



# The Historian

*The Newsletter of The Boynton Beach Historical Society*

Serving Boynton Beach, Ocean Ridge, Manalapan, Gulf Stream, Briny Breezes, Lantana, Hypoluxo, the Village of Golf and all areas of West Boynton  
In addition to supporting the preservation of the history of Palm Beach County and the State of Florida as a whole

2009 Number 1, January 2009



An early picture of Ocean Avenue looking west from near the intersection of what is now Federal Highway. The building to the right sits on land that is now a small City park and just east of it on what then appeared to be a vacant lot are now the offices of Harvey Oyer and Oyer Insurance. The nearest building on the left (demolished about five years ago) was the first Woman's Club building.

## THE FRATERNITY OF LEADERSHIP

Almost all the men who were early community leaders in Boynton were fellow Masons. David Lund from the Boynton Masonic Lodge will discuss the lives and times of these onetime Boynton leaders at the January meeting of the Boynton Beach Historical Society.

**ALL PROGRAMS OF THE BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARE OPEN FREE TO THE PUBLIC.**

**WHAT:** THE FRATERNITY OF LEADERSHIP  
a Discussion by David Lund

**WHEN:** Monday, January 19, 2009  
6:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** BOYNTON WOMAN'S CLUB  
1010 South Federal Highway

**BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS—2008-09**

**OFFICERS**

President	Voncile Smith
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President, Programs	Richard Philpott
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Membership	Bev Cormany
Recording Secretary	Carol Mahoney
Corresponding Secretary	Wendy Franklin
Treasurer	Fran McKeral
Editor <i>The Historian</i>	Voncile Smith
Archivist and Webmaster	Janet DeVries

**DIRECTORS**

2009	Helen Adams Bonomini
2009	Sheila Taylor
2010	Gloria Turner
2010	Tim Bednarz
2011	Steve Anton
2011	Sally Dye

**TRUSTEES**

2009	Virginia Farace
2009	Dan Rousseau
2010	Janet DeVries
2010	Marion Weems
2011	Randall Gill
2011	Harvey Oyer, Jr

The Boynton Beach Historical Society's website is [boyntonbeachhistoricalsociety.org](http://boyntonbeachhistoricalsociety.org). You can contact us at our e-mail address [boyntonhistory06@yahoo.com](mailto:boyntonhistory06@yahoo.com) or mail inquiries or information to our mailbox at P.O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425-0012.

*The Historian* is mailed eight times a year—September, October, November, January, February, March, April and May—to all members. No copies are produced in December, June, July and August.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

The Board of Directors will meet Thursday, January 29, 2009, 6:30 at the Boynton Woman's Club. All members of the Boynton Beach Historical Society are welcome to attend any Board meeting and are free to present and discuss items, but only Board members may vote on an issue.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE and ELECTION**

ARTICLE II:  
Section 2.

**OFFICERS**

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.

The preceding is the section from the Society's Bylaws which prescribes the procedure for nomination and election. We must announce the members of a Nominating Committee at our February meeting.

We elect all our Officers annually (except the Editor and the Archivist who are not elected and are ongoing). We also elect two Directors and two Trustees, each to serve three year terms.

If you would be willing to serve on the Nominating Committee, please let Voncile know as soon as possible at [smithvm@bellsouth.net](mailto:smithvm@bellsouth.net) or 561-734-5653. We also seek an expression of willingness to serve in an office for the coming year from any of our members. Call Voncile if you are willing to be considered.

Election will be held at our April General Meeting.

**FEBRUARY**

Mark your calendars now for our meeting of February 16, which will be held at the Boynton Woman's Club at 6:30 p.m. We have not confirmed our program for that date, but it will be an exciting presentation on local history that you will not want to miss.

**DUES FOR 2009 ARE DUE!**

Just a reminder! Our membership year begins January 1 and runs to December 31 each year. A big thank you to those of you who have already sent in your dues. Please note on the address label on this issue of *The Historian* when your dues expire. Please renew ASAP and save us the cost and labor of mailing out separate dues notices.

If you are a current member, just send us your check unless there are name, address, or telephone changes. We are grateful for your continuing support.

**A PLEA, AND A WORD OF THANKS**

Material included in *The Historian* and placed in our archives in the City Library is important for preserving the names and events that comprise the history of the City. We beg you to think of us when going through pictures, letters, articles, and other family memorabilia. Please either give them to us, or let us copy them to preserve for posterity the presence and accomplishments of you and your family members.

Many of the pictures and stories we have included recently have been shared through the generosity of Frances McKeral, James Shelton, Jim Edward, Jack Suiter, Georgie Raulerson, Rosalie Morrissey, and members of the Lacey, Lyman, Murray, Oyer, Rousseau, Weaver, Weeks, Weems, and other long-time families, but we need more about earlier people, and much more about more recent arrivals.

