

THE HISTORIAN

The Newsletter of

THE BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Serving Boynton Beach, Ocean Ridge, Manalapan, Gulfstream, Lantana, Hypoluxo, the Village of Golf and all areas of West Boynton to US Hwy 441

Post Office Box 12 Boynton Beach FL 33435-0012

Voncile Smith, President

Volume 2003, No. 3, March, 2003

Voncile Smith, Editor

"THE HIGHWAYMEN" TO BE FOCUS OF MARCH MEETING

Gary Monroe spent six years in Fort Pierce completing research for his book, *The Highwaymen: African-American Florida Landscape Artists*, which has gone through several printings by the University Press of Florida, the scholarly publishing agency for the State University System of Florida.

In the 1950s and 60s a group of young black artists worked their way out of poverty by painting thousands of stylistic paintings and selling from the backs of their cars along the highways of Florida. "Working with inexpensive materials, the Highwaymen produced an astonishing number of landscapes that depict a romanticized Florida—a faraway place of wind-swept palm trees, billowing cumulus clouds, wetlands, lakes, rivers, ocean, and setting sun."



Gary Monroe

On **Monday, March 10, 2003, 6:30 p.m.** at the **Boynton Beach City Library** the Boynton Beach Historical Society and the **Friends of the Boynton Beach City Library** are sponsoring a presentation by Mr. Monroe in conjunction with the **Florida Humanities Council** and the **Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs**.

A small display of paintings by the Highwaymen, on loan from friends and members of the Historical Society, will be on view at the Library for a limited time.

The Gary Monroe presentation is open free to the General Public. Everyone is invited.

WILBUR HACKLE FOUND

Many people in Boynton Beach remember Wilbur Hackle and were helpful in providing information relative to his whereabouts. Your editor received approximately 10 phone calls and e-mails, the last phone call coming from his wife Jo Ann in Clewiston.

Thank all of you who responded in helping us locate this long time Boynton resident. It is pleasant to realize that Boynton Beach still has a touch of the small town spirit which is sometimes lost as we become ever more urbanized on the Gold Coast of Florida.

APRIL and MAY MEETINGS CONCLUDE SPRING SCHEDULE

April 14, 2003, 7:00 p.m. "**The History of the South Florida Drainage District**." Be sure to see the April newsletter for the location which is currently pending

May 12, 2003, 6:00 p.m., our annual covered dish dinner and special program, "**The Life and Works of Bernard Thomas**," with **Betty Thomas** and **Sarah Thomas Bollenbacher**. Location to be announced in future newsletters.

Newsletters are planned for April and May. After May, the next newsletter will be for September. The Boynton Beach Historical Society does not meet during the months of June, July, and August. After the May meeting the next program meeting will be the second Monday in September—program, time, and place to be announced in the September newsletter to be distributed at the end of August.

A LETTER FROM ROSALIE, BOYNTON HIGH SCHOOL, CLASS OF 1947

[Editor's Note: Rosalie Morrissey responded to the inquiry in the February Newsletter, "Do You Have Memories to Share?" The following are a biographical update and some pictures Rosalie shares with the readers of *The Historian*.]

My family came to Briny Breezes in 1946, from Redford, Michigan. I was attending Redford High School and was a member of the girls' swim team. Redford High had a pool. I was reluctant to come to Boynton Beach for my senior year. I was amazed at the beauty of the ocean, a much bigger pool, and the tropical foliage. We lived at Briny Breezes for two years. I was the only damn Yankee in my class at Boynton High School. All the other members of my senior class were born and raised in Boynton.

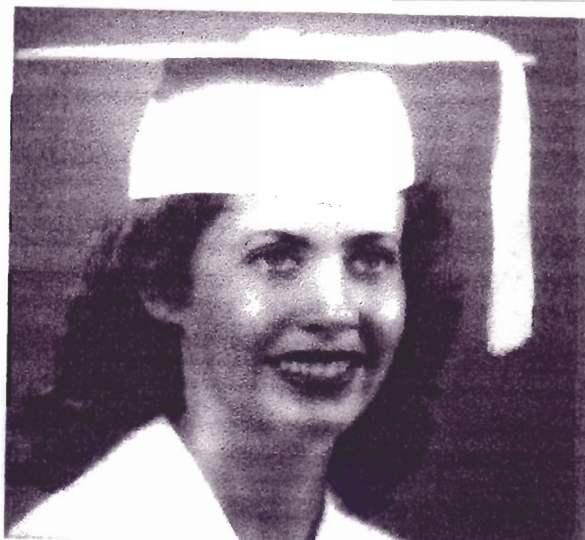
I befriended a lovely lady, Mrs. Larson, who also lived in Briny and who collected shells. She taught me the names of the shells, how to clean them and display them. I still collect shells and make wreaths, collages, and crafts with them. My big collection and chest of drawers of shells have been donated to PBCC and are in the PBCC library for all to enjoy. Some of my shells are at The Boynton School Children's Museum.

I remember Mr. Clyde Harris as principal, and a Miss Crane who helped us with our senior play, "Always in Trouble." We went to school on a school bus that picked us up at Briny. The days we stopped at the drug store to visit and drink cokes, we'd walk home over the old Boynton bridge, past Busch's and The Pink Dolphin to home. We began our classes with The Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer. We played basketball in the gym and volleyball outside. Boynton had a good basketball team in those days and Friday nights were filled with basketball rivalry and excitement. My girlfriend Nicki's mother was a senior hostess at the USO in Delray and would take Nicki and me as junior hostesses to dance with the Air Force officers from Boca Raton Air Force Base at the old Delray library.

