



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 8

November, 2009

WEIRD FLORIDA

Eliot Kleinberg, who has been our guest speaker several times in the past, “has great fun looking at how truth is stranger than fiction,” according to the *Sun-Sentinel*. His information is shared in his two books, *Weird Florida* and *Weird Florida II*. His webpage describes the first as a demonic collection of stories from within our State. In the two we can discover cows in the Intracoastal Waterway, haunted airliners, celebrity sex scandals, and much, much more. Please note he speaks at the City Library.

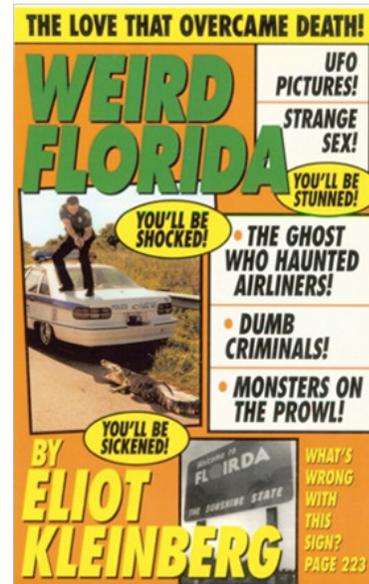


Eliot Kleinberg

[Photo cropped from his webpage]

Eliot defines himself on his webpage as wearing three hats, that of author, lecturer, and journalist. He is a native Floridian who has great pride in our State and is concerned about historic preservation. He also has a great sense of humor which he hopes to share in this presentation. He has written 10 books, all focusing on Florida and has spent 3 decades in both broadcast and print news including over 20 years at *The Palm Beach Post*.

Weird Florida, originally published in 1998, has recently been reissued and is available through Amazon. *Weird Florida II* was published seven years later and is also available at Amazon.com.



His tenth book, recently published, is *Peace River*, an historical novel based at the end of the Civil War.

WHAT: Multimedia presentation on “Weird Florida” by Eliot Kleinberg

WHEN: Monday, November 9, 2009
6:30 p.m.

WHERE: BOYNTON BEACH CITY LIBRARY!

ALL PROGRAMS OPEN FREE TO THE PUBLIC!!!!!!
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 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

Since we did not have a quorum present for the October meeting of the Board of Directors, we will need to meet in November. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 16, at the Boynton Woman's Club at 6:30 p.m. Any member who would like to attend who is not a Board member is welcome and may participate in the discussion, but may not vote. A notice of this meeting will be posted on the website.

CITY LIBRARY OFFERS PROGRAM OF HISTORIC INTEREST

On January 11, 2010, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., the Boynton Beach City Library will feature author Deborah Pollack presenting "Laura Woodward: The Artist Behind the innovator who Developed Palm Beach. Deborah Pollack is the author of the book by the same name published in association with the Historical Society of Palm Beach County.

This is the untold story of Laura Woodward, how she influenced Henry Flagler to develop Palm Beach and the significance of her work. As a naturalist and woman artist in the late 1800s and early 1900s, Laura documented history painting

plein air in the Florida wilderness. Her story demonstrates how Laura impacted the development of South Florida and how her early dedication to her art pioneered the way for women artists who followed.

An exhibit of Laura Woodward will be on display in the City Library from December 2009 to June 2010. Following Deborah Pollack's presentation on January 11, 2010, the public can view the exhibit, meet Deborah and purchase her book.

City of Boynton Beach
Art in Public Places
Enriching our Community through Public Art

PRESENTS
ART CONNECTIONS

Every month, Art in Public Places hosts a program that connects art, artwork and artists with the public. Learn about public art, artists and art organizations through informative, educational and entertaining presentations.

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Monday, January 11, 2010

Deborah Pollack
Presents
Laura Woodward

The artist behind the innovator who developed Palm Beach

Deborah Pollack will tell the untold story of Laura Woodward: how she influenced Henry Flagler to develop Palm Beach and the significance of her work.

As a naturalist and woman artist in the late 1800's, early 1900's, Ms. Woodward documented history painting *plein air* in the Florida wilderness.

The story demonstrates how Laura impacted the development of South Florida and how her early dedication to her art pioneered the way for women artists throughout history.

An exhibit of Laura Woodward will be on display in the City Library December 2009 to June 2010. Following Deborah's presentation, on January 11, 2010, the public can view the exhibit, meet Mrs. Pollack and purchase her book.

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Boynton Beach City Library—Program Room
208 South Seacrest Blvd.

