



# 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.

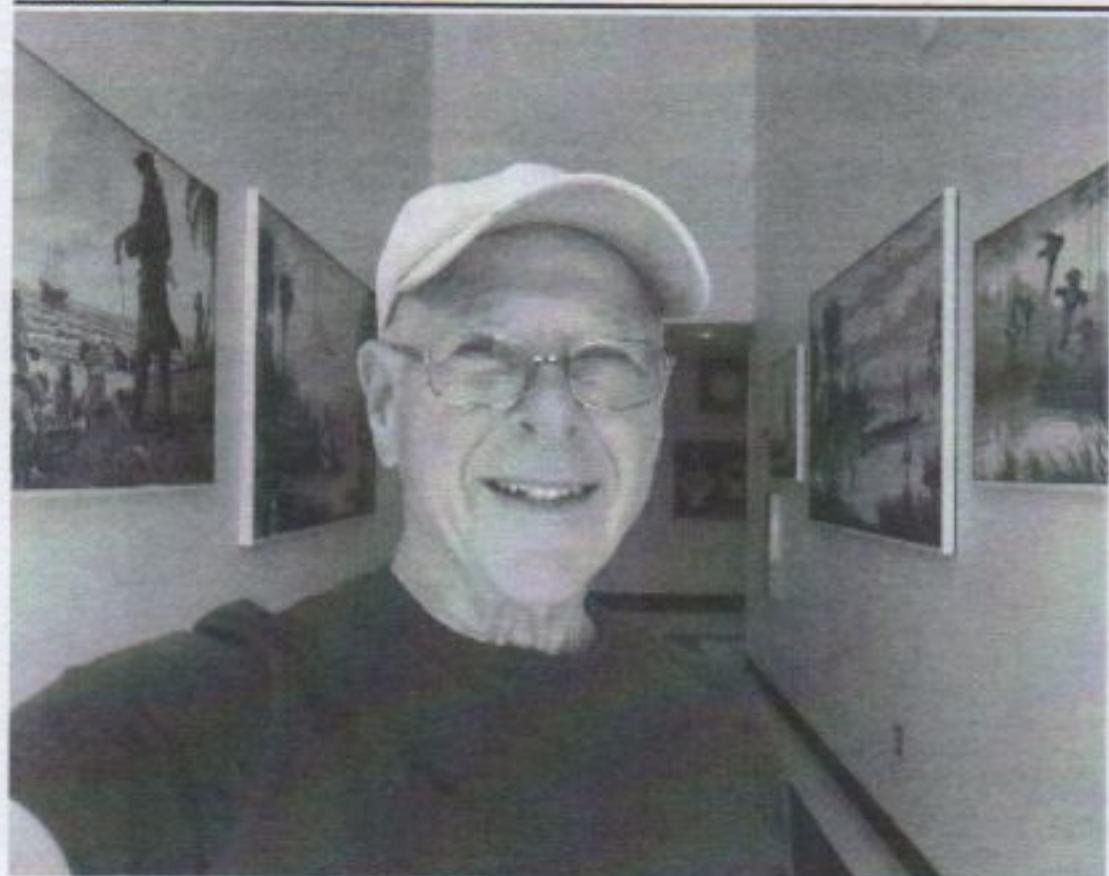
2018 VOLUMES 8

NOVEMBER 2018

## RESTORATION of BERNARD THOMAS PAINTINGS

One recent project of the Boynton Beach Historical Society was to fund the restoration of paintings owned by Forest Park School that had become soiled and had damage to their frames from exposure to the public over the years since Bernard Thomas had created them and presented them to the school in 1964. In consultation with the school, the society hired South Florida artist Ralph Papa to handle the restoration.

On Monday, November 26 at the First Presbyterian Church of Boynton Beach, Ralph Papa will discuss the highlights of his restoration work on the five paintings at the school. The paintings depict landscape and nature themes and scenes from the Seminoles and Old Florida: Captain Long John Silver and his crew, geese flying above a lake, and a giant marlin jumping out of the water [for black and white photographs see December 2016 and May 2017 "Historian"]. Papa will discuss also the work the artists of Plein Air Palm Beach are doing to capture today's scenes for tomorrow's history.



