

EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Dedicated to our Unique History

P.O. Box 46, Everglades City, FL, 34139

ESHP@hotmail.com

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

Kathy Brock (President), Helen Bryan, Gail Davenport, Hydie Friend,
Patty Huff (Vice-President), Elaine Middelstaedt (Treasurer)
Marya Repko (Secretary), Craig Woodward

ESHP MEMBERSHIP

(renewable each January 1 except for Lifetime categories)

Individual (\$25) Family (\$40)
 Patron (\$100) Benefactor (\$500)
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TOWN CRIER

EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2021

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 2



VISITOR CENTER OPEN!

We're back in business.

Starting on February 12th, the Visitor Center will be open on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday plus holiday Mondays. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

However, we need volunteers! If you can work the 4-hour shift on any day, please contact Kathy at (954) 662-7003.

We are being very careful about COVID: everyone must wear a mask, there is hand-sanitizer, the restroom is closed to the public, and the desks have plastic shields to protect us as we talk to people.

When we're closed, there will be a sign on the door advising that visitors see www.visitevergladescity.com to read about what is open in our area..

Lamp Posts

The original Collier lights along our major roads are being replaced with lamps that are solar powered. The old ones, some of which were in a dilapidated state, are finding new homes.

The historic lamps had to be turned on and off manually and Arita Parker remembers going around with her father Ivan Hoffman on his rounds when he did that every evening and morning. The City had an electricity generating plant which fed them, as well as charging up the batteries on the old tram.

The late Sammy Hamilton said that as a boy growing up in Chokoloskee, where they did not have electricity, he stared in wonderment at the lamps when he rowed across the bay to the City on Saturday night for the movies.

ESHP is making little signs so people can read about their history and historic importance.





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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

We do not plan any in-person events this winter because of the COVID pandemic.

Feb 19: ESHP Annual Members' Meeting, 5:00pm

Our by-laws stipulate that we must hold at least one meeting a year for members to update them on our activities and to let them voice their opinions.

The agenda includes
introduction to new board
financial statement
summary of year
plans for future

Because of social distancing in the pandemic, this year we are holding the meeting by ZOOM. Members will receive the link via email.

BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Directors meets at 9:00 a.m. on the first Monday of the month. The next meeting will be on **Monday, March 1**, in the Visitor Center. Members are welcome to attend and contribute ideas. For info, phone Marya at 695-2905.

MEMBERSHIP

We have 65 members including 10 who have not renewed for 2021 and have been sent Final Notices.

To join us or renew, just fill in the form on the back of this newsletter or use a debit/credit card at our website www.evergladeshistorical.org.

BOARD ELECTION

We received 8 nomination forms for candidates to serve on the Board of Directors. These are Kathy Brock, Helen Bryan, Gail Davenport, Hydie Friend, Patty Huff, Elaine Middelstaedt, Marya Repko, and Craig Woodward.

Most of them are the same but we welcome **Gail Davenport**. She is a native Floridian who owns an original Collier home that has been restored. Her full-time job is as an assistant at the Museum of the Everglades.

smile.amazon.com

If you shop on Amazon, you can benefit ESHP by using this link: smile.amazon.com/gp/ch/list/20-2229534 where Amazon will donate 0.5% of qualifying sales to the charity of your choice

News from the Historical Library



We can scan old photos and small documents in our office on the first floor of City Hall while you wait if you do not want to donate the originals.

We also welcome old books of local interest for the Historical Library, phone Marya at (239) 695-2905.



History & Heritage Week

The Museum of the Everglades hosts their traditional week of events, albeit slightly abbreviated because of COVID.

Wednesday, Feb 17: Everglades Expo, 10am-2pm

Thursday, Feb 18: Third Thursday Lectures

10am – Everglades Artists

2pm – Camille Brock Baumgartner

Reservations required at www.colliermuseums.com

Friday, Feb 19: Preservation Day

9am – Historic Walking Tour

11am – Historic Bicycle Tour

For info, call the Museum at (239) 252-5026.

Marco Historical Events



There is an interesting remote talk on **Monday, February 22**, about the pioneering woman “Doc Anna” who provided medical services to the settlers around Lake Okeechobee over 100 years ago.

To register and see more events, visit www.theMIHS.org.

The Museum on 180 S. Heathwood Drive is open on Tuesday through Saturday from 9am to 4pm. The exhibits include the little Marco Cat which is on loan from the Smithsonian.

Naples News

Historic Palm Cottage at 137 12th Ave S. is open for tours and is holding its monthly Chickee Chats in the Norris Garden.



For more info and to reserve your places, see www.napleshistoricalsociety.org or phone (2329) 261-8164.

END OF AN ERA



Christopher Plummer passed away at age 91 earlier this month. One of his first starring film roles was in *Wind Across the Everglades* made around our area in 1957-58 in which he played a young Audubon warden trying to save birds from being killed by a plume-hunting gang led by Burl Ives.

In his autobiography *In Spite of Myself* he relates that

We would very often wait until dusk and take one of those flying boats ... far out into the lagoons. There we would stop the boat and sit in awed silence as we watched nature triumph over man. Millions of water birds ... flying home to their water beds for the night. This was what the Everglades was all about.

The movie has been described by K.C. Schulberg, nephew of the producer, as one of the first eco-films and includes marvelous footage of nature in the Everglades.