

BIG DIAMOND

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



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

A great deal has happened in 2001 and your President and the Board are developing interesting plans for the 2001-2002 season.

The January 21, 2001 visit to the Lighthouse was a great success with about 250 HLPS members in attendance. March was not a good month. Our founding President, Harry Cushing, resigned for business reasons, and we will miss his enthusiastic leadership. Then the Coast Guard notified us that the dock is "no longer serviceable" and boat traffic will no longer be allowed. Visits must be by bus.

A new slate of Officers and Directors was developed at the April Board meeting. Dave Butler co-founder of HLPS with Harry Cushing became the new President, and Hib Casselberry became Vice-President and Treasurer. Paul Bradley joined the Board and became Chairman of a newly-formed Lighthouse Art Committee. Some of the collection will be shown at the July 21 meeting.

PLAN TO COME TO OUR JULY 21 LIGHTHOUSE VISIT. It will be a joint meeting with the Florida Lighthouse Society, and should be an exiting time!!

Dave Butler, President
2001-6-pl

JULY 21 LIGHTHOUSE VISIT

The Florida Lighthouse Society is planning a July trip to the Hillsboro Lighthouse. H.L.P.S. Plans to meet on the same day so our members can share the exhibits and excellent speakers. The meetings will start about 10 AM at the ROYAL FIESTA restaurant in the Cove Shopping Plaza in Deerfield Beach. DIRECTIONS: Go east on Hillsboro Boulevard from Federal Highway almost to the Intracoastal Waterway. Turn in at the COVE PLAZA and drive to 11680 SE Third Court. Lunch will be served at moderate cost. After lunch participants will travel to the Hillsboro Lighthouse for an afternoon tour.

The excellent new F.L.A. book FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE TRAIL will be available.

More news about the July 21 meeting is shown on the enclosed Florida Lighthouse Association bulletin. Please be sure to send in your LUNCHEON RESERVATION. All lunches are being handled through the FLA organization and the check should be made out to the F.L.A. and sent to Altamonte Springs.

THANKS !!

WHY ISN'T HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE BUILT OF BRICK ??

It seems very strange that ALL the Lighthouses along the Florida east coast EXCEPT HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE were built of brick.

From north to south they include:

Amelia Island Lighthouse..... 1839
 St. Johns River (Jacksonville)..... 1830, 1859
 St. Augustine Lighthouses..... 1824 and 1874
 Mosquito Inlet Lighthouse..... 1835
 Ponce de Leon Inlet (175 feet high)..... 1887
 Cape Canaveral Lighthouse..... 1847
 Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse..... 1860

Even the early Lighthouse built on the islands along the east coast were all brick including:

Cape Florida (Miami) 1825
 Sand Key (9 miles south of Key West)..... 1827
 Dry Tortugas before Fort Jefferson..... 1826
 Loggerhead Key in the Dry Tortugas..... 1858



1827 SAND KEY LIGHTHOUSE

1827 SAND KEY LIGHTHOUSE

Sand Key Lighthouse was one of the most important factors in the change in Florida Lighthouse design from brick to iron skeleton towers. The 60 foot-tall lighthouse was built at the southern approach to Key West Harbor. This dangerous coral reef was only six feet underwater. Nineteenth Century ships had no way to measure water depth except to put a sailor in the bow with a "lead line". This man threw a long rope weighted with a five-pound lead weight out in front of the ship so that the line was vertical when the lead weight hit the bottom. Knots were tied every "fathom" (six feet). The work was exhausting and was used only approaching a harbor, or in shallow waters offshore. There were so many shipwrecks approaching the busy port of Key West that a "Salvage Court" was set up in the city to handle goods from the wrecks. Towers were built in town to see approaching ships and locate wrecks.

DESIGN OF THE LIGHTHOUSE

Sand Key Lighthouse, shown on the left, was built in 1827 for \$12,538. It was a standard tapered brick design with a lantern with rectangular panes of glass. The poor quality lighting apparatus used eleven whale-oil lamps and parabolic reflectors. They were so bad they were replaced with 14 new lamps with 21-inch reflectors in 1838. Sand Key during the 1830's was an island about 500 feet long by 150 feet wide covering the coral reef. During the 1830's the station had the Lighthouse and Keepers home plus a dock and two boats.

Written by: Dave Butler

Illustrations: Paul Bradley and Dave Butler

Sources:

Florida Territorial Lighthouses by Tom Taylor

Florida Lighthouse Trail edited by Tom Taylor

Lighthouses of the Florida Keys by Love Dean

THE HURRICANE OF 1846

The original brick lighthouse survived hurricanes in 1835 and 1841, but in 1842 a hurricane washed away the Keepers home. The house was re-built and a sea wall added. The Lighthouse survived an 1844 hurricane, but in 1846 a monster hurricane hit the Florida Keys very suddenly. The wind and seas first destroyed the sea wall, then the keeper's home, and finally the brick lighthouse toppled over. The entire island disappeared under six feet of water. All six people at the Lighthouse were killed. The storm was so bad it heavily damaged Havana, Cuba, damaged much of Key West and destroyed the Key West Lighthouse killing 14 people who had fled to the tower for refuge. Sand Key during the hurricane is shown below.