Ralph Papa with restored Thomas paintings

**The Speaker's Background:** Born and reared in New York, Papa has been fascinated by drawing and painting since early childhood. Primarily self-taught with a natural talent, he later studied art and architecture at Queens College and CCNY and painted evenings at the Art Students League. He has resided and painted in Southeast Florida since 2002. He is an art activist, passionate about art and

regularly teaches drawing and painting and plein air workshops throughout Palm Beach County. He is a signature member and Past President of the Artists Guild of the Boca Raton Museum of art and co-founder of Plein Air Palm Beach. His artworks are in public and private collections in the United States, Canada and Europe and can be viewed at Papagallery Artists Association in Boca Raton, The Neighborhood Gallery in Boynton Beach and on his website [www.ralphpapa.com](http://www.ralphpapa.com).

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|---------------|--|
| <b>WHAT?</b>  | <b>RESTORATION OF BERNARD THOMAS PAINTINGS</b><br>A discussion by artist Ralph Papa of his work on 5 paintings at Forest Park School as well as art work by the artists of Plein Air Palm Beach, |
| <b>WHEN?</b>  | Monday, November 26, 2018 -- Doors Open 6:30 pm<br>Program 7:00 p.m.   |
| <b>WHERE?</b> | First Presbyterian Church, Pratt Hall, 235 SW 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave<br>Boynton Beach, FL 33435 <b>FREE PARKING</b>   |

**All programs are FREE and OPEN to the Public**

**2019 Programs for Monday nights—Jan 23, Feb 18, Mar 18, Apr 15**

[www.boyntonhistory.org](http://www.boyntonhistory.org)



HistoricBoyntonBeach



@BoyntonHistory



# BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS--2018-19

## OFFICERS [Elected Annually]

President	Randall Gill
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President, Programs	Anne Rimler
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Membership	Sheila Rousseau Taylor
Recording Secretary	Jeffrey Fine
Corresponding Secretary	Anne Watts
Treasurer	Frances Tuite McKeral
[Non-Elected]	
Editor, <i>The Historian</i>	Voncile Marshall Smith
Archivist/Facebook/Webmaster	Janet DeVries
Facebook Administrator/Webmaster	Ginger Pedersen

## DIRECTORS [3-Year Staggered Terms]

2019	Tim Bednarz
2019	Judith Merkel Howard
2020	Steven Anton
2020	Barbara Ready
2021	Heidi Bell
2021	Donna Artes

## TRUSTEES [3-Year Staggered Terms]

2019	Susan Merkel Shaffer
2019	Virginia Farace
2020	Diana Dennis
2020	Sarah Thomas Bollenbacher
2021	Susan Oyer
2021	Voncile Marshall Smith

Our website is [www.boyntonhistory.org](http://www.boyntonhistory.org). The e-mail address is [boyntonhistory@gmail.com](mailto:boyntonhistory@gmail.com)

Please email inquiries or information to our local address

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

You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter:

[www.facebook.com/historicboyntonbeach](http://www.facebook.com/historicboyntonbeach)

[www.twitter.com/@boyntonhistory](http://www.twitter.com/@boyntonhistory)

*The Historian* is usually 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

Lenore Benson Raborn Boonstra  
Candice Tomei Brueggemann, P.A. Real Estate  
Randall Gill  
Robert and Christian Oyer Macoviak  
Melear Bros., Inc. - Cliff and Rick Melear  
Wayne and Eva Brooks Knuth Netzer  
Scott and Camilla Smith Richardson  
Alexander "Sandy" Simon  
Ernest G. Simon  
Voncile Marshall Smith  
George and Christine Weaver Ternenyi  
Dorian Beck Trauger  
Charlotte Tatum Weaver  
Curtis and Nain Weems Weaver

## CORPORATE MEMBERS – 2018

BMark Properties, William and Gaye Weaver  
Boynton Memorial Chapel, Stormet Norem  
Boynton Woman's Club  
Easy Pay Tire Stores, Inc., Doug Besecker  
Florida Coalition for Preservation  
Scobee-Combs-Bowden Funeral Home & Crematory

## MEMORIAL GIFTS – 2018

Bob Gayler, to honor Pfc. Winfred Wade Gayler KIA 1944  
Daniel R. Suiter, to honor William P. Suiter  
Voncile Smith, to honor Harvey E. Oyer, Jr.  
George and Christine Weaver Ternenyi to honor Marie Shepard  
Boynton Womans Club to honor Marie Shepard  
Boynton Womans Club to honor Janet Hakala

## **WELCOME CANDICE TOMEI BRUEGGEMANN, P.A., NEW LIFE MEMBER**

We are happy to welcome the Life Membership of Candice Brueggemann. She is an associate of Candy and Doug Brueggemann, Real Estate Professionals. Thank you for joining us, Candice.

