

TIMELINES

FRIENDS OF THE COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM

SPRING 2000

3301 Tamiami Trail East

Naples, Florida 34112

(941) 774-8476

Volume VI, No. 2

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Yippi I Oh Ty Ay !!!

Roberts' Ranch Round-up First Event Of Collier County's Third Museum

A cattle drive, enactment of historic battles, and revival of lost domestic arts marked the inaugural event in transforming Collier county's first cattle ranch into a living museum.

On Saturday, April 1, the first day of a busy weekend, the ranch grounds saw more activity than they have in years.

The most spectacular event was the drive of about 50 head of cattle through Immokalee streets. The livestock was recruited from the Seminole Indian tribe's Immokalee and Big Cypress reservations, coordinated by Elaine Aguilar, Seminole council liaison. The tribe provided cowboys — complete with cracking whips and "square-headed cur dogs" — but their numbers were overshadowed by wannabe cowhands who accompanied the herd.

Roberts family member Susan Sherrod, whose husband is the son of Mildred Roberts Sherrod, told the press that local interest in the fledgling museum is high, and is instilling a local sense of community pride. Four generations of the family attended the inaugural events, which harked back to 1914 when Robert Roberts, his wife Sarah and seven children, drove a herd of cattle to Immokalee from Ona, Florida.

The drive ended at a log cabin that had been built many years before and repaired in preparation for the arrival of the family. It since has been replaced by the present ranch house.

(See "Ranch" on Page 2)

State Grant Helps Ranch Rehabilitation

The Roberts Ranch Pioneer Museum has been awarded \$20,000 from the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical resources, Donna M. Ridewood, project manager and museum staff member, has announced.

The funds will assist the Collier County Museum's efforts to establish plans for the stabilization and rehabilitation of 15 buildings original to the Ranch, which was operated from 1914 to 1977, in their original locations in the 15-acre site in Immokalee. The scope of the work will confirm and document the significance of the Ranch, provide a vision and philosophy for the future use and interpretation of the historic resource, and provide a master plan for stabilization and preservation.

"We are carefully phasing the restoration of the Ranch, beginning with a master plan developed by architects, conservators, educators, and landscape architects. The project manager, a member of the museum staff, has supervised the successful restoration of other historic properties in Florida and Maine. The state has partnered with the county to bring this exciting addition to the county," said Museum Director Ron Jamro.

The ranch is considered to be one of Collier County's premier historical resources and one of Florida's best examples of authentic turn-of-the-century architecture. (See "Grant" on Page 2)

"Ranch" from Page One Immokalee Community Commitment Lauded

About 1,500 visitors strolled the site complete with original buildings and learned about the old days from historic reenactors, cracker cowboys, cowboy poets and craftsmen. There was blue grass music, a benefit concert from Chief James Billie, chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and gospel music from area churches on Sunday. Barbecue, corn on the cob, and sour orange pies added historic flavors.

"The outstanding level of commitment to the restoration of the Ranch by the members of the Immokalee community is commendable," remarked Museum project manager Donna Ridewood. "The event brought thousands of dollars and many new friends."

A volunteer corps of over 50 people worked hundreds of hours to make the event a success, including a committee of Immokalee residents and business people.

In keeping with the locale, there were exhibits of crafts now disappearing, and children had a chance to see baby chicks, feed horses and calves; there were enactments of battles never before fought, and displays of costumes from another era.

("Grant" from Page One) Buildings "Ideal"

century cattle ranch, grove and pioneer homestead. The buildings have survived intact and are ideally suited to restoration and re-use as a living history museum. The pioneer settlement of southwest Florida is inextricably linked to the economies of cattle ranching and farming.

This somewhat difficult terrain was seen by the late 19th century settlers as a new frontier on which to raise free-ranging cattle and develop land for vegetable and citrus farming.

The third in the Collier County Government's system of museums, the Ranch is slated to be open for public tours in 2005.

The Roundup — From Everyone — Nothing But Praise

RON JAMRO — "THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE!"

The Museum is indebted to the Immokalee community, and especially to those who generously gave their time and talent to launch the Roberts' Ranch project in such grand style. The cattle drive down main street and the various camps and demonstrations held later at the ranch itself offered some of the most energetic and believable historical role playing I've seen in a long, long time. In an age of electronic education, such moments are rare and leave a lasting impression on our students and visitors. On behalf of all of us here, congratulations and thanks for a job well done!

