



THE PALM BEACHS

FRIENDS OF THE • COLLIER COUNTY • MUSEUM

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MUSEUM OF THE EVERGLADES, COLLIER'S FIRST SATELLITE, OPENS TO PUBLIC ON SCHEDULE

by Denyse Smith Mesnik

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Editor: Arthur R. Lee



FRIENDS MEETINGS

The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Collier County Museum meets in the Museum Lecture Hall at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month.

All members of the Friends organization are welcome. Next meeting dates are:

June 11 July 9
August 13 September 10

Collier County Museum's first satellite museum, the Museum of the Everglades, celebrated its grand opening Sunday, April 26 before a crowd of more than 150 residents, visitors and dignitaries such as Sammy Hamilton, Everglades City mayor, and Collier County Commission Chair Barbara Berry. Led by Pauline Reeves, President of the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades, and encouraged by Collier County Museum Director Ron Jamro, enthusiastic volunteers rushed the finishing touches to make the inauguration coincide with the 70th anniversary of the opening of the Tamiami Trail.

Both were commended for their leadership and determination in coordinating the renovation of the 70-year-old once laundry building into a beautifully restored 8,000 square foot museum. Chalmers Yielding, the Orlando-based architect who worked with the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades over the past four years, told the audience that the residents of Everglades City

DIRECTORS OF FRIENDS, HISTORICAL SOCIETY, DINE AT PALM COTTAGE

Directors of two organizations interested in preserving the history of Collier County met March 24 to get acquainted and share ideas.

The occasion was a dinner at the Collier County Historical Society's newly renovated Palm Cottage, to which directors of that group had invited the directorate of the Friends of the Collier County Museum.

The invitation was extended by the Society's president, Mrs. Jackie Frank. Future liaison between the groups will be facilitated by J. Roland Lieber's being a member of the board of directors of both organizations.

"should be particularly proud of the museum. Not many communities this size can pull together a project like this."

Built in 1928, the wood-framed building first served as one of several service facilities in Barron G. Collier's Town of Everglades. It was closed after World War II and remained vacant until the Everglades Women's Club purchased it for use as a clubhouse in 1965. Jamro began assisting Everglades City residents with the museum project in 1987 when the building's title was turned over to the county.

Donna Ridewood, currently director of the Victoria Mansion in Portland, Maine, will serve as the museum's manager beginning June 1; until then, the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MANGOLD NAMED TO HEAD FRIENDS; BOARD HAS TWO NEW MEMBERS

The Friends of the Collier County Museum is starting out its fiscal year with a new president and two new directors.

At the annual meeting March 12, Lynn Wuesthoff Kolb stepped down after serving the limit of two terms as president in favor of Ronald H. Mangold, who has served two years as director. Kolb was named to the directorate.

Densye Smith Mesnik moved from director handling public relations to the vice presidency succeeding J. Roland Lieber. Gigi Gay was named to her first full term as treasurer, a post she has filled on an interim basis, and Nancy J. Gibbs has entered her second full term as secretary.

The new directors are Peter M. Blackford, named to a two-year term, and Richard C. Steppling, who will fill the remaining year of a term. Other directors starting two-year terms are Myrna Elia, Arthur R. Lee, Lieber and Louis A. Stickle III.

Serving a second year of two-year terms are directors Darnell Grinolds, Jackie Hart, Dolores Lyon, and William Ward.

Brian Zepeda declined being named to the directorate for another term after accepting appointment to the Florida Governor's Committee on Indian Affairs.

Under the Friends' by-laws, terms of officers are one year and they may serve only two terms; directors are named to two-year terms with half the posts coming due every year. There is no limit to the number of terms directors may serve.

MUSEUM CELEBRATES ITS TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY IN ITS PRESENT LOCATION

This is the twelfth year the Museum has been in its new home — since it was doubled in size, moved to its present location, given new standing exhibits and room for visiting shows. In short, we have had 12 years of enjoying a new museum.

In that time, an oddly shaped piece of bare ground has been transformed into a facility designed and equipped to take care of a number of needs efficiently:

- the first house travelers of the 1920s saw on entering Naples from the east Tamiami Trail has been salvaged and transformed into a children's discovery cottage;
- the Huntoon collection of native fauna is housed in an appropriate building;
- the field workshop of Dr. Frank C. Craighead, Sr. has been made the center of a garden where only native

plants grow:

- there is a new lecture hall and space for travelling exhibits;
 - the area for outdoor activities has been landscaped and given the necessary structures;
 - a pergola is the center of a garden that invites the visitor to sit for a quiet moment — and it is great for weddings;
 - an attractive brick walkway ties all of those units together and asphalt trails link the various parts of the activity area;
 - the Carolyn Craighead Orchid House provides a refreshing retreat in a colorful setting.
 - all these units are joined by landscaping that separates the grounds from its neighbors.
- The Museum's functions have grown along with its facilities.

