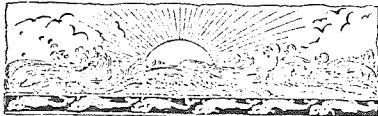


# MUSEUM NEWS

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## COLLIER COUNTY THROUGH THE YEARS



This issue of Museum News is about various news items of Collier County through the years.

### 1923

In 1923 Collier County was created. The first meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held July 7th and the County Seat was established at Everglades. There were about 600 inhabitants at that time.

### 1928

The Tamiami Trail opened April 25, 1928 with a festive motorcade of notables, beginning in Ft. Myers going through the Everglades to Miami over the brand new highway which culminated many years of dreaming, planning and working.

### 1962



The County Commission chairman formally accepts the keys to the new \$1.6 million courthouse in East Naples. Although the 2,032 square miles comprising Collier County-it's the second largest county in Florida-had sparse settlements late in the 19th century, the county was not established until May 1923.

Established in May, the First County Commission meeting was held in July in the Rod and Gun Club annex in Everglades. County business was conducted in various Everglades buildings until 1928 when the courthouse-since remodeled several times-was first occupied.

But gradually Collier County outgrew the Everglades courthouse and in 1959, a movement for moving the site to some other location was sparked.

In the first balloting Naples, East Naples, Immokalee and Everglades were nominated. None received a majority. In the runoff between East Naples and Everglades, East Naples won.

However, legally moving the County Seat wasn't simple. During a friendly legal suit to establish the validity of the election, it was discovered the Everglades had been the temporary site since the County's establishment.

Under the terms of the 1923 legislative act, Everglades had been designated as the temporary County Seat pending a referendum to determine the final location. But nothing had been done about this legal provision, and temporary had developed into 36 years. During the legal arguments, the question was raised whether

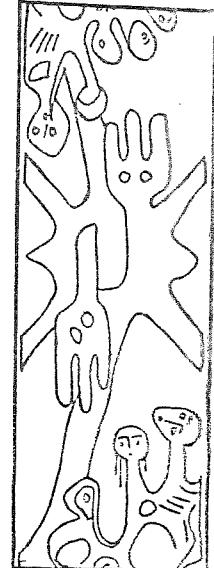
East Naples-not incorporated, hence with no legal boundaries-could be designated the County Seat. Also, it was argued that with no boundaries, the courthouse could be located anywhere "East of Naples" which included a lot of territory.

A panel of three Circuit Court Judges resolved the questions in favor of the referendum-approved East Naples site, and the courthouse construction began after Nelson Faerber Naples, architect, was commissioned to draw plans.

### What do the Panels mean?

What is the meaning of all those strange figures on the outside walls of the Collier County Government Complex?

The panels are Bas-relief (Sculpture in low relief). The trio of figures on the bottom of the panels are a woman in the middle, the right figure which appears to have a sore neck,



is the man of the family, and the third figure is a youngster.

At the top of the panels are five figures apparently hanging upside down. Some of the figures have two eyes and some only have one. The fingers of the hands point to both groups.

According to Nelson Faerber, architect, this is what "it all means: "The three figures at the bottom of the panel represent the citizens-man, woman, and child. The palm pointing down with the coins in it represent services rendered while the other palm represents taxation. At the center of the panel is the sun representing Florida and/or Collier County and at the top of the panel, the five figures represent government or the five County Commissioners." Faerber noted in his explanation that the woman in the bottom part of the panel is pregnant which represents the continuance of the population.



## FRIENDLY FOREST

by ED SCOTT

Ed Scott, a pioneer resident of Collier County and Clerk of the Circuit Court for 26 years was instrumental in serving the community, because of his deep awareness and sensitivity to the beauty of

this area. The following is an excerpt from some of his writings describing a journey into the forest:

"What a place. What a world. I could feel the tension of my nerves subside. The day was full and somewhere overhead the warm sun was shining, spattering through the overhanging growth in silvery splashes on the carpet of brown leaves."

