



The Historian

The Newsletter of The Boynton Beach Historical Society

Voncile Smith, President

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Voncile Smith, Editor



Happy New Year 2007



COME SEE THE FILM ON THE HISTORY OF BOYNTON BEACH

In the November, 2006 issue of *The Historian* we discussed the Bicentennial film narrated by Lowell Thomas that presented over 80 years of Boynton history. Copies of the film, though well-worn, are in the City Library. It had been converted to VHS tape. We choose the best of the copies and had a DVD produced that should avoid the deterioration usually associated with videotape. The showing of this DVD and discussion by some of our long-time residents should give any viewer a better understanding of what occurred in Boynton Beach prior to 1976. At the time the film was made, many people who are now deceased discussed their lives and roles in the City's development. According to several current long-time members of the Historical Society, the film contains some errors of fact. We hope these will be revealed in the ensuing discussion.

WHAT: Viewing 1976 Film on DVD
"The History of Boynton Beach"
Followed by Discussion

WHERE: Boynton Beach City Library

DATE: Monday, January 8, 2007

TOPIC: Where Boynton was at
America's Bicentennial

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

All programs of the Boynton Beach Historical Society are OPEN and FREE to the General Public. For more information e-mail us at boyntonhistory06@yahoo.com or call us at 561-742-6397.

PROGRAMS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL

The program for February 12 will be a tribute to Briny Breezes and will include pictures and information about that community. For March we are fortunate to have been able to schedule another one of the magnificent programs of the Florida Humanities Council—this one on Mary McLeod Bethune. In April Frances Tuite McKeral will present, "What I Found in My Mother's Closet," based on the wonderful collection of Boynton memorabilia of Mabel Rousseau Tuite.

*Serving Boynton Beach, Ocean Ridge, Manalapan, Gulf Stream, Lantana, Hypoluxo, the Village of Golf, Briny Breezes
and all areas of West Boynton to US Hwy 441
Post Office Box 12 Boynton Beach FL 33425-0012*

**BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS—2006-07**

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2008	Stanley Weaver
2009	Virginia Farace
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The Boynton Beach Historical Society's website is boyntonbeachhistoricalsociety.org. You can contact us at our e-mail address boyntonhistory06@yahoo.com or mail inquiries or information to our mailbox at P.O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425-0012.

ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL MEETING

We amended the Society's Bylaws last year so that we now hold our election of officers, directors and trustees at our April meeting. If you would be willing to serve in one of the following, please contact Betty Thomas, Chair of the Nominating Committee through our website or P. O. Box:

All officers serve one year terms

President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer.

All Directors and Trustees serve 3 year staggered terms

Directors terms being vacated

2 for April 2007 to April 2010

Trustees terms being vacated

2 for April 2007 to April 2010

A description of the duties of each office is listed in the Bylaws. If you would like to review a copy, please let us know and we will mail you one.

JANUARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next Board of Directors meeting of the Boynton Beach Historical Society will be Wednesday, January 17, 2007 at the Boynton Woman's Club at 5:30 p.m. The Board consists of all the Officers, Directors and Trustees, but any member in good standing is welcome to attend. We will publish the preliminary agenda on the website several days before the meeting.

SOME SPECIAL EVENTS

At the Schoolhouse Children's Museum—

Seminole: Their Journey to Florida and the 21st Century: A special exhibition opens on January 11 and runs through April 12, 2007 in the Community Archives Gallery of the Schoolhouse Museum. It will give visitors a special view of the Seminole Tribe through artifacts, objects and documents. The Tribe's journey to Florida through what we know as the Trail of Tears, it's establishment in Broward County, the realization of its dream museum *Ah-Tah-Ti-Ki* (Meaning 'A Place to Learn') in the Everglades, and the final step towards full economic independence with the opening of the new Hard Rock Casino in 2004—all are included in this exhibit.

A palm frond spath by artist Eleanor Bowles, depicting a likeness of Chief Osceola in the foreground, with an abstract, color background formation that alludes to the Trail of Tears, is the exhibition's title panel.

School tours will be offered by reservation of Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Several family workshops are planned in conjunction with this exhibition including lectures by members of the *Ah-Tah-Ti-Ki* Museum. Curated by Janet DeVries.

[Ed. Note. Although many people tend to associate "The Trail of Tears" only with the Cherokees, the Trail of Tears refers to the forced removal of all the tribes known as the "Five Civilized Tribes"—the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, and Seminole. The seven year Second Seminole War from 1836-1843 was triggered by the removal from Florida.]

At the Historical Society of Palm Beach County—

A lecture, reception and book signing by James D. Snyder author of *A Light in the Wilderness: Jupiter Lighthouse and the Settlement of Southeast Florida* to be held at The Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea, 141 S. County Rd, Palm Beach, Thursday January 18, 7:00 p.m. RSVP 561-832-4164 ex. 305.

[Ed. Note. Two years ago James D. Snyder presented a review of his book on Palm Beach County agriculture, *Black Gold and Silver Sands* to the Boynton Beach Historical Society.]

