



Official Newsletter of  
Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society

# Big Diamond

VOL. 12 No. 1

[www.HillsboroLighthouse.org](http://www.HillsboroLighthouse.org)

January - February 2009

## NEXT TWO LIGHTHOUSE TOURS



On Saturdays, January 24th and March 21st , PS volunteers, Coast Guard and local Coast Guard Auxiliary members will welcome you to the Hillsboro Lighthouse Station via our chartered 49 passenger shuttle boat. Come yourselves and invite friends and neighbors to join our Society that day at tables set up at the north dock of Sands Harbor Hotel on the Intracoastal Waterway at 125 N. Riverside Drive directly across the street from the Pompano Beach City Parking Lot where your car should be parked. There is a parking fee of \$1.00 an hour (estimate 3 hours for the tour, more if bringing a picnic lunch). A one year membership is \$25.00 for an individual, \$35.00 for a family or \$50.00 for an organization or business. These memberships allow you to attend any tours or activities for a full 12 month's year with no additional fees except for any meals or very special activities.

After checking in at the dock, you will receive a wrist band and wait for the chartered boat that will shuttle to and

from the Light Station beginning at 9:00 A.M. with the last trip to the Lighthouse approximately between 2:45 and 3:00 P.M. The Station closes at about 4:30 P.M. and all remaining guests will return to the Sands Harbor Hotel at that time.

The highlight of your tour will be climbing the Lighthouse stairs to enjoy the 360 degree spectacular views. The original Barefoot Mailman Statue is on the property and you can talk to a modern barefoot mailman who will retell the original story. Some members in orange colored vests can answer questions you may have and others will retell stories about their parents or grandparents who were children living at the Lighthouse during the 1920s and 30s. Our on-line gift shop manager, Joyce Hager, will have our sale items available to you throughout the day at the West Gazebo, close to the boat dock. Checks or cash only.



### Newest Member to HLPS Board of Directors is Barry J. Dockswell

Barry Dockswell, also known as "Doc" to his friends, was born in New York City in 1946. He graduated from Johns Hopkins University - BA, English in 1969. For over 30 years he held various software development, management, staff, and marketing positions and had the good fortune to be able to retire at a young age.

Barry is married to Robbie and they have a home along the beach within sight of the Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse. They have three sons and three grandsons.

Barry spends his time volunteering in many forms of community service, including Pompano Beach CRA Advisory Committee, several Pompano Beach vendor selection committees, Pompano Beach Rotary Club, Rebuilding Together Broward County, Leadership Broward, and Hillsboro Shores Improvement Association. He is the writer of the "Dockswell Dispatch" column for the local weekly newspaper, the Pompano Pelican, and is an advisor to Linqware, a private software development company.

Barry is presently Pompano Beach City Commissioner for District 1. Hobbies include reading, writing, sports, and music. As the new Board Member of HLPS we welcome him and know his experience in the past will bring good public relations to our organization.

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER DEC. 2008

Greetings from the helm. This year is almost behind us and a new holiday season is here. In retrospect 2008 will go down in our log as a good and productive year for our Lighthouse. Visibly the tower looks better without the tall pine trees, a brand new boat dock on the waterside, a new east side beach gazebo, but most of all the presence of a new Manager in charge for the Lighthouse Station and the cottages, Mrs. Patricia Pruett. With her efforts, the Station is starting to look much better.

We will make every effort to sail through the New Year with an ambitious 6 tours scheduled, one every other month starting in January. These tours will be offered not only to the members but also to the general public. The pleasant boat ride from the Sands Hotel to the new boat dock at the lighthouse is still a favorite



*Robbie & Barry Dockswell*

### HLPS OFFICERS & BOARD

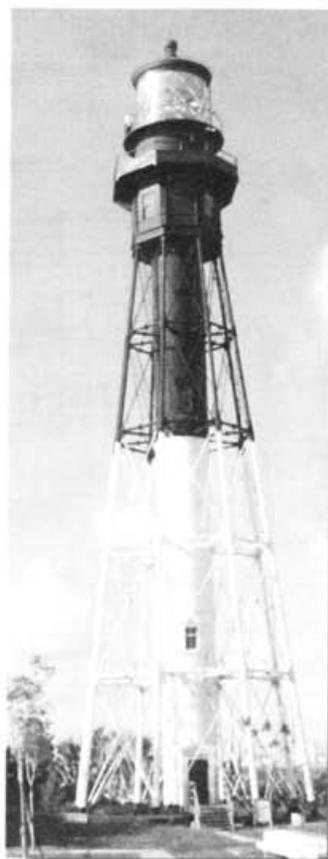
President:	Arthur A. Makenian
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Director:	Dr. Ray McAllister, Maritime
Director:	Barry J. Dockswell, Media/P.R.
Council:	Edward J. Chandler, Esq.

with the visitors and members.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Volunteers of HLPS, we wish you a prosperous, secure, healthy and happy New Year.

