



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 to US Hwy 441

Voncile Smith, President

Volume 2008, No 4, April, 2008

Voncile Smith, Editor

LOCAL RADIO: PERSONALITIES, DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

Bruce Hamilton who served with Delray Beach radio station WDBF for 30 years will be our speaker for the **April 14** meeting. Most of us remember Vic Knight who owned the station and, after authoring several humorous books on his own version of Florida History, was a speaker for one of the meetings of the Boynton Beach Historical Society several years ago. Bruce obviously had a long relationship with Vic who also owned three other stations in Florida. Bruce will provide us with insight into the growth and development of radio and the changing formats that have been influenced by the changing demographic and economic considerations.



Bruce Hamilton

WHAT: Program Meeting, Bruce Hamilton discussing the Evolution of Local Radio

WHEN: Monday, April 14, 2008
6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Boynton Woman's Club
1010 South Federal Hwy

All program meetings are open and free to the public

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The newly elected officers, and the Directors and Trustees will meet on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. at the Boynton Woman's Club. The agenda will be forthcoming and will be mailed to the new Board and posted on the website. This will probably be the last meeting of the Board of Directors until September. Any member of the Historical Society is welcome to attend.

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION

In addition to presenting the program with Bruce Hamilton described above, we will have a short business meeting to elect new officers, directors, and trustees for the coming year. A nominating committee will present candidates, but all offices are also open to nomination from the floor. If you are interested in being named on the slate, please contact Bev Cormany, chair of the nominating committee at 561-732-0464.

**BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS—2007-08**

OFFICERS

President	Voncile Smith
1 st Vice President, Programs	Richard Philpott
2 nd Vice President, Membership	Bev Cormany
Recording Secretary	Betty Thomas
Corresponding Secretary	Wendy Franklin
Treasurer	Claire Weems

DIRECTORS

2008	Lucile Dickinson
2008	Fain Weems
2009	Helen Adams Bonomini
2009	Nain Weaver
2010	Gloria Turner
2010	Curtis Weaver

TRUSTEES

2008	Harvey Oyer, Jr
2008	Randall Gill
2009	Virginia Farace
2009	Dan Rousseau
2010	Janet DeVries
2010	Marion Weems

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. Back issues and an index prior to the current year are posted on our website.

IN MEMORIAM



Michel Sabourin, Artiste Photographie

Margaret Garnett Harris

Margaret Harris was just short of her 99th birthday when she passed away on March 20, 2008 in Johnson City, TN.

Mrs. Harris was born in Hypoluxo just two weeks before Palm Beach County was formed on April 30, 2009.

Her roots are deep in the history of the area. Her father Andrew W. Garnett, came to the area in 1885. He grew and sold citrus. He also took over the "Barefoot Mailman" route in 1887 after James Edward Hamilton vanished while carrying the mail to Miami.

She entered the freshman class at Lake Worth High School in 1922. She met her husband to be, Clyde Harris there. Later she taught in the county. Clyde Harris served in the county school system for over 40 years during which time he was principal at Boynton High School, later Lake Worth High, and still later Palm Beach High School. He also served as the first assistant superintendent of schools.

The Harrises moved to Tennessee twelve years ago to be close to their son Kendall. Clyde Harris died in 2002. They had been married for 66 years.

At the time of her death, Mrs. Harris was a member of the Boynton Beach Historical Society. She had maintained her membership for many years, and from time to time contributed pictures and news stories for use in *The Historian*.

We are sorry to lose this lovely lady who had an abiding interest in our organization as well as the affairs of the area. We send to her family our sorrow for their loss, and ours as well.

PIONEER DAUGHTER

[Margaret Harris' self-published memoir, *Pioneer Daughter: Daughter of a "Barefoot Mailman"* was originally printed in 1989. In 2003, the Town of Hypoluxo had it reprinted. She wrote me at one time to use whatever I wished from it in *The Historian*. The selection which follows is from her book.]

"SCHOOL DAYS

"My school days ran the gamut from walking to a school where one teacher taught all eight grades to being bused to a new high school where there were double sessions my senior year.

"I have some vivid memories of the Lantana-Hypoluxo School, a two-story structure of ornamental concrete block built in 1911. It was closed in 1919 due to a shortage of pupils and reopened in 1922 when "boom days" created a population explosion so that it was finally fully used. During the four years I attended school there, the upstairs was one large, unpartitioned room used occasionally for church, Sunday School, parties or meetings of other kinds.

[continued on page 3, Pioneer Daughter]



Lantana-Hypoluxo School after it was reopened in 1922 and improved with awnings, trees and playground equipment.

“My fourth grade teacher was a hardy soul. Mrs. Tom Woolbright lived on what is now Woolbright Road south of Boynton and about four miles from the Lantana-Hypoluxo School. She packed lunches and rode her bicycle with her preschooler, Tommy Joe, as a passenger. Two other sons, Sam and Beryl, second and third graders, rode their bicycles with her. Two events stand out. One was a spelling bee for all eight grades. My prize for winning was a dime-store picture which I treasured. From first grade through college, with the exception of mild flu in 1918 and measles in high school, I missed only one day. Mrs. Woolbright came to our home that same day to see why I was absent. . . We did not stay out of school for chicken pox or whooping cough. Our elders reasoned everyone was exposed anyway.

