

The Spanish River Papers

May 1977

Vol. V. No. 3



OLD CITY HALL, HOME OF BOCA RATON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Jeanne Nixon Baur, Artist

A report to the membership of
Boca Raton Historical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 1113 • Boca Raton, Florida 33432

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EARLY DAYS OF THE BOCA RATON FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENT

With the incorporation of the Town of Boca Raton and the coming of the Mizner Boom, the town fathers found it necessary to formally provide for police and fire protection for their citizens. The following documents and letters illustrate some of the problems faced by a small town trying to maintain these services on a very limited budget. The budget, of course, became even more limited with the failure of the Mizner Development Company. The material for this issue of the SPANISH RIVER PAPERS came from the collection of the Boca Raton Historical Society.

Donald W. Curl, Editor

* * * * *

Ordinance #19, Passed September 23, 1925

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF BOCA RATON, FLORIDA, APPOINTING A TOWN MARSHALL FIXING HIS TERM OF OFFICE AND FIXING COMPENSATION TO BE PAID.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF BOCA RATON, FLORIDA:

Section 1. That Chas. Raulerson is hereby appointed Town Marshall for the town of Boca Raton, Florida, to serve in such capacity at the pleasure of the Town Commission.

Section 2. That said Town Marshall be paid the sum of One Hundred seventy-five (\$175.00) Dollars per month for policing the town according to the duties and powers conferred on him by the charter and ordinances of the town and under the direction of the Mayor.

Section 3. This ordinance shall be declared an emergency ordinance, and shall take effect immediately upon its passage and approval.

J. G. Brown
B. B. Raulerson
Geo. S. Akins
Commissioners.

* * * *

Audit Statement, Town of Boca Raton, Year ended October 31st, 1926

STATEMENT OF ITEMIZED ASSETS, YEAR ENDED OCT. 31ST. 1926

POLICE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT

5-Revolvers	\$ 169.45	
1-Ford Tour. Car	553.40	
1-Henderson Motorcycle	525.00	
3-Prs. Handcuffs	34.00	
1-Henderson Motorcycle	<u>367.83</u>	\$1639.68

FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT

1-Amer-LaFrance Fire Engine	12500.00	12500.00
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* * * *

Ordinance #72, passed August 13, 1928

AN ORDINANCE BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF BOCA RATON, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF A FIRE DEPARTMENT AND DEFINING ITS JURISDICTION AND PROVIDING FOR THE MAINTAINANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF SAME.

Section 1. That a department to be known and designated as the Fire Department be and hereby is created in the Town of Boca Raton, Florida.

Section 2. The Fire Department shall consist of a Chief of Fire, to be appointed by the Town Commission and as many subordinate officers, firemen and employees as the Chief may deem necessary and proper, not to exceed twelve men, which said subordinate firemen and employees shall be volunteers appointed by the Chief of Fire subject to confirmation by the Town Commission.

Section 3. The said Fire Department shall organize and promulgate such by-laws, rules and regulations as they deem fit and proper, regulating their operations, provided always that they shall have one or more drills, per month, as ordered by the Commission, which said drills must be attended by every member of the department and upon the failure to attend every drill as herein provided said member or members so failing shall be subject to be suspended or discharged by the Chief and approved by the Commission, and shall

forfeit to this city one (1) month's salary as a fine for non-attendance, providing always that said party or parties failing to attend any drill or drills may be relieved of such fine or fines by rendering to the Chief of Fire a plausible excuse for non-attendance and shall be reinstated within the discretion of the Chief, approved by the Commission.

Section 4. The Fire Department shall have control of and management of all fires within the limits of the Town of Boca Raton and its officers shall have the power to prevent interfering in any way with the department or with any of its employees of the department in the performance of their duties.....

Section 16. The sum of \$700.00 is hereby appropriated to the fire department to cover necessary expenses of the said department. Said appropriation is to constitute a fund out of the general fund from which expenditures may be made within the department in the manner as provided in the charter of the Town of Boca Raton.