Besides a healthy flow of tourists and local visitors, it is annually visited by hundreds of school children; there are lecture series for general interest and specialized groups; its history collection is securely housed and available for the convenience of researchers; the Craighead building houses one of the nation's few museum archaeological laboratories; its annual Old Florida Festival is looked forward to by history buffs from throughout the state and its exhibit featuring the "Marco cat" and other artifacts from prehistoric Marco Island attracted national attention.

The friends organization is proud to have been able to play a part in the realization of the plans and dreams of the museum staff.

ROBERTS RANCH HOLDS GREAT POSSIBILITIES

Museum Director Ron Jamro, present and retiring Friends' presidents Ron Mangold and Lynn Wuesthoff Kolb, and President Jackie Frank of the Collier County Historical Society made a mid-May tour of the Roberts Ranch facility at Immokalee and returned enthused by the possibilities it offers.

Based on what once was the heart of an immense cattle and orange ranch, the facilities, which have been transferred by the Roberts family to the county, offer great opportunities for creation of an educational and tourist attraction, all agreed. But, they are quick to add, it will take time and a good deal of money to realize the potential. Meanwhile, it represents a caretaker responsibility.

WEATHER DIDN'T CHILL BLACK CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Although the sponsors got little cooperation from the weather man, organizers could chalk up a success for the February 14 and 15 Black Cultural Arts Festival, reports Chair Jacquie Hart.

More than 3,000 came to the Collier County Museum to be entertained by the many events, which had as a main theme the Bahamas Junkanoo—a festival observed in the Bahamas on Boxing Day, December 26. There were stilt dancers, limbo and fire dancers and a Haitian dance troupe; music ranged from reggae to rhythm and blues and there was, as Chair Hart puts it, "ethnic food galore." She is already making plans for the next observance, which is arranged to coincide with Black History Month.

"MUSEUM EXPRESS" HELPS FIELD TRIPS

More than 2300 school children, mostly from Second and Third grades of schools in Collier and Lee Counties, toured the Museum between January and May, reports Education Curator Nancy Olson.

Some of the schools which could not arrange to pay transportation costs for the field trips were helped by the Friends' "Museum Express" plan which drew from a fund of \$2,000 of Friends money and \$400 donated by the Naples North Rotary Club.

The Express Committee is made up of Lou Stickle and William Ward.

VIALE PROJECTS SOUGHT BY DIRECTORS

The latest additions to the Friends' board of directors have varied and pertinent backgrounds to contribute to its work.

Peter M. Blackford comes to the board with broad experience in museum management and working with young people.

At his former home in Richmond, Indiana, he had topped off years of assisting the Richmond Historical Museum with service on its board of directors and he is active in two Boy Scout troops. An electrical engineer, he is with Cable U.S.A., (which, he points out quickly, is not Cable TV nor the place to call when the tube flickers).

Richard C. Stepling brings to the museum directorate many years of working

MUSEUM BRIEFS

Adult programs attracted 150 to the Museum in the January-May period. These special interest group activities were arranged by Education Curator Nancy Olson.

March 27-28, the Museum hosted an oral history workshop sponsored by the Florida Department of State's Folklife Bureau.

COLOR SKETCH OKED FOR HERR'S ISLAND

Museum Director Ron Jamro has approved the first sketch in color of a painting the Friends organization has commissioned to depict life on Herr's Island about 5,000 years ago, when it was the site of a settled fishing village. The artist is Martin Pate, who has painted a number of scenes of early American life, some of which have been featured in posters of the National Park service.

Technical assistance is being provided by Park Archaeologist Mike Russo, who directed a major archaeological investigation of the island several years ago for the University of Florida at Gainesville.

The scene, set in the early morning, shows the inhabitants at net making and other tasks in their village setting, surrounded by the ceremonial mounds they and their forefathers erected on what was the site of the earliest known fishing center in the southeastern United States.

The painting will be completed within a matter of weeks and will provide the nucleus of a major addition to the museum's standing exhibition.

with young people and an interest in expanding their horizons. Besides raising a family of six children, he has 35 years teaching experience; 25 in Collier County including direction of a successful dropout prevention program leading or ranked among Florida's top participants.

Since retirement, he has carried out an informal program of taking children on tours, giving them opportunities they otherwise would not have had to learn more about the area and expose them to new cultural activities.

A history buff, he has participated in a number of reenactments.