

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

**Immokalee Pioneer Museum**

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[www.paulvisits.com](http://www.paulvisits.com)

**Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts  
 Ranch**

**One of Five Collier County Museums**

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

**Where: 1215 Roberts Avenue West,  
 Immokalee.**

**Get There: Immokalee Road east from  
 Naples. Left on W. Main St, Immokalee.**

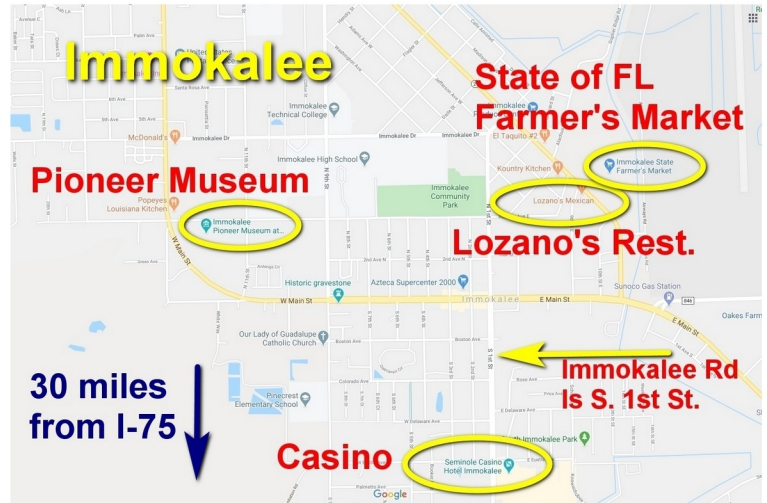
**When: Tuesday-Sat 9am to 4pm. Closed  
 Sun and Mon.**

**Admission: Free.**

**What:** Immokalee is Collier County's  
 largest inland community. Sprawling  
 cattle ranches and agriculture.

First occupied by the Calusa Indians and  
 later by the Seminole, the area has seen a  
 colorful mix of hunters, trappers,  
 cowmen, missionaries, and Indian traders  
 since it was first settled in 1872.

**Early pioneers renamed the town  
 "Immokalee" in 1897 after a Seminole  
 word meaning "my home" or "his home."**



**Originally home to cattleman Robert  
 Roberts and his family.**

**13-acre historic site and museum  
 illustrate the daily working life on a  
 Southwest Florida pioneer homestead  
 and citrus grove from the early 1900s.**

**Exhibits and 15 carefully preserved  
 original buildings tell the story of the cow  
 hunters, ranchers and pioneer-spirited  
 families who struggled to tame this vast  
 wilderness on the edge of a swamp.**

**Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch  
 Immokalee**

**Main exhibit hall**

**Built as 1st Baptist Church 1916**



*National Register of Historic Places*



**Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch  
 Immokalee**

**Rural settlements in Collier County  
 Second half of the 19th Century**

**Collier County Settlements**

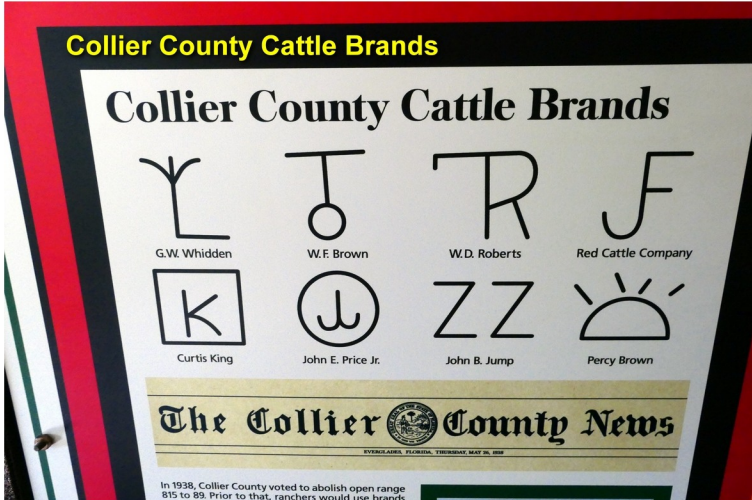
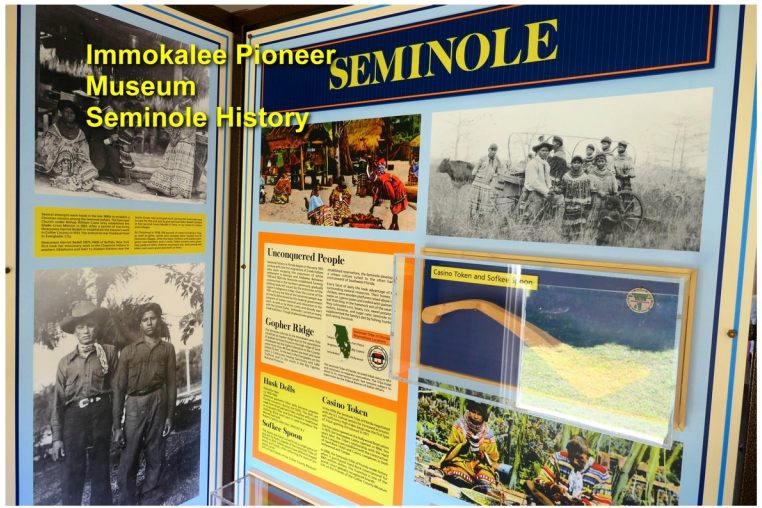
A colorful mix of hunters, trappers, cowmen, missionaries and Indian traders established the first permanent settlement in the area by 1872 and provided much of its early business character. The town was named after the Seminole word for "my home" or "his home" after William Allen, to Immokalee, its first post office opened on October 1, 1882 with Alice Fort as postmistress. The Corkscrew settlement near Immokalee grew into a community of tenant families in the early 1900s and probably took its name from the twisting creek that ran nearby.

