



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.

2013 Number 2

February 2013

ROAD TO VICTORY: HOPE and COURAGE during WORLD WAR II

Once again the Boynton Beach Historical Society is fortunate to have scheduled Peter and Janis Colon for one of our programs. Many of you had the opportunity to participate in Peter's presentation with his wife Janis on the Civil War several months ago. The Colons are history enthusiasts and Living History Re-enactors. Their February talk will be on World War II. This program will span the time from the dark days starting at Pearl Harbor, cover the major campaigns in the European and Pacific theaters, personal stories, the Holocaust to 1948 when Israel became a nation. The Colons will display many original artifacts to tell a story. Both Peter and Janis will be in period clothing. This will be an informative occasion presented through re-enactment as a living history event.



Peter Colon as World War II Re-enactor

**WHAT: ROAD TO VICTORY:
Hope and Courage during
World War II.
History re-enactment by
Peter and Janis Colon**

WHEN: Monday, February 18, 6:30 pm

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

**ALL PROGRAMS of
the BOYNTON BEACH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ARE OPEN FREE
to the PUBLIC**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS--2012-13

OFFICERS [Elected Annually]

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| President | Voncile Smith |
| 2nd Vice President, Membership | Ginger Pedersen |
| Recording Secretary | Diana Dennis |
| Corresponding Secretary | Anne Watts |
| Treasurer | Frances Tuite McKeral |

Editor, *The Historian*
Archivist and Webmaster

Voncile Smith
Janet DeVries

DIRECTORS [3-Year Staggered Terms]

| | |
|------|------------------------|
| 2013 | Tim Bednarz |
| 2013 | Gloria Partin Turner |
| 2014 | Steven Anton |
| 2014 | Barbara Ready |
| 2015 | Sheila Rousseau Taylor |
| 2015 | Linda Stabile |

TRUSTEES [3-Year Staggered Terms]

| | |
|------|-------------------------|
| 2013 | Brian Edwards |
| 2013 | Virginia Farace |
| 2014 | Randall Gill |
| 2014 | Wendy Franklin |
| 2015 | Christian Oyer Macoviak |
| 2915 | 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.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE, 2013-14

According to the Bylaws, the Society shall hold elections at the Annual Meeting in April of each year. All Officers are elected each year, while Directors and Trustees are elected for 3-year staggered terms. The Bylaws also require that a nominating committee be named by the President in February to begin work on a slate for the April election.

Diana Dennis has been appointed chair for this year's nominating committee. The names of the other four members will be announced at the February 18th meeting and also posted on the website.

Anyone who is interested may self-nominate or be nominated by another member, provided the person who is nominated is willing to serve. You may either drop a note to our post office box, our website, or contact Diana at DLDENNIS1725@comcast.net.

As Voncile announced earlier, she will not be a candidate for president again. She has served in that capacity for 11 years, and feels the Society is entitled to new energy and new ideas.

Please consider volunteering. The Society is dependent upon leadership coming from the membership.

The duties and responsibilities for each office are contained in the Society's bylaws. You may obtain a copy of the Bylaws by contacting Voncile. There will also be copies available at the February and March meetings.

IDENTITY CORRECTION



Last month we printed this picture on the last page of the *Historian*. Maxine Keatts kindly provided us with the names she could recall, but she had left several marked "unknown." One of the "unknown" is first row, second from the right. Jean Ann Thurber has identified this boy as John Cameron Thurber. Can anyone add more names to these? [See January *Historian* for other names or "unknowns".]

2013 MEMBERS

The names below represent paid memberships received since January 1, 2013. If you paid prior to that date, you are listed in the November 2012 or January 2013 copy of the *Historian*. Your dues expiration date is listed above your name on the mailing label. If we have not yet received your renewal, a separate dues notice is enclosed with this copy of the *Historian*. A few people are credited with payment through 2014. Thank you for your help.

