

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.

2012 Number 6

September 2012

A HISTORY OF POSTAL SERVICE in BOYNTON BEACH

is the title of the talk planned for the September 17th meeting of the Boynton Beach Historical Society. Richard Monahan, who served as Postmaster from 1962 and 1987, will also discuss Boynton Beach's growth since the 1960s.

Richard has lived in Boynton since 1958 and has a long list of service to and activities in the community. He began work with the post office in January, 1959, as a letter carrier and in October 1962 his appointment as Postmaster was confirmed by the United States Senate and President John Kennedy. He is a U.S. Army Veteran and was a Charter Member of the Boynton Jaycees, served as the Boynton Kiwanis Club President in 1969, and as a member of the Boynton Civil Service Appeals Board from 1970 to 1972. He is very proud of the fact that more recently in 2008 he became responsible in a communications disaster for supplying radio communication for Bethesda Hospital through the Amateur Radio Emergency Service.



Richard Monahan with his amateur shortwave radio

WHAT: BOYNTON POST OFFICE HISTORY
A talk by former Postmaster
Richard Monahan

WHEN: Monday, September 17, 6:30 pm

WHERE: BOYNTON BEACH CITY LIBRARY
Program Room

**ALL PROGRAMS OF THE BOYNTON
BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARE
OPEN FREE TO THE PUBLIC!**

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Our website is www.boyntonbeachhistoricalsociety.org. The e-mail address is boyntonhistory06@yahoo.com. Please mail inquiries or information to our local address P.O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425. Voncile can be reached at 561-734-5653.

You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter:

www.facebook.com/historicboyntonbeach

www.twitter.com/@boyntonhistory

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.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I am in my eleventh year as the president of the Boynton Beach Historical Society. When this year is complete, I will have served this group as president for a total of 13 years since I completed two years in the 1990s. It has been my pleasure to have worked with and known so many of you for so many years and I am most grateful for the many friendships and the support I have enjoyed during those years. But when this term ends in the spring of 2013, I will be 82 years old and I think I am overdue for a replacement. If a new president wants me to and there is no one else clamoring for the position, I will continue to write *The Historian* indefinitely.

We have many wonderful members in the Society, and there are numerous ones who could serve effectively as president. Someone younger than I with more energy and a slew of new ideas would enthuse us all. Be thinking about names, including your own, to put before the Society for election at our Annual Meeting in

April. For review, the President presides over 8 program meetings a year and at least 4 meetings of the Board of Directors. The President sits ex-officio on the Board of the Schoolhouse Children's Museum [the Cultural Center], and gives help and encouragement where needed to help other members of the Board of the Historical Society fulfill their obligations.

Thank you all for your many kindnesses to me over the years.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Boynton Beach Historical Society will be Monday, September 24 at 6:30 pm. The place will be announced at the September 17th program meeting and on the website. The Chair also usually sends the members an email reminder shortly before the meeting. Any member of the Society in good standing is welcome to attend the meeting and may introduce items and/or participate in the discussion, but only members of the Board may vote on items of business. An agenda will be forthcoming.

MORE OLD BUILDINGS GONE

The stucco two-story building that stood on the corner of NW 1st Street and NW 1st Avenue, a block west of the First United Methodist Church, was demolished by the owner this summer. Several members appealed to the City Board for Historic Preservation and to the owner, but to no avail. Despite provisions calling for a review, the Board has no power to stop demolition. The ultimate decision is in the hands of the owner. The house was once the residence of Orville Knuth, an early Mayor of the city. It was later owned by Joel and Bonne Baskin.

Another building on the north side of Ocean Avenue just west of the FEC railroad tracks was also demolished. Harvey E. Oyer, Jr. had bought this building from his mother, Freda Oyer's, estate. The business property had been vacant for a number of years and had last housed Carson's Mower Service and a Fix-It Shop. Before his death in 2010, Harvey had drafted plans and begun work on restoration. The wooden floors had rotted away, and on the walls only the stucco on lathe remained, temporarily propped up since the wood in the walls had also decomposed. The roof was gone. The Oyer children contemplated continuing their father's restoration plans, but they ultimately decided the costs would be too great.

