BOYNTON’S HISTORY THROUGH PICTURES

Two members of the Boynton Beach Historical Society, Janet DeVries and Randy Gill, using Powerpoint will discuss two projects they have been working on together at our March 13 meeting. Many of you have already seen the product of the first of these projects, the Arcadia book *Images of America: Boynton Beach*, which was published last year. The new project entails using another set of pictures, this time post-cards of the area around Boynton Beach which Janet and Randy are currently collecting. They will describe how they selected the pictures included in the first book and what the focus of the second book will be. The proceeds from the sale of both these products helps support the 1913 Schoolhouse Children’s Museum.

WHAT: Janet DeVries and Randy Gill
Discussion and Powerpoint Presentation
WHERE: Boynton Beach City Library
DATE: Monday, March 13, 2006
TIME: 6:30 p.m.

All programs of the Boynton Beach Historical Society are OPEN and FREE to the General Public. For more information call Voncile Smith at 561-734-5653.

A RECOLLECTION OF EARLY SCHOOL

[The February issue of *The Historian* included an excerpt from a brief history of Boynton Beach that Lillian Voss Oyer wrote in 1969 in which she described the foods of her girlhood. This excerpt describes the school situation.]

“The families were not here long before they decided they needed a school. The first teacher in Boynton was Miss Maud Gee. The school opened with so few pupils that little Glenn Murray of tender years was enrolled to make the required number. He says he didn’t learn anything because he proved so distracting he was sent outside to play. [Ed.note: Glenn Murray was 3 years old at the time.]

“I did not attend school here. I rode my bicycle to a little school in the north end of Lantana. When I first recall Boynton School it was a small wooden building just west of Boynton Elementary. I knew it then because the infrequent Church services were held there.

“In September of 1911, the first high school pupils of Boynton entered the high school in West Palm Beach, the only high school in Palm Beach County. It was a concrete block building at the west end of Hibiscus Avenue. All classes from kindergarten [sic] to twelfth grade were in the one building. Professor I.I. Himes was the principal. All grades except kindergarten [sic] went to the auditorium every morning for Chapel. There was group singing, scripture reading by Professor Himes, and the Lord’s Prayer. Our scripture was the First Psalm and 13 chapter of First Corinthians. My recollection is he read one or the other. After4 four years of Chapel I came out knowing both by memory.

“The actual getting to high school presented a problem. Mrs. Charles Harper helped make plans and went with us to enroll. We went by train every morning at 7:00.
Currently the Historical Society has neither a telephone nor a website. Inquiries may be directed to the Historical Society President Voncile Smith at 561-734-5653 or smithvm@bellsouth.net

[RECOLLECTION . . . continued from page 1] The first pupils from Boynton were Ella Harper who entered as a sophomore in 10th grade, Theresa Hilliard, Vera Funk, Hazel Daugharty (Mrs. Andrew Houston), Charles Pierce. They were joined in Hypoluxo by Louise and Howard Dimick, Freda Voss, and Clara Anderson in Lantana.

Howard and Charlie rode motorcycles. All the girls went on the train. We were met at the station in West Palm Beach by a horse drawn conveyance driven by a sandy haired woman. Away we clattered clear across West Palm Beach. In the afternoon we were driven back to get the afternoon train. The second year the School Board hired Frank Tenbrook of Delray to take us in his large seven passenger automobile. By the third year there were so many pupils two trips were necessary.

That third year of 1914 Ella Harper graduated. The first person from Boynton to finish high school in the county. I wrote in my diary about this as I was one of the juniors.

From my diary – June 6 – 1914:

School closed yesterday and I was exempt in everything. We juniors decorated the state all purple and gold. There were eight seniors –

Glady’s Evelyn
Minnie Ella Harper
Jack Raymond
Lloyd Stockton Bryant

There was a big fuss about Raymond and Jack. Mr. Lewis made them graduate but Whitney (Himes) will graduate with us next year. My but they all looked just lovely and the program was splendid. The boys all wore white duck trousers, white shoes and socks, and black coats. The girls all wore white lace, satin and chiffon. They all looked so nice we Juniors stopped hugging and congratulating the Seniors and told each other that we would be there next year. Just think! I am a Senior.