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP:

Charlotte Oyer

PATRON MEMBERSHIP:

Richard Castagnoli
Marie J. Horenberger
Evelyn Howell
Wayne F. and Eva B. Netzler
Ginger Pedersen
John I. Rogers
Ernest G. and Norma B. Simon
Curtis and Alice Nain Weems Weaver
[Continued on page 3---2013 MEMBERS]

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP:

James and Marjorie Lamb Bynum
Don and Jeanne Combs
Martin J. and Irene M. Feeny
Randall and Patricia King Gill
JoAnn B., Irma and Delmar Hackle
Steven and Andee Holzmann
Ruth Jones and Emilie Jones Little
Nancy Hood McNamee and Sally Hood
John and Rannie Melear

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP:

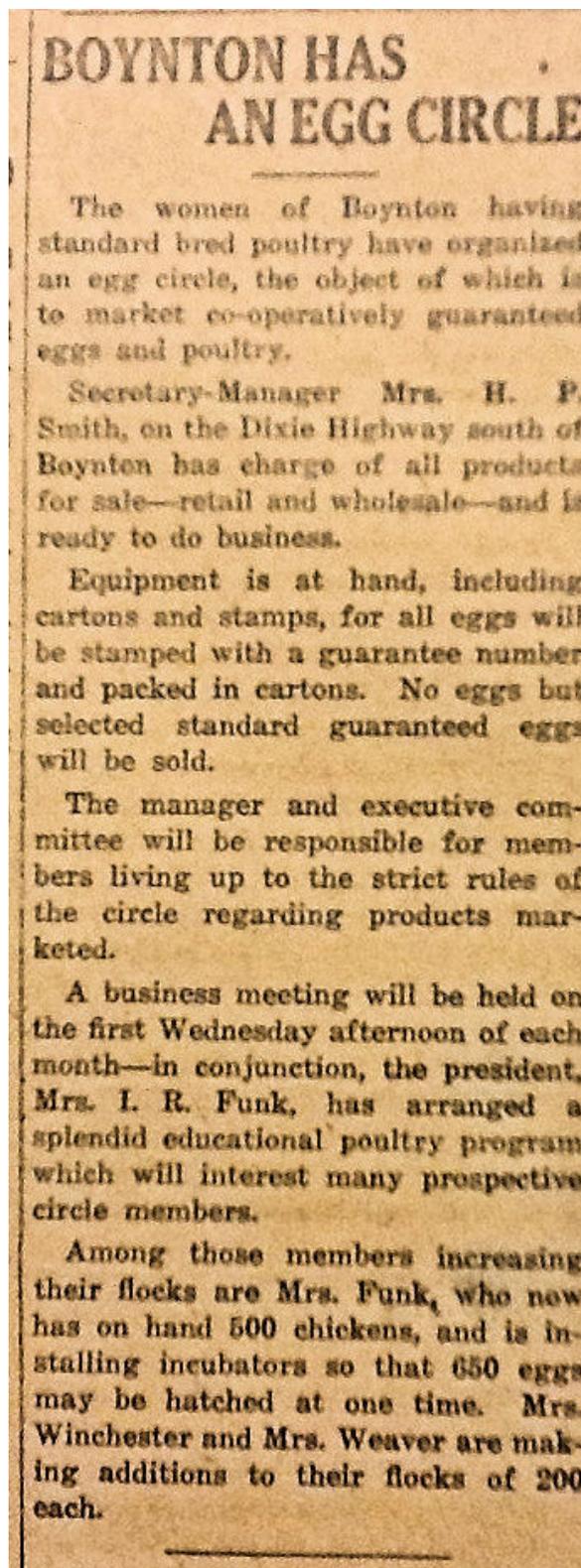
Doris Braunworth
Gillian Winbourne Davis
Lois Oyer Dooley
Virginia Farace
Wendy Franklin
Audrey Gerger
Nancy L. Hogan
Sophie Janssen-Amichai
Mary B. Kaleel
Fr. David Kennedy
Gladys Baker Knuth
Suzanne Kruse
Elizabeth Miner LaBella
Mildred Hackle Lofley
Fred W. Love
Ralph E. Myers
Marjorie Nelson
Lillian Ostiguy
Corrine Shorr
William P. Suiter
Anne Watts
Dorothy Whittaker

Welcome to new member Corrine Shorr, and a special thanks to the many of you who have renewed.