For more information
www.boyntonbeacharts.com
Call (561) 742-6026

NEXT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

After November, the Boynton Beach Historical Society does not meet until January. We expect to meet on Monday, January 18, 2010. Details of the program and meeting place will be detailed in the January *Historian*. The Editor of the *Historian* reminds you again that since there is no December meeting of the Society, there will be no newsletter until January.

DUES REMINDER

The membership year for the Historical Society is from January 1 until December 31. Please note on the mailing label when your dues expire.

Some members are already paid through December 31, 2010. We will be most grateful if you will send in your dues without needing a separate reminder. Thank you for your help.

SEMINOLES AND MICCOSUKEES

Many people are surprised to learn that Seminoles are not among the original indigenous tribes of Florida. When the Spanish first arrived in Florida in the 16th century, there were a number of native American tribes that had all but disappeared by the time the United States acquired Florida as a territory in 1821. While there were various sub-tribes, the principal ones here were the Tequestas and Calusas in the southern regions, the Ais around Cape Canaveral, the Apalachees in northern Florida, the Tocobogas in the central Gulf coast, and the Timucuas in northeast Florida.

Most of the Seminoles apparently migrated down from Georgia or South Carolina where they had been part of the Creek Nation. The British, who controlled Florida from 1763 to 1784, referred to them as Creeks until about 1767 after which use of the name Seminole became increasingly common.

By the time Florida became an American Territory in 1821 there were probably about 34 Seminole settlements. The First Seminole War occurred prior to that date from 1817 to 1818 when Neamathla, a Seminole chief, warned U.S. troops not to trespass on tribal hunting grounds. About 250 soldiers responded to his warning by attacking a village.

The Second Seminole War, 1835 to 1842, began when Osceola incited rebellion against Seminole resettlement to the Indian Territories west of the Mississippi River (ordered under the presidency of Andrew Jackson). Osceola staged an ambush of American army troops led by Major Francis L. Dade at what is now Bushnell, Florida. Known as the “Dade Massacre” where the entire force was wiped out, it was one of the greatest losses ever in a battle with Native Americans.

What is referred to as the Third Seminole War occurred from 1855 to 1857 and resulted when some white people destroyed Billy Bowlegs’ banana stand in the Everglades.

Three major Seminole leaders who fought during the Seminole Wars against the relocation of their tribes to Oklahoma were Aripeka who was a famous Miccosukee medicine man, Billy Bowlegs, and Osceola.

Seminole’s chiefs may either inherit their positions or are elected. The first woman to become an elected leader was Betty Mae Tiger Jumper who was born in 1923 at Indiantown. She attended the Cherokee Indian School in North Carolina, and in 1949 became the first Seminole to earn a high school diploma. Elected to head the Seminoles in 1967, she was a founder of the United South and Eastern tribes [USET], one of the most powerful lobbies in Indian Country.

Today two Native American tribes have reservations in Florida—the Seminole and the Miccosukee tribes. Seminole reservations are Big Cypress, Brighton, Fort Pierce, Hollywood, Immokalee, and Tampa. Miccosukee reservations are Alligator Alley, Krome Avenue, and Tamiami Trail.

Although historically the two tribes—Miccosukee and Seminoles mixed heavily, the two groups speak linguistically different languages. The Miccosukees were originally from the Tennessee Valley and migrated southward and into Florida in the 18th and 19th centuries along with the Seminoles, But they speak Mikasuki, whereas the Seminoles speak Creek. The tribes divided in the 1950s and have received both state and federal recognition as separate tribes. Some members did not favor the split and reorganized as the Miccosukee Seminole Nation which the United States government has yet not recognized.

Both the Miccosukee tribe and the Seminole tribe have had considerable financial success with resort and gambling casinos. Betty Mae Jumper has commented that back in the 1950s when the Tribe first became organized and she was vice-chairman, “We’d sit under the big oak tree across the way there, and we’d say one day we’ll all drive Cadillacs. That was the dream. Today they own beautiful buildings. The reservation chickees gave way long ago to modern suburban dwellings with landscaped yards and circular driveways. And while Betty drives a Suburban van, others have their Cadillacs, Mercedes, and BMWs. But in attaining the good life, something has slipped away. “Now our kids don’t know how to talk Indian,” she says. Not Miccosukee. Not Creek.



Betty Mae Jumper

SOME WISDOM ON AGING FROM WILL ROGERS

[Editor's Note: About the time I began school my family bemoaned the deaths within about two years of two rather famous Americans, both apparently killed in airplane crashes. Some of us will soon see a motion picture about the life of one of these people – Amelia Earhart, American aviatrix and author who disappeared in 1937 over the South Pacific while attempting to circumnavigate the earth. The other who died in a plane crash two years earlier was Will Rogers, a Cherokee-American cowboy, comedian, humorist, social commentator, actor, and journalist. He was extremely popular and at one time was the top grossing actor in Hollywood. Below are some of his witticisms About Growing Older.]

