

SPRING 2000

CLIMBING THE TOWER

Members climbed the tower all day during the February 6, 2000 visit. The observation deck is crowded with visitors so high up they are barely visible. The view from 120 feet is spectacular!



NEXT LIGHTHOUSE TOUR SUNDAY APRIL 2

Our next visit to Hillsboro Lighthouse will be Sunday April 2. Once again we will charter the fabulous SEA SCREAMER tour boat to carry our members to and from the lighthouse. The first boat will leave the beautiful SANDS HARBOUR HOTEL at 10 AM with subsequent trips approximately each hour on the hour. The last boat will leave at 3PM . New members may sign up that day at the dock. Remember its members only. Members bringing a guest will need to register them as members before boarding. Families with small children need to remember that the Coast Guard insurance regulations do not allow children under the age of 8 to climb the lighthouse. They may visit the grounds and ride the boat, but cannot climb. Any business member of HLPS is welcome to display merchandise or literature regarding their business at lighthouse events. Contact HLPS to make arrangements.



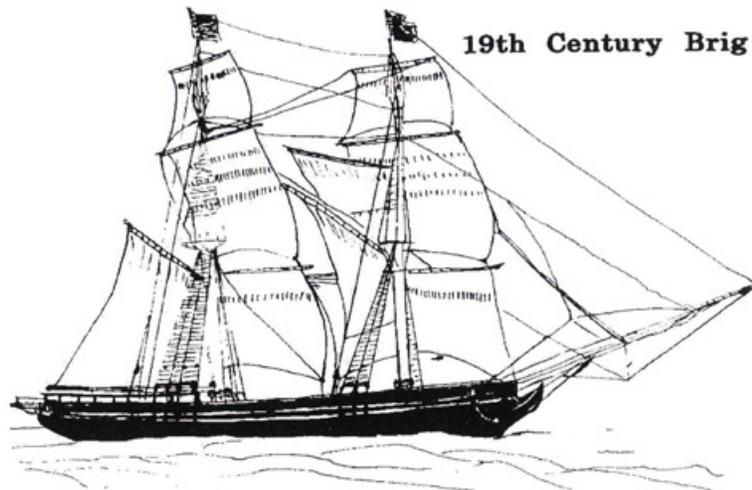
HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE



PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Underwater Archaeology near Hillsboro Inlet

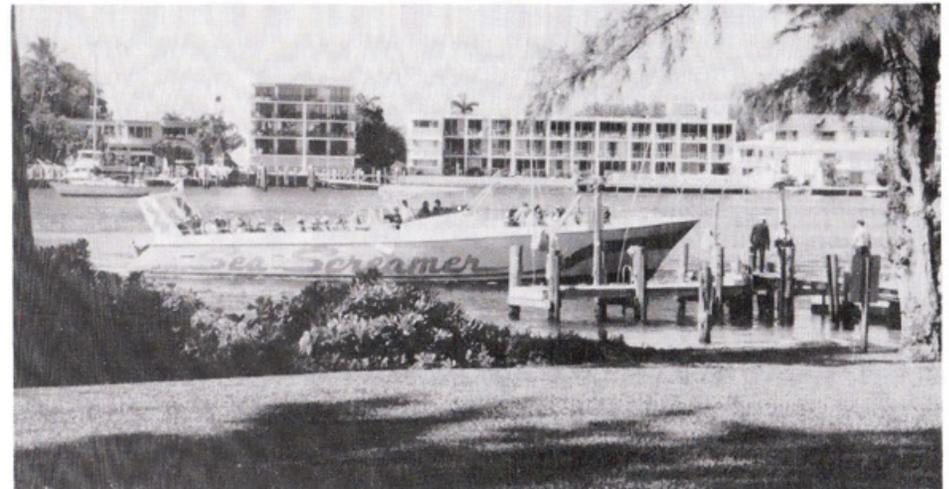
The beach near Hillsboro Inlet was a magnet for ships blown ashore by hurricanes or NE winter storms, or suffering from navigation errors or mechanical failure. The list begins with at least one unknown Spanish wreck seen many years ago when sand moved toward the beach. It is still out there. In succeeding years a number of other ships of historical interest were lost on our coast. The "Barefoot Mailman" wreck was worked by Mel Fisher and by several local doctors and dentists, in the 60's. Later the Marine Archaeological Council excavated the "Gil Blas", lost on the north end of the "Hillsboro Mile"



