



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.

2010 Number 6

September 2010

HIKING TRAILS and WALKING AREAS

will be discussed by speaker Paul Cummings during his presentation at the September meeting of the Boynton Beach Historical Society. The full title of his talk is "Hiking Trails of Florida and Walking Areas in and Around Palm Beach County." He will include a video about The Florida Trail Association followed by a presentation of local parks and natural areas.

After retiring from the U.S. Air Force in 1970, Paul moved to Boca Raton. Ten years later he started a native plant nursery west of Boynton Beach. He has been a member of The Florida Trail Association for more than 30 years and has held many state and local offices in it, including state president. He is also active in the Florida Native Plant Society, the Loxahatchee Natural History Association, and the Palm Beach Pack and Paddle Club. He is currently a docent for the Green Cay Nature Center and Wetlands and teaches classes on stone and wood sculpture on weekday mornings

While many Americans have heard of, or even hiked portions of, the Appalachian Trail, most are unaware that Florida has a National Scenic Trail that runs more than 1300 miles, almost the entire length of the state.



WHAT: Video & Discussion
Florida Trails by Paul Cummings

WHEN: MONDAY
September 13
6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Program Room
City Library
208 S. Seacrest Blvd.

[Map copied from *The Florida Trail: The Official Hiking Guide*, Sandra Friend, Englewood, CO., Westcliffe Publishers, Inc. 2004.]

All programs of the Boynton Beach Historical Society are free and open to the Public

BOARD OF DIRECTORS—2010-11

OFFICERS [Elected Annually]

President	Voncile Smith
1 st Vice President, Programs	Janet DeVries
2 nd Vice President, Membership	Bev Cormany
Recording Secretary	Anne Watts
Corresponding Secretary	Diana Dennis
Treasurer	Frances Tuite McKeral

NON ELECTED

Editor <i>The Historian</i>	Voncile Smith
Archivist and Webmaster	Janet DeVries

DIRECTORS [3 year staggered terms]

2011	Steve Anton
2011	Sally Dye
2012	Sheila Rousseau Taylor
2012	Delma Swilley
2013	Tim Bednarz
2013	Gloria Partin Turner

TRUSTEES [3 year staggered terms]

2011	Randall Gill
2011	Harvey Oyer, Jr
2012	Victor Norfus
2012	Dan Rousseau
2013	Brian Edwards
2013	Virginia Farace

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. Voncile can be reached at 561-734-5653.

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.

IN MEMORIAM

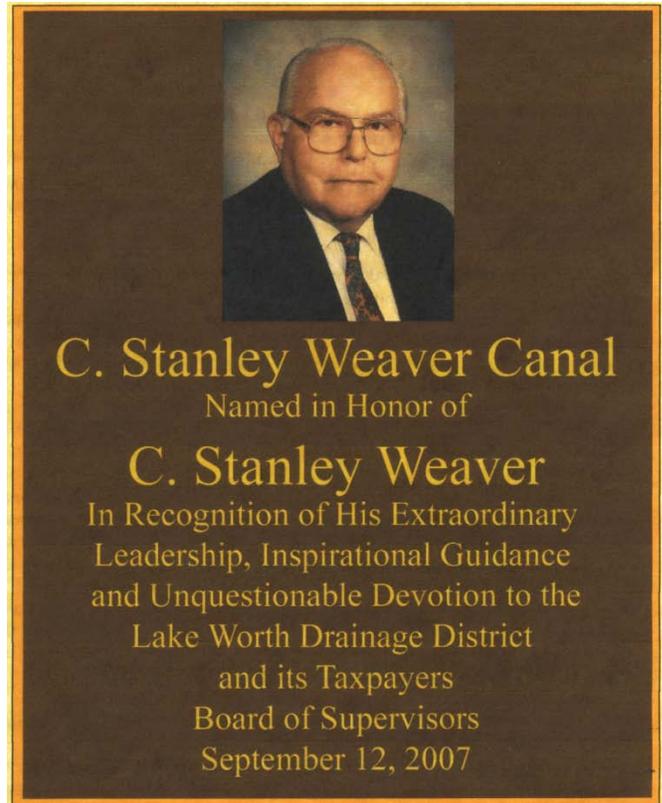
STANLEY WEAVER—One of the mainstays and long time pillars of support for the Boynton Beach Historical Society, Charles Stanley Weaver, died peacefully at Bethesda Memorial Hospital on September 1, 2010.

