



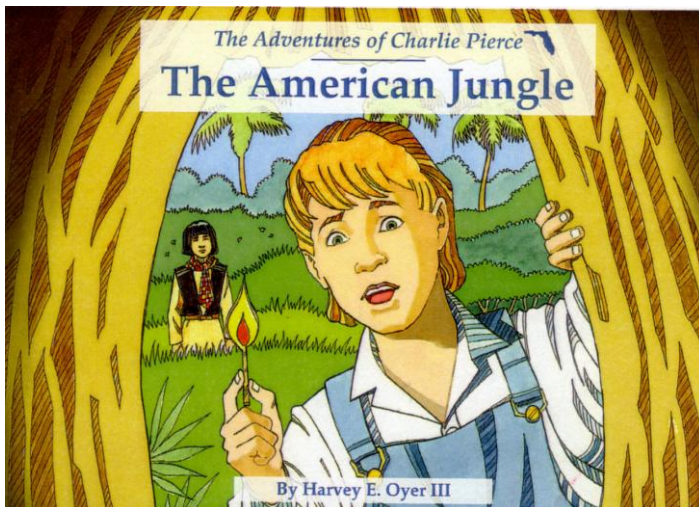
# The Historian

## *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

2008 Number 6, September 2008

## HARVEY OYER III ON CHARLES PIERCE'S BOYHOOD TOPIC FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING



Harvey E. Oyer III is a fifth generation Floridian who is descended from one of the earliest and most noteworthy pioneer families in South Florida. He has based his children's book on the boyhood adventures described in the journal written by his great-grand uncle Charlie Pierce who came with his family into the untamed frontier of what is now Palm Beach County in 1873. Oyer will discuss this book for the September meeting of the Boynton Beach Historical Society.

Oyer, an attorney by profession, is well-known to the members of the Historical Society and has presented information on South Florida history at a number of our previous meetings. The last was on the restoration of the 1916 Palm Beach County Courthouse which came about in large measure because of his efforts as Chairman of the Board of the Historical Society of Palm Beach County.

Oyer graduated from Atlantic High School in Delray Beach and earned both his BA and law degrees from the University of Florida. He also has

an MA in archeology from Cambridge University, England.

Copies of the book at a cost of \$20.00 will be available at the presentation. They may also be ordered from the Boynton Beach Historical Society at an added cost of \$4.00 for shipping and handling.



Harvey E. Oyer III

**WHAT:** *THE AMERICAN JUNGLE*, a discussion of his children's book by Harvey E. Oyer III

**WHEN:** Monday, September 15  
6:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** BOYNTON WOMAN'S CLUB  
1010 South Federal Hwy

All Programs of the Historical Society are  
Open Free to the Public

**BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS—2008-09**

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The Boynton Beach Historical Society's website is [boyntonbeachhistoricalsociety.org](http://boyntonbeachhistoricalsociety.org). You can contact us at our e-mail address [boyntonhistory06@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

**SOUTH FLORIDA VA CEMETERY DEDICATED**

The ceremony marking the dedication of the one hundred twenty-fifth Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery took place March 9, 2008. This new cemetery is located south of Lake Worth Road on U.S. Hwy 441. The event included an address by The Honorable James B. Peake, M.D., Secretary of Veterans Affairs who also unveiled a dedication plaque.



South Florida VA National Cemetery, Lake Worth, FL

**IN MEMORIAM**

**JOHN N. SUITER  
KATHLEEN T. SUITER**

JOHN N. "JACK" SUITER a well-known property surveyor and a member of long standing in the Boynton Beach Historical Society passed away on June 30, 2008. He was a member of the Rousseau family and was born and raised in Palm Beach County. He was preceded in death by only a few months by his wife KATHLEEN T. SUITER who shared a family membership in the Society with him.

One of his most recent actions just this past spring was to donate to the Boynton Beach Historical Society a collection of original family pictures for our archives. We are most grateful for his thoughtfulness.

We send our best wishes to the Suiter family after this double loss.

**CHRISTINE ELIZABETH EDWARD**

CHRISTINE ELIZABETH EDWARD was born in Scotland as Christine Elizabeth O'Donnell but moved with her parents to the U.S. when she was three. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and began her teaching career at Boynton Beach Elementary School. She also served in the City Library Board and was concerned with nature and the preservation of wildlife. She, too, had been a member for many years of the Boynton Beach Historical Society. Our sympathy goes to Jim Edward who is also a member of the Society and to the other family members.

