

The Historian

The Newsletter of The Boynton Beach Historical Society

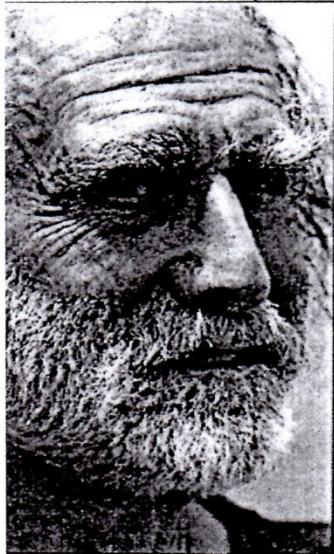
Voncile Smith, President

Volume 2005, No. 8, November, 2005

Voncile Smith, Editor

NOVEMBER PROGRAM TO PROCEED ON SCHEDULE HERB HILLER will present HIGHWAY A1A: Florida at the Edge

Herb Hiller will discuss the development of Florida's Highway A1A, the 500 mile stretch of highway between Fernandina Beach and Key West. This road has played a crucial role in both the historic settlement and the 21st century development of Florida. Hiller reviews the history of Florida tourism and the development and the



Herb Hiller

emergence of year-round residential Florida downtowns.

The program is presented as one of the Road Scholars, Ideas on Wheels programs of the Florida Humanities Council and the University Press of Florida. Hiller's book by the same title as his talk will be available for sale by Past Perfect: Florida History Bookstore. Hiller will sign purchased copies, if requested.

PLACE: Boynton Beach
City Library
208 South Seacrest Blvd.

DATE: Monday, November 14,
2005

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

All programs of the Boynton Beach Historical Society are open FREE to the public.

The Boynton Beach Historical Society schedules no programs for December. The next issue of *The Historian* will be mailed to you in January, 2006.

JANUARY SPEAKER'S TOPIC WILL BE *Cracker: the Cracker Culture in Florida History*. Dana Ste. Claire, also through a Florida Humanities Council program, will speak about aspects of Crackerdom from the language they spoke, to the houses they built; from moonshine stills to cowhunting to grits and gravy: a colorful and revealing look at the past. Scheduled for January 23, 2006, Boynton Beach City Library, 6:30 p.m.

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

**BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Currently the Historical Society has neither a telephone nor a website. Inquiries may be directed to Voncile Smith at 561-734-5653 or smithvm@bellsouth.net

IN MEMORIAM

We are saddened by the loss of our long standing member and good friend, Dr. **Leone [Lee] Buffan**. Lee is listed on the masthead above as Corresponding Secretary of the Boynton Beach Historical Society.

She had served the Boynton community for many years enriching the cultural atmosphere with her knowledge and support of music and concert programs. She was a dedicated and active participant in the Boynton Woman's Club and had served as its president for several terms.

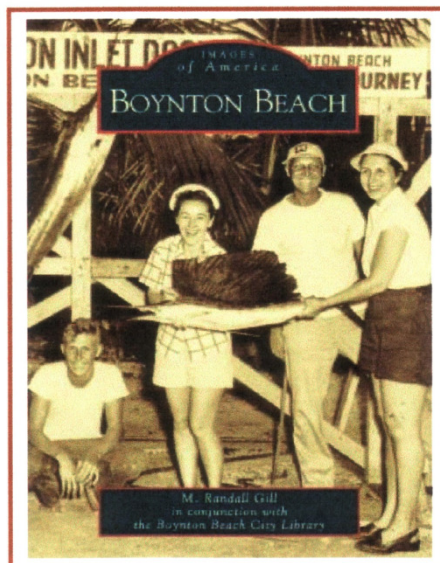
Additionally, she had served as President of the Mizner Foundation of Boynton Beach.

Boynton Beach will miss the leadership and commitment to service of Lee. We extend our sympathies and best wishes to her family.



SOME GIFT IDEAS FOR THE UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

1) If some of you have missed the news, a new picture book which shows life in Boynton through the years is now available—*Images of America: Boynton Beach*



The Boynton Beach City Library proudly announces the publication of *Images of America: Boynton Beach*. This new 128-page local history book by **M. Randall Gill** in conjunction with the Boynton Beach City Library was co-authored by Library Associate and Archivist **Janet DeVries**. The book includes over 200 vintage photographs from the historical archives. Proceeds will benefit the Schoolhouse Children's Museum. Books are available for purchase at the Boynton Beach City Library, the Schoolhouse Children's Museum and at local bookstores. For more information call 561-742-6397 or 742-6380.

