

BIG DIAMOND

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



Fourth Year of Publication

September 2002

DREDGING HILLSBORO INLET

The Hillsboro Inlet channel was established by the addition of a 400 foot jetty in 1964, and a 200 foot jetty on the Lighthouse side in 1966. The channel bottom rock was cut to allow our locally owned 100 ton dredge to maintain a normal channel eight feet deep. Drifting sand is dug from the channel and deposited on Pompano Beach. After heavy storms some channel areas get as shallow as four feet. Calm seas are needed to allow digging back to the eight foot depth. During this summer a much more powerful dredge was contracted to dig out the tough rock bottom down to a twenty foot depth. This will keep the channel more open even after bad storms. The 12,000 horsepower dredge is shown in the illustration. The dredged rock is loaded into barges and dumped 1.5 miles offshore



LIGHTHOUSE VISIT OCT 5

The next planned Lighthouse visit for Society members will be on October 5. The tour will start at the dock at the Sands Hotel. Directions: Drive east on Atlantic Boulevard in Pompano Beach. Drive over the Intracoastal Waterway bridge, and take a left turn at the first light. Park in the City parking lot, and walk across the street to the Sands Hotel. There will be a table on the dock for check-in. Those who are not members may join at that time.. Passengers then board the 40-passenger twin hulled catamaran AQUA VIEW for a pleasant trip up the Intracoastal to the Hillsboro Lighthouse dock. Coast Guard and HLPS guides will greet passengers at the dock, and take them to the Lighthouse, and the new Lighthouse Museum. HLPS is also hoping to rent one of the Keeper's Cottages from the Coast Guard for the day, allowing a tour of the inside.

The lighthouse may be climbed , all 175 steps to the Observation platform at the 100 foot level. The view is outstanding all the way from Port Everglades to Boca Raton Inlet

DAVE BUTLER, EDITOR

HILLSBORO'S EARLY KEEPERS

(First in a series)

Alfred Alexander Berghell began his duties as the lighthouse keeper of Florida's new Hillsboro Light on March 8, 1907. He came well qualified with experience at Pensacola Lighthouse in 1897 followed by transfers to the isolated American Shoal, Dry Tortugas, and Rebecca Shoal lights. He served at Hillsboro for four ½ years and we know little of his life there.

His early life would make a wonderful story of adventure, politics, and intrigue. Alfred's father was one of the most wealthy and influential men in Finland at the time of the boy's birth in 1865. Russia and Sweden fought many wars over the land of Finland and at that time, Russia was in command. As an equivalent of Lt. General of the northern half of the country, his father owned three homes: a large white stone house in the city of Wasa, a villa in the islands, and a country estate with many servants at each home. His first wife had been of nobility (perhaps Russian) and the second wife, Alfred's mother, was an 18 year old girl, daughter of a very wealthy and influential Lutheran minister.

The very young Alfred had a passion for the sea and dreamed of being a sea captain some day. When the young prince who would someday become Russia's last Czar (Nicholas II) would vacation with his family in Finland, Alfred was part of the young rowing crew to take the boy prince for recreational rides. Alfred's older half-sister and her husband owned a trading ship and 14 year old Alfred begged to take a journey to America with them. By this time his father had become financially ruined and had died. Alfred's mother

consented to the journey in hopes a life at sea would leave the boy's mind. Although he started out as a cabin passenger, he soon took his belongings to the hold and lived with the crew, doing the lowest of tasks on the ship. On returning home he was accepted at the Russian Naval Academy located in Finland and graduated at age 19 after passing all exams to be a captain in the Russian Navy. At the graduation ball, a Russian officer insulted a young lady with whom Alfred was dancing. The two young men left the dance for a duel. Alfred pinned the Russian officer down and ripped the Russian insignia off the Russian's uniform. Now the boy of 19 was in danger of arrest and a life in Siberia. His uncle, a senator, arranged a passport and he left the country before daybreak, never to return home.