**SOME NON-MEMBERS OF NOTE**

Although the following were not members of the Boynton Beach Historical Society, they were long standing members of the community and were well-known to many of our members. All died this past summer:

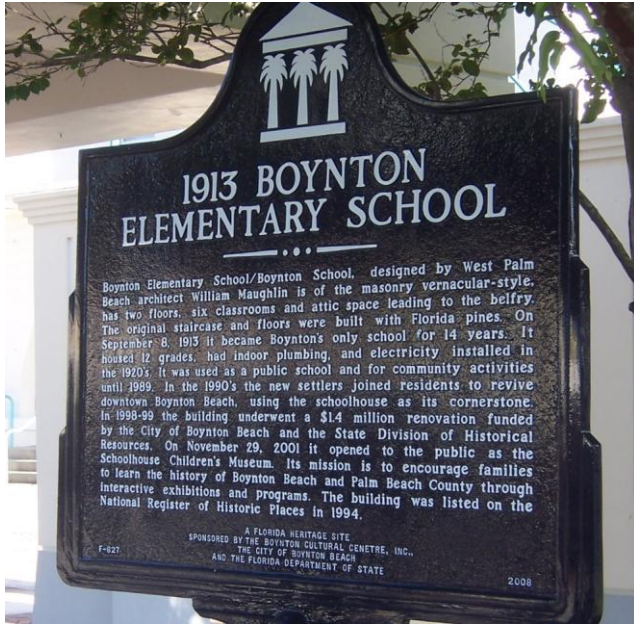
AUDREY MERKEL DUKES (SAVICKAS) operated BamTan Products (rattan furniture) in Lantana for many years and was a past president of the Lantana Chamber of Commerce.

PERSIFOR "Perky" FRAZER founded and operated for many years the clothing store Mark, Fore & Strike which he later sold. He moved into Real Estate in Delray Beach. He was a founder and long-time member of the Board of Delray Playhouse and helped found the Seagate Club.

THOMAS GLENN MURRAY was a grandson of one of Boynton's first mayors, H.B. Murray. He taught at Palm Beach Junior College at one time and later went into family counseling. His sisters and several of his cousins are members of the Society.



## HISTORIC MARKER FOR SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM



[The wording on this historic marker reads as follows:

### 1913 BOYNTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Boynton Elementary School/Boynton School, designed by West Palm Beach architect William Maughlin is of the masonry vernacular style, has two floors, six classrooms and attic space leading to the belfry. The original staircase and floors were built with Florida pine. On September 8, 1913 it became Boynton's only school for 14 years. It housed 12 grades, had indoor plumbing, and electricity installed in the 1920s. It was used as a public school and for community activities until 1989. In the 1990s the new settlers joined residents to revive downtown Boynton Beach, using the schoolhouse as the cornerstone. In 1998-99 the building underwent a \$14 million restoration funded by the City of Boynton Beach and the State Division of Human Resources. On November 29, 2001, it opened to the public as the Schoolhouse Children's Museum. Its mission is to encourage families to learn the history of Boynton Beach and Palm Beach County through interactive exhibitions and programs. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1994.

A Florida Heritage Site  
Sponsored by the Boynton Cultural Center, Inc.  
The City of Boynton Beach  
And the Florida Department of State]

The marker was placed in front of the Schoolhouse in July. Dr. Michael Hall, the Museum's Executive Director, said the museum has been working to get the marker in place for about three years. He also said, "To get on the National Register, you have to maintain the exterior historic appearance. This is truly a credit to the City of Boynton Beach for committing to maintain this building."

## FLORIDA TRUST LISTS 1927 HIGH SCHOOL AS ONE OF FLORIDA'S MOST ENDANGERED SITES!!!

The Florida Trust for Historic Preservation in May 2008 listed the historic 1927 Boynton High School as one of the most endangered historic sites in Florida for 2008.

Their Most Endangered Historic Sites program is primarily an outreach tool to bring attention to the endangered status of historic sites. They can offer assistance and support to help preserve the sites. Additionally they send a letter to a site's building owner (in this case the City of Boynton Beach) notifying them of the inclusion to the 2008 Most Endangered List. The letter serves as an introduction to who the Florida Trust is and includes resources and examples of the benefits of historic preservation.



