

TIMELINES

FRIENDS OF THE COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM

SUMMER 2001

3301 Tamiami Trail East

Naples, Florida 34112

(941) 774-8476

Volume VII, No. 3

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IT'S ALL SYSTEMS GO!

RANCH WORK LAUNCHED

The whip-snapping, rope twirling cowhands once on the payroll of the Roberts Ranch in Immokalee are being replaced by workers with paint brushes, saws and hammers. Within weeks, construction crews will put months of planning into action as they restore buildings

at Collier County's historic cattle ranch. Their efforts will restore the property for use as a living history museum - the third museum in the county's system.

A \$20,000 planning grant from the State of Florida's Division of Historical Resources and matching funds from the Collier Tourist Development Council provided the funding for the development of several plans. The team of Dan Summers of the architectural firm Barany, Schmitt, Summers, Weaver and Partners, Inc., and project manager Donna Ridewood created a master site plan, restoration plan and interpretive plan. A landscape plan was developed with Dan Summers, Donna Ridewood and Ellen Goetz of J. Roland Lieber, Landscape Architects.

The first phase of the restoration will target the outbuildings, such as the bunkhouse, equipment shed, maid's quarters, smokehouse and outhouse. This phase will be funded in part with a special category grant in the amount of \$142,392 from the State's Historical Resources Division. The Roberts family home will be the focus of the second phase of the restoration project. Included in the master site plan are the construction of a new visitors' center, the relocation and restoration of the First Baptist Church building and other modern improvements. It is planned

See "RANCH" on P 2

Recruiting on For 2001 Old Florida Festival

Recruitment is underway for the Museum's major historical event, the Old Florida Festival November 2-4, which will again extend its run to a third day, Friday, staged exclusively for school children.

Sought are re-enactors to demonstrate the crafts, trades and professions of yesteryear as well as individuals to help with the mechanics of the popular event. Punta Gorda Adventure Museum may send pioneer craft demonstrators

Closer restrictions are being enacted to prevent overloading the facility; last year a communications glitch resulted in the attendance of several bus loads of children more than had been anticipated. No harm came to anyone, but Museum officials prefer an environment conducive to maximum learning.

An attempt is being made to arrange permission for signage on U.S. Highway 41 to attract attention to the event

In preparation for the event grounds are being "neated up" and the Sherman tank is being given a last going over, getting it ready for exhaustive use during the event; Education Curator Dave Southall says it will be put through all its paces.

Getting Acquainted: MEET NEW DIRECTOR WILLIAM TYSON, A MAN OF MANY PARTS

In response to Timelines customary request to new directors for personal information, Bill responded with the following, in his own words:

My name is Bill Tyson. I was born on 11 September 1931 and raised on a farm in Bucks County, PA. Upon graduation from high school, I joined the U.S. Navy and stayed there for twenty years. Along the way, I got married and we had three sons and a daughter.

At the age of thirty-four, I realized there was going to be life after the navy so I began night studies at Temple University. Five colleges and universities later I received my M.Ed. from Lehigh University, after only fourteen years (90% completed at evening school).

After retiring from the navy I entered the public school system and taught five years while obtaining my master's degree in counseling. I then worked as a counselor for eighteen years before retiring in June 1993.

We then moved to Marco Island. Being an old farm boy, I was familiar with growing things from azaleas to wheat. However, little of that knowledge helped me to make things grow on Marco. Seeking information, I became the first male member of the Calusa Garden Club of Marco. Five years later, I recently completed a two-year term as president. I am still the only male member!

I still needed more info so I enrolled in the Master Gardener training class. I became certified in February 1996. I volunteered here at the Museum, working on the grounds for about two years before an injury put an end to that.

Do You Do The Dewey Decimal?

Do you Dewey Decimal?

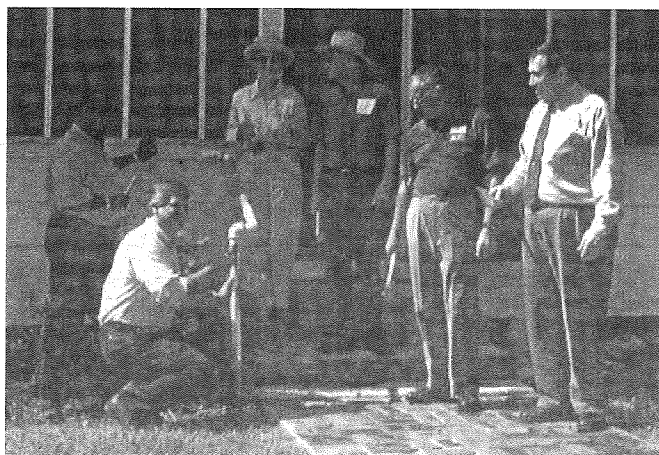
Even if your acquaintance with that filing system is only as a user, you can be of help to the Museum, according to Jennifer Perry, coordinator of volunteers, who says that the Museum's holdings can use a library assistant..

She also says that the Museum needs docents, gardeners for the Native Plant garden, Tailors for the cre-

"RANCH" FROM PAGE 1 "PROVISIONAL" OPENING SEEN FOR DECEMBER OF THIS YEAR

to open the Ranch to the public on a limited basis next December. The Roberts family were major supporters of the church, and the building was moved onto the initial parcel of land donated to the County.

