



# 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.

2016 Number 8

November 2016

## BOYNTON SHIPWRECKS OVER THE YEARS

is the topic for the Monday November 21<sup>st</sup> program for the Boynton Beach Historical Society at the Boynton Beach City Library at 6:30 p.m.. Steven Anton, a member of the Board of Directors of the Society, who is an award winning photographer and videographer will speak about famous and not so famous shipwrecks located off the beaches of Boynton. Some are easily visited and very close to shore.

Steve is a native Floridian who began swimming at age 2, snorkeling at 4, and in 1974 took up scuba diving. His passion for diving led him to join the United States Navy where he became a Navy diver. Here he worked on all aspects of diving from ship and salvage diving to dive supervisor and to an Explosive Ordinance Disposal diver. While in the Navy he also began his work in the hyperbaric industry in 1968 aboard a submarine where he served as a torpedoman and ship's diver and as the ship's hyperbaric chamber operator. In 1981 after returning to civilian life, he became a NASDS scuba instructor. His wound-care and hyperbaric career began in 1987 at Tallahassee Community Hospital's multiplace hyperbaric unit. Steve's injuries during his Navy service ultimately resulted in his retirement, but in his free time he takes photos while snorkeling and scuba diving around South Florida.



Steve Anton



The Wreck of the Coquimbo off Boynton Beach, 1909

- WHAT:** Multi-Media Presentation, "Boynton Shipwrecks Over the Years," with Steve Anton
- WHEN:** Monday, November 21, Meet & Greet-- 6:30 – 7:00 p.m., Program—7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** City Library, 208 S. Seacrest Blvd., Program Room. **OPEN FREE TO THE PUBLIC**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS--2016-17

### OFFICERS [Elected Annually]

President	Randall Gill
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President, Programs	Anne Rimler
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Membership	Voncile Marshall Smith
Recording Secretary	Ginger Pedersen
Corresponding Secretary	Anne Watts
Treasurer	Frances Tuite McKeral
[Non-Elected]	
Editor, <i>The Historian</i>	Voncile Marshall Smith
Archivist/Facebook/Webmaster	Janet DeVries
Facebook Administrator/Webmaster	Ginger Pedersen

### DIRECTORS [3-Year Staggered Terms]

2017	Steven Anton
2017	Barbara Ready
2018	Sheila Rousseau Taylor
2018	Diane Gerino
2019	Tim Bednarz
2019	Judith Merkel Howard

### TRUSTEES [3-Year Staggered Terms]

2017	Ginger Pedersen
2017	Sarah Thomas Bollenbacher
2018	Janet DeVries
2018	Vacant
2019	Susan Merkel Shaffer
2019	Virginia Farace

Our website is [www.boyntonhistory.org](http://www.boyntonhistory.org). The e-mail address is [boyntonhistory@gmail.com](mailto:boyntonhistory@gmail.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. Boynton Beach Historical Society number is 561-327-4690. You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter:

[www.facebook.com/historicboyntonbeach](http://www.facebook.com/historicboyntonbeach)

[www.twitter.com/@boyntonhistory](https://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. Copies from past years are posted on the website.

### LIFE MEMBERS

Lenore Benson Raborn Boonstra  
Randall and Ann B. Gill  
Robert and Christian Oyer Macoviak  
Melear Bros., Inc. - Cliff and Rick Melear  
Scott and Camilla Smith Richardson  
Alexander "Sandy" Simon  
Ernest G. Simon  
Voncile Marshall Smith  
Dorian Beck Trauger  
Charlotte Tatum Weaver  
Curtis and Nain Weems Weaver

### CORPORATE MEMBERS – 2016

Boynton Woman's Club  
Delray Awning, Inc., Don and Regina Day  
Easy Pay Tire Stores, Inc., Doug Besecker (2017)  
Florida Coalition for Preservation  
George and Christine Weaver Ternenyi  
Marion Weaver Clark Wester  
Pearce Doors & Windows Inc., Glen Pearce, President  
Scobee-Combs-Bowden Funeral Home & Crematory

## A NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR – 2017

In past years, a number of you have paid dues for the upcoming year before the first of the year. If you pay before the first of February, it saves us the work of preparing and sending you notices later. Since all we do depends upon volunteer work, we very much appreciate your help. If you are currently a member, you need simply to mail us your check to P. O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425. Unless some of your information has changed, you do not need to fill out a membership form.

