

# Friends of the Museum of the Everglades

## May, June, July 2017



Volume XVII Issue 5 FME, P.O. Box 677, Everglades City, FL 34139 May, June, July 2017  
 Website: [www.evergladesmuseum.org](http://www.evergladesmuseum.org) email: [FME\\_98@hotmail.com](mailto:FME_98@hotmail.com)

### Mark Your Calendar

**Board Meeting**  
 September 5, 2017  
 3:30 pm at City Hall

**Pauline Reeves Gallery**  
**April/May 2017**  
**"EVERGLADES FOUND"**  
 an exhibit by  
 Elizabeth Smith

**June/July 2017**  
**"STUDENT EXHIBIT"**  
 Everglades City  
 School  
 Reception: June 1  
 1 - 3 pm

**Volunteer Spotlight**  
**Vicky Wells**  
 Friends of the Museum

**Museum Birthday & Tamiami Trail Anniversary**  
 Pictures and Recap of  
 Mama Dot

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### Pauline Reeves Gallery

#### "Everglades Found", a Photographic Exhibit by Elizabeth Smith



Elizabeth Smith's photographic and 3-dimensional works of art exhibit were on display during the month of April and will continue until May 31. A reception was held for her on April 8 and was hosted by the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades. Elizabeth's passion for her art is exemplified by her daily plein-air journal sketching. By combining her love for nature and her talent for recreating the world as she sees it, viewers of her art gain an appreciation of nature's beauty. You can learn more about Elizabeth's artwork as well as her educational programs by visiting her website at: [natureartjournal.blogspot.com](http://natureartjournal.blogspot.com)

### Birthday and Anniversary Celebrations

Helen Bryan, photographer for the FME, captured the arriving Antique Cars which started the day's celebration. And then, the music, the old timer's stories, and park service presentation began. It was a day to be long remembered. Special thanks for Georgia Garrett, Patty Huff, Helen Bryan, (more pictures on page 5)



### FAVORITE EXHIBIT RETURNS

The Friends of Museum of the Everglades are proud to once again welcome the artistic works of our local students. Their work will be on display in the Pauline Reeves Gallery during the months of June and July. A reception for the students will be held in the Pauline Reeves Gallery on Thursday, June 1 from 1 - 3 pm. As the only K-12 public school in the state of Florida we are proud of the talent that exudes from our students. Mr. Tribble, their art teacher, is to be commended for this ability to enhance the artistic ability of our youth while encouraging everyone to appreciate the visual arts. When you see the pictures from last summer's student exhibit on page 4 you will definitely want to visit our museum in July and August. Also, make sure you plan to attend the reception for the students. These students deserve our attention.

### FACELIFT for PAULINE REEVES GALLERY

Repair work to the Pauline Reeves Gallery is scheduled for August of this year. Therefore, an artists' exhibit will not be held during that time. We look forward to future exhibits as soon as the work is completed.




### 1977 NEWS RELEASE

A little internet research was inspired by this picture on the left of Helen Bryan and Mama Dot. See page 3 for a copy of article that appeared in the 1977 Ft. Myers News Press. (photo taken by Thomas Lockyear)

The Museum is located at 105 West Broadway, Everglades City, telephone (239) 695-0008  
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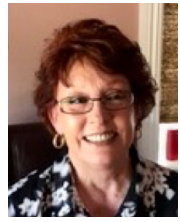
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**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**



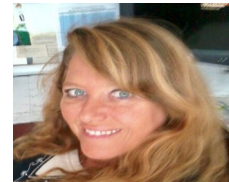
It has been a privilege to have Vicky Wells involved with the Museum of the Everglades as her family's heritage is well connected to our town. Vicky's parents were living in Everglades City when her mom, being 9 months pregnant, rode the bus to Miami so she could give birth to Vicky at Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Vicky's early years were spent in Southwest Florida where she attended the Tommy Barfield Elementary School on Marco Island and later the Everglades City Public School. After high school graduation Vicky attended Lee College in Tennessee. She returned to Florida and in 1966 married Bob. Like most young couples Vicky worked to help with their finances. During the week she worked in an office in Miami. Then, on the week-ends Vicky would come to Chockoloskee where she worked at "Hamilton's Stone Crab." It was a fish house owned by her aunt and uncle.