2) China plates in blue, white and gold, commemorating Boynton Beach's first century are still available through the Historical Society. These plates depict significant scenes in Boynton history. Cost, \$10.00 each plus shipping and handling \$4.50. (or write, call, or e-mail the Historical Society in advance and pick one up at our next meeting).

3) Paperback histories of Boynton's first 100 years are also still available, \$10.00 each, Mailing \$1.50 extra. Copies can be picked up at the next Historical Society meeting if you call in advance so we have copies on hand.

PEOPLE AND PLACES/TIMES PAST



Hood's Service Station next to the James Garage 1930s. After the storm of 1928 destroyed their Tabernacle, the Boynton Methodist Episcopal Church, South used upstairs rooms in the James Garage for Sunday School classes. [Photo courtesy Sally Hood.]



Ocean Avenue, 1928, after the hurricane.

[Photo courtesy Boynton Beach City Library.]

The roof of the one story building was damaged by flying debris. Refuse blown off the buildings can be seen in the street. Skelton iron framework on corner of Ocean Avenue and what is now Federal Hwy (U.S. 1) was the beginning of what was supposed to become the Cassandra Hotel. The hotel company went bankrupt and the structure was later torn down never to progress beyond this framework. The two story building shown next to the framework, now owned by Harvey Oyer, Jr., currently houses restaurant, "Hurricane Alley" and Dolphin Sportswear with rental apartments and rooms upstairs. At one time Dr. Nathaniel M. Weems, Sr., Boynton's first medical doctor, had his offices on the second floor of this building.



Boynton Beach City Council Meeting, March 4, 1975. How many can you recognize?

Front Row, L to R: Vice Mayor Joe DeLong; Councilwoman, Emily M. Jackson; Robert Efron; Forrest Wallace; James Mahoney; Vincent J. Gallo; Walter Madsen; Mayor David Roberts. Back Row, L to R: Fred Benson, W.T. Woolbright, Sr.; Stanley Weaver; Harvey Oyer, Jr.; John Archie; Thomas Summers; and J. Willard Pipes. [Photo courtesy Gene Moore.]



BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM, CALENDAR YEAR 2006

Boynton Beach Historical Society members are for the calendar year, January 1 to December 31. Join now for the Calendar Year 2006. Complete the form below and return it 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.

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 _____
Program/Planning _____
Membership _____
Minority History _____
Fundraising _____
Other (Specify) _____
Hospitality _____
Telephone _____
Mailings _____
Seeking Sponsors _____
Public Relations _____

NOTES OF THE TOWN OF BOYNTON, FLORIDA

[The following is taken from a manuscript a copy of which Callie Rousseau Brown loaned the Boynton Beach Historical Society. It had been donated by Mr. and Mrs. Andrew N. Houston who had been members of the Historical Society in the 1970s. Mrs. Houston was Hazel Daugharty, daughter of the late Ida and Jesse Daugharty, Boynton pioneers who moved to Boynton in 1902. The material was compiled from the Public Records of Dade and Palm Beach Counties, the Minutes of the Town and Interviews with Settlers.]

"... The real development and settlement of the community began with the opening of the East Coast Canal and the extension of the Florida East Coast Railroad in 1895. Until that date, the lands were inaccessible except by trail and a stage from Lantana and Hypoluxo to Ft. Lauderdale which required two days to negotiate the thirty mile trip.

With the extension of the railroad and the opening of the canal, promoters and colonizers began to take an interest in the area lying south of Lake Worth. It was apparently exceedingly fertile and in 1895 Major N.S. Boynton, head of the Order of Maccabees came from Port Huron, Mich., probably following the suggestions of Congressman W.S. Linton of the same state who had started a colonization project at Delray, first called Linton, in 1892, and bought in 1897 from Linton the Gov. lots 1 and 2 and the E. half of the N.W. quarter of Sec.27, to ocean frontage directly west of the business section of the Town of Boynton, on which, he, Boynton, had started the Boynton Hotel in 1896, evidently while he had the land under contract. At the time, only two or three families lived in the vicinity, Culley Pence, and a man by the name of Van Slack and another by the name of Bailey.

In the fall of 1895, at the invitation of Major Boynton, H. B. Murray of Port Huron, Mich., came to the hotel to assist in its construction and take charge of the properties during the owners absence. Mr. Murray says there were only a few tents along the ocean front and the newly opened canal at the time of his arrival. The lands along the canal were very fertile and the early settlers began to clear and plant vegetables, tomatoes, beans, peppers, cabbage for home use and for sale to the rapidly growing resort town of Palm Beach up the lake. . . "

[To be continued at a later date.]