

In and Around Naples

# Collier County Museum At Government Center

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**What:** Museum offering historical exhibits about early settlers and American Indians in Southwest Florida.

**Examples of exhibits:**

- Colossal sharks.
- Prehistoric mastodons.
- Calusa Indian civilization.
- Indian Wars.
- Seminole people.
- Collier pioneers and developers.

## Collier County Museum at Government Center

**Website:** [www.colliermuseums.com](http://www.colliermuseums.com)

**One of five Collier County Museums.**

**Where:** At Government Center, 3331 Tamiami Trail, East Naples 34112.

**Get There:** South on US-41, left on Harrison Rd (just before Wal-Mart), Follow signs.

**When:** Tues-Sat 9am to 4pm.

**Admission:** Free.

## Buildings include:

- Main gallery: 10,000 sq feet of displays.
- Native gardens.
- Restored Naples cottages.
- Archaeology lab.
- Seminole village.
- Seminole war fort.
- Calusa Indian camp.
- Original Keewaydin Ferry Boat to Keewaydin Barrier Island (still accessible only by boat today).

## Collier County Museum Government Center - Naples Main Exhibit Building

10,000 Square Feet of Displays

**Pre-History**

**Giant Sloths**

**Mammoths**

**Walked across from Asia**

**In SW FL just 10,000 years ago!**

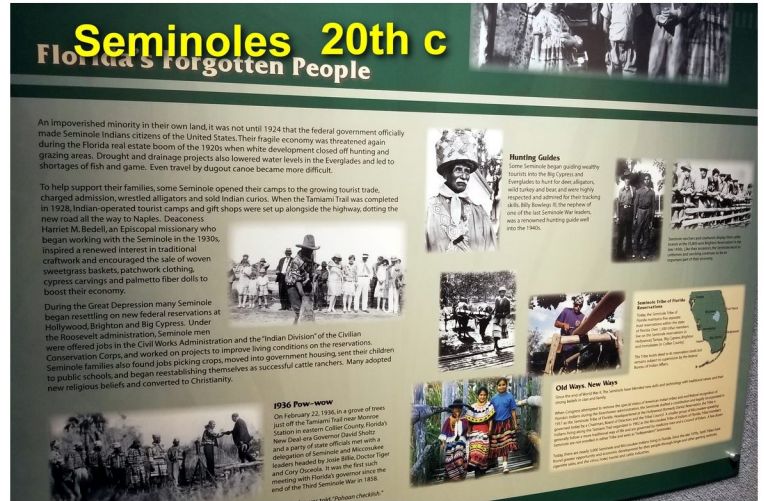
## Sabre-toothed Tiger

**Sabre Cats  
with 9-inch  
fangs in SW FL**

## Discovery of Florida

**Juan Ponce de Leon led the first European expedition to Florida in 1513. Same year he sailed around the tip to SW FL.**

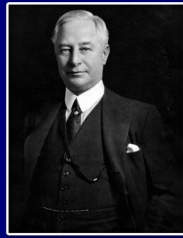






## Barron Gift Collier

- Born Memphis 1873.
- Made \$1 million in street lighting by age 26. Then printing and streetcar advertising.
- Visited SW Florida 1906. Loved it.
- By 1916 had bought 1 million acres of land.
  - He became the largest landowner and developer in Florida.
  - He also owned a chain of hotels, bus lines, banks, newspapers, telephone company, steamship line.



- State wanted a road from Tampa to Miami.
- No money for Naples-Miami section. In 1923, Collier offered to build the road if the State would split Lee County in two and name the lower half Collier County. State agreed.
- Tamiami Trail cost him \$13 million to build 1923-1928.
- He built Everglades City. County Seat to 1962.
- Collier died 1939 New York City.



Collier Memorial at Collier-Seminole St. Park

## Collier Family Today

**Owens 280,000 acres of land.**

- Primarily in Collier County.

**Activity divided into two companies:**

- Collier Enterprises: Real estate, agriculture (citrus, vegetables, cattle, sod), oil exploration, golf courses, private equity investments.
- Barron Collier Companies: Real estate, engineering, agriculture, utilities.

**Both headquartered in Naples, FL.**

**Family est. net worth \$2.3 billion.**



## Tamiami Trail (Now US-41)

Blazing the Trail

### The Trail Builders



### Florida's Applan Way



\*See next slide

In Collier-Seminole State Park you can see a 1924 walking dredge used to build Tamiami Trail.