BOYNTON BEACH – A BASIC REVIEW

The Town of Boynton was incorporated in 1920. For some years prior to that, the settlement at that location was known as Boynton named after a Michigan resident who arrived in the area in 1894 and proceeded to build an oceanfront hotel to attract winter visitors. In 1931 a portion of the Town directly on the Atlantic Ocean broke off and called itself "Boynton Beach." In 1939 that "Boynton Beach" changed its name to "Ocean Ridge." In 1941 the Town of Boynton officially change its name to "Boynton Beach." Despite the word "Beach" in the title, Boynton Beach actually borders on the Intracoastal Canal rather than the Atlantic Ocean.

THE "EGG CIRCLE" OF 1922



Janet DeVries found the above newspaper article from 1922. Many of you will recognize some of the names. Apparently keeping chickens inside the town limits was no problem at that time.

OLD PLACES, CHANGED APPEARANCES



This is the corner of Ocean Avenue and Southeast 4th Street. The “Beane Building” which was originally built in 1908 as the first Woman’s Club stood directly on the corner. East of it, with a narrow empty lot between, was the two-story Masonic Hall, and just east of it was the old Jones Hotel also in a two-story building which had housed various small businesses over the years. On the far side, which borders on Federal Highway, Christine Francoise’s Dophin Restaurant once stood. Most of the buildings were demolished about 2007 and the property has had several different owners over the years.



The buildings on the north side of Ocean Avenue across from the vacant land pictured above are currently owned by the Oyer children, Susan, Christian and Harvey III. The nearest building still houses Oyer Insurance, now owned and operated by Christian Oyer Macoviak and her husband Robert Macoviak. Two other business occupy the next two buildings, FSB Menswear is in the arcade and Hurricane Alley, a restaurant specializing primarily in seafood, is beyond FSB. Hurricane Alley is in the oldest building which Harvey Oyer, Jr. said was built about 1919. The restaurant occupies what were once 3 business locations. The Oyers have been remodeling the upstairs apartments and have reestablished a suite of offices, some of which were an early location for Dr. Nat Weems’ medical practice.



The picture above is of The Little House Restaurant and it stands on the southwest corner of Ocean Avenue and Southeast 4th Street. The lot that it occupies was once where the shuffleboard courts were located and later became a parking lot. The CRA bought the building from Ruth Jones when it was located at at 201 Northeast 1st Avenue. The CRA moved it to the new location and totally remodeled it so that few of the original construction materials were retained. Records indicate that Otley Scott built the house for his family.



The house above was originally built in the late 1920s or early 1930s. It is located on South Federal Highway across from the Boynton Woman’s Club at 915 South Federal Highway. In the October 2011 *Historian*, we quote a letter from Historical Society member Sandra McGregor describing how she came home to this house with her mother from the hospital after her birth in 1943. The house had been built and owned by Bill Winchester’s uncle before the McGregors bought it. They owned it until the summer of 1961. Later it was owned by Bob Collier Realty who built and office on the front. Bob and Bess Collier lived in the house behind their office for several years. More recently the CRA remodeled it to house their office. The newest owner is The Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization. They have been most interested in the building’s history and contacted us to find Sandra McGregor who told them about it. They have been most gracious about expressing their appreciation to Sandra and to the Historical Society for our helping them learn about the building.