In England, Alfred found work on ships as a Jr. Officer until he was old enough to be a Captain. He became part owner of a vessel and spent several years trading for pearls in the South Seas. He traveled around the world four times in his seafaring years. At age 30 he became gravely ill, spending over two years recuperating in hospitals and health resorts in Australia. He had become very hard of hearing due to the illness so had to give up his life as a sea captain. A friend suggested he go to America and enter the Lighthouse Service, which he did.

We wonder how often he thought about his youth when later he was stationed at the three remote locations - American Shoal, Dry Tortugas, and Rebecca Shoal?

Most of this information was taken from a letter his wife, Mary Gertrude, wrote to her mother, October 27, 1908 and an article from the "L.A. Times" written before 1939. --- More to come from Hib Casselberry's archives.

DONATIONS SINCE MAY 2002

THE TREE FUND IS GROWING.

A gift from the Garden Club of Pompano Beach

A gift from Kay McGinn of Pompano Beach

A gift from Valerie Grile of Pompano Beach in memory of Caroline Devine

The following gifts are all in memory of Michael Lauter: Marie Lendrum and Mr. & Mrs. Baraglia of Deerfield Beach, Ronald & Rebecca Bizick, Eugene & Sylvia Agler, and Dr. Doremus of Delray Beach Richard & Lucille Morris, The Volpe Family, The Agler Family, Mr. & Mrs. Schachleiter, The Henderson Family, The Parks Family, The Koch Family, The Nebenzahl Family, The Marangakis Family, The Cline Family, Mr. & Mrs. O'Neil, The Kuback Family, all of Boca Raton.

An additional donation to the **Drinking Fountain** has been given by Mr. & Mrs. George McCullar.

VOLUNTEERS SINCE MAY 2002

For the May 13th Media Only Tour:

U.S. Coast Guard, CWO Joe Cocking, & Group Miami crew, David & Lee Butler, Paul Bradley, Dr. Ray McAllister, & Hib Casselberry.

For the June 1st Boat Ride & Lighthouse Tour:

USCG, Miami MK2 Corey Baughman & crew, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Elizabeth Clark, Edward Duda, Bill & Donna Nickerson

At the Lighthouse: David & Lee Butler, Paul Bradley, Dr. Ray McAllister, Sheldon & David Voss, Marcia Norman, & Hib Casselberry.

Dan Dodge of the Hillsboro Club provided the ice tea, lemonade, cups, tables & chairs.

At the Sands Harbor Hotel Dock: Joyce Hager, Sue Sayre, Bill, Angela & Martha Casselberry Pat & Pete Anderson provided the Tee Shirt merchandise for sale.

Charles Seitz of the Sands Harbor, Inc. for the dock space, credit card service, & other services.

For the July 4th Parade at Lauderdale-By-The-Sea:

Art Makenian for his 9-foot Lighthouse model.

Dixie Clamp & Scaffolding for the pick-up truck.

Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea for display spaces for both the Lighthouse and display table & chairs.

Bill & Barbara Slager, Joyce Hager, Jack Burrie, Dr. Ray McAllister, & Hib Casselberry.

Artist Workshop at the Lighthouse - Aug. 21:

U.S. Coast Guard, Group Miami crew, Coast Guard Auxiliary man Bill Nickerson, David & Lee Butler & Hib Casselberry

Correction: In the last newsletter we inadvertently left the following names off the list of new & renewal members.

Conroy, Marilyn

Criscuolo, Frank & Claire

Esposito, Marc & Suzanne

Early, Pat

Moss, Dan

Peterson, Scott & Kathleen

Scavone, John & Meryl

Scott, Michael J.

Sunderlin, D. E.

Wilson, Ray & Sue

Winter, Frances

NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER

Adams, Johanna

Ahrens, Debbie

Amato, Jeanne

Anderson, Margaret

Angelico, Mr. & Mrs.

