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.

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A HISTORY OF POSTAL SERVICE in BOYNTON BEACH

is the title of the talk planned for the September 17th meeting of the Boynton Beach Historical Society. Richard Monahan, who served as Postmaster from 1962 and 1987, will also discuss Boynton Beach’s growth since the 1960s.

Richard has lived in Boynton since 1958 and has a long list of service to and activities in the community. He began work with the post office in January, 1959, as a letter carrier and in October 1962 his appointment as Postmaster was confirmed by the United States Senate and President John Kennedy. He is a U.S. Army Veteran and was a Charter Member of the Boynton Jaycees, served as the Boynton Kiwanis Club President in 1969, and as a member of the Boynton Civil Service Appeals Board from 1970 to 1972. He is very proud of the fact that more recently in 2008 he became responsible in a communications disaster for supplying radio communication for Bethesda Hospital through the Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

WHAT: BOYNTON POST OFFICE HISTORY
A talk by former Postmaster
Richard Monahan

WHEN: Monday, September 17, 6:30 pm

WHERE: BOYNTON BEACH CITY LIBRARY
Program Room

ALL PROGRAMS OF THE BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARE OPEN FREE TO THE PUBLIC!
BOARD OF DIRECTORS--2012-13

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2013   Brian Edwards
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2014   Randall Gill
2014   Wendy Franklin
2015   Christian Oyer Macoviak
2015   Audrey Gerger

Our website is www.boyntonbeachhistoricalsociety.org. The e-mail address is boyntonhistory06@yahoo.com. Please mail inquiries or information to our local address P.O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425. Voncile can be reached at 561-734-5653. You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter: www.facebook.com/historicboyntonbeach www.twitter.com/@boyntonhistory

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.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:
I am in my eleventh year as the president of the Boynton Beach Historical Society. When this year is complete, I will have served this group as president for a total of 13 years since I completed two years in the 1990s. It has been my pleasure to have worked with and known so many of you for so many years and I am most grateful for the many friendships and the support I have enjoyed during those years. But when this term ends in the spring of 2013, I will be 82 years old and I think I am overdue for a replacement. If a new president wants me to and there is no one else clamoring for the position, I will continue to write The Historian indefinitely.

We have many wonderful members in the Society, and there are numerous ones who could serve effectively as president. Someone younger than I with more energy and a slew of new ideas would enthuse us all. Be thinking about names, including your own, to put before the Society for election at our Annual Meeting in April. For review, the President presides over 8 program meetings a year and at least 4 meetings of the Board of Directors. The President sits ex-officio on the Board of the Schoolhouse Children’s Museum [the Cultural Center], and gives help and encouragement where needed to help other members of the Board of the Historical Society fulfill their obligations.

Thank you all for your many kindnesses to me over the years.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Boynton Beach Historical Society will be Monday, September 24 at 6:30 pm. The place will be announced at the September 17th program meeting and on the website. The Chair also usually sends the members an email reminder shortly before the meeting. Any member of the Society in good standing is welcome to attend the meeting and may introduce items and/or participate in the discussion, but only members of the Board may vote on items of business. An agenda will be forthcoming.

MORE OLD BUILDINGS GONE
The stucco two-story building that stood on the corner of NW 1st Street and NW 1st Avenue, a block west of the First United Methodist Church, was demolished by the owner this summer. Several members appealed to the City Board for Historic Preservation and to the owner, but to no avail. Despite provisions calling for a review, the Board has no power to stop demolition. The ultimate decision is in the hands of the owner. The house was once the residence of Orville Knuth, an early Mayor of the city. It was later owned by Joel and Bonnie Baskin.

Another building on the north side of Ocean Avenue just west of the FEC railroad tracks was also demolished. Harvey E. Oyer, Jr. had bought this building from his mother, Freda Oyer’s, estate. The business property had been vacant for a number of years and had last housed Carson’s Mower Service and a Fix-It Shop. Before his death in 2010, Harvey had drafted plans and begun work on restoration. The wooden floors had rotted away, and on the walls only the stucco on lathe remained, temporarily propped up since the wood in the walls had also decomposed. The roof was gone. The Oyer children contemplated continuing their father’s restoration plans, but they ultimately decided the costs would be too great.

[Several pictures of the razing of the Oyer building are on page 5]
These pages from a school newspaper from 1928 are self explanatory. The inside pages, 2 and 3, follow on our page 4.
Hazel Lacey (who later married Winston McGregor), Margaret Meredith, Katherine Rousseau, Bernal Austin, and Adeli Lunsford are names related to people we have discussed somewhere in prior issues. Can any reader tell us more about them or about some of the other people named in the paper?
DEMOlITION PICTURES – Oyer BUILDING

This building stood just west of the FEC tracks at 413 E. Ocean Avenue. It was probably built in the early 1920s, but records of buildings built around that time or earlier may not have appeared on tax rolls until some time after the Town of Boynton was incorporated in 1920. The dates on the City and County records often do not reflect the true time of construction.

[Photos courtesy of Christian Oyer Macoviak]

MORE ON ROUSEAUS AND SOME FRIENDS

A member of the Rousseau family, William P. Suiter, sent the above newspaper articles from June, 1945 to the Society. Your editor decided to print them because we had quite a bit on the Rousseaus in a spring newsletter. These articles include the names of family members of several current Board members as well as other members of the Historical Society. Board member Gloria Partin Turner is a sister to Jacqueline Partin and Thelma Partin both of whom are mentioned. Lenore Benson Boonstra is a long time member of the Society. William James is also a current member. Rousseau family members who are currently members include Sheila Rousseau Taylor, Frances Tuite McKeral, J. Robert Rousseau, Daniel R. Suiter and William P. Suiter. It is interesting to see the long term involvement of families in the continuing history of the town.

POSTAL EXHIBIT AT LIBRARY

City and Historical Society Archivist Janet DeVries has assembled another one of her excellent displays, this one on the postal service of Palm Beach County, open through September 17, City Library, 2nd floor. Cal 742-6390 for more information,
This photo is labeled “Boynton – Team Picture, Claude Ross 2nd Row, 2nd from left and Prof. Williamson, Principal of Boynton School in late 1920s and early 1930s.” Do any of you recognize anyone? What team was this?