Members whose dues for 2017 are already paid:

### **Life Members:**

Ann B and M. Randall Gill  
Robert and Christian Oyer Macoviak  
Cliff and Rick Melear  
Lenore Benson Raborn Boonstra  
Scott and Camilla Smith Richardson  
Ernest G. Simon  
Voncile Marshall Smith  
Dorian B. Trauger  
Curtis and Nain Weaver Weems  
Charlotte Tatum Weaver  
Alexander "Sandy" Simon

### **Corporate Members:**

Boynton Woman's Club  
Easy Pay Tire Stores, Inc., Doug Besecker  
George and Christine Weaver Ternenyi

### **Family Members:**

Jeffrey and Africa Fine  
Bob W. and Jeanne Gayler

### **Individual Members:**

Pam Traylor Anwyll  
Donna Artes  
Beverley M. Brown  
Ramona Somerford Davis  
Janet DeVries  
Jesse Feldman  
Wendy J. Franklin  
Janet Hakala  
Sally Hood  
James H. Pitts  
Mary Patricia Ryan  
Mary Lou Muster Ryder  
Cindy Weeks  
Fain Weems  
Daniel L. Winters

## IN MEMORIAM

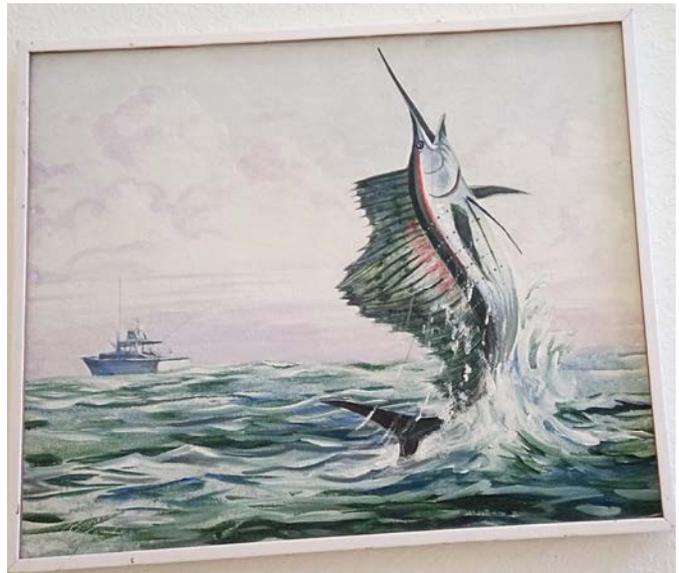
**GORDON READY**—We are said to report that Gordon Ready, the husband of Barbara Ready, one of members of the Board of Directors of the Boynton Beach Historical Society died suddenly in September. We extend our sympathies to all the Ready family.

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

Often members and others present the Historical Society with a gift to honor the passing of a loved one or a birth or some special occasion. The Society deposits cash gifts into a gift savings account and we use them for special projects. One such project funded with contributions in honor of Harvey E. Oyer was the rehabilitation and reissue of the 1976 film "History of Boynton Beach" narrated by Norman Thomas. Another was the furnishing of the Principal's office at the new Galaxy School in honor of Betty Thomas.

Currently we are committed to cleaning and rehabilitating five paintings by muralist and painter Bernard Thomas which he contributed to Forest Park School some years ago.

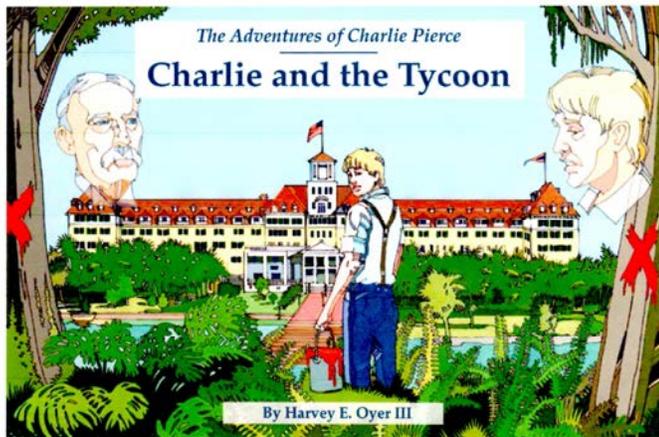
When a committee to plan for this restoration went to Forest Park School, Fran McKeral took the following photographs. Unfortunately, she had to photograph the paintings from an angle, and the beautiful colors cannot be included in our reproductions.



We have received two memorial gifts honoring Gordon Ready; one from Susan Oyer, and one from Harvey E. Oyer, III. We have also received a memorial gift honoring Dr. Heather Frazer from Voncile Smith.

## HARVEY OYER ANNOUNCES 5<sup>th</sup> BOOK

Award winning author Harvey E. Oyer, III, has been writing and publishing a series of books for elementary school children about the history of South Florida. He has just announced that the fifth title in the series is now available.



