

In and Around Naples  
**A Series of Presentations  
 for the Collier County Library  
 by Paul Pacter**

**Museum of  
 the Everglades**

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**Museum of the Everglades**  
**Websites:** [www.colliermuseums.com](http://www.colliermuseums.com)  
<https://evergladesmuseum.org/>  
**One of five Collier County Museums.**  
**Where:** 105 West Broadway, Everglades City.  
**Get There:** South on US-41, right on US-29. 35 miles from central Naples.  
**Admission:** Free.  
**When:** Tues-Sat 9am to 4pm.

- What:** History of Everglades City including:
- **People of the Everglades:** Calusa and Seminoles.
  - **Founding and History of Everglades City.**
  - **Building the Tamiami Trail.**
  - **Illegal Trades: Moonshine.**
  - **Opening Everglades National Park.**
  - **Fishing.**
  - **The Python Problem.**
  - **Several excellent videos.**



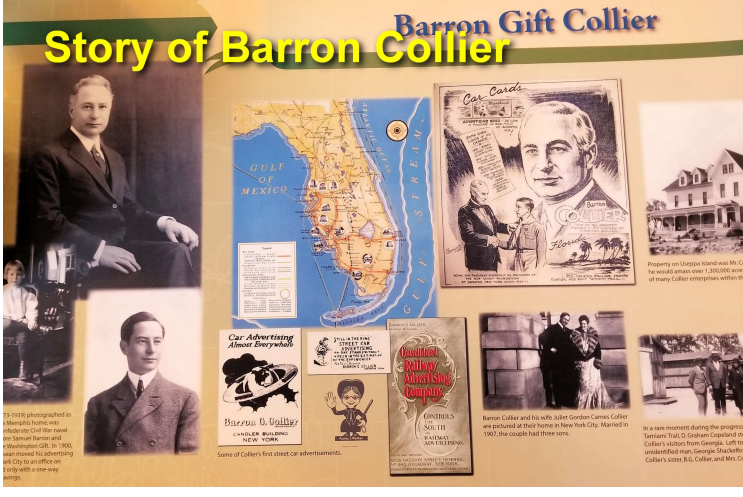
**Museum of the Everglades  
 Everglades City  
 One of five Collier County Museums**



**Museum of the Everglades  
 Old Laundry Building - 1928**



**Museum of the Everglades  
 National Register of Historic Places**



**Barron Gift Collier  
 Story of Barron Collier**



## Building the Town

# History of Everglades City

Everglades City was built on a low-lying area of the Everglades... The Atlantic Coast Line Railroad... The modern town required modern public transportation... The new infrastructure of Everglades included the introduction of electricity, telegraph, and telephone to the region...

# Everglades City Had a Train Station and a Tram

Atlantic Coast Line Railroad was inspired by Spanish style architecture... The modern town required modern public transportation. The battery-powered streetcar carried passengers free-of-charge between Everglades and Port DuPont.

Week Days	
Leave Port du Pont	6:30 a. m.
Leave Everglades	6:40 a. m.
Leave Port du Pont	6:50 a. m.
Leave Everglades	7:00 a. m.
Leave Port du Pont	7:10 a. m.
Leave Everglades	7:20 a. m.
Leave Port du Pont	7:30 a. m.
Leave Everglades	7:40 a. m.
Leave Port du Pont	7:50 a. m.
Leave Everglades	8:00 a. m.
Leave Port du Pont	8:10 p. m.
Leave Everglades	8:20 p. m.
Leave Port du Pont	8:30 p. m.
Leave Everglades	8:40 p. m.
Leave Port du Pont	8:50 p. m.
Leave Everglades	9:00 p. m.
Sundays	
Leave Port du Pont	7:30 a. m.
Leave Everglades	7:40 a. m.
Leave Port du Pont	7:50 a. m.
Leave Everglades	8:00 a. m.

# Everglades City Was the Seat of Collier County

The facade of the County Courthouse announces its importance as the governmental seat through the implication of neo-classical architectural elements. This building served as the courthouse until 1962 when the seat was moved to East Naples.

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

The Bank of Everglades opened on July 9, 1923 in a wooden building with a starburst pattern over the entry. Two years later it was housed in another wooden building, and by 1926, in a more permanent two-story structure. It served as the only bank in Collier County until 1949.

