

BIG DIAMOND

HILLSBORO
LIGHTHOUSE
PRESERVATION
SOCIETY

2020

Volume 23, Number 1

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RECENT TOUR

LIGHTHOUSE HISTORY—RALPH KRUGLER

We have quite a bit of historical information on the lighthouse, keepers, families, etc. we're never done collecting more. While I'm not a fan of social media, I use it for research and ignore the bickering. It really is quite amazing how many locals have vintage family photographs of the area. These snapshots of time have provided us with details on our history, shrunk timelines on changes, and challenged our own once thought "facts" which have since been changed.

(Pic 1950)

An example of this comes in this 1950 Eastern Illustrating & Publishing Co. picture postcard. A cursory glance and you might think, "Yup, it's the lighthouse" and move on. However, when you look closer



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The mission of the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society is to promote the history of the Hillsboro Inlet Light Station and the Hillsboro Inlet area through preservation of structures and artifacts, education and public access tours.

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2020 HILLSBORO LIGHT STATION TOUR / EVENT SCHEDULE (CHECK WEBSITE FOR CHANGES)

03/07/2020 - (Sat) - Sands Dock 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00

03/13/2020 - (Fri) - 113th Lighthouse Gala 06:00—11:00 on lighthouse grounds

04/11/2020 - (Sat) - Sands Dock 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00

05/09/2020 - (Sat) - Sands Dock 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00

06/13/2020 - (Sat) - Sands Dock 8:30, 09:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30

07/12/2020 - (Sun) - Sands Dock 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00

08/08/2020 - (Sat) - Alsdorf Park 8:30, 09:15, 10:00, 10:45, 11:30

09/12/2020 - (Sat) - Sands Dock 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00

10/10/2020 - (Sat) - Sands Dock 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00

11/15/2020 - (Sun) - Sands Dock 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00

12/12/2020 - (Sat) - Sands Dock 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00

HILLSBORO LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM IS ENLIGHTENING TOURIST AND LOCALS!

Our newly remodeled Museum is located at Hillsboro Inlet Park, A1A, 2700 N. Ocean Boulevard, Pompano Beach. We are open daily except Monday and Wednesday from 11 to 3. We are also open during Tour days from 10 to 3. If needed on a closed day you may contact Annie at 954-226-3566.

We are very proud of our volunteers who enable the extended days open. Linda Peck, Cindy and Molly Malaney, Barbara Branigan, Kathy Santini, Pam Wunderlich, Brenda Guffey, Betsy Slagle, and Sheldon Voss. Should you take a liking to our Museum and want to be part of our fantastic volunteers, give Annie a call or write to museum@hillsborolighthouse.org

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE (CONT)

LIGHTHOUSE HISTORY (CONT)

(Continued from page 1)

it reveals details that, well let's be honest, most people just don't care about. To us though, details are critical to telling our story accurately and preserving history.

Look closely at the northern side of the base of the tower. What's missing, besides the sea grape? The answer is the original entryway catwalk. We weren't certain when it was removed, as it doesn't appear in the USCG Keepers Logs. With previously available photos, an assumption was made that the walk had been removed closer to 1960. While this isn't an earth-shattering detail, it is nice to be able to tell our visitors that our entryway has been restored. Plus, with the generous donation of the historically accurate railings by the Skyline Steel Co (Davis family), they now match our historical photos that show them. *(insert group pic)*

Next, look up the tower. Again on the northern face another object appears that hasn't been spotted on many other photos. If you see the border where the white and black paint meet, projecting off the leg is a flagpole. When this was attached and removed will remain uncertain without more help, but we know for sure that it was there in 1950.

(Pic after 5.20.1918)

Another flagpole appears on the tower in this 1920's photo, but this time it's on the eastern side. Again we don't know the exact date, but little details narrow it down. For example, the smoke stack on the tower was removed on May 20, 1918, which doesn't appear here. Look off the northern part of the tower and you'll see a triangular United States Light House Service pennant. The U.S.H.L.S. came to an end on July 1, 1939 when the USCG was given control over all US lighthouses. There are more details in there that lead us to believe this photo was taken in the late 1920's, but you get the point.

We collect photos in a variety of ways. Besides family donations, one place I like to look for pictures is on eBay. Just recently a postcard came up that caught my attention. While we already have the image *(1910's)* I always look at the reverse side for information. On a post card occasionally a copyright year will appear, which unfortunately this one does not. Fortunately, there are enough details to label this as an early (1907-1912) range.