“Our fourth year the School Board bought a seven passenger Buick. It was driven by Charlie Pierce and Arthur Murray, one of the brothers of Glenn Murray of the first school here. Arthur had joined the group of pupils from Boynton a year before. Charles Pierce, the first boy born in Boynton, was the second student from Boynton to graduate from the county high school, in 1915.”

OFFICERS AND BOARD TO BE ELECTED

The Bylaws require that Officers and other Board members of the Historical Society be elected in March. All the officers are elected annually. Directors and Trustees each serve three-year staggered terms, so two Directors and two Trustees are subject to election this year. If you are interested in serving in one of the positions or in nominating someone to serve, please contact Harvey Oyer at 561-732-8344 (H) or 561-732-9305 Ex. 204 (O) or call Nainie Weems Weaver at 561-736-5722.

GONE, GONE, GONE!

The south side of East Ocean Avenue as it looked in the 1960s. All the buildings in the two blocks from SE 2nd Avenue to Ocean Avenue along Federal Highway have been razed to make room for a ten-story high rise and shops and condominiums.

Signs still visible in the picture show Jack’s Camera Center and the Boynton Hotel. Barely showing on the right hand side beyond the hotel is the old Masonic Hall and beyond that the frame building that was the first home to the Boynton Woman’s Club. The Woman’s Club building, more recently referred to as the Bean Building after the Bean family ownership, was condemned and torn town by the City of Boynton Beach about three years ago despite some work that Bob Katz had done in hopes of converting it into a restaurant..
BOYNTON'S CHURCHES: HISTORIC ROLES OFTEN OVERLOOKED

In 2005, your editor was asked to chair a committee for the 1st United Methodist Church of Boynton Beach charged with writing a history to celebrate the 100 year history of the church. I was astounded to discover that little material was in the archives of the local historical societies or in the city about the churches. I presume most of the churches have some historic material within their records, and indeed I was sent some for the Historical Society by some of the 1st Baptist Church members. I have also a little on St. John Missionary Baptist Church.

The 100 Year Methodist History should be available about April 1st. A goal I have stated on several occasions is to try to build more information in the Historical Society’s holdings about all the churches in Boynton Beach.

The article on the right was copied from the May 22, 1963 issue of The Boynton Beach Star. It marks a major milestone in the presence of the Presbyterians in Boynton Beach. They had been organized in the 1920s, but with the land boom bust and the Great Depression, they disbanded and many of their members began attending other churches. Several joined what was then the 1st Methodist Church of Boynton. The Methodists built their first building in 1908, and for many years had the only church in the majority population. The Baptists erected their first building in 1925. All the churches have been major social forces within the community. Before the advent of TV and multiplex movie houses, the church was the major source for socialization and recreation. Community leaders were usually active participants within their churches. Ava Weaver taught many of us in elementary school. She was my fourth grade teacher. Mrs. Weaver, who had been one of the displaced Presbyterian, taught Sunday School at the Methodist Church. At the time she taught me, just before World War II, reciting the Lord’s Prayer and daily Bible readings were part of each school’s opening exercises. Mrs. Weaver carried her Sunday School lessons over into the public school classroom. We were rewarded with gold stars on a wall mounted poster board when we could successfully recite from memory the names of both Old and New Testament Books of the Bible, Psalms 1, 23, and 100, and the Christmas passage from Luke.

First Presbyterian Breaks Ground

A dream will begin to come true this Sunday at 10 a.m. for over 300 residents of Boynton Beach as groundbreaking ceremonies are held at the First Presbyterian Church. To be constructed immediately is the First Presbyterian Church. It will be constructed immediately and be the permanent sanctuary, which will be the third unit erected by the congregation, organized in April, 1956.

The sanctuary, designed by Gustav Maass of Palm Beach is a conservative contemporary design and will seat 400 people with additional overflow space for 160 more. R.A. Hathaway and Associates, Inc., will construct the church edifice, which will be built at an approximate cost of $85,000. The church is to be fully air-conditioned and heated. The pastor, the Rev. Earl C. Downey, reports that completion is expected for about October 1.