A HISTORY WITH THE CITY LIBRARY

The Boynton Beach Historical Society has had a close association with the City Library since both came into being about the same time and enjoyed shared facilities in their early days. The actual City Library opened in what had been a private residence and provided space for the Society's holdings. Although our Logo lists 1968 as the beginning of the Historical Society, we were actually organized in 1967 and 1968 is probably the date of incorporation. The Library did not move from the house into its new facilities until 1971. In 1969 the Historical Society dedicated a "Florida Room" in the Library which was more or less a mini-museum. Below is a reproduction of the program cover and the program itself.

DEDICATION SERVICE

of

FLORIDA ROOM BOYNTON BEACH LIBRARY

November 30th, 1969

4:30 P. M.

(By the Boynton Beach Historical Society
Boynton Beach, Florida)

PROGRAM

PRAYER: Rev. James C. Stoutsenberger
(St. Joseph's Episcopal Church,
Boynton Beach)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG
OF THE UNITED STATES: Led by Harvey E. Oyer, Jr.

WELCOME: Mr. Fred Benson,
President of Historical Society

INTRODUCTION OF HONORED GUEST: Mr. Benson
(Including Mrs. Henry K. Harding,
First President of Society)

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Benson

DEDICATION SPEAKER: Mr. Grover C. Herring,
President Palm Beach County Historical Society
(Introduced by Mrs. Norman B. Merkel)

BENEDICTION: Rev. James C. Stoutsenberger

* * *

To be followed by a Picnic Supper in the Civic Center,
with Mrs. C. Howard Hood in charge of arrangements.

Palm Beach Post-Times, Sunday, Nov. 30, 1969-C3

'Florida Room' Added to Boynton Beach Library

By BETTY LINN
Post Staff Writer

ary 26 at 12:30 p.m. will be
discussed. Mrs. Luella Smith
will be chairman.

The Boynton Beach Historical Society will dedicate its newly constructed Florida Room addition to the Boynton Beach Public Library today at 4 p.m.

The society provided the funds for the room, which will be used as a museum and library to stimulate interest in Florida history and especially the history of this area.

President Fred G. Benson is a Boynton pioneer.

In charge of setting up the museum are James Warnke and Al Summers, directors of the organization.

The first exhibit will feature Boynton Beach history from the late 1800s to the early 20th century.

According to program chairman Mrs. Norman Merkel, Grover C. Herring, president of the Palm Beach County Historical Society will be dedication speaker.

Herring a native of North Florida, is a former municipal judge, ad litem and former West Palm Beach city attorney.

Herring is the author of law review articles and a lecturer on real property practice.

He has recently published a booklet, "A Selected Reading List of Florida History," a compilation of a great many historical books, showing in which library in the area the books may be found.

Mrs. Howard Hood has made arrangements for an old fashioned covered dish picnic supper to follow the ceremonies. Guests are asked to bring a covered dish for the buffet table and their own place settings. Beverages will be provided.

The picnic will be held at the adjoining Boynton Beach Civic Center.

The article in *The Palm Beach Post* that covered the dedication is copied above. A room for the Society's holdings was provided in the new Library and continued until the new addition of 2006. Different members over a period of several years volunteered to try to keep the mini-museum open. One of the most avid of these was Betty Thomas who devoted many hours to the effort.

[The materials above were provided by Judith Merkle Howard and Susan Merkle Shaffer from the holdings left by their mother, Rebecca Partin Merkle.]

**BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Member's Name _____
2nd Member's Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ Cell _____
E-mail _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

INDIVIDUAL (\$25.00) _____ FAMILY (\$35.00) _____

PATRON (\$50.00) _____ CORPORATE (\$100 or more) _____

Complete this form and mail it with a check for the appropriate amount to Boynton Beach Historical Society, P. O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425-0012.

THE HISTORIAN

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

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.



A picture postcard of Lee Manor Inn on South Federal Highway, probably taken in the 1950s. Note the trees, the entrance columns, the absence of sidewalks and curbs. Federal Highway was later widened and the entrance to the inn changed considerably. Currently the building still stands, now used as a consignment shop.