



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 to US Hwy 441

Voncile Smith, President

Volume 2007, No 7, October, 2007

Voncile Smith, Editor

MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS: VOICE OF THE EVERGLADES

is the program scheduled for the October 22, 2007 meeting of the Boynton Beach Historical Society. We have changed our usual meeting date to accommodate this program which is another of the wonderful presentations made available through the Florida Humanities Council. Betty Jane Steinshouer, Scholar and Chautauqua performer, will portray Mrs. Douglas. Ms. Steinshouer has toured 43 states since 1988 with her various portrayals of great women authors, including Marjory Stoneman Douglas, and is continuously researching each author seeking verity in the personality as well as the words and thoughts she presents.

The audience can follow the Matriarch of Miami (Mrs. Douglas) as Ms. Steinshouer re-enacts her crusade to restore the Everglades. After the 1947 publication of her book, *Everglades: River of Grass*, Douglas realized that her focus must be on restoration, not conservation—"Conservation is now a dead word. You can't conserve that you haven't got."



Marjory Stoneman Douglas
As portrayed by Chautauqua performer
Betty Jean Steinshouer

WHAT: Florida Humanities Council Performance by
Betty Jean Steinshouer
Portraying
Marjory Stoneman Douglas

WHEN: Monday, October 22, 2007
6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Boynton Woman's Club
1010 S. Federal Hwy
Second Floor Ballroom

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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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.

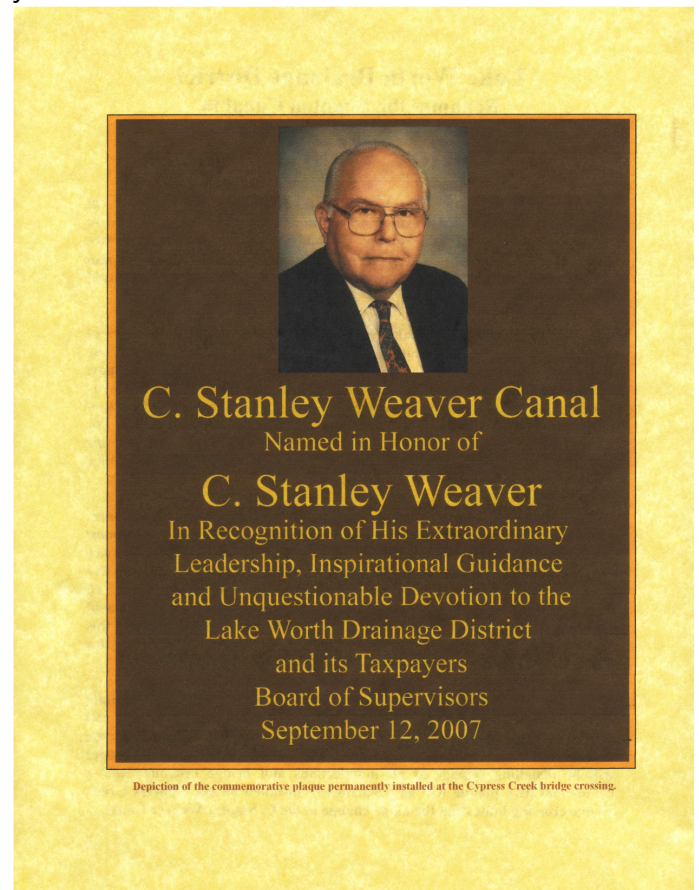
The Historian is mailed eight times a year—September, October, November, January, February, March, April and May—to all members. No copies are produced in December, June, July and August. Back issues and an index prior to the current year are posted on our website.

TWO BBHS MEMBERS HONORED BY LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DISTRICT

Stanley Weaver retired this year from the Board of the Lake Worth Drainage District. Named to succeed him is Joyce DuBois Haley. Both are active members of the Historical Society.

On September 12, 2007 the Lake Worth Drainage District Board of Supervisors renamed the Boynton Canal the C. Stanley Weaver Canal in recognition of Stanley's 47 years of service to the District and its Taxpayers. This is the first time a canal has been named for an individual. The C. Stanley Weaver Canal extends from the District's E-1 Canal at State Road 7 (US 441) to the District's E-4 Canal just east of Congress Avenue. All official records, maps and tax records will be amended to reflect the name change. Signage indicating the name change has been installed at all intersections and bridge crossings and a commemorative plaque has been permanently installed on the Cypress Creek bridge crossing indicating the name change to the C. Stanley Weaver Canal.

In 1960 Stanley, a former Mayor of Boynton Beach, was elected to replace the position on the Board his father, M. A. Weaver had held for 22 years.