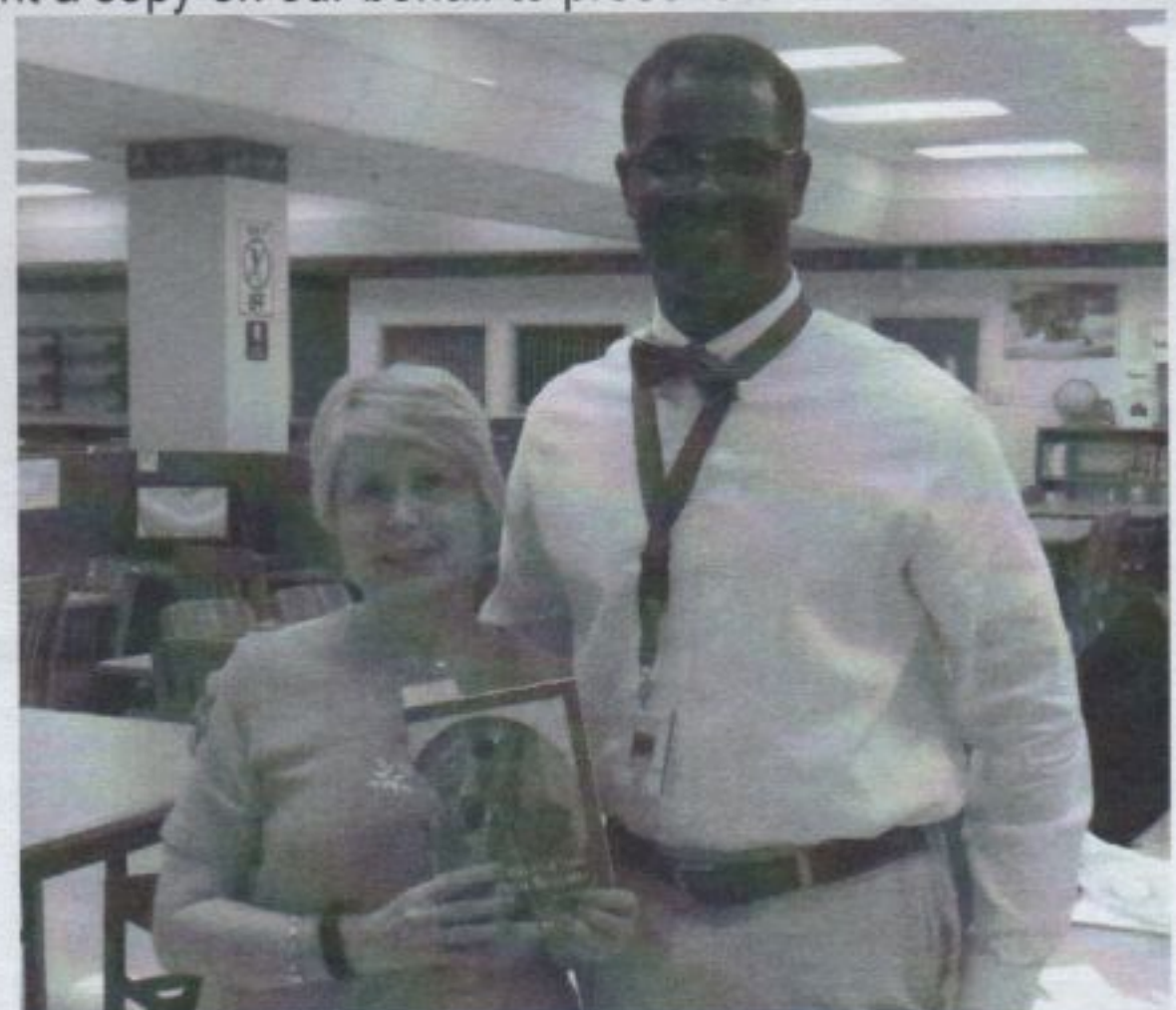
## **MEMBERSHIP YEAR ENDS DECEMBER 31!**

You should notice on the mailing label of your copy of *The Historian* the date when your membership expires. Dues for most of our members fall due on January 1<sup>st</sup>. We do not prorate dues, but we do accept payment in advance. Since we are all volunteers who handle the work of the Society, we are grateful to those of you who choose to submit your dues early. We will list in the January issue of *The Historian* those members who have paid for 2019 by the end of December, 2018. Please send your check for the appropriate membership category to P. O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425.