IRON LIGHTHOUSES

The idea of building a Lighthouse out of wrought iron for very exposed locations was developed in England and first tried in America off Boston Harbor. It lasted only 18 months before destruction by a winter storm.

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FLORIDA IRON LIGHTHOUSES

The lessons learned were applied to the 1853 Sand Key Lighthouse. While many iron Lighthouses (including Hillsboro Lighthouse) have eight vertical iron pipes, Sand Key was designed with seventeen! Each of the eight inch diameter pilings had a screw on the end, and the twelve outer piles were driven ten feet into the coral reef. Each pile had a flange two feet in diameter, and the screw locked it to the coral. The sandy island had re-appeared between 1846 and 1853, but the keeper's home was built right into the lower section of the iron lighthouse. The design included 450 tons of iron, and a 5,000-gallon tank for water, and a 1,000-gallon tank for oil.

The design was proven sound when another killer hurricane roared through the Keys in October 1865. The dock, boats, and boathouse all disappeared, but the Lighthouse stood firm. For the exposed coral reefs off the Florida Keys iron was a good solution. It was expensive..... Sand Key cost \$ 60,000. A chain of six iron "screw-pile" lighthouses were built on the offshore reefs from Miami down the Florida Keys, with Sand Key the southernmost Lighthouse.



1853 SAND KEY LIGHTHOUSE

KEEPER'S CORNER

On March the 7th, the new Classic Lens rotation bearing was operational for 225 consecutive days. A pre-planned disassembly and inspection of the bearing revealed that both Five feet diameter races and the Two inch ball bearings should serve their intended life span of at least 50 years or more. Lubricating oil samples will be sent to Mobiloil for metal content analysis.

The lighthouse technical team is now assessing the other parts of the mechanism that are subject to wear and tear and should need replacement as time goes on. Since these parts are no longer available for purchase, every single component such as gears, shafts, nuts and bolts must be re-drawn to their original new specification and reproduced in a small machine shop. Every effort will be made for these remanufactured parts to retain their authenticity.

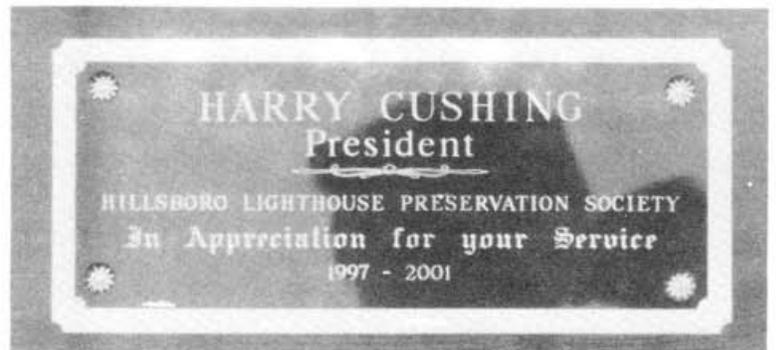
Art Makenian



Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society
Post Office Box Number 6062
Pompano Beach, Florida 33060

BOARD MEETING MAY 29

Some decisions made at the Board meeting are to improve communications by having four NEWSLETTERS a year. The Board is also planning to have two LIGHTHOUSE VISITS a year and two HISTORICAL MEETINGS at the Sands Hotel or other Pompano location. These meetings will include dessert and coffee, and historical speakers, plus an HLPS Lighthouse Art show. The Board also voted an appreciation plaque for Harry Cushing for 3 ½ years of dedicated service. The plaque is shown below.

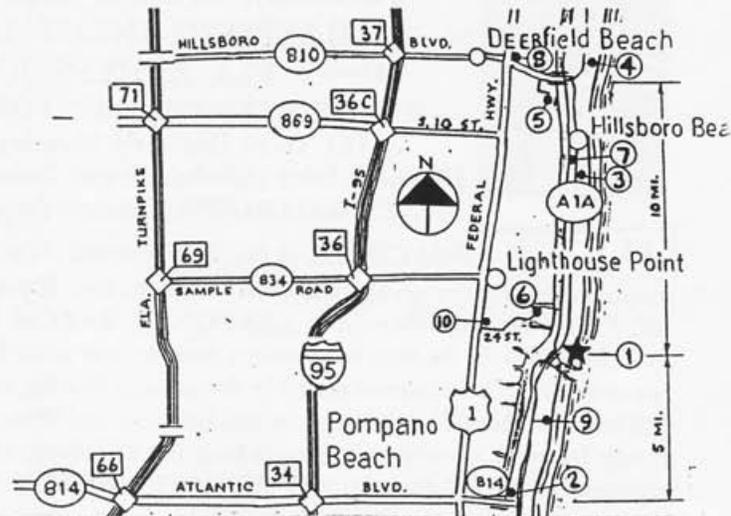


PLAQUE FOR HARRY CUSHING

**H.L.P.S. Members, welcome to the
FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE
ASSOCIATION'S QUARTERLY
MEETING, SATURDAY,
JULY 21, 2001
HILLSBORO INLET LIGHT AT
ROYAL FIESTA BALLROOM
1680 S. E. Third Court,
DEERFIELD BEACH, FL**