Arndt, Owen Duane

Arnold, Mary

Attis, Stephen E. & Catherine

Balser, Ben

Bardill, Joe & Deborah

Barr, John & Jody

Barrett, Ada

Bauer, James

Beckstrom, Stan & Dottie

Bedford, Dave & Barbara

Benson, Karen

Bierstock, Marc

Bilawski, Michele

Bizjack, Roy

Bondarenko, Henry &

Hermine

Boyd, Jeff

Brooks, Charlie & Ruthie

Brown, Arch

Camp, Marian

Campbell, J.R.

Carbonara, Amato

Carr, Phyllis

Cheffel, Alain

Christian, Teri

Cole, Janet

Cooper, Martin & Lorilyn

Cornillie, Henry & Kathy

Cowdrey, Bob & Dot

Craig, James & Bobbi

Croft, Richard

Cruz family

Curry, Charles E., Jr.

Davis, Billy G.

Davis, Charles

DeAngelus, Lori

Dennis, Jamie & Beryl

Diller, George

Dockery, Naomi

Eisele, Andy

Elliot, Frank & Becca

Epstein, John

Fox, Sharon

French, Mr. & Mrs. John

Friedrich, Jack

Friedrich, Jason

Fritz, Carole

Gallo, Dorothy

Garamone, James

Garcia, Mike & Carol Ann

Gelband, Mark & Roxane

Gilmore, Terri

Glinski, Robert

Goldstein, Amy

Golly, Timothy

Gove, Jim

Gray, Leila

Grile, Valerie

Gunning, James & Kathy

Gween family

Hager, Mike & Joyce

Hager Whitney & Mary

Halberstadt, Ellen

Harrington, John & Sandy

Haug, Tin

Hawk, L. Monique

Hearing, Dr. & Mrs. Scott

Hecker, Mr.

Hefti, Jack & June

Helf, Jim & Ann

Helfrich, Chris

Herrick, Robert & Leslie

Hildebrand, Chuck & Patty

Hillebrand, Carroll & Virginia

Hinman, John

Hohman, James & Audrey

Huff, Mr.

Hunziker, Donald P.

Jacobsen, Nils & Ronnie

Janis, Melodie

Jochimsen, Sharon

Johnson, Daniel & family

Johnson, Rosemary

Jones, Rob & Lynn

Katz, Paula

Kelly, Francis L.

Kerting, R.

Kingston, Dan & Susan

Kirbert, John & Ellen

Koerber, Art

Kornheiser, Gary & Sandy

Kramer, Brian & Robin

Kringel, Milton & Ann

Krug, Daniel & Michelle

Kukulski, Ron & Connie

Lahr, James & Linda

Lang, Irene Isler

Larson, Pete

Lee, David & Ruth

Lee, Leonard & Bonnie

Levitt, Roberta

Lewandowski, Leon & Margie

Ling, George

McAulay, Nancy

McCarthy, Jay & Barbara

McClain, George & Linda

McDonnell, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel

McGuirk, Stephen

McPhail, Tim

Middleton, Robert & Becky

Milano, Jennifer

Miller, Harold & Dorothy

Miller, Richard & Barbara

Moore, Paul & Carol

Morris, Darrell

Mott, Joe & Carol Ann

Murphy, Christine

Murphy, Odette

Neugebauer, Dani

Newell, Tim & Ellen

Niswonger, Dan & Judith

Nolan, Thomas

Noppinger, Kevin & Kirsten

O'Connell, Dan & Beverly

O'Connor, Thomas

O'Neal, Mary K.

Orth, Carla

Ostheim, Kenneth

Ostrander, George & Leah

Oyer, Harvey & Amy

Oyer, Harvey E.

Palmer, Nancy M.