(Continued on page 5)

LIGHTHOUSE HISTORY (CONT)

(Continued from page 4)

You can always hope that it was a circulated card, and the sender included some valuable information. When the card first appeared, the message side was blank. This kept showing (the seller was asking \$40), so I ignored it for well over a couple of months.

Then for an unknown reason one morning, I clicked the ad while on my phone. This time the message side had writing, but the odd thing was the advertisement had 3 images. The poster stated the post card was from 1912, which fell into the range we had. The first image was the front of the post card. Advancing on, the second image had uninteresting information where the sender was asking if the recipient was experienced ill health and some other statements. So why was there a 3rd image? Advancing, another message side appeared, but this time it had a gold mine scrawled upon it. The script was fading in places and difficult to read on a small phone, but the gist of the message was, "This is the lighthouse where I work. You can't really see the cottages we're provided well, but they are very nice. You really need to come for a visit... Clifton." Now the signature wasn't perfectly clear, but it was good enough to disqualify other Keepers from the time period. This was a jaw dropping moment!

While it's uncertain why the seller had this listed as 1912, if this truly was written by whom I thought. The signature would place the card as having been sent by 1st Assistant Clifton Harry Lopez who served from March 6, 1909 to September 7, 1909. So, 1912 would be a bit late, but it is more difficult to accurately date things than you might think – copyrights/reprints/etc.

