THE KNUTHS: EARLY LEADERS IN BOYNTON

The name Knuth represents far more than a street name in present day Boynton. The Knuths had a dairy in the general area now represented by the street and have been active in business and governmental affairs in the town. They were related to a number of other prominent Boynton families including the Weavers, the Mercers, and the Dames. The October meeting of the Boynton Beach Historical Society will feature a panel presentation on the Knuth family and their contributions. Scheduled as panel presenters are Brad Knuth, Curtis Weaver, Harvey Oyer, Jr. and Gloria Partin Turner.

NEW HAPPENINGS!

The Society now has two website names: boyntonbeachhistoricalsociety.org or boyntonbeachhistoricalsociety.com. Janet DeVries and your president have posted for the present only a temporary web page at that address, but the site now does provide contact information. We hope that soon we will have several new pages in place and links to a variety of sources.

To keep the pages fresh with new information we need your help. We cannot feature information about families and friends if we have nothing to work with. We need pictures, letters, clippings, journals, programs, mementos, brochures, etc. We can scan what you loan us and return your originals to you. These help provide a portrait, not only of individuals, but what life in Boynton was like in years past.

If we have sufficient material, we would like to feature a different family on the website each month.

Other plans for the site include creating a link to a file containing past issues of The Historian. Your current editor has the issues since 2002 that she has edited, but we have at best a limited number of issues prior to 2002. We would be most grateful for the loan of any past issues any reader might have. We would appreciate the loan of any other papers, too.
BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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The Boynton Beach Historical Society’s website is boyntonbeachhistoricalsociety.org You can contact us at our e-mail address boyntonhistory@yahoo.com or mail inquiries or information to our mailbox at P.O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425-0012.

IN MEMORIAM

JOHN TUITE—This past summer the Society lost another of its long time members, Jack Tuite. We appreciate his many contributions to Boynton Beach and to Palm Beach County, and send our best wishes to his family. Elsewhere in this page is a copy of an autobiographical sketch loaned to us by his daughter Frances Tuite McKeral.

THOMAS E. WOOLBRIGHT, JR.—Thomas Woolbright was a former, long-time member and supporter of the Society. He represented another family prominent in Boynton history. We expect to feature more information on his life and contributions in a later issue. We are grateful to his family for sharing recollections about his life with us.

STEVEN ROGER KNUTH—Steven Knuth, who had moved to North Carolina several years ago was not a member of the Historical Society, but was the last child of Orville and Marguerite Knuth. The Society shares condolences with his children and family members. Please note information about the October program which will share information about the contributions of this family to Boynton Beach history.

JOHN MARTIN TUITE—
In his Own Words
[Ed. Note: The following has been edited slightly to fit in space in The Historian.]
“Born 1-10-18    Bronx N.Y –married Mabel C. Rousseau 8/5/42
Primary School–
P.S. 72 – Bronx N.Y.
Central Elementary W.P.B. FL 1927-28
St. Ann’s Academy  N.Y. C. Graduated 1932
High School–
Pelham Memorial High –Pelham Manor N.Y. Graduated 1936
College–Thomas R. Clarkson Memorial College of Technology 1937
Left due to health of father & mother
“After leaving college – employed by Methodist Book Co. – Printing and Bindery Work.  Joined N.Y.S. National Guard, Co. C 165 INF –Yonkers N.Y. – Also enrolled Delahanty’s School (Prep for Fire Dept – was member of Aviation Vol.F.D. Clason Point N.Y.)
“August 1938 moved permanently to family home on Pine St. Boynton Beach, FL – after death of father.
“Previously had been a winter resident of Boynton – When I was a seasonal visitor I was classified as a ‘Yankee’  When I moved here permanently I was classified a ‘Damn Yankee’ because I came & stayed.  When I married my wife, a Boynton native, I became a ‘G.D. Yankee.’

(Continued on page 3)
JOHN MARTIN TUITE  (Continued from page 2)

“Retrospect – Even though we had moved permanently to Boynton in 1938 – Lack of work due to economy & weather it behooved my mother & myself to return to NYC for short periods of time.

“On Dec 7, 1941, I was on duty at Aviation F.D. when word was received on Pearl Harbor. My name being on overseas ship list. Got furlough—spent 10 days in hosp. followed by furlough on off duty days work as Deputy Constable, 6th Dist. P.B. Co.

“Jan ’59 – City Council appointed me Chief of Fire Dept. requiring me to give up constable job.

“During period was Fire Chief, was Civil Defense Director for City of Boynton. . . President of P.B. County Fire Chief’s Association, President of FL State Fire Chief’s Association. Designed and with assistance of paid & volunteer firemen built 3 brush trucks, 4 first aid vehicles, installed emergency power in fire station, established fire inspection program, assisted setting up fire safety program for Bethesda Hosp. & established 1st aid training at fire station and 1st aid swimming classes in summer.

“Retired Mar ’64.

“Went to work P.B.Co. Sheriff’s Off. July ’64. Retired July’82.

“Lost Mabel May’92.

“July ’92 QM. V.F.W 5335.”

MEA CULPA – AGAIN!
Your editor tries to be careful about correct spelling of names and places and hopes, by virtue of years of grading student papers at FAU, that she is observant enough to avoid most careless errors. However, she has just learned, courtesy of another member, that for years she has misspelled Briny Breezes. Last year she learned that the town is Gulf Stream, not Gulfstream. And to think that she is a Florida native who has lived in this area the better part of her life and failed to note her misconceptions about the correct names for both these portions of our service area! She apologizes to both communities and begs that they do not hold it against a resident of Boynton Beach.

HONORS FOR ART DECO HOME

Linda Stabile’s Art Deco home that the Historical Society featured in a program several months ago has recently been placed on the Palm Beach County Historic Registry. It is the first private residence in Palm Beach County to be so designated by the County. The house which sits just off Federal Highway is in a “County pocket” located between Boynton Beach and Delray Beach and is not under the jurisdiction of either city.

Linda Stabile, one of the Society’s members, is currently working on a book of pictures of buildings with art deco characteristics that are, or have been, built in the area. Her book should be available in spring of 2007.
James Shelton, one of the Historical Society’s current members, has recently sent us a number of pictures. Among them is this photograph of T.A. Ward’s store on what is now S.E. Fourth Street, taken in the 1930s. T.A. Ward’s daughter, Lou Anna Ward, was James Shelton’s mother. At various times, T.A. was a constable, a grocer, and a mail carrier.