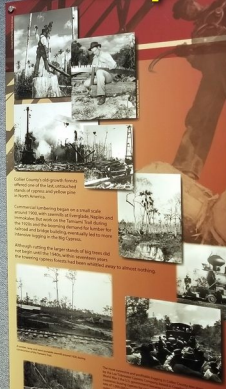


## Logging the Big Cypress

## Logging in Big Cypress Swamp



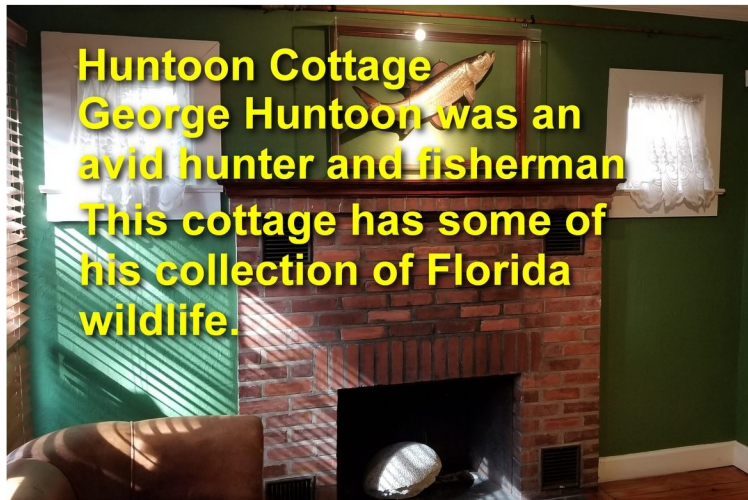
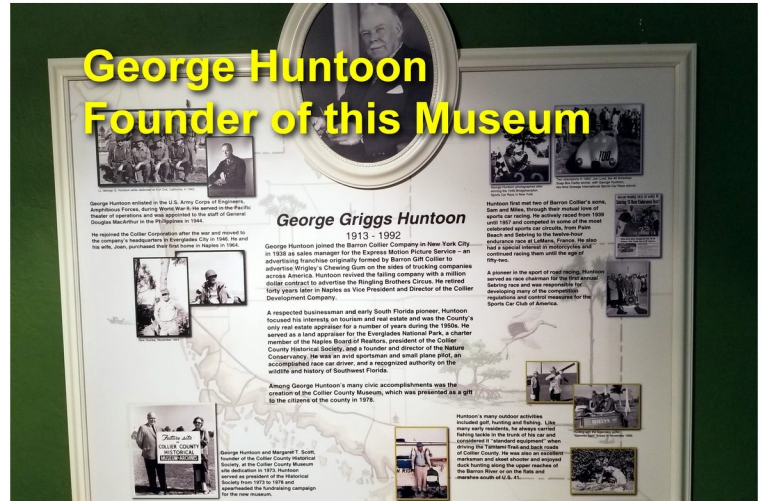
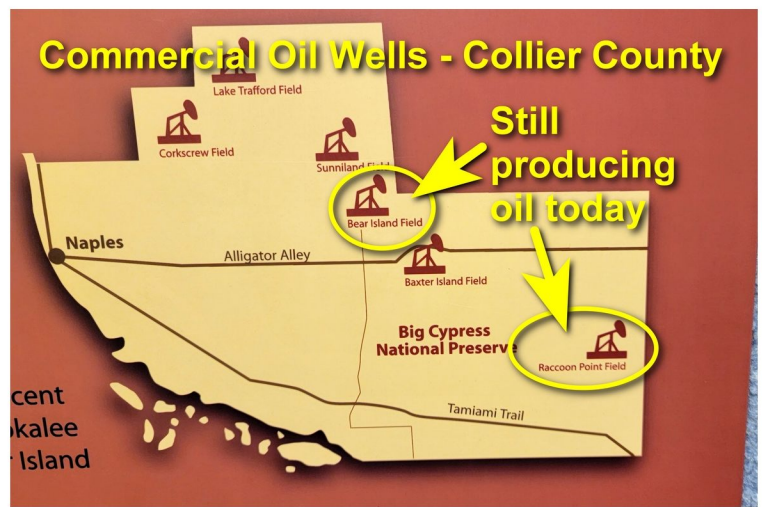
Logging in the Big Cypress and Fakahatchee Strand required special equipment and skill in railroading as well as timber cutting. Because of thick underbrush and boggy terrain, lumbermen used a method known as skidder logging to cut and remove the cypress by train. A reporter for the Saturday Evening Post called it the "toughest job in America, if not the world."



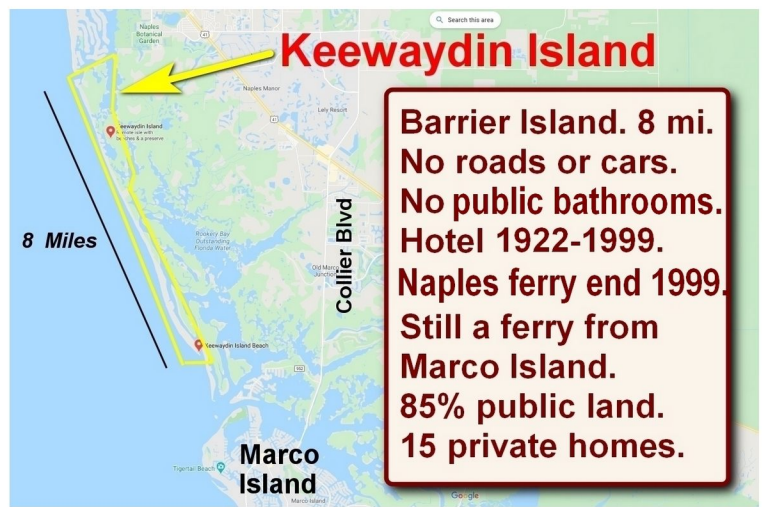
Logging Train "The Deuce" c. 1915  
Used by Lee Tidewater Cypress Co.  
in Lee-Collier Counties  
Retired 1957















**Sherman Tank - WW2**



**Seminole War Fort**



**Seminole Wars between US Army and Seminoles 1817-1858**



**Seminole Camp**



**Calusa Indian Mound Ritual Platform**



**Everglades Cabin**



**Sugar Cane Press - 1914**

**Turned by mule, ox, or small tractor**