



The Historian

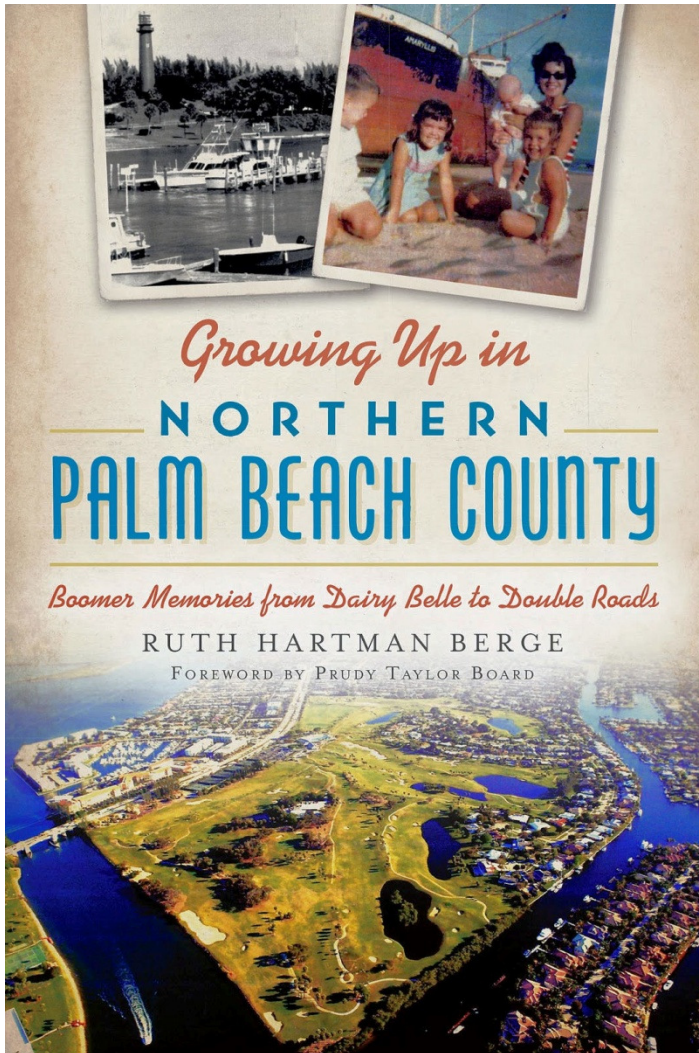
The Newsletter of the Boynton Beach Historical Society

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.

2014 Number 8



November 2014



On November 17, Ruth Hartman Berge will review her memoir
**GROWING UP IN NORTHERN
PALM BEACH COUNTY**

for the Boynton Beach Historical Society at the Boynton Woman's Club.

Her recollections of a childhood in Northern Palm Beach County stimulates nostalgia for sun, sand and running barefoot under palm trees. Her memories include hurricanes and Hetzel Brothers Christmases, Sir Harry Oakes's haunted mansion and James Munroe Munyon's Fountain of Youth. The once quaint area from Riviera Beach to Jupiter is now much more populated, but the taste of s'mores and the joys of summer camps remain. Berge weaves images of a boomer childhood in Northern Palm Beach County with the history of the people and the places so many loved in this glimpse into a Florida that no longer exists.



Ruth Hartman Berge

WHAT: Discussion and Review of her Memoir, *Growing Up in Northern Palm Beach County*, by Ruth Hartman Berge

WHEN: Monday, November 17, 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Boynton Woman's Club
1010 South Federal Highway
OPEN FREE TO THE PUBLIC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS--2014-15

OFFICERS [Elected Annually]

President	Janet DeVries
1 st Vice President, Programs	Ginger Pedersen
2 nd Vice President, Membership	Voncile Smith
Recording Secretary	Diana Dennis
Corresponding Secretary	Anne Watts
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Editor, <i>The Historian</i>	Voncile Smith
Archivist/Facebook/Webmaster	Janet DeVries
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DIRECTORS [3-Year Staggered Terms]

2015	Sheila Rousseau Taylor
2015	Linda Stabile
2016	Tim Bednarz
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2017	Steven Anton
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TRUSTEES [3-Year Staggered Terms]

2015	Christian Oyer Macoviak
2015	Audrey Gerger
2016	Virginia Farace
2016	Susan Merkel Shaffer
2017	Randall Gill

Our website is www.boyntonhistory.org. The e-mail address is boyntonhistory@gmail.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. Boynton Beach Historical Society number is 561-327-4690.

