



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.

April 2021

Offshore Boynton Beach: The *Coquimbo* and the Reef By Steven Anton

Monday, April 26, 2021 @ 7-8pm EDT via Zoom

If your email is on file with us, your reservation confirmation will be sent to you. If not, send an email to BBHSPrograms@gmail.com by 3pm on the day of the event and we will reserve a seat for you!

A true Florida native son, **Steven Anton** grew up exploring the wonderful world around him, both above ground and under water. Steve served aboard submarines in the US Navy as a Torpedoman and Navy Diver, then he joined the Navy Reserve as a Second-Class Salvage Diver and Navy EOD Combat Diver. As a Hyperbaric Technologist and Wound Care Specialist, he spent 35 years sharing his expertise in those fields in the healthcare industry. A long-time member of the Boynton Beach Historical Society and its Board of Directors, Steve is an award-winning professional photographer and videographer.

Besides his two beloved dogs, diving and photography are Steve's passions and pleasures. We are fortunate to have several shipwrecks and a reef with beautiful fish, right offshore here in Boynton Beach. Many of us will never dive and see these things ourselves, but we are lucky to have Steve's diving and videographer skills so we can glimpse these awesome sites and sights vicariously through his talents. Join us and share Steve's photos - *Offshore Boynton Beach*.



Postcard of the 1909 shipwreck, the *Coquimbo*



Photos courtesy S Anton

All Programs of the Boynton Beach Historical Society are FREE and OPEN to the Public
Boynton Beach Historical Society The Historian April 2021



Boynton Beach Historical Society

Founded 1968

2020-2021 Board of Directors

OFFICERS Elected Annually

President – M Randall Gill

1st Vice President, Programs - Barbara Ready

2nd Vice President, Membership - Sheila Rousseau Taylor

Secretary - Anne Rimler

Interim Treasurer – Anne Rimler

TRUSTEES 3-Year Term

2018-2021 - Donna Artes

2018-2021 - Susan Oyer

2019-2022 - Virginia Farace

2019-2022 - Ben Lowe

2020-2023 – Steve Anton

2020-2023 – Heidi Bell

Non-Elected

Interim Editor, *The Historian* - Anne Rimler

Archivist/Facebook/Webmaster – Janet Naughton

Facebook Admin/Webmaster – Ginger Pedersen

Boynton Beach Historical Society

PO Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425

We are on the web www.boyntonhistory.org, and on Facebook [@HistoricBoyntonBeach](https://www.facebook.com/HistoricBoyntonBeach) and on Twitter [@BoyntonHistory](https://twitter.com/BoyntonHistory).

Questions or comments: **Programs?** bbhsprograms@gmail.com or **Membership?** bbhsmembership@gmail.com.

The Historian

The Historian, the newsletter of the Society, is usually sent six times a year, October through April (except December), to dues-paid members (one per paid membership). Previous issues are posted to our website. We did not publish from Apr '20 to Jan '21 due to COVID-19. The first line on **mailing labels** has your dues **expiration date**. If yours are not current, please mail the completed membership form with your check or pay online at www.boyntonhistory.org. Dues paid at/after the last meeting of the season will be credited towards the following season.

2020-2021 Season Mondays @7pm Save The Date
Apr 26 S Anton/ *Coquimbo*, Annual Meeting, Excellence Awards

2021-2022 Season Dates

Calendar will be finalized in June. Check our website for details.

Zoom Meetings are Recorded

Zoom Meetings are recorded and will be made available for viewing at a later date. Check our website for details.

The following represents our Membership Roll to date & dues payments received from 3/5/2021 to 3/30/2021.

Thank You to our Life Members

Vicki & Anthony Barbar

Candy & Doug Brueggemann

EasyPay Tire Stores Inc, Doug & Ruth Besecker

Robert and Jeanne Gaylor

M Randall Gill

Robert & Christian Oyer Macoviak

Melear Bros., Cliff & Rick Melear

Wayne & Eva Brooks Knuth Netzler

Scott & Camilla Smith Richardson

Alexander "Sandy" Simon Jr

Voncile Marshall Smith

George & Christine Weaver Ternenyi

William & Gaye Weaver

Marion Weaver Wester

Bill & Elsie Winchester

Thank You to our Corporate Members

Dan & Regina Day, Delray Awning

Scobee-Combs-Bowden Funeral Home & Crematory

Daniel & Lisa Ames Suiter

Thank You to our Patrons

Ron & Sarah Thomas Bollenbacher

Billie Jo Swilley

Michael & Linda Martin Callaway

Suzie Winchester

George & Gayle Kranz Greider

Membership Renewals

Thank You!