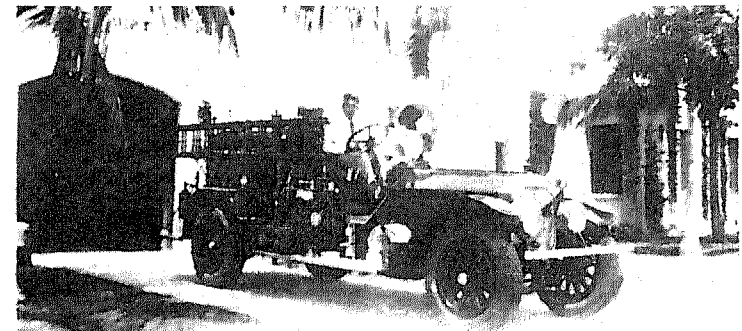
Section 17. In addition to the Chief of Fire, a driver shall be appointed by the Town Commission, whose duty it shall be to inspect the fire truck at least once a week and see that the engine is in A-1 running condition. Driver's compensation will be \$5.00 per month, in addition to pay for fires and drills.

Section 18. The Chief of fire shall receive as compensation the sum of \$150.00 a year, payable monthly. Other employees shall be compensated according to the scale as follows:

Assistant Chief \$8.00 per month.

Firemen 4.00 per fire and
\$2.00 each drill attended.

The Chief of Fire and Assistant shall be paid no other compensation except in case of fire, then Chief and Assistant Chief shall be paid additional, on same scale as the firemen.....



Kline Platt and Harry Purdom from an early photograph.

American-LaFrance Fire Engine Co., Inc. to J. G. Brown, Mayor,
April 27, 1926

Beg leave to acknowledge receipt of your City's check and
executed notes, covering Motor Fire Apparatus, forwarded us by
our Representative R. S. Timmerman, as follows:-

Check No. 21, dated April 24th - \$1,000.00
\$3833.34 note payable one year after date.
3833.33 " " two years " "
3833.33 " " three " "
(Interest at 6% - notes dated April 6, 1926)

for which we thank you very much, indeed.

We are today forwarding to our General Financial Department,
Elmira, New York, for proper credit to your account.

Expressing our sincere appreciation for your City's patronage,
and trusting to ever merit a continuance of same,

* * * * *

Charles Kretschman, Assn't Treasurer, American-LaFrance to City
Clerk, May 3, 1926

We have received your check for \$1,000.00 and three (3) notes
amounting to \$11,500.00 which we have credited to your account and
for which we thank you.