ON THE MILITARY TRAIL AT BOYNTON

# MILITARY CITY

WE ARE PRESENTING THE  
GREATEST INVESTMENT OF  
ALL TIME AT **\$500.<sup>00</sup>**  
A NEW TOWNSITE AT 1920 PRICES  
NOW BEING DEVELOPED

PAVED STREETS, ROCKED AND OILED  
ELECTRIC LIGHTS AND ALL IMPROVEMENTS  
ALREADY CONTRACTED FOR

Never again in the history of Florida will you be offered such an opportunity. This is a property that appeals alike to both the large and small investor. There will be no long wait for the improvements, they will go in immediately.

Business lots all face a beautiful 100-foot boulevard—Residential lots beautifully laid out after modern city planning ideas giving every home owner all the advantages of living close to the business center.

Let our salesmen tell you all about the possibilities and advantages of owning property on the Trail section either as a homestead or as an investment that will pay quick dividends.

REMEMBER  
Hollywood  
Coral Gables  
Pulford  
and other properties -  
THINK  
of the great future of  
MILITARY CITY  
—Close to Palm Beach  
—on the great new high-  
way  
—Close to the ocean  
at  
Pre-Development Prices!

**BECHTEL — COOK CO.**  
BOYNTON, FLORIDA



## Boynton Beach Park

at Boynton Florida

**BOYNTON BEACH PARK**  
is located on the ocean and on the inland water way, half a mile east of the town of Boynton..... It is one of the most beautiful spots on the whole east coast and is rapidly being transformed from a tropical jungle to a highly restricted residential area.

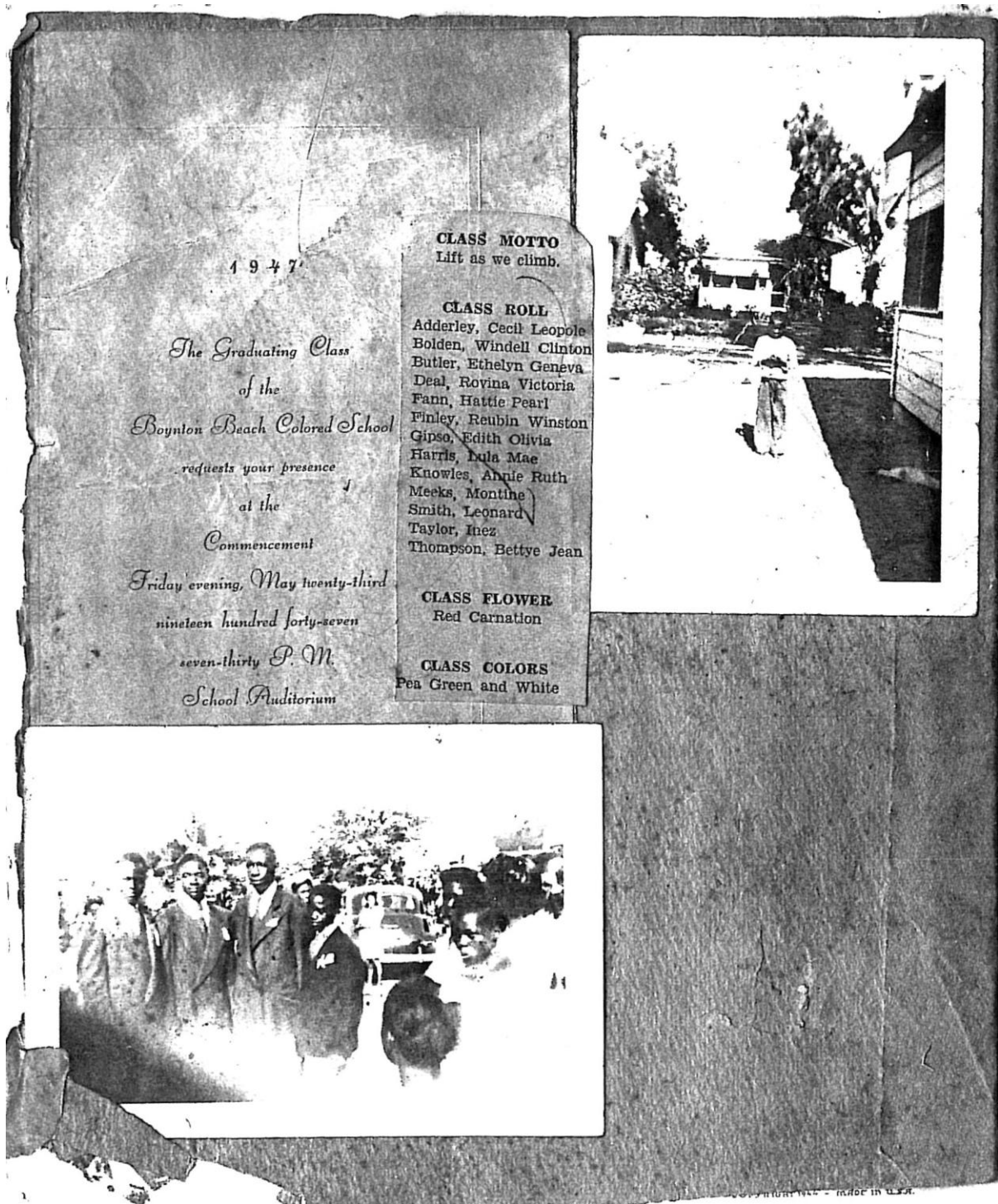
The above photographs will give some idea of the tremendous program of development being carried out in Boynton Beach Park. Every financial resource is aiding genius in making Boynton Beach Park a choice place to live.