Mary Molloy & Maggie Arndt

Anne Weems Michael

Heidi Bell

Elizabeth Michael

Ramona Summerford Davis

Rosemary Mouring

Michelle Michael DePollo

Wyman & Barbara Scott

Mayor Steven B & Jenna Grant

Kandy Thompson

Benoit Mailloux & Ben Lowe

Michelle Walter

Liza Hanley & Mike Fitzpatrick

Melinda Wheeler

Welcome to our NEW MEMBERS

Thank You!

Hector Arvelo

Vicki & Anthony Barbar

And A Special Welcome to our BOGO Recipients*

Joan Foglia

H Alex Rousseau

***LAST CHANCE! BUY ONE:GIVE ONE BOGO Special Offer**
Become a New Member or Renew your Membership by
4/30/2021 and get a FREE 1-year membership for a
friend! Restrictions apply. See form for details.

Gift Memberships, Memberships Given in Honor, or Given in Memory Are Available

Complete the Membership Form and mail with your check or pay online securely using PayPal at www.boyntonhistory.org.

Volunteer Opportunities

Are you a fan of Boynton Beach? Invest in its future by upholding its past and volunteer with the Society! The Boynton Beach Historical Society is run entirely by its volunteer members. Let us know if you would like to join us and make history happen!



The Historian

Boynton Beach Historical Society 2020 and 2021 Awards of Excellence

In these unprecedented times, it is important to the Boynton Beach Historical Society to continue to recognize the excellent service of those who make outstanding contributions to historic education, research, and preservation. Awards of Excellence will be presented to **Diana Dennis** and **Anne Rimler** at our Annual Meeting.

Diana Dennis is the 2020 Award of Excellence recipient and will be receiving it this year because last year the Annual Meeting was cancelled due to the pandemic. In the past, Diana has served on the Boynton Beach Historical Society Board of Directors, as our Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. Diana also volunteered to help Janet Naughton, when Janet was Archivist at the Boynton Beach City Library. She continued to work with the Archivists that followed Janet, Susan Swiatosz and Georgan Charnes, until March 2020.

Anne Rimler is our 2021 Award of Excellence recipient. She is a past 1st Vice President Program Chair for the Society. She is presently serving as Secretary, Interim Treasurer, and Interim Editor of the Historian. Before moving to Boynton Beach, Anne had already become a fan of the Society's Page on Facebook. When Anne moved here, she became highly active, attending meetings and soon after joined our Board. Anne is also a co-founder of the Florida Highwaymen Art Show sponsored by the Boynton Beach Historical Society and the Boynton Woman's Club.

Thank you to Diana and Anne for your dedication and leadership in helping to support the Society. Each will be presented an award certificate and books will be given to the Boynton Beach City Library in their honor.

Boynton Beach Historical Society Annual Meeting & Elections

Monday, April 26, 7pm

On Monday, April 26th, prior to the Program, we will hold the Society's **Annual Meeting**.

Society Bylaws Amendments - Amendments will be presented to Membership. The Committee behind the changes was chaired by **Virginia Farace** and included **Donna Artes**, **Randall Gill** and **Anne Rimler**. The bylaws with the recommendations highlighted can be viewed at <https://www.boyntonhistory.org/membership/>.

Annual Election of Officers and Trustees - The Society's Officers (President, 1st VP/Program Chair, 2nd VP/Membership Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) are elected annually and the terms for two Trustees positions expire. All members in good standing are welcome to cast their vote. **Susan Oyer**, one of the Trustees whose term expire this April, will step down from the Board at the end of her term. We're grateful to Susan for her valued participation and support. The Society sincerely thanks all those who have served and those who serve now and have given so generously of themselves and their time.

Nominating Committee - **President Gill** appointed members to the Committee in February. The Committee, chaired by **Sheila Rousseau Taylor**, with members **Virginia Farace** and **Ben Lowe**, is charged with nominating candidates who are in good standing to serve on the Society's Board.

What You're Saying About Previous Society Programs

Thank You for the Feedback!

Lure of the Sun: Major Nathan Boynton and His Boynton Beach Hotel by Janet Naughton 2/22/2021

Great lecture last night. Janet is a natural presenter. Wonderful information! - Sue R
Enjoyed learning more about Major Boynton. Thanks, also, for putting me on the list to receive info regarding future events. - Gay P

Legends & Lore of Fort Lauderdale's New River by Donn R. Colee, Jr.