You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter:

www.facebook.com/historicboyntonbeach

[www.twitter.com/@boyntonhistory](https://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. Copies from past years are posted on the website.

LIFE MEMBERS

Randall Gill
Alexander "Sandy" Simon
Curtis and Nain Weaver

H.B. MURRAY DESCENDANTS and an Apology

On October 21 the City Commission issued a proclamation which declared February 24 as Horace B. Murray Day.

On October 25 there was a "Murray Family Reunion" held in the city. Janet DeVries and Ginger Pederson attended. Unfortunately, the direct descendants of Horace B. Murray, Sr. who have been long time members of the Boynton Beach Historical Society and have contributed historical information to the press and to the Society about Boynton's history were not included. The only limited information they had was what was printed in the October issue of *The Historian*. Perhaps the members of the Society who let this "reunion"

remain exclusive do not realize that second and third cousins often lose track of one another and do not communicate. The place to begin searching for information on the Murray Family should have begun with H.B. Murray's descendants who are members of the Boynton Beach Historical Society, especially if the Society was credited with helping to sponsor the event.

And so to Horace B. Murray's grandchildren who have continued to be active in their connection to Boynton and who were born of his sons Theodore and Glenn and his daughter Rose and who have supported the Society with continuing memberships over the years, on behalf of the Society, your editor and other Board of Director members extend both an apology for your being omitted and an appreciation for your long-term support of the history of Boynton Beach.

HISTORY STROLLS

November History Stroll – Richard and Pat Johnson History Museum

Saturday, November 8, 2014. 10:00 a.m. 300 N. Dixie Highway, Downtown West Palm Beach, FL 33401 (Across from the Palm Beach County Courthouse) – Tour will consist of introduction and visit of the museum's two permanent galleries, the special exhibit gallery, and a visit to the historic courtroom on the third floor. The special exhibit (open September 9, 2014-June 27, 2015), *Courage Under Fire: 120 Years of Fire Rescue*, examines the exceptional history of the West Palm Beach Fire Department, which served as the only fire department in Palm Beach County for decades. Join us at the Richard and Pat Johnson Palm Beach County History Museum as we celebrate 120 years of Fire Rescue. *Guide: Richard "Tony" Marconi (90 minutes).*

December History Stroll – Seacrest Scrub Natural Area

Sunday, December 7, 2014. 10:00 a.m. – 3400 S. Seacrest Boulevard, Boynton Beach, FL 33435 (The entrance is on the east side of Seacrest Boulevard, approximately two miles south of Woolbright Road) – The natural area has two native Florida ecosystems: scrub and scrubby flatwoods, which support a large population of gopher tortoises. The natural area was once part of a large ridge of scrub habitat in eastern Palm Beach County, but now is an isolated remnant surrounded by residential communities. Based on maps and aerial photographs, farmers used for growing pineapples and fruit trees in the early 1900s. For this outdoor walking tour, please wear close-toed shoes, long pants, sunscreen and a hat and bring water. *Guides: Janet DeVries & Ginger Pedersen (90 minutes).*

All tours are free and open to the public, donations are accepted. Call 561-643-1393 to make a reservation or sign up online at <http://www.eventbrite.com/o/boynton-beach-historical-society-6429855113?s=28402957>

MEMBERSHIP - 2015

A reminder, again, that the membership year for the Boynton Beach Historical Society is a calendar year, from January 1 to December 31. We encourage all of you who plan to renew your membership to send in your dues as soon as possible. You save time of volunteers, not to mention costs of printing and postage, that a separate invoice entails. Unless your information has changed or your current address label is incorrect, you do not need to complete the dues form. Simply place your check by itself in an envelope and address it to P. O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425. The following is a list of those whose dues have been paid for 2015 as of November 1, 2014. Other members will be included in future issues of *The Historian* as their memberships are renewed.