**GEORGE W. HARVEY REALTY COMPANY**  
317 Datura Street  
WEST PALM BEACH, FLA.      100 Milk Street  
BOSTON, MASS.

Pages submitted from *The Palm Beach Times* in 1926 illustrate two proposed land developments from the "Boom" period. Apparently the "Boom" went bust before either actually "got off the ground." [Submitted by Boynton Beach Historical Society member Jim Edward.]

## TWO DAYS TO HONOR

The January meeting of the Boynton Beach Historical Society is scheduled on the same day as Martin Luther King's birthday, a national holiday, and the day before the inauguration of America's first President of African descent. The following composite from the files of the Society reflects a different time, and illustrates some of the ways our country has changed in the last 62 years.



1947

*The Graduating Class  
of the  
Boynton Beach Colored School  
requests your presence  
at the  
Commencement  
Friday evening, May twenty-third  
nineteen hundred forty-seven  
seven-thirty P. M.  
School Auditorium*

**CLASS MOTTO**  
Lift as we climb.

**CLASS ROLL**  
Adderley, Cecil Leopole  
Boiden, Windell Clinton  
Butler, Ethelyn Geneva  
Deal, Rovina Victoria  
Fann, Hattie Pearl  
Finley, Reubin Winston  
Gipso, Edith Olivia  
Harris, Lula Mae  
Knowles, Annie Ruth  
Meeks, Montine  
Smith, Leonard  
Taylor, Inez  
Thompson, Bettie Jean

**CLASS FLOWER**  
Red Carnation

**CLASS COLORS**  
Pea Green and White



## The Prosperous Town of Boynton

### Interesting Description of a Palm Beach County Truck and Fruit Growing Community by E.E.E.

The town of Boynton will soon celebrate its fifteenth birthday, so far as being a place where people live. Fifteen years ago some of our most prosperous citizens landed here and pitched their tents until houses could be built. Among these pioneers were Mr. and Mrs. Bert L. Kapp, H. B. Murray and family, Funk Brothers, Freedlund Brothers, the late Cullen Pearce and others who have left our town.

These people came to West Palm Beach by train, that being as far as the Florida East Coast road extended at that time. From there they came by launch to the foot of the lake; here they found a broken trail to the site where our village is now located.

You ask any one of these early settlers if they were unhappy and despondent and they will each declare "those were happy days"—each in a measure being just a member of a large family. The men went barefooted to save shoes and many of the women also. They truly shared each other's sorrows and joys, all striving for one and the same thing—a comfortable home.

All supplies were purchased at the M.B. Lyman store located at Lantana, four miles north of Boynton, and were delivered twice a week by boat.

The men went to work with a will and soon had homes built and gardens planted on the fertile lands lying along the canal.

In a few months the railroad was extended to Miami and a service of one passenger train a day was inaugurated.

When Christmas time came, the mothers became worried lest there would be no Christmas tree for the little ones—the men were appealed to and they readily solved the problem by all going to work and completing the home of the Funk Brothers which was only partly built. Here I may say was the happiest Christmas in Boynton. There was no great display of presents on the tree, but the true Christmas spirit was in evidence everywhere.

When crops were harvested and returns all in, all were poorer financially than in the beginning, but they still had courage and the next fall planted their crops and cared for them faithfully, and the outcome was more hopeful than the first year.

New settlers kept coming, which added new interest, and slowly the foundations of our pretty little town were made.

Boynton now proudly boasts of being one of the most prosperous towns on the Florida East Coast.

The beautiful concrete Methodist church would be a credit to any town, being built entirely by the citizens of Boynton and vicinity. Services are held regularly and are well attended by all denominations.

