



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

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Voncile Smith, Editor

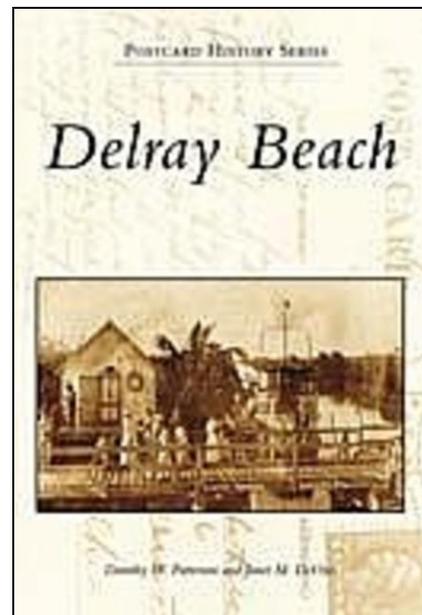
PATTERSON/DEVRIES BOOK and ANNUAL POT-LUCK DINNER SHARE PROGRAM FOR MAY

Janet Devries and Dorothy Patterson have collaborated on a book based on a collection of picture postcards with appropriate commentary about Delray Beach. Their new book has just been published. Janet is a Trustee on the Board of the Boynton Beach Historical Society and Dottie is the Archivist for the Delray Beach Historical Society. They will discuss their findings during a book signing at our May meeting.

Please note that we are meeting on a Sunday and earlier in the evening than we usually meet. We will hold our Annual Covered Dish dinner. All members are requested to bring a vegetable casserole, a salad or a dessert sufficient to serve eight. The Historical Society, aided by the gourmet talent of **Tim Bednarz**, will provide the beverages and meat dishes and the napkins, plates, cups, and flatware.



Dorothy Patterson and Janet DeVries
[Photo by Steven Anton]



Book Cover

WHAT: Covered Dish Dinner and Book Review and Signing Dorothy Patterson and Janet DeVries discuss and autograph copies of their new book

WHEN: Sunday, May 18, 2008, 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Boynton Woman's Club
1010 South Federal Highway.

BRING: A COVERED-DISH – a vegetable, a salad, or a dessert to serve eight. [Beverages, service set-ups, and meat dishes will be provided.] Those who would rather not bring food may pay \$6.00 per person at the door.

**BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS—2008-09**

OFFICERS

President	Voncile Smith
1 st Vice President, Programs	Richard Philpott
2 nd Vice President, Membership	Bev Cormany
Recording Secretary	Carol Mahoney
Corresponding Secretary	Wendy Franklin
Treasurer	Fran McKeral

DIRECTORS

2009	Helen Adams Bonomini
2009	Sheila Taylor
2010	Gloria Turner
2010	Tim Bednarz
2011	Steve Anton
2011	Sally Dye

TRUSTEES

2009	Virginia Farace
2009	Dan Rousseau
2010	Janet DeVries
2010	Marion Weems
2011	Randall Gill
2011	Harvey Oyer, Jr

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.

2008 Memberships

[Dues received between April 1 and April 15, 2008. Previously paid members are listed in the April, 2008 *Historian*.]

Patron Membership:

Taylor, Robert and Sheila Rousseau

Family Membeship:

Callaway, Michael and Linda
Franklin, Wendy Smith and Neal
Holzman, Steven and Andee
Jamison, Bob and Cindy Lyman

Individual Membership:

Brown, Callie Rousseau
Carr, Marilyn Baskin
Dye, Sally
Farace, Virginia
Gregory, Gloria
Hartling, Alexandra Smith
McCulloch, Denise Smith
McNamee, Nancy Hood
Michael, Anne Weems
Orletsky, Lyn Smith
Oyer, Susan
Rousseau, Margaret
Smith, James Marshall
Turner, Gloria Partin

GONE WITH THE WIND

The following is true, but may sound like something Frank Cerabino, columnist for *The Palm Beach Post*, might write. I think someone sent in dues, mailing them April 10 or 11. I picked up the mail at the Post Office on April 12 and there was a small envelope among the other articles. No name was on the return address. I do not recall the street but remember that it was from Boynton Beach. As I was unlocking my car, a sudden strong gust ripped that envelope from my hand and dropped it on the pavement before me. I bent down to pick it up, but a second gust blew it under my car.