Corporate:

George and Christine Weaver Ternenyi

Patron:

Bob W. and Jeanne Gayler
Voncile Marshall Smith

Family:

James and Marjorie L. Bynum
Gloria and Madelina Gregory
Richard V. and Judith Merkel Howard
Bill and Maggie Huff
Isabella and Ronald Pause
Philip B. and Barbara S. Traylor

Individual:

Tim Bednarz
Kathryn E. Clark-Tilson
Richard H. Curtiss
Lois Oyer Dooley
Virginia K. Farace
Nadine Smith Hartling
Sally Hood
Wilese Jones Langford
Denise Smith McCulloch
Ted Murray
Lyn Smith Orletsky
Nicholas Orletsky
Anthony Rawson
Camilla Smith Richardson
Fred Senior
Susan Merkel Shaffer
James Marshall Smith
Ovedia Weeks Stevens
Anne Watts

IN MEMORIAM

WEEMS, CECILE SOLOMON—Cecile Weems passed away October 17, 2014 at age 86. She grew up in Headland, Alabama, a small Southern town. She was a graduate of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. She and her husband, Nathaniel "Marion" Weems have been members of the Boynton Beach Historical Society since it was organized in 1968. Cecile was very active in the community, volunteering her time with, among others, organizations such as the Schoolhouse Children's Museum, the Boynton Beach Historical Society, the Bethesda Memorial Fund, the P. E. O. Sisterhood, and the First United Methodist Church of Boynton Beach.

She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Dr. Nathaniel "Marion" Weems, three children—Kathy (Bob) Schlagal, Robert (Viva) Weems, and John (Maria) Weems; six grandchildren, and many other loving family members.

The Boynton Beach Historical Society sends its sympathy and best wishes to the Weems family. The Society will greatly miss her participation and contributions.



Cecile Weems

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

President Janet DeVries has announced that the next Board of Directors meeting will be held Monday, December 8, 2014, 6:00 p.m. at the first Presbyterian Church.

Any member in good standing is welcome to attend any Board of Directors meeting and may participate in the discussion. However, only Board members may propose and vote on motions. Plan to check with a Board Member before attending, however, to make sure the meeting has not been cancelled.

SURVEY POLL

Janet DeVries has created a poll for the Society's website and Facebook to generate data about our programs, tours, website and social media efforts.

If you are interested in participating or simply curious about what we might want to know log on to the site at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YVRTM63>

FOR VETERANS DAY

Among the many papers Harvey Oyer, Jr. left behind are some rather time worn mementos from his days as a student at Boynton High School in the early 1940s. Susan Oyer recently turned over to the Society a yellowed, stained mimeographed copy of the school newspaper "Hi-Lites of Boynton Hi" from December, 1943.

The poor condition of the material means it will not photocopy well, but there are some stories that are appropriate to write here as we recall the service of our military this Veterans Day. United States participation in World War II had been underway for two years when this paper was prepared. The following are entries copied from that edition that are especially appropriate.

"SERVICE MEN"

"This month several men from our town have gone into service. Most of them have graduated from B.H.S. or have attended at one time.

"Topsy Brant, whom we failed to mention in our last honor roll, is stationed at Camp Cook, Calif. He is a Pfc.

"Pvt. Raymond Weeks, 34796264, is in Co. B. Reception Center at Camp Blanding, Fla.

"Gene Wright and Benny Price are stationed in Miami Beach, Fla.

"Robert Lambert, U.S.N. receives his mail as follows:

Bob Lambert

N.A.T.S

Jacksonville, Fla.