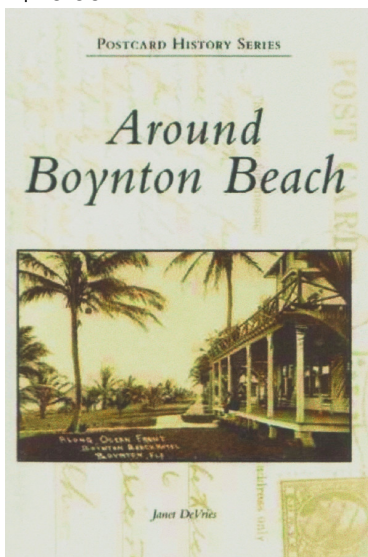
Lantana Historical Society—

The Society meets on the second Thursday each month at 7:30 at the Lantana Recreation Center Conference Room, 418 U.S. Hwy 1, Lantana. For further information e-mail LH_Society@bellsouth.net or write to Lantana Historical Society, P.O. Box 2551, Lantana, Florida 33462.

AROUND BOYNTON BEACH

The new local history book, *Around Boynton Beach: Postcard History Series* compiled and written by Historical Society Director Janet DeVries who is also City of Boynton Beach Library Archivist, was published November 27, 2006. The book features more than 200 historical postcards of Boynton Beach and neighboring Briny Breezes, Ocean Ridge, Hypoluxo and Gulf Stream that show a carefree lifestyle long since gone.

A special mini-exhibit is now featured at the Schoolhouse Children's Museum with many of the original postcards on view. Related activities will be available and a workshop titled *Making & Writing Your Own Book* will be offered by the Museum's Education Assistant Marisa Guida with Janet's participation. The book is available for check out at the Boynton Beach City Library or for purchase at the Library, Children's Museum, or a local bookstore for \$19.99.



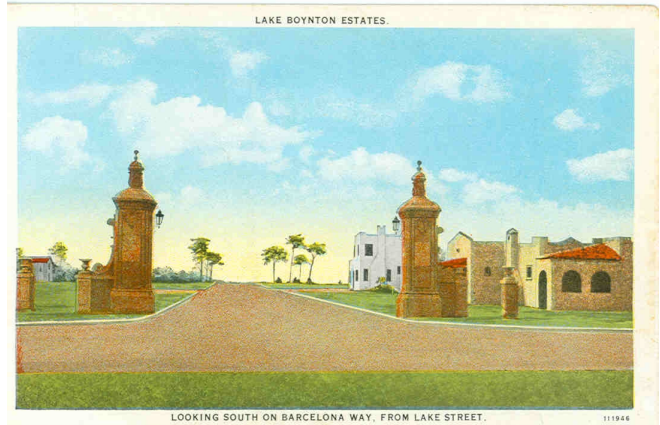
Janet DeVries has provided *The Historian* with the following pictures and text to illustrate some of the material the book contains:



GOLDEN ABACA PINEAPPLES

In 1932, Oscar R. Winchester (shown here) and Fred G. Benson (not pictured) made their first planting of Golden Abaca pineapples. Their 550 acres of sweet, juicy pineapple usually ripened in late July after the Cuban crop of Red Spanish was finished. Thus, the market was not as glutted as it was earlier in the season and a better yield was received. In the 1930s, about 96% of the acreage of Golden Abaca pineapples grown was in Palm Beach County.

Pineapples were a very important crop and were shipped north in great quantity. People bought pineapple for the looks and fragrance. Only the finest were shipped for markets. Perfect ones were shipped to produce houses and those with "bald head" were retained for home consumption. Mr. Winchester wore long sleeves to protect his arms from the sharp spines. He would sometimes cut off the sides of the over-ripe pineapples and offer the remaining stem and sweet fruit "pineapple pop" to the children of packinghouse workers.



LAKE BOYNTON ESTATES

This real estate postcard from the 1920s advertises Boynton's first planned community. The palm trees and stately columns showcase the idyllic neighborhood of new Mission Style homes developed by K.D. Purdy. The back of the card reads "Located on the Ridge in the town of Boynton between Lake Boynton and the Atlantic Ocean. This view is reproduced for an actual photo. Visit the semi-tropics."



CANOPY OF AUSTRALIAN PINES

State Road A1A officially opened in 1916 in the area of Manalapan, Hypoluxo, Ocean Ridge, Boynton Beach, Briny Breezes, Gulf Stream and Delray Beach and is one of the earliest, most scenic and most important north-south highways in Palm Beach County. In the 1920s, Australian pines were planted on both sides of the road in south Florida, up to the freeze line, to act as a windbreak. Being a fast growing species, a canopy over A1A soon developed, adding greatly to the beauty, charm and character of the area.