The restoration plans were officially unveiled at a groundbreaking ceremony at the Ranch on August 25, attended by some 40 people who braved



With tools at the ready, shown are Ron Jamro, Fred Thomas, Mildred Sherrod, Phil Sherrod, Jim Underwood, and Jim Coletta.

a scorching sun to hear remarks by Commissioner Jim Coletta, Executive Director of the Collier County Housing Authority Fred Thomas; Collier County Museums Director Ron Jamro and Robert Roberts' grandson, Phillip Sherrod, who recalled the hard work of hoeing orange groves long before mod-

ern equipment was available.

The property being restored is part of what Ridewood described as one of the first cattle ranches in Southwest Florida.

Commissioner Coletta told of the impact the Roberts family had made to the area and emphasized the importance of nurturing a local sense of history. He said that, as a museum, it will provide a link to hometown America "no longer in existence in many places across the country."

Jamro traced the history of the ranch property as a museum to the family's making a gift of a four-acre tract, including the ranch house, to the county in 1996. Believing that the bunk house and other outbuildings were a necessary part of a popular exhibit, the county bought additional acreage three years later for \$600,000. He noted that European visitors are especially interested in relics of the old west, such as the ranch, and that there are many from Naples who have not visited it. Teachers have expressed interest in the provision of tours for their classes, once it is developed.

President Jim Underwood of the Friends of the Collier County Museum described his organization's role as a support group for the museums, and enthused over the way the Roberts ranch provides an escape from the urban sprawl that has blighted so many communities.

The Roberts family trekked to the area in 1914, settling in a log cabin which was the only structure on the property at that time. The present house was built in 1926. The founder, Robert Roberts, died in 1963, followed by his wife, Sara Jane, in 1966. They had raised nine children.

ation and alteration of period garments for re-enactors, Specialists for the Museum's children's program and special events, and

A greeter, who will serve in the museum's welcome center and operate the gift shop.

Jennifer's telephone number is 793-8393.

Museum Undergoes Major Facelift; First Cosmetic Overhaul in Years

The Museum and its grounds are in the last stages of the first major physical overhaul it has had since removal to its present site.

Maintenance of the buildings is a charge of the County government, thus is not under the direct control

of the Museum management.

A contractor, Spectrum Painting and Restoration, Inc., has painted the main building, both the interior and exterior, the Huntoon Gallery, and the Discovery Cottage.

The upper part of the Cottage had sustained considerable water

damage, due to a leaky roof, and required extensive repair. This is being done by Crowthers Roofing Company and involves placement of a tin roof, in keeping with the building's period.

The Orchid House came in for its share of attention, including repair of its miniature waterfall.



Footing is precarious for workmen of the Crowthers Roofing Company as they install metal roofing on the Discovery Cottage.

Safely on the ground, the waterfall of the Orchid House gets an overhaul.

(Photos courtesy of Jennifer Guida)

You Shop on Line, Museum Gets a Cut

Shop at home, and benefit the Collier County Museum in so doing.

That is now possible, thanks to the Museum having joined other similar institutions around the county in "Shopformuseums.com."

The process is simple. Have your modem take you to Shopformuseum.com; there you will be asked to select a museum. Choose COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM from the database, enter your e-mail ad-

dress and password, click on the merchant with which you wish to deal, make your purchase, and the rest is automatic, including the museum's getting a cut of the proceeds.

You can choose from more than 125 merchants offering a wide variety of brand-name products; these include Land's End, J. Crew, Hallmark, Office Max, Flowers.com, Sharper Image, National Geographic, Sports Authority, Border's, Dell Computers,

Nordstrom, Spiegel and others.

The Museum will receive its donations - derived from a percentage of the sales generated by the program - quarterly. These range from two to seven percent of each transaction.

In announcing the program, the American Association of Museums notes that major gifts are mostly made for capital projects or endowments, but there is a continuing need for contributions for general operating support, the generation of which is the goal of the new program.

Museum Looking For Volunteer to Handle Super Position at Information Center

Plan is to Create A Pivotal Center

Want to be a big wheel? A super important individual?

Jennifer Perry, coordinator of volunteers, has just the spot for a person who wants to make a major contribution to the Museum.

For lack of a better name, she's calling it "Greeter" but its duties involve more than a handshake and a "welcome". Jennifer envisions a full-time volunteer who would be stationed at the Welcome Center, which is centrally located. There he or she would make visitors feel welcome, provide information as to Museum activities and exhibits, handle sales of the gifts the Center offers, and provide information on becoming members of the Friends of the Museum organization.

It is planned to have the Welcome Center stock a wide range of gift items, including a small selection of clothing, postcards and books relative to Collier County history such as Director Ron Jamro's newly reprinted *The Founding of Naples*.

For additional information, you can reach Jennifer at 793-8393.

British Archaeologist Craighead Regular

A British avocational archaeologist divides her leisure time between volunteering at digs in England and the Craighead Laboratory at the Museum.

The wife of a British college professor and a published author in her own right, Maura Dutton of Lancaster has been a regular volunteer at the lab for three years, profiting from her semi-annual visits to her

Curator Collects From Internet

Want good historic stuff for the Museum? Shop the Internet!

That's what Curator of Collections Jennifer Guida did. Poking around in Ebay she found a copy of a 1929 Naples Hotel menu for sale.

The Friends of the Museum came up with the \$13.67 it cost and thanked her for prompt action.

father, who lives in Naples.

Under the tutelage of Craighead regular Jean Belknap, Maura has analyzed both potsherds and bones.



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

Naples, Florida 34106