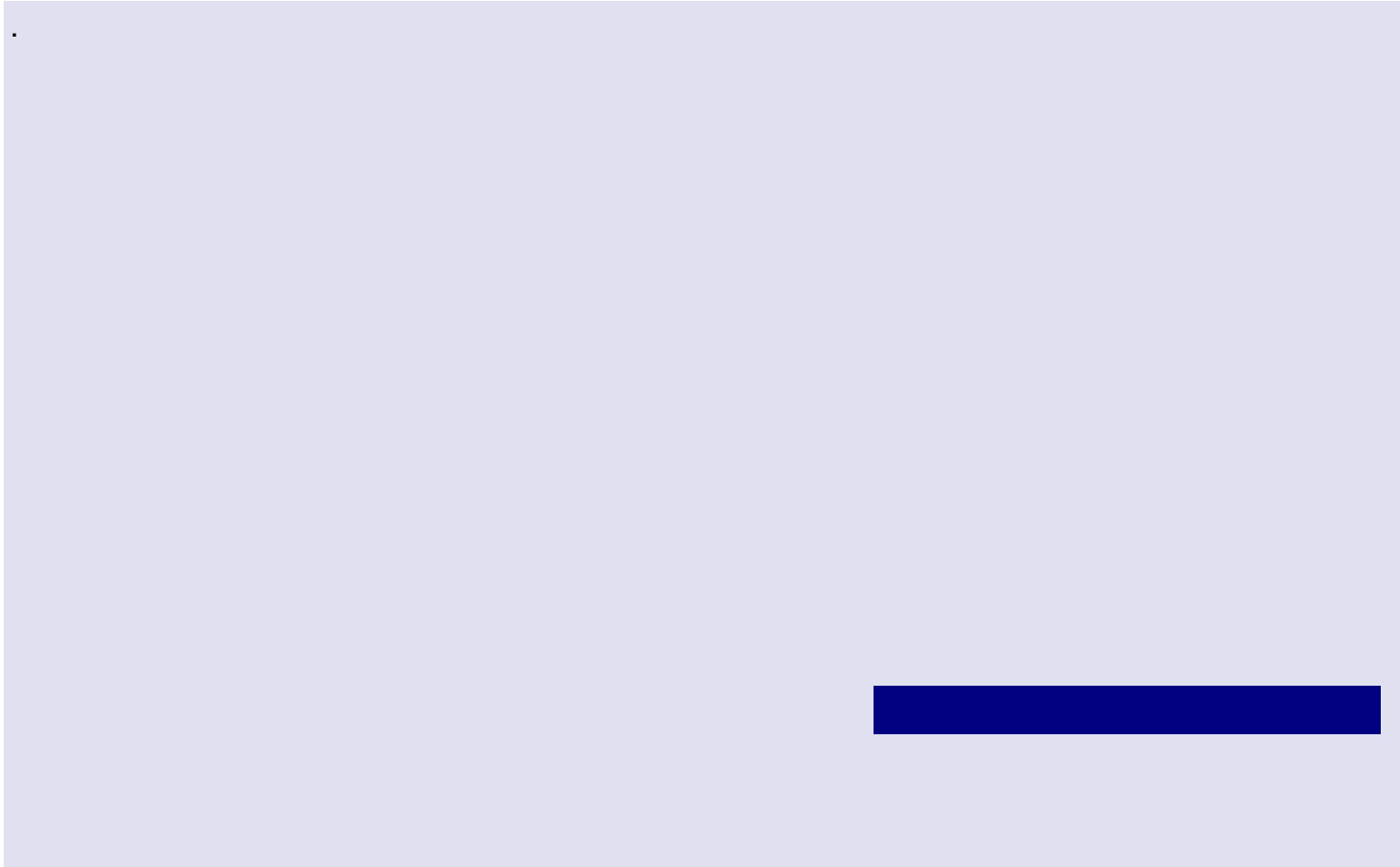
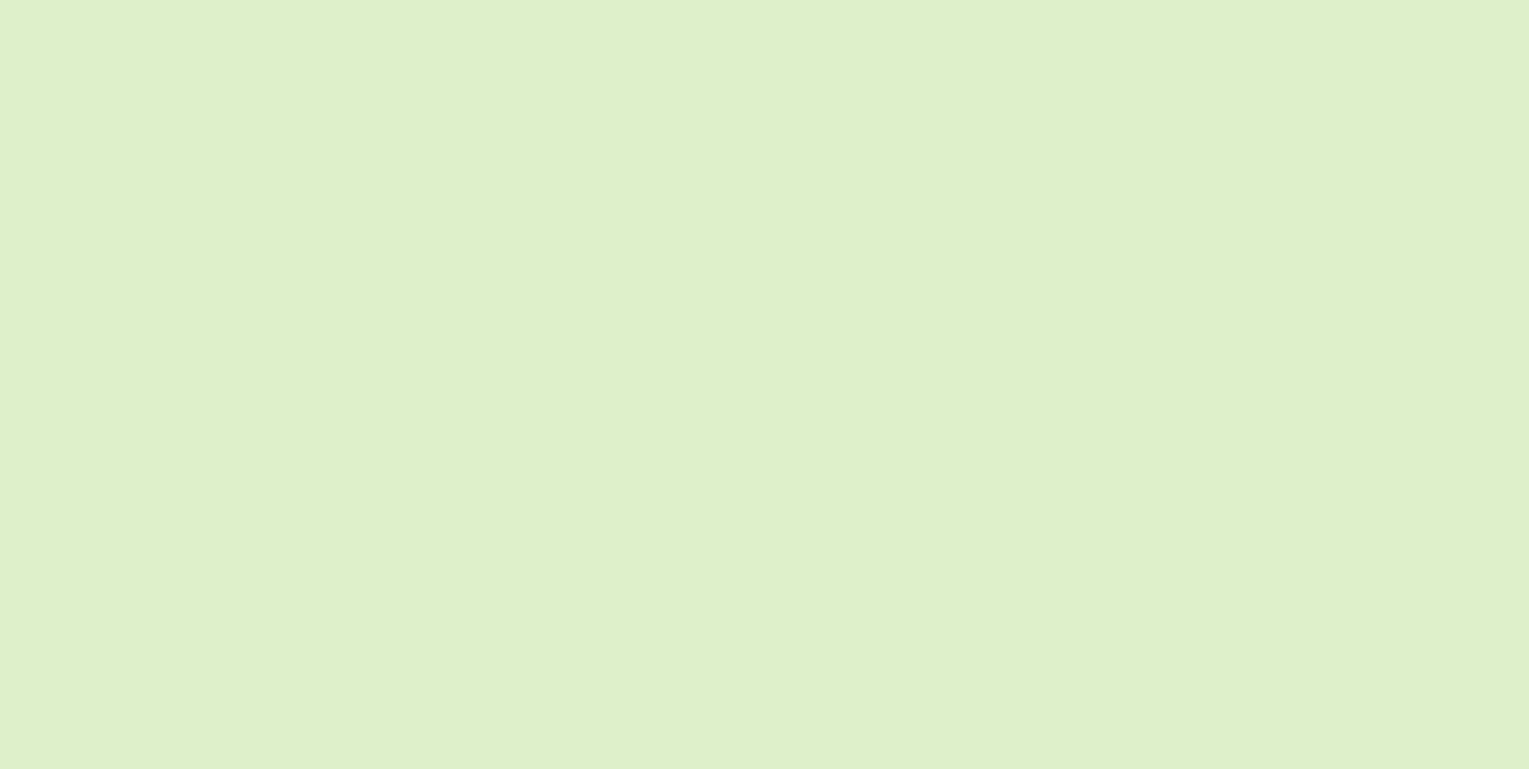
A little about the potential sender; Lopez was the oldest of four children, born Christmas Day 1887, and was 22 years old when he arrived at Hillsboro. He was transferred from Rebecca Shoal lighthouse, an off shore light that used to sit off Key West, close to the Dry Tortugas. His family resided on Key West and his brother ventured up to Hillsboro in August to have a fun family get-together. On August 25, Head Keeper Alfred Berghell (another Rebecca Shoal alumni) had taken his family to Palm Beach to visit the dentist. During his absence the Lopez brothers had, well let's say a bit of a spat. How bad did the argument get? Enough for Clifton to get his gun and take 3 shots at his sibling. The details on where (in the cottage or outside) and why still remain a mystery, but what is known is that Berghell was none too pleased upon his return. Berghell demanded that the brother leave immediately and Lopez complied. Clifton then asked permission to accompany his brother back to Key West, to which Berghell agreed. In short order the brothers departed taking Henry Flagler's train south before boarding a ship to complete the journey. Shortly thereafter, Berghell received a letter from Clifton stating he was resigning, and asked that his personal belongings be sent to him. Normally, this would end one's career in the Light House Service, however, Clifton managed to obtain a position back at Rebecca Shoal in 1911 and continued to have a full career in the Service.