A most excellent school for eight months of the year is maintained, Boynton being one of the "special school tax districts" of Palm Beach county. During the coming year, a \$6,000 building is to be erected.

The town was named for Major N.S. Boynton of Port Huron, Mich., known everywhere as "Father of the Maccabees." The Major owns a great deal of valuable land in and around

Boynton and is always glad when winter comes to be numbered one of our citizens.

The town is situated twelve miles south of the famous winter resort, Palm Beach. The Florida East Coast railroad crosses the center of the town. All the main streets of the town are covered with rock and the county rock road passes through the town. A number of the growers have built rock roads to their pine fields lying west of our town.

A good rock road was built by the citizens to the ocean beach, which is a half mile from our town, the Government canal being about half way between the town and the Atlantic ocean. A drawbridge is now under way, which will eliminate all trouble in getting to the ocean readily. A public bath house is maintained and bathing is the popular pastime all year round.

A thriving Woman's Club was organized last year and will probably build a new club house for their use during the coming winter.

The men have a club, known as the "Pioneer Club." They own their own club room and equipment. . .

Orange and grapefruit culture has never been entered into very extensively, but the past year or two the "Dewey Grove" has shown that there is no doubt as to the success of citrus fruit being raised easily and the quantity and quality of being above par. Several years ago Mr. Frederick S. Dewey planted a grove of several acres on his muck sand along the canal. Some predicted success, some failure, but all were anxiously awaiting the outcome. The crops of the past two years have left no doubt as to whether it paid or not—the fruit has been excellent in flavor and abundant in production. Several groves have planted trees now and more are to be planted during the winter.

But Boynton's best crop is tomatoes. Commission merchants are agreed that Boynton lands produce the finest tomatoes on the coast. Each year from one hundred and fifty to two hundred acres are planted, and as high as one thousand crates per acre have been produced, but this is a little out of the ordinary. . . But this is not all that Boynton lands have produced. Many growers plant beans, pepper, egg-plant, squash, celery, cabbage, red cabbage and cucumbers for the early markets. . . Onions, sweet and Irish potatoes have been grown with success. . .

Fishing is good here at all seasons of the year. They are to be had from the ocean, salt Lake Worth and the fresh water Lakes west of the town.

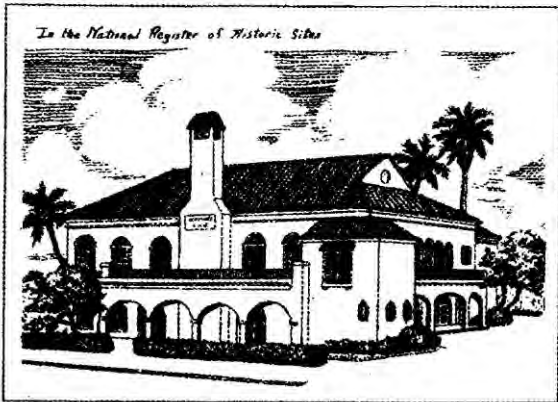
The Palm Beach Lands Co., of West Palm Beach owns an immense tract of land west of the fresh water lakes in the 'Glades and are selling large tracts daily. Several of our citizens have invested and have commenced work on their holdings, having the land cleared and the seed beds planted. . . Boynton has a population of less than five hundred citizens who represent almost every state in the Union and several foreign countries. They are good law-abiding people who are interested in the growth of our town . . .

We are proud to serve Boynton Beach, Ocean Ridge, Manalapan, Gulf Stream, Lantana, Hypoluxo, Briny Breezes, and all areas west of Boynton Beach to U.S. Hwy 441, and, on occasion, greater Palm Beach County.

Members  
 Name  
 2nd Member's Name  
 Street  
 City State Zip  
 Telephone  
 e-mail  
 TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:  
 INDIVIDUAL (\$25.00) \_\_\_\_\_  
 FAMILY \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 PATRON (\$50.00) \_\_\_\_\_  
 CORPORATE (\$100 or more) \_\_\_\_\_  
 I will be willing to serve on the following committees (Circle choices):  
 Archives/Preservation Program/Planning Mailings  
 Telephone Hospitality Membership Public Relations  
 Minority History Seeking Sponsors Fundraising  
 Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

THE HISTORIAN  
 P. O. Box 12  
 Boynton Beach, FL 33425-0012



The Boynton Woman's Club Building

**YOU ARE INVITED—**

To help celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the Boynton Woman's Club. Plan to attend the special Open House on Sunday, January 25, 2009. Free and open to all who are interested. Fun events are planned for your enjoyment, including delicious snacks, wine-tasting and more.

Questions? Call 561-369-2300

Plan to attend!!!