

## EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

*Dedicated to our Unique History*

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The *Town Crier* newsletter is produced periodically and is printed courtesy of Everglades Island Properties and Snook Publications. We welcome news and feedback. Send a letter or email.. (c) 2006 ESHP.

ESHP is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation. Our current project is the **restoration of the City Hall building** which was constructed in 1928 as the original Collier County Court House. The Society is also concerned with preserving all **historic sites, structures, documents, artifacts and memories** within the Everglades area.



*photo courtesy of Florida State Archives*

### **HAPPY 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!** **Smallwood Store & Museum**

C.S. (Ted) Smallwood first came to this area in 1891 and finally settled in 1897, marrying local girl Mamie House. He was appointed Postmaster of Chokoloskee in 1906 and ran a trading post. In 1917 he built the present store which he raised on stilts in 1924.

Daughter Thelma took was Postmaster from 1941 to 1973. The Store closed in 1982. Granddaughter Lynn McMillan restored it as a museum with a gift shop which is open 7 days a week and attracts many visitors throughout the year.

Don't miss the celebration on **Saturday, April 8**, in Chokoloskee when there will be a **Seminole Day** with native American food, dancing and crafts plus a performance of "**Killing Mr. Watson**", a play in two acts portraying this historic event.

For more information, phone 695-2989.

# TOWN CRIER

Newsletter  
of the  
EVERGLADES  
SOCIETY FOR  
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PRESERVATION

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*sketch courtesy of Jurg Furrer*

### **MEETING ABOUT CITY HALL**

Mayor Sammy Hamilton has announced that he will hold a "town hall meeting" to discuss the progress on City Hall restoration. The open discussion will take place at 5:30pm at the Council Chamber on Tuesday, April 18.

### **Frantic End to Auction Helps Us**

The Silent Auction held during Art in the Glades on March 25 raised **over \$500 for the Save City Hall fund** and provided much excitement as the deadline for bids drew near. Top earner was a lovely watercolor donated by Judy Chinski, one of the Marco Outdoor Painters who was in ECity on February 15 when we hosted a sandwich lunch. Another Marco artist, Shirley Piercy, contributed a sketch done on Feb 15 which fetched a good price. Second highest, after 13 bids, was an oil painting of the Smallwood Store given to us by Allen Pape, a visitor from Wisconsin who is an ardent preservationist. Local artists were represented by Hannah Ineson, Patty Huff and Varick Niles (who is building the "blue house" opposite the Post Office).

**Art in the Glades** itself was also a success. There were 19 vendors, lots of musicians and tasty hotdogs in McLeod Park from 10:00am until 2:00pm. Plans are already being made for a repeat sometime before Christmas when visitors are eager to shop.

### **Sharing Memories**

Our first Nostalgia Night was attended by about 20 people who listened to the **fascinating stories** told by Hoffman sisters Arita Parker and Barbara Daniels about growing up in ECity in olden times. Arita showed her scrapbook of old photos to the audience and has let us digitize them for posterity. An extensive report of the evening is also on file.

We hope to have **more Nostalgia Nights** so if you or your friends want to share memories or have old photos, please let us know.



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***What Are the Differences?***

Everyone confuses ESHP and FME, probably because many of the same people are involved in both organizations. They are each 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporations and they are quite separate. Here's the difference:

FME is Friends of the Museum of the Everglades. **FME's charter specifically restricts them to helping the Museum of the Everglades.** In fact, there would be no Museum if Pauline Reeves, their founder, had not led a campaign to restore the old Laundry building and negotiated with Collier County to operate the Museum. FME provides volunteers for the Museum desk, organizes events in the Museum (such as its upcoming Birthday Party, on April 22 this year), welcomes visiting artists in the front gallery, and contributes funding for historical exhibits. Their current major project is the acquisition of the Storter Collection of sketches and stories by one of ECity's early pioneers. Under the terms of its by-laws, FME can not raise money to Save City Hall.

**ESHP has a much broader purpose.** Its charter includes the preservation of anything historical in the entire Everglades area and allows it to raise funds to help with restoration, if necessary, of structures that it deems worthy of saving in the City and the surrounding communities.

ESHP's current major project is the restoration of City Hall and is a separate entity from the City government. **ESHP is a publicly-registered charitable corporation which has control of all its own money.** Donations given to ESHP for the Save City Hall campaign will eventually be used for matching grants from government and help to pay for renovations to the building. Other donations to ESHP are used for general administration and, in future, might be earmarked for other major projects (eg, helping Copeland to start their own museum).

If you are still confused, please talk to Patty Huff (ESHP president) and to Carol Moseman (FME president).



**FUND RAISING**

Artist Jurg ("George") Furrer visited ECity with some of his Swiss friends for a few weeks in March and, generous as usual, he donated some of the profit from the sale of his signed portfolios to us. The **collection of 9 sketches** in his unique and humorous style includes: old Bank building, Rod & Gun, Joan's Kwik Stop in Ochopee and a different version of City Hall. There are also two buildings that are no longer standing (Weaver's Station, Copeland Market) and several scenes that reflect George's love of nature (Janes Scenic Drive, Loop Road, Turner River). You can see them all at WinCar TrueValue Hardware where Jim Webb has a limited stock for sale.



**BRICK BY BRICK**

This little pelican is one of the pictures you can have on a commemorative brick, along with three lines of 12 letters each. Other clips available are a cross, a heart, and a flag. Plain bricks have more room for writing (3 lines of 20 letters each). You can drop off your **order form** and see a **sample brick** at City Hall.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Our total membership is 69 but 16 of these have not yet renewed for 2006. Our **goal is to have 100 members** by the end of 2006 so, please, ask your friends and neighbors and businesses in the community to join us. Having a substantial membership helps us when we apply for grants because it shows that we have local support for our projects .

Welcome to **new members** since our last newsletter:

- Jane & Bill Costenbader, ECity & Birmingham, AL
- Mark & Tammy McKay, Wilmington, OH
- Jerry & Lori Williams, Chokoloskee

***THANKS!!!***

- *to the arts & crafts vendors, musicians, and Chokoloskee Church of God Youth Group for joining us at Art in the Glades.*
- *to all the donors who gave items for our Silent Auction*
- *.to Arita Parker and Barbara Daniels for making our first Nostalgia Night such a success.*