Much of the landmark, shady canopy has been destroyed with the exception of that remaining in Gulf Stream. The once desirable Australian pines are now too prolific and are not as welcomed in some areas as they once were. In 1992, North Ocean Boulevard (A1A) in Gulf Stream was designated as a State Historic Scenic Highway to preserve the last remaining Australian pine canopy and the original character and beauty of the 1920s A1A in Florida. The Town of Gulf Stream has protected the canopy and has obtained authority from the State to restore it.

A. W. GARNETT

Grower and Shipper of

Fancy Fruits and Early Vegetables

Hypoluxo, Florida



Christmas 2006

Dear *Donella and Harvey*

No, I am not in my second childhood! I found a sheet of my father's business stationery between photos in my 1926 Lake Worth (Florida) High School Memory Book. My class was the first to attend all four years there and we did not have an annual. A recent book on Palm Beach County agriculture says my father had the first packinghouse in the county. His delight was packing the finest grapefruit and "pineapple oranges" in half or full sized wooden crates for the Palm Beach trade. The fruit on the top layer were wrapped in thin fancy paper; also kumquats with leaves were inserted in the spaces.

I cannot do what he did, but I can send you my love and best wishes for a meaningful Christmas with peace in your heart and peace among nations.

Old age (b. 4/17/1909) has brought some special blessings. We are grateful my grandson Nathan has completed his commitment of six years in the Air Force, with considerable time spent in Iraq and Afghanistan. He returned in good health. Both he and his devoted wife continue to live and work in Dover, Delaware.

I am fortunate to have my two granddaughters, a fine son-in law, and three delightful great grandchildren, all in Johnson City. My son Kendall still lives near enough to be my shopper and consultant as well as a wonderful friend. Neil is still in Fremont, in the Bay Area of California, and he comes for a visit almost every summer.

On my birthday I received a lovely history of the Boynton Beach Methodist Church, commemorating their centennial. My parents were founding members. In October my 75 year membership in the P.E.O. Sisterhood was recognized. Newsletters and clippings from good friends keep me in touch with Florida.

THANK YOU! I enjoy your Boynton B. H.S. letter and news from Florida. A Hypoluxo Town Council meeting will vote on naming a lot near the highway, part of our home place property, "GARNETT PARK." Best to both of you. Margaret Harris

[Ed. Note. Harvey Oyer and your editor received this delightful greeting from Margaret Garnett Harris. We include it because of the historic documentation she incorporates—information on her father's business, her birthday, her own family including the military service of her grandson in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the upcoming motion by the Hypoluxo Town Council to create Garnett Park where her father's business and home once stood.]

41 Ten Acre Lane
West Hartford, CT 06107
June 12, 2005

Boynton Beach Historical Society
P.O. Box 12
Boynton Beach, FL 33435-0012

Greetings:

In going through some old family photographs, I came across two which might interest you. My mother, Lou Anna Ward Shelton, was born, schooled, married, and raised her children in Boynton Beach. She graduated from Boynton Beach High School in 1934.

The first picture is dated 1932 and is labeled "Part of the Sophomore Class of 1931-32". People are identified in the picture as follows: Boys--left to right--Kermit Andrews, James Brown, and Clarence Benson. Girls--Sponsor Miss Mildred Granger, Martha Myers, Lou Anna Ward, Alice Miller, Christine Jordan, and Faye Austin.

The second picture is dated 1934 and is labeled "Boynton High School Seniors". People are not identified, but Lou Anna Ward is 5th from the right. Some of your members may enjoy identifying the others.

I wish the photos were sharper (the originals are 2.5 X 4 inches), but they reflect the photographic arts of the times.

Let me add that I particularly enjoyed your printing the list of 1920's registered voters in your newsletter. There I found my great grandfather (BG Hodges), my grandfather (TA Ward), my great uncle (JP Bowen), and my uncle (ME Myer).

Best regards,

James D. Shelton

[Ed. Note. Sometimes letters should be shared by the entire membership. This letter is self-explanatory. The pictures James Shelton identifies are reproduced below and on the following page.]





Boynton High School Seniors 1934



James Shelton shares also this picture of his grandparents, Terrance Alexander Ward and Bessie Ollia Hodges, early settlers who built 117 S. Seacrest Blvd. and helped to build the Baptist Church. At various times T.A. was a constable, a grocer, and a mail carrier. They were wed in 1905 and had two daughters, Gladys and Lou Anna.



Clarence Wilton Shelton, Sr. and Lou Anna Ward were engaged in 1934 and are shown in front of the house which is now 115 S. Seacrest Boulevard and was built by James Shelton's great uncle James Perry Bowen who owned a local lumber yard and later an insurance agency. Lou Anna was a piano teacher and church organist and Clarence worked at Boynton Nurseries on Federal Highway just south of Woolbright Road and at Knollwood Groves before they developed and managed Palm Beach Groves on Lawrence Road.



This house was originally built by James Perry Bowen and was known as the Ward House and is located at what is now 117 South Seacrest Boulevard. This picture shows the house as it looks today.



This was originally known as the Bowen House and is also located on South Seacrest Boulevard immediately north of the Ward House. This photo was taken in 2006.