* * * * *

Charles Kretschman to George Akins, Town Clerk, January 5, 1927

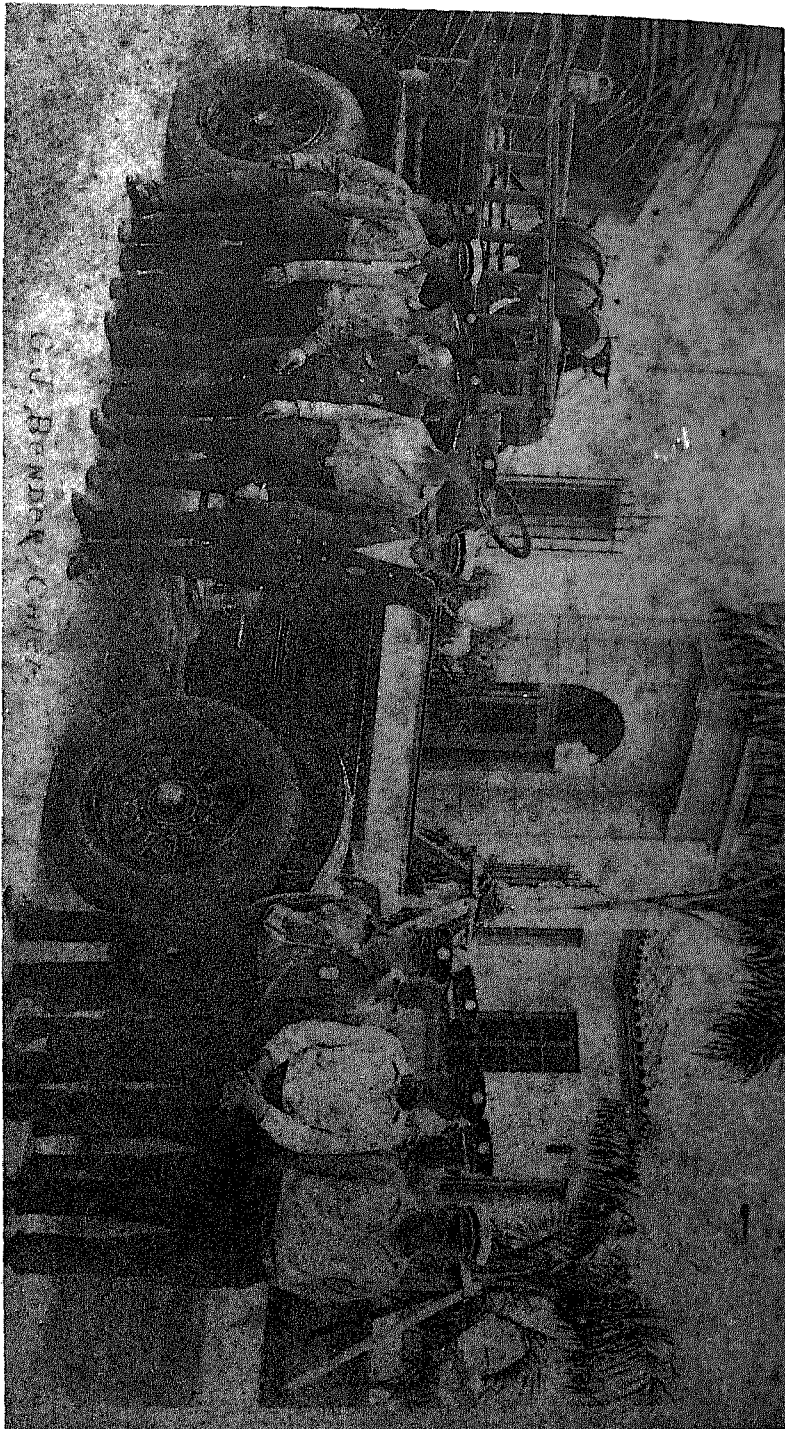
We are in receipt of your letter of the 28th requesting a 90
day extension on your note, (our No. 55-4) for \$2,833.34 which
matured January 1, 1928 with accrued interest on that date of
\$85.00, total, \$2,918.34.

We will grant the extension at this time with the understanding
that we are to receive full payment of the renewal note on its
maturity date April 1st.

At the same time, we wish to call your attention to your note
for \$3,833.33 (our No. 55-2) which will mature on April 6, with
accrued interest at 6% from April 6, 1926. Will you kindly advise
us that the City is making provisions in its budget to take care of
both of these notes at their maturity?

* * * * *

When "Old Betsy" was new with the volunteer fire Department of 1927.
From left to right: Strout Eldredge; M. W. Stokes, Assistant Chief;
O. Ozier; John LaMont, driver; Harry Purdum, Assistant Driver; Guy
J. Bender, Chief; O. Arnold; Sam Jenkins; F. M. Thomason; Kline
Platt; and J. K. McClintock, Captain.



George Akins to Charles Kretschman

January 16, 1928 (sic)

We wish to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 5th inst., and am enclosing, herewith, our check, in the amount of Eighty Five (\$85.00) Dollars, which covers payment of interest due on our Note.

Would further advise that the Town has made provision in our budget to care for these notes, but, of course, as our main revenue is derived from taxes, it is a matter of how the taxes are paid, if we are able to meet our obligations. We are in hopes, by April 6th, the date of maturity of these notes, to be able to care for the payment, which will be due; if not the entire amount a large portion of same.

We thank you for the extension of time which you have granted the Town.

