



TIMEINES

FRIENDS of the COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM

SUMMER 1999

3301 Tamiami Trail East

Naples, Florida 34112

(941) 774-8476

Volume V, No. 2

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Editor: Arthur R. Lee

Marvelous Marbles

When in the Museum gift shop, don't touch the display of marbles on the counter. They're magnetic, and will join — and repel — each other in fascinating formations. You'll get hooked!

ROBERTS RANCH POSES MAJOR CHALLENGE TO MUSEUM, FRIENDS

The Museum staff and the Friends organization are facing their largest challenge since reconstruction of the Museum building and its removal to the present location.

The County Commission has agreed to purchase an additional 8.8 acres of the land that formed the nucleus of the historic Roberts ranch in Immokalee, enough to give young people and tourists a glimpse of a way of life that now mostly belongs to the past. The county was given a 4.1-acre plot containing the ranch house and some outbuildings in 1996 by the Roberts family; the additional acreage the county is in process of acquiring will include the bunk house and other work buildings, and enough land to demonstrate the skills on which the area's economy once was built.

The list of tasks to be done is formidable: The scores of artifacts contained in the structures must be accessioned and stored; the buildings themselves must be inspected and repaired where necessary; demonstration programs must be arranged; roadways and parking spaces must be laid out; archaeological surveys must be made; docents must be trained, exhibits developed.

Museum Director Ron Jamro is applying to the Florida Department of State for grants of \$822,200 to be used to restore the 16 ranch structures and prepare their interpretation to the public.

At the June meeting of the Friends board, Jamro discussed the need for volunteer assistance in bringing to the public a realistic sample of pioneer life in the county. Help from local residents will be essential to the museum extension, and there was discussion, but no decision, as to whether this take the form of an independent entity or extension of the present Friends organization.



The kitchen was in a separate building so it would not heat the main residence in warm months. It is one of a number of structures that must be put in serviceable condition.

A committee of the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society has met with Jamro to explore ways in which it might be of assistance.

Robert Roberts Jr. bought a turn-of-the-century, 60-acre homestead,

See RANCH on Page Two

Everglades Museum Observes Second Anniversary; Busy '99 Season Planned

With a successful first year behind it, the Museum of the Everglades at Everglades City is looking forward to a busy turn-of-the-century year.

In its first April-April year the museum, under the direction of Manager Donna Ridewood, hosted 4,412 visitors and volunteers donated more than 2,300 hours of time to greet visitors, act as docents, and host events and programs. An equally busy schedule is on tap for the next year, including several new exhibitions and programs; the ongoing history exhibits will be augmented by wall panels that will double the amount of historical information, and new topics, such as the impact of hurricanes on the region and the story of the logging industry, will be added.

Looking even farther ahead, Manager Ridewood is planning to display the art work and written recollections of Everglades fishing guide Rob Storter (1894-1987). Increased educational programming is planned in cooperation with the local school as well as an internship program and student art exhibition.

In the past year the museum hosted two traveling exhibits and a series show-casing Florida artists. Popular were *Artist of the Month* shows and book-signing and lecture series. The museum's historic collection was augmented by some 40 donated objects.

FRIENDS' BOARD HAS SAME MANAGEMENT

The Friends organization is into its 1999 corporate year under much the same management as last year, the membership at its annual meeting March 11 having accepted the nominating committee's slate with Ron Mangold continuing as president.

Other officers are Nancy Gibbs, vice president; Peter Blackford, secretary, and Myrna Elia treasurer. Named to two-year terms as directors were Jeffrey A. Brasse, Dolores Lyon, Denyse Smith Mesnik, John M. Murray and William Ward. One-year terms went to Bud Brunker, Anne Grotke, and Charlie Abbott, who is

Swamp Buggy Season Opens With Exhibit

The Swamp Buggy season opened April 23 with a well-attended barbecue hosted on the Museum grounds by the Friends organization to mark the start of a display of the uniquely Floridian vehicles. The exhibit, staged for the second year, preceded the usual parade through Naples streets and the race on — or, rather, through — a very wet track.

Celebrating 50 years of swamp buggy-ing, the exhibit honored officers and members of the Swamp Buggy, Inc., organization and this year's queen, Lely High School Junior Catherine MacAlister, who attended, attired in her royal robes. Dignitaries present included County Commissioner James D. Carter, Ph.D., and Mrs. Carter, and County Administrator Robert Fernandez.

Under the chairmanship of Peter M. Blackford, the exhibit was divided into two parts, one devoted to examples of the original vehicles, which used oversize airplane tires for the area's flooded backwoods, and the slim racing versions.

