

Southwest Florida History

Dr Paul Pacter

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Class 3

History South and East of Naples

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Six Class Meetings

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- Class 1 Historical Overview
- Class 2 History City of Naples
- **Class 3 South and East of Naples**
- Class 4 Major Parks & Preserves
- Class 5 North of Naples
- Class 6 *A Land Remembered* by Patrick Smith & Other Resources

History South and East of Naples



Building the Tamiami Trail

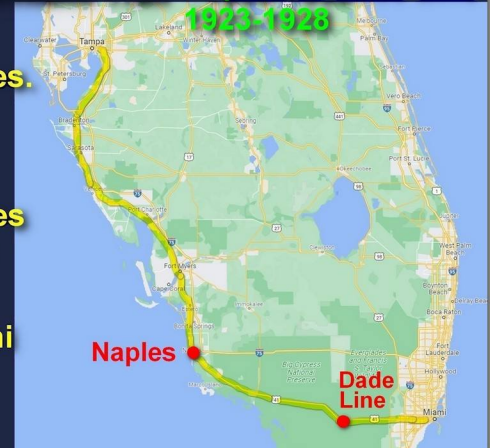
Building the Tamiami Trail Naples to Dade Line 1923-1928

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.**

Early road from Fort Myers to Naples still required an all-day trip!
1914



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.



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.



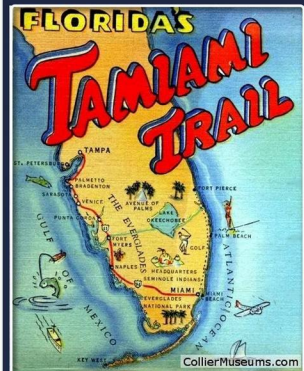
Mobile worker bunks, kitchens, toilets moved in the canal as work progressed. Workers paid \$60 a month. Stood all day digging in swamp infested by mosquitos alligators, etc.

Digging with Dredges



Mobile Bunks

Tamiami Trail
Opened Apr 25, 1928



Festivities in Everglades

N-S was US41
E-W was US94



Marco Island Historical Museum



#3 on USA Today 2026
Ten Best Small Town Museums

Marco Island Historical Museum

Website: www.colliermuseums.com

Where: 180 S Heathwood Dr,
Marco Island

When: Tues to
Sat 10am to
4pm.

Admission:
Free.



What: Traces the settlement of Marco from Calusa (500 AD), to Spanish, to Seminoles (and Seminole Wars), to permanent settlement in 1870.

From there, the museum covers Marco's:

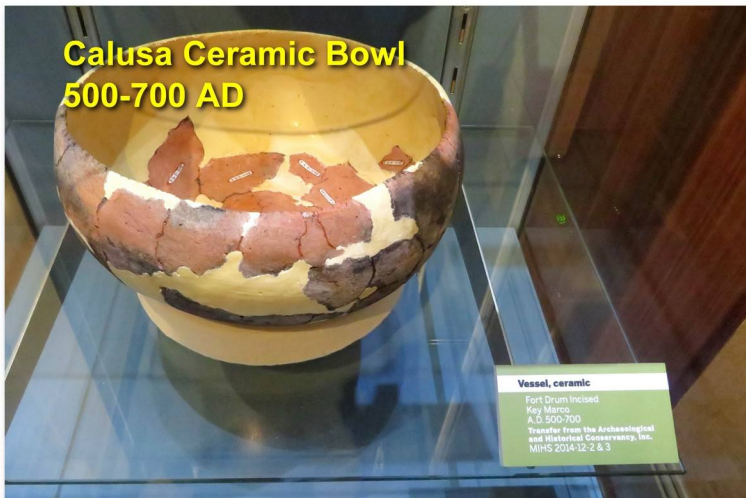
- **Agricultural history** (fishing, clamming, and pineapple farming).
- **Growth of the village** (early 20th c).
- **Major property development** (1920s and again beginning in 1960s).



Marco Island Historical Museum
Large copy of the Marco Cat



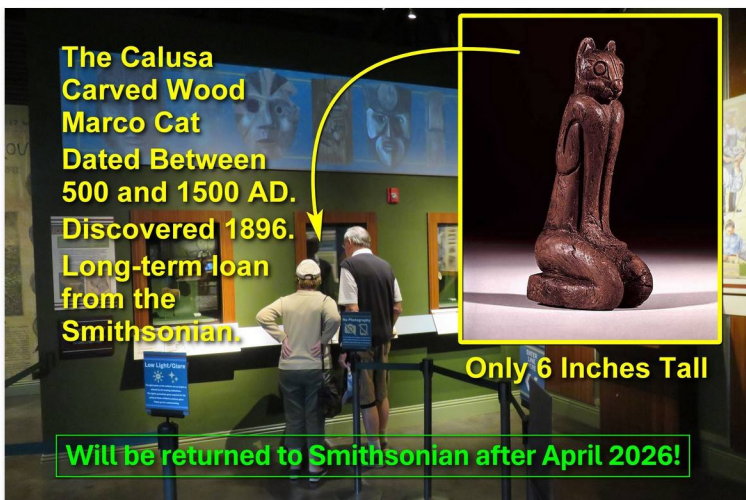
Museum has extensive history of the Calusa and other early native Marco Island people including 200 pre-Columbian artifacts.



Calusa Ceramic Bowl
500-700 AD

Vessel, ceramic
 Fort Calum Incised
 Key Marco
 A.D. 500-700
 Transferred from the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, Inc.
 MHS 2014-12-2 & 3

Brief History of Marco Island
500 AD: Calusa Indians come from Yucatan.
Mid 1500s: Spanish explorers arrived.
1700s: Creek Indians (Seminoles) from GA-AL.
1870: First permanent settler William Collier (not related to Barron).
1912: Ferry service began.
1920s: Barron Collier bought. Renamed Collier City. Development failed.
1938: First bridge (via Goodland).
1960s: Mackell Bros bought Collier's land. Development took off.



The Calusa Carved Wood Marco Cat
Dated Between 500 and 1500 AD.
Discovered 1896.
Long-term loan from the Smithsonian.



Only 6 Inches Tall

Will be returned to Smithsonian after April 2026!

What happened to the Calusa?