Presentation Salutes Barfield



In keeping with the mission of the Friends organization to help preserve the county's history, the March 9 annual meeting was topped off by a presentation by Elizabeth M. Perdichizzi (right, above), in the role of pioneer Tommie Barfield, who was active in the formation of Collier county. She was accompanied by Katherine S. Kirk, (left, above) niece and adopted daughter of Mrs. Barfield.

Clad in a turn-of-the-(20th) century dress, Mrs. Perdichizzi recounted Mrs. Barfield's life as a member of a family whose father was lured ever southward, and who faced

Roundup Changed View of Immokalee

Secretary of the Friends of the Collier County Museum Peter Blackford found a deeper appreciation of the community in the roundup event:

"One of the most rewarding discoveries brought about by involvement in this wonderful event was that our vision of Immokalee needed considerable adjustment. After a very pleasant day of volunteer work, during which we had occasion to meet many residents from the area, we could only conclude that the sense of community we found there was rivaled only by that in the notoriously-friendly Midwest.

"Now, our sole regret is that the Roundup will only be held once a year. The present commitment by the organizer is for five events; however, based on this initial success it appears that five years from now, it will be nearly impossible NOT to look forward to many more."

President Elia: "WELL DONE!"

Congratulations are in order to everyone who worked to make the Roberts Ranch roundup on April 1st and 2nd a resounding success.

Donna Ridewood, project manager, coordinated the many activities. Our volunteers (as usual) were well represented, notably Aliese Priddy's Immokalee contingent.

Hats off to a job well done!

up to the Lee county commissioners in obtaining institutions and ultimately independence for the area which became Collier county. Following the presentation Mrs. Kirk answered questions from the audience about life and institutions in early Marco Island, and there was an opportunity to have Mrs. Perdichizzi autograph copies of her book, *A Girl Called Tommie*.

Friends Enters New Millennium — Bank Account in Black

The Friends organization entered the new millennium with a healthy balance of \$7,049.27, it was reported at the organization's annual meeting March 9.

Big money maker was the Old Florida Festival, which netted \$10,788; membership dues and contributions brought in \$7,336, and miscellaneous donations totaled \$4,926. Institutional contributors included Sprint for the Old Florida Festival, Nations Bank for the Space exhibit and the Kara Foundation for the insect scientific exhibit. The Children's Museum Express, which helps to give pupils of poorly funded schools a day at the Museum, spent \$2,250, less than was donated.

Other funded activities included the native plant garden, the swamp buggy exhibit, construction and administration. An increase in sales was reported following a remodeling which routed patrons leaving the standing exhibit area through the gift shop, which netted nearly \$3,000.

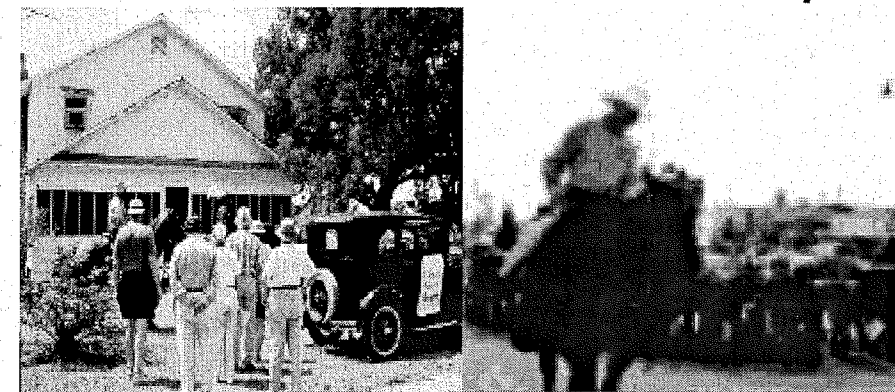
Fund Total Grown to \$31,502 in Year

The Friends of the Collier County Museum Fund since its establishment in March, 1999, has grown to \$31,502.38, representing a 56.5 percent increase in the eight months ending last January, retiring president Ron Mangold reported at the organization's annual meeting March 9.

Purpose of the Fund, which is administered by the Community Foundation of Collier County, is to have a permanent base of principal dollars which the Friends organization can count on from year to year to generate money which can be used at its discretion or re-invested, Mangold explained.

Since the fund's inception the board of directors has opted to re-invest all earnings, at this year's beginning amounting to \$3,402.38, but its founding rules permit their withdrawal for other uses.