Stanley had served as president and was an active member of our Board of Directors for many years. He provided continuing financial support, and wanted very much to see the 1927 Schoolhouse preserved.

The eldest son of a pioneer family, he was born and lived his entire life in Boynton Beach. He attended Boynton High School and was valedictorian of the class of 1939. After graduating from the University of Florida in 1943, he served in the Army Air Corps in French West Africa during World War II. After the war he joined his father and siblings in continuing to

operate Weaver Dairies on Military Trail until 1973. The family bought and operated Cypress Creek Country Club from 1970 until 1999.

Stanley served on the Boynton Beach City Commission from 1951 until 1955 when he was chosen by the other Commission members to serve as Mayor. (Both his father and his grandfather Knuth had also been Mayors.) He served the community in so many ways, but one of his most notable achievements was his 47 years of service with Lake Worth Drainage District. They honored him by renaming the Boynton Canal the C. Stanley Weaver Canal.



Depiction of the commemorative plaque permanently installed at the Cypress Creek bridge crossing.

We sadly share our sorrow of the loss of this wonderful leader with his widow Erna, his daughter Christine and her husband George Ternenyi; his son William; his granddaughter Kelly and her husband Dustin Schwarz; and all the other family members.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors will meet on Monday, September 27, 6:30 p.m. at the Boynton Woman's Club. Any member of the Society is welcome to attend any meeting of the Directors and participate in the discussion, but only members of the Board may vote on issues.

IN MEMORIAM

BOB SWILLEY—We are sad to report that Bob Swilley, the younger brother of Delma Swilley, one of the Society's Directors, passed away in Lakeland on July 18, 2010 from the effects of pancreatic cancer. Bob was a 1956 graduate of Seacrest High School. Our sympathies go to his wife Edna, son Eric, and grandson Noah, and all family members.



ROBERT H. SWILLEY

"With sure to please, his kind manner comes with ease."

Football 1, 2, 3, 4; Basketball 1, 2, 3, 4; Track 2, 3, 4; Student Council 1, 2, 3, 4; Vice President 4; Class President 2, 4; Class Vice-President 3; Key Club 2, 3, 4.

From the 1956 Year Book.

CORRECTION

In a listing of our Corporate Members in a spring issue of *The Historian* we inadvertently shortened the name of Scobee-Combs-Bowden Funeral Home & Crematory to Scobee-Combs Funeral Home. We apologize for this oversight, Michael Bowden, and repeat once again how grateful we are for your continuing support. Thank you for calling this to our attention.

UPDATE ON 1927 HIGH SCHOOL

For the first time in recent memory, it appears that the entire City Commission supports saving the 1927 historic high school. At a team-building retreat in May, the commissioners agreed to make preserving the old school a priority and set a target date of December 10 for putting together a design/construction budget.

In assembling another study regarding possible plans and financing sources, the Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency has set aside \$52,000. When the idea of putting out a request for another study came up at the August 3 Commission meeting, one Commissioner questioned whether that would be a smart move considering that they were going through budget hearings. With budget shortfalls, he wondered if it was wise to spend money on

another study. The Mayor quickly defended the study, saying it would be the first one to look at possible money sources such as historic preservation and new market tax credits, grants, and bonds. He does not want to put this study on the shelf and do nothing.

While there is general agreement among the Commissioners that the building should be preserved, there is no commitment to a particular use. Another Commissioner commented that that is why the study is needed. He said that past studies had identified particular uses without first taking into account what is financially feasible.