- **Early 1500s:** Spanish explorers (including Ponce de Leon) arrived in SW Florida.
- Weapons easily defeated the Calusa.
- Took land and took Calusas as slaves.
- Brought diseases (smallpox, measles, typhus) that were fatal to Calusa.
- **Early 1700s:** Creek and Yemasee Indians (now known as Seminole) invaded from Alabama and Georgia. Conquered Calusa.

That was the end of the Calusa.

Spanish coin dated 1469-1566 – the time the Spanish were on Marco. Found on Marco 1974.

Coin (1 real)

Silver, Spanish
A. D. 1469-1566
Found on Marco Island in 1974

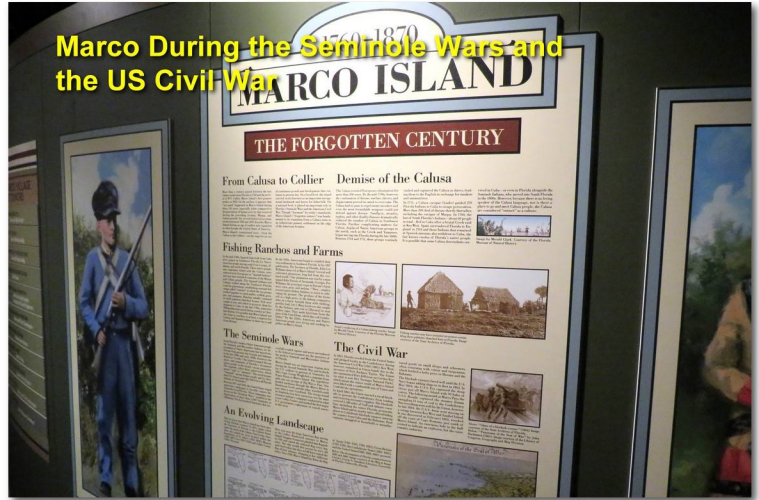
Donated by John Tateo
MIHS 2013-3-1

This coin bears the royal insignia of the Catholic Kings, Queen Isabella I and King Ferdinand II, who ruled Spain together between 1469 and 1504. They are forever known for authorizing Christopher Columbus's historic voyages (1492-1504) to the New World. This coin was likely

minted in Seville, Spain during this time, but could also have been minted post-humously by Isabella and Ferdinand's successors between 1537 and 1566. Just like the coins in use today, this one probably changed hands many times before winding up on Marco Island.



Marco During the Seminole Wars and the US Civil War



Artist's rendering of a Cuban fishing rancho. Image by Merald Clark. Courtesy of the Florida Museum of Natural History.

Fishing ranchos may have included structures resembling these palmetto-thatched huts in Florida. Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida.

The Civil War

In 1861, Florida seceded from the United States and pledged loyalty to the Confederacy during the American Civil War (1861-1865). Key West, however, remained in Union hands due to the presence of Fort Zachary Taylor. The Union also maintained Fort Jefferson on Garden Key, which meant the waters south of Marco Island were filled with a combustible mix of Union and Confederate operatives.

In April 1861, the Union enacted a naval blockade to prevent the Confederacy from trading and receiving necessary supplies. The blockade covered 3,500 miles of Gulf and Atlantic coastline, including the entire Florida peninsula. Marco Island and its nearby inlets offered hiding places to Confederate blockade runners entering Cuba and the Bahamas. Boat

lured goods on small sloops and schooners, often returning with cotton and turpentine, which fetched a hefty price in Havana and the Bahamas.

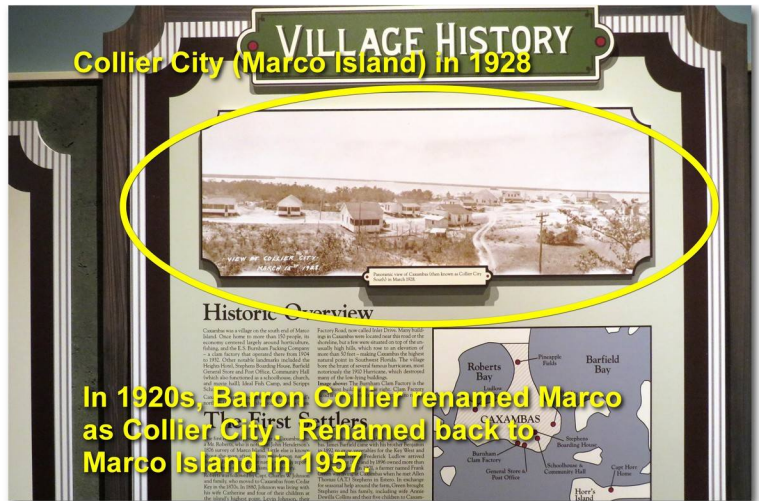
The blockade runners fared well until the U.S. Navy began adding ships to its fleet in 1863. In May 1864, the U.S.S. Fox captured the sloop Oscar just off Marco Island with 93 bales of cotton. The following month the steamer Emma U.S.S. Rosalie captured the steamer Emma smuggling 15 tons of coal to the Confederacy. Not everything went well for the Union, however. In late 1864, the U.S.S. Annie went missing on a voyage between Key West and Sanibel Island. It was discovered in February 1865, wrecked off the coast of Cape Romano, just south of Marco Island. An enormous hole in the hull seemed to indicate an explosion, but the cause



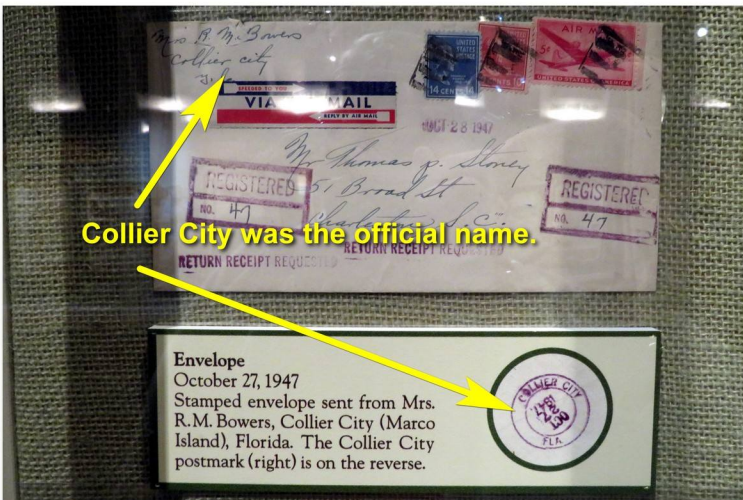
Above: "Chase of a blockade runner" (1864), courtesy of the State Archives of Florida.
Below: "Panorama of the Sea of War" (1861). Image courtesy of the U.S. Congress, Geography and Map Division.