19th Century Brig

FEB 6 HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE VISIT

The visit to Hillsboro Lighthouse on February 6 was a great success. Over 300 members took the 60 foot yacht from the Sands Hotel up to the Hillsboro Lighthouse. The boat is shown at the Coast Guard dock ready to deliver another load of passengers for the tour. There is quite a current at the Inlet, and landing was tricky, but accomplished smoothly by the crew.



FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE EXHIBIT

The Florida Lighthouse Association had set up some Lighthouse exhibits close to the dock. On the left is Hib Casselberry, who arranged the exhibits. Dave Butler is in the center, and Lighthouse Keeper Art Makenian is on the right. The exhibits covered many Florida Lighthouses.



During this excavation remains of another shipwreck were found, and yet a third suggested by artifacts discovered. Indeed, one

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report talks about slave shackles found nearby. As a matter of fact, a local man has a search permit, from the State of Florida, to hunt for the "Henrietta Mertz (or Marie)", a slave ship supposedly lost near here. She has been variously listed as lost here, in the Caribbean, and along the US NE coast!

Yet another legend says that the Inlet dredge once uncovered parts of a wreck in the sand trap and coins were recovered at the discharge pipe on the beach, just S of the Inlet!

A more modern shipwreck is the "Copenhagen" lost in 1900, on the reef just north of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea. It has been designated a "State Historical Preserve" and is a protected site. A gun mount from a German commerce raider, the "Arauca", was discovered

just north of "Big Diamond" by Stephen Attis, a local explorer. She reportedly dumped her gun over the side but was taken to Port Everglades and interned during WWII.

There are many accounts of German submarines active off the Inlet and several accounts of subs grounding, being captured and being sunk within sight of the Inlet. Interestingly enough, the US Navy and German Admiralty reports list all the subs known to have been lost, and there are NO losses off the East Coast of Florida south of Jacksonville! Reports of sinking of Allied ships within sight of the Inlet may well be true, however.

As sand continues to cover the zone between the beach and a reef a mile offshore, other wrecks are being lost from sight every year. Sophisticated sub bottom echo sounders and magnetometers may locate some of these, but others are lost for generations, unless sea level subsides

THE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

The Coast Guard Auxiliary provided uniformed guides for the dock area, and climbing the tower. Hand held radios were used to maintain communications between the ground and the visitors at the top of the tower. Many thanks for a fine job!



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CLIMBING THE LIGHTHOUSE

The Coast Guard Auxiliary managed the access to the Lighthouse. Children over 8 years old could accompany adults up the tower. Access was ten people at a time, and the line sometimes was long. The view from the top was well worth the wait



EDITOR.....*Dave Butler*

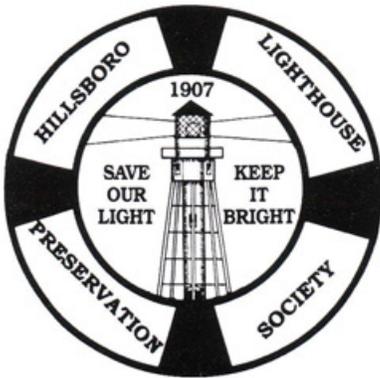
LIGHTHOUSE IN BOAT PARADE

Member Lew Filman, and his wife Kathryn built a 12 foot high replica of Hillsboro Lighthouse from plans supplied by H.L.P.S. Then he mounted the model on the bow of his 21 foot fishing boat. More than 600 lights were used on the display of the Lighthouse and Santa's reindeer. The unique model was a great hit in the Pompano and Boca Raton Christmas Boat Parades.



VISITORS AT THE LIGHTHOUSE

The weather was perfect, and it was a pleasant time for enjoying the scenery and talking with other Lighthouse Buffs during the day. Hillsboro Inlet was busy with boat traffic all day, adding to the activity.



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