

**EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

*Dedicated to our Unique History*

P O Box 46, Everglades City, FL, 34139  
email: [ESHP@hotmail.com](mailto: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**

**MAY 2008**  
VOLUME 4, NUMBER 3



*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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**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

**I would like to help with**

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

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

**TAMIAMI TRAIL 80<sup>TH</sup>**

Congratulations to the Friends of the Museum, the City, and Collier County Museum for a spectacular event over the weekend of April 26/27 to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Tamiami Trail and the 10<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Museum of the Everglades. Hundreds of people flocked to McLeod Park for live music, arts & crafts sales, informational exhibits, and local food vendors. There were talks about Monroe Station and the Bay City Walking Dredge and Story-Telling by some older members of the community and elsewhere who grew up here.

**HISTORIC DESIGNATIONS**

The Collier County Board of Commissioners will be asked to approve historic designations for the Bula Baptist Mission in Copeland and JT's in Chokoloskee at their meeting on **May 13**. Members can email or write in support to our Commissioners (see [www.colliergov.net](http://www.colliergov.net)).

**NAPLES HISTORY MONTH**

May has been declared a special time for historical happenings in Naples including talks, walks, and social events. For a daily detailed schedule phone 594-2978 or see [www.naplesbackyardhistory.org](http://www.naplesbackyardhistory.org).

**HELP WITH SCRAPBOOK**

Our scrapbook keeper, Vicky Nagle, has done a wonderful job in documenting our activities and filled one book with remembrances of our start-up activities. She is compiling a second book and would like any items that you have (newspaper clippings, invitations, photos, etc). Please leave them under the door of our office in City Hall.

**MEMBERSHIP**

We have 78 members but 10 of those have not renewed for 2008. Reminders are being sent with this newsletter.

We send the newsletter by email to 62 members, saving over \$25 per issue in postage. If we do not have your email address, please send a brief note to [ESHP@hotmail.com](mailto:ESHP@hotmail.com). We also send our news to 50 other historical societies, politicians, and VIPs.

Welcome to new member:  
Jane B. Herren, Naples



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**DEACONESS BEDELL**

Harriet Bedell came to the town of Everglades in 1933 to revive the old Episcopal Glade Cross Mission (originally founded near Immokalee in 1898) and help the local Native Americans. She was given a home by the Collier Corporation who also donated other material things when she asked with forceful determination.

She encouraged the Seminoles to produce craft items and traveled around selling them, with all the profit going back to the tribe. They recognized her as “The Woman of God” and slowly accepted her teaching about hygiene.

During the Story-Telling at the Museum on April 27, Arita Parker and June Jolley Dyches recalled how scary it was to watch the Deaconess drive her car (she would hit the accelerator and then the break, repeatedly). Barbara Daniels said that one dared not disturb the garden behind the Mission House (across from our Post Office) and Arita mentioned the “snail house” back there where the Deaconess collected all sorts of snails.

The erudite Deaconess had an extensive library and loaned out books to local children. She also taught at a mission church in Marco Island and was remembered visiting Naples. She was invited to give the invocation in front of President Harry S Truman at the formal opening of the National Park in 1947. She was named a “Great Floridian” and her plaque can be seen on the Museum.

After Hurricane Donna severely damaged the Mission House in 1960, the Deaconess moved to an ecclesiastical home and eventually died during her 94<sup>th</sup> year on January 8, 1969, now commemorated in the church calendar.

In 1943 the Glades Cross Mission became sponsored by St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in Coconut Grove. Jack Geist, member of the Vestry & Outreach Committee, attended the weekend celebrations and said that he, too, remembers the dedicated Deaconess. A resolution to add January 8<sup>th</sup> to the church calendar as her feast day should get final approval by the General Convention in 2009 in Anaheim, CA.

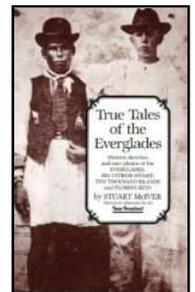


**McLEOD MONUMENT**

James D. Brown and Ellen Brown Eidsmo, grandchildren of D. W. and Lucy McLeod, were present for the unveiling of the monument in front of McLeod Park on Saturday, April 26. The project was initiated by ESHP with generous help from Jim Brown. See our March 2008 issue for background.

**HISTORIAN LOST**

Stuart McIver, author of the popular *True Tales of the Everglades*, passed away at the end of April, aged 86. He moved from his native North Carolina to Florida in 1963 and was editor of *South Florida History*, the official magazine of the Historical Museum of South Florida in Miami. He also wrote numerous article and books about life in past times. In 2004 he talked about his then-new book describing the life and death of Audubon warden Guy Bradley at a luncheon hosted by the Friends of the Museum.



***THANKS!* from the Historical Library**

- to Nancy Alley for donating two old (1928) navigational charts of the Ten Thousand Islands. She said that she got them in the 1950s upstairs in the old Everglades Inn.
- to Eric and Juanita Weldon for donating an original 1953 Charter of the City of Everglades (Special Laws of Florida, 1953, Chapter 29008).
- to Virginia Klotz for donating a very early 50-star American flag.
- to James Brown for donating an original title document compiled by his grandfather D. W. McLeod which includes newspaper clippings.