

# THE HISTORIAN

## The Newsletter of THE BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Voncile Smith, President

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Voncile Smith, Editor

### HURRICANE FRANCES DELAYS THE HISTORIAN

(President's Message)

A new season welcome to each of you. I hope you have been looking forward to reading about the 2004-05 plans for the Boynton Beach Historical Society. Unfortunately my getting this greeting to you earlier has been delayed because of preparations for the hurricane and the loss of power that temporarily killed my computer and slowed down my writing. This will also be a short newsletter. The October issue will be longer (barring another storm), so please forgive the brevity.

The newly elected Board of Directors of the Society was installed at the May meeting which we held in conjunction with the Mizner Foundation. Richard Machek was the featured speaker for that meeting and he presented a surprisingly optimistic picture of State funding for Art and Historical Groups for the coming year.

The new Board members are listed on page 2.

The Society needs to do much more within the community. I restate that need every year, but we are still behind in meeting goals that we have outlined in previous years. I hope that many of you will agree to become involved. Some of you have indicated a willingness to serve on various committees, but we always have a need for more to respond. Little treasures of history continue to be lost each year and it is up to the members of the Society to try to preserve them as a part of Boynton Beach's history. I hope you will be willing to give us a little bit of your time when a member of the Board contacts you.

To a good future,

## LIGHTHOUSE FAMILIES:

### The Knights, the Pierces, and the Vosses PROGRAM MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

The Boynton Beach Historical Society will meet at the Boynton Woman's Club, 1010 South Federal Highway, on Monday, September 13, at 7:00 p.m., to hear Sheldon Voss, son of Frederick Voss, Jr., discuss the history of the Lighthouses in which his families were involved. Both the Hillsboro Lighthouse and the Jupiter Lighthouse were manned by members of these families in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. All our meetings are open free to the general public.

### 1916 PALM BEACH COUNTY COURTHOUSE RESTORATION TO BE TOPIC IN OCTOBER



Harvey E. Oyer, III

Harvey E. Oyer, III, President of the Historical Society of Palm Beach County, will discuss the role of that group in bringing about the work currently underway to restore this historic marker of Palm Beach County's history. Harvey has been instrumental in promoting the project through the Palm Beach Society which has gained commitment and funding from the Palm Beach County Commission to bring about the work.



Palm Beach County Courthouse ca. 1917  
(Photo Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County)



**BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS—2004-05**

**OFFICERS**

President  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Programs  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Membership  
Recording Secretary  
Corresponding Secretary  
Treasurer

Voncile Smith  
Harvey Oyer, Jr.  
Claire Weems  
Betty Thomas  
Gloria Gregory  
Sue Beaman

**DIRECTORS**

2005  
2005  
2006  
2006  
2007  
2007

Lucile Dickinson  
Fain Weems  
Helen Meisenheimer  
Nain Weaver  
Gloria Turner  
Curtis Weaver

**TRUSTEES**

2005  
2005  
2006  
2006  
2007  
2007

Harvey Oyer, Jr.  
Stanley Weaver  
Virginia Farace  
Jay Rowley  
Janet DeVries  
Marion Weems

**IN MEMORIAM**

**James Warnke.** The Historical Society of Boynton Beach lost a good friend with the passing this summer of James Warnke. Jim was a former Mayor of Boynton Beach, a past president of the Society, and an environmentalist. He had contributed much in recording the history of the area both in photography and in writing. We will miss him greatly.

**Mary Barton.** Although not a member of the Historical Society, Mrs. Barton lived in Boynton Beach nearly 65 years. She distinguished herself in the 1960s and 1970s by pressuring officials to clean up an overgrown cemetery, a resting place for black residents. City officials named the cemetery and an adjacent playground Barton Memorial Park.

**Lester Ward.** A long time resident of Boynton Beach, Lester had attended local schools and was a retired Building Official for the City of Boynton Beach.

**Charles Andrews.** In the 1920s the Andrews and the Meeks families subdivided a track of land which became a basic part of the black community. Charles' father worked for the City for many years. The family was originally from the Bahamas.

**EARLY SCHOOL YEARS RECALLED**

In 1969 Margaret Garnett Harris, a current member of the Historical Society, recorded some of her recollections of early life in the area. She writes:

"The early history of your school should be recalled and recorded while people still remember, because unfortunately, no record is in the old minutes of the School Board. [Editors note—What is now Palm Beach County was part of Dade County until 1909.] The first minute books were numbered 1, 2, and 3. Number one began in 1885 when the Dade County School district was formed, and it included the years through 1896. The second included the years 1897 to 1905. Guy Metcalf of West Palm Beach, who was then a school trustee, borrowed this second book in 1907. The School Superintendent recorded a statement in

1914 that a thorough search was made of the Court House in Miami, persons were carefully questioned, and it could not be found. There had been a running feud between the school trustees of District 1 and of the Dade County School Board members because the West Palm Beach area trustees over-stepped their bounds, made promises as to salaries and appointments they were not permitted by law to make, and the School Board was not able to fulfill. This book would have contained the beginning of your school. I would like also to have read these minutes because it was during this time my father served on the School Board. Half of his term of office was when the County Seat was at Juno, the other in Miami. He went to Miami one day on the train and returned on the next.

"Incidentally, I can remember my mother saying Guy Metcalf, who was Superintendent of Palm Beach County Schools one year in 1917-18, put a bullet through his head while sitting at his desk at the School Board Office. School Superintendents had their problems then, too, 'though actually, I do not know the nature of his problem.