During the Civil War, Marco was a hiding place for Confederate "Blockade Runners" who tried to get supplies to Confederate troops.

VILLAGE HISTORY Collier City (Marco Island) in 1928



In 1920s, Barron Collier renamed Marco as Collier City. Renamed back to Marco Island in 1957.



Collier City was the official name.

Envelope
October 27, 1947
Stamped envelope sent from Mrs. R.M. Bowers, Collier City (Marco Island), Florida. The Collier City postmark (right) is on the reverse.

The Atlantic Coast Line completed its track into Collier City (now Marco Island) in 1927.

ACL terminated all South Florida passenger service in 1971.



Ticket, Train Atlantic Coast Line Railroad December 31, 1930
An Atlantic Coast Line Railroad ticket like this one would have been used by passengers traveling to Collier City (Marco Island).

Schedule, Train Atlantic Coast Line Railroad
This Atlantic Coast Line Railroad schedule includes a stop in Collier City (Marco Island).

Marco Hotel opened in 1896.

Parts survive today as the Olde Marco Inn



W.D. Collier opened the Marco Hotel in 1896. Image courtesy of the State Archives of Florida.

Deltona Corp. (The Mackle Brothers)



The Mackle Brothers first visited Marco in 1962. In 1964 they bought Barron Collier's land and announced a \$500 million planned community.

Deltona Ads for Houses on Marco Island

1960s

<p>The Tampico 1965</p>  <p>1965 Price - \$14,900</p>	<p>The Tartan 1968</p>  <p>1968 Price - \$18,650</p>	<p>The Catalina 1970</p>  <p>1970 Price - \$33,000</p>
<p>The Santa Cruz</p>  <p>1965 Price - \$22,280</p>	<p>The Constellation</p>  <p>1968 Price - \$25,300</p>	<p>The Buccaneer</p>  <p>1970 Price - \$44,500</p>
<p>The Martinique</p>  <p>1965 Price - \$41,600</p>	<p>The Voyager</p>  <p>1968 Price - \$54,900</p>	<p>The Anchorage</p>  <p>1970 Price - \$53,700</p>

Marco Island: Doxsee Clams

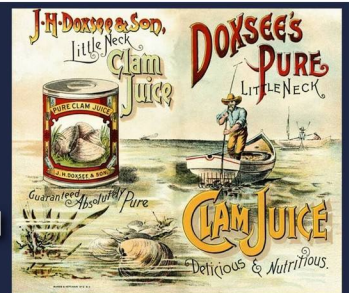
1865: Clamming on Long Island, NY.

1911: Business moved to Marco Island, FL.

Staff: 75-100 people.

Could process 1,800 bushels in one shift.

1947: Plant closed due to overharvesting of clam beds.



Capt John Horr Key Marco Plantation House

Capt John Horr Plantation House

Key Marco Island - 1877

Separate island from Marco Island.

Horr owned the island 1877 to 1923.

Pineapple plantation and packing plant.



Capt John Horr Plantation House Key Marco Island - 1877

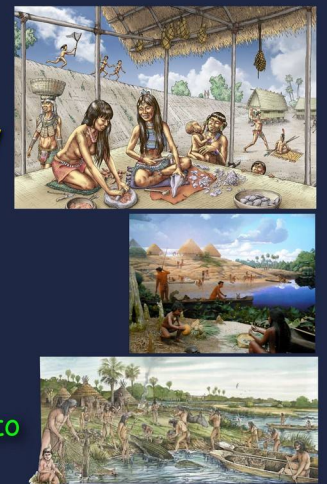


"Tabby" is concrete with oyster shells

Horr's Island Home to the oldest known permanently occupied coastal village in the Southeastern USA.

Occupied 2800-3000 BC.

Horr's Island today is Key Marco



Collier-Seminole State Park

Collier-Seminole State Park

Website:

www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/collier-seminole-state-park

Where: 20200 Tamiami Trail E., Naples

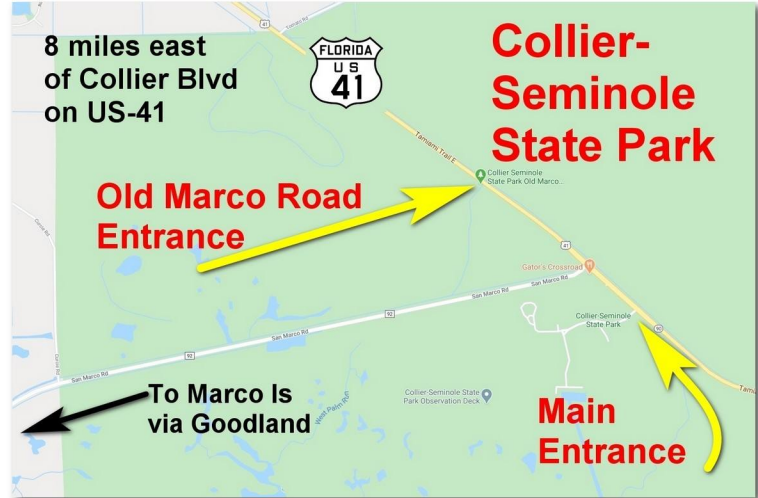
Get There: US-41 Tamiami Trail East, 8 miles east of Collier Blvd/SR-951.

When: 5am to sunset.

Admission: \$5 per vehicle, or annual pass.

What: 7,271-acres in one of the largest mangrove swamps in the world.

- Wide variety of wildlife and vegetation typical of Florida's Everglades.
- Park includes one of three original stands of royal palm in Florida.
- Camping, boat rentals, bicycling, hiking.