PUDDLE JUMPERS OF LANTANA NOVEMBER MEETING

Richard A. (Tony) Marconi, Education Coordinator for the Historical Society of Palm Beach County, will present a program based on his research about the Civil Air Patrol's Coastal Patrol 3 in Lantana during World War II.

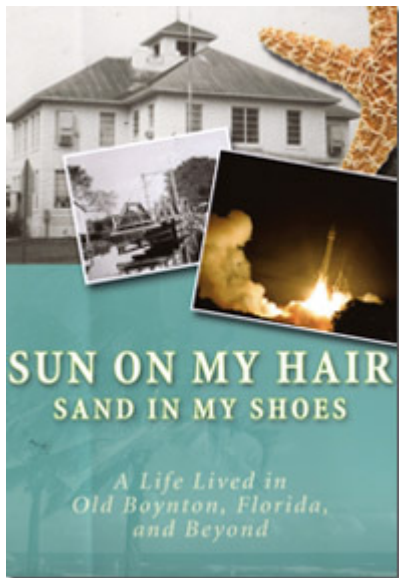
The meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 12 at 6:30 p.m. and will be held at the Boynton Woman's Club.

In conjunction with this topic, Tony has produced a one-hour documentary *Puddle Jumpers of Lantana: The History of the Civil Air Patrol's Coastal Patrol 3*. This film will probably be shown on public television at some time in the future.

Tony will discuss his research about the role members of this group played in chasing German submarines during World War II off our Atlantic Coast.

CALLIE BROWN'S BOOK IS AVAILABLE

Over the past several years, many of us have heard excerpts from a book Mrs. Brown has been writing about her life in Boynton over her lifetime. Now the book is published and available.



The following information is taken directly from the flyer the publisher has prepared:

"Callie Rousseau and her two brothers and three sisters grew up living the happy outdoor life of children in a little Florida town by the sea. It was called Boynton long before it became a high-rise center of the tourist and technology industries called Boynton Beach.

"Callie has told her engaging story in a new book: *Sun On My Hair, Sand in My Shoes: A Life Lived in Old Boynton, Florida and Beyond*.

"Her descriptions of the times of woodstoves, home 'lixies' for everyday illnesses, wild rides over stony roads and rocking chair stories on a relative's lap re-create a time that makes for interesting reading. Life for children and teenagers near the Everglades, school-teaching in the 1930s and beyond, survival in the Depression years and a stint as a Fulbright exchange teacher in England are all part of Callie's story.

"Callie is a member of the eighth generation of Rousseaus in America. Her own family of origin, that of Ebb Rousseau and his wife Kate, now has over 100 descendants who were all born in this one woman's lifetime. She has included a story of some of these family members, and her own genealogy search to locate them, in this book. Callie Rousseau Brown who is almost 98 years old, now lives with her daughter in Indianapolis."

280 pages (50 photos)

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NEW AT THE SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM

The Schoolhouse Children's Museum is moving forward with plans for a new "Sport Fishing History" permanent exhibit. The Museum recently announced that it has contracted with Little Exhibit & Graphic Design of Tallahassee to create a floor-plan and elevation drawings for the upcoming "Fishing Lore" permanent exhibit.

The age of children addressed by this exhibit will be slightly older than the norm for the museum—at a level between 5 and 12 years of age. Recapturing the flavor of the time in history when life revolved around the fishing and tourist industry, it will instruct young people in both the art of fishing and the necessity for conservation, including the importance of the 'catch and release' program. Children will learn that fishing is more than using a rod and reel or baiting a hook. They will explore the migration habits of fish, how to read weather signs, and how to navigate by compass and stars. Emphasis will also be on conservation of natural reefs, fish habitats, and breeding grounds, as well as on the identification of sea turtles, birds and fish.

If any of you readers have historical stories to share through an interview or are willing to donate historical items for display, contact Janet DeVries at (561) 742-6397 or Cindy Lyman Jamison, Project Coordinator at (561)732-9720.



The Kit-Dan out for a day of Deep-Sea Fishing

JANET DEVRIES WORKS ON NEW BOOK

Related to the "Fishing Lore" exhibit described above, Janet DeVries, author and archivist with the Boynton Beach City Library and the Schoolhouse Children's Museum, and a Trustee for the Boynton Beach Historical Society, is compiling a new book on the local history and roots of sport fishing in the Palm Beaches.