Park, Dianne

Parrish, Don & Bonnie

Pasaron, Valentina

Pascoe, George & Jill

Perkins, Ronald

Pfarr, William & Carole

Putnam, Steven & Cathy

Radoy, Charles

Rajagopalan, Rajah & Noriko

Randolph, Carol

Rembish, Mike & Robin

Richard, Gloria

Richardson, Jon & Valerie

Robinson, Joe & Marie

Rodgers, Leah

Rodormer, George & Doris

Rogers, Gregory

Rudolph, Buddy

Salato, Frank

Salisbury, John & Doris Ann

Sanecki, Kim

Sanscrainte, Craig & Julie

Santos, Mickie

Sayre, Roland & Sue

Schmid, Jonathan

Schultze, Allison

Schuster, Diane

Schwab, Steven & Jodi

Shahan, Thomas & Karen

Shaver, Reynaldo & Jenny

Shaw, Diana

Sherven, Harold & Maria

Shiner, Adela

Shing, David & Diane

Ship, Andrew

Shropshire, Randy & Cathy

Slager, William & Barbara

Smith, Doug

Smith, Voncile

Steeves, Dottie

Stocking, Leanne

Strauss, Peggy

Sweigard, Duane & Michele

Tannenbaum, Virginia

Ting, Michelle Andrews

Tomlinson, John & Ellen

Tosch, Beverly

Ullery, Mary

Vaughan, Doris

Vetter, Jerry & Connie

Voss, Ken & Diane

Wachob, Katherine & family

Walker, R.

Watson, Mark & Julie

Webb, William A.

Weber, Judy

Weeks, Donald & Betty

Wein, Michele

Weiner, Anne Lee

White, Joanne & Ruth

White, Ronald B.

Wildberger, Wayne & Deborah

Wilder, Martha

Wilson, Jack

Wohlitka, Charles & Katrin

Wood, Linda

Woodcock, Terry & Jill

Wright, Robert & Lillian

Zadel, Ed

LIGHTHOUSE VISIT JUNE 1

The June 2002 Lighthouse visit for Lighthouse Society members was a great success. Many members attended and the HLPS volunteers assisted with the visit brought the number to 400. Old and new members gathered at the Sands Hotel for check-in, then boarded the 40-passenger twin hulled catamaran AQUA VIEW for a trip up the Intracoastal to the lighthouse dock. Dr Ray MacAllister narrated on the trip up, giving historical information and the procedures at the Lighthouse. Dr. Mac is shown narrating with HLPS President Hib Casselberry on the left in the illustration below.



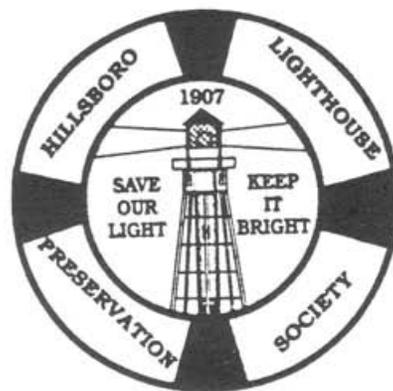
The boat is shown above approaching the dock. The visitors were assisted ashore by crew members, and then walked to the lighthouse where the Hillsboro Club had set up a table with free refreshments. The Coast Guard Auxiliary had two members at the bottom of the tower, and climbers were guided at the top by Philip Johnson USCG. The climbers were spaced so everyone has a chance to get a good view from the top. Visitors waiting to climb are shown below.



COAST GUARD AT LIGHTHOUSE

The Coast Guard provided guides at the Lighthouse. Elizabeth Clark of the Lighthouse Point USCG Auxiliary is shown on the left. MK2 Corey Baughman of the Seventh District (Miami) was the senior Officer for the Lighthouse visit, and is in the center. Edward Duda USCGA of the Lighthouse Point Flotilla is on the right.

Philip Johnson USCG was at the top of the tower explaining features to the visitors, The weather was perfect, and the views from the top were outstanding.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

After the tour of the Lighthouse there were refreshments provided by the Hillsboro Club, and an opportunity to tour the grounds and beach, and also visit the new Lighthouse Museum, established in the Lighthouse Keeper's Office.

