



## FRIENDS OF THE COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM

3301 Tamiami Trail East ♦ Naples, Florida 33962 ♦ (813) 774-8476

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Preserving our mutual heritage is a challenging but exciting task. The gifts of the past are many. They allow us to know where we came from and to understand more clearly where we're headed.

With a new board of dedicated, interested and hard-working individuals in place,

we are ready to meet this challenge of making history come alive. Many new projects are already underway, and you will witness some wonderful changes in the year to come. Among them are

plans to expand our gift shop, increase

our volunteer corps and bring back "the

thrilling days of yesteryear" with an Old

Florida Festival.

I'm grateful to all those who are already working with us. And I welcome you to join us as we begin this exciting journey.

John E. Reble

## WHERE ARE WE?

Nestled behind the Collier County Government Center complex is a hidden treasure known as the Collier County Museum. Turn east from Airport Road or north from the East Trail, and follow the winding road until you reach a charming tin-roofed, Southwest Florida style building. History is about to unfold for you.

Inside you will find a newly refurbished exhibition hall and 10,000 years of local history. Three dimensional dioramas, walk-throughs and artifact displays dramatically involve you and invite you to share prehistoric to pioneer days.

Have you seen this in magazine ads for the Museum and wondered what it means? You'll also notice it throughout this newsletter. Here's the official description: The EGRET stands for the ENVIRONMENT; the PALM FROND represents the PIONEERS; and the PATCHWORK signifies the earliest MISSION in the Everglades.

## RE-CREATING HISTORY THROUGH ART

Collier County is blessed with a number of artists who use their talents to help remember the history of this region. One such is Doug Sampson, an almost-native of Naples who's watched in dismay as various historical landmarks have disappeared. His artistic solution? Preserving and re-creating the sights of yesterday in the form of whimsical, multi-media sculptures.

During the past few years, Doug has used bits of wire, foam, clay, metal and wood to fashion such landmarks as the Sanibel Light-

house, the old Naples Hotel, Gordon

Pass Fish Camp, Palm Cottage, the

Crayton Home and Naples Pier. He

populates his sculptures with "typical"

people — from wizened fishermen to

robust, bikini-clad beachgoers. And to

top it all off, he adds electric lights and

appropriate touches — like miniature

buckets of fish and, in the hotel, a

newlywed's bottle of champagne.

(Cont.)

## MUSEUM MOTIF

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The gift shop, just outside the entrance to the exhibition hall, is chock-full of Seminole jewelry, educational toys and games, clothing (including our popular "We Tell It Like It Was"

outside, different worlds and eras await. You'll see how an actual 1926 house has blossomed into the Children's Discovery Cottage. Community donated period furniture, including a piano, delightfully portrays Naples family life in the '20s.

(Cont.)

# NEWS