Bay City Walking Dredge

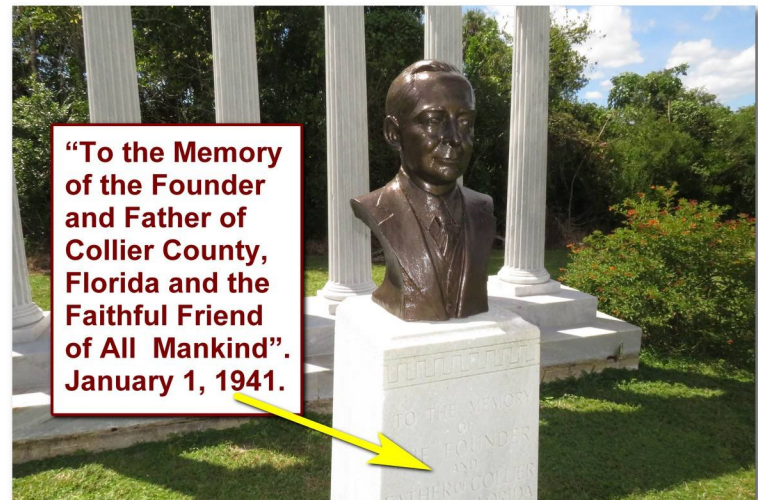
The park is the site of a National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark - the last existing Bay City Walking Dredge.

Built in 1924, it was used to build the Tamiami Trail Highway (US-41) linking Naples to Miami on the east coast.

Opened Southwest Florida to travel!



Barron Collier Memorial Collier-Seminole State Park



Everglades City



Today, both are small towns of around 350 people.

Everglades City

1930	172
1940	518
1950	625
1960	552
1970	462
1980	524
1990	321
2000	479
2010	400
2020	352

Chokoloskee

2000	404
2010	359
2020	346

Collier County 2020
Population: 375,752

Until 1962 Everglades City was the Collier County Seat.

1868: Mexican-Amer. War vet **John Weeks** begins farming in EC. Considered EC's first settler.

1870: **William Smith Allen** settled. Remained until 1889. Farmed on river front.

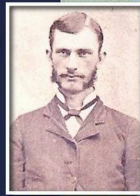
1870-1881: A few settlers arrived. Built rough homes. Fishing and farming.



Everglade

1881: First visionary settler **George Storter Sr** arrived. Invested in property and developed agriculture.

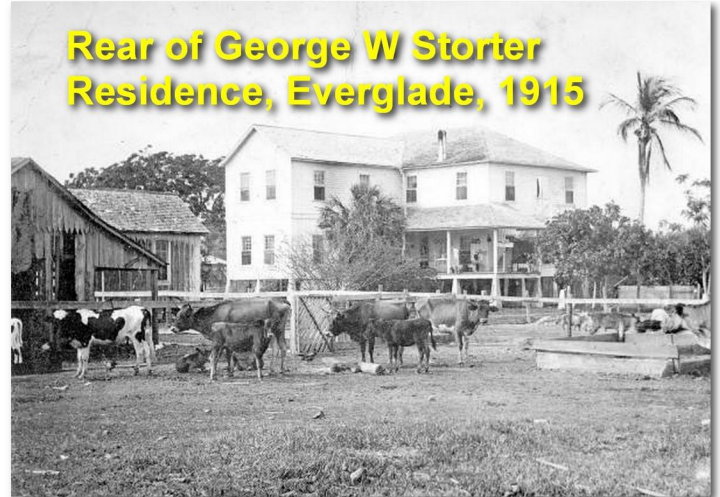
By 1890: Storter bought out Allen, Weeks, and other settlers. Planted vegetables and sugar cane (and made syrup). Started trading post and inn. Church. Built railroad 14 miles north to Deep Lake.



1825-1919

Storter's home, store, farm.

Rear of George W Storter Residence, Everglade, 1915



Storter Trading Post Everglade, 1915



G W Storter

Other events in Everglade before Barron Collier arrived in 1922:

1893: Everglade post office.

1910: Major hurricane. School and many homes washed away.

1913: Small railroad built Everglade to Deep Lake 14 miles away so farmers in Deep Lake area could get their grapefruits etc to a boat to sell in Fort Myers and Key West.

1922: Ice plant in Everglade to preserve fish for shipping.



Until Collier's arrival, Everglade was very isolated:

The only way in/out was by boat. Local products shipped out:

- Avocados, tomatoes, bananas, citrus, pumpkins, cane, eggplant
- Mullet, clams, oysters, turtles.
- Hides, furs, egret plumes.

Supplies/mail came from Key West.

Hospital was in Key West.

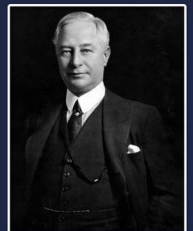
Law enforcement was through Key West - and was very minimal.

Storter owned most of this



Barron Gift Collier

- Born Memphis 1873. Died 1939.
- Made \$1 million in street lighting by age 26. Then printing and streetcar advertising.
- Visited SW Florida 1906. Loved it.
- By 1916 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.



Collier's 1 million acres cost him between 12 cents and 30 cents an acre.

In 1922 Collier bought out George Storter and virtually the whole Everglade village.

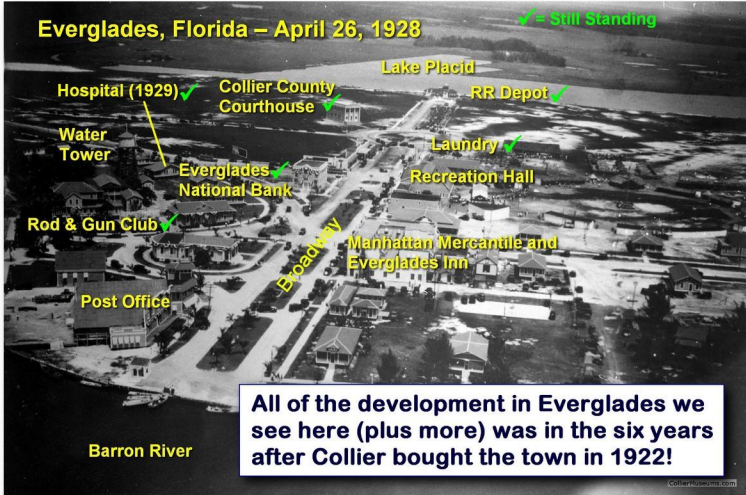


- Renamed the Allen River the Barron River.
- Added an s to town's name (Everglades).

At that time, only a dozen resident families. And a few fishing and hunting cabins owned by part-time residents.

Everglades area prospered under Collier's leadership.

- Planned community including shops, hotel, church, school, utilities, court house, hospital, newspaper.
- Created Collier county separate from Lee.
- Brought passenger and freight railroad into Everglades.
- Built the Tamiami Trail.
- Built County and State Route 29 from Everglades north to Immokalee.



All of the development in Everglades we see here (plus more) was in the six years after Collier bought the town in 1922!