There was a lot of yachting activity through the Inlet all day, and a breeze to cool the visitors. The lighthouse grounds are a very beautiful location. After a busy day, visitors streamed back down the dock to re-board the AQUA VIEW for the return trip to the Sands Hotel. Visitors returning to the boat are shown in the photo below.

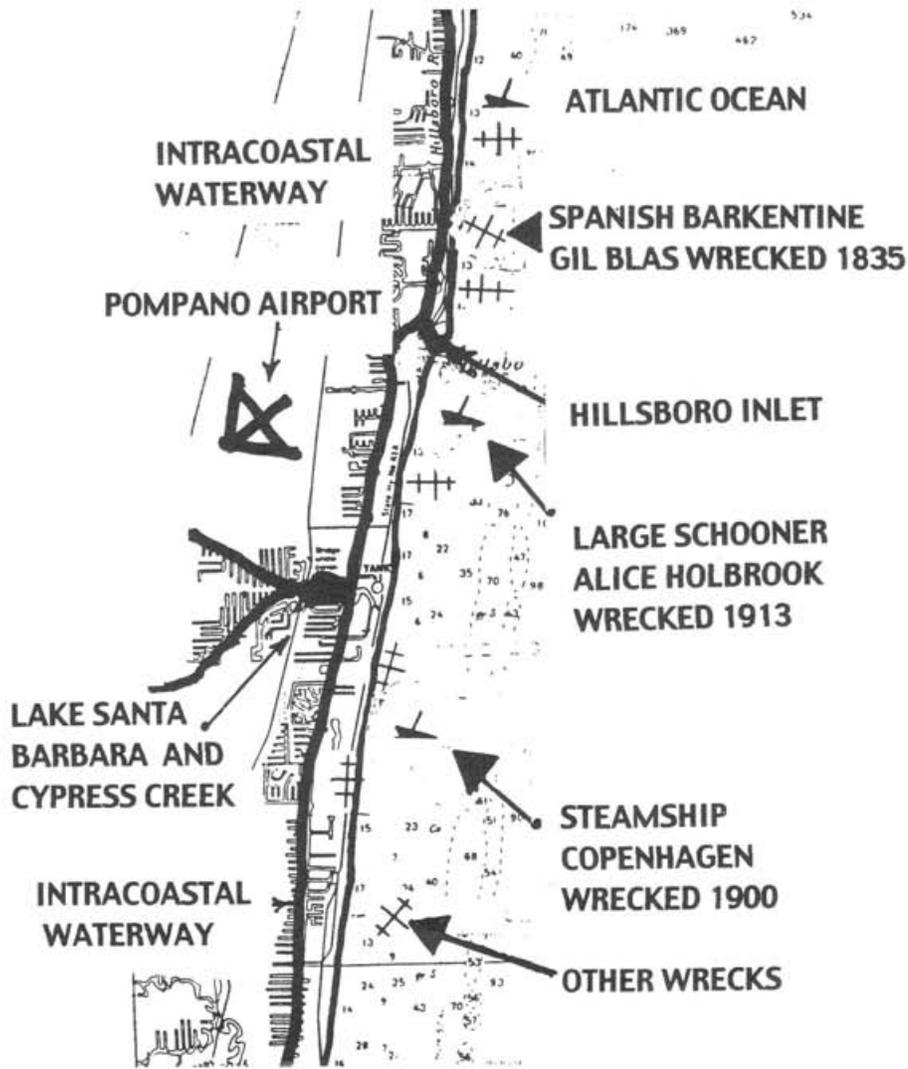


WRECKS CLOSE TO HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE

By Stephen Attis and Dave Butler

The South Florida coastline is littered with the wrecks of hundreds of ships. The area near Pompano was particularly dangerous, since there are three reefs off the shoreline. One reef is visible at low tide just south of the Hillsboro Inlet, and waves break on the reef at all times. One reef runs all the way from Pompano south to Fort Lauderdale. The Gulf Stream is a powerful current running close to the Pompano shore at close to 4 miles per hour. Sailing vessels