* * * * *

Kretschman to City Treasurer

April 25, 1927

Your city note (Our #55-1) for \$3,833.34 dated Apr. 6, 1926 which matured with interest at 6% on Apr. 6, 1927, has been returned to us through our local bank unpaid.

Kindly advise us by return mail what provisions the city has made for the payment of this obligation.

* * * * *

Adkins to Charles Kutnkeher (sic)

May 5th, 1927

Your letter of the 25th Ult., acknowledged; in regards to the Note that the Town of Boca Raton owes your Company, wish to advise that the Treasurer had not the funds on hand to take up this Note. We thought possibly, that we might arrange, if agreeable with your Company, to give you Town of Boca Raton Improvement Indebtedness Bonds, to be applied on this Note, also to take up the payment on the fire truck, which you also have Notes on.

If you have an Agent or Representative in this territory, would be glad if you would request of him to call at the Town Hall, at Boca Raton, and I will arrange, with the Commission, for a meeting to try and arrive at some agreement of payment, providing it is agreeable that you accept Bonds as payment.

Thank you for the courtesies you have made, in extending the Notes, and trusting that this letter will meet with your approval.

* * * * *



"Old Betsy" and other American-LaFrance equipment. It is believed the photograph was taken after the 1928 hurricane.

Charles Kretschman to George Akins, May 27, 1927

We are holding note of the city of Boca Raton, Fla., for \$3,833.34 with interest on same amounting to \$230.#, total indebtedness as of April 6th being \$4,063.34.

In order to clean up this note and to put the matter on a more negotiable basis, we make you the following offer: if you will send us a settlement of \$2,063.34 we will accept renewal note for the balance, amounting to \$2,000.#, and are sending you for this purpose, enclosed herewith, note dated April 6, 1927 for \$2,000.# carrying interest at 6% and running six months from date.

If you will have renewal note executed by the proper city officials and return to us with remittance of \$2,063.34, we will return to you the note for cancellation.

* * * * *

American-LaFrance Fire Engine Co. Inc. to George S. Akin, May 28th 1927

Further relative to Finances:-

We wrote you in this connection May 12th, as follows:-
"...Relative to Motor Apparatus liquidation of obligation, yours of May 4th, General Office, Elmira, N.Y., referred to the Atlanta Office, for attention.

Would thank you to send us a full statement concerning the bonds which you mention, so that we might be able to fully inform ourselves in connection therewith.

Thanking you in advance for your kindness, and asking your commands in return, at any time...."

Would greatly appreciate hearing from you in this connection, under cover enclosed stamped envelope.

Thanking you in advance, and trusting to hear from you, by return mail.

* * * * *

Akin to P.O. Herbert, American-LaFrance, June 1st, 1927

Your letter of the 28th ult., received and in reply we forward the following statement in connection with the General Improvement Bonds that we offered you to be applied against charges on the Motor Fire Apparatus, purchased from your Company, by the Town of Boca Raton.

On May 1st, 1926, there was a General Improvement Bond Issue of the Town of Boca Raton, issued in the amount of \$500,000, \$1,000. denominations. \$25,000. of this Issue appropriated to establish a Fire Department in the Town. Bonds are retired \$100,000. May 1st,

1936 and \$100,000. every five years until the full amount of Issue expires. These Bonds bear 6% interest, payable semi-annually May and November of each and every year and are guaranteed by the Town of Boca Raton.

Bonds are ready for delivery, being validated by the Circuit Court of Palm Beach County, also approved by Caldwell & Raymond, Bonding Attorneys of New York City.

Our charter provides that we must not sell any Bonds for less than 95% and accrued interest.

I believe this is sufficient to enlighten you, regarding the Bonds; if not, we would be glad to answer any questions which you may have in mind.

* * * * *

American-LaFrance to George S. Akins, June 6th, 1927

Yours of June 1st, relative to your City's bonds, received, and contents carefully notes:-

We understand that our General Office, in Elmira, N.Y., wrote you on the subject of finances May 27th, offering to accept check for \$2,063.34-on account, and renewal note of \$2,000.00-covering the balance.