First – Eventually you will reach a point when you will stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Second – The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

Third – Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me. I want people to know why I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

Fourth – When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.

Fifth – You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.

Sixth – I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.

Seventh – One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young.

Eighth – One must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has been.

Ninth – Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

Tenth – Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it's called golf.

THE DRIVE-IN RESTAURANT



Top Hat Drive-In Restaurant, Federal Highway, Late 1940s
[Photo courtesy Billie Jo Swilley]

Long before Sonic, local drive-in restaurants were popular teen hang-outs. In the 1930s, 40s and 50s no restaurants were air-conditioned, and eating outdoors, especially in our year-round warm Florida weather, was appealing. The service area was often unpaved, as this picture shows, and the only communication with the kitchen was through the “car-hop” [server] who took the customer order while the patron remained seated in the car. When the order had been prepared, the server carried it out to the open car window and attached it by a special tray which hooked over the window frame and had a folding brace which rested against the car door for support.



Car Hop Tray

The tray shown above is similar to those used in the 1940s, but the food service is fancier in the contemporary illustration. No plastic service baskets were available, and paper plates or regular ceramic plates were used. The plastic bottles of condiments were unknown. Sandwiches and burgers came with condiments already on them, or if the customers asked, glass bottles containing the condiments might be brought out. Of course, no one served crinkle fries which today the restaurant usually buys conveniently frozen in packages.

In the 1940s Boynton Beach had sufficient customers to sustain one such restaurant, at best. Another popular drive-in for many years which attracted Boynton Beach residents was “The Duke” located where Federal and Dixie Highways intersect in Lantana.

In the late 1940s one could order a dinner of six jumbo fried shrimp, cole slaw, and French fries for under a dollar, including tip, at The Duke.

THE BOYNTON BEACH HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM AND CHEERLEADERS, FALL 1948



1st Row [Cheerleaders]: Betty Bell, Gladys Weeks, Ann Weems, Marilyn Baskin, Dorothy Shook, Ovedia Weeks. 2nd Row: Hansford Calloway, Dudley Kirton, Paul Muster, Charles Knowles, Wayne Hancock, Marvin Baker, George Nicoll, Lester Ward, Harry Spinks, and Tommy Murray. 3rd Row: Geston Whie, Jay Carr, Del Swilley, J.C. Swilley, Coach Lewis Culpepper, Pat Murphy, Bob Shook, Pete Weeks, James Rhoden, Harold Law, Brider Kirton, and First Name Unknown Sloan.

Prior to the fall of 1948, sports emphasis at Boynton High School had been directed primarily toward basketball. Generally the school was considered too small to sustain a football team. Parents and other students attended the home basketball games with enthusiasm, and the cheerleaders had to direct their efforts toward cheering for the basketball team. Perhaps with the consolidated Atlantic [later Seacrest] High School projected for fall 1949 opening, and the closing of Boynton High School after the June 1949 graduation, the school administrators decided to give the Boynton students an opportunity to begin preparing to play for a new team after reassignment.

THE WEEKS FAMILY



Robert Weeks, Louise Weeks Revolinski, Versie Weeks Swilley, Raleigh Weeks Ovedia and Gladys Weeks in the school photo above are daughters of Brewster Weeks, not pictured. The family moved to Boynton in 1930s.



Children of Collice and Versie Weeks Swilley in the early 1940s. L/R: Delma, Peggy, Bobbie, and J.C. [Photos courtesy of Billie Jo Swilley]

BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM, CALENDAR YEAR 2010

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) _____

Yes, I would like to serve on the following committee(s) [Circle choices]
 Archives/Preservation _____
 Public Relations _____
 Hospitally _____
 Fundraising _____
 Seeking Sponsors _____
 Mailing _____
 Other (Specify) _____
 Website _____

Minority History _____
 Membership _____
 Program/Planning _____

Join now for the calendar Year 2010. Complete the form below or copy the information and return it or the copy 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. New memberships will be effective from now until December 31, 2010. Current members may renew now with 2010 dues effective until December 31, 2010.

Boynton Beach Historical Society
 Post Office Box 12
 Boynton Beach, FL 33425-0012



The Gulf Stream Polo Club played on grounds on the west side of A1A in Gulf Stream during the 1940s and 50s. Admission to see the games was free and seating was on small, crude bleachers. Even parking to attend a game was no problem in the late 1940s.