3/22/2021

Thank you for organizing such an interesting meeting under such unusual circumstances. - Miss G
Spectacular slides illustrating a wealth of information. Great program! - Cecilia S



The Historian

MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL - BUY ONE:GIVE ONE. *BOGO*.

We are incredibly pleased to make this SPECIAL offer! **HURRY! OFFER ENDS APRIL 30, 2021!** When you become a member or renew your membership, we will add a FREE one-year membership for your friend, family member or other interested party! BUY ONE:GIVE ONE. BOGO. TWO memberships for the SAME PRICE!

Please provide the recipient's name, mailing address, email and phone, and they will also receive "The Historian," the newsletter of the Boynton Beach Historical Society, and Society notifications.

Have you already sent in your dues for 2021? Thank you! Please designate your BOGO recipient by sending an email to bbhsmembership@gmail.com with the info requested for your BOGO recipient. We'll do the rest. *The BOGO recipient must be a NEW member to the Society. Student membership level is not eligible for the BOGO special.*

Boynton Beach Historical Society Membership Form **BUY ONE:GIVE ONE Offer ends 4/30/21**

My Name _____ Select one – this is a:
_____ New Membership. _____ Membership Renewal.

Street _____

City _____ Select Membership Type:
_____ Individual \$25
_____ Family \$35
_____ Patron \$50
_____ Corporate \$100
_____ Student \$10 (with valid Student ID)
_____ Life (one-time payment) \$500

State / Zip _____

Email _____

Phone # _____

I would like to Give a One-Year Membership to (Recipient's Information):

Name _____ Street _____

City _____ State / Zip _____

Email _____ Phone # _____

The BOGO recipient must be a NEW member to the Society. Student membership level is not eligible for the BOGO special.

Complete and mail with payment: Boynton Beach Historical Society PO Box 12 Boynton Beach FL 33425-0012. Or pay online using PayPal at www.boyntonhistory.org/membership/ and send BOGO Recipient Information to us in a separate email to bbhsmembership@gmail.com.

The Society is a 501(c)(3) Organization; dues are tax deductible.
Membership year runs Jan 1 to Dec 31. Dues are not pro-rated.
Expiration date is shown on first line of your mailing label.



The Historian

The *Coquimbo* and the Murray House

Steve Anton & Kim Longacre

The Murray House and the *Coquimbo* shipwreck are large and inextricably linked parts of Boynton Beach's history. **Horace Bentley Murray Sr**, his wife, **Mary Smith**, and their children, came to a tiny Florida settlement known as Boynton, in January 1896. Construction on the Murray House was started soon after and was completed in 1909. The home was built to the same strong standards of an actual ship and withstood many hurricanes, including the terrible 1928 hurricane that devastated much of the area. The house still stands and is occupied today. Evident in the home are many of its original doors, windows, moldings, and floors. Its original window louvers still work. The house, once dark brown, is now painted white.

The Murray House is currently owned by **Kimberley Longacre**. Kim says "The house is the second oldest house still existing in Boynton Beach. The Andrew's House is the oldest. I brought some of the Murray descendants to see the house, and they were amazed at how little it had changed since that old photo was taken!"

As for the *Coquimbo*, the shipwreck still rests where she sank in 1909 in less than 17 feet of water, about 50 yards offshore of Ocean Ridge. The timbers in the attic of the Murray House are from the *Coquimbo*.

Read more about HB Murray, his family, and their many contributions to early Boynton, the Andrew's House, and the *Coquimbo* on www.boyntonhistory.org.

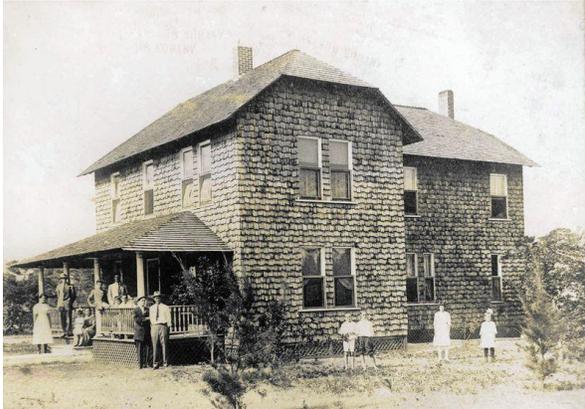


Photo: S Anton

An Invitation from The Boynton Woman's Club ~ Thursday, April 22nd, 2021 @11:30am



Boynton Woman's Club



El Mirasol, Palm Beach

Photos: E Lamont

The **Boynton Woman's Club** has extended an invitation to Historical Society members to join their free virtual program on Thu, April 22nd, at 11:30am. **Ed Lamont** will present **Addison Mizner: Exotic Society Architect**. The program will be held via Zoom. Email BWC1909@gmail.com prior to April 20 to reserve your seat.