If this method handling meets with your approval, well be pleased to receive your City's check and renewal note, upon receipt of which we will forward to the Home Office.

Trusting you may be able to accommodate us along the lines suggested, and with best wishes,

* * * * *

American-LaFrance to George S. Akins, June 25th, 1927

Relative to account, \$4,120.82, against your city as of statement July 1st per attached:-

Our General Financial Department, Elmira, N.Y., June 23rd requests that we communicate with you and find out when your City will be in position to make disposition of this account.

We understood that your City had some municipal bonds to sell, and thought possibly you had succeeded in selling same and are now in position to let us have check.

Hoping to hear favorably from you by return mail, and thanking you in advance,

* * * * *

American-LaFrance to George S. Akins, July 18th, 1927

Relative to our account \$4,120.82, against your City, per statement enclosed, would say:-

Our Representative, Mr. R. S. Timmerman, reports he called upon you July 16th, regarding the matter.

In accordance with your suggestions, will be pleased to have you forward us check for \$1,000.00-on principal and \$287.48-covering interest to July 1st, and execute the enclosed note for \$2,833.34-covering the balance, said note made payable Jan. 1st, 1928.

For your ready convenience note prepared and enclosed herewith for execution.

Will be pleased to have you forward remittance as agreed, at your earliest convenience, under cover enclosed stamped envelope.

* * * * *

George Akin to American-LaFrance, July 21st, 1927

As per your communication of the 18th inst., we are enclosing, herewith, check to the amount of \$1,287.48, covering \$1,000.00 on principal and \$287.48, covering interest to July 1st., also Note covering balance due.

* * * * *

Mayor to "whom it may concern" November 5, 1927

This is to certify that I have, this day, deputed Mr. Crosby Tappen as a Deputy Marshal, of the Town of Boca Raton, Florida, to serve under the direction of I. L. Blackman. He is hereby authorized to carry a gun in the discharge of his duties and serve, until further notice, without pay.

* * * * *



Chief of Police Charles J. Raulerson, assistant Leo Godwin, and the "Ford" car.

Baldwin & Allison, Counselors at Law to City Clerk, June 7, 1928

We are today drawing on your city through the Bank of Boca Raton a draft for \$2913.46 which represents the indebtedness due from your city to our client, American-LaFrance & Foamite Corporation on a note given by your city for \$2833.34 on which note we have figured the interest to June 15, 1928. We trust your city will be in position to take care of this draft by that time and thereby save extra costs and trouble for all parties concerned.

* * * * *

George Akins to American-LaFrance

June 19, 1928

.....At the present time, it seems impossible to take up the Note referred to in our first paragraph, therefore, we are asking if you will allow our Town to send you a check for \$500, and have a renewal on the balance of the Note until January 1st, 1929.

We regret the necessity of asking this favor of you, but presume that you appreciate the financial conditions of a good many of the small Towns, and we assure you, if you can see your way to accept this amount, we will surely extend our thanks for this courtesy.

* * * * *

Mayor to Guy J. Bender, Fire Chief

July 27, 1928

At a recent meeting it was decided by the Town Commission to have the fire engine and all equipment in the future stored in the fire hall, at The Town Hall.

I have been instructed to notify you to immediately bring the engine and equipment over to the fire station.