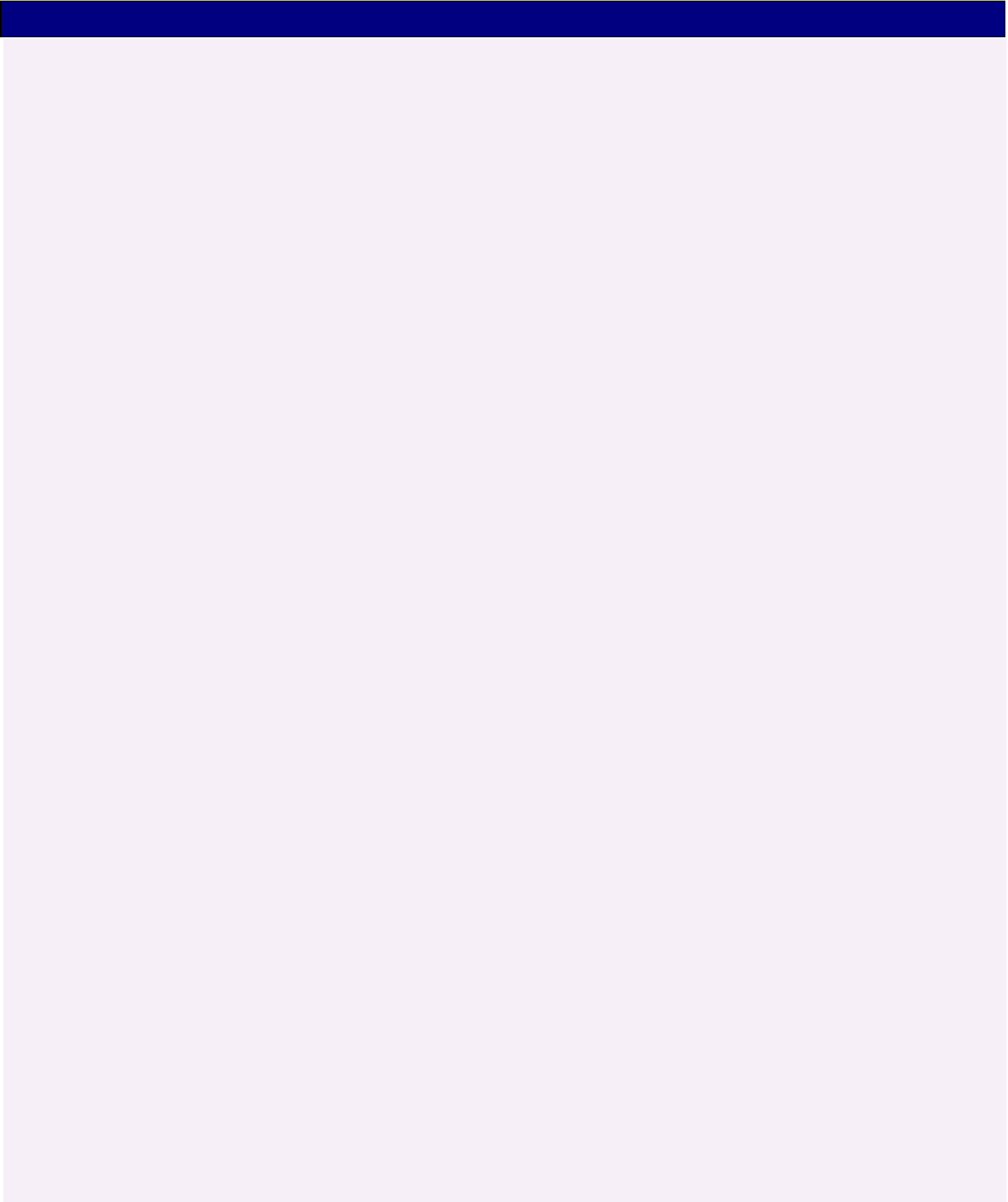
Knowing this background, I reached out to the seller explaining the who/what/why we would like this card. Hours passed before a reply came, but it wasn't the response for which I was hoping. Instead this person stated, "Sorry, this was a mistake. That card was sold 2 weeks ago." OK, so the seller had 3 copies of this post card; sold the unused 1st, then sold the 2nd (the gold mine) and now was on the 3rd. I replied that while it would have been great to have the actual card, obviously that was not possible. What was possible was to get a copy of the image of the hand written message. Obviously it exists; it was posted earlier, now deleted, but

