MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS: VOICE OF THE EVERGLADES

is the program scheduled for the October 22, 2007 meeting of the Boynton Beach Historical Society. We have changed our usual meeting date to accommodate this program which is another of the wonderful presentations made available through the Florida Humanities Council. Betty Jane Steinshouer, Scholar and Chautauqua performer, will portray Mrs. Douglas. Ms. Steinshouer has toured 43 states since 1988 with her various portrayals of great women authors, including Marjory Stoneman Douglas, and is continuously researching each author seeking verity in the personality as well as the words and thoughts she presents.

The audience can follow the Matriarch of Miami (Mrs. Douglas) as Ms. Steinshouer re-enacts her crusade to restore the Everglades. After the 1947 publication of her book, *Everglades: River of Grass*, Douglas realized that her focus must be on restoration, not conservation—“Conservation is now a dead word. You can’t conserve that you haven’t got.”

**WHAT:** Florida Humanities Council Performance by Betty Jean Steinshouer Portraying Marjory Stoneman Douglas

**WHEN:** Monday, October 22, 2007 6:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Boynton Woman’s Club 1010 S. Federal Hwy Second Floor Ballroom

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
In 1960 Stanley, a former Mayor of Boynton Beach, was elected to replace the position on the Board his father, M. A. Weaver had held for 22 years.

TWO BBHS MEMBERS HONORED BY LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DISTRICT

Stanley Weaver retired this year from the Board of the Lake Worth Drainage District. Named to succeed him is Joyce DuBois Haley. Both are active members of the Historical Society.

On September 12, 2007 the Lake Worth Drainage District Board of Supervisors renamed the Boynton Canal the C. Stanley Weaver Canal in recognition of Stanley’s 47 years of service to the District and its Taxpayers. This is the first time a canal has been named for an individual. The C. Stanley Weaver Canal extends from the District’s E-1 Canal at State Road 7 (US 441) to the District’s E-4 Canal just east of Congress Avenue. All official records, maps and tax records will be amended to reflect the name change. Signage indicating the name change has been installed at all intersections and bridge crossings and a commemorative plaque has been permanently installed on the Cypress Creek bridge crossing indicating the name change to the C. Stanley Weaver Canal.

PUDDLE JUMPERS OF LANTANA

Richard A. (Tony) Marconi, Education Coordinator for the Historical Society of Palm Beach County, will present a program based on his research about the Civil Air Patrol’s Coastal Patrol 3 in Lantana during World War II.

The meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 12 at 6:30 p.m. and will be held at the Boynton Woman’s Club.

In conjunction with this topic, Tony has produced a one-hour documentary Puddle Jumpers of Lantana: The History of the Civil Air Patrol’s Coastal Patrol 3. This film will probably be shown on public television at some time in the future.

Tony will discuss his research about the role members of this group played in chasing German submarines during World War II off our Atlantic Coast.
CALLIE BROWN’S BOOK IS AVAILABLE

Over the past several years, many of us have heard excerpts from a book Mrs. Brown has been writing about her life in Boynton over her lifetime. Now the book is published and available.

The following information is taken directly from the flyer the publisher has prepared:

“Callie Rousseau and her two brothers and three sisters grew up living the happy outdoor life of children in a little Florida town by the sea. It was called Boynton long before it became a high-rise center of the tourist and technology industries called Boynton Beach.

“Callie has told her engaging story in a new book: Sun On My Hair, Sand in My Shoes: A Life Lived in Old Boynton, Florida and Beyond.

“Her descriptions of the times of woodstoves, home ‘lixies’ for everyday illnesses, wild rides over stony roads and rocking chair stories on a relative’s lap re-create a time that makes for interesting reading. Life for children and teenagers near the Everglades, school-teaching in the 1930s and beyond, survival in the Depression years and a stint as a Fulbright exchange teacher in England are all part of Callie’s story.

“Callie is a member of the eighth generation of Rousseaus in America. Her own family of origin, that of Ebb Rousseau and his wife Kate, now has over 100 descendants who were all born in this one woman’s lifetime. She has included a story of some of these family members, and her own genealogy search to locate them, in this book. Callie Rousseau Brown who is almost 98 years old, now lives with her daughter in Indianapolis.”

280 pages (50 photos)
$5 shipping and handling.
Order through website: www.Hawthornepub.com
Or directly from Hawthorne Publishing
15601 Oak Road
Carmel, IN 46033
317-867-5183

NEW AT THE SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM

The Schoolhouse Children’s Museum is moving forward with plans for a new “Sport Fishing History” permanent exhibit. The Museum recently announced that it has contracted with Little Exhibit & Graphic Design of Tallahassee to create a floor-plan and elevation drawings for the upcoming “Fishing Lore” permanent exhibit.

The age of children addressed by this exhibit will be slightly older than the norm for the museum—at a level between 5 and 12 years of age. Recapturing the flavor of the time in history when life revolved around the fishing and tourist industry, it will instruct young people in both the art of fishing and the necessity for conservation, including the importance of the ‘catch and release’ program. Children will learn that fishing is more than using a rod and reel or baiting a hook. They will explore the migration habits of fish, how to read weather signs, and how to navigate by compass and stars. Emphasis will also be on conservation of natural reefs, fish habitats, and breeding grounds, as well as on the identification of sea turtles, birds and fish.