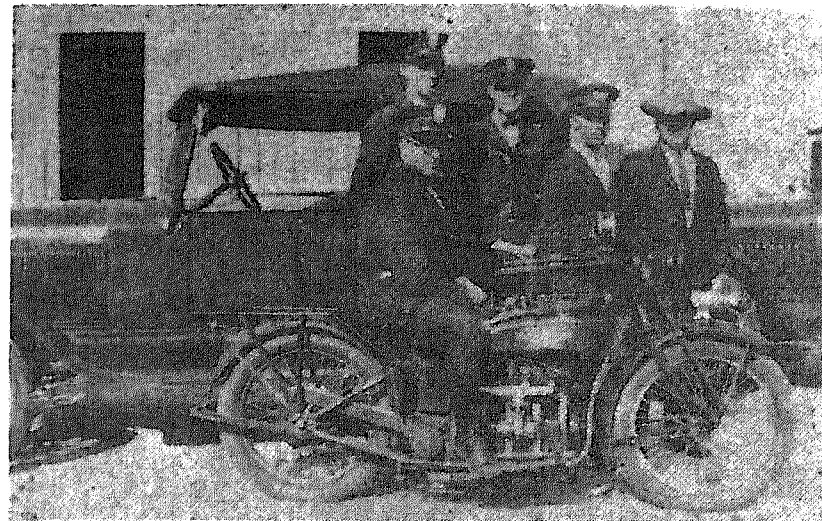
* * * * *

Mayor to I. L. Blackman

October 29, 1928

This is to notify you that you are hereby suspended from active duty in the office of Chief of Police in the Town of Boca Raton, Florida, effective October 29th, 1918 at 7 o'clock P.M.

There has been a Special meeting called of the Commissioners of the Town of Boca Raton and you are requested to appear at said meeting and bring all police paraphernalia and the Commission of the Town of Boca Raton will there take action, as to whether they shall maintain a Police Department in the future or not; also determine who shall serve them in that official capacity.



Early Boca Raton Police Department. From left to right: Ira Blackman; Leo Godwin (on Henderson motorcycle), third deputy; Charles Raulerson, police chief; Rufus White, first deputy; and Dam Kenneff, second deputy.

* * * * *

Mayor to Mr. I. L. Blackman, Chief of Police

April 5, 1929

Dear Sir:

The Clerk and myself have been checking up on gas and oil bills and one bill in particular, wherein we find that the Police Department used 85 gallons of gas in 17 days, which seems too much.

I am going to ask you to see if you cannot cut these bills down something like 50%, or else we will be compelled to discontinue use of the Ford.

* * * * *

Mayor to G. J. Bender, Chief of Fire Department

April 5, 1929

Dear Sir:

Inasmuch as there is no partiality shown by any department of the Town of Boca Raton, in the buying of gas, for use in their work, we will respectfully request that requisitions for gas and oil, from the fire department, show this same consideration.

BOCA RATON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS

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Mrs. William (Ann) Cassady
Mrs. Edward A. (Margaret) Schrader

* * * * *

DONOR

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St. Joan Of Arc Home & School Assoc.
Beta Sigma Phi-Xi Gamma Sigma Chapter
Beta Sigma Phi-Xi Zeta Upsilon Chapter
Delray Beach Historical Society

* * * * *

ANNUAL

I. L. Blackman to Mayor and Town Council September 9, 1929

Gentlemen:

I hereby tender my resignation as Police Officer of the Town of Boca Raton; same to take effect at the pleasure of the Town Council.

Mayor to Sheriff R. C. Baker November 10, 1929

Our Police Officer is about to leave the service of the Town of Boca Raton.

As you know, the Boca Raton Club will be in operation this season and will house a large number of very wealthy and influential people, many of whom, no doubt, will make a practice of carrying large amounts of money and other valuables.

It is therefore the wish of the Town Council and myself that the new Police Officer shall be a man of wide experience in police work, and one in whom every confidence can be placed.

We are therefore coming to you to ask if it would be possible to procure from your force of men a man to take this position. By doing this we feel we would procure a man of experience, and in addition that you would see fit to deputize him which would add materially to his authority.

We wish to assure you that if you can see your way clear to do this it will be very much appreciated by the entire Town Council as well as the writer, and we also feel certain that such action on your part would be commended by the residents of our Town who desire the most efficient protection possible to acquire....