Ready For Tenants: Bat Houses ERECTED

If all works as Boy Scout Henry Blackford has planned, the Museum grounds should have fewer insects.

To help qualify for Eagle Scout rank, Blackford has erected five bat houses high on trees and poles to attract the winged insectivores.

Built from donated materials, they are ingeniously planned with narrow slots in which the animals will feel secure. Henry's father, Peter Blackford, Friends secretary, helped with the aerial work.

returning to the board after an absence. Starting the second year of their terms are Lynn Wuesthoff Kolb, Arthur R. Lee, J. Roland Lieber and Louis A. Stickles III. Darnell Grinolds submitted his resignation but will continue to assist with the Old Florida Festival.

They Fly, They Crawl, They're in The Museum

What do thorny hoppers, monarch butterflies, atlas beetles and honey bees have in common? They are all insects, and you can see them and hundreds of others at a new exhibit, "Incredible Insects" that opened at the Museum June 7 and will run through August 31.

The show was made possible by a grant from the Kara Foundation of Illinois and private collector Terry Stevens. The exhibit will become part of the Museum's permanent collection and will be housed in the "Bug Room" of the Huntoon Gallery.

Archaeology Day

Lectures and video shows in the lecture room and an open house at the Craighead laboratory marked the Museum's observance of Florida's Archaeology Month Saturday, March 27. Events were arranged by Education Curator Nancy Olson, coordinator for the event both statewide and locally. Pamphlets, a book list, and posters were distributed.

Pull Up A Milk Jug

Thanks to the county solid waste disposal office museum-goers now have five benches and three hexagonal combination picnic table-and-bench units for their comfort. The furniture is molded of hundreds of recycled plastic milk jugs.

On the Wild Side

The Museum grounds still harbor a touch of the wild.

May 4 visitors to the native plants area of the grounds were able to watch an adult river otter explore the pond for edibles.

Ranch From Page One

from Charles and Leona Garner in 1914. Over time, he added more than 45,000 acres of grazing land in Hendry and Collier counties, and leased additional acreage as well. By the 1940s the family grazed as many as 5,000 head of cattle on 110,000 acres. Many were shipped to Cuban markets, some drives including as many as 1,000 head. Shipments were made from Punta Rassa. The bulk of the business was conducted by the family as the Red Cattle Company.

Getting Acquainted: Directors Have Widely Varied Public Service Backgrounds

BUDDY W. BRUNKER

Buddy W. Brunker, newly elected to the Friends directorship, brings to the post a wealth of experience in community activity.

Currently public affairs manager for Sprint in Naples, he has been in communications since 1973 when he was first employed by the Florida Telephone company; after it merged with United Telephone he became customer relations manager at Orlando, and since 1991 he has been public affairs manager at Naples.

A charter member of the Tri-county Junior Achievement board of directors, he serves also on the President's Advisory Council of International College and on the board of directors of the Collier County Education Foundation.

In economic affairs, he is on the board of directors of the Naples Area Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Economic Development Council of Collier County, the Florida Public Relations Association, the Bonita Springs Area, Golden Gate, Marco Island and Everglades City chambers of commerce and the Naples North Rotary club.

He is chairman of the State and Federal Governance Committee for the Coalition of the Naples Area Chamber of Commerce and the Collier County Economic Development Council.

Brunker was co-chairman of the goal-achieving United Way campaign for 1993; chairman of the 1994 campaign, president of its Collier County organization in 1995 and served on the executive board of directors as past president in 1996.

In the field of public health, he is a member of the advisory board for the Collier County Disaster Recovery task force and is a previous member of the board of directors of the American Heart Association.

He and his wife Sandi have two daughters, Trina and Jenni; a granddaughter, Katelynn, and two grandsons, Kyle and Jacob. His hobbies are boating, fishing and golf.

MYRNA M. ELIA

The Friends new treasurer, Myrna M. Elia, comes to the job with a lifetime of community service which started as a hospital candy striper while she was in high school. More recently, she has been active in the Friends organization for more than five years, having served as secretary and in the gift shop.

After attending the University of Pennsylvania and running the mortgage loan bookkeeping department of Prudential Insurance for six years, she moved to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where she raised a family and continued her charitable efforts as substitute teacher, chairing a church festival, volunteering at a hospital and serving as Girl Scout and Cub Scout troop leader. She helped to establish a local theater, where she both produced and performed. After her children were grown she worked six years as office manager for the Culligan Water Conditioning company.