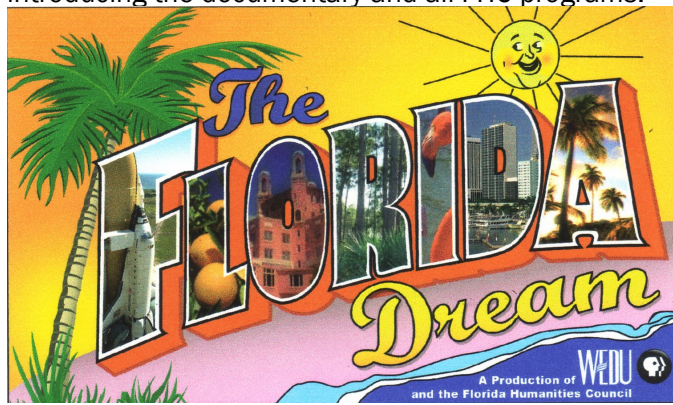
The 128 page, 220 image "photographic journey into the past" will offer the community the opportunity to share pictures and memories. To have your "story" and photos considered for inclusion, please call Janet Devries at the Boynton Beach City Library (561) 742-6397.

Information for you from— THE FLORIDA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

A special program, *The Florida Dream*, produced by the Florida Humanities Council and WEDU-TV will be presented on October 18, 2007 at 9:00 p.m. EST on your local PBS television station. As their e-mail flyer indicates, "After WWII, Florida took off like a rocket." This is a compelling documentary which tells the story of modern Florida's remarkable transformation.

Also on October 18, and complementary to *The Florida Dream*, the Florida Humanities Council will launch www.floridadream.org, a website for teachers and anyone interested in the history and culture of Florida.

At www.flahum.org there is a special promo introducing the documentary and all FHC programs.



ABOUT 1907—from the Internet

[Editor's note: Like almost everyone who has e-mail, I often receive unsolicited items about a variety of topics. Most I simply delete, usually unread, but occasionally I find one that is appealing. The one I include here provides a look back 100 years. I do not know the author or the sources, but most of the information seems plausible.]

THE YEAR 1907:

The average life expectancy was 47 years.
Only 14 percent of the homes had a bathtub.
Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.
There were only 8,000 cars and only 144 miles of paved roads.
The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.
The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.
The average wage in 1907 was 22 cents per hour.
The average worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.
Competent accountants could earn \$2,000 per year, dentists \$2,500, veterinarians 1,500 to \$4,000, and mechanical engineers about \$5,000.
More than 95 percent of all births took place at home.

Ninety percent of all doctors had no college education. Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by the government as "substandard."

Sugar cost four cents a pound.

Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen.

Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.

Most women washed their hair only once a month, and may have used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

Five leading causes of death were:

1. Pneumonia and influenza
2. Tuberculosis
3. Diarrhea
4. Heart Disease
5. Stroke

The American flag had 45 stars.

The population of Las Vegas was 30.

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea had not yet been invented.

There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.

Eighteen percent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.

There were about 230 reported murders in the entire U.S.A.

GLOSSARY OF LOCAL TERMS

Bob Steinmetz

[*The Boynton Beach Star*, 1966-67 Show Case Edition]

FLORIDA: a semi-tropical paradise 600 miles long and six feet thick inhabited by refugees from Northern States.

NATIVE FLORIDIAN: Anyone who has been here long enough to quit going to the beach.

THE WEST COAST: The undeveloped coastal region of Florida facing the Gulf of Mexico.

GOING TO THE DOGS: What wealthy people pay to do while the rest of us are doing it for nothing.

THE FISHING DOCKS: Wealthy medical men who come to Florida to fish.

DRIFT FISHING: Sitting on a pile of drift wood fishing.

CBS HOUSE: Crumbly Built Structure.

THE YANKEE TWIST: A winter visitor being visited by his first sand flea.

WINTER VISITOR: A tourist who spends good.

TOURIST: A winter visitor who is a lousy tipper.

THE GOLD COAST: A resort area in Southeast Florida where Ponce de Leon might have discovered gold and the fountain of youth if he had bought a motel instead of carousing on up the state.

SAND IN YOUR SHOES: If you have sand in your shoes, you'll know what this means.

CITY: A group of housing projects which have banded together to argue over government.

THE GLADES: King sized water hazard looking for a golf course.

SWAMP: Big, messy, watery, woody things found in Georgia; unheard of in Florida where they're called glades, tropical parks and sometimes housing developments.

HOW FLORIDA'S GOLD COAST GOT ITS NAME

Vernon Lamme

[The Boynton Beach Star, 1966-67 Show Case Edition]

Boynton Beach, Boca Raton, Delray Beach, and Deerfield Beach are sparkling names and proud cities on the Gold Coast of Florida. The Gold Coast—enchanting, mysterious, exotic and appealing. . . has attracted man since pre-historic days—as a haven from the wintry blasts which killed their children and cut down their supply of food.

Primitive man in Florida sought the ocean beaches for seasonal warmth and for food gleaned from the ocean. . . Man along the Gold Coast 20,000 years ago. . .