If any of you readers have historical stories to share through an interview or are willing to donate historical items for display, contact Janet DeVries at (561) 742-6397 or Cindy Lyman Jamison, Project Coordinator at (561) 732-9720.

The Kit-Dan out for a day of Deep-Sea Fishing

JANET DEVRIES WORKS ON NEW BOOK

Related to the “Fishing Lore” exhibit described above, Janet DeVries, author and archivist with the Boynton Beach City Library and the Schoolhouse Children’s Museum, and a Trustee for the Boynton Beach Historical Society, is compiling a new book on the local history and roots of sport fishing in the Palm Beaches.

The 128 page, 220 image “photographic journey into the past” will offer the community the opportunity to share pictures and memories. To have your “story” and photos considered for inclusion, please call Janet DeVries at the Boynton Beach City Library (561) 742-6397.
Information for you from—
THE FLORIDA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

A special program, *The Florida Dream*, produced by the Florida Humanities Council and WEDU-TV will be presented on October 18, 2007 at 9:00 p.m. EST on your local PBS television station. As their e-mail flyer indicates, “After WWII, Florida took off like a rocket.” This is a compelling documentary which tells the story of modern Florida’s remarkable transformation.

Also on October 18, and complementary to *The Florida Dream*, the Florida Humanities Council will launch www.floridadream.org, a website for teachers and anyone interested in the history and culture of Florida.

At www.flahum.org there is a special promo introducing the documentary and all FHC programs.

ABOUT 1907—from the Internet

[Editor’s note: Like almost everyone who has e-mail, I often receive unsolicited items about a variety of topics. Most I simply delete, usually unread, but occasionally I find one that is appealing. The one I include here provides a look back 100 years. I do not know the author or the sources, but most of the information seems plausible.]

THE YEAR 1907:
The average life expectancy was 47 years. Only 14 percent of the homes had a bathtub. Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone. There were only 8,000 cars and only 144 miles of paved roads. The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph. The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower. The average wage in 1907 was 22 cents per hour. The average worker made between $200 and $400 per year. Competent accountants could earn $2,000 per year, dentists $2,500, veterinarians 1,500 to $4,000, and mechanical engineers about $5,000. More than 95 percent of all births took place at home.

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HOW FLORIDA’S GOLD COAST GOT ITS NAME
Vernon Lamme
[The Boynton Beach Star, 1966-67 Show Case Edition]

Boynton Beach, Boca Raton, Delray Beach, and Deerfield Beach are sparkling names and proud cities on the Gold Coast of Florida. The Gold Coast—enchanted, mysterious, exotic and appealing... has attracted man since prehistoric days—as a haven from the wintry blasts which killed their children and cut down their supply of food.

Primitive man in Florida sought the ocean beaches for seasonal warmth and for food gleaned from the ocean... Man along the Gold Coast 20,000 years ago...

The first recorded stories... the first histories—those of Columbus and later of that of Ponce de Leon in 1513, praised the climate of the area... But these adventurers and many who followed sought only gold, and soon the southeast segment of Florida became known as The Gold Coast.

On Easter Sunday, March 27, 1513 Ponce sighted land after a voyage to Puerto Rico—and named it Florida. Historians are still not decided just where he first touched land, but there is no doubt he sailed south past the site of present Boynton Beach some little time after the landfall.

How much of this treasure was hijacked by pirates and how much lost as the heavily laden treasure galleons were destroyed by hurricanes cannot be estimated, but it has been claimed by historians that today between 1,500 and 18,000 [sic] carcasses of ships can be found along the Florida coast. To protect themselves against pirates the treasure ships’ captains sailed in huge convoys of fifteen or more galleons protected by Spanish men-of-war. Spanish records show that there was a commanding officer of the entire Armada, A Spanish general over all the captains whose responsibility it was to assure the safe passage of the ships back to Spain. There was also a Spanish admiral who took charge once the ships were attacked. Records show the Spanish Government received approximately 20 percent of the worth of all the gold and jewels.

It was on July 24, 1715 when the Tierra Firme Armada... sailed from Havana...11 heavy, slow and unwieldy galleons seeking the northerly current of the Gulf Stream with an estimated 2,000 men and officers aboard... Monday, July 29th north of the Florida Keys the older sailors who had made other voyages along the Florida coast became worried by the falling barometers... By late Tuesday the winds increased and had blown the seas to frightening heights.

The ship’s log on one that survived the wrecks showed they were still “south of Canaveral” when the fleet met the howling storm head-on... Winds at 100 miles per hour were recorded by 2:00 a.m. on Wednesday... masts crumbled and sails were torn to ribbons... sailors were swept off the slippery decks. One ship... managed to escape by disobeying orders of the Admiral and sailing more to the northeast. Ten ships with more than 1,000 officers and men were lost... and $14,000,000 in gold coins and jewels went down with the ships.

All along the Gold Coast today—from Vero Beach to Deerfield Beach skin divers often find gold doubloons in the sands off-shore. Among the wrecks spotted off Boynton Inlet is one thought to have been one of “the lost Armada.”
Carl Jensen, One of Boynton’s first Councilmen in 1920

Carl Jensen was born in Denmark in 1850. At one time he had a nursery on South Dixie (Now US 1) Highway. He served as a Director for the First Bank of Boynton in 1915. He became one of the City’s first Council members in 1920. His last home was next to the Boynton Woman’s Club.

He died in 1932, still a bachelor, and is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in West Palm Beach.