I could not hold the other mail and, at my age, get down on my knees to look for it, so I put the mail into the car and then knelt down. The envelope was not under the car. A man parked behind me also began looking. I pulled the car forward, but we could not find it anywhere in the parking lot. I walked about ½ block each way on both Seacrest and Boynton Beach Boulevards without success.

I can only apologize, and ask that you call me at 734-5653, or send in another check if that is what was in the envelope and if your name is not on the list in the preceding column. We want you as a member, and please believe this does not ordinarily happen to our mail. I heard many stories in my 37 years as a professor at FAU about missing paperwork, including the ever popular "My dog ate my homework." I do not have a dog, and I am not making up this windy story. Voncile.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

The May meeting for the Society is the last one until September. We do not meet during the months of June, July and August. You should receive the next issue of *The Historian* in the first week of September. No program has been set yet.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Meeting. There was no quorum present for the meeting on April 15th, so we have scheduled a May Board of Directors meeting for Thursday, May 22, at 6:30 p.m. The location will be announced later. Check the web page for further information or call Voncile after May 10th. Any member is welcome to attend.

ARCHIVES AND FLORIDA BOOKS

The City Library has recently moved into the new addition. While the old section is being refurbished, some of the Library offices are located temporarily in part of what will be the Archives section housed in the northeast corner of the building. In the hall outside that section is an antique display case that the Historical Society has loaned the Library. Eventually it will be housed in the room behind it which is designated for the archives.



The display case was given to the Society in 1969 by G.A. Stevenson who operated a farm supply store near where the old Seaboard Railroad Station stood. Mr. Stevenson sold seeds, hampers, crate making materials and other items. He estimated that the case in 1969 was about 130 years old. The Historical Society has had it refinished. The base is solid oak and is somewhat ornately carved. The frame for the glass is rosewood. Janet DeVries, our Society's and the City's Archivist, plans to use it for historical displays.



. Plaque honoring the donor.

The City Library's selection of books about Florida, both fiction and nonfiction, is more extensive than that of most other public libraries in the area. These are shelved outside the Archives Room on the second floor of the Library. Both sides of two free standing shelves are devoted to these holdings.



Both these shelves hold books concerning Florida, including biographies of people who have built or otherwise served the State. [Note the antique display case to the right.]



Display shelf in front of Florida stacks.

Janet DeVries said that the tiered display rack above is devoted to new and current books about Florida. She said many Library patrons seem to be noticing the holdings for the first time, and that they are continually choosing books from this display to check out.

She checks the shelf regularly and replaces any a patron decides to take in order to maintain a constant display of some of the works available.

UPDATE ON 1927 SCHOOLHOUSE

At a Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) meeting last month the Board of the CRA which is composed of the current City Commission members voted to give the 1927 High School back to the City which had given it to the CRA in 2005.

The question of the school was listed on the agenda for the City Commission meeting on April 15. Any action on it was postponed until May 5. Members of the Historical Society arrived after this postponement had occurred.



Recent Photo of 1927 High School
[Courtesy of Steven Anton, Photographer]

An article in *The Palm Beach Post* on April 16 suggests that decisions by the City may very well be positive. A sub-headline states “The now-vacant 1927 high school could be central to the plan” [referring to a master plan the City has conceptually approved].

The plan’s intent is to try to bring more foot traffic and business to the city’s downtown. According to the article “Commissioners hesitated to give the plan a green light because they didn’t want to be locked into improving the city’s early 20th century high school, which sits vacant but has the potential to turn into a cultural draw for Boynton Beach.”

