HURRICANE FRANCES DELAYS
THE HISTORIAN
(President's Message)
A new season welcome to
each of you. I hope you have been
looking forward to reading about the
2004-05 plans for the Boynton
Beach Historical Society.
Unfortunately my getting this
greeting to you earlier has been
delayed because of preparations for
the hurricane and the loss of power
that temporarily killed my computer
and slowed down my writing. This
will also be a short newsletter. The
October issue will be longer (barring
another storm), so please forgive the
brevity.

The newly elected Board of
Directors of the Society was installed
at the May meeting which we held
in conjunction with the Mizner
Foundation. Richard Machek was
the featured speaker for that
meeting, and he presented a
surprisingly optimistic picture of
State funding for Art and
Historical
Groups for the coming year.

The new Board members
are listed on page 2.

The Society needs to do
much more within the community. I
restate that need every year, but we
are still behind in meeting goals that
we have outlined in previous years. I
hope that many of you will agree to
become involved. Some of you have
indicated a willingness to serve on
various committees, but we always
have a need for more to respond.

Little treasures of history continue to
be lost each year and it is up to the
members of the Society to try to
preserve them as a part of Boynton
Beach's history. I hope you will be
willing to give us a little bit of your
time when a member of the Board
contacts you.

To a good future,
BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS—2004-05

OFFICERS
President
1st Vice President, Programs
2nd Vice President, Membership
Recording Secretary
Corresponding Secretary
Treasurer
Voncile Smith
Harvey Oyer, Jr.
Claire Weems
Betty Thomas
Gloria Gregory
Sue Beaman

TRUSTEES
2005
2006
2007
Harvey Oyer, Jr.
Fain Weems
Helen Meisenheimer
Nain Weaver
Gloria Turner
Curtis Weaver

IN MEMORIAM
James Warnke. The Historical Society of Boynton Beach lost a good friend with the passing this summer of James Warnke. Jim was a former Mayor of Boynton Beach, a past president of the Society, and an environmentalist. He had contributed much in recording the history of the area both in photography and in writing. We will miss him greatly.

Mary Barton. Although not a member of the Historical Society, Mrs. Barton lived in Boynton Beach nearly 65 years. She distinguished herself in the 1960s and 1970s by pressuring officials to clean up an overgrown cemetery, a resting place for black residents. City officials named the cemetery and an adjacent playground Barton Memorial Park.

Lester Ward. A long time resident of Boynton Beach, Lester had attended local schools and was a retired Building Official for the City of Boynton Beach.

Charles Andrews. In the 1920s the Andrews and the Meeks families subdivided a track of land which became a basic part of the black community. Charles’ father worked for the City for many years. The family was originally from the Bahamas.

EARLY SCHOOL YEARS RECALLED
In 1969 Margaret Garnett Harris, a current member of the Historical Society, recorded some of her recollections of early life in the area. She writes:

“The early history of your school should be recalled and recorded while people still remember, because unfortunately, no record is in the old minutes of the School Board. [Editors note—What is now Palm Beach County was part of Dade County until 1909.] The first minute books were numbered 1, 2, and 3. Number one began in 1885 when the Dade County School district was formed, and it included the years through 1896. The second included the years 1897 to 1906. Guy Metcalfe of West Palm Beach, who was then a school trustee, borrowed this second book in 1907. The School Superintendent recorded a statement in 1914 that a thorough search was made of the Court House in Miami, persons were carefully questioned, and it could not be found. There had been a running feud between the school trustees of District 1 and of the Dade County School Board members because the West Palm Beach area trustees over-stepped their bounds, made promises as to salaries and appointments they were not permitted by law to make, and the School Board was not able to fulfill. This book would have contained the beginning of your school. I would like also to have read these minutes because it was during this time my father served on the School Board. Half of his term of office was when the County Seat was at Juno, the other in Miami. He went to Miami one day on the train and returned on the next.

“Incidentally, I can remember my mother saying Guy Metcalfe, who was Superintendent of Palm Beach County Schools one year in 1917-18, put a bullet through his head while sitting at his desk at the School Board Office. School Superintendents had their problems then, too, ‘though actually, I do not know the nature of his problem.

There are two references in the early Board minutes which do pertain to Boynton Schools.

“Miami - August 14, 1906

“Jesse Doughty [Ed. Note: Mrs. Harris indicates correct spelling should be Daughtery] and W. C. King were appointed supervisors at Boynton and Pompano, respectively.’

“Miami - October 8, 1907

“Petition from the colored people of Boynton asking the Board to furnish a teacher for a school at that place, the people to furnish building, was received, also letter from Cullen Pence recommending same. Petition was granted and school established for four months. Superintendent was ordered by the Board to employ a teacher.”

[Copied from a typed manuscript prepared by Mrs. Harris and among the holdings of the Boynton Beach Historical Society.]

JEST FOR FUN
Comments made in the year 1957

[Some of the items that appear in e-mail]

“I’ll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, it’s going to be impossible to buy a week’s groceries for $20.’

“Have you seen the new cars coming out next year? It won’t be long before $2000 will only buy a used one.”

“If cigarettes keep going up in price, I’m going to quit. A quarter a pack is ridiculous.”

“Did you hear the post office is thinking about charging a dime just to mail a letter?”

“When I first started driving, who would have thought gas would someday cost 29 cents a gallon. Guess we’d be better off leaving the car in the garage.”

“I read the other day that some scientists think it’s possible to put a man on the moon by the end of the century. They even have some fellows they call astronauts preparing for it down in Texas.”

“No one can afford to be sick any more; $35 a day in the hospital is too rich for my blood.”
CITY FINANCES - 1945

The copy on the right, "Statement of Finances" was submitted to The Historian last year by Jim Warnke who had served as Mayor of Boynton Beach in the 1980s. He called attention specifically to the item under Receipts, "Sale of Coconuts," although income and expenditures for other categories are equally interesting.

We print this as an example of some of the many items of historic curiosity Jim was able to share with us over the years.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The membership year in the Society is from January 1 to December 31. The following memberships are available:
- Individual $25.00
- Family 35.00
- Patron 50.00
- Corporate 100.00 and above

New members who join this year after October 1st will be credited for the full year of 2005.

Program meetings are held eight times a year in September, October, November, January, February, March, April and May. Meetings are open to the public and you do not need to be a member to attend. The HISTORIAN is mailed during the months when program meetings are scheduled. We do not meet in the summer months.

If you would like to join, please send your check made out to the Boynton Beach Historical Society in the amount of the membership you desire and mail it with your name(s), address, phone number and e-mail to P.O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33424-0012. If you have questions, please call Voncile at 561-734-9553.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Boynton Beach Historical Society memberships are for the calendar year, January 1 to December 31. If you are not now a member and would like to join, complete the form below and return it with your check for the type of membership you desire payable to The Boynton Beach Historical Society, P. O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, Florida 33425-0012.

| BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM, CALENDAR YEAR 2005 |
| WORKING TOGETHER TO PRESERVE BOYNTON BEACH'S HERITAGE |
| Member’s Name __________________________ | 2nd Member’s Name __________________________ |
| Street __________________________ | City __________________________ | State ______ | Zip ______ |
| Telephone __________________________ | FAX __________________________ | E-mail __________________________ |
| TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP | INDIVIDUAL ($25.00) | FAMILY ($35.00) | PATRON ($50.00) | CORPORATE ($100 or more) |
| Yes___, I would like to serve on the following committee(s) | Archives/Preservation | Program/Planning | Mailings |
| Telephone | Hospitality | Membership | Public Relations | Seeking Sponsors | Minority History |
| Fundraising | Other (Specify) |