[Several pictures of the razing of the Oyer building are on page 5]

BOYNTON SCHOOL BREEZES

The Rain

The rain is coming soon,
But don't be sad and weary
For it will stop at noon
Though it may be long and
dreary. —Hazel Lacey.

FOURTH GRADE

What We Made

This week Mrs. Burr was sick and we had a girl from the high school for our teacher. We started to make Easter posters for Mrs. Burr for when she came back. I haven't finished yet. Everyone in our room is making one for her.

Mary Blanchette and Zetha Crook made theirs together. They put grass on their poster.

—Lena Near.

In Spare Time

The first and second grades have made some animals out of soap. They carved them and mounted them on black paper that they cut like an egg. In our room we are making Easter borders on the blackboard. There is first a basket, then an egg. That is the way the border is made. At the end of the border is a rabbit. It looks so pretty, I think. We children made up the design ourselves.

—Aileen Lewerenz.

Fourth Grade Geography

The fourth grade has been studying the New England states the Middle Atlantic States and the Central states. We made a map of each of

them first. Then we made a list of the states. Then we made a list of products of each state. Then we wrote about the important cities and why they were important. Now we are on the Southern states. We have just made a map of them.

—Cliff Cloer.

The Operetta

The fourth, fifth and sixth grades are going to give an operetta the last of school. There are so many pretty songs in it that I don't know which I would like to sing. There is one song about a robin that everybody likes best. Mrs. Goodwin said we liked it best because the word

—Dorothy James.

THIRD GRADE

Our Sand Fable

We thought of making our sand fable after we got the playground things on our school grounds. It went to the fair and brought us back a prize of one dollar. Charles, Frank and Wendell helped. The girls dressed the dolls.

—Bonnie.

Weather Report March 12

I have not seen the sun today. The clouds are gray and white now. The wind is blowing cold today. It looks like it is going to rain. It is very dusty outside—
The flowers are pretty
And the trees are green.
The grass is growing very beautifully
But everything needs the rain.

—Adell Lunsford.

BOYNTON SCHOOL BREEZES

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BOYNTON, FLORIDA, APRIL, 1928

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SIXTH GRADE

Morning Exercises

The sixth grade is divided into four rows. Each row has charge of the morning exercises for one week. The teacher said that Samuel's row has had the best exercise yet.

—Bernal Austin.

Our Play

The fourth, fifth and sixth grades are going to have a play. It will be given at the last of school. The name of it is "The Jolly Picnic Party."

—Herman Huber.

My Trip

In geography class in the sixth grade we are taking an imaginary trip around the United States. I am going to Detroit, Michigan. On my way I am going to stop at Indianapolis, Ind., to see my friend, Oscar Winchester. Then I shall go on to Detroit and go to Canada. I am I shall finish my tour.

—Clarence Benson.

Our Flowers

In our room we have a kinds of flowers. We have some marigolds, petunias and other interesting plants. We have a violet that will soon be blooming.

—Martha Myriss.

FIFTH GRADE

My Trip to the Newspaper Office

Wednesday the fourth and fifth grades went to Palm Beach to the Daily News printing office. When we got there we got in groups to go in. First the fourth grade went in to see it, then the group that I was in.

The first thing I saw was a machine that looked like a sewing machine. With this machine they sewed the magazines together with wire.

Then we went upstairs into a room that was called "the hot room." In this room they had a big pot that had melted lead in it. Then we went into another room. In that room were four typesetting machines. These

Spelling Honors

On our blackboard we have the names of the children who get 100 all week. They get their names on the spelling honor roll and get a star for each week's perfect record. The ones with the stars are Grace, Hazel, Betty, Lena, Martile, Helen and Katherine.

—Betty Lou Garrett.