“My last teacher at Hypoluxo was Mrs. Richmond. She set up housekeeping in the vacant downstairs room. How did she survive that year with no indoor plumbing, no automobile or even a bicycle? There were no close neighbors and no buses. . .

“Have you ever been in a one-teacher school? We were supposed to study or almost endlessly . . . practice penmanship while other grades were ‘reciting’ on the front row. . . If we were thirsty, we might beg permission to get a drink by raising one finger and receiving a nod from the teacher. The pump was in the front yard. Unless someone had used it, we had to prime it. This was done by pouring water from a bucket and vigorously pumping the handle. Two fingers might beg us permission to use the facilities in a concrete-block building to the rear if no one else was outside. The water tank for each toilet was near the high ceiling, and pulling a chain released a powerful flushing.

“My older brothers and I walked the half mile home for lunch. More often, we ‘trotted’ so we could get there sooner. For recess there was no playground equipment, not even a ball. A clump of giant bamboo grew in the south yard. We discovered several strong boys could pull down one of the huge canes until someone was able to sit astride it. When letting go, the rider was given a quick upward thrust. It was a lot of fun. Mrs.

Richmond called us girls inside and told us we should not do that anymore because she could see our underwear.



Lake Worth Elementary School grades 1-8, 1916-1928 [Now City Hall Annex, corner Lake Avenue and Federal Highway. Current structure has no tower and roof line is changed.]

“When the Lantana-Hypoluxo School was closed in 1919, we were bused to the Lake Worth Elementary School, then in the building now occupied by the City Hall Annex just east of the library. There I attended sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Our eighth-grade teacher made a big occasion of our ‘graduation’ with girls wearing white dresses, etc. I was introduced as valedictorian, but the speech was given by a boy who did not make good grades, nor could he speak well. It was obvious his qualification was that he was the son of a school board member.” [pp. 35-37]

SOUTH FLORIDA RULES TO LIVE BY

[From time to time we take some nonsense from the internet and share it here. Some of these items may not be nonsense.]

When giving directions in South Florida, you should always start with the words, “Take I-95 to . . .”

We measure the distance you travel in time not miles.

I-95 is a parking lot, not a freeway.

When your body height becomes 4 inches below the steering wheel, get acquainted with Palm Tran.

If you travel more than 15-20 miles on any road in South Florida without seeing an orange “Bob’s Barricade,” you are not in Florida; you are lost.

If you miss your exit on I-95, it is perfectly acceptable to back up.

Once the light turns green, only 3 cars can go through the intersection.

Learn the difference between Sun Pass, Sun Fest, Sun-Sentinel, and Sun Trust.

Your blinker means nothing.

Clematis is a street, not a disease.

“Okeechobee” may mean a boulevard, a street, an avenue, a lake, or a county.

If you were born here, you’re angry that everyone else moved here.

**2008 MEMBERSHIPS
PAID THROUGH MARCH 31**

Corporate Membership:

Kaleel, Kenneth and Rema
Oyer, Charlotte
Oyer, Harvey E., Jr.
Trauger, Dorian B.
Weaver, Curtis and Nainie Weems
Scobee-Combs-Bowden Funeral Home

Patron Membership:

Bednarz, Tim
Davis, Ramona Somerford
Dooley, Lois Oyer
Duffey, Betty Perry
Howell, Evelyn C.
Muster, Cheryl
Rousseau, Bob
Shelton, James D.
Smith, Voncile Marshall
Ternenyi, George and Christine Weaver
Weaver, Charlotte Tatum
Weaver, C. Stanley and Erna
Weems, Marion and Cecile

Family Membership:

Bailey, Derle and Cecilia
Bobik, Pauline and Vivian McBride
Bollenbacher, Ron and Sarah Thomas
Brown, Beverley M. and Margaret Shepard
Bynum, James and Marjorie
Calder, Bob and Joan
Carrodus, J. Paul and Joan
Combs, L.Don and Jeanne
Cuevas, Gabino and Ann
Day, Donald C. and Regina
Earnhart, Bill and Nancy
Eubanks, J. Richard and Katherine Garnett
Foot, Robert L. and Virginia W.
Gallo, Jim and Betty W.
Gayler, Bob W. and Jeanne
Gill, M. Randall and Ann B.
Ginaven, David A. and Marlene
Hatch, H.D. and Edris
Howard, Richard and Judith Merkle
James, William G. and Erma O.
Jones, Ruth J.
Love, Fred W.
Lund, John F. and Alice M.
Macoviak, Robert and Christian Oyer
Marcacci, William and Theresa
McKeral, Frances Tuite and Elizabeth
McKeral, Jimmie, Jr. and Judy
Melear, John A. and Rannie
Parker, Ward C. and Martha
Rogers, John I. and Carnella