Joan Force and I went into nurses' training at Good Samaritan Hospital. I recently organized our 50th nursing class reunion where Mayor Daves of West Palm Beach gave our class a Proclamation and the CEO of Good Samaritan welcomed us and gave us a lovely luncheon and a tour of the hospital. Mr. John Wymer, CEO when we were in training, also attended our luncheon and banquet at Atlantic CC.

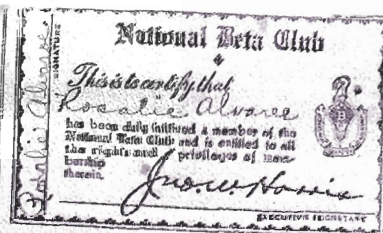
I have become reunited with some of the people I went to Boynton High with at the Boynton Historical Society, and enjoy the history we lived, and even more that I learned and hope to learn in the future by becoming a member of the Boynton Historical Society.

Rosalie (Alvaroe) Morrissey
Atlantis, FL



Rosalie Alvaroe at her graduation from Boynton High School, 1947

[Below are some pictures about the Beta Club, the scholastic honor society, taken in 1947, and reproduced from Rosalie's scrapbooks. Miss Mildred Stephens is the sponsor pictured on the left. Your editor recognizes four of the boys in the front row as Paul Muster, Marvin Baker, Melvin Weaver, and Wayne Hathcock. She can pick out Sue Murphy, Nainie Weems, Mary Lou Muster, Eleanor Murray, Charlotte Oyer, Gloria Partin, Juanita Hathcock, Rosalie Alvaroe, Joanne McCall, but she is not sure of the others.]



BETA CLUB

150-YEAR-OLD-STATE LIBRARY IN JEOPARDY

You may be aware that Governor Jeb Bush has called for the closing of the Florida State Library in Tallahassee, the repository of more than a century of Florida culture and history including photographic archives. Critics say breaking up the library, founded in 1845, will destroy a priceless collection that took decades to assemble. The Governor wants to transfer half of this collection to a private university library (Nova Southeastern) that would be more difficult for the public to use. The value of this portion of the collection is estimated to be at least \$10,000,000.

His plan has been strongly criticised by the Florida State Genealogical Society, American Indian tribes, authors, archaeologists, the Florida Historical Society, the American Library Association, and others. By cutting positions and eliminating the collection, the Governor estimates he will save \$3 million.

The Governor's budget proposal for 2003-2004 calls for changes in the Florida Department of State that would eliminate the State Library of Florida, severely restrict the activities of those agencies involved in promoting and supporting historic preservation and place the holdings of the Museum of Florida History under the nonprofessional care of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. These actions will deliver a severe blow to all historical and cultural activities in the State of Florida.

Please contact immediately your state representative and state senator to ask them to oppose these actions when the Legislature reconvenes March 4. Also write the Governor and urge him to consider preserving Florida's legacy. Please don't delay! Call, write, or e-mail them today!

2003 PAID MEMBERS

(Payment received since February newsletter)

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP:

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Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Weaver (Alice Nain Weems)

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Ms. Cleon S. Bowers
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Ms. Sandra McGregor
Ms. Rosalie Alvaroe Morrissey
Ms. Eleanor Murray Sala
Mr. James Shelton
Mr. Raymond E. Weeks
Ms. Marion Weaver C. Wester
Mr. Thomas E. Woolbright

(Your Editor apologizes to the following whose names were listed incorrectly in the February newsletter: Christine Edward and Mrs. James E. Jones (Patricia).)

Thank you to all of you for supporting the Boynton Beach Historical Society through your membership.

THE 14TH AND 15TH BRITISH COLONIES NOW PART OF THE USA!

Did you know that at the time of the American Revolutionary War there were two more British colonies in what is now the United States of America?

At the Treaty of Paris in 1763, Florida was ceded to Britain by Spain as part of a complex transfer of territory following the Seven Years' War (also known as the French and Indian War). The area was divided into two colonies—West Florida, which extended to the Mississippi River, and East Florida with its capital at St. Augustine. The British ruled only until 1783, when they returned Florida to Spain, but during that time the Revolutionary War occurred. The people who lived in those two Florida colonies remained loyal to the British, but in 1821 they became U.S. citizens when Spain made the final transfer to the United States.

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Special Thanks to Don and Sean Fenton, Investment Representatives, EDWARD JONES, 901 N. Congress Av., Boynton Beach 33426, for underwriting a portion of the cost for mailing this newsletter.

To join the Boynton Beach Historical Society for the calendar year 2003, please complete the form below and mail it with your check for the designated type of membership to Sue Beaman, Treasurer; 2010 S.W. 15th Street, Boynton Beach, FL 33426. Make checks payable to BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM 2003

NAME(S) _____

STREET/P.O.BOX _____ **CITY** _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

TELEPHONE () _____ **FAX ()** _____ **E-MAIL** _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP	INDIVIDUAL (\$25.00) ____	FAMILY (\$35.00) ____
	PATRON (\$50.00) ____	CORPORATE (\$100.00) ____