Recent picture of 1927 Historic Boynton High School Building

## PLEASE RETURN PETITIONS

In July the Boynton Beach Historical Society mailed petition forms to the entire membership asking you to collect signatures to petition the City to save the building. We are doing this in cooperation with B.O.S.S., an affiliate dedicated to saving the school and turning it into a cultural center. Since a cultural center would serve people both inside and outside of Boynton proper, we ask you also to collect signatures from your friends in the surrounding area or if you have an interest in Boynton Beach. **Please return the forms** if you have not already done so, and even if you have only one or two signatures. Every one counts, and we need to tabulate them before the City takes up the question of the school again in early October. Thank all of you for your help!

## TOWN OF BOYNTON INCORPORATED APRIL 14, 1920

[Mabel Rousseau Tuite loved Boynton and saw herself as an unofficial historian of its happenings. Thanks to her daughter, Frances Tuite McKeral, we have been able to share through *The Historian* some of her records with the members of the Historical Society. The following is a list of those 60 citizens who signed the original Articles of Incorporation.]

J.A. Weeks	Harry Benson
A.C. Shepard	Fred G. Benson
D.D. Lee	H.A. Audit
C.L. Andrews	T. A. Ward
Carl M. Jensen	J.J. Williams
J. P. Bowen	Geo. E. Coon
M.A. Weaver	W. A. Ferguson
L.B. Curtis	Oscar Magnuson
A.A. Atwater	E. G. Hodges
B. G. Hodges	A. E. Parker
Wm. Menzel	F. N. Funk
Chas. W. Pierce	C. A. Davies
Birt Hartley	John Andrews
Frank Smith	G. W. Hall
A.A. Rousseau	H.B. Murray
Thos. Woolbright	Neal Larson
A. L. Culver	R. C. Higgins
Chas. A. Austin	C. L. Knuth
T.A. Smith	W. L. Teasdale
F. L. Muster	E. Baird
O. S. Hodges	Chas. Petrie
D. S. Hudson	C. L. Pierce
M.C. Weaver	G. C. Meredith
E. Flora	N. H. Major
S. B. Cade	Ed Weeks
D. King	E. Roberts
R. Wells	John White
Seth Futrell	F. O. Jeffrey
Jas. McKay	R.H. Rousseau
J.M. Cooper	W. S. Shepard

### LOOKING AHEAD TO OCTOBER

In October we have another of the wonderful Florida Humanities Council Programs scheduled. Because of cuts to State funding, these programs which are offered through the Florida Department of State are becoming increasingly fewer. Please take advantage of seeing this one. It may be the only one we can schedule this year. Paul Dosal from the University of South Florida will present a slide show on "Florida and the Caribbean: From Ponce de Leon to Hugo Chavez" which will highlight the political and economic forces that have bound Florida to the Caribbean for more than 500 years. We will meet at the City Library on October 20 to hear this speaker. Mark your calendars.

Like all our program presentations, this one is open free to the public.

## BOYNTON WOMAN'S CLUB A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Boynton Woman's Club is currently making plans to celebrate 100 years serving the people of Boynton Beach. A schedule of celebration activities will be forthcoming. If any readers have questions they should contact on weekday mornings the Club office at 561-369-2300 or e-mail

[BWC1909@bellsouth.com](mailto:BWC1909@bellsouth.com). Information is also available at their website [www.boyntonwomans-club.com](http://www.boyntonwomans-club.com).



The Boynton Woman's Club before the widening of U.S. Hwy 1 in the mid 1950s. At that time the northwest corner of the building was removed. [Photograph courtesy of Margie Anne McGregor Miller.]

### A HURRICANE FROM THE PAST

Each year it seems appropriate to consider the destructive force of past hurricanes as a reminder of the concerns each late summer—fall period brings. While we have been fortunate to have escaped the paths of hurricanes for the past three years, we all know we have an anxious period from now until December 1 when the season ends. The following is a scene from Flagler Drive in West Palm Beach on Monday, September 17, 1928, when one of the worst storms ever hit almost our entire county.



Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach, on Monday, September 17, 1928.