Mrs. Ida Daughtry, the eldest member of the congregation and one of Boynton Beach’s oldest residents, is scheduled to turn the first shovel of earth at the 10 a.m. groundbreaking. Vice-mayor Allison Banks will be on hand to bring greetings from the city, while the Rev. Fred Sliger, president of the Boynton Beach Ministerial Association, will represent the ministers. East Florida Presbytery will bring greetings through its moderator, the Rev. Thomas Harrington of Lecanto.

The public is cordially invited to attend groundbreaking ceremonies and the morning worship service which follows at 10:30.

[VIRGINIA FARACE RETIRES AS CITY LIBRARY DIRECTOR

The Boynton Beach Historical Society congratulates a long time supporter and friend upon her completion of 35 years of service to the City of Boynton Beach as the Director of the City Library.

Virginia has also served for many years as a Trustee for the Historical Society. As some of you may know, the Library houses many of the records and artifacts belonging to the Society, and Virginia has been most gracious in supporting the efforts of the Society to archive them.

Over the years she has received many honors, but we have worked closely with her in her role in helping to establish and support the Schoolhouse Children’s Museum which is administered as a nonprofit organization under the Cultural Center, Inc.

As a City property, the Museum has required City oversight to function, and Virginia has worn the hat of that overseer most effectively.

Before the current City Library was constructed, the Historical Society was instrumental in helping to establish the Library, and has always had Library support for use of meeting rooms and storage of historic records.

We hope that we can continue to have a similar pleasant and beneficial relationship with the new Director.

Virginia has indicated that she expects to continue to be active in the Historical Society and in Boynton events in general.

We salute Virginia and thank her for her many years of service to the City and to the Historical Society.

Page 3
BOYNTON WAS A SMALL TOWN, SO HISTORIC NAMES RECUR OFTEN

The article below was published in the *News Journal* almost exactly 30 years ago on Thursday, March 18, 1976. Many of the people named appear in other stories included in this issue of *The Historian*. The Ida Daugharty House at 405 East Ocean Avenue is currently owned by Bob Katz who began remodeling it several years ago in hopes of attracting a restaurant as a tenant. At present it is empty and boarded up, but the colorful painting of the trim reflects a departure from what the original owners envisioned.

Mrs. Ida Daugharty was another of the displaced Presbyterians mentioned in other stories. In the 1920s she, too, went to the First Methodist Church of Boynton. According to a story by Harvey Oyer, in the 1960s when the new Presbyterian was under construction, Ida Daugharty collected cuttings and rooted them with plans to help landscape to new church. When the plants were ready for planting, she called Homer Shelton, a sometimes landscaper, and asked him to set them out at the church. When she did not see the plantings in the ground around the church, she called Homer to ask where they were. Homer reportedly responded, "Aren't you a Methodist? That's where I planted them." Homer, who seldom went to church, occasionally attended First Methodist and had seen her there during some of his rare visits in years past. Ida left the plantings where they were, and made a new supply for the Presbyterians.

Pioneer days recalled

**Farewell party to honor the Houston**

By NANCY MILLER
Women’s Editor

A “going away” party will honor Mrs. and Mrs. Andrew Noel Houston, known to their many friends as Andy and Hazel, from 3 to 5 p.m. on Monday, March 22, at the Boynton Woman’s Club.

Mrs. Houston, the former Hazel Pakenham, is daughter of the late Ida and Jesse Daugharty, Boynton pioneers who moved to the town in 1903 from Deland, Fla. Since her husband’s retirement in 1963, the Houston family lived in the family home at 405 E. Ocean Ave. Other early settlers in Boynton are expected to be at the reception on Monday to say their farewell as the Houston plan to move to Terra Cotta Gardens in Lakeland, where they will live in a cottage on an orange grove on lake.

“When my father wanted a house, the builder was H.B. Murray, who, with his family, came to Boynton in 1905,” Mrs. Houston recalls. “Mr. Murray arrived to supervise construction of the Boynton Hotel on the beach for Major Nathan S. Boynton, for whom the town was named.”

Mrs. Houston attended Boynton’s one-room schoolhouse on Ocean Avenue at the current site of the Boynton Elementary School.