Manhattan Market Everglades (City) 1927.



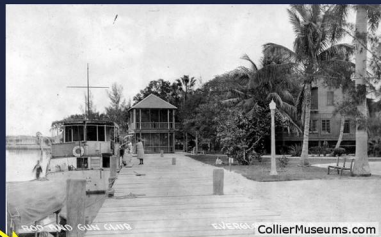
Grew to be Manhattan Mercantile (bottom floor in photo) by 1940. Top two floors were Everglades Inn (hotel).



Both buildings now gone.

Rod & Gun Club Everglades

1920s →
1924 1933 ↙



Everglades Model Steam Laundry – 1928. Became Women's Club – 1965.

Today Museum of the Everglades.



Everglades School - 1923

Building is gone. Bell is on display at the Museum of the Everglades.



Bank of Everglades

- Founded 1923. First home.
- New building 1927
- Only bank in Collier County until 1949.
- Moved to Immokalee 1962.
- National Register of Historic Places
- Now fundraising for restoration as visitor center.



Everglades Post Office

1925. Notice the tram.



Everglades tram ran 1925 -1929. Battery powered. West Broadway to Dupont Area



1929 Juliet Carnes Collier Hospital opened in Everglades City.



- 5 beds.
- Named after Mrs Barron Collier.
- Next to Rod & Gun Club.
- Closed 1963.

2022 Photo: For Sale.

2024 Update: Looks a bit more poorly, but For Sale signs are gone.



Amid all the development in Everglades, there were devastating hurricanes in 1926 and 1928.



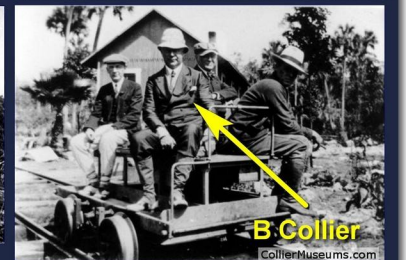
Deep Lake

In 1913, owners of a grapefruit grove near Deep Lake built the Deep Lake Railroad to transport grapefruit to Everglade for shipping.

In 1921, Collier purchased the railroad and the groves. He also used the railroad to transport pine and cypress logs to his sawmill in Everglade.



Collier's citrus plant in Deep Lake, 1929, with workers' quarters and warehouse.



Atlantic Coast Line wanted to extend their trains from Immokalee to Everglades.

They bought Deep Lake RR from Collier. Completed the line to Everglades and a depot in 1928.

Farthest south ACL would ever reach.



Everglades Depot 1928

Everglades City Museum of the Everglades

Museum of the Everglades



Websites: www.colliermuseums.com

<https://evergladesmuseum.org>

Where: 105 West Broadway, Everglades City.

Get There: South on US-41. Right on CR-29. 35 miles from central Naples.

When: Tues-Sat 9am to 4pm.

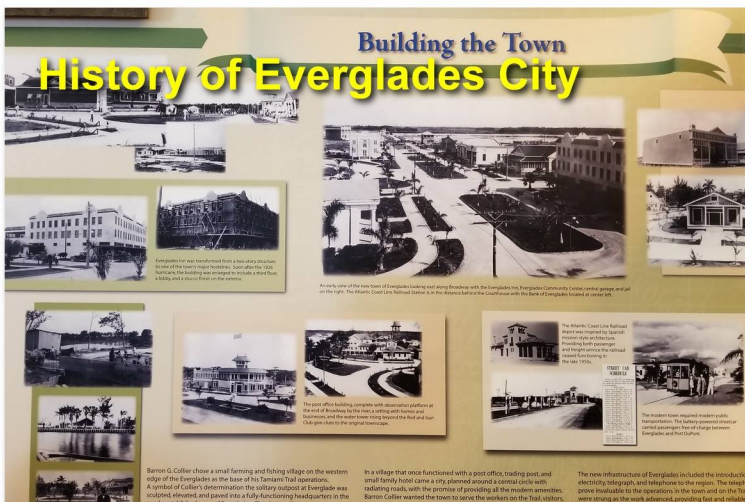
Admission: Free.

What: History of Everglades City, incl:

- People of the Everglades: Calusa and Seminoles.
- Founding and history of E.C.
- Building the Tamiami Trail.
- Illegal Trades: Moonshine.
- Opening of Everglades National Park.
- Fishing.
- The python problem.
- Several excellent videos.



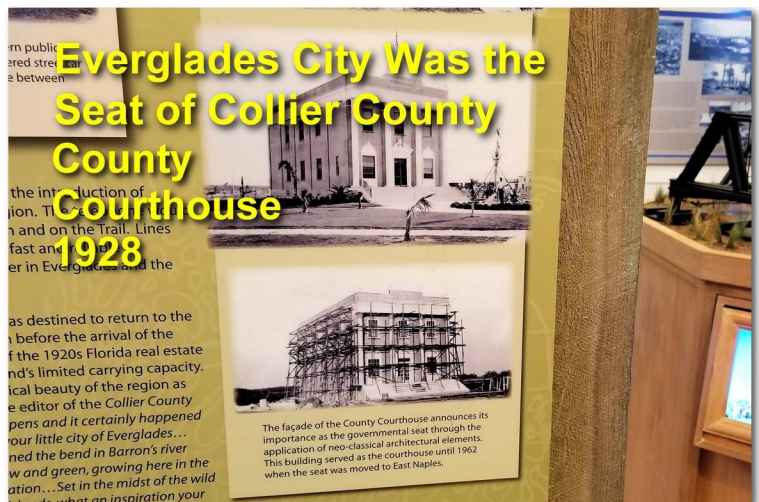
Museum of the Everglades Old Laundry Building - 1928