Some members of the Historical Society helped provide input last year to help shape details for the master plan which covers 746 acres from I-95 to the Intracoastal Waterway and M.L. King Boulevard to SE 3rd Avenue. The proposal includes a cultural walk along Ocean Avenue including permanent public art displays; mixed use neighborhood centers along M.L. King Boulevard; community hubs that include medical, cultural and civic uses at Seacrest Boulevard and Ocean Avenue, making use of the old school, and a transit-oriented district built around a future commuter rail station on Federal Highway between Ocean Avenue and Boynton Beach Boulevard.

Redevelopment would extend through 2020 and seek to create a network of connected streets and

pedestrian paths and green spaces. It incorporates historic structures.

ELECTION AND ANNUAL MEETING

According to the Bylaws, the Boynton Beach Historical Society holds its annual meeting in April when new officers, directors, and trustees are nominated and elected. The new officers and Board of Directors are listed on the masthead on page 2.

At the meeting the Society awarded Certificates of Appreciation to **Betty Thomas** and **Claire Weems**, retiring Recording Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Both have served the Society in many capacities over the years. Retiring Board members were **Lucile Dickinson**, **Fain Weems**, **Nain Weaver**, and **Curtis Weaver** all of whom have been ongoing supporters of the Society. Curtis Weaver has held most officers’ positions at one time or another, and when not an officer per se has served as a director.

Two members have been awarded Certificates for Special Service. **Tim Bednarz** has organized and prepared portions of our Annual May dinners for the past four years. **Steve Anton**, photographer par excellence, spent hours going through the old 1927 high school taking and then printing pictures and CDs for the portfolio included with our nomination of the school to the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation to be placed on their eleven top endangered historic sites in Florida for 2008. Steve also took new pictures for the nomination of the school to the National Register for Historic Places. [A beautiful example of Steve’s work is included in the Fishing Exhibition now on display at the Schoolhouse Children’s Museum—underwater color photos of tropical fish.] We welcome both Tim and Steve as new members on the Board of Directors.

Also elected were Carol Mahoney, Recording Secretary, and Frances McKeral, Treasurer. Carol is on the staff at the Schoolhouse Children’s Museum and has a special interest in helping to develop our outreach to minority communities in Boynton Beach. Fran, retired from Sun Trust bank, should bring excellent skill to our money management. Two new Directors are Sally Dye, who has served on the Board in past years and Sheila Rousseau Taylor, a long-standing member of the Society and a community activist.

2008 IS OUR 40TH BIRTHDAY

Look at our logo on page 1. We were founded in 1968. We will announce celebration plans to honor the years we have served the people around Boynton Beach at a date in early fall. Look for it. Give us suggestions on how we can make it special.

POT-POURRI

OF PICTURES



1917 Boynton Hotel. According to a newspaper story, the fourth person from the left later became Mrs. Bertha Chadwell (formerly Mrs. J.J. Williams). Second from the left became Mrs. Hattie Lewis Hogue who later lived in West Palm Beach. During the summers the hotel kitchen was open to locals and picnics and banquets were enjoyed by Palm Beach County residents. (Photo from a post card)



The Boynton Beach City Council — (l to r) Ezell Hester Jr., James R. Warnke, Vice Mayor Bob Ferrell, Carl Zimmerman and Mayor Nick Cassandra.

The 1985 Boynton Beach City Council



Lou Graham and his daughter Karen Danison run Lou and Marty's Soda Bar.

Before "Hurricane Alley" there was "Lou and Marty's" on Ocean Avenue in one of the old buildings owned by Harvey E. Oyer, Jr. [Photo from 1985.]



The Crossroad Grocery Store
 In a *Boynton Times* article in 1985
 Built in 1933, It stood at the intersection of
 Boynton Road and the "Range Line" [U.S. 441].



Miss Boynton Beach 1966, Susanne Pritchard. Others not identified.

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): _____

Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

THE HISTORIAN
 P. O. Box 12
 Boynton Beach, FL 33425-0012



BOYNTON HOTEL - 1895

Built by Major Nathan Boynton. He brought his construction foreman down from Michigan who was H.B. Murray. Murray settled here with his family and later became one of the Town of Boynton's first mayors.