Easter Joy

Once there was a little bunny rabbit. He was going through a meadow the night before Easter to the house

of a little poor girl. He had a basket of colored eggs on his arm. When the little bunny rabbit got to the little girl's house he made nests of straw and put the eggs in them. When morning came there was a happy little girl who went running around hunting for the eggs with a little basket on her arm.

—Katherine Rousseau.

My Trip to Bartow

Last summer I went to Bartow. I surely had a nice time. We stayed with my aunt for a month.

I went to the movies 'most every night. all but Sunday night. I went to church. The last night I was in Bartow a parade came there. I thought it was the prettiest thing. A woman was sitting in a bed of hearts. It was a valentine and some woman and children had on dresses of hearts with "Be my valentine" and "I love you" on them.

—Betty Garrett.

The Honor Roll

The fourth and fifth grades have a blackboard that is at the back of the room. Mrs. Burr, our teacher, puts the names of pupils there who get 100 all the week in spelling and gives them a star for each week's perfect record.

Those who have one star are: Lena Near, Martile Jordan, Helen Bourn and Katherine Rousseau.

Those who have two stars are: Hazel Lacy and Betty Garrett.

Grace Woodruff has three stars.

—Grace Woodruff.

What We Did

Today we had a test about the New England states. Some of us did not know the products and some did. We drew a map of the New England states, then we wrote the products, then the names of the important cities and why they were important.

—Earl Laughter.

A Visit to the Fair

When I went to the fair Tuesday, March 6, 1928, the first thing I did was to go into the building that had the posters in it. When I got in there I saw my own poster. You can imagine how surprised I was.

Then I rode on the merry-go-round, and then on some little airplanes. That was all.

I saw a lady half man and half woman. I also saw a man with a rubber skin.

Then I caught sight of a spinning wheel. I spent forty cents trying to win a rabbit.

—Margaret Meredith.

Boynton School Breezes

Published by the Fourth and Fifth Grades of the Boynton, Florida, Public Schools.

Hazel Lacey	Editor
Margaret Meredith	Assistant
William Somerville	Assistant
Josephine G. Burr	Teacher

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machines had keys like a typewriter. The man would hit the keys and a piece of brass would come out into a little tray. These pieces of brass had molds of letters cut in them. The line of type was cast from these molds.

Then there was an arm of steel that came down and got the pieces of brass and took them back to the top of the machine, and the brass pieces fell into the holes where they belonged. These pieces of brass are used over and over.

The man who owns this place is Mr. Oscar G. Davies.

Then we went downstairs and we saw machines to print and fold the sheets of paper.

Then every girl and boy in the fourth and fifth grade was given a piece of lead called a line of type with their name on it and a scratch pad and a Palm Beach Life magazine.

—Grace Woodruff.

Spring

The birds are singing gaily,

As gaily as can be.

Children are playing lightly

Under the apple tree.

—Hazel Lacey.

The School Bus

Out west of town the road is closed and the children have to go around by the Lantana road on a school bus. The road is about six miles around. About twenty children ride on it. The bus is full.

—Betty Lou Garrett.

Our Picnic Party

The fourth, fifth and sixth grades are going to give a play, or operetta, at the end of this school year. The name of it is "Our Picnic Party." Nearly everyone in it has a song to sing all by themselves. In it the characters will be Grandma, Doc, Hazel, Sam, Annie, Flora and lots of others, besides the school children and the brownies.

—Pauline Laughter.

Prize Story Illustrations

The first and second prizes for fifth grade story illustrations at the county fair were won by girls in our room, the first prize by Zerephy Tabit and the second by Margaret Meredith.

Zerephy's story was "Little Red Riding Hood." There were six pictures of Red Riding Hood taking the basket, meeting the wolf, picking flowers, going to the bed, running from the wolf and thanking the hunter for killing the wolf.

Margaret's story was "Pinocchio," the story of a marionette. There were six pictures. The first picture was Pinocchio being carved, another showed him running away, the third pictured him in the house of the Talking Cricket, the fourth going to school, and the others were Pinocchio being hung and caught in the door.

