



Friends of the Museum of the Everglades

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2018

Volume XVIII Number 5

FME, P O Box 677, Everglades City, FL, 34139

www.evergladesmuseum.org

EVENTS

FME BOARD MEETINGS
will resume in September
Museum, 4pm

Independence Day Celebration
Saturday, June 30
McLeod Park, Everglades City

EXHIBITS

Pauline Reeves Gallery

April 4 - May 31:

The Trailblazers

April 16 - May 31:

Tamiami Trail 90th Anniversary

June and July:

Annual School Artwork Show

Everglades City students

August, September, October:

Abandoned Vehicles

photos by Matt Stock



Thanks to the Marco Island Historical Society for bringing their Model T and carrying Barron Collier in the parade.

90TH TAMAMI TRAIL ANNIVERSARY 20TH MUSEUM BIRTHDAY



Saturday, April 28
in historic Everglades City



We had a Grande Parade led by the Collier Sheriff's color guard and horses followed by old and new vehicles plus a special swamp buggy from the Florida Panther Refuge.



The Friends of the Museum of the Everglades would like to thank everyone who participated and attended our 20th Anniversary Celebration in Everglades City on April 28. We especially wish to acknowledge the following people who provided assistance before and during the event. It would not have been so successful without your help!

Everglades City Staff, Pastor Bob Wallace, Mitch Mitchell, Chris Lombardo, Jimmy Brewer, Bob Wells, FME Volunteers, Collier County Museum Staff, ReachOut Volunteers, Collier County Sheriff's Department, Greater Naples Fire Rescue District, the Rod & Gun Club and all the members of this wonderful community.

The Museum is located at 105 West Broadway, Everglades City, 34139. Telephone (239) 695-0008.
Open to the public Monday through Saturday, 9AM to 4 PM – Free Admission.



Jerry Enders with his model of the Bay City Walking Dredge in the Museum.



Barron Collier's grandsons, Barry (Barron Collier III) and Terry (son of Sam Collier), in the Museum on April 28.



Helen Bryan stands besides Merle Brown at the Rod & Gun Club. Notice the proper China tea cup & saucer provided by Reach Out Everglades. Helen organized the popular Story-Telling in the Museum; see *photo right*.

MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

by Thomas Lockyear

April was an amazing month for Museum of the Everglades. While there is still a lot of work to do in our hurricane recovery process, we have definitely turned the corner and the Museum is on its way to being better than ever with new and improved exhibits.

Our celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the completion of the Tamiami Trail was a resounding success, with nearly 2000 people in attendance. Members of the Collier family joined us for the festivities: adding their voices to the ceremony, enjoying a lunch of traditional southern Bar-b-q alongside those in attendance, and later touring the Museum – sharing our admiration and respect for their grandfather's vision.

The Pauline Reeves Gallery currently features exhibits about the conception and construction of the Trail – highlighted by artifacts like an ox yoke used to haul dynamite and the recently returned scale model of the Bay City Walking Dredge.

The model's creator, 90-year-old WWII Veteran Jerry Enders – who served as a member of the U.S. Navy's construction corps known as the "Seabees" – was on hand to help explain the massive machine's operation. Jerry, like the rest of us, had a great time and told me he plans to stick around to attend the county's Centennial Celebration with us in 2023.

The exhibits will remain on display until June when we will feature our annual display of student art from Everglades City School.

We appreciate your continuing support of our efforts and hope you will visit the Museum again soon to explore even more of Everglades City's unique history and rich heritage.

Storter Collection

The Friends of Museum of the Everglades recently donated the resources for archival framing of a rarely-seen piece from the Storter Collection which is on display now in the Museum.



Rob's unique sketch of a Model T with his musings on how wonderful it was to own and drive one made a perfect addition to the "Seven Model T's, One Elcar, and a Truck" exhibit about the men who drove across the Everglades before there was a road.



Vicky Wells, Merle Brown, Hazel Mitchell, Carolyn Thompson and Jimmy Brewer share their memories about growing up in this area.

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Collier cousins with their wives – the two branches of the family had never met before they came to Everglades City!



Terry Collier jammed with Mitch at the Rod & Gun during the Tea. With them is Anaide Govaert, widow of the late Belgian consul in Miami. She was a guest of Brigitte van der Hove Smith, Member of Friends of Collier County Museum who sold special Tamiami T-shirts earlier that day in McLeod Park at Art-in-the-Glades.



Tommie Barfield and Deaconess Harriet Bedell portrayed at the Museum by Betsy Perdichizzi and Marion Nicolay from the Marco Island Historical Re-Enactors.

President's Message

by Patty Huff

Oh, what a day! We couldn't have asked for friendlier skies as we celebrated our 20th Birthday Party along with the 90th Anniversary of the Opening of the Tamiami Trail.

Martha Hutcheson started the celebration with a Walking Tour around town, culminating at City Hall where dignitaries were seated on the porch. The audience was treated to an impromptu singing of the National Anthem by Terry Collier who volunteered at the last minute. Terry was visiting with his wife Maria; he is Sam Collier's son and grandson of Barron Gift Collier. Everglades Community Church Pastor Bob Wallace gave the invocation, followed by Mayor Howie Grimm welcoming everyone to our historic city. Barron (Barry) Collier III read his grandfather's original speech from the April 26, 1928, Opening of the Tamiami Trail event, followed by a Grande Parade around town, announced by emcee extraordinaire Chris Lombardo.

Exhibit booths representing all the southwest Florida parks, preserves, and wildlife refuge areas were on display as well as environmental and historical organizations. Artists and other vendors, including a fresh market, participated in our event as the Church of God offered home-baked goods, the Sons of the Confederacy served their famous BBQ, and the Naples Dixieland Jazz Band played traditional music, including the Tamiami Trail song.

The afternoon festivities moved inside to the Museum of the Everglades where a full house learned more about our history through the wonderful presentations by the Marco Island Historical Players, Sierra Club environmentalist Jon Ullman and our local "old timers". Afternoon tea and a birthday cake were served by volunteers from our local community organization ReachOut at the historic Rod & Gun Club. Terry Collier joined our local musician Mitch Mitchell entertaining us with country music during the tea.

I have heard nothing but praise for the activities of this fun-filled day, but the most important aspect was how many individuals, public and private organizations and officials all came together not only from the Everglades City and Chokoloskee area but also throughout the county. It is a testament to how much we all cherish our history and want to preserve the true spirit of our small community, the one that Barron Gift Collier envisioned almost a hundred years ago.

To hear a rendition of the Tamiami Trail song by Gene Autry online, click on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtd9Qnv_Km8.



The day ended with formal Tea and Birthday Cake in the Rod & Gun.

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MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to our business members whose advertisements are shown in the left column. Your organization can join by sending in the form below with a check.



**OFFICIAL OPENING
 Everglades City Hall**



Photos in this issue thanks to Thomas Lockyear, Patty Huff, Helen Bryan, and Marya Repko. We are sorry we can not include more!

Learn About FME

The **Friends of the Museum of the Everglades, Inc.** is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation dedicated to keeping history alive at our local Museum by providing financial and volunteer support. FME was founded in 1994 by the late Pauline Reeves who spearheaded the move to save the old Laundry building which opened on April 26, 1998, as a Collier County Museum.

Our **DIRECTORS** are

Patty Huff (President) Vicky Wells (V-P) Louise Morris (Sec.) Jaye Brunner (Treas.) Helen Bryan (Membership)

The **NEWSLETTER** is published at least six times per year. It is sent to members by email and is freely available to the public on our website www.evergladesmuseum.org. Comments and contributions are welcome at FME_98@hotmail.com.

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