Art Makenian

# Lighthouse Tour Photos



Lighthouse Tour Photos by Dave Noderer.

## What Oil Company Provided Oil to USLHS?

I was once one of the most well known and one of the largest oil companies in the United States. For many years my company's distinctive logo appeared on all crates of kerosene shipped to the United States Light House Service for use in lighting the lamps for the lenses in nearly all U. S. lighthouses. What was the name of my company? Answer: Texas Oil Company, later known as Texaco. Many of you will recall the old commercials "Trust your car to the man who wears the star." Congratulations to Betsy Genger of Michigan whose name was randomly selected from among the correct answers.

## A NEW LOOK AT OUR LIGHTHOUSE'S EARLY DAYS

Written by Bud Garner, Pompano Beach Official Historian, after visiting with Zora Isler Saxon,  
a child of early Hillsboro Lighthouse history, 1920-1939.

Reams of copy have been written about the Hillsboro Lighthouse. There have been books, films, movies, articles, paintings and just about any kind of story told about the lighthouse you might want to hear. Some of them are true and some of them are, well, just what they are called, stories.

The lighthouse was erected in the year 1906 making her a grand old lady of 102 years and carrying her age extremely well. The site for the lighthouse was chosen at the Hillsboro Inlet for several reasons, including the distance from the lighthouse at Jupiter Inlet to the north and the lighthouse at Cape Florida to the south. Ships coming from the Bahamas and missing the Jupiter light could find their direction from the Hillsboro light. There are dangerous reefs in this area and ships needed light to help them safely by. The Gulf Stream is very close to the beach and southbound ships had to come close to shore at the inlet to miss the strong northbound current of that stream.

The first Hillsboro Keeper appointed in the year 1907 was Alfred A. Berghell. He was replaced in 1911 by Thomas Knight who was a third generation lighthouse keeper. There were two Assistant Keepers as it required three to maintain the light from one hour before dusk to one hour after sunrise. While two men worked, one man could get a full night's rest.

The kerosene lamp that powered the light had to burn clean and the huge lens had to be rotated uniformly. This was accomplished by a weight hanging in the tube that went through the watch room and connected to a steel drum and gears to the lens housing that floated on mercury. When it reached the bottom a keeper would insert a crank and wind it up again.

The Hillsboro light is situated on one of the most scenic spots imaginable. Not only does it border on the inlet, which has a history that will never be completely and accurately told, but it sits on the Atlantic Ocean and stands tall and majestic, looking out upon land and sea and being seen as a silent sentinel defying time and tide.

It is here in the year 1920, Zora Isler arrived at the tender age of four with her family and spent 15 years of her life living at the lighthouse until she married Ovid Saxon in 1935. Zora remembered how it looked when she first arrived at the isolated lighthouse with thick vegetation around the site. Her mother and father, J.B. Isler and Mary Louise, lived at and helped operate the lighthouse for nearly twenty years until the US Coast Guard took over the operation in 1939 from the jurisdiction of the Dept. Of Commerce. The family included sister, Irene and brother, Beck. Sister Ruth and brother George both were later born at the lighthouse.

Life at the lighthouse was an adventure in itself, Zora told me. For many of her years there, no bridge crossed the inlet and they had to travel to Deerfield by boat up the East Coast Canal to Sweats grocery store once a week for personal supplies. Lighthouse supplies were delivered by ship once or twice a year from Charleston, SC and smaller boats traveling the East Coast Canal. The families raised many of their vegetables and some meat was provided by hunting deer in the woods around the inlet. Occasionally, Indians would come by boat and trade with them.

The nearby Hillsboro Club was built around 1925 when Herbert Malcolm bought the land for seventy five cents an acre. His brother, Dan,

7th Dist. Photos

Hillsboro Inlet Lt. Sta  
1907-



cleared and made a sand road from the Club property to Deerfield. This made travel a little easier. The club was originally a school for boys. Keeper Knight's son, Burnham, ran a fishing boat out of Hillsboro Inlet and Mr. Malcolm would charter the boat for his students.