# Museum of the Everglades

# People of the Everglades The Calusa and Seminoles

The modern Seminole and Miccosukee Indians of southwest Florida are descendants of many Indian tribes. Their history in Florida can be traced back to the early 1700s when small bands of Creek Indians began migrating south to escape the expansion of white settlement in Georgia and Alabama. Between 1740 and 1820, the Seminole established scattered farming communities across the northern part of the peninsula, gradually resettling lands left vacant by the extinction of Florida's original Indian tribes. In time they were joined by escaped African slaves and refugees from other tribes to forge a new identity in Spanish-controlled Florida. An estimated 5,000 Seminoles were living in Florida when the United States acquired the new territory from Spain in 1821. The future of the Seminole people in Florida over the course of the nineteenth century was determined primarily by the U.S. Government and its national policy of Indian Removal. Seminole leaders were coerced or lured into signing away their lands and in 1832, were ordered out of Florida and forced onto government reservations west of the Mississippi River. The result was two bitter and costly wars with the United States that lasted until 1858 and swept a thriving Native American culture.

Despite almost 50 years of invasion and constant warfare, the Seminole and Miccosukee peoples retained many of their Creek traditions and developed cultures that were uniquely suited to the hot, humid climate of southern Florida.

# Calusa Artefacts

# Seminole

Francis Asbury Hendry in white, who fought in the Seminole war, photograph from about 1870.

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

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





# Building the Tamiami Trail The Walking Dredge

# Building the Tamiami Trail

Building the Trail

# Opening Day Motorcade Tamiami Trail Opening - 1928

# Illegal Trades Moonshine and Drugs

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.

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.

Illegal trades such as moonshine and drugs were prevalent in the Everglades region during the early 20th century. The still shown is a classic example of the equipment used for distilling moonshine.

# Opening Everglades National Park - 1947

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
December 8, 1947  
Everglades Rod and Gun Club  
Everglades, Florida

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



# Rod and Gun Club Menu 1961

*Dinner at the Rod and Gun Club*

**Appetizers**  
Fresh Orange Juice .50  
Stone Crab Cocktail 1.95

**Steaks and Fowl**  
New York Strip with Onion Rings 4.95  
Boiled or Fried Chicken 2.95  
Chopped Sirloin Steak with Grilled Onions 3.95

**Entrees include Fresh Garden Salad, Potato, Vegetable, Coffee or Tea**

**CHILDREN'S PLATES (under 12 years)**  
Fried Jumbo Shrimp - Boiled Chopped Steak - Boiled or Fried Chicken  
Served with Potato - Salad - Rolls - Tea or Milk 1.95

**Soups**  
French Onion .75  
Clam Chowder .75

**Fresh Fish and Sea Food**  
Boiled African Lobster Tails with Drawn Butter 7.95  
Native Fishings 2.50  
Fried Jumbo Shrimp with Sauce 4.25  
Boiled Red Snapper with Lemon Butter 4.00  
Stone Crab Claws 5.95  
Tender Deep Sea Scallops 4.50

**Desserts**  
Ice Cream .50  
Assorted Pies .75  
Sherbet .50  
Specialty Desserts 1.00





# The Python Problem

## THE PYTHON PROBLEM

### HOW BAD IS IT?

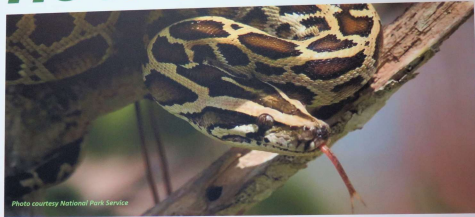


Photo courtesy National Park Service

#### DEVASTATING THE FOOD CHAIN

#### HOW MANY ARE OUT THERE?



Although the low detectability of pythons makes population estimates difficult, most researchers propose that at least 30,000 and more likely upwards of 300,000 pythons occupy Everglades National Park, the Big Cypress National Preserve, and the Collier-Seminole State Forest. With no natural predators in the region, the invasive Burmese python population continues to grow with no end in sight.

TAKE AT A TIME  
 Photo by John Blah Carter

# The Python Problem



WHERE CAN I SEE ONE?