“In 1911, Mrs. Charles T. Harper, a Wellesley graduate, lived here, and for us to go to Palm Beach High School, she remembers, “At that time it was the only accredited high school in the county. We went up on the 7:30 a.m. train and came home on the ‘short’ that ran afternoons from West Palm Beach to Miami.”

During her second year of high school, she says that Mr. Tynbrood of Delray contracted to transport the train by car. The following year the county purchased a seven-passenger automobile which Charles Pakenham drove until he graduated in 1915. After that, other senior boys served as chauffeur.

“At that time the highway was a narrow white rock road—a series of potholes after heavy rains,” she says. “During my high school years the first test strip of macadam was laid just south of West Palm Beach. It covered only a few hundred feet but we thought it was like riding on velvet.”

Mrs. Houston, with a mind full of memories, observes that “it’s hard to watch how it was in the old days, as ‘the area has changed so much.’ When her family moved to Boynton, it was part of Dade County. Her parents operated a store and grew tomatoes, as did many of the other pioneers. Deer were a common sight, as well as other wildlife. Jesse Daugharty planted the first orange grove in Boynton called the Flat Woods Road by Military Trail.

Mrs. Houston graduated from high school in 1918, after which, she attended Stetson University.

“Mrs. Charles Harper, the one who worked out our arrangements for high school so we could go to college, organized the Boynton Woman’s Club, she notes. ‘My mother was a charter member.’

She adds that her cousin, Mrs. Bertha Williams Chadwell of Boynton, is the only charter member of the Boynton Woman’s Club now living in Boynton.

Of the 11 who were in their class at Palm Beach High School, nine went on to college and one went to Europe to study voice, later with the Metropolitan Opera Company in New York.

After her graduation from Stetson, Mrs. Houston taught home economics and ran the cafeteria at the Boynton School. On moving to Miami to work, she met her husband, Andy; they were married in her parents home in Boynton in 1924.

Through many trips from where they lived in Coral Gables, to Boynton, both have firsthand knowledge of eras like the Florida “boom,” the Depression and World War II. For a while Andy served as the Coral Gables commissioners and he retired in 1965 from his partnership in the Houston-Hurst Paint Company, the Houston transferred his interest in civic affairs in Boynton.

Mrs. Jesse Daugharty, Mrs. Houston’s mother, was one of the founders of the First Presbyterian Church of Boynton, where the Houston are members. The Houston are charter members of the Boynton Beach Historical Society. Their other pursuits include work with the Genealogical Society and the Jonathan Dickinson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Jesse Daugharty died in 1935; Ida Daugharty lived in the family home until 1964 when she died at the age of 88. Both are buried in the old Boynton Cemetery on Seacrest Boulevard. When the Houstons move, new residents at 405 E. Ocean Ave, will be Mrs. Helen Pressley, Jesse Daugharty’s granddaughter, and her husband, John, and Miss Lucile Maul, also a granddaughter. The home is to be willed to the Pressleys’ son, Dr. Milton Pressley, a professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. On the occasion of a family holiday reunion this past Christmas, five generations had known shelter in the Boynton residences.

Hostesses for Monday’s party at the women’s club will be Mrs. Herbert Keatts, Mrs. L.S. Chadwell, Mrs. A.H. White, Mrs. E.A. Alexander, Mrs. Dorothy Stevens, Mrs. Atley Scott, Mrs. Romante McCall, Mrs. Charles Stewart, Mrs. Norman Merkle, Mrs. C. Howard Hood, Mrs. Edgar Carpenter, Miss Lucile Maul and Mrs. John G. Pressley.

A longtime friend has written the Houstons: “I love to think of you folks leaving that home in Boynton . . . I can’t explain it, but I’ve always had a great love for Boynton as it was in 1910, 1911 and 1912. Of course those days are gone forever. Just the same, wasn’t it wonderful — no cars, everyone walked or rode a bicycle.”