The government would furnish a place for school and a teacher if there were at least nine children living in any isolated place. One of the buildings was set aside for a school and Lola, the wife of Capt. Knight, was one of the teachers. Zora also had an aunt who came down from Vero to live with them and teach until the bridge was built across the inlet. After that the children caught the school bus at the bridge and attended school in Pompano which gave them access to more activities.

Zora said they were never bored. They fished in the inlet, swam, dug clams, hunted turtles, shelled, sunbathed and at times just lay around on the beach watching the birds and fish. More exciting, when water hyacinths were flushed out of the glades by high water, the children would count rattlesnakes floating on them.

An occasional gator would be spotted swimming in the inlet. Their days were anything but dull! One of the highlights occurred whenever a ship passed offshore. The children would make a mad dash for the flagpole, and when the ship sounded its whistle, they would "dip" the flag in salute.

Conditions at the lighthouse were just about par with most of Pompano during this time. There was no electricity or running water. Rain was caught and stored in cisterns. A pitcher pump was used to bring the water to the kitchen sink, and naturally, there were no indoor toilets. Baths, other than swimming in the ocean or inlet, were taken in the house in front of the stove in a wash tub. These facilities, or lack of them, were a part of life and not too much thought was



given to the inconvenience. For the first several years Zora lived at the lighthouse, Cap Knight had a barge pulled up on the spit of land on the south side of the inlet between the ocean and Wahoo Bay. He operated his bar there, finally moving it to the location on "Cap's Island" in the spot it rests today in the Intracoastal Waterway. Some say that same barge lays under the restaurant's foundation. People would camp on this finger of land or just come over from Pompano to picnic, swim, fish and dig clams.

More conveniences came and the big one was electricity.

Kerosene would no longer be needed to produce the light for the lens. Only two keepers would be needed to operate the station as some of the physical effort was eliminated. Captain Benjamin Stone was now Principal Keeper and J.B. Isler his assistant. The third Keeper Cottage was moved to the Hillsboro Club. In 1926 a hurricane washed away the boat dock and removed much sand from the base of the lighthouse. To remedy this, the government sent large granite boulders to the site by offshore barges that Zora and her brothers and sisters called "The Toonerville Trolley". These boulders are still in place on the ocean side of the lighthouse today, having weathered many hurricanes including the one of September 21, 1947. This storm blew the anemometer off the top of the lighthouse after it registered winds of 155 miles per hour.

Zora Isler Saxon was a pioneer in the truest sense of the word. She lived in a time and place that many people today cannot comprehend, and those who do can only envy. It seems incredible that during her lifetime Pompano and the Hillsboro Lighthouse could have changed so much from the setting she so ably described.

## Please Patronize HLPS Business Members

Businesses have joined at the business/corporate/company level of membership in the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society, Inc. We thank them for their generous support of HLPS and the projects that we have. Please patronize their business.