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Join today to help preserve our lighthouse's heritage and receive these benefits: Join online: <http://hillsborolighthouse.org/join-us>

- A subscription to our newsletter "The Big Diamond"
- Free admission to all tours, programs, and lectures for the membership period
- Timely updates to events related to the lighthouse

Membership rates:

Individual	\$35.00 / year	Business (non-profit)	\$125.00 / year
Family (of 4)	\$50.00 / year	Business (for profit)	\$150.00 / year
Family (of 6)	\$75.00 / year	Lifetime \$500.00 or more. Lifetime is a one-time fee	

DONATIONS JANUARY 2020 TO PRESENT

In honor of Hib Casselberry: David Bean, Al King

To the MUSEUM: Pompano Proud, Hillsboro Shores Improvement Association Inc.

Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society: Pompano Beach Historical Society, Pompano High School 50th Reunion, City of Pompano Beach, City of Hillsboro Beach, City of Lauderdale By The Sea, George & Doris Rodormer

SUPPORT THE LIGHTHOUSE WITH A CLICK! - JENNIFER BURNS

Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society has partnered with AmazonSmile. When you shop on **smile.amazon.com** and select Hillsboro Lighthouse as the organization you'd like to support, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% (five cents on ten dollars) of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization you select. You pay the same price for items purchased on **smile.amazon.com** as you do for purchases made on Amazon.com. Your purchases can add up! Orders only generate donations if they are placed at **smile.amazon.com** and meet eligibility requirements. Not all items are eligible for AmazonSmile donations, but many are. Here's how:

- Go to **smile.amazon.com**
- Log in using your Amazon.com email address and password
- When prompted to select an organization type **Hillsboro Lighthouse** click the Search button.
- Click the yellow Select button to the right of the Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society Inc. listing.

For more information about the AmazonSmile program, go to <http://smile.amazon.com/about>.

LIGHTHOUSE LINKS

- Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society: HillsboroLighthouse.org
- Memorial Bricks: <http://www.hillsborolighthouse.org/memorial-bricks>
- Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society Store: HillsboroLighthouse.org/store
- Florida Lighthouse Association: FloridaLighthouses.org
- Florida Keys Reef Lights Foundation: ReefLights.org
- Florida Trust for Historic Preservation: FloridaTrust.org
- National Trust for Historic Preservation: PreservationNation.org

BOARD MEETING

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