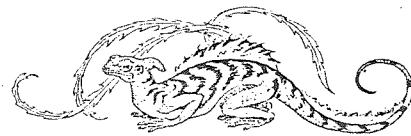
"No wonder the Seminoles sought such a place to bury their dead. There in the deep stillness and friendly atmosphere of the surrounding forest and dense hammock, the spirit of man could find peace. From the fleshy form of man, atom by atom, molecule by molecule, he would disintegrate and mingle and become a part of life everlasting. Only a change of form, where he would live on in a symphony of harmonious color and song until the good earth is wafted away through space to become an integral part in the music of the spheres."

"Just a few feet from where I rested is an Indian mound. I have no idea what it contains. I am not interested. Hidden away in the lonely but lovely wilds of nature, it appealed to me as something sacred, and I viewed it with bared head and spirit of solemnity."

"Slowly, I picked my way back through the dense and beautiful cypress strand. When I walked a little way across the bordering prairie, I stopped and stared back at the tall cypress

trees with their tangle of verdant undergrowth, and I wondered if the great forests and wooded hammocks affected other people as they did me. I wondered if winding trails cut in from the highway would permit other people to get the inspiration and joy of living that had come to me as I wandered alone in the untamed grandeur and beauty of this sub-tropical setting."

Scott, a native Floridian died Jan. 13, 1959.



1926

The first train to reach Naples arrived on Dec. 27 1926.



Naples' first town Marshal, Tommy Weeks, received \$1 for each arrest "To be collected from the prisoner and for which the town is not liable!"

1963

The old pokey, commonly known as the "PawPaw Patch" was where prisoners used to cool their heels in the old days. It was a two-cell concrete affair on 10th Ave. South and was located in the center of a papaya patch. It was built for the sum of \$381.68 and served as official jail until the fire department building containing eight cells was built in 1949. Around 19

up and hauled away to the beach for use as an auxiliary seawall.

### 1949

Johnny Jones of Miami took first place in the first Naples Swamp Buggy Race held in 1949, as a feature of a State Press Association convention at the Naples Beach Hotel. The winning speed was seven miles an hour and several buggies were still mired down hours after the race.

Edward H. Frank, Father of the Swamp Buggy and a Naples resident used what he called a combination of old junk to build the first swamp buggy when he was 17 years old. A resident for 55-years he died July 4, 1981.

### 1935

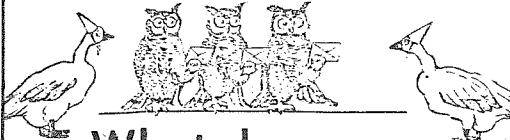
In 1935, 19 whales invaded the beach at 5th Avenue. Commonly known as Black Fish, this species is smaller than the usual whale, but big enough to cause quite a bit of commotion.

### 5¢ an Acre

Most of the land in this section aside from that homesteaded and thus obtained free, went originally to great land and railroad companies for as little as five cents an acre, as swamp and overflow lands believed almost without value.

### 1963

Development of Port Royal which occupies two square miles at the southern end of Naples, began in the late 1950's. Much of it was created from swamp-land. All lots are waterfront, the buyer must agree to certain specification of a committee for approval. John Sample, developer of the project was thought of by his friends of being a little wacky when he purchased the property. The lots run between \$13,000 to \$45,000 and the cost of a house starts at \$50,000. Mr. Sample, a resident since 1938, died November 26 1971.



### **What do you know about Florida's Heritage?**

Here's a list of questions on Florida Heritage and History to test your wits on these hot summer days.

1. The Capitol of Florida is:

- a. Naples
- b. Miami
- c. Tallahassee
- d. St. Petersburg

2. The 1953 Legislature designated the \_\_\_\_\_ as the State Tree:

- a. Sabal Palm
- b. Mangrove
- c. Royal Palm
- d. Bald Cypress

3. The State Bird of Arkansas, Mississippi, Tenn., and Texas is also Florida's it is:

- a. Flamingo
- b. Mockingbird

- c. Palm Warbler
- d. Blue Jay

4. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the State Stone:

- a. Agatized Coral
- b. Agatized Coral
- c. Agatized Coral
- d. All of the Above

5. Florida's official State Play since its designation by the 1973 legislature is:

- a. Hair
- b. Oklahoma
- c. Old Calcutta
- d. Cross and Sword

6. State Song is:

- a. Red River Valley
- b. The S'wanee River (Old Folks at Home)
- c. Over the Rainbow