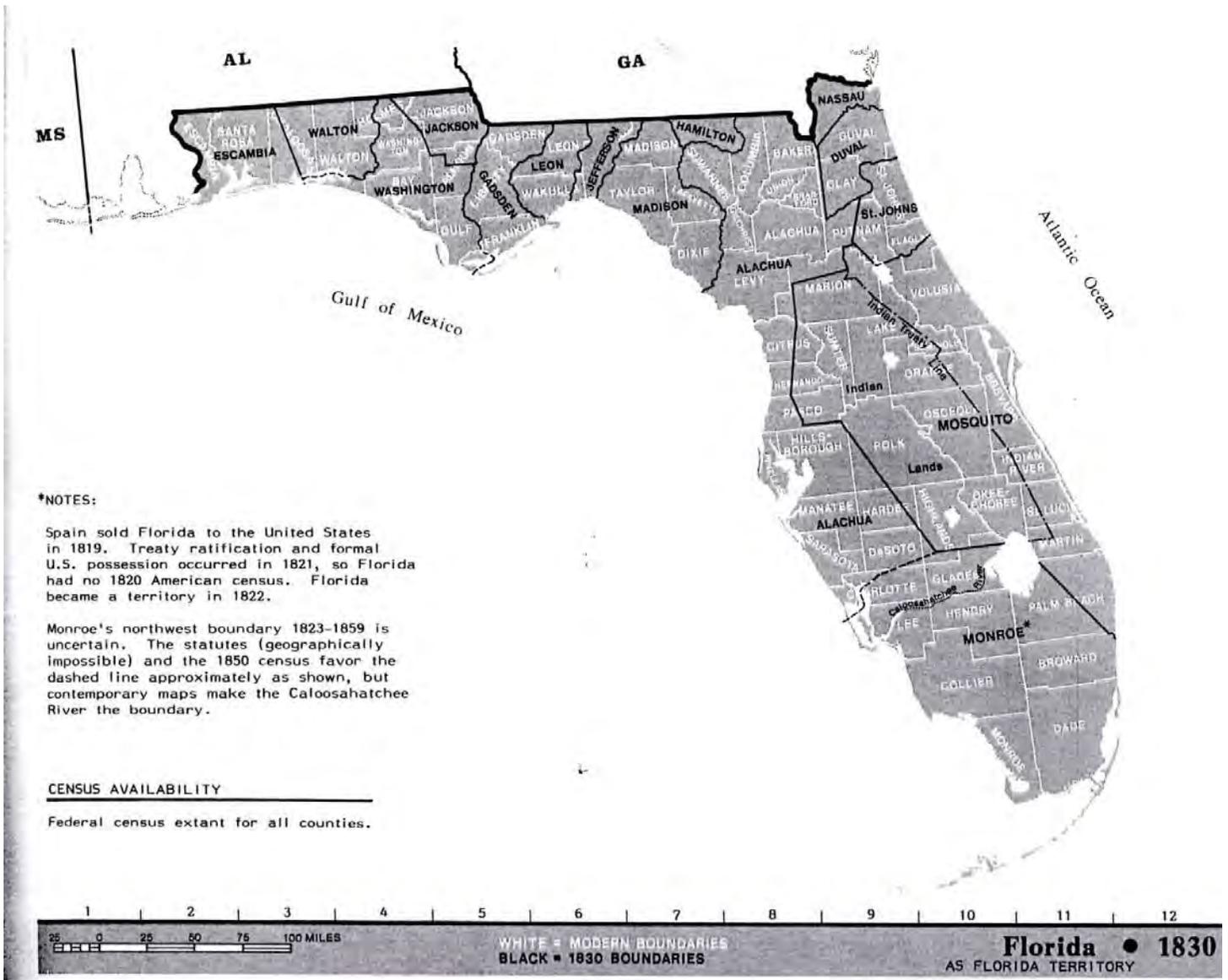


While the interior suffers from its years of neglect—peeling paint, damaged ceilings and floors—restoration architects still proclaim the building essentially sound. This photo is of the old cafeteria-kitchen, southwest wall, first floor.



The architecture of the building is appealing from all sides. This photo is of the eastern elevation from the rear. 1913 Schoolhouse is out of sight on the left.

Map of Florida Counties in 1830



The black lines show the county lines in 1830 while the area was still Florida Territory. The white lines represent counties today.

The Legislature undoubtedly decided the State should lose the name “Mosquito County” for obvious reasons. Dade did not exist but would be created within five years to extend over halfway down the Keys with Indian Key as its county seat. Alachua claimed a large share of the state. Counties named for early American patriots—Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Hamilton and Jackson—still bear their names today although the boundaries have been reconfigured. Franklin and Lafayette Counties were added later, but note that there were never any named after the Adams. Perhaps they were considered too much New England Yankees because many people were moving into the state from other Southern areas, especially from Georgia, the Carolinas, and Alabama. Florida attained Statehood in 1845.

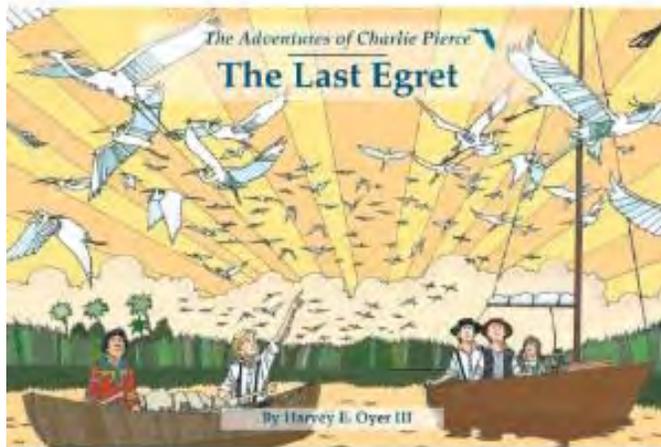
CHARLIE PIERCE ADVENTURES CONTINUE

Harvey E. Oyer III has published his second history book for children and young teens, *The Adventures of Charlie Pierce: The Last Egret*. Harvey will be our speaker at the November meeting when he will discuss this new work.