"There are two references in the early Board minutes which do pertain to Boynton Schools.

"Miami - August 14, 1906

"Jesse Doughty [Ed. Note: Mrs. Harris indicates correct spelling should be Daughtery] and W. C. King were appointed supervisors at Boynton and Pompano, respectively.'

"Miami - October 8, 1907

"Petition from the colored people of Boynton asking the Board to furnish a teacher for a school at that place, the people to furnish building, was received, also letter from Cullen Pence recommending same. Petition was granted and school established for four months. Superintendent was ordered by the Board to employ a teacher."

[Copied from a typed manuscript prepared by Mrs. Harris and among the holdings of the Boynton Beach Historical Society.]

**JEST FOR FUN**

**Comments made in the year 1957**

[Some of the items that appear in e-mail]

"I'll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, it's going to be impossible to buy a week's groceries for \$20."

"Have you seen the new cars coming out next year? It won't be long before \$2000 will only buy a used one."

"If cigarettes keep going up in price, I'm going to quit. A quarter a pack is ridiculous."

"Did you hear the post office is thinking about charging a dime just to mail a letter?"

"When I first started driving, who would have thought gas would someday cost 29 cents a gallon. Guess we'd be better off leaving the car in the garage."

"I read the other day that some scientists think it's possible to put a man on the moon by the end of the century. They even have some fellows they call astronauts preparing for it down in Texas."

"No one can afford to be sick any more; \$35 a day in the hospital is too rich for my blood."



## CITY FINANCES - 1945

The copy on the right, "Statement of Finances" was submitted to *The Historian* last year by Jim Warnke who had served as Mayor of Boynton Beach in the 1980s. He called attention specifically to the item under Receipts, "Sale of Coconuts," although income and expenditures for other categories are equally interesting.

We print this as an example of some of the many items of historic curiosity Jim was able to share with us over the years.

### MEMBERSHIP IN THE BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The membership year in the Society is from January 1 to December 31.

The following memberships are available:

Individual	\$ 25.00
Family	35.00
Patron	50.00
Corporate	100.00 and above

New members who join this year after October 1<sup>st</sup> will be credited for the full year of 2005.

Program meetings are held eight times a year in September, October, November, January, February, March, April and May. Meetings are open to the public and you do not need to be a member to attend. *The HISTORIAN* is mailed during the months when program meetings are scheduled. We do not meet in the summer months.

If you would like to join, please send your check made out to the Boynton Beach Historical Society in the amount of the membership you desire and mail it with your name(s), address, phone number and e-mail to P.O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33424-0012. If you have questions, please call Voncile at 561-734-5653.

## BOYNTON BEACH

### STATEMENT OF FINANCES JULY 31-1945.

Cash on Hand & in Banks at July 1st, 1945

\$ 14,385.54

General Fund	\$ 10,277.40
Int. & S. Fund	1,053.15
Depositors Fund	2,150.58
Firemens Relief	50.86
Cash on Hand	852.94
	<u>\$ 14,385.54</u>

#### RECEIPTS:

Water Accounts	\$ 973.56	
Taxes	552.00	
Licenses	26.25	
Fines & Penalties	10.00	
Water Deposits	87.25	
Building Permits	15.50	
Recovered Expenditures	84.00	
Sale of Real Estate	200.00	
Sale of Coconuts	55.00	
		<u>2,007.90</u>
		\$ 16,393.44

#### EXPENDITURES:

##### ADMIN. DEPT -

Salaries	282.30	
Auto Expense	50.00	
Insurance	634.61	
Telephone Service	17.22	
City Hall Rent	50.00	
Lights	1.25	
Printing & Stationery	50.55	\$991.04

##### FIRE DEPT -

Miscellaneous	4.67	\$ 4.67
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##### POLICE DEPT -

Salaries	175.20	
Auto Expense	141.13	
Telephone Service	7.20	
Lights	6.96	
Painting	280.00	
Labor	19.55	\$571.03

##### WATER DEPT -

Salaries	141.40	
Pumping Water	210.57	
Supplies	93.02	
Auxiliary Gas Motor	391.31	
Auto Expense	4.60	\$842.90

##### SAN. & MAINT. DEPT -

Wages	227.00	
Salary-Park Dept.	25.00	
Park Lights	3.21	
Traffic Lights	15.54	
Disposal Plant	1.20	
Casino Lights	5.88	
Street Lighting	51.88	
Auto Expense	50.45	
Materials for Park	7.85	\$589.16
		\$ 2,598.20

Cash on Hand & in Banks at July 31st, 1945 ..... \$ 13,794.24

General Fund	\$ 10,474.20
Int. & S. Fund	1,053.15
Depositor's Fund	2,180.58
Firemens Relief	52.58
Cash on Hand	32.87
	<u>\$ 13,794.24</u>

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

Boynton Beach Historical Society memberships are for the calendar year, January 1 to December 31. If you are not now a member and would like to join, 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.

**BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM, CALENDAR YEAR 2005**  
**WORKING TOGETHER TO PRESERVE BOYNTON BEACH'S HERITAGE**

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_ 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) Archives/Preservation \_\_\_\_\_ Program/Planning \_\_\_\_\_ Mailings \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Hospitality \_\_\_\_\_ Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Public Relations \_\_\_\_\_ Seeking Sponsors \_\_\_\_\_ Minority History \_\_\_\_\_

Fundraising \_\_\_\_\_ Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_