



Building the Tamiami Trail Naples to Dade Line 1923-1928

Tampa to MIAMI 284 miles.
AKA US-41 

Tampa to Naples is North-South 163 miles.
Naples to Miami East-West 121 miles.



Tamiami Trail


- Initially proposed and agreed to by the various counties on the route in 1915.
- Aim:** Economic development.
- Much of the road from Tampa to Fort Myers was already in place, but needed improvement.
- Ft Myers to Miami would be new.

- Dade County started work on their end immediately. Made good progress.
- Lee County (which included what is now Collier County) did some work on the road from Fort Myers to Naples. **But ran out of money. State had no funds to help.**



Developer Barron Collier offers to fund completion of the Tamiami Trail from Naples to the Dade line. **In return, the State would establish a new county and name it after him.**

- State agreed.
- Population of Collier County in 1923: Just 1,258.




May 8, 1923
 1 Florida Gov. Cary A. Hardee
 2 Barron G Collier

Construction started 1923. Completed 1928. Grand opening: April 28, 1928.

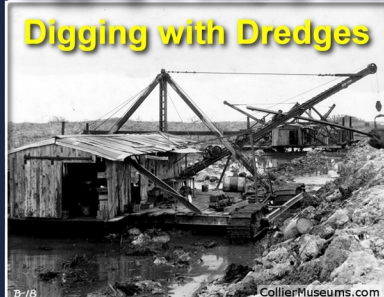
Basic process: Use dynamite to dig an east-west canal. Use resulting dirt to make the roadbed in the swamp above flood level.

Called a borrow canal because dirt from the canal was "borrowed" to make the road.




Mobile worker bunks, kitchens, toilets moved in the canal as work progressed. Workers paid \$60 a month. Stood all day digging in swamp infested by mosquitos alligators, etc.

Digging with Dredges



Mobile Bunks

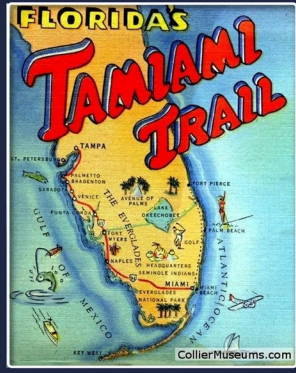


**Tamiami Trail
Opened Apr 25, 1928**



Festivities in Everglades

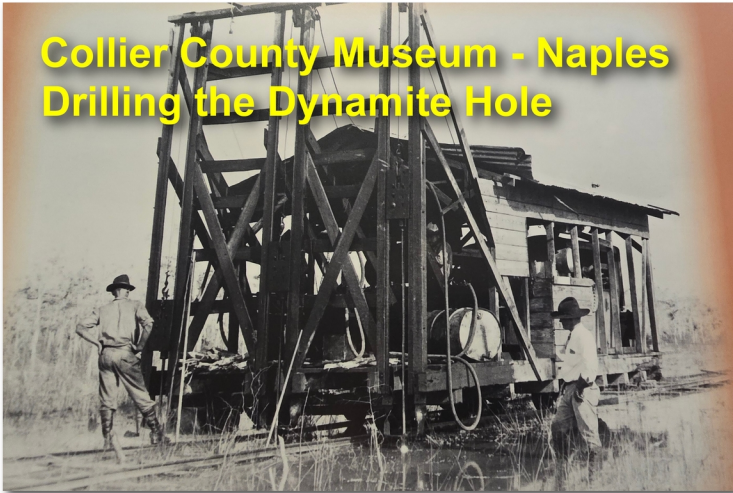
N-S was US41
E-W was US94



**Collier County Museum - Naples
Walking Dredge**



**Collier County Museum - Naples
Drilling the Dynamite Hole**



**Collier County Museum - Naples
Transporting Dynamite**



**Collier County Museum - Naples
Building the Roadbed**



**1920s Walking Dredge Used in Building
the Tamiami Trail
Preserved at Collier-Seminole State Park**



**Florida Building the Tamiami Trail
Museum of the Everglades, Everglades City**



**Opening Day Motorcade
Tamiami Trail Opening - 1928
Museum of the Everglades, Everglades City**



The Tamiami Trail opening in April 1928 was celebrated with a motorcade from Tampa to Miami. Celebrants arriving in the town of Everglades were treated to a parade and three-day county fair. Boy Scouts march on Broadway toward the Barron River. The three-story Everglades Inn is festooned in bunting to the left of the picture, April 26, 1928.

The Tamiami Trailblazers helped to publicize the Trail in 1923 by attempting to drive the Trail's proposed route. They and their original cars were given lead positions among the 500 automobiles in the celebratory parade.
Courtesy Florida State Archives

Barron Collier's Way Stations

Collier built 6 way-stations (gas, groceries, beds) along the Tamiami Trail. Each staffed by a husband (patrolled the road by motorcycle) and wife (ran the store).

The last of these – Monroe Station – burned (vandalism) April 9, 2016.



Monroe Station 1928
CollierMuseums.com



Monroe Station 1982
CollierMuseums.com