About five years ago Martha Hutcheson invited Vicky to serve on the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Museum. It didn't take long for Vicky to take on the leadership role as President. Her hands-on approach continues to serve the museum. You can find Vicky serving tea and cookies at the artists' reception, organizing the annual Friends of the Museum Luncheon, and advocating for the adjacent paved parking lot that the museum now owns. Vicky's tireless work extends beyond the museum. She has served as the Chair of the School Advisory Council and President of the Lions Club. Through it all Vicky always has a smile to share.

Recently, Vicky passed the torch as President of the Friends of the Museum. Her interest in preserving the heritage of Everglades City and promoting special outdoor events at the museum will continue. She will be missed at the FME board meetings.

*Museum Report by Martha Hutcheson*



Summer is just around the corner and that means most of our wonderful volunteers have headed back to their winter homes. This past season was a busy one with visitors from around the globe who stopped in to enjoy our educational exhibits. Their comments and expressions are a reminder of how intrigued they are with what can still be called the Real Florida.


Between January 1 and March 31 our important little Museum of the Everglades welcomed more than ten thousand visitors. Although the stream of tourists has slowed, during the month of April our log book shows we hosted visitors from the time we opened the front door each morning until the close of each day.

As in past years we expect the summer months to continue with this trend. That is why we have a need for summer volunteers. Even volunteering one hour a week is helpful. We offer an air conditioned indoor, bug free environment where you can meet people from all over the world and make them feel welcome. All it takes is a smile. Please contact the museum to get you on the schedule.

Whatever your summer plans enjoy your summer and stay safe!

*For more information about our volunteer opportunities  
 please call the Museum at (239) 695-0008.*

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**MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER**

As our busy season winds down, we begin gearing up for some serious work developing new and exciting exhibits for the coming year. An exhibit by the late Swiss cartoonist Jurg "George" Furrer is being planned. According to local historian, Marya Repko, "George spent a few weeks twice a year here when he would hike in the woods to see orchids and visit with local friends.

His fanciful illustrations of local landmarks were drawn in his distinctive style. You can help us bring his artwork to life. If you have a favorite memory of George or a piece of his work from the time he spent here, please consider sharing it with us to include in this retrospective exhibit.

We will also be celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the movie "Wind Across the Everglades." It was filmed here in Everglades City in 1958. Starring Christopher Plummer and Burl Ives, the film also featured cameos by Gypsy Rose Lee, the sad clown Emmet Kelly, and our own legendary local glades man Totch Brown. If any of our friends have photos, items, or stories related to the film that they would be willing to loan or share for this project, please call the Museum at (239) 695-0008.



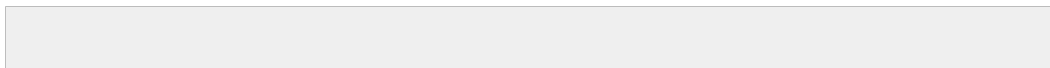
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**Meet Mama Dot**

The picture of Helen Bryan and Mama Dot (page 1) taken at the Museum's birthday party last month inspired some research. It didn't take long to find an article on the internet that was posted 40 years ago in the News Press in Fort Myers January 7, 1977. It is copied below:

A commercial fisherman's widow, Mama Dot has lived in Everglades City for 32 years, "and I wouldn't move away for anything. I like it just the way it is." When you leave the restaurant, you might explore the adjacent treasury known as Everglades Sundries. Between its high ceilings and hardwood floors you'll find an inventory ranging from stick candy to fan belts. Then head out on foot down Broadway to the columned City Hall (once the county offices), and to the recreation grounds where on Feb. 5 the town will host a hoped-for 10,000 guests for its third annual Seafood Festival. But the thought of such a gathering is as alien to everyday Everglades as a highrise garage and traffic lights. Here a dog can cross a street in safety, and even stop for a scratch along the way. . "You ever see this place at night? The street lights are on, and there's no traffic," said Marty Bowen. "I tell the Yankees it's the only lit-up cemetery in Florida." Bowen was seated in a leather chair in the stern, dim lobby of the nearby Rod and Gun Resort Lodge. Once a gathering-place for royalty, Presidents and millionaires, the lodge has had a bittersweet past. "We've been almost bankrupt twice, but things are doing better," said Bowen, who has owned and operated the lodge for four years. Adjacent to the lobby is the dining room and the screened porch which looks out on the canal that many of the lodge's guests arrive on. You may find that with meals (\$7-\$8 range for dinner; \$4-\$5 for lunch) you're paying more for this atmosphere than for service or food, but a mid-afternoon refreshment break at the lodge shouldn't be missed. And if you take Mama Dot's advice you'll soon make tracks south on State Road 29 from the mid-town circle for the five-minute trip to the little island known as Chokoloskee. On the way, however, take note of two more attractions you might want to enjoy. Look for the Everglades Airport, where you can take a flight above these thumbnail communities, the sprawling Everglades, and the edge of the Ten Thousand Islands, all courtesy of Harold "Happy Harry" Enquist.