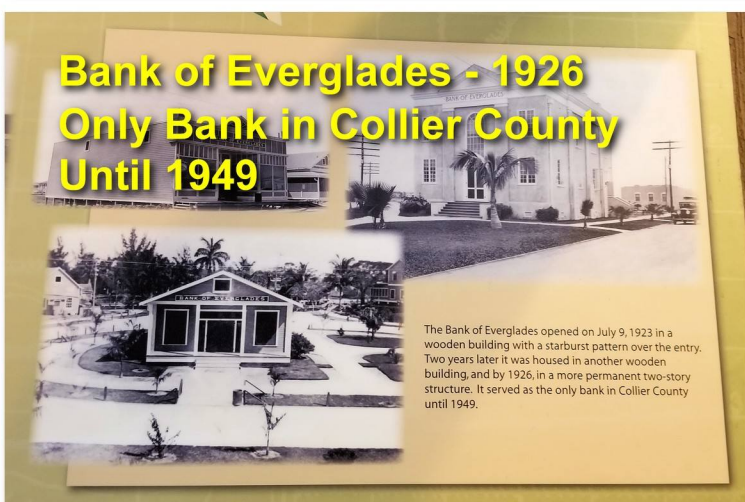
History of Everglades City

Building the Town

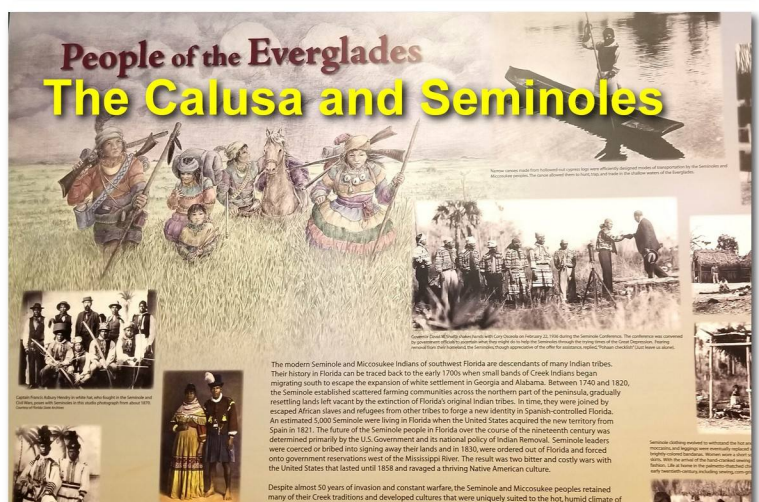
Everglades City Was the Seat of Collier County Courthouse 1928



Bank of Everglades - 1926 Only Bank in Collier County Until 1949



People of the Everglades The Calusa and Seminoles



Seminoles



Two Seminole men in traditional dress with bowler hats pose with a stuffed alligator, ca. 1910. The man with the rifle is Dave Poole Tiger and on the right is identified as Billy Jim, or Fren.



Seminole women frequently wore multiple necklaces of brightly-colored glass trade beads, as shown in these pictures from about 1915.



Opening Day Motorcade Tamiami Trail Opening - 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.

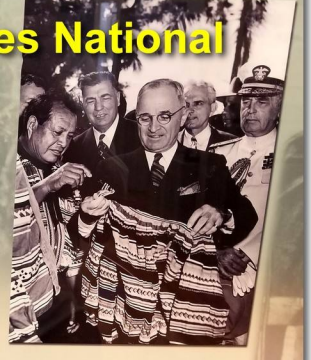
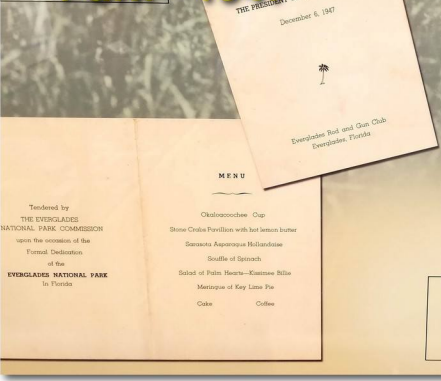
The Tamiami Trail opening in April 1928 was celebrated with a motorcade from Tampa to Miami. Celebrants arriving in the town of Everglades were treated to a parade and three-day county fair. Boy Scouts march on Broadway toward the Barron River. The three-story Everglades Inn is festooned in bunting in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

The Tamiami Trail officially opened with a grand and fitting flourish—a large motorcade traveling the length of the trail from Tampa to Miami, greeted by crowds of celebrating townsfolk and visitors along the entire route. From April 24 to April 26, 1928, the procession traveled an estimated 26 mph through spruced-up cities and towns alflutter with decorations designed to show each place at its best. And the town most resplendent with bunting, electric lights, and fireworks was Everglades, where motorists stopped for two hours to enjoy Collier County's first fair and a barbecue.

Building the Tamiami Trail

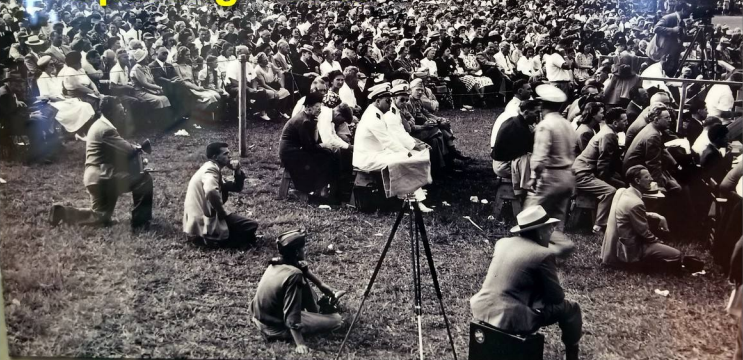


Opening Everglades National Park - 1947



Ceremony Memories
Seminole leaders Cory Osceola and William McKinley po finely made patchwork shirt to the President and a purse Mrs. Truman at the Everglades National Park dedication.

Everglades National Park Opening - 1947



Rod and Gun Club Menu 1961



Illegal Trades Moonshine and Drugs

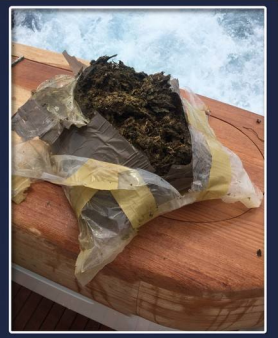


1970s-80s Everglades was drug smuggling capital of USA! 80% of adult males were arrested. But still too sensitive for the museum to display.

Square Grouper: Nickname given to bales of marijuana thrown overboard or out of airplanes by smugglers in South Florida in the 1970s and 1980s.

Why was South Florida the drug smuggling capital of the US?

- 5,000 miles of coastal waterways.
- Proximity to Caribbean and Latin America.
- Replace lost commercial fishing income.