[Photo courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County]



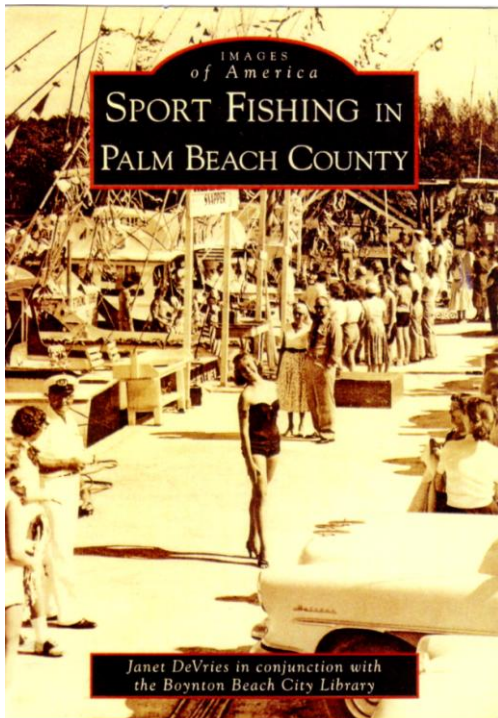
### Historical Society Picnic 5/26/74

The Boynton Beach Historical Society has had a long-standing tradition of picnics or covered-dish dinners. Obviously we are a group that enjoys food. The following was taken at one of our picnics 34 years ago. Who can you recognize. Some of the people are Magnusons and some are Raulersons, but who are the others? Lend your help before we lose track of them.



[Photo courtesy of Georgie Raulerson]

### SPORT FISHING IN PALM BEACH COUNTY



The picture above is the cover to Janet DeVries' new book on the Sport Fishing industry in our area. With the help of Cindy Lyman Jamison, Janet has immersed herself in learning about this important tourist activity.

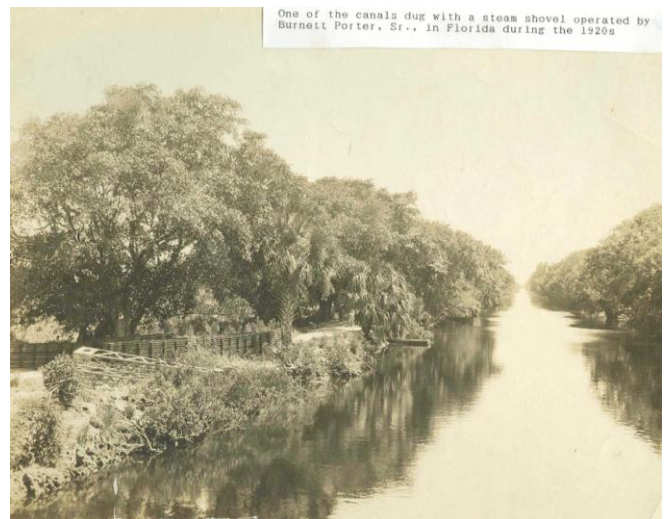
The book is just out and Janet will bring some copies to the September 15 meeting of the Historical Society for those who may be interested in obtaining them. Copies are also available through the City Library or the Schoolhouse Children's Museum which benefits from any profits. Janet and Cindy are tentatively scheduled to do a program on Sport Fishing at one of our later meetings.

### DIGGING CANALS THE HARD WAY

Thanks to our member James Shelton and his brothers we have recently received some pictures showing work on early canals in Florida in the 1920s. He has also included photographs picturing draglines which we will show in a later issue. The people mentioned are Shelton relatives.



[The caption reads, "Uncle Wilford Porter, with Hands, Digging Canal in Florida"]



[The caption reads, "One of the canals dug with a steam shovel operated by Burnett Porter, Sr., in Florida during the 1920s."]

We are proud to serve Boynton Beach, Ocean Ridge, Manalapan, Gulf Stream, Lantana, Hypoluxo, Briny Breezes, and all areas west of Boynton Beach to U.S. Hwy 441, and, on occasion, greater Palm Beach County.

Member's  
Name  
2nd Member's  
Name  
City  
State  
Zip  
Telephone  
e-mail  
TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:  
INDIVIDUAL (\$25.00) \_\_\_\_\_  
FAMILY \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
PATRON (\$50.00) \_\_\_\_\_  
CORPORATE (\$100 or more) \_\_\_\_\_  
I will be willing to serve on the following committees (Circle choices):  
Archives/Preservation  
Program/Planning  
Mallings  
Telephone Hospitality  
Membership  
Public Relations  
Minority History  
Seeking Sponsors  
Fundraising  
Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

THE HISTORIAN  
P. O. Box 12  
Boynton Beach, FL 33425-0012



The 1934 Class of Boynton High School.  
[Photo courtesy of James Shelton. Notice HS Building on right. James' mother LuAnna Ward is 2<sup>nd</sup> from left.]