This book is available for pre-order and is not yet available in bookstores or at Amazon. Pre-order before Midnight on Thanksgiving and receive a \$5.00 discount by using coupon code TYCOON at checkout. The bookstore price is \$19.95/Special Offer to Charlie Pierce Fans is \$14.95. Your book will be delivered by December 10, 2016.

[www.theadventuresofcharliepierce.com/the-bookstore](http://www.theadventuresofcharliepierce.com/the-bookstore)  
or mail to Harvey E. Oyer III Esq., PA, 525 Okeechobee Blvd, Suite 1100, West Palm Beach, FL 33401.

### **OH, FLORIDA!**

#### ***How America's Weirdest State Influences the Rest of the Country***

by Craig Pittman

This book was published earlier this year by St. Martin's Press, and, as the dust jacket says, "it's a state where the voters went for Barack Obama twice yet elected a Tea Party candidate as governor. Florida is touted as a carefree paradise, yet it's also known for its perils—alligators, sinkholes, pythons, hurricanes and sharks, to name a few. It attracts 90 million visitors a year, some drawn by its impressive natural beauty, others bewitched by its man-made fantasies. . . [Oh, Florida!] is the first book to explore why Florida is so wild and weird and why that's okay. . . Oh, Florida! explains how Florida secretly, subtly, influences all the other states in the Union, both for good and for ill." This is a very humorous look about the past and present events of the Sunshine State.

The author is a native Floridian and an award-winning reporter and columnist for the *Tampa Bay Times*.

### **CREDIT, HOUSING AND CARS: 1930s TO 1950s**

by Voncile Smith

As I remember, my mother and father never had credit cards. I am not sure they existed in the 1930s, but I do know that if they did, they were not plastic. Most major credit cards as we know them did not really gain widespread acceptance

until well into the 1960s. For years there was only Carte Blanc and it, like its later cousins Mastercard, Visa and American Express, had high interest and service fees.

When I was a child in the 1930s and 1940s most people I knew paid cash for everything. You saved until you could buy a car or a house, or you might take a personal loan from a friend. I know some people had mortgages, but most did not want to pay the interest that a mortgage loan entailed. Anyway, during the Great Depression of the 1930s many banks failed which led to a serious decrease in home loans and ownership. Most home mortgages were short-term (3 to 5 years) with no amortization. The banking crisis of the 1930s forced lenders to retrieve due mortgages, refinancing was not available, and many borrowers, now unemployed, were unable to make mortgage payments. Banks collected the foreclosed homes, but low property values resulted in banks having a lack of assets.

The National Housing Act of 1934 created the FHA (Federal Housing Administration) to insure mortgage loans for qualified mortgagees. Its intent was to regulate the rate of interest and the terms of the mortgages it insured. These practices increased the numbers of people who could afford a down payment on a house and monthly debt service payments on a mortgage. Even though housing sales picked up, with so many people unemployed, few were able to qualify for FHA help.

Changes occurred after World War II. The GI Bill provided low percentage loans to returning veterans to enable them to buy homes. FHA loans had been around since the 1930s, and with an improved economy many buyers were able to qualify for a mortgage through this means.



Voncile with daughter Denise in 1952 in front of GI Bill house

In 1952 my veteran husband and I bought a home under the GI Bill in Dade County for \$6,200. It was concrete block on a poured concrete foundation with a tar and gravel roof, 3 bedrooms, one bath, and a total of 1200 square feet on a 100' by 100' foot lot. At

[Continued on page 5]



**BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**THE SOCIETY IS A 501 © 3 Organization so dues are TAX DEDUCTIBLE!**

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: (Check one)	INDIVIDUAL	(\$25.00) _____
	FAMILY	(\$35.00) _____
	PATRON	(\$50.00) _____
	CORPORATE	(\$100.00) _____
	STUDENT	(\$10.00) _____
	LIFE	(\$500.00) One time Payment only.

The membership; year is from January 1 to December 31 of each year.  
 Dues are not pro rated.

Complete this form and mail it with a check for the appropriate amount to  
 Boynton Beach Historical Society, POB 12, Boynton Beach FL 33424-4012,  
 You may pay by PayPal at [www.boyntonhistory.org](http://www.boyntonhistory.org)

*The Historian*

**Boynton Beach Historical Society  
 Post Office Box 12  
 Boynton Beach FL 33425-0012**



The Boynton High School Class of 1945: Top row, Ann Mayberry, Louise Bell, Cheryl Muster, Nancy Murray. Bottom row, Curtis Weaver, the total class.