



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.

2011 Number 1

January 2011

BOYNTON BEACH FIRE RESCUE

Michael Landress, Emergency Medical Services Coordinator, for the Boynton Beach Fire Rescue Department will be our featured speaker at the program meeting on January 10, 2011, 6:30 p.m. at the Boynton Beach City Library. Michael has completed a book on the history of the Fire Department.

Michael is a Florida native with roots in Jacksonville. He has served with Boynton Beach Fire Rescue since October 1998, and as Coordinator of Emergency Medical Services he is in charge of the Paramedic program in all its many facets. He not only leads EMS personnel through their licensing and re-certification process, but is responsible for compiling and publishing the department's EMS Protocols. It should be noted that these protocols are recognized for their excellence and have set the benchmark that other fire rescue departments in Florida now aspire to.

Michael is also in charge of medication purchasing and inventory, equipment procurement to keep Boynton Fire Rescue on the cutting edge of today's modern EMS technology, and above all, quality assurance, that protocols are executed to the satisfaction of Medical Director Dr. Ken Schepke and Chief William Bingham.

Michael has associate degrees in both Fire Science Technology and Emergency Medical Services. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from St. Thomas University. He is also a Florida Certified Firefighter and Paramedic with additional certifications as a Fire Officer One. He holds memberships in the Florida Fire Chiefs Association, Palm Beach County EMS Providers, Beach State College and the Palm Beach County ER Nurses Forum.

Michael has created and published "The Encode," the official newsletter of Boynton Beach Fire Rescue since 2002.



Michael Landress

WHAT: HISTORY OF THE BOYNTON BEACH FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT, a Presentation by Michael Landress

WHERE: BOYNTON BEACH CITY LIBRARY
208 South Seacrest Boulevard

WHEN: Monday, January 10, 2011
6:30 p.m.

FREE and OPEN to the PUBLIC

BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS—2010-11

OFFICERS [Elected Annually]

President	Voncile Smith
1 st Vice President, Programs	Janet DeVries
2 nd Vice President, Membership	Bev Cormany
Recording Secretary	Anne Watts
Corresponding Secretary	Diana Dennis

NON ELECTED

Editor <i>The Historian</i>	Voncile Smith
Archivist and Webmaster	Janet DeVries

DIRECTORS [3 year staggered terms]

2011	Steve Anton
2011	Sally Dye
2012	Sheila Rousseau Taylor
2012	Delma Swilley
2013	Tim Bednarz
2013	Gloria Partin Turner

TRUSTEES [3 year staggered terms]

2011	Randall Gill
2011	TBA
2012	Victor Norfus
2012	Dan Rousseau
2013	Brian Edwards
2013	Virginia Farace

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. Voncile can be reached at 561-734-5653.

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.

JANUARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors of the Boynton Beach Historical Society will meet January 24, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at the Boynton Woman's Club. The agenda will include discussion of what to do with furniture and other artifacts that are stored in Harvey Oyer's Ocean Avenue building. Other items will be posted on the web site before the meeting.

Any member of the Society is welcome to attend any Board meeting and participate in the discussion, but only Board members are permitted to vote on business motions.

2011 DUES

The November, 2010 issue of *The Historian* contained the names of all members who had paid 2011 dues by November 1st. Listed below

are the memberships we have received since that issue was distributed. We are very grateful to those of you who have renewed your memberships without a reminder letter. Thank all of you for making our job easier.

The membership year follows the calendar year from January 1st to December 31, 2011. We hope you will reply to this reminder by sending us a check. If you are currently a member, you do not need to complete the membership form unless your address or other information has changed in the past year. The amount of the various memberships is indicated on the membership form beside the address label on the back page of this newsletter. Thanks again for your help.

