his funeral. In the fall, The Town of Hillsboro Beach gave their original stone statue of the Barefoot Mailman to HLPS. The Lake Havasu, Arizona Lighthouse Club announced they had a sponsor to erect a large working model of Hillsboro Lighthouse on Lake Havasu to protect their boaters. It will join the original London Bridge and four other famous American lighthouse models on that lake. The restored and repaired Barefoot Mailman Statue was dedicated October 25th in the morning hours of a tour. Elinor DeWire, internationally known lighthouse author and speaker, gave a HLPS lecture at Pompano Beach Civic Center on November 10th. The usual Christmas lights were hung at the lighthouse.

In 2004 Hillsboro Lighthouse education was taken to Pinecrest, Pompano Beach High, and both elementary and middle schools at St Andrew's in Boca Raton. The weekend of February 7-8 HLPS hosted our second art exhibit. In March Michael Bornstein, Town Manager of Lantana and Barefoot Mailman reenactor, walked from Palm Beach to the Miami River and was greeted at Hillsboro Light by several HLPS members. They all enjoyed box lunches fixed by the Hillsboro Club and then Michael was ferried across the Inlet by Art Makenian. During the summer, the Hillsboro Inlet District erected a seawall that could also be used by a boat to land our tour guests. South Florida Diving Headquarters made us a serviceable gangplank for that purpose. Major renovations to the lighthouse and Station were made during the summer and fall. The tower, from foundation to observation deck, were repaired, the cottages were taken off septic tanks and hooked up to the sewer system, and new sod was laid. Then came Hurricanes Francis and Jeanne, just 3 weeks apart. Siding and many shingles flew off the two cottages so new roofs were applied and loose and missing siding was replaced. On October 7th, lighthouse author and lecturer, Elinor DeWire gave us another captivating lecture and slide presentation. Mid-October the 32nd annual Pioneer Days weekend brought more ribbons for HLPS, 1st place for Preservation and 2nd place for Historical Value of the Presentation. Sunday afternoon Paul & Barbara Bradley, Hib & Martha Casselberry, and Dr. Ray McAllister (all HLPS members) were honored as 2004's pioneers for "unique contributions to the vitality of Broward County".

2005's scheduled tours - Feb. 5, May 7, Aug. 13 & Nov. 5. March through June HLPS fought to save the Third Keeper's Cottage. That fight was lost, but parts of the cottage have been saved and stored for inclusion in a future building to replicate the original. Thanks go out to Chris Eck, Broward County Preservation Officer and the Broward County Commissioners who helped us so much on the project. On October 11th we'll have the Annual Meeting at the Hillsboro Club with election of a new slate of officers and a time for meeting new members and renewing old friendships. Our next two goals are to have installation of a combination memorial/honor patio & drinking fountain, and the purchase of a museum that could be driven to schools and city or county functions.

Next Lighthouse Tour Saturday, November 5th

Circle November 5th on your calendar for a fun day at the lighthouse. Why not pack the picnic basket that day and bring a blanket for an old fashioned dinner on the ground at our beautiful lighthouse retreat? We hope for cooler breezes blowing and a little crispness in the air. Come to our usual spot - the City of Pompano Beach Parking Lot just a block north of Atlantic Blvd. on N. Riverside Drive, pay the parking fee and walk directly across the street to the dock of the **Sands Harbor Hotel**. A HLPS table will be set up there and friendly members will check you in and give you a wrist band before you board the "Aqua View", (a 50 passenger dive boat), for a pleasant ride up to the lighthouse with narration by Dr. Ray McAllister, a delightful gentleman who will tell you of some of the special treats awaiting you at the lighthouse. The "Aqua View" will be shuttling all day beginning at 9:00 A.M. Be sure to arrive before 3:00 P.M. as that will be the vessel's last trip out to the Light with passengers. You will probably want to climb the tower and enjoy the spectacular view from the Observation Deck. Back at ground level, Sheldon Voss will be available to share stories his mother used to tell him about her life at the light station back in the 1920's as a daughter of Lighthouse Keeper, Thomas Knight. Over at the Barefoot Mailman Statue, Michael Bornstein, the reenactor of those barefoot troopers, will have his historic stories of how "he" walked up and down the beach from West Palm to the Miami River six days a week with his precious mail pouch to deliver news to the sparsely populated outposts. Kids (both young and old) can ask him about the weekly journeys. Michael is an expert in that department. He actually follows the entire Barefoot Mailman path one week each winter and practices often up in his native town of Hypoluxa to keep his calloused feet in good condition for the 40 mile walk. Those feet can rest for the 28 miles by water he must also travel. See you all November 5th.

