

**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.

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(renewable each January 1)

- Individual (\$25) Family (\$40)
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*Please make check payable to "ESHP" and send to
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TOWN CRIER

**EVERGLADES SOCIETY
FOR HISTORIC
PRESERVATION**

Newsletter



MAY 2013
VOLUME 9, NUMBER 5

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 29: Independence Day Celebration

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Everglades City
parade, music, food vendors, kiddies' games
see article inside

Sept 28: Blessing of the Crab Fleet

11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Rod & Gun
parade of boats, music, kiddies' games, more!
ESHP is helping to organize, call 695-2905

Nov 22: Nostalgia Night

"JFK 50th – Where Were You?"
6:00 p.m., Community Church, light snacks

Dec 7: Swamp Heritage Festival

Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center
historical talks, music, food
ESHP will have a booth

Dec 14: Art-in-the-Glades

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., McLeod Park
arts & crafts, music, food
ESHP will have a booth

ORAL HISTORY

The **Naples Historical Society** at Palm Cottage is showing films of their oral history program "If These Walls Could Talk" at 1:00–4:00 p.m., Tuesday – Saturday. Some of the speakers have Everglades roots. Guided walks and house tours are also available throughout the summer. For info, call (239) 261-8164 or see www.napleshistoricalsociety.org.

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 **September 9** because the first Monday is Labor Day. Members are invited to attend.

MEMBERSHIP

We have 63 members, 7 of whom have not renewed and have been sent reminders. You can join or renew online with a credit/debit card at our website.

***This is the last newsletter until the fall.
Have a great summer!***



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TAMIAMI TRAIL 85TH



Congratulations to Friends of the Museum of the Everglades for organizing a successful event on April 27 to commemorate the 85th Anniversary of the Opening of the Tamiami Trail which included wonderful antique cars in the parade.

ESHP took part with a booth at the Arts & Crafts Fair in McLeod Pavilion where we talked with many of the hundreds of visitors. Thanks to Gwen Baxter for helping.

In the evening we showed a movie "Escape to Dreamland" which was loaned to us by Collier County Museums. This PBS production in Miami gives the history of the building of the Trail and then interviews people who live along the road such as Dave Shealy of Skunk Ape fame.

As usual, we provided free popcorn and soda. We have a "proper popper" thanks to Stan Kanning who donated it to us. Thanks also to Everglades Community Church for letting us use the Jinkins Fellowship Hall and to Craig Woodward for setting up his video equipment despite suffering from flu.



LOCAL BUILDINGS

Good news is that the "Mission House" where Deaconess Bedell lived and worked for almost 30 years has been bought by a young Florida couple who are going to renovate it to use themselves.



Bad news is the Mayor McLeod's old house on Broadway at the river has been knocked down. It was deemed "beyond repair". For the time being, the lot will be landscaped.



First Mayor?

We always assumed that Daniel W. McLeod was the first mayor of Everglades but Lila Zuck (*see Book Review*) unearthed a document reporting that McLeod was the town Clerk when an election was held on November 6, 1923, to select town Commissioners. The Mayor was John Law Kerr, uncle of Barron Collier's wife Juliet and builder of many structures in the town. McLeod became Mayor in 1925 and remained in that office for the town and City until December 1959 when declining health caused him to stand down.

News from the Historical Library



New books in our collection are:

Noles, Randy, *Fiddler's Curse*

Kasserman, James & Sara, *Florida Pirates*

Zuck, Lila, *Naples, A Second Paradise*

The next time you have a clean-up, don't throw out old books, newspapers, or photos – they may be of historical interest. If you would like to give them to the Historical Library in City Hall, where they are safe from storms, phone (239) 695-2905.

Independence Day Celebration



Everglades City is always first!

We were the original County seat and we traditionally celebrate Independence Day first in the area with our parade on the Saturday before July 4th. The year the festivities are on **Saturday, June 29.**

The day starts with the Opening Ceremony at 10:00 a.m. followed by the Patriotic Parade at 10:30 a.m. The theme is "Stars & Stripes" and there are prizes for the best floats, be they swamp buggies, golf carts, bicycles, or more elaborate vehicles.

ESHP will have a table in McLeod Park to talk with attendees, hand out brochures, and sell cards. And, there are lots of family-fun activities during the day including a contest for the most patriotically-dressed kiddies, hotdogs & soda, music, raffle, and grand fireworks in the evening.

Donations for the pyrotechnic spectacular are welcome at "Everglades Community Fireworks Fund", P.O. Box 110, Everglades City, FL, 34139.

For info, call Elaine at (239) 695-2695.

MARCO MEMORIES

Commiserations to ESHP Director Craig Woodward whose mother Glenellen passed away at age 85 on May 2. Although the family lived on Marco Island, she taught at Everglades City School during the late 1960s and is remembered fondly by many of her students.

We also lost another Marco Islander recently. Gary Pettit was born and grew up there before becoming a marine biologist. He was concerned with the environment and spoke often at Naples Preserve. Gary wrote about his remembrances of childhood 60 years ago:

Let's take a walk back into the past of Otter Mound. This last remaining public hammock on Marco Island was just up the road from my Grandfather's fish camp where I spent the first years of my life. Just take a few steps in, close your eyes and smell the air, listen to the silence, breathe deep and taste the air of yesteryear.

Book Review

by Marya Repko



Several years ago, I suggested to historian Lila Zuck that she write a "Brief History of Naples". As she progressed, she kept finding things that she didn't know so went back to original sources (eg, council minutes, newspapers) to get the answers.

Now, after living and breathing the past for more than three years, she has finally produced the "not-so-brief" definitive history of Naples in a huge tome of over 1000 pages, laced with a plethora of historic photos.

Naples, A Second Paradise has just been published and is available at \$100 (including tax) from the Naples Historical Society at Palm Cottage, who sponsored the printing, or directly from the author at (239) 682-9968.