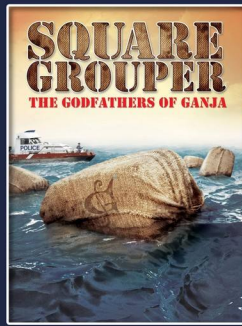


"Square Grouper - The Godfathers of Ganja"

2011 Documentary about 3 groups of drug smugglers:

- Miami: Ethiopian Zion Coptic Church of Jamaica.
- Miami: Black Tuna Gang.
- Everglades City: Two large DEA raids in 1983 and 1984 led to the arrest of nearly 80% of the adult male population of Everglades City. **80%**

Try to see this movie. Was on Netflix.



Everglades City Rod & Gun Club

Rod & Gun Club

200 W Broadway, Everglades City.

- On Barron River.
- 1870 first settler William Allan built his house on this site.
- George Storter Sr settled 1881. In 1889 he bought out Allen.
- At some point Storter started offering meals and taking overnight guests.
- His son George Jr continued ownership.

1922 Barron Collier bought the property. Renamed it Rod & Gun Club.

- He operated as a private club.
- Hosted international dignitaries and several US Presidents.

In 1972, the Bowen family from Michigan bought the club. They still operate it today.

Rod & Gun Club Today



Celebrity Guests at Rod & Gun Club: Presidents:

Theodore Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, Herbert Hoover, Richard Nixon.

1942: John Wayne, Ernest Hemingway.

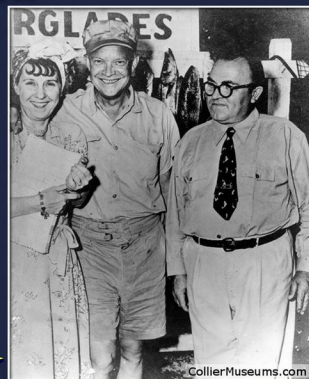
While on location filming:

- 1945, Winds Across the Everglades: Burl Ives, Gypsy Rose Lee
- 1983, Cannonball Run: Kate Jackson, Burt Reynolds, Sally Field
- 1994, Just Cause: Sean Connery
- 1997, Walt Disney's Gone Fishing: Danny Glover, Joe Pesci

Other notable guests:

David Carradine, Roy Clark, Mel Tillis, Eddie Arnold, Jack Nicklaus, Peter Jennings, Phil Donahue, Marlo Thomas

Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower at the Rod & Gun Club 1951.



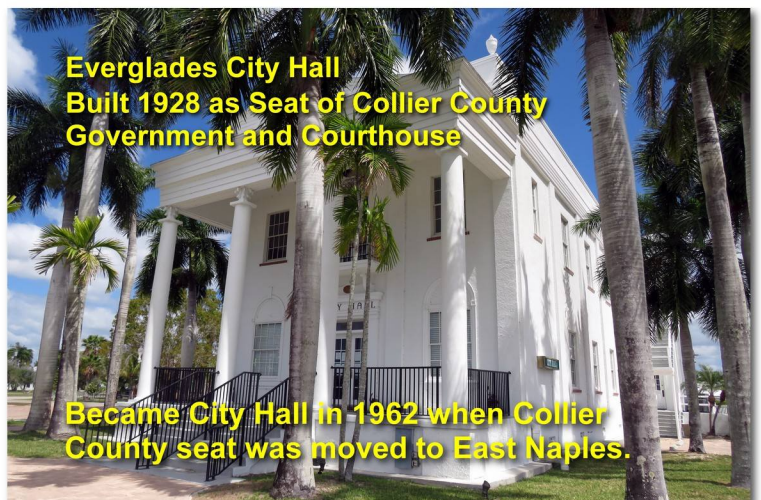
With long-time Rod & Gun Club manager Claus "Snooky" Senghaas. →

Rod & Gun Club



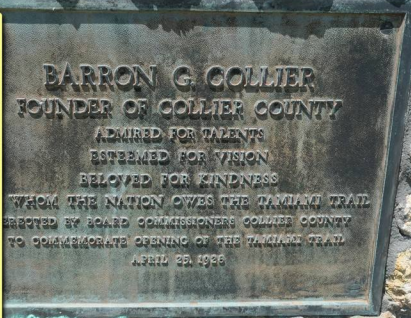


Everglades City Other Historic Sites



**Barron G Collier Plaque
Everglades City Hall**

Barron G Collier
Founder of Collier
County
Admired for Talents.
Esteemed for Vision.
Beloved for
Kindness.
To Whom the Nation
Owes the Tamiami
Trail.
April 25, 1928



Chokoloskee

Chokoloskee Island

One of the Ten Thousand Islands.

The only one now inhabited. (Ex Marco)

Connected by causeway since 1956.

Only 150 acres: 0.22 sq mi.

But has up to 20 foot height: Calusa shells discarded 500 BC-1700 AD.

Height offered protection from floods.

Settled: Early 1880s.

Elevation of 20 feet a big asset: Flood protection.

Population today: 346.

Why visit?

- History: Smallwood's Store.
- History: Edgar Watson murder.
- Fishing.
- Havana Cafe: Seasonal.



Causeway to Chokoloskee Island, 1956.

Chokoloskee means old house in Indian language. But nobody knows the legend.



Causeway from Everglades City to Chokoloskee



Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge

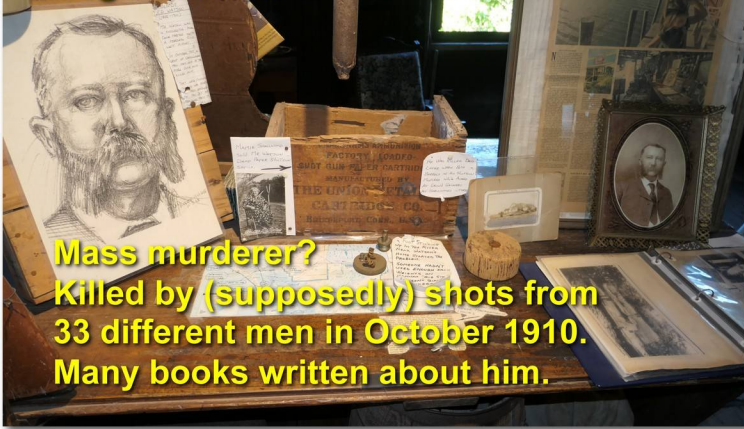
Smallwood Store
Est. 1906 by Ted Smallwood
National Register of Historic Places
This building 1917.