- \***Atlantic Rehabilitation, Inc.** 5026-B North Federal Hwy, Lighthouse Point, FL 33064 Phone 954- 426-8884
- \***Ben & Jeannie Ellis, CRS, Real Estate Brokers**, Mail Address: P.O. Box 2103, Pompano Beach, 33061 (954) 401-6471 www.WaterfrontHomesAndLiving.com E-mail: WaterfrontHomes@bellsouth.net
- \***Beacon Images, Photographs by Von Staden**, Nichalas & Sandy Von Staden of Pompano Beach, Phones: (954) 696-09918 & (954) 401-0932, E-mail: nvonstuden@comcast.net
- \***Black Rhino Hurricane Shutters & Impact Glass** 432 S. Military Trail, Deerfield Beach, FL 33442 (954) 734-4411, www.BlackRinoShutters.com E-mail: Makenian@BlackRinoShutters.com
- \***Computer Ways, Inc.**, Dave Noderer, CEO, 10 Fairway Dr, Suite 133, Deerfield Beach, FL 33441 Phone: 954- 418-9799 Web: www.computerways.com E-mail: daven@computerways.com
- \***Doc's Plumbing, Inc.** 1058 NE 43 Court, Oakland Park, FL 33334 Ph: 954- 566-1100, www.docsplumbing.com
- \***Golden Passport Photos, Inc.**, Joe Suggs, 1891 West Oakland Park Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311 Ph.: 954- 739-5190
- \***Helen S Fishing Fleet** Skip Dana, 2705 North Riverside Dr., Pompano Beach, FL 33062. Ph. 954-941-3209, E-mail: Skiplisa@bellsouth.net
- \***James Balboni Maritime Photography, Inc.**, 2809 NE First Ave., Wilton Manors, FL 33334 Ph. 954-5403500 E-mail: JB@James Balboni.com
- \***JenCo Plumbing Services**, Wayne Jenkins, 901 E. Sample Rd., Pompano Beach, (954)788-2802 E-mail: JencoPlumbing@bellsouth.net
- \***Lighthouse Yachts**, Attn. M. Glenn Curran, 2400 E. Commercial Blvd., #206, Ft. Lauderdale (954) 727-2204 E-mail: MgCurran@LighthouseYachts.com
- \***Lighthouse Insurance**, Attn. Wm. Roger Grissinger, 2731 NE 8 Ct., Pompano Beach (954) 786-1640 Richard L. Niebling E-mail:
- \***Martin Kidwell, CPA**, 950 N. Federal Hwy.#211, Pompano Beach, FL 33062 Ph.: 954-784-0090 E-mail: Marty@Kidwellcpa.com
- \***Pompano Waterway Development, Inc.**, Richard L. Niebling, 2629 N. Riverside Dr., Pompano Beach, FL 33062 Office/FAX: 954- 943-9738 Cell: 866-678-5997 E-Mail: NieblingRichard@gmail.com
- \***Palm Tree Doctor**, William & Linda Giles, 430 S. Dixie Hwy W. Pompano (954) 946-3600 E-mail: Linda@Palmtreeedr.com
- \***William A. Webb & Associates, CPA** 404 E. Atlantic Blvd., Pompano (954)782-5250 E-mail: Bill@webbcpa.com
- \***DAR, Lighthouse Point Chapter**, Debbie Duay, Regent. Lighthouse Point, FL
- \***Girl Scout Troop #142**, Kathleen Shweky, leader, Pembroke Pines, FL
- \***Girl Scout Troop #823**, Jeanne Menke, leader, Coral Springs, FL

## Help Needed ...

Please join the "HLPS Writers Team", or volunteer as a News Release coordinator (distribute to newspapers, TV & radio), File Clerk (to file business papers in HLPS cabinet), Membership Recruiter, Volunteer Coordinator, School Coordinator for educational programs (History & Social Studies), Additional Tour Guides and Check-in table helpers.

## NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS SINCE H.L.P.S.'s Sept. '08 NEWSLETTER

Chinger, Larry	Eaton, Les	Kullmann, Barbara	Rudolph, Buddy
Atlantic Rehabilitation *	Eisele, Dr. Andrew	Latham, Marion & Terry	Russeck, Jeanne
Bailey, Patrick	Ettz, Thomas & Gloria Ford	Lecklikner, James & Valerie	Ruttger, Sally
Barr, John & Jody	Fecteau, Paul & Patricia	Lelekacs, Tricia	Saathoff, Bob & Barbara
Becker, John	Feldman, Jerry A.	Lippincott, John & Mary Jane	Sampogna, Vito & Eleanor
Bender, Janet	Feltus, Ruth	Lovell, Raymond & Judy	Sanecki, Kim
Bernasky, Mary	Furey, Tina	Mager, Malcolm	Sharkey, Bill & Rita
Birch, Michael	Garrison, Al & Marina	Majewski, Patricia	Simpson, David
Bowen, Bill	Gibson, Don & Arlene	Manny, David & Cecilia	Skirdlant, Ronald
Boyco, Shann	Girl Scout Troop #142 *	Martini, Fran	Snider, Margaret/ S. Roberts
Boyd, Jeff	Golly, Timothy	McBride, Nancy	Stallings, Johnny & Nina
Braga, Vanessa	Gonzalez, Ana	McCall, Barbara	Stanich, Judi
Brewer, Cal & Lucy	Graffeo, Dan & Sharon	McClosky, Gregg & Mindy	Steptoe, Peggy
Brooks family	Graham, Jeff & Elaine	McNamara family	Stinson, Jackie
Buchner, James K. Jr.	Golden Passport Photos *	Middleton, Robert & Becky	Stremlo, Gail & R. Cistrelli
Buntrock, Mr. & Mrs. Marvin	Golon, Jesse & Marnie	Miller, Susie	Tilton, Donna
Cheney, Dianna/ B.J. Dressler	Greenfest, Michael & Kim	Mills, Ellen	Tiritilli, Joseph & Didi
Ciucevich, Julie	Grossman, Jerry & Ada	Moccia, Ralph & Roberta	Tisdale, Mary K.
Clark, Brian & Deanne	Hager, Mary	Morris, Robert & Denise	Tonietto, Norma
Claud, Jane	Hamilton, Phil & Susanne	Mott, Joe & Carol	Tyler, Scott & Barbara
Cogan, Kenneth & Allyce	Hansen, Mike & Anya	Mulka, Mike & Frances	Villa, Harvey & Alyce
Colbert, Marsha	Helen S Fishing Fleet *	Murphy, Odette	Vivenzio, Thomas & Joyce
Comeau, Norm & Jeri	Hertner, Thomas & Claudette	Norman, Graham & Marcia	Waskom, Michael
Condra, Gary G.	Hohman, James & Audrey	Norton, Elaine	Webb, Wm. & Associates *
Cooper, Lawrence & Penny	Houck, R. David	Peck, Linda	Wentworth, Jeff & Stephanie
Corsello, Dr. Lily	Howard, Mary Louise	Perrelli, Rosemarie	Weyenberg, Matt & Erin
Coyle, Tania	Howard, Ted Jr.	Petrillo, Kellie	White, Joanne & Ruth
Craig, James & Bobbie	James Balboni Maritime	Piccicuto, Barrie	Wilder, Martha
DAR, Lighthouse Point	Photography *	Porter, Jeff	Wilson, Frank
Chapter *	Jenco Plumbing Service Inc.*	Redd, Carol H.	Wilson, Max & Elizabeth
Dailey, Jack & Beth	Johnson, Dale & Marian	Rettstadt, Rich	Winchell, Larry & Eileen
Davis, James E.	Kaehler, Jackie	Richter, Marcelina	Wolf, Robert & Barbara
de la Aguilera, Enrique	Kaposi, Theresa	Robinson, Peggy	Wolven, Alison & Frank
& Barbara	Keating, Bill & Sharon	Rodormer, George & Doris	Albritton
Dekiel, Stan	Kingsley, David	Rodriguez, Ana	Youngblood, Brian & Gilda
Dixon, Maurice	Kiriloff, Bill & Michele	Rogers, David & Bernice	
Doc's Plumbing *	Kirbert, John & Ellen	Rowins, Joyce & Harry	* = Business Membership
Eaton, Daniel	Knapp, Sara	Rowley, Charles & Mary	** = LIFE MEMBERS
		Alice	

**DONATION, MONETARY since Sept. 2008 Newsletter:** From Mary Lou Howard

**THANK YOU, VOLUNTEER HELPERS** Since Sept. 2008 Newsletter.

**Newsletter Layout and Editing:** Hib & Martha Casselberry & Art Makenian **Publisher:** Minuteman Press of Ft. Lauderdale. Thanks to Bud Garner, Art Makenian and the 3 photographers noted in this edition.

**Newsletter Mailing October:** Hib & Martha Casselberry, Laurie Kunkel and Kim Zeman.

**HLPS new Brochures Editing:** Jack Burrie, Hib & Martha Casselberry, Art Makenian & Ray McAllister.

**Duplication of the HLPS DVD Video and Design of its Cover:** Mike Spear.

**October 25th Lighthouse Tour: PUBLICITY from Forum Group, Pompano Pelican & Sun-Sentinel.**

**Sands Harbor Hotel** provided use of their dock, tables, chairs & umbrellas . **HLPS Workers at Sands Harbor**

**Hotel dock:** Jeanne Amato, Martha Casselberry & Lori Kunkel. **At the Lighthouse:** Tables & chairs provided by

USCG Station Manager, Patricia Pruett. **Coast Guard Auxiliary:** Liz Clark, Helene Hauge, & Jane Mueller (Flotilla

7), Scott Cleary (Flotilla 3-4) and Barbara Dombroski, Dan Graffeo & Bob Weisman (Flotilla 3-1) **HLPS Workers**

**at Lighthouse:** Jack Burrie, Hib Casselberry, Linda Giles, Joyce & Mike Hager, Dan Graffeo, Dave Noderer, Art

Makenian, Terry O'Connell & Bill Slager, **Atlantic Blvd. Holiday Parade:** Jack Burrie, Joyce Hager & Art Makenian

with his 9 ft. tall Lighthouse and photographer David Shing. **HLPS Webmaster:** Doug Matthes