Corporate Membership

Jim Edward

Patron Membership

George and Christine Weaver Ternenyi
Dorian Beck Trauger

Family Membership

Martin and Irene M. Feeney
Jan and Selva Ganash
Richard and Judith Merkel Howard
Ward and Martha Parker
Robert B. and Sheila Rousseau Taylor
Philip B. and Barbara Traylor
Walter and Dorothy Whittaker

Individual Membership

Barbara Louise Gellner
Marie Horenburger
William James
Judy Keatts
Gladys Baker Knuth
Frank Melograno
Nicholas Orletsky
Sandra Pike
Jim E. Price
Camilla Smith Richardson
Mary Lou Muster Ryder
Leland L. Smith
Anne Watts

A special welcome to new members Jan and Selva Ganash and to Nicholas Orletsky.

HELP PRESERVE YOUR HISTORY!

People sometimes ask us, "Why haven't you put something about my family in *The Historian*?" The answer may be that no one has given us material for our archives that tells about your family.

We have only the material that has been given us to draw upon. All of you are important to the history of Boynton Beach. We want to store and share events, pictures, stories, letters. If you move, please don't destroy any of this kind of information. We want it. We prefer originals, but if you want to retain them, let us make a computer scan to save in our files and we will return the originals to you, if you desire. If you send photocopies, we will store them, but they do not reproduce as well or last as long as computer printer scans.

JOHN BENJAMIN PRICE AND FAMILY

[Thanks to Jim Price, one of our members, for sending the following and including some pictures of himself and his brothers. We hope other readers will do the same.]

"Thanks for your keeping the History of Boynton Beach.

"I was born in Boynton in July, 1938 just off U.S #1, north of Boynton Canal, near the shore of Lake Worth. There was an old nursery there at the time. Not long after we moved to the Range Line—now U.S. 441, just north of Boynton Road about 1/4 mile on west side of the road.



Jim Price, age 6, on Range Line in 1942

"I've enclosed a picture of me standing in the road after fishing in the canal. Also shows my brother Paul who was a lifelong friend of Flip Traylor [Ed. Note—BBH Society member Philip B. Traylor] of Boynton.



Jimmy and Paul Price, early 1940s

"My granddad moved his family to Boynton Beach in 1925, and he lived in a house next to the railroad when he died about 1941-42. His name was John Benjamin Price.

"Thanks again,

Jim Price"

"P.S.

"Grandpa moved to Boynton in 1925 from Toombs County, GA after invitation from Mott Partin who, I think, was the Boynton policeman. Mott grew up in Georgia and was a friend of Grandpa and told him how good the life in Florida was.

"Grandpa's children who also lived in the Boynton area were:

- Aunt Willie Hackle
- Aunt Lottie Holland
- Uncle Grady Price
- Uncle Crawford Price
- My Dad – James A. Price."

DONATION HONORS FRIEND

Bob and Sheila Rousseau Taylor have recently made a donation to the Boynton Beach Historical Society to honor a special Boynton Beach professional. They write:

"We wish to honor and thank Dr. Jan Ganesh for her dedication to helping and healing. You are a special angel."

"Our Sincere Thanks,
Sheila and Bob."

The Boynton Beach Historical Society appreciates very much that the Taylors chose to make a donation to this organization to honor Dr. Ganesh.

IN MEMORIAM

HARVEY E. OYER, JR.—Harvey, one of the Boynton Beach Historical Society's most active and long term members passed away December 18, 2010 after a brief illness. Please see special tribute on page 5.

CHERYL MUSTER—passed peacefully in her sleep in Ocala on December 18, 1010. Cheryl's grandfather, H.B. Murray, came to the Boynton area about 1895 to work with Henry Flagler on his railroad. He became an early mayor of Boynton. Cheryl was born in Boynton to Rose Murray, H.B.'s daughter, and Paul Taylor "Buck" Muster. She attended Boynton schools and was a graduate of Boynton High School. She graduated from Florida State University with a degree in Journalism. She married Vic Dunaway, a sports writer for many years with *The Miami Herald*.



Cheryl Muster in 1944 Photo Club Shot

She had been a long time member of the Boynton Beach Historical Society. The picture above was one she shared with the Society when

she moved to Ocala. We send our condolences and best wishes to her two sisters, Mary Lou Muster Ryder and Ramona Somerford Davis, both current members of the Society, and to other family members.