Many of our members have enjoyed reading the first book in this series, *The Adventures of Charlie Pierce: The American Jungle*. We will have copies of both books available at our September meeting. For a donation of \$20.00 to the Boynton Beach Historical Society you may receive a copy of either.

The stories are based on information from a journal Charles Pierce wrote about his life in South Florida during the late 19th century. The books expose children and young teens to a historical period through the eyes, experiences, and adventures of a peer, while also exploring the emotional struggle between the needs of humans and respect for the environment.

The Last Egret looks at the fashion craze in the late 19th century that led to the near extinction of certain bird species slaughtered for their plumes used to adorn ladies' hats. When Charlie learns of the tremendous profit potential, he must make a choice between right and riches.



Anyone wishing to order a copy from us may send a check for \$25.00 [\$5.00 to cover postage and handling] for each copy made payable to the Boynton Beach Historical Society, P. O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, Florida 33425. Be sure to tell us which book you are requesting.

A MESSAGE FROM ARCHIVIST JANET DEVRIES

Call for Entries:

The Boynton Beach City Library Local History & Archive and the Art in Public Places Program are preparing for a fall/winter exhibit called "From Julia Child's Kitchen."

October through January the exhibit will feature photography by Albie Wilson. The photographs in the exhibit were taken in 1975 in Julia Child's kitchen for her book cover "Julia's Cookbook."

To accompany the exhibit the Library will display an assortment of local cookbooks and kitchen items from the 1950s–1970s era.

Items needed are small mixing bowls, kitchen gadgets, aprons, measuring spoons and cups. If you have items to loan for this exhibit, please contact Janet DeVries, Library Archivist, 561-742-6391 or devriesj@bbf.us. Items accepted by appointment through September 15, 2010.

OTHER EVENTS AT THE CITY LIBRARY

Karen Abramson at the City Library announces the following:

Quilters: Meet every Thursday, except holidays @ 9-11:30 am. Everyone from novices to experts are invited to share information and education and to perpetuate quilting as a cultural and artistic form. Their activities also create a social group with similar interests. Through the creation of quilted items, the Quilters promote and support the Library.

Great Books: Share in interesting discussions after reading selections chosen by the Great Books Foundation. The group meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 10-12:00 am each month. A complete program list is available at the Library or at www.boyntonlibrary.org.

September programs are:

Sept 13 *Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking* by Walt Whitman

Sept 27 *Democracy in America* by Alexis de Tocqueville

For further information contact Karen Abramson Boynton Beach City Library, 561-742-6886 or AbramsonK@bbf.us.

BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM, CALENDAR YEAR 2010

Member's 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 _____
 Membership _____
 Program/Planning _____
 Seeking Sponsors _____
 Public Relations _____
 Hospitality _____
 Fundraising _____
 Telephone _____
 Website _____
 Other (Specify) _____
 Minority History _____

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



In the *May Historian* we included this family portrait from Jennie Bell Jones' album. Our thanks to one of our members who is one of Mrs. Jones' daughters, Wilese Jones Langford, for identifying most of the people as follows: Standing L to R—Dolibel Jones, Lois Jones Partin, Vera Jones Bay, Mother Jennie Bell Jones, holding baby Rebecca Jones Partin. The boy is not identified. Picture was taken in 1920.



Wilese Jones Langford also sent this snapshot taken years later of Jennie Bell Jones and her grandchildren. In the back row L to R are Gloria Partin (now Gloria Partin Turner—one of our Board members); Mott (Buddy) Partin, Jr.; Dorothy Prickell (Vera's daughter); Jackie Partin; Rebecca Partin Merkel; seated, Thelma Partin (who later married Marcus Weaver); and Mrs. Jones seated in center.

AID OUR ARCHIVES

Help us build a record of the history of Boynton Beach and the role your family has played. We can only report on what we have and we depend on you for information. Let us have your pictures and records to store at the Library for posterity.