At the Roberts' Ranch Roundup



The ranch house



Hay for a Horse



Trick Horse



Art Appreciation

Cattle Drive

Southall, Guida, Promoted; Museum Recruiting New Volunteer Coordinator

The Museum is looking for a volunteer coordinator — for the third time — to fill a vacancy created by a domino effect which started with the resignation of Education Curator Nancy E. Olson.

The coordinator position was created in 1998, initially as a part-time post, and filled by Jennifer L. Campbell. She resigned after a short tenure, and was replaced by Jennifer Guida, who had been serving as a volunteer. The post is now a full-time position.

With the departure of Mrs. Olson, Curator of Collections David Southall moved to the education spot, and his office was taken over by Miss Guida, a graduate of Rutgers University where she specialized in Native North American studies.

Mrs. Olson had come to the Museum in 1988 from directorship of the Heritage museum of Montgomery county, Texas. She is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin with a bachelor of arts degree in anthropology, and has done field, survey and laboratory

archaeological work at sites in Texas. During her service at the Museum she, among other activities, organized lectures, and was active in formation of the Museum Express, which provides funds so pupils at poorly-funded schools can have a day at the museum; many exhibits, and a children's scientific display.

Southall was appointed curator of collections in 1998, and has made a number of innovations to improve the curation of the museum's holdings and to modernize the process, notably with the installation of a digital darkroom. He also participates in museum historic reenactments.

He is a B.S. degree graduate of S.U.N.Y. at Buffalo, N.Y., where he specialized in biology, and has been instructor at Millard Fillmore College at Buffalo, N.Y., and Niagara Community College, at Niagara Falls, N.Y.

He has been owner-manager of Lake Science and Service Co. of Bonita Springs, and president/CEO of the Southall Corp., of Buffalo, N.Y. He also has worked as writer/photographer for a number of Florida publications.

YEAR 2000 OFFICERS ASSUME DUTIES; ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS UP-BEAT

Officers, directors, and members of the Friends of the Collier County Museum March 9 topped off a successful fiscal year and organized to face the challenges of the next at an annual meeting/reception in the museum lecture hall.

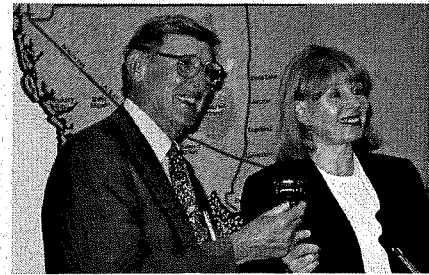
President Ron Mangold, having served his maximum of two years as president, was elected to a one-year term as director, with Myrna Elia moving from treasurer to the presidency. Director Jeffrey A. Brasse took Elia's place as treasurer and Nancy J. Gibbs entered her second term as vice president. In an innovative move Director Jim Underwood was promoted to a second vice presidential position created after Director Charley Abbott urged increasing the executive branch. Peter Blackford will continue as secretary. The slate was prepared by the nominating committee, chaired by Lynn Wuesthoff Kolb.

Directors whose terms expire in 2002 are Bud Brunner, Raymond E. Carroll, Lynn Wuesthoff Kolb, Arthur R. Lee, J. Roland Lieber, Liesa Priddy, and Underwood. Assuming the second year of their terms as director are Abbott, Linda Goldfield, Denyse Smith Mesnik, John M. Murray, Ph.D., and William

Ward.

Outgoing president Mangold paid tribute to the leadership of Charles Baird Price, Jr., founding chairman of the board, who died last July, still active in the Friends organization he was instrumental in creating. He congratulated those who had participated in the highly successful Old Florida Festival last fall, and noted that the weekly column of Museum Director Ron Jamro in

Ron Passes Gavel to Myrna Elia



the Naples Daily News had done much to publicize the museum, as well as to contribute materially to the written history of Collier county.



COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM

Address: 3301 Tamiami Trail E,
Naples, FL 34112

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

Admission: FREE

e-mail: museum@colliergov.net

Web: www.colliermuseum.com

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

Volunteer coordinator: (941) 793-8393

AT YOUR SERVICE



FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

Monthly Meetings: Second Thursdays
Time: 6 p.m.

Place: Museum library

All members are welcome

e-mail: friends@colliermuseum.com

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

Phone: (941) 774-8724

Gift shop e-mail:

giftshop@colliermuseum.com

MUSEUM OF THE EVERGLADES

Address: 105 West Broadway, Everglades City, FL 34139, P.O. Box: 8

Phone: (941) 695-0008 FAX (941) 695-0036

Hours: 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday

Admission: FREE

FRIENDS OF THE COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM

P. O. Box 2181

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