"Lt. (jg) Clyde E. Harris has been transferred from Princeton University to Miami Beach.

"Clarence Benson and Sam Woolbright have joined the Seabees."

"John Croft Wins Citation"

"John R. Croft has recently received a citation for meritorious conduct. He is on duty in the South Pacific. The official statement is as follows. The citation, signed by Admiral W. F. Halsey, commander South Pacific Areas and South Pacific Force, said:

"For meritorious performance of duty while serving on an aircraft rescue boat operating in the New Georgia area during the period from June 10 to July 27, 1943, Croft has displayed sincere devotion to duty in the rescue of 14 airmen in an area subjected to repeated bombing and strafing attacks by enemy aircraft and shelling by enemy shore batteries. On one occasion the rescue of an airman stranded on an island was hindered due to enemy shell fire which forced his boat to withdraw. He assisted in maneuvering the boat at high speed drawing the enemy's shell fire, allowing a dinghy to proceed with the rescue. His

courageous conduct was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

The student paper also included the following article apparently by one of the student staff members not identified..

"Christmas In This Year, 1943"

"What shall we make of Christmas this year in such momentous times? Will it be a time for gaiety and gifts? It is very true to say that in the average American family it will only be a day of memories of the loved ones who used to share Christmas day with us; of the times of peace that we are so hopefully fighting for now.

"The road to victory does seem shorter this year than that last year, but we mustn't think we've done enough and quit. We must keep going on and on until we are positive we have taken the last step in victory.

"The boys and girls, men and women who are 'over there' are depending on us to back them up. The very same boys with whom we sang Christmas carols in the past, the ones who used to sit at your table on Christmas day, are giving s up all these pleasures they used to know to fight—fight for security, for peaceful days to come.

"You would hate to think that you had caused the death of one of our boys in battle. But just because you have bought a foolish gift for someone for Christmas instead of a bond, this individual in battle would have to stop fighting for lack of ammunition. We never want such things to occur. Let us keep it so that our boys will never have to stop until it's well over in our favor.

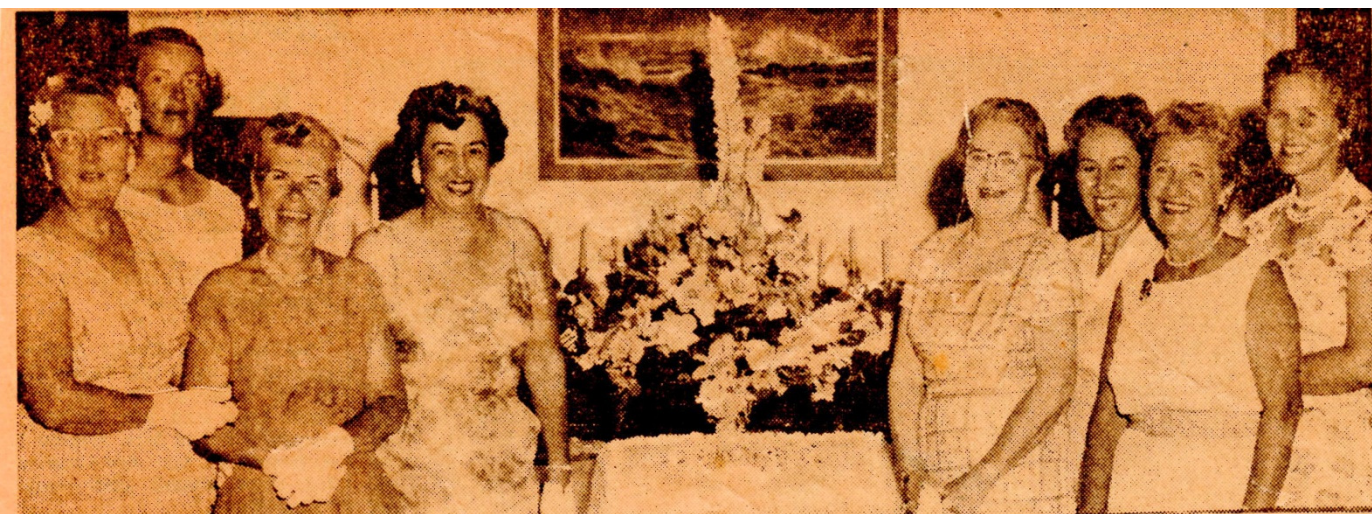
"While we are giving and sacrificing for our dreams, we must remember that all that is best in civilization has its roots in the Christian virtues of hope, faith and love. Nothing is done without God's help and if we do as much as we possibly can He is always there to do what we may fail in.