7. The Florida Legislature proclaimed \_\_\_\_\_ as the Official State Beverage

- a. Gatorade
- b. Tang
- c. Beer
- d. Orange Juice

8. The State Flower is:

- a. Swamp Lily
- b. Orange Blossom
- c. Poinsettia
- d. Hibiscus

9. The Official State Freshwater Fish is:

- a. Salmon
- b. Gar
- c. Largemouth Bass
- d. Bream

10. The Saltwater Fish is

- a. Snook
- b. Tarpon
- c. Mullet
- d. Sailfish

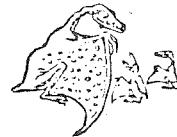
11. Since 1969, Florida's official State Shell is:

- a. Horse Conch
- b. Sand Dollar
- c. Olive Shell
- d. Turkey Wing

For more information on



Florida's History and Heritage such as knowing the Official Saltwater Mammal or State Marine Mammal-- And we all want to know those answers, right?-- Stop by the Museum for a Free Publication that contains all this information.



#### Answers to Quiz

1. Florida's Capital, Tallahassee, was originally selected in 1824.

2. The Sabal Palm grows in almost any soil and has many uses including food and medicine.

3. The common Mockingbird- *Mimus Polyglottos*, is a superb songbird and mimic.

4. Agatized Coral occurs when silicia in the ocean water hardens-the long process (20-30 million years) results in the formation of one mineral replacing another without having lost it's original form.

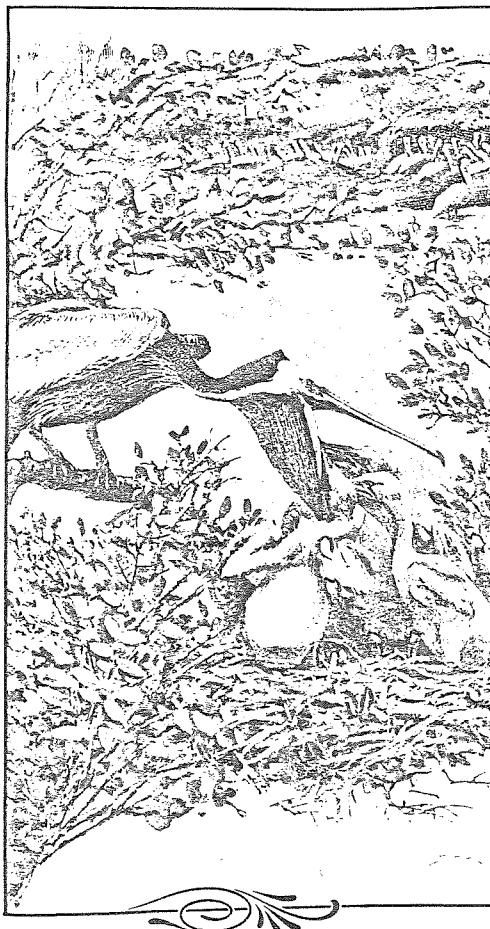
5. Cross and Sword tells the story of the Spanish colonization of the nation's first city, St. Augustine.

6. "The S'wanee River (Old Folks at Home)" The Suwannee River flows southerly from Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia to the Gulf of Mexico in Florida. The song was written by Stephen C. Foster in 1851.

7. The State Beverage is Orange Juice.

8. The Orange Blossom, a pretty and very fragrant flower.

9. The Largemouth Bass
10. The Sailfish
11. *Pleuroploca Gigantea*, the Horse Conch, also known as the Giant Band Shell.



## Exhibit Events

### October

William Farnsworth—"Florida Silverlandscapes". A variety of photographs using infrared film producing a dramatically different result from ordinary black and white images. He has transformed familiar scenes "into environmental fantasies which stimulate a new awareness of Florida's rare and beautiful landscape." His studies of people are distinguished by the same subdued, suffused light which gives them a dream like quality. Farnsworth brings a special subtlety to photography that is a delight to the eye.

### Sept-Oct. & November

The Hurricane Exhibit is currently on display at The County Complex here in building F-1st floor for those of you curious as to the destruction caused by the Hurricanes of 1925, 1944 and 1960. The black and white photographs show the aftermaths of storms which have hit this area.

If you would like to be placed on our mailing list to receive copies of the Museum News, please fill out and return this form to:

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