Agreed, Mrs. Houston adds— ”And everyone in town knew each other.”
PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

The Board of Directors at its February, 2006 meeting recommended that the following amendments to the Bylaws of the Boynton Beach Historical Society be adopted. Because the Bylaws are nearly five single-spaced typewritten pages, the full contents are not included in this newsletter. If a member in good standing would like to have a full copy please call Voncile at 561-734-5653 and she will mail you one. The changes to Article IV are presented first because they indicate why the changes are necessary to Article II. We will vote on these proposed changes during the March meeting.

Current text is listed followed by proposed wording in boldface italics.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

Section 1: The Society shall have six regular meetings per year, one each in the months of July, September, November, January, March, and May.

Section 2: The regular meeting held in the month of May shall be the Annual Meeting.

Proposed changes

Section 1: The Society shall meet regularly at least six times a year at a time and place designated by the Board of Directors, except that the Society must meet in the month of April for the Annual Meeting.

Delete old Section 2 since it would be contained in Section 1. Change numbering of old Sections 3 and 4 to read as new Section 2 and Section 3.

ARTICLE II: OFFICERS

Section 2: At the regular November meeting, a Nominating Committee of five members shall be appointed by the President. Three will be Board members and two will be from the general membership. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate a candidate for each office that is to be filled at the annual meeting in March. The Nominating Committee shall report to the membership at the regular meeting in January. Before the election at the annual meeting in March, additional nominations from the floor shall be permitted.

Section 3: If more than one candidate per office, or if by a majority request of the members present, the election will be by ballot. Otherwise election will be by voice vote, one office at a time; or the entire slate can be elected by acclamation on a two-thirds vote of those present and voting. Terms of office except the Trustees and Directors will be one year or until their successors are elected, and their term of office shall begin at the close of the regular May meeting. Trustees and Directors terms of office shall be for three years or until their successors are elected, with two Trustees and two Directors elected each year to assume office at the close of the regular May meeting.

Proposed changes

Section 2: At a regular meeting at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting in April, a Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President. Three will be Board members and two will be from the general membership. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate a candidate for each office that is to be filled at the Annual Meeting in April. The Nominating Committee shall report a list of candidates to the membership during the Annual Meeting in April prior to the vote. Before the election at the Annual Meeting in April, additional nominations from the floor shall be permitted.

Section 3: If more than one candidate per office, or if by a majority request of the members present, the election will be by ballot. Otherwise, election will be by voice vote, one office at a time; or the entire slate can be elected by acclamation on a two-thirds vote of those present and voting. Terms of all officers except the Trustees and Directors will be one year or until their successors are elected, and their terms of office shall begin at the close of the regular April meeting. The terms of office for Trustees and Directors shall be for three years or until their successors are elected, with two Trustees and two Directors elected each year to assume office at the close of the regular April meeting.

Rationale: The current Bylaws contain inconsistencies about the month for the Annual Meeting. We have been holding elections in March and having people assume office at the end of the May meeting. Usual practice is to have officers assume office immediately after election, which this change would permit. Also we have not been following the prescribed schedule in old Bylaws for meeting months. Most members do not want a July meeting. The changes would permit more flexibility. For the past several years we have had program meetings in September, October, November, January, February, March, April, and May. This schedule has worked well, but it is outside the months prescribed by the current Bylaws.
2006 MEMBERS

The following are the names your editor had received for paid members up until March 1, 2006. If you have paid and do not see your name, it will be published in the April newsletter.

Individual Memberships:
Beverly G. Agee
Marvin T. Benson
Norman Blood
Barbara Bonin
Doris Braunworth
Marilyn Brook
Callie Rousseau Brown
Beverly Cormany
Gillian Davis
Ramona S. Davis
Arleen Dennison
Lucile Dickinson
Judy Duxbury
Christine Edward
Jim Edward
Denise Edwards
Virginia K. Farace
Robert W. Ganger
Barbara Louise Gellner
M. Randall Gill
Margaret Garnett Harris
Ruth J. Jones
Sue Kruse
Nancy Murray Lacy
Wilese Jones Langford
Fred W. Love
Helen Adams Meisenheimer
Anne Weems Michael
Gene Moore
Rosalie Avaroe Morrissey
Gerald Murray
P. Suzanne Murray
Marjorie W. Nelson
Marianne Nitzsche
Sandra L. Pike
Lenore Benson Raborn
Andy Richardson
Camilla Richardson
Warrick C. Robinson
Dan Rousseau
Eleanor Murray Sala
James D. Shelton
J.H. “Gym” Weeks
Raymond E. Weeks