Phone = (954) 570-9422
Local Rep. Hib Casselberry, FLA/HLPS
E-mail = lighthouse-fl@usa.com
Phone = (954) 782-3313

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No. MAP LEGEND with KEY to LOCATIONS

PHONE (954)

1. **Hillsboro Lighthouse**, 901 Hillsboro Mile (SR. A1A) Hillsboro Beach, FL (Voice Mail Center) 781-1817
Do to construction near the lighthouse, there is no parking space, use the shuttle bus.
2. **Sands Harbor Hotel & Marina**, 125 N. Riverside Dr., Pompano Beach, FL 800-227-3353 or 942-9100
From US Hwy.1 & Atlantic Blvd. go East, cross bridge & turn Left (North), go 1 block on left.
3. **SeaBonat Beach Resort**, 1159 Hillsboro Mile (SR. A1A), Hillsboro Beach, FL 800-777-1961 or 427-2525
From US 1 & Hillsboro Blvd. go East, cross bridge to SR. A1A, turn Right (S) 2 miles to #1159, on left.
4. **Howard Johnson Plaza Resort**, 2096 N.E. Second St. (SR A1A), Deerfield, 800-426-0084 or 428-2850
From US 1 & Hillsboro Blvd. go East, cross bridge to SR. A1A, turn Left (N) 2 blocks & Right to beach.
5. **Royal Fiesta Ballroom & Caterers**, in The Cove 1680 SE 3rd Court, Deerfield Beach, FL 570-9422
From US 1 & Hillsboro Blvd. Go East, 2 stop lights, turn right (S) go to end then left to #1680 on right.
6. **Cap's Place Island Restaurant**, 2765 NE 28 Court, Lighthouse Point, FL 941-0418
From US 1 & Hillsboro Blvd. go South to Lighthouse Pt. NE 24 St., turn East, follow signs to Marina.
7. **Barefoot Mallman Monument**, City Hall, 1220 Hillsboro Mile, Hillsboro Beach, FL on the West side of A1A.
8. **Hillsboro Antique Mall**, 32,000 sqft. (250 dealers), 1025 E. Hillsboro Blvd., Deerfield Beach, 571-9988
9. **Beach Access to South Jetty**, N.E. 16 Street east of A1A, Pompano, walk north 3/4 mile to jetty, Photo-Op.
10. **My Own Cruising Journal**, Nautical-Art-Gifts, 2424 N. Federal Hwy. (US-1), Lighthouse Point, 785-7980

Invite your our-of-town friends & relatives to come & have good hotel rates for them.

Make your own reservations with hotel, ask for FLA special rate. Room Rates are Subject to 11% Tax

Sands Harbor Hotel & Marina, 125 N. Riverside Dr., Pompano Beach, 800-227-3353 or 942-9100
For FLA = 1 King or 2 Dbl.Beds, w/ view \$69. /night (single or double) 2 blocks distance to the ocean, shopping, boutiques, and the finest restaurants.

Howard Johnson Plaza Resort, 2096 N.E. Second St. (SR A1A), Deerfield, 800-426-0084 or 428-2850
For FLA = Cityview 2 Beds, Sg/Dbl. \$69.00 /night
Oceanfront 2 Beds, Sg/Dbl. \$85.00 /night

SeaBonat Beach Resort, 1159 Hillsboro Mile (SR. A1A), Hillsboro Beach, 800-777-1961 or 427-2525
For FLA = One Bedroom Apartments =
Oceanside = \$89.00 Oceanfront \$99.00 /night
Hotel Room = \$49.00 /night (all single or double)

Royal Fiesta Ballroom & Caterers, in Cove 1680 SE 3rd Court, Deerfield Beach, FL 570-9422
Complimentary Valet Parking
Save Florida's historic lighthouses, only 30 left.

Hotel reservations received after July 1, 2001 the FLA rate **MAY** not be applicable, check with hotel.

(OVER)

In 1996 the FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION was established and chartered by the State of Florida as a non-profit corporation to provide an avenue through which lighthouse owners and directors and lighthouse enthusiasts from the general public could work together to foster the preservation and interpretation of Florida's unique lighthouse heritage.

There are thirty coastal lighthouses still standing in the State of Florida, although several may be doomed to disappear in the near future. Although several Florida lighthouses have been saved by private, non-profit organizations, many of our time-worn beacons of hope are now much in need of hope themselves. Of the 30 lighthouses, six are open to the public, and five lighthouses with grounds open accessible only by car, while three others the grounds open accessible only by boat. Of the remaining 16 lighthouses closed to the public, several are in the process of being transferring the ownership to preservationist local groups and plans are to open them.

As of June 2001, for further information, contact the FLORIDA LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION, P.O. Box 340028, Tampa, Florida 33694-0028. Email FLA via lighthouse-fl@usa.com Phone for voice mail (813) 968-5640, leave your name, phone number, and leave a short message of your interest.

2001-6p6 (OVER)