had to run south inshore of the current. They just did not have enough speed to buck the Gulf Stream. Many ships got caught on the triple reefs near Pompano and many more on the treacherous shoals along the coast for 200 miles all the way to Key West. Some have been documented, and the work continues using "Magnetometers" followed by sand removal and research by SCUBA divers. HLPS Director Stephen Attis is one of the marine archaeologists regularly diving and mapping this area. HLPS Director Dr. Ray McAllister is another active diver in this research.

The map shows just a few of the wrecks closest to Hillsboro Lighthouse. The 1835 wreck "Gil Blas" is north of the Hillsboro Inlet. The four-masted schooner "Alice Holbrook" was a 1913 wreck loaded with cement. The "Copenhagen" was a nearly new steamship loaded with coal which wrecked in 1900 south of the Inlet



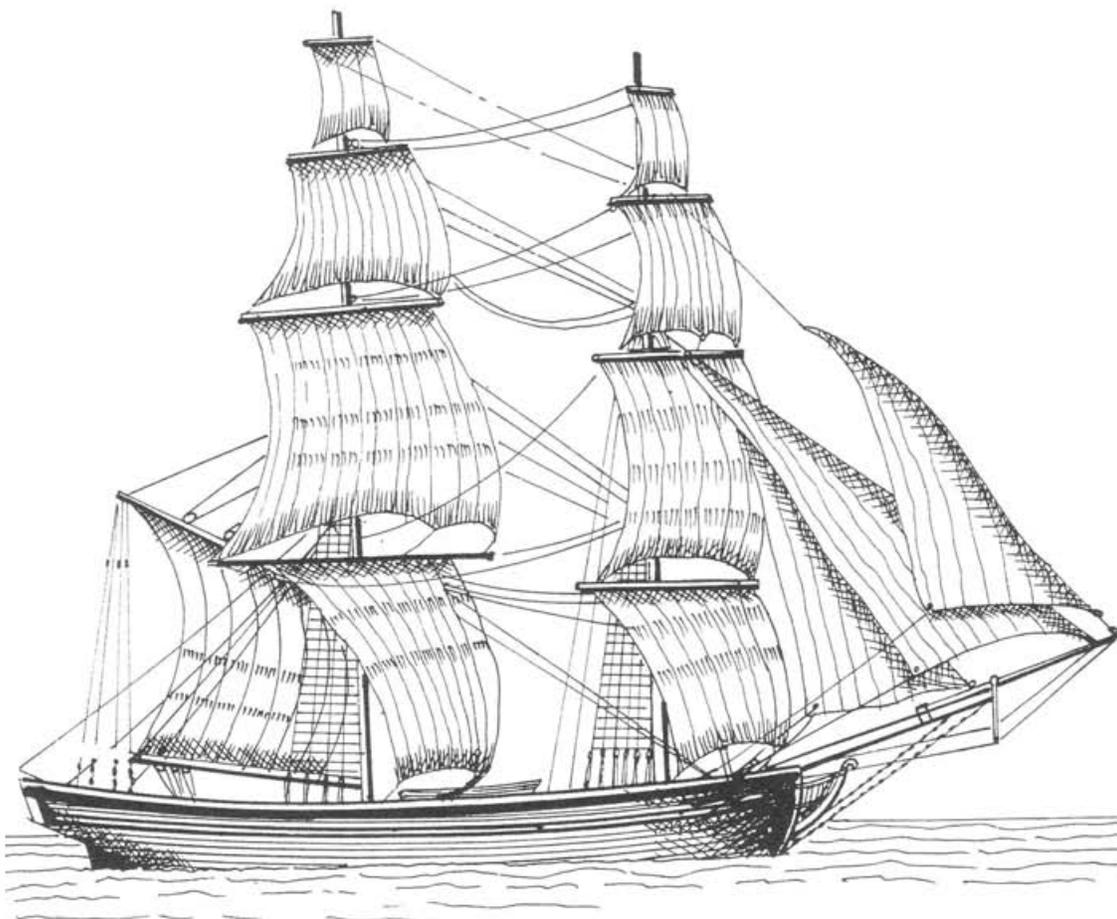
WRECK OF THE SPANISH BRIG "GIL BLAS"