William Raleigh Weeks
Randolph Williams

Family Memberships:
Bruce Brown and Stacy Herig
James and Marjorie L. Bynum
L. Don and Jeanne Combs
William and Nancy Earnhart
Martin J. and Irene Feeney
Vincent J. and Betty W. Gallo
Bob W. and Jeanne Gayler
David A. and Marlene Ginaven
Richard V. and Judith Howard
William G. and Erma O. James
William and Theresa Marcacci
Vivian McBride and Pauline Bobik
Nancy Hood McNamee, Edythe Hood, and Sally Hood
Helen Senior, Charles Senior, and Fred Senior
Leland and Donna Smith
Linda Louise Stabile
John and Kathleen T. Suiter
Delma W. and Billie Jo Swilley
John Tuite and Frances Tuite McKeral
Dennis and Margot Vlassis
Leon M. and Harriet S. Weekes
Walter G. and Dorothy F. Whittaker
Bill R. and Elsie Winchester
Betty M. and Herbert R. Zobel

Patron Memberships:
Robert L. and Linda M. Brown
John M. and Evelyn C. Howell
James E. and Patricia M. Jones
Cheryl Muster
Daniel J. O’Connell
Harvey E. Oyer, Jr.
Paul D. and Frances R. Price
John I. and Carnella Rogers
Marie Shepard
Voncile M. Smith
Betty M. Thomas
Charlotte Weaver
Fain and Claire Weems

Thank all of you for joining the Boynton Beach Historical Society. Our fiscal year runs from January 1 to December 31, so if you have not sent in dues, and plan to join us for 2006, please let us hear from you soon.
On February 12, 2006 a 100th birthday celebration was held at St. John Missionary Baptist Church to honor Sister Trudie Hands. Relatives and friends from the Church and the community joined in to help make this into a very special occasion. The Reverend Mr. Lance Chaney offered a commentary and prayers and a blessing for her. Many others offered expressions of congratulation and admiration for her life contributions. People from throughout the area, including County Commissioner Addie Greene, came to offer their best wishes. Harvey E. Oyer, Jr., as a life-time resident, former Mayor, and friend to the community was honored to attend.

HISTORIC MEMORABILIA STILL AVAILABLE

Because some of you continue to express interest in items that we have described that are available that mark the history of Boynton Beach, we are including their descriptions and prices again. Unfortunately, for those of you who want items mailed, the last time we described the items, we failed to take into account postage increases, so you will notice some change in the S&H charges.

We had also indicated that we still had a few copies of the pictorial history of Palm Beach County by the Palm Beach Post. We have asked for a $5.00 contribution to the Society for these books, but we neglected to mention that they are not available by mail. Since they are heavy, hardback books, postage costs to mail them are prohibitive. Some of you requested copies by mail while sending $5.00 which we have returned to you. Copies may be picked up in person at our meetings or from Harvey Oyer’s office on Ocean Avenue.

The following are available by mail:

Some of the blue and white china Boynton Centennial plates we have offered in past issues are still available for $10.00 plus $4.50 S&H if you are unable to pick one up a meeting.

We also have the paperback 100 year histories available for $10.00 plus $3.00 S&H.

MARCH MEETING WILL CONTAIN SHORT BUSINESS MEETING

In announcing the program for the meeting March 13, 2006, we did not mention that we must hold a short business session to vote on new officers, trustees and directors. We will also vote on the Bylaw amendments proposed on page 5. Please try to attend. We expect these two business items to take less than 15 minutes.
Boynton Beach Historical Society memberships are for the calendar year, January 1 to December 31. If you are not now a member and would like to join, complete the form below and return it with your check for the type of membership you desire payable to The Boynton Beach Historical Society, P. O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, Florida 33425-0012.

### BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM, CALENDAR YEAR 2006 WORKING TOGETHER TO PRESERVE BOYNTON BEACH’S HERITAGE

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