The names of those for whom we receive membership after January 1<sup>st</sup> will be listed in later copies of *The Historian*.

## **FLORIDA BOOKS FOR THE BB HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

Another project of the Boynton Beach Historical Society is to donate a copy of books authored by participants in our scheduled programs. In October our featured speaker was Sharon Koskoff who sold copies of her new publication, *Murals of the Palm Beaches*. Society Board Member Virginia Farace, bought a copy on our behalf to present to the school.



Virginia Farace, a member of the Boynton Beach Community High School Advisory Council and a Board Member of the Historical Society, presents a copy of the Koskoff book to Principal Anthony Lockhart for the school library.



## WRITE A BOOK OF MEMORIES!

Your stories are a part of Boynton Beach history. To help us celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Boynton Beach Historical Society we hope you will contribute to our proposed Book of Memories. A commemorative committee composed of Virginia Farace, Barbara Ready, Heidi Bell, Janet DeVries Naughton, Randall Gill and Anne Rimler is preparing this publication which will emphasize Boynton happenings from 1968 to 2018, but which, of course, may relate to descriptions, pictures and other documents of earlier times.

You are a part of that 50 year time period, and the committee has prepared the following form to help you get started to help us bring to light some of what has happened during those years. You may attach separate sheets of paper if necessary, but use the following form as a guide to include what you can help recover from any of the past 50 years or even earlier times.. Please, please, send us what you know. We hope to have the book ready for distribution in late Spring 2019.



**BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
PERSONAL MEMORY/IES OF PAST 50 YEARS (1968 -2018)**

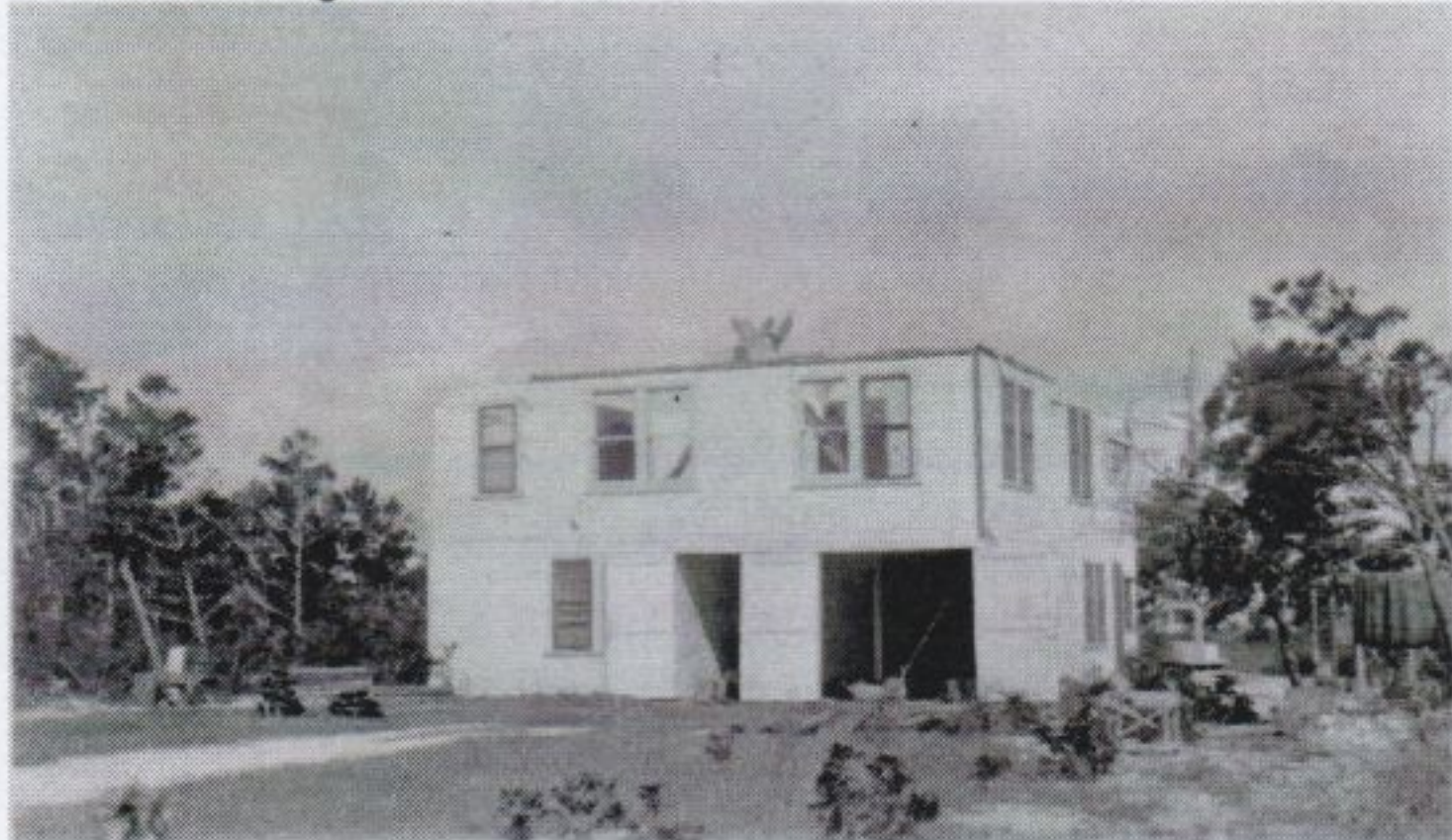
Email completed form to: [boyntonhistory@gmail.com](mailto:boyntonhistory@gmail.com) Or print out and mail to:  
Boynton Beach Historical Society, PO Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425-4012