Senior; Helen, Charles, and Fred
Simon, Roy A. and Beth
Simon, Charles J. and Jeanne
Simon, Ernest G. and Norma B.
Smith, Leland and Donna
Suiter, John N.
Tarasco, George and Mildred Traylor
Traylor, Philip B. and Barbara S
Voss, Steve and Gay
Weekes, Leon M.
Weeks, William Raleigh
Weems, Fain and Claire
Whittaker, Walter G. and Dorothy F.
Winchester, Bill R. and Elsie
Zobel, Herbert and Betty Magnason

Individual Membership:

Anton, Steven M.
Bell, Heidi
Benson, Marvin T.
Berliner, Paula
Besecker, Ruth
Bonin, Barbara
Bonomini, Helen Adams
Boonstra, Lenore Benson Raborn
Braunworth, Doris W.
Cormany, Beverly
Davis, Gillian
Deal, Mathelene H.
DeLuca, Adele
Dennis, Diana
DeVries, Janet
Dickinson, Lucile
Duxbury, Judy
Edward, Jim
Ganger, Robert W.
Garnett, Lindsey
Gellner, Barbara Louise
Gouge, Lorraine Keatts
Guyder, Margaret
Hackle, JoAnn
Haggard, Mary Miner
Hammett, Phyllis
Harmening, Donna W.
Hawkins, Madelene A.
Hood, Sally
Kennedy, David C.
Knuth, Gladys Baker
Kraft, Robert J.
Kruse, Suzanne
LaBella, Elizabeth Miner
Lacey, James Irvin
Lacy, Nancy Murray
Langford, Wilese Jones
Law, Mary
Mahoney, Carol

[continued on page 5, 2008 Memberships]

[2008 Memberships, continued from page 4]

Marlin, Rita
McGregor, Sandra
Meeks-Light, Martha
Melegnano, Frank E.
Michael, Anne Weems
Miller, Anne Maury
Morgan, Jeff
Morrissey, Rosalie Alvaroe
Mouring, Rosemary
Murray, Gerald
Nelson, Marjorie W.
Nitzsche, Marianne
Nye, Cindy McClain
Ostiguy, Lillian
Oyer, Harvey E., III
Philpott, Richard E.
Pike, Sandra L.
Richardson, Camilla Smith
Rosa, Nancy
Rousseau, Dan
Rousseau, Margaret H.
Ryder, Mary Lou Muster
Sala, Eleanor Murray
Shoemaker, Joanne
Thompson, Katherine Foy
Thurber, Jean Ann
Turner, Dorothy James
Warnke, Beverly and Tom Warnke
Watts, Anne
Weeks, Raymond E.
Weeks, J.H. "Gym"
Wester, Marion Weaver
Williams, Rhys

PLEASE HELP! WHAT WE SHOW OR WRITE ABOUT IS WHAT YOU GIVE US

Occasionally someone will say to your editor, "Why don't you put stuff in *The Historian* about my family?" The answer is "We'd love to." We are interested in as much of the history of Boynton Beach as we can find.

Unfortunately, most people who keep a town going and serve in local settings do not wind up in the major history books. We depend on you to tell us about your family members, to share their letters, papers, and pictures with us. Often these things are found only within your family's holdings. If you can give us the originals, fine. If not, remember modern technology permits us to scan them and return the originals to you.

A few people write memoirs, and sometimes we are lucky enough to share these. Margaret Harris is cited in this issue for such work, and previously we have included recollections of Callie Brown, Freda Oyer, Lillie Voss, and others. Some of the sources for special photographs we have recently included

are Mabel Rousseau Tuite (through her daughter Frances McKeral), James D. Shelton, John Suiter, Rosalie Morrissey, Anne Michael, Cheryl Muster, and others.

The new addition to the Boynton Beach City Library contains an archival section, humidity and temperature controlled. All of our archival holdings will be filed there in appropriate archival containers. One of our Trustees, Janet DeVries, is in charge of this section and has been named City Archivist. We share space with similar holdings of the City and the Schoolhouse Children's Museum. Each of the three collections is marked and filed separately. This will be an important research section for discovering Boynton Beach history and information about the families who have lived here.

We hope you will give us the opportunity to add materials from your family. That will enable many others to discover them and recognize their contributions. The materials are also being computerized. By these multiple efforts we should be able to preserve your information far into the future. No family or person is ever ordinary. All represent a piece of a given place at a given time. Please consider sharing with us and other unknown persons somewhere in the future.



First Graduating Class
Boynton High School, 1928
Mary Frances Hodges and Leon Williamson
[Photo courtesy John Suiter]

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 _____
 Telephone _____
 e-mail _____
 TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: _____
 INDIVIDUAL (\$25.00) _____
 FAMILY \$35.00 _____
 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



Some Boynton friends in the 1930s—probably a Methodist Sunday School class. Back row: Callie Rousseau, Leland (Pete) Garnett, Bob Johnson, Roger Fain, Mabel Rousseau. Center row: Alice Rousseau, Ruth Lacey, Verna Rousseau, Vivian Shepard, Dorothea Benson, Dorothy Powell, Teacher—Mrs. Clara White. Front Row: Thelma Jordan, Helen Shepard, Ethel Powell, Beral Austin. [Photo courtesy John Suiter.]