"This year the lights will be lighted on the streets and trees for Christmas, but it does not give us the feeling that everything is all right. The skies above are still very dark over there and over here. We must not forget this for a moment until the lights are on again all over the world and we can look forward to Christmas or peacer where every race of people in the world can worship, love, and celebrate in its own way."

The school paper also contained jokes, student gossip, advertisements, and grade school news. But one little rhyme is quoted below which was especially pertinent to the times:

"Liberty shines through oppression,
Like golden glowing lamps.
Keep it always shining
By buying Defense Bonds and Stamps."

MISCELLANEOUS PICTURES



THREE YEARS OLD—One hundred and 50 persons attended third birthday party of the Boynton Beach branch of Bethesda Memorial Hospital Auxiliary at the Boynton Woman's Club. Pictured left to right: Mrs. Paul Mercer, Mrs. N. M. Weems, Jr., Mrs. O. R.

Stan Sheets Photo
Tergesen, Auxiliary chairmen; Mrs. William Mizell, Boynton branch chairman; Mrs. Merrill Steele, Mrs. J. W. Pipes, Mrs. Joseph Burwell and Mrs. Henry Merkel, Jr.

From the *Palm Beach Post*, May 8, 1960. Cecile Weems is second from the left. Note at that time all the women were identified by their husband's names.



March 4, 1975. Boynton Beach City Council Meeting. Front row, L to R, Vice Mayor Joe DeLong; Councilwoman Emily M. Jackson; Robert Effron; Forrest Wallace; James Mahoney, Vincent J. Gallo; Walter Madsen and 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. Note how men's clothing styles have changed since then. John Archie is apparently the only man not compelled to wear a coat and tie.

**BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Member's

Name _____

2nd Member's Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

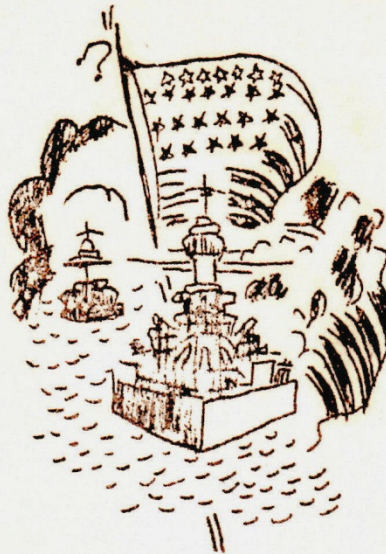
TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:	INDIVIDUAL	(\$25.00) _____
	FAMILY	(\$35.00) _____
	PATRON	(\$50.00) _____
	CORPORATE	(\$100 or more) _____
	STUDENT	(\$10.00) _____
	LIFE	(\$500.00) one time payment only.

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

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



IN MEMORY

of

HAROLD LLOYD MURRAY
S 1/c U. S. N.

July 15, 1927-December 11, 1943

Copied from "Hi-Lites of Boynton High", December 17, 1943, described on page 4. Lloyd was the youngest son of Glenn and Bessie Murray and a grandson of H.B. Murray. Only 16 years old at the time of his death, he had begged his father to sign his enlistment papers. He was accidentally killed in the United States before actually shipping out—nevertheless, a young casualty of World War II. We honor him this Veterans Day.