NAME	
ADDRESS	
PHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS	
YOUR DATES IN BOYNTON BEACH AREA	
YOUR MEMORY TOPIC and YEAR(S)	
PHOTOS included?	
PLEASE RECOMMEND OTHERS WITH STORIES TO TELL	
SIGNATURE (Indicates your approval to use this story and/or pictures with any necessary editing)	
REMEMBRANCE/STORY: Use as much space as needed by adding pages.	



## CONTRIBUTORS PROVIDE VIEWS OF THE PAST

The information we present in *The Historian* is based on what people have given to us or what we sometimes are able to glean from newspaper accounts. Most of the people who had lived through early experiences in Boynton are no longer with us, although some left written accounts about the area in general, or more likely, about their particular families. The following pictures came to us from John Suiter who was a descendant of both the Rousseau and Suiter families. His pictures are mostly of Rousseaus, Suiters or Maddoxes, but sometimes other early Boynton residents are included. When the subjects are identified, we include their names and sometimes, if we know it, some additional things about them.



A picture of the Robert Henry Rousseau house after the 1928 hurricane. Note the open ceilings on the second floor.

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The house after it was remodeled was later sold to Dan Byrd.

Robert Henry Rousseau was a true Floridian, born in Live Oak in Suwannee County Florida in 1870, he later moved to Dade County, FL in a section that was separated from Dade as Palm Beach County in 1909. He died at age 86 in 1956 and is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery



The only photo we have seen of Boynton High School's 2<sup>nd</sup> graduation in 1929. L to R: Henry White, Thelma Jordan, Verna Rousseau, Eline Jones, John Huber, Ruth Lacey, Alice Rousseau, Edward Wilder. [Note the roll up shades on the classroom windows.]



From ca. 1920, "Willing Workers" Methodist Sunday School Class. Front Row L to R: Minister Rev. M.E. Myers, Audrey Hutson, Unknown, Verna Rousseau, Unknown. Back Row L to R: Unknown, Gladys Ward, Margaret Garnett.

Note the Methodist Church building in the background. "In 1908 a building committee was elected to erect a 'cement block building' on the corner of Dixid Highway [now U.S.1] and Ocean Avenue [also referred to as Main Street at the time]. This became known as 'the Corner Church' because of its location." (from *First United Methodist Church of Boynton Beach: A Centennial Celebration*, 2006). The Rev. M.E. Myers [sometimes humorously referred to as "Methodist Episcopal" Myers later married Gladys Ward. [The Church itself was a Methodist Episcopal Church, South, until 1939 when it, with others, became The Methodist Church. Another reorganization in 1968 led to its becoming The United Methodist Church.]