In September 1835 a Spanish brigantine (two masted square rigged cargo ship) was driven ashore just north of Hillsboro Inlet by a terrible hurricane. It was a tragedy for all concerned. The "Gil Blas" was about 90 feet long, able to carry 200 tons of cargo. She was returning to Spain with a cargo of sugar and cigars from Cuba. It was nearly new, and well built with the bottom sheathed with expensive copper plates. The ship was a typical small commercial vessel of the early nineteenth century. As the ship was driven ashore an anchor was thrown overboard offshore, and the hull was not badly damaged. Salvage operations were started using all the available manpower in Fort

Lauderdale.

Operations were under the direction of William Cooley, who brought men up the coast from the New River settlement for the work. As the cargo of cigars and sugar were unloaded they were moved to warehouses along the New River. With the primitive equipment available this took some time, and on January 6, 1836, in the middle of the Second Seminole War

SPANISH SHIP "GIL BLAS" LEAVING CUBA



the Indians attacked the Fort Lauderdale settlement, and killed Cooley's wife and children. The other settlers fled to the Key Biscayne Lighthouse. The wreck was clearly visible on the beach, and there was concern that the lead ballast might be salvaged by the Indians and used for ammunition. An American Navy team was sent to burn the ship to the water line. Then it lay abandoned. Spanish coins and other early nineteenth century materials have been brought up.. Dr. McAllister reports that a wooden hull is pretty well destroyed after 165 years in the warm Florida waters, and solid documentation of this wreck is difficult.

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H.L.P.S. ART AND PHOTO SHOW has been postponed until January 2003 giving you another chance to work on your entry at the October 5 Tour.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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History: Butler, Casselberry, D. Nickerson

Parade Help: Hager, B & B Slager, Burrie

Grants: Jack Burrie, Paul Bradley

YOUR PRESIDENT'S CORNER

There have been a lot of activities going on at the lighthouse and the inlet. From the top of the tower the results of the dredging to deepen and straighten the channel are now visible. HLPS has a GIFT SHOP on our Website, www.HillsboroLighthouse.org Thanks to Joyce Hager Suzanne Trudeau (webmaster) and Charles Seitz at Sands Harbor, Inc. Check out HLPS website including the Gift Shop and the other pages..

One of our top priorities has been setting up the mini-museum and providing pictures, artwork, and lighthouse memorabilia for display. Dave Butler has made a model of a Fresnel Lens and has offered to have it on display. We hope to obtain a used 1,000 watt bulb for display. It is the source of light that goes through our lens. CWO Steve Craddock may find one by Oct. 5th. We will be adding artwork and other display items as we progress.

HLPS officers have been meeting with the Coast Guard liaison group from Miami. The 2003 dates for tours have been requested and we are waiting for the Coast Guard's reply before publishing the dates.

We welcome to HLPS Bill & Donna Nickerson, both C.G. Auxiliary people. In addition to working around the lighthouse station, Donna has started a Memory Book on Hillsboro Lighthouse including clippings from newspapers, magazines, photocopy of book chapters, and other papers. I will be feeding copies of my collection to her. I hope others will do the same.

The "Barefoot Mailman" statue may be coming to our lighthouse station.

We need VOLUNTEERS for tasks; News Media Coordinator and more help on the Art & Photography Committee. If you are interested in becoming a "Lighthouse Docent", please contact Hib Casselberry, 954-942-2102. Of the 400 who took the June 1st tour, 175 were new members.