JESSIE COLLICE "J.C." SWILLEY—died suddenly on December 25, 1010, in Gainesville, GA. J.C. was born in Boynton, the son of Versie and Collice Swilley. He attended Boynton schools and served for a time in the Navy. He is survived by his brother Delma who is on the Board of Directors of the Boynton Beach Historical Society, and other family members. A Memorial Service is planned for January 29, 2011, 11:00 a.m. at Scobee-Combs-Bowden Funeral Home.

We extend our sympathy and condolences to all the Swilley and Weeks families



J.C. Swilley in Navy uniform, 1950s

LIDA H. BROWN—Another member of the Boynton Beach Historical Society, Judy Graybeal Keatts, has announced the passing of her beloved great aunt, Lida H. Brown, who died this summer on August 25, 2010. She was born on September 17, 1913, and would have been 97 had she lived three weeks longer. She succumbed to a short illness at the home of her niece, Anita Graybeal. Lida had spent the past nine years travelling from Boynton to Chunky, MS with Anita. Lida came to Boynton in the early 1930s where she met and married Henry Howell Brown.

The Browns owned Howell Brown Produce in Pompano. They travelled back and forth from Turkey, NC to Boynton, following the growing season. She and Howell had no children, but they are missed and were dearly loved by their nieces and nephews.

REMEMBERING HARVEY . . .

By Voncile Smith

On December 13, 2010 Harvey E. Oyer, Jr collapsed at his office on Ocean Avenue into the arms of his younger daughter Christian. Five days later on December 18, he was placed in Hospice and life support removed. All of us will miss him greatly.

Harvey had a greater capacity for love than most people realized. He had many different kinds of love in his everyday life.

He loved people whoever they were, and the details of their lives, their families, their homes, their occupations, and their children were importantly committed to memory and recalled in great detail when an occasion prompted him to share this information. He knew specific details about hundreds of people and events and could freely articulate his knowledge with full recall even years after first acquiring it.

He loved his country, but especially Florida and Palm Beach County and Boynton Beach where he was born, attended school, grew up, established his businesses, married and reared his children.

He loved his experiences and contacts in the Army, and was proud of his service in the Reserves which resulted in his retirement as a Lt. Colonel and led to many long-time friendships. He attended Veterans' celebrations regularly on Memorial Day, Flag Day, the Fourth of July, and Veterans Day, and proudly belonged to the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and other Military Organizations.

He loved History--American, European, Asian, Ancient, Medieval, Modern, but conserving the history of Boynton Beach he undertook with extra dedication. He was a founder of the Boynton Beach Historical Society and had served as President several times and continuously on the Board of Directors. He was an Associate Member of the Boynton Woman's Club and wanted Boynton's historic structures to be preserved to serve the community and to preserve the legacy of Boynton's earlier citizens. His most recent hope was to see the 1927 High School building restored and turned into a Community Cultural Center.

He loved supporting Boynton businesses and had been President of the Chamber of Commerce. He rooted for local entrepreneurs. He was not opposed to patronizing chains, but his favorite restaurants were Hurricane Alley, Ellie's, Sculley's, Boynton Diner, D.J.'s, and Jo-Al's----all independently owned.

He loved serving the community through activism in his church, many Historical Societies, Kiwanis, the Red Cross, the YMCA, the St. George Society, the VFW, the

American Legion, City government, and by contributions to countless non-profit organizations such as the Salvation Army, the Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy, American Indian Relief, and others too numerous to mention.

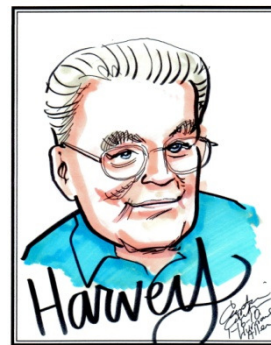
He loved his buildings taking considerable pride in the roles his father and Ray Wilcox had had in building them. He treasured his house and the cottage on North Seacrest both dating to the 1920s, and the buildings on the north side of Ocean Avenue on both sides of the railroad track, some having been built before the Town of Boynton was incorporated in 1920.