About the program: When **Addison Mizner** arrived in Florida, he thought he was going to die. Instead, what emerged in Palm Beach was the distinctive Mizner style of architecture, interior, and landscape design. From the mind of Mizner sprung private clubs, oceanfront and lakeside mansions, Worth Avenue shopping vias and our own Boynton Woman's Club. He transformed Palm Beach from "Winter Newport" to "America's Riviera."

About the speaker: **Ed Lamont** has served as a docent at Whitehall since 1991 where he has led over 2500 tours. He also leads historical tours of the Breakers Hotel and gives gallery talks at the Society of the Four Arts.



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Archivist's Corner by Georgen Charnes, Library Archivist, Boynton Beach City Library

<https://www.boynton-beach.org/city-library> (561) 742-6390 100 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach, FL 33435 charnesg@bbfl.us

Sometimes while looking through the collections at the Boynton Beach City Library, I can't help but be curious about the history of the subject of the photographs, and often end up falling down the rabbit hole of investigation. Several photographs that sparked my curiosity feature young women in bathing suits, posed with large fish. What on earth, I wondered. After delving into digitized newspapers and other collections, I began to piece together the history of the "Gulfstream Mermaids."

There was first a "Boynton Beach Fishing Tournament Queen" from at least 1952-1953, held at the Inlet. Then, the first Gulfstream Mermaid Beauty Contest was put on by the Boynton Beach Chamber of Commerce in 1956-1957. The first year, it was in conjunction with the "All-Star Festival," which included a "boatcade" of nearly 100 decorated watercraft, a water ski show, a chicken "broast," a street dance, a model home show, and a farm tour. There was no entry fee for contestants, they only had to reside in south Palm Beach County, be unmarried, and over 15 years old. During the All-Star Festival, five "Gulfstream Mermaids" were chosen, and each reigned one month of the winter season: Miss December, Miss January, Miss February, Miss March, and Miss April. These five finalists often had their photographs taken, posed with fishing tournament entries at the dock.

One of the five mermaids was chosen as the overall winner in April 1957 at the conclusion of the fishing tournament, and the winner received an aqua-maid test (which was a chance to join the Cypress Garden water-skiing team), a *Cole of California* gold lame bathing suit, and other prizes. This winning woman was often referred to by the newspaper as "Miss Boynton Beach."

Over the years, the festivities expanded, with the addition of individual sponsorship of contestants by area businesses and a talent show added in 1956 and a parade in 1957. By 1960, the "Miss Mermaid Pageant" was directed by the Junior Woman's Club, but still sponsored by the Chamber. The winner also went on to represent Boynton Beach in the Miss Florida contest.

In 1962, the Boynton Beach pageant was separated from the fishing tournament. "No more mermaids, no more hanging around the fishing docks to have their pictures taken," as the *Boynton Beach Star* states. There was no pageant in 1963, due to a lack of entrants. A new pageant was inaugurated 1964, again directed by the Junior Woman's Club and sponsored by the Chamber but was referred to as the "Miss Boynton Beach" contest and open to young women between 18 and 28 who had resided in Boynton Beach for at least six months. We have photographs of these beautiful young women, but not with large fish.



Above: Homer Quincy Adams, Bonnie Crill, (Miss February), Sandy Lain (Miss March) and Bonnie Bornburg (Miss January) 1962.



Left: 1st fish at Lyman's, Nov 29th, 1958, 12:15 noon. Wahoo 32 lb. [on the] Abbey III. Capt. Zielinski. Fisherman in middle: Lewis H. Charles (of Freeport, Long Island NY). Mermaids, left to right: Evelyn Lain (American Legion), Dolores Tambasco (Boynton Beach Woman's Club), Carol Shook (Rotary), Joyce Kuhman (Kiwanis), Barbara Brinker (Boynton Beach Woman's Club), Leticia Gerber (BPW Club), Donna Mayhew (Lions Club), Judy Fretz (J.L. Archie)