

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 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

JUNE 2007
VOLUME 3, NUMBER 4



sketch courtesy of Jurg Furrer

ESHP ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Individual (\$25) Family (\$40)
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*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 Historical Library
 special events merchandise sales
 publicity/website historical research
 legal/financial engineering & architecture
 other _____

DATE _____ signature _____

PARADE FEATURES HISTORY

The theme of the Independence Day parade this year is "Celebrating Our Unique History". The floats start off at 2:00 p.m. on **Sunday, July 1**, and there are prizes for the best participants. If you would like to enter the parade, phone Elaine at 695-2695.

MORE BRICKS

The order went to the factory in the middle of May for another 114 engraved bricks to be placed in the path leading up to City Hall. They should be delivered and installed during the summer.

We will continue to take orders for new bricks but can not send them to the factory until we accumulate 100, probably not until around Christmas.

"Killed in Action"

Many towns have a memorial to those men and women who were lost fighting for their country. We would like to have a special section on the brick walkway to commemorate local people who died in the World Wars, Korea, Viet Nam, and other conflicts. If you know of anyone who was born or lived in this area and was killed in action, please tell us.

NEW DIRECTORS/OFFICERS

At the Board meeting on April 24, ESHP elected two new directors: Mari Varallo and Pat Rinkevich. The Board also elected Mari as Treasurer to replace Sheilah Strobel who has moved out of the area.

Other officers are Patty Huff (President), Carol Moseman (Vice-President), and Marya Repko (Secretary). Other directors are: Robin Barnes, Jean Schultz, and Dan Summers.

MEMBERSHIP

We have 73 members *including 14 who have not yet renewed this year*. Having an up-to-date list of members is important because it shows how much support we have in our effort to preserve the area's unique history.

We send the newsletter (in full color) by email to 52 members, saving over \$21 per issue.

Welcome to new members from Naples who read about us in "n" magazine:

Lu Drackett
Barbara Kirby



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**BOAT LIFT
DEDICATION**



The Boat Lift on the Barron River at the end of Broadway was transformed last year from a rusty eyesore constructed 50 years ago for charter fishing guides into an outdoor sculpture, thanks to the design of renown artist Kenneth Noland.

ESHP hosted the dedication on Friday, April 13, with champagne on the lawn followed by drinks and *hors d'oeuvres* at the Rod & Gun Restaurant. Olga Hirshhorn, who was instrumental in organizing the project, placed a plaque at the base of the boat lift after cutting the ribbon (photo inset).

**THIS HISTORIC BOAT LIFT
WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A WORK OF ART
BY KENNETH NOLAND**

**THANKS TO THE VISION OF
OLGA HIRSHHORN,
BARBARA AND RICHARD KEARNEY,
DONALD SEABURY, AND PAUL ARSENAULT.**

DEDICATED APRIL 13, 2007.

Before the ceremony, visitors were taken on a tour of City Hall, including a visit to our new office which is now furnished, thanks to a gift of \$1000 for that purpose.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

We have almost completed the application to have City Hall listed but have found that we know very little about the architect, **William O. Sparklin**, who also designed the old Bank and Laundry buildings in Everglades City.

We did discover that he moved from Baltimore to Jacksonville around 1922 and that he also worked in St. Petersburg and Fort Myers, where he designed the Alva and Tice schools (both on National Register). He formed Sparklin-Gift Construction Company with Barron Gift Collier while he was here.

Any further information would be most welcome!



HISTORICAL LIBRARY

In the past few months, donors have contributed enough books to almost fill one shelf in the library. There are also several sets of historical magazines (eg, *Tequesta*, *South Florida History*) in the book case, plus material about preservation from the National Trust.

A “gem” among the books is “*From Ticks to Politics*”, a self-published typescript of memoirs by Inez Magill who was assistant County Clerk under Ed Scott in Everglades City during the 1950s. She describes life in the town where she first had an apartment in the old jail building and then shared a Collier house with several school teachers. One could almost imagine her working at City Hall in the room that we now use as an office and library!

The new black metal, lockable filing cabinets on the back wall contain our organizational documents and archives, including pictures of “lost buildings” (structures that have been demolished).

One drawer has a collection of clippings from the *Everglades Echo* from 1983 until 2003. Each article (there are over 1000 of them) has been categorized by subject in a data base and an index has been printed out for easy searching.

D. G. Copeland was an avid historian and his notes, entitled “Data Relative to Florida”, were compiled and a typed copy was presented to the State Library in 1947. Some of the pages about early pioneers in the area have been photocopied and indexed. A number of familiar family names are mentioned.

The library will only be open when one of our members is there to supervise access to the archives. Until we have a roster of volunteers, readers and donors can phone 695-2905 or 695-2397 to make an appointment.