WALK THROUGH HISTORIC KEEPER'S COTTAGE DURING TOUR

Captain and Mrs. Larry Yarborough, USCG (Retired) were spending the weekend of August 13th in one of the Lighthouse Keeper's Cottages. The Yarboroughs are also enthusiastic members of HLPS and volunteered to make the cottage available for all tour visitors to see that day. The view from the porch of the busy Inlet was breathtaking. The well polished, stained Dade pine floor gave a fine introduction to the living quarters. The interior walls of the first floor were veneered with modern-day dry-wall many years ago and painted in pastel colors. There are many pictures of lighthouses and maritime subjects on the walls. What used to be the breeze-way between the living area and kitchen has been enclosed with doors and windows, serving as a dining area open to a modern kitchen. The narrow center stairs lead up to two bedrooms and a bath (the bathroom added in the early 1930's). The antique vertical wood paneling on the second floor is original with ornate grooving. It is a charming place for our Coast Guardsmen and their families to have R & R. Thank you, Larry and Annette, for sharing your vacation retreat with us!

Michael Bornstein, the modern day Barefoot Mailman, was also present that day wearing his costume with shoes slung over his shoulder. He is always a hit, especially with the children, telling tales about delivering the mail back in the late 1800s.

VOLUNTEER HELPERS H.L.P.S.

Newsletter Mailing: Laurie Kunkel, Hib & Martha Casselberry **August 13th Lighthouse Tour:** U.S. Coast Guard ANT, Ft.Lauderdale IN Mulleady, BMC Greg Winans, MK1 Wilson George, MK3 Peter Dillon Coast Guard Auxiliary: #37 Liz Clark, & Eugene Cain. From #36 Dave DeBoben, Jerry Edelman, Art Makenian, Steve Rogers, & Mike Zanpini. **HLPS helpers at Lighthouse :** Stephen Attis, Suzan Baekkelund, Paul Bradley, Jack Burrie, Hib Casselberry, Mike & Joyce Hager, Scott Martin, & Dr. Ray McAllister, **HLPS at Check-in booth:** Martha Casselberry, & Laurie Kunkel. **Sands Harbor** for tables & chairs. **At the Lighthouse:** Tables, chairs, iced-tea, lemonade, & Box Lunches for the workers by the **Hillsboro Club**.

- DONATIONS -

Framed Photograph 3' x 2' of Hillsboro Lighthouse at Dawn by Scott Martin, Photographer.

Air Conditioner Unit for Mini-Museum by Scott Martin.

Unrestricted Monetary Donation by George & Muriel McCullar.

Memorial by Robert P. Morris, Jr.

Large print of her artwork by Pat Anderson (to be framed for Annual Meeting auction).

Three large prints of his artwork by George Thompson to be framed for Annual Meeting auction).

Welcome New Members and Renewals

The following have occurred since the July Edition

Abadessa, Lori	Davis, Judy	MacVittie, Jeb	Russo, Donna J.
About, Jenny	DeHaan, Howard & Verna	Mann, John & Jackie	Sacco, Linda
Agre, Rose	Eaton, Les	Masi, Rita	Salato, Frank & Marion
Anderson, Brent & Martha	Flinn, Doug & Randa	McCabe, Suzanne	Santos, Nelly E.
Attis, Steve & Midge	Fogan, Thomas	McCullar, George & Muriel	Sigismund, Jackie
Avallone, Adam	Fox, Marsha / Fatima Royer	McKearnan, Sherin & T.J.	Slider, Helen
Azure Realty Services, Inc. *	Ginerich, Roger and Susan	Miller, Richard & Melinda	Smith, Joanne
Rene Sabatini, Owner	Goldtrap, Edward & Barbara	Mills, Douglas	Stolar, Ken
Barham, Susan	Gotbaum, Irwin & Cheryl	Moore, Tammy C.	Sudol, Cindy
Bennett, Lee	Hall, Camille	Morris, Robert P. Jr.	Theisen, Jerry & Regina
Bohan, Gregory	Hanak, Jan	Muschany, Jim & Sue	Tiedeman, Marian
Brumley, Dean & Fabiola	Hanley, Richard & Bonnie	Nartwig, Craig & Cathy	Vaughan, Doris
Burgess, Arthur &	Hart, Jessica	Nawalanic, John & Sharon	Weingarten, Darlene
Gelsomina	Howard, Theodore	O'Keefe, Don & Yvonne	Weitz, Randi
Bush, Bradley	Johnson-Leong, Charmaine	O'Meara, Shane	Wiedenhofer, Nadine
Cogan, Kenneth & Allyce	Joyce, Shannon & Monica	Orlen, Joan	Wilczek, Ronald
Colbert, Marsha	Kelly, Jim & Barbara	Neil, Joe & Carol	Wohlitka, Charles & Katrin
Comeau, Norm & Jeri	King, Joan	Page, Gregory & Susan	Woodcock, Terry & Jill
Cooper, Phyllis	Kloep, Gertrude	Palmer, Buddy & Peggy	Zdanowicz, Robert & Cindy
Coons, Daryl	Kritzer, Abraham	Pfarr, William & Carole	Zizza, Steven & Judith
Couture, C.B.	Kubik, Lonnie Bennett	Planck, Kent / A. Pastucci	
Crozier, Kathy	Leech, Mike & Gussie	Richards, Dawne	* = Business Membership
Czocher, Jim & Joyce	MacKinnon, Sandy	Rudolph, Buddy	** = LIFE MEMBERS

Meet Your HLPS Board of Directors

Sixth in a series, compiled by Martha Casselberry

Joyce Hager is HLPS gift shop manager. This "gift shop" has no street address. It is on our website at www.HillsboroLighthouse.org and on tour dates set up in a gazebo near the lighthouse.

