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.

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

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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.

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

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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]
THE “EGG CIRCLE” OF 1922

BOYNTON HAS AN EGG CIRCLE

The women of Boynton having standard bred poultry have organized an egg circle, the object of which is to market co-operatively guaranteed eggs and poultry.

Secretary-Manager Mrs. H. P. Smith, on the Dixie Highway south of Boynton has charge of all products for sale—retail and wholesale—and is ready to do business.

Equipment is at hand, including cartons and stamps, for all eggs will be stamped with a guarantee number and packed in cartons. No eggs but selected standard guaranteed eggs will be sold.

The manager and executive committee will be responsible for members living up to the strict rules of the circle regarding products marketed.

A business meeting will be held on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month—in conjunction, the president, Mrs. I. R. Funk, has arranged a splendid educational poultry program which will interest many prospective circle members.

Among those members increasing their flocks are Mrs. Funk, who now has on hand 500 chickens, and is installing incubators so that 650 eggs may be hatched at one time. Mrs. Winchester and Mrs. Weaver are making additions to their flocks of 200 each.

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.

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 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 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)

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PROGRAM

PRAYER: Rev. James C. Stoutzenberger
(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. Stoutzenberger

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

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.]
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.