* * * * *

Mrs William K (Karen) Archer, Jr
Mrs Vernon W (Frances) Ascher
Mr & Mrs David (Betty) Ashe
Mrs Lawrence (Pauline) Aylward
Mrs John (Collette) Baccari
Mrs Calvert (Helen) Bean
Mrs Martha Beatson
Diane Benedette
Charmaine Bonitatibus
Mrs Fred (Mary) Bradfote
Mrs P J (Peg) Brannen, Jr
Mrs H W (Catherine) Braun
Judith Brennar
Mrs James A (Clare) Brown
Herbert Brown
Minola B. Buker
Mr & Mrs Dan (Le Anne) Burns
Donald C Campbell
Gregory T Campbell
Mrs Robert (Susie) Cavalear
Ms Sammie A Cheney
Dr & Mrs Eugene (Patsy) Chamberlain
Nettie V Clift
Mrs G Douglas Cline, Jr
Paula Cochran
Mrs Wilson (Frances) Cole
Marcia Costello
Mrs Jack (Marilyn) Cox
Mrs Peter Coxhead
Mrs R B (Lucy) Craske

Mrs Klara Crockett
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Mrs Eugene (Mary Jane) Grant
Robert Guterma
Mrs James (Gayle) Hackett
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Stanley A HameI

Mrs Howard (Lucille) Hansen
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 John G. Hoffstot, Jr
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 Mrs Ann Horton
 Miss Helen Howard
 Mr & Mrs Harold Howard
 Mrs John G (Margaret) Hupfel
 Max Hutkin
 Mrs C H Jaecks
 Mr & Mrs Thomas Jamison
 Mrs Joseph (Marge) Johnson
 Mrs Robert Judelson
 Mark Justin
 Mrs Gregory (Michele) Junkin
 Mr & Mrs Robert (Marsha) Kester
 Mrs William (Pricilla) King
 Phyllis B Knowles
 Mrs Edwin (Andrea) Kornblue
 Mary Jane Koziol
 Mrs James (Gail) Krumholtz
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 Mrs M A Leasor
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 Mrs Fred B (Barbara) Miner
 Mrs J C Mitchell
 William F Mitchell
 Camille Lembo Mohaupt
 Ms Christine Moore
 Mr & Mrs Marshall (Phyllis) Moore
 Lucille Z Morris
 A L Muller
 Mrs Richard (Kathleen) Murdock
 Mrs Glenn (Laurel) Murray
 Mrs Gardner A Norton
 Mrs Richard (Joan) Notes
 Mrs Dorothy O'Donnell
 Mrs Arthur Osborne, III
 A H Osgood

Mrs Lad (Alice) Panek
 Charles J Parker
 Elaine A Parry
 Mrs F C W (Gertrude) Paton
 Judith M. Patti
 Mrs Thomas (Jannette) Paul
 Mrs Fredrick (Frankie) Peirce
 Mrs Richard H (Sandra) Pierce
 Mrs Robert S (Lillian) Polisar
 Viola Poston
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 Mrs C W (Martha) Schaaf
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 R B Stewart
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 Mrs Patrick J (Nancy) Toomey
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 Rena P Vaillancourt
 Mrs B J (F Chris) VanCott
 Ltc P R Vanthielen
 Mrs Richard (Colleen) Venezia
 Mrs Charles (Jan) Waldner

R E Wallace
 Mrs William (Marge) Watt, Jr
 Sandra L Wesley
 Mrs Donna C White

Mr & Mrs W George Whitehouse
 Peter Zambito
 William C Zehnder
 Mrs. Stephen Zinno

Town of Boca Raton

Distribution	
Charge to	Amount
Police Dept	4.25

Audited by _____ Voucher No. _____
 Check No. 698

Date of Invoice or Statement	Descriptive Particulars	Amt. of Invoice or Statement	Cash Discount	Amount of Check
Aug 16	Middle & Sandwiches to Prisoners			
	6 sandwiches	90		
" 20	Plate Lunch	50		
Sept 10	3 sandwiches	45		
" 24	16 sandwiches	2.40		
		4.25		

The food bill for the town jail, August-September, 1927. Mrs. Earle Moore's Alamanda Tea Room supplied the twenty-five sandwiches and one plate lunch.

BOCA RATON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
P.O.Box 1113 - Boca Raton, FL 33432

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