By the early 1900s, settlers such as Robert Roberts, John Whitaker and Robert Carney were grazing hundreds of Florida cowboys' cattle on the high, well-drained and arid land around Immokalee and Corkscrew. The cowboys' free-roaming herd were described by artist Frederic Remington as "the biggest they'd ever seen with bones sticking out far enough to hang a hat on."

Map showing settlements in Collier County: Naples 1866, Henderson Creek 1874, Immokalee 1872, Corkscrew Island 1872, Harv's Island 1872, Palmetto 1874, Immokalee 1872, Corkscrew Island 1872.

**Collier County**  
 Florida Counties

"There were very few families throughout the country and nearest neighbors were eight and ten miles apart."





**Roberts Family Home  
Bedroom  
1924**



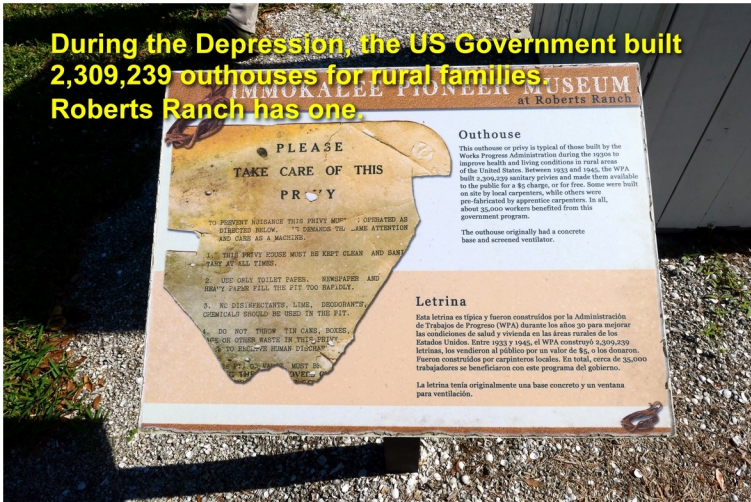
**Roberts Family Home - 1924  
Dining Room - Screened Pie Safe  
AKA Pie Chest or Pie Cupboard  
Food Storage**



**Roberts Family Home - 1924  
Main Bedroom**



**Roberts Family Home  
Dining Room  
1924**



**During the Depression, the US Government built  
2,309,239 outhouses for rural families.  
Roberts Ranch has one.**

**PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THIS PRIVY**

1. TO PREVENT DISEASE THIS PRIVY MUST BE OPERATED AS DESCRIBED BELOW. IT DEMANDS THE SAME ATTENTION AND CARE AS A BATHROOM.

2. THE PRIVY KEYS MUST BE KEPT CLEAN AND HANDS WASHED AT ALL TIMES.

3. USE ONLY TOILET PAPER, REWASHED AND NEW PAPER WILL DO THE JOB TOO RAPIDLY.

4. DO NOT THROW TIN CANS, BOXES, OR OTHER WASTE IN THIS PRIVY. TO DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY:

5. IF DISINFECTANTS, LIME, SODIUMHYPOCHLORITE SHOULD BE USED IN THE PIT.

6. IF YOU HAVE A PRIVY, IT MUST BE KEPT CLEAN AND HANDS WASHED AT ALL TIMES.

**Letrina**  
Esta letrina es típica y fueron construidos por la Administración de Trabajo de Progreso (WPA) durante los años 30 para mejorar las condiciones de salud y vivienda en las áreas rurales de los Estados Unidos. Entre 1933 y 1945, el WPA construyó 2,309,239 letrinas, las vendieron al público por un valor de \$2. a los donantes. Fueron construidas por carpinteros locales. En total, cerca de 35,000 trabajadores se beneficiaron con este programa del gobierno.

La letrina tenía originalmente una base de concreto y una ventana para ventilación.



**Outhouse built by US Government for rural families 1933 to 1945.**



**Roberts Ranch  
Depression-era outhouse**



**Roberts Ranch  
Pole Barn for Machinery Storage  
1943**



**Roberts Ranch  
Well  
Dates from 1870s**



**Roberts Ranch  
Immokalee, Florida  
Horses  
Cattle  
Oranges  
Sugar**

*At its peak, Roberts Ranch was 100,000 acres.*



**Roberts Ranch  
Horse Stalls and Barn  
Early 1940s**



**Roberts Ranch  
Horse Barn Interior**



**Roberts Ranch  
Smokehouse  
1926**



**Roberts Ranch  
Hide House  
1950**



**Roberts Ranch  
Bunk House  
1930s**



**Roberts Ranch  
Bunk House  
1930s**



**Roberts Ranch  
Sugar Cane Mill  
(Press)**



**Roberts Ranch  
Sugar Cane Boiler  
1921**



**Oranges Still Grow at Roberts Ranch  
(A few)**



**Prickly Pear Cactus at Roberts Ranch**

A group of people on horseback participating in a cattle drive. Several dogs are running alongside them on a paved road. The scene is outdoors with buildings in the background.

**Annual Event Sponsored by Museum**

## **Immokalee Cattle Drive & Jamboree**

March 18, 2023 | 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch  
1215 Roberts Ave W, Immokalee