—Jimmie Newkirk

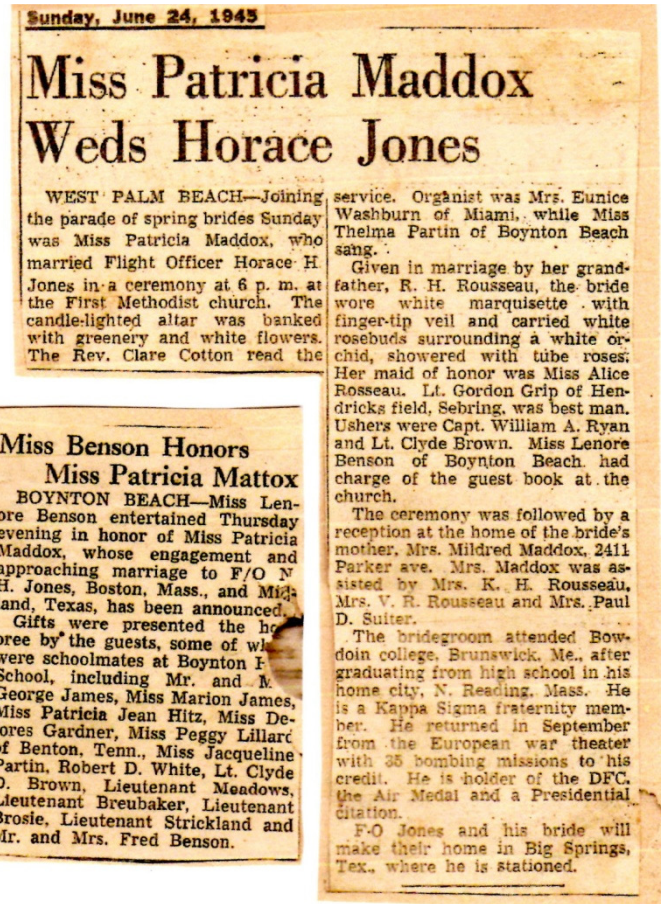
DEMOLITION PICTURES – OYER BUILDING



This building stood just west of the FEC tracks at 413 E. Ocean Avenue. It was probably built in the early 1920s, but records of buildings built around that time or earlier may not have appeared on tax rolls until some time after the Town of Boynton was incorporated in 1920. The dates on the City and County records often do not reflect the true time of construction .

[Photos courtesy of Christian Oyer Macoviak]

MORE ON ROUSSEAUS AND SOME FRIENDS



A member of the Rousseau family, William P. Suiter, sent the above newspaper articles from June, 1945 to the Society. Your editor decided to print them because we had quite a bit on the Rousseaus in a spring newsletter. These articles include the names of family members of several current Board members as well as other members of the Historical Society. Board member Gloria Partin Turner is a sister to Jacqueline Partin and Thelma Partin both of whom are mentioned. Lenore Benson Boonstra is a long time member of the Society. William James is also a current member. Rousseau family members who are currently members include Sheila Rousseau Taylor, Frances Tuite McKeral, J. Robert Rousseau, Daniel R. Suiter and William P. Suiter. It is interesting to see the long term involvement of families in the continuing history of the town.

POSTAL EXHIBIT AT LIBRARY

City and Historical Society Archivist Janet DeVries has assembled another one of her excellent displays, this one on the postal service of Palm Beach County, open through September 17, City Library, 2nd floor. Cal 742 -6390 for more information,

**BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Member's

Name _____

2nd Member's

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Cell _____

E-mail _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

INDIVIDUAL (\$25.00) _____

FAMILY (\$35.00) _____

PATRON (\$50.00) _____

CORPORATE (\$100 or more) _____

Complete this form and mail it with a check for the appropriate amount to Boynton Beach Historical Society, P. O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425-0012.

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.

THE HISTORIAN

P.O. Box 12

Boynton Beach, FL 33425-0012



This photo is labeled "Boynton – Team Picture, Claude Ross 2nd Row, 2nd from left and Prof. Williamson, Principal of Boynton School in late 1920s and early 1030s." Do any of you recognize anyone? What team was this?