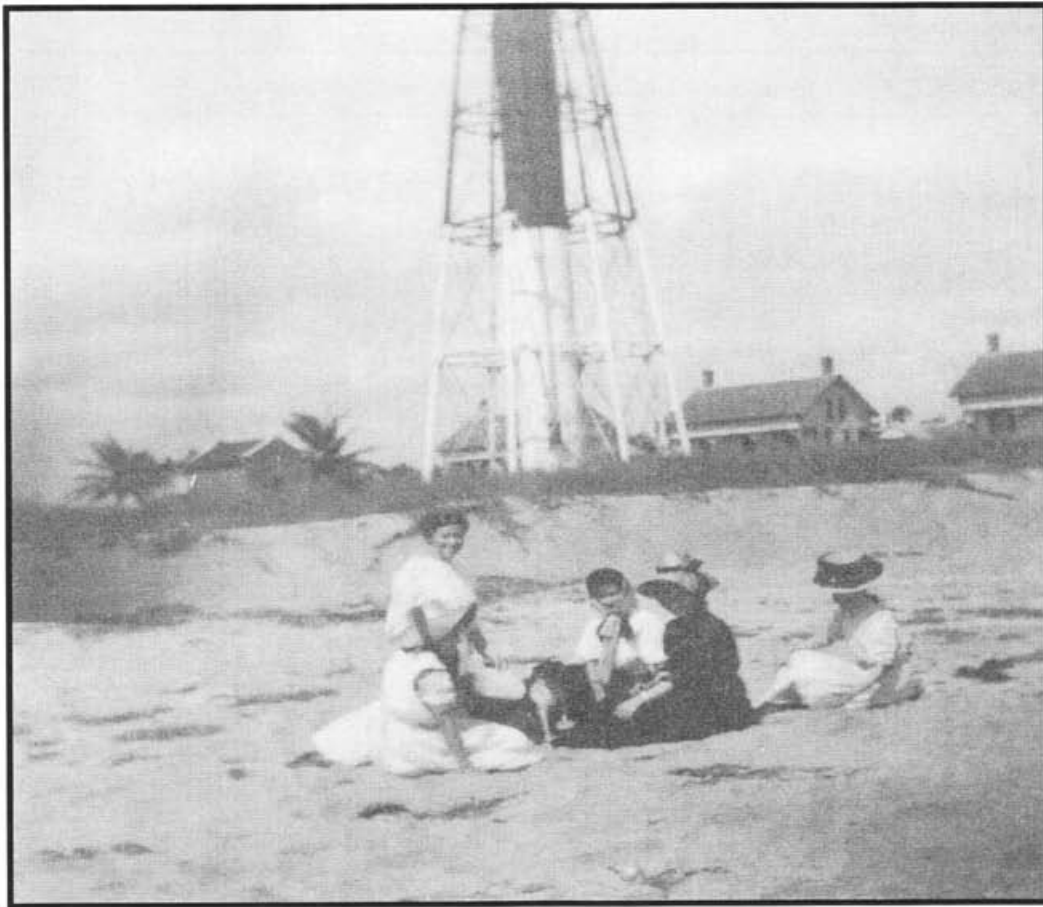
Joyce was born and raised in Neptune, New Jersey and came to Deerfield Beach, Florida after graduating from college. Although we don't usually think of birds and cats living together, Joyce has always been a lover of both of those species that seem to tolerate each other in her home.

Joyce's love of lighthouses began the day she married Mike Hager on November 14, 1998, in Egmont Key Lighthouse at Tampa Bay. Mike's parents found someone who was a Justice of the Peace who had a big sailboat and could marry them on the sailboat. They drew near to Egmont Key Light, the anchor was made secure, and the wedding party went ashore. The skipper had made all the advance plans for the service to be performed inside the lighthouse followed by the reception aboard the yacht.

All the Florida lighthouses soon seemed pretty special to Joyce and Mike. They joined the Florida Lighthouse Association, began attending all the Association's quarterly meetings, each at a different Florida lighthouse. On July 21, 2001, that quarterly meeting was held at our Hillsboro Lighthouse. It was there that they decided to also join HLPS and become involved in a local lighthouse just a few miles from their Deerfield Beach home. Joyce became an enthusiastic Tour Guide and within a year was invited to sit on the Board of Directors.

Now instead of being a guide for tours, you will find Mike and Joyce still at the tours, but now selling Hillsboro T-shirts, Hillsboro books, Hillsboro bookmarks, pins & patches. Stop by the gazebo on November 5th, if only to say, "hello", and tell them what you liked best about the tour.





Original photo courtesy of Chuck Kanode C. 1910

Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc.

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Martha Casselberry, Newsletter Editor



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