Girls standing at the beach ca. 1930. L to R: Ruth Lacey, Verna Rousseau, Rose Murray and Alice Rousseau. A daughter of Ruth Lacey—Sandra McGregor, and two daughters of Rose Murray—Mary Lou MusterRyder and Ramona Somerford Davis and numerous cousins of all the girls are current members of the Boynton Beach Historical Society.



## THE WARNKES – TWO LOCAL CONTRIBUTORS TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The Boynton Beach Historical Society lost one of its most outstanding members nearly 15 years ago. James Warnke had been Mayor of Boynton Beach in the 1980s and was a past president of the Society. He was an environmentalist and had strong convictions about how growth should be managed in South Florida. He was also an historical researcher, a skin diver, a professional photographer, a newspaper columnist, an author and an airplane pilot. He founded the Palm Beach County Archeological Society.

He had retired from Southern Bell Telephone Company after 32 years of service. He came to Boynton before telephone service had really begun to expand.



The Boynton Beach City Council — (l to r) Ezell Hester Jr., James R. Warnke, Vice Mayor Bob Ferrell, Carl Zimmerman and Mayor Nick Cassandra. The Boynton Beach City Council members in 1981. James Warnke who is second from left later served as Mayor.

In 1972 James had joined with two rather noteworthy photographers to form a company called Roving Photographers and Associates.

One of the company members was Marion Bentley Wall (of the Bentley Automobile fortune). She and her husband Thomas Ferguson Wall moved to Florida in 1933 and had an ocean front home near the Gulf Stream Golf Club. The other member of the trio was Roland James Dack, a professional photographer, pilot and scuba diver. Many of his photographs were published by *Life* magazine and he had also filmed sections of movies including some of the underwater scenes in the James Bond movie *Thunderball*.

All three Roving Photographers were committed to creating images on film to reflect their interest in history and travel. They produced books and movies for such companies as Reynolds Aluminum for which they photographed the first aluminum boat built in Florida. Among the books they produced were *Balustrades and Gingerbread*, *Key West's Handcrafted Homes* and *Side Roads of Florida*.

In 1976 James wrote and produced a 25 minute 16mm film called *The History of Boynton Beach*. His son, Tom Warnke, has commented, "My father could see Boynton was changing so quickly. There were 1,000 people a day moving to Florida then. Boynton was growing by leaps and bounds. I-95 had just opened here. . . he thought it was a good time to make a time capsule as to the way it was at that time and also provide context from early habitation through the present."

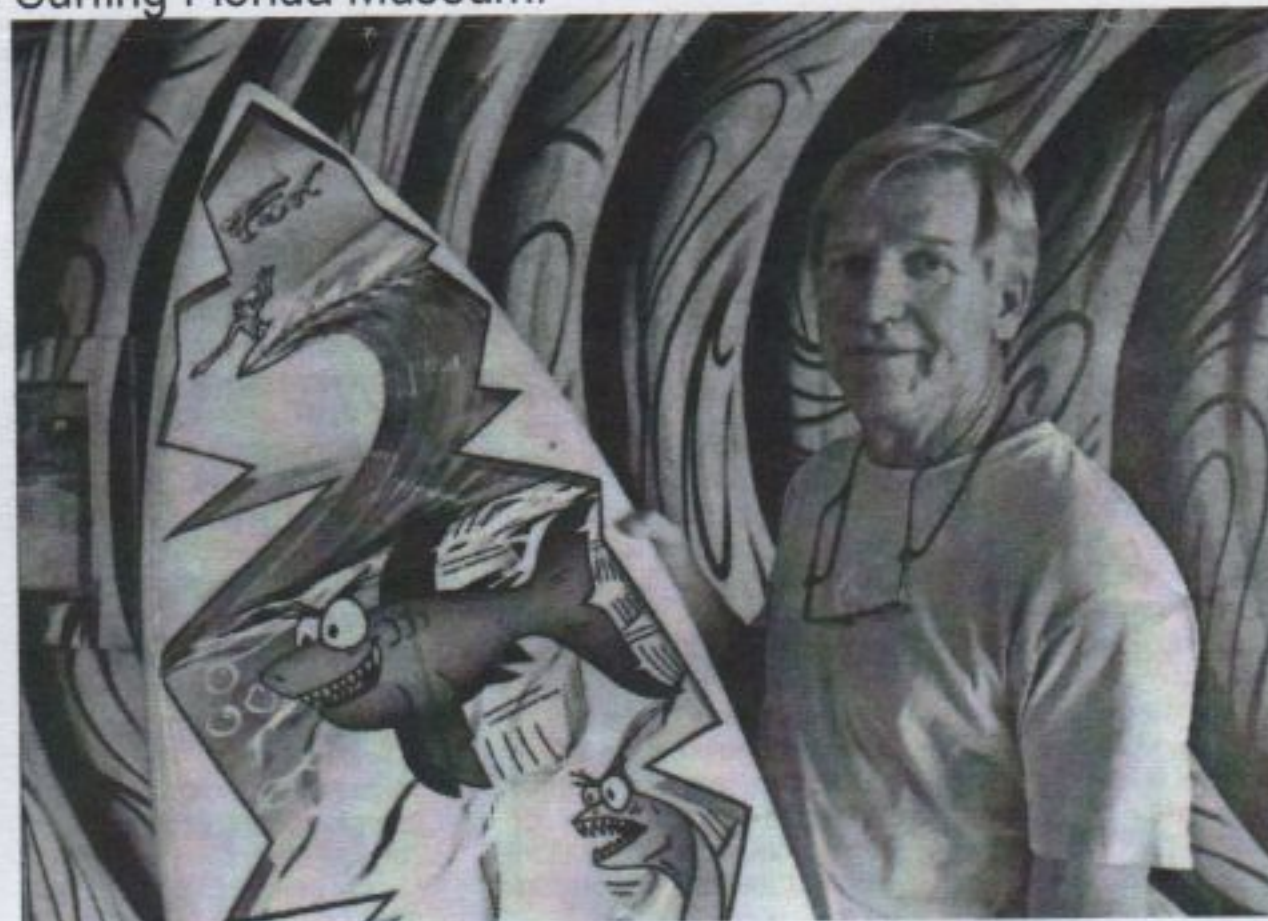
The Roving Photographers flew in Bentley Wall's private plane to shoot aerial views of Boynton Beach and to shoot street level scenes from a convertible automobile