Ted Smallwood Store
National Register of Historic Places
360 Mamie Street, Chokoloskee
Daily 11am to 5pm, \$5
www.smallwoodstore.com



Edgar Watson

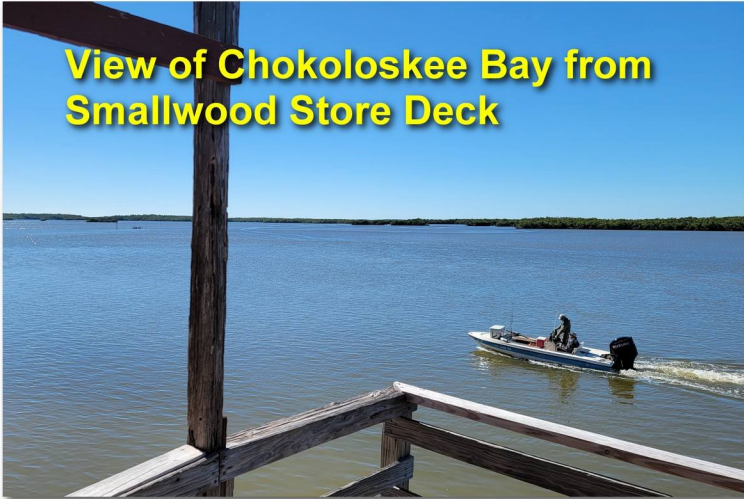


**Mass murderer?
Killed by (supposedly) shots from
33 different men in October 1910.
Many books written about him.**

Smallwood's Store - 1906



View of Chokoloskee Bay from Smallwood Store Deck



Havanna Cafe Cuban and Cracker Cuisine Roughly October thru May



Copeland

Copeland Baptist Church was built in 1947 of local cypress during the peak of the logging period.



**Served the families of black loggers,
who did not feel welcome at other area
churches.**

Copeland Company Store "Currency"

Copeland Currency

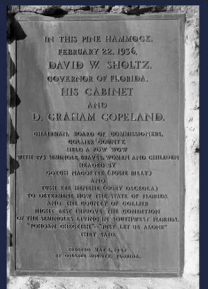
These metal tokens or script, known to locals as "jiggle lou", were traded for groceries at the Copeland department store operated by Winford Janes. Company employees sometimes sold the tokens for a lower value to obtain cash.

Payroll badge worn by a Lee Tidewater Cypress Company employee in the late 1940s.
Gift from Douglas McGoon, Copeland



Collier County Historical Marker Copeland, Florida on SR-29

"In this pine hammock, February 22, 1936, David W. Sholtz, Governor of Florida, his cabinet and D. Graham Copeland, Chairman, Board of Commissioners, Collier County, held a pow wow with 273 Seminole braves, women and children headed by Gotch Nagofttee (Josie Billy) and Tush Kee Henehe (Cory Osceola) to determine how the State of Florida and the County of Collier might best improve the condition of the Seminoles living in southwest Florida. 'Pohan checkish'. 'Just let us alone' they said. Erected May 1, 1947 by Collier County, Florida".



History 6 miles west of Copeland on US-41: In Sept 2022, Hurricane Ian destroyed the 3,000 foot boardwalk at Big Cypress Bend. Closed 3 years. This photo is the new one opened Nov 2025.



Ochopee

Ochopee, Florida on Tamiami Trail
Smallest Post Office in USA



US-41 36 miles east of Collier Blvd.

1953



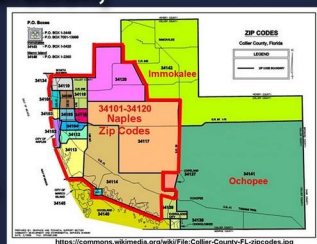
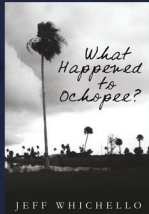
CollierMuseums.com

Ochopee 34141

Small town on Tamiami Trail (was).

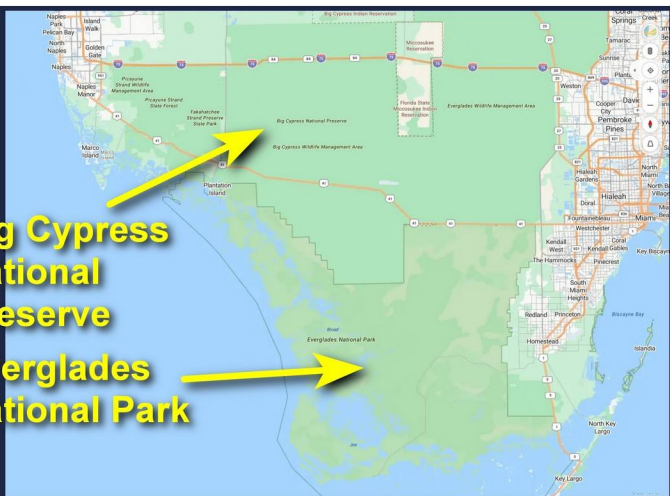
1928-1950s: At its peak the town had tomato farms, a motel, bars, restaurants, a general store, a campground, mining operation, real estate businesses, water company.

Today: Nothing but tiny post office, a zip code, Joanie's Blue Crab Cafe.



Everglades National Park

Big Cypress National Preserve
Everglades National Park



Everglades National Park

- Legislation Passed 1934.
- 1.5 million acres of land acquired 1934-1947.
- Collier, Dade, Monroe Counties.
- Largest subtropical wilderness in US.
- Elevation 8 feet.



Everglades National Park opened in 1947.

- Dedication ceremony in Everglades City.
- Attended by US President Truman.

UNESCO World Heritage Site.



1947

Big Cypress National Preserve

Abuts Everglades National Park.

- Established 1974. 729,000 acres.
- Classification as Preserve is somewhat political.
- Preserve allows more commercial and recreational activity than Park.



Everglades National Park Gulf Coast Visitor Center was destroyed by Hurricane Irma 2017. A temporary replacement Visitor Center was destroyed by Hurricane Ian in 2022.

New Marjory Stoneman Douglas Visitor Center. Opened February 2026. Daily 9am-5pm.



Coming Up:

- ~~Class 1 Historical Overview~~
- ~~Class 2 History City of Naples~~
- ~~Class 3 South and East of Naples~~
- Class 4 Major Parks & Preserves
- Class 5 North of Naples
- Class 6 *A Land Remembered* by Patrick Smith & Other Resources



End of Class 3

Southwest Florida History

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