

**EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

*Dedicated to our Unique History*

P O Box 46, Everglades City, FL, 34139

ESHP@hotmail.com

[www.evergladeshistorical.org](http://www.evergladeshistorical.org)

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

**DIRECTORS**

Helen Bryan (Treasurer) Tod Dahlke Mike Danosky (Vice-President)  
Pat Fingeroff Patty Huff (Secretary) Lynn McMillin  
Marya Repko (President) Craig Woodward

***ESHP ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP***

(renewable each January 1)

- 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  
or JOIN ONLINE with a credit card at [www.evergladeshistorical.org](http://www.evergladeshistorical.org)*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET/P.O.BOX \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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**ALTERNATE ADDRESS**

STREET / P.O.BOX: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**MONTHS AT ALTERNATE ADDRESS:**

JAN     FEB     MAR     APR     MAY     JUN

JUL     AUG     SEP     OCT     NOV     DEC

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ signature \_\_\_\_\_

# TOWN CRIER

**EVERGLADES SOCIETY  
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## Newsletter



**JANUARY 2016**  
VOLUME 12, NUMBER 1

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Jan 8: Movie Night**  
5:30pm, Everglades Community Church
- Jan 16: Art-in-the-Glades**  
10am-2pm, McLeod Park, Everglades City

- Feb 5: Movie Night**  
5:30pm, Everglades Community Church
- Feb 13-14: Everglades Seafood Festival**  
10am-6pm, McLeod Park, Everglades City

- Feb 23-27: Marjory Stoneman Douglas Festival**  
9am-4pm, Museum of the Everglades
- Feb 26: Annual Meeting & Historical Talk**  
5:30pm, Oyster House Restaurant

- Mar 11: Movie Night**  
5:30pm, Everglades Community Church
- Mar 12: Art-in-the-Glades**  
10am-2pm, McLeod Park, Everglades City

*Download a calendar from our website.*

### **ESHP BOARD MEETINGS**

The Board of Directors meets on the first Monday of the month at 8:30 a.m. in our Historical Library in Everglades City Hall. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, February 1**. Members are welcome to attend and contribute ideas.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

We have 70 members. Renewal notices were posted at the end of December. THANKS to everyone who replied promptly. You can join or renew now for the 2016 year. Just fill in the form in this newsletter or see our website [www.evergladeshistorical.org](http://www.evergladeshistorical.org) to pay with a credit/debit card.

**Welcome to new member:**  
Hydie Friend, Naples

### **MUSEUM NEWS**

The current exhibit in the Pauline Reeves Gallery in the Museum of the Everglades is "Phlorida Photos" by local photographer Tommy Owen. The Museum is open Monday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and admission is free but donations are welcome.

There will be a reception for the artist on **Saturday, January 9**, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.. For info, call the Museum at (239) 695-0008.



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### BIG YEAR FOR NATIONAL PARKS

This year is the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service which was signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson on August 25, 1916.



And, it is also the 100th anniversary of what became Everglades National Park, thanks to some determined women in the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs who created a park at Royal Palm Hammock on Paradise Key near Homestead. If it were not for May Mann Jennings and her political clout (her husband William Sherman Jennings was governor of Florida 1901-1904), the ages-old trees might have been cut down so that the land could be farmed or developed.

In 1934 enabling legislation for Everglades National Park, which includes Royal Palm Hammock, was passed by Congress, thanks to Ruth Bryan Owen (the first woman from Florida to be elected as a Representative). However, World War II intervened and it was not until 1947 that President Harry S Truman pronounced the formal opening at a ceremony in Everglades City with our own Deaconess Harriet Bedell giving the invocation.

The NPS is offering free entry during this momentous year on 16 days; see [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov). To learn more about ENP, see [www.nps.gov/ever](http://www.nps.gov/ever).

### MONROE STATION RESTORATION

The fund has raised \$860 so far, thanks to an article in the local *Marco Eagle* newspaper and to emails sent at the end of 2015.



We are receiving help from new member Hydie Friend who has experience in applying for historical restoration grants and has volunteered to work on our applications.

To donate see our website where you can download a form to send with a check or contribute with a credit/debit card. For info, call (239) 695-2905.

Blank greeting cards with a sketch of the building are now available and will be for sale at Art-in-the-Glades. For mail orders, see our website.



### MARCO HISTORICAL NEWS

Congratulations to County Commissioner Donna Fiala who was among those elected to the Board of the Marco Island Historical Society. For info, see their website [www.themihs.org](http://www.themihs.org).



### News from the Historical Library



You can download a catalog of books at our website. There are over 300 of them!

If you would like to give old books, newspapers, or photos to the Historical Library on the second floor of City Hall, where they are safe from storms, phone Marya at (239) 695-2905.

### Local History & Mystery

Ghosts of Chokoloskee? Death of Ochopee?

New books with these fascinating local histories will be for sale at **Art-in-the-Glades** on **Saturday, January 16**, in Everglades City along with arts & crafts by local vendors.

Chokoloskee is the home of the historic Smallwood Store which is the setting of the killing of Mister Watson, the subject of a famous novel by Peter Matthieson. Author Rick Magers imagines, after meticulous research, what the conversations would have been like back then among all the protagonists. His book *Ghosts of Chokoloskee* is one of many historical books that will be for sale on January 16.

Ochopee is known for having the "smallest post office". It was once a thriving tomato farming community and then home to the Golden Lion Motel, a great stopping place and community center until it was bought out by the National Park Service for Big Cypress National Preserve. You can read about the heartache that was caused by the death of this community in Jeff Whichello's book *What Happened to Ochopee?* which will also be for sale at Art-in-the-Glades.

ESHP will have a booth to sell cards and books – and to attract new members. You can download a poster at our website [www.evergladeshistorical.org](http://www.evergladeshistorical.org).

**Historical Signs** for old Everglades City houses are available from ESHP. Made of epoxy resin; measures 10 x 12 inches; 2 screw holes for mounting outside. For info, call Patty at 695-2397 or see our website where you can order online.



### CHURCH CELEBRATES 90 YEARS

In 1926 a Presbyterian Community Church was organized in the town of Everglades. The Board of Elders included Mayor Daniel W. McLeod and among the Trustees was Judge George W. Storter, Jr. Services were held in the Everglades Club (Community Center which also showed films).



In 1939 the membership voted to build their own church and approached David Graham Copeland, manager of the Collier Corporation, who organized the donation of land on the Circle. However, there were conditions: the building must be completed by October 1940 and must be non-denominational.

In recent years, Everglades Community Church has completed a number of projects: restoration of the exterior to the original design, enlargement of the sanctuary, installation of stained-glass windows, rebuilding of the Louise Collier Jinkins Fellowship Hall, and construction of the Memorial Garden.

ECC was proclaimed a City Historic site in 2007. The historical marker was granted by the State in 2008.