The first recorded stories . . . the first histories—those of Columbus and later of that of Ponce de Leon in 1513, praised the climate of the area.. But these adventurers and many who followed sought only gold, and soon the southeast segment of Florida became known as The Gold Coast.

On Easter Sunday, March 27, 1513 Ponce sighted land after a voyage to Puerto Rico—and named it Florida. Historians are still not decided just where he first touched land, but there is no doubt he sailed south past the site of present Boynton Beach some little time after the landfall.



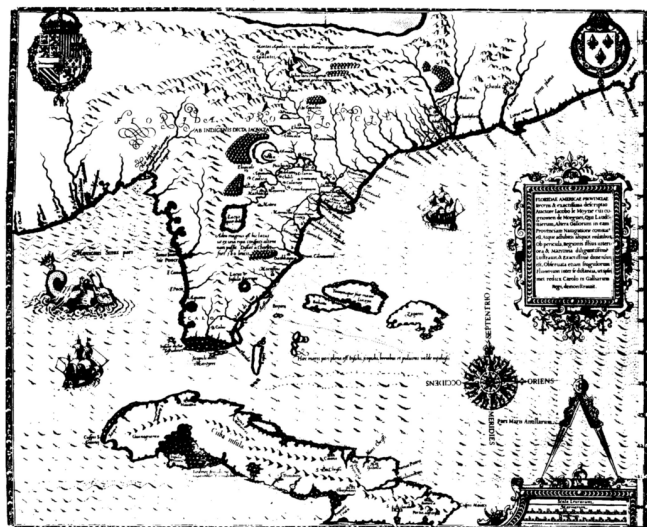
PONCE DE LEON . . . Florida's first tourist

Then the great "gold rush."

Never before nor since has man made such a wild scramble for gold as was experienced after Cortez found so much of the precious metal in Montazuma's kingdom in sacked Mexico. Convoys of galleons, guarded by men-of-war, made Havana in Cuba their rendezvous, and laden with gold sailed for home along what became the Gold Coast of Florida.

These great treasure fleets brought an average of \$10,000,000 annually back from the "new country" to Spain and later the amount was raised to \$20 million and when the wealth of the New World was finally exhausted -

\$30 million. Philip V was on the throne of Spain in 1517, and from the beginning of the 16th century well into the 19th, it has been estimated that billions of dollars worth of jewels and precious metal moved along Florida's Gold Coast en route to Spain.



FIRST MAP OF FLORIDA — DRAWN IN 1591

How much of this treasure was hijacked by pirates and how much lost as the heavily laden treasure galleons were destroyed by hurricanes cannot be estimated, but it has been claimed by historians that today between 1,500 and 18,000 [sic] carcasses of ships can be found along the Florida coast. To protect themselves against pirates the treasure ships' captains sailed in huge convoys of fifteen or more galleons protected by Spanish men-of-war. Spanish records show that there was a commanding officer of the entire Armada, A Spanish general over all the captains whose responsibility it was to assure the safe passage of the ships back to Spain. There was also a Spanish admiral who took charge once the ships were attacked. Records show the Spanish Government received approximately 20 percent of the worth of all the gold and jewels.

It was on July 24, 1715 when the Tierra Firme Armada . . . sailed from Havana . . . 11 heavy, slow and unwieldy galleons seeking the northerly current of the Gulf Stream with an estimated 2,000 men and officers aboard. . . Monday, July 29th north of the Florida Keys the older sailors who had made other voyages along the Florida coast became worried by the falling barometers . . . By late Tuesday the winds increased and had blown the seas to frightening heights.

The ship's log on one that survived the wrecks showed they were still "south of Canaveral" when the fleet met the howling storm head-on. . . Winds at 100 miles per hour were recorded by 2:00 a.m. on Wednesday . . . masts crumbled and sails were torn to ribbons . . . sailors were swept off the slippery decks. One ship . . . managed to escape by disobeying orders of the Admiral and sailing more to the northeast. Ten ships with more than 1,000 officers and men were lost . . . and \$14,000,000 in gold coins and jewels went down with the ships.

All along the Gold Coast today - from Vero Beach to Deerfield Beach skin divers often find gold doubloons in the sands off-shore. Among the wrecks spotted off Boynton Inlet is one thought to have been one of "the lost Armada."



Carl Jensen, One of Boynton's first Councilmen in 1920

CARL JENSEN EARLY BOYNTON CITIZEN

Carl Jensen was born in Denmark in 1850. At one time he had a nursery on South Dixie (Now US 1) Highway. He served as a Director for the First Bank of Boynton in 1915. He became one of the City's first Council members in 1920. His last home was next to the Boynton Woman's Club.

He died in 1932, still a bachelor, and is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in West Palm Beach.