He loved the University of Florida and frequently boasted to whomever would listen that he was a Gator and that "We may win another championship this year."

He loved me as we continued to be best friends despite ending a marriage of four years so we could maintain separate residences. We continued to travel together, to confide in one another, to share enthusiasm for history, and to work to preserve those institutions in which we held mutual interest.

But most of all, he loved his family---his Voss and Oyer cousins, his sisters Lois and Charlotte, and notably his three children, Susan, Harvey III, and Christian and her little sons, Joseph and William. He was so proud of the achievements of each of them and always beamed with pride and delight when he spoke about them.

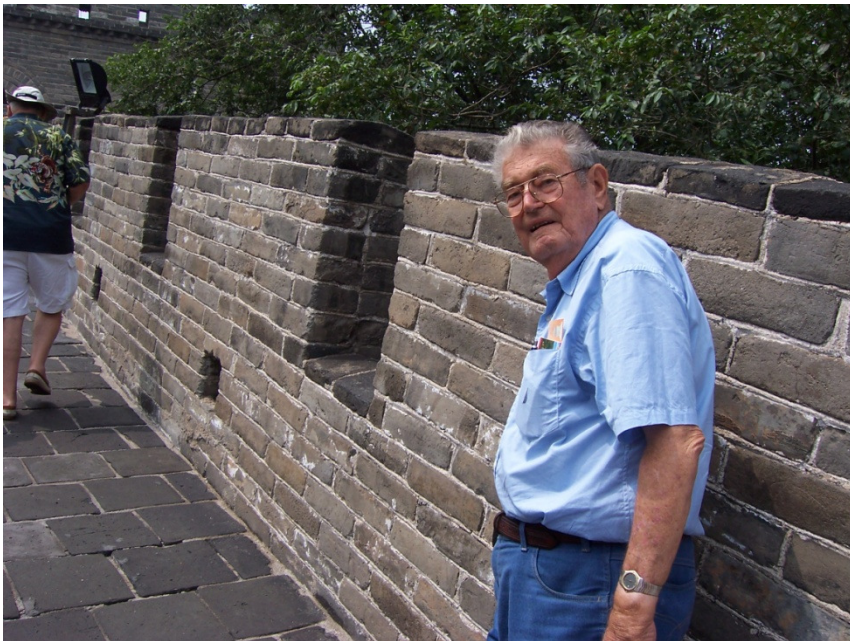
His passing leaves a void in all aspects of Boynton history for what he knew and what we have not yet discovered. It leaves, too, a void in our future lives. He loved and served us each and everyone well.



Caricatures by CAPTAIN CARTOON www.captcartoon.com

A MEMORIAL

Contributions to the Memory of Harvey E. Oyer, Jr. may be made to either the Boynton Beach Historical Society, P. O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425 or to the First United Methodist Church of Boynton Beach, 101 N. Seacrest Boulevard, Boynton Beach, FL 33435. For the Historical Society, the Board of Directors and members of the Oyer family will decide how gifts are to be used for an appropriate memorial sometime in the future. 5



Harvey E. Oyer, Jr. at Great Wall of China, 2004

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



Oyer Family at Harvey's 80th Birthday Party 2006. R to L--Lois Oyer Dooley, Rob Macoviak, Harvey, Harvey III, Charlotte Oyer, Susan Oyer, Joseph Macoviak, Christian Oyer Macoviak

Join now for the calendar Year 2011. Complete the form below or copy the information and return it or the copy 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. New memberships will be effective from now until December 31, 2011. Current members may renew now with 2011 dues effective until December 31, 2011.

BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM, CALENDAR YEAR 2011			
Member's Name _____			
2nd Member's Name _____			
Street _____			
City _____	State _____	Zip _____	
Telephone _____	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) [Circle choices] Archives/Preservation _____ Public Relations _____ Program/Planning _____ Membership _____ Minority History _____ Seeking Sponsors _____ Mailings _____ Other (Specify) _____ Fundraising _____ Telephone _____ Website _____			