<https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/212532500/>



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The Museum is located at 105 West Broadway, Everglades City, telephone (239) 695-0008  
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## Last Summer's Student Art Exhibit



Photo by Marya Repko



Photos by Marlene Sassaman

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# Highlights of Museum Birthday and Tamiami Trail Celebration

## Old Timers Talk



Photo by Helen Bryan

## Robert Robinson and Mama Dot



Photo by Thomas Lockyear

## Happy Jazz Band



Photo by Helen Bryan

## History Made

As every second almost instantly becomes a part of the past so did the April 2 bikeathon fade into the past. This year's bike ride was organized by Patty Huff, President of the Florida River of Grass Greenway and President of the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades. Along with a team of volunteers three separate courses were set which allowed for a variety of riders to participate. Ground crews were on hand to provide mechanical assistance while others served healthy breakfast snacks and a nice lunch catered by Triad. Whether you bike short distances around town, go for off road adventures or enjoy biking for hours, join us as we make bicycling in Everglades City a part of our healthy lifestyle legacy. For information about future rides call Patty Huff at (239) 695 2397 or Marlene Sassaman (321) 682 6288.

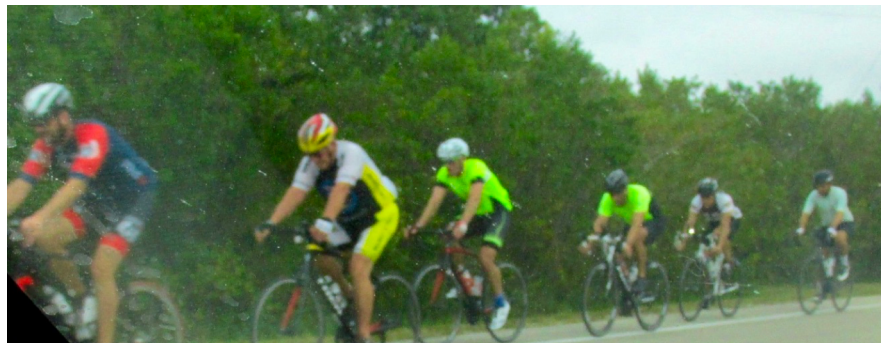


Photo by Patty Huff

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## Making History

What better way to show your spirit for our town and our country than by joining the fun at the Everglades City Annual Independence Day Celebration!



**CELEBRATE WITH US!**  
**Saturday, July 1**  
MCLEOD PARK, EVERGLADES CITY

Games ● Arts & Crafts ● Music  
Hot Dogs ● Cold Drinks ● Raffles ● Prizes  
"Little Miss and Mister FireCracker"  
(Kiddies' Best-Dressed Contest)

10:00 a.m. Opening Ceremony  
10:30 a.m. **PARADE**  
theme: "Star Spangled Banner"  
prizes for the best floats  
11:00 a.m. Booths Open, Food, Music  
11:00 a.m. Parade Winners Announced  
11:30 a.m. Kiddies' Contests  
12:30 p.m. Raffle Winners Announced  
9:00 p.m. **FIREWORKS**

To take part in Arts & Crafts, phone Marya at 695-2905  
To enter the parade, phone Elaine at 695-2695

Remember: If you have information of a historical nature, a visit to a museum, or other musings that you want to share in our FME newsletter please send an email to Marlene at: [sailorhiker@gmail.com](mailto:sailorhiker@gmail.com)