In Williamsport, Pennsylvania, she was on the board of the Crippled Children's Society, worked for the United Way and helped raise funds for other charities.

Her interests include physical fitness: she completed the New York City Marathon in 1995 and she likes aerobics, walking, reading and travel. Her husband, Louis, is vice president and financial consultant with Salomon Smith Barney

CAMPBELL DEPARTS

Recruitment is underway for the position of volunteer coordinator, a half-time position which is funded equally between the county and the Friends of the Museum organization.

The incumbent, Jennifer L. Campbell, has resigned to take employment with a local firm, Art, Artifacts, Antiquity. Prior to her departure she made this comment: "For the time and courtesy I have been shown by the highly qualified individuals selected and entrusted to become volunteers, I would like to extend a heartfelt 'thank you.'"

DOLORES A. LYON

Museum work is nothing new to Dolores A. Lyon, director and chair of the gift shop committee and member of the by-laws committee. She joined the Friends board in 1996, not long after her arrival in Marco Island in 1991, following 30 years of association with the Concord (Massachusetts) Museum.

Administratively, she assisted in a "Two Towns" exhibition comparing Massachusetts and Connecticut communities in the 18th and 19th centuries; was president of the Federated Garden Club of Concord two years, chaired the Museum Guild's fund raiser "An Olde Concord Christmas," and was chair of the Museum's Guild of Volunteers for two years, and a member of the Massachusetts Garden Club Federation.

Capitalizing on a degree in merchandising, she participated in a number of activities having to do with clothing and fabrics, including serving as curator of costumes from 1978 to 1993. Individual activities included producing an exhibit "By the Cut of Her Clothes" from the museum's collection of 18th-19th century clothing; researched and selected historical colors in the re-interpretation of 17-18-19th century museum rooms, and helped reproduce by hand a set of bed hangings and window curtains from a 19th century pattern. She cooperated with commercial firms in researching and reproducing 19th century wallpapers and a 19th century museum fabric.

Profiting from Harvard University studies in landscape design, she supervised the restoration and planting of the Historic Ralph Waldo Emerson garden in 1989.

For years she taught museum courses in 18th and 19th century social history to school children from Concord and surrounding towns.

These sketches are part of a continuing series to acquaint readers with those active in the Friends organization.

The Museum Express —

A Great Idea That Keeps Getting Better

At the drop of a hat, Education Curator Nancy Olson or any member of the Friends' Museum Express committee will tell you about the thanks they get from parents, teachers, administrators — and kids — for the chance to visit the Museum. They will enthuse over phone calls, notes, post cards they have received — and they will load you with pounds of letters, complete with crayoned drawings, from the kids themselves.

The messages are all the same: "We learned a lot, we had fun — and we got a chance to do it because someone helped pay for the bus driver's salary and diesel fuel."

Collier is a rich county, but it has schools whose support organizations simply cannot raise the extras to supplement the school curricula. Through the Museum Express these organizations can get the extra boost so the children get a look at the greater world around them.

You Can Help!

The Express fund has had a hard year and needs replenishing.

It costs about \$100 to bus a class to the Museum, but any amount helps. Send your check for the Museum Express to the Friends at the address at the right. It'll help!

FRIENDS OF THE COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM
P. O. Box 2181
Naples, Florida 34106

Friends of the Col

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so much
not say
if it

Dear Friends of the Collier County Museum, 5/5/99

Thank you so much for paying for the field trip. It was so much fun. Especially this one who is an alien! I'm not sure if you read but it was awesome even if it was fake.

I also liked all these objects they used in space like the lunar scooter, the sun, the space suit and all the others. We also got to see a video on how toys are affected that video was informative. By the way, there was a man named Mr. Johnson that told us a lot of information about space.

There are more things I can't say or recall. In conclusion I would like to say thanks a lot!

Sincerely,
John Allen
Wade Hampton
Class

See on how toy
is hilarious! By the
named Mr. Johnson that
information about space

Things I can't say or recall! In
would like to say thanks a lot!

Sincerely,
Austin Brown



JUST THE FACTS

The COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM

Address: 3301 Tamiami Trail E.,
Naples, FL 34112

Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.- Friday

Admission: FREE

Phone: (941) 774-8476 FAX: (941) 774-8580

The Museum is wheel chair
accessible



The FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

Monthly Meetings: Second Thursdays

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: Museum library

All members are welcome

Internet: www.colliermuseum.com

Address: P.O.Box 2181, Naples, FL 34106

Phone: (941) 774-8724