The Roving Photographers—Warnke, Bentley-Wall and Dack  
James Warnke persuaded an acquaintance, the well known TV and travelogue commentator, Lowell Thomas to narrate this film. The funding was provided by the City of Boynton Beach and the Boynton Beach Historical Society.

In 2014 the Historical Society undertook and had the film digitally transferred so that it could be purchased by members.

James' son, Tom Warnke is a current member of the Boynton Beach Historical Society. Growing up in South Florida, he apparently shared some of his father's ocean activities because he has a great love for surfing. He is the Executive Director of the Surfing Florida Museum.



Tom Warnke, Executive Director of the Florida Surfing Museum  
[photo courtesy of Larry Aydlette, Palm Beach Post, October 18, 2018]

Most of the people affiliated with the Museum are concerned that the artifacts, photographs and memorabilia are often underappreciated that hope to preserve knowledge of what an important social force surfing has been. Tom describes his feeling about surfing in the Palm Beach Post article in October just before the Museum opened at 1400 Elizabeth Avenue, West Palm Beach, "It's rooted in times that were shared in the ocean. If you're out there at sunset with your friends, and the waves are glassy, the ocean turns the color of the sunset. It's like magic." He notes that in the mid-1960s the roads along Delray Beach and Ocean Ridge had hundreds of surfers in the water, but he stresses that the Museum isn't all about the past. "Surfing history is being made now," he emphasizes.

[Some material in this article was derived from articles in *The Coastal Star*, February, 2014 and *The Palm Beach Post*, October 18, 2018]



# BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Member's  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

The Society is a 501(c)(3) organization so dues are tax deductible.

Type of Membership:	INDIVIDUAL	(\$25.00) _____
(Check one)	FAMILY	(\$35.00) _____
	PATRON	(\$50.00) _____
	CORPORATE	(\$100.00) _____
	STUDENT	(\$10.00) _____
	LIFE	(\$500.00) One time Payment only

Membership year is January 1 to December 31. Dues are not pro-rated. Membership Expiration Date on Mailing Label.

Complete this form and mail with payment to  
Boynton Beach Historical Society  
P.O. Box 18  
Boynton Beach, FL 33425-0012



Boynton Beach Mayor Steven Grant attended our October meeting. Shown above: Boynton Beach Historical Society President Randy Gill, Mayor Grant, Historian Editor Voncile Smith, Historical Society member Linda Stabile and October speaker Sharon Koskoff holding two of her publications.