

**EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Dedicated to our Unique History

P O Box 46, Everglades City, FL, 34139
email: ESHP@hotmail.com

The *Town Crier* newsletter is issued periodically to keep ESHP members and the public informed of our activities. We welcome news and feedback.

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ESHP, Inc. is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation. The Society is concerned with **preserving all historic sites, structures, documents, artifacts, and memories** within the Everglades area.

TOWN CRIER

**Newsletter
of the
EVERGLADES
SOCIETY FOR
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION**

JANUARY 2008
VOLUME 4, NUMBER 1



sketch courtesy of Jurg Furrer

ESHP ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

- Individual (\$25)
- Family (\$40)
- Patron (\$100)
- Benefactor (\$500)
- Business (\$100)
- Extra (\$ _____)

*Please make check payable to "ESHP" and send to
ESHP, P.O.Box 46, Everglades City, FL, 34139*

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CITY _____

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ALTERNATE ADDRESS

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CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

MONTHS AT ALTERNATE ADDRESS:

- JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN
- JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

I would like to help with

- fund raising
- special events
- publicity/website
- legal/financial
- other _____
- Historical Library
- merchandise sales
- historical research
- engineering/architecture

DATE _____ signature _____

"Barron Collier, Life & Times"

ESHP members and guests are invited to a special meeting on **Thursday, January 31**, at 2:00 p.m. in the "New Theater" at the Museum of the Everglades to hear an illustrated talk about Barron Collier presented by David Southall of the Collier County Museum (see article on next page). For more info, phone Jean at 695-0202.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We will have booths at several local events and need help. This year we are concentrating on selling prints and cards of the wonderful pictures that Jerry Vallez painted of local historic buildings. We will also have order forms for bricks and our membership brochure which explains what ESHP does.

The calendar is:

- January 19: Art-in-the-Glades, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- February 2: Seafood Festival, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- February 3: Seafood Festival, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- March 1: Art-in-the-Glades, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

If you can work a morning or afternoon, even if only for a few hours, phone Marya at 695-2905.

MEMBERSHIP

We have 71 paid-up members in the following categories:

- 26 Individuals 9 Patrons 3 Businesses
- 32 Families 1 Benefactor

The geographic distribution is, as one would expect, concentrated locally:

- 29 Everglades City 15 Naples
- 12 Chokoloskee 2 Marco Island

Renewal notices for the year 2008 are going out with this newsletter. Please show your support by responding promptly so that we do not have to send reminders. You can save postage by sliding your renewal envelope under the door of our office upstairs in City Hall.

Welcome to new members:

- Jake Hirt, Naples
- Sonny Scott, Lakeland
- Mary Van Arsdale, Naples



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Arch at Collier/Dade county line on Tamiami Trail
photo courtesy of Florida State Archives

TAMIAMI TRAIL 80TH BIRTHDAY

Plans are underway for a huge celebration in April to commemorate the opening of the Trail (US-41) through Lee, Collier, and Dade counties in 1928. The Tamiami-80 Committee are hoping to recreate that event with a cavalcade of antique cars, alligator wrestling, Indian dancing, a parade and a host of dignitaries speaking. This will all take place on Saturday, April 26, exactly 80 years after the original ceremony.

On the next day, Sunday, April 27, the Museum of the Everglades will have its birthday party with the traditional hotdogs, cake, and story-telling about past times. The old Collier Laundry building was restored, thanks to the efforts of local residents, and converted into a County museum 10 years ago. Its official opening on April 26, 1998, was deliberately scheduled to coincide with the Trail anniversary.

The Tamiami-80 Committee usually meets on the first Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Everglades Community Church annex but the next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 23. Everyone is welcome.

If you would like to sponsor an event or have ideas, phone Carol Moseman at 695-2159.

HISTORICAL LIBRARY



The ESHP office in City Hall will be open several mornings a week from 10:00 a.m. to noon, thanks to members who have volunteered to sit at the desk.

Stop by if you want to look at historic items in the collection or to donate books, photos, or documents.

You can also see the original Jerry Vallez paintings of local buildings which are now back on the walls and buy greeting cards and matted prints of these pictures.

For more info, phone 695-2905 or 695-2397.



Barron Collier on the Deep Lake rail cart
photo courtesy of Collier County Museum, Naples, FL

BARRON COLLIER

This amazing man was so influential in our local history that we forget he was an outstanding figure in other spheres. Barron Gift Collier is credited with suggesting the yellow stripe down the center of roads to control traffic and with helping to form Interpol, the international police agency. His enterprises included streetcar advertising and a franchise for newspaper outlets in the New York subway system. In Florida he had hotels, farms, a shipping line, a bus line, a chain of general merchandise stores and almost 1 million acres of land which he hoped to develop.

As most people know, it was Collier who organized the construction of the Tamiami Trail through uncharted swamp in the Glades. But, his crews also built what is now SR-29 to Immokalee and CR-92 to Marco Island and prepared the track for the Atlantic Coast Line railroad which ran from Everglades City to Immokalee and then onwards to points north.

To learn more, come to the illustrated talk on Thursday, January 31, at 2:00 p.m. in the Museum.

Thanks from Park

Dan Kimball, Superintendent of Everglades National Park, sent this email:

And thanks again for your participation in our 60th Anniversary festivities in Everglades City! Your involvement contributed immensely to its success!



Thanks also to Dick Jay (in photo) who brought his metal sculpture of Ernest Coe to the event in City Hall on December 6. ESHP president Patty Huff dressed up as Deaconess Bedell and read her original invocation. ESHP secretary Marya Repko conducted a *vox pop* interview session with people who remembered the 1947 opening of the park.