

EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Dedicated to our Unique History

P O Box 46, Everglades City, FL, 34139

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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

EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Newsletter

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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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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 _____

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The annual **Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Conference** is being held on **May 13-14** at the Sanibel Harbor Resort. ESHP president Marya Repko will exhibit her local history books and talk about our heritage. For more info, see www.floridatrust.org and www.ecity-publishing.com.

ESHP will have a booth at the **Everglades Independence Day** celebrations on **Saturday, July 3**, to hand out brochures and sell our Vallez cards & prints. We feel it is important to have a presence at local events, as well as making the many outside visitors aware of our unique history.

A Look Back at the Winter Season

ESHP organized the following events in 2009-2010:

- November 20: talk about the history of the Fakahatchee
- January 8: talk about early movie-making in the Everglades
- January 23: Antique Air Aficionados at Everglades Airport
- March 6: trip to Outward Bound historic cemetery
- March 13: Everglades Homes Tour
- March 26: End-of-Season Social

We also took part in Art-in-the-Glades three times, Everglades Seafood Festival, and Chokoloskee ORA Bazaar.

And, A Look Forward

We are compiling a calendar for the 2010-2011 season and hope to include popular events such as the Antique Air Aficionados Fly-In and the Homes Tour. A draft calendar is attached but, beware, dates could change. See our website for updates.

DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

As a result of the annual election, the ESHP Board is: Helen Bryan, Mike Danosky (vice-president), Pat Fingeroff, Patty Huff (secretary), Jane Rackley, Marya Repko (president), Jean Schultz, Terry Smallwood, and Craig Woodward. They will serve until March 2011. Our thanks to retiring director Pat Rinkevich for her hard work on the Events Committee and her constructive comments over the years.

MEMBERSHIP

We have 73 members including 14 who have not renewed for 2010. You can renew or join on our website using a credit card securely with PayPal.

Welcome to new member Jack Dixon of Naples and to returning member Vicky Nagle of Everglades City.

This will be the last newsletter until the fall ... unless we have interesting or exciting items to report.



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picture scanned from a postcard courtesy of Virginia Klotz

LOCAL LINKS TO SANIBEL

The first permanent white settler in Everglades City discovered the area after he abandoned Sanibel. William Smith Allen left his castor bean farm on the island when it was inundated by salt water in the storm of 1868. On his return journey to Key West, where his brother was a prominent pharmacist, he turned his sailboat into the little river on Chokoloskee Bay called Potato Creek. There he found John Weeks growing a lush crop of bananas and sugar cane. After refreshing his supplies, he continued to Key West but came back in 1870, took over from John Weeks who moved, and settled on the banks of what was thereafter known as Allen's River. He built a large house, now the famous Rod & Gun Club, and grew vegetables for market. In 1889 he sold out to the Storter family and retired.

A much later link is Sea Gull Studios operated in Everglades City by Virginia Klotz. She and her parents, both artists, built a gift shop on West Gulf Drive in Sanibel but decided after the causeway that the island was too crowded. They moved to rural ECity in 1969 where her mother lived to be 104 years old. Ms Klotz is planning to retire at the early age of 88 and will regrettably leave the area to stay with family on the east coast.

UPDATE ON PROJECTS



BULA MISSION

We are working with the County to stay the demolition order and determine if the building can be saved. After a brief investigation, it looks like some of the pecky cypress under the external cladding might be sound.



BANK BUILDING

We are still looking for a buyer who would like to restore this 1927 building in Everglades City. After the bank closed in 1962, it was used as a boarding house and offices. It later became a B&B with "breakfast in the vault".

During the quiet summer months, we intend to redesign our website www.evergladeshistorical.org. If you have any ideas, please leave a message at eshp@hotmail.com.

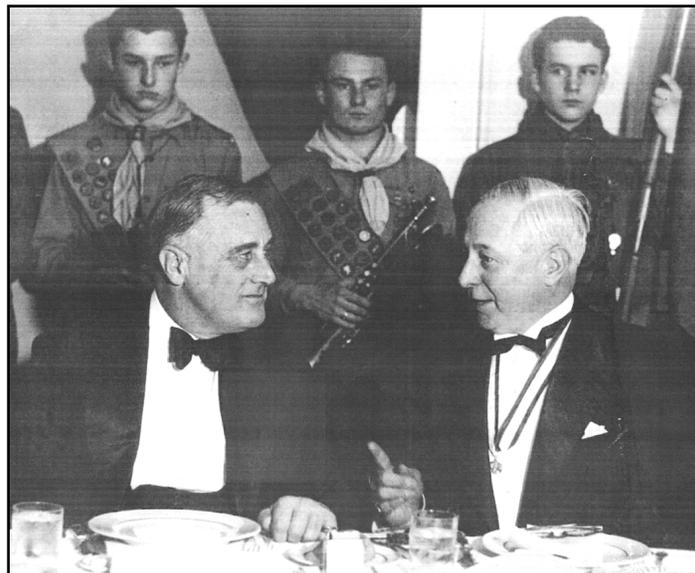


photo courtesy of the Southwest Florida Council of the BSA

Be Prepared!

The Boy Scout movement was founded in England in 1907 by Lord Baden-Powell, a hero during the Boer War in South Africa. Scouting was brought to America in 1910 by Chicago newspaper publisher and forward-thinker W. D. Boyce.

Barron Collier was introduced to the movement in New York City soon after that and became a tireless promoter and contributor. In 1932 Collier earned one of the highest honors bestowed by the Boy Scouts of America, the prestigious "Silver Buffalo" award, for his active support.

An exhibit about Collier and the Boy Scouts is being held at the Collier County Museum in Naples from May 3 to July 31. The Museum (in government center at US-41 and Airport-Pulling Road) is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday and from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. Admission is free.

News from the Historical Library

The new books which were donated over the busy winter months have finally been cataloged. An updated list is now available on our website.

Among the acquisitions are:

Cesar Becerra, *Giants of the Swamp*

Mark Derr, *Some Kind of Paradise*

John Fritchey, *Everglades Journal*

James Hammond, *Florida's Vanishing Trail*

Alfred & Kathryn Hanna, *Lake Okeechobee*

William Robertson, *Everglades, the Park Story*

Patsy West, *Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes*

plus numerous newspapers and memorabilia.

Books and documents may not be removed from the Library but can be read and copied for personal historical research. If you would like to donate items or make an appointment, please phone (239) 695-2905.