



## FRIENDS • OF • THE • COLLIER • COUNTY • MUSEUM

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

# JOURNAL

April 1995

Volume I, No. 4



### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is my distinct privilege to serve for another year as President of the Friends. During the past year, much of our concentration was on completing several on-going projects, including the Huntoon Gallery. We also instituted such new community events as the Old Florida Festival. This year, our course will be



### TO OUR PRESENT (AND FUTURE) VOLUNTEERS!

We at the Collier County Museum appreciate your gifts of time and want you to know you are essential to the smooth functioning and organization of the Museum. As Voltaire wrote: "Time is man's most precious asset. It consigns to oblivion whatever is unworthy of being

### HE'S THE TOPS!

Mr. Edmund J. Berkly is the unanimous choice for the Museum's Volunteer of the Year! Having come to us two years ago, Mr. Berkly has since been involved in a variety of projects from ferreting out artifacts for the new exhibits to decorating the Museum for the holidays. He has responded to every call for assistance and has participated as an active member of the Friends.

Thank you, Mr. Berkly, for all your help and continued support!

worthy of being transmitted to posterity and it immortalizes such actions as are truly great." We think you are pretty great for offering such a valuable asset. Thank you!

The Museum always appreciates hearing from volunteers who can work in a variety of different positions. At

the moment, volunteers are greatly needed to work in the gift shop on a regular basis. Other areas of need are our Speaker's Bureau, carpentry 'round and about the Museum, special events and green thumbs in the native garden. For more information on the positions mentioned above and other positions available, please call Diane at 774-8476. She'll be happy to hear from you!

*John E. Reble, President*

### 1995 Board of Directors

**Officers**  
Charles B. Price, Jr.  
*Chairman of the Board*  
John E. Reble  
*President*  
Mary Chenery  
*Vice President*  
Caroline Hermis  
*Treasurer*  
William Saladino  
*Secretary*

**1995 Board of Directors**  
Charles M. Abbott  
Janina Bittolo  
Indi Earl  
Myrna Elia  
Gail Platto  
Valerie Hancock  
Jan Kenyon  
Arthur R. Lee  
J. Roland Lieber  
Addison Miller  
Susan Storrer  
Lynn E. Wuesthoff

### Founders Board

Stephen F. Briggs II  
Gary L. Carlson  
Darlene M. Cecil  
Donald E. Flock  
Richard F. Geary  
George G. Huntoon  
Gerald L. Lanterman  
Keith Waterhouse

### Museum Staff

Ron Jamro, Director  
Nancy Olson  
Diane Smith  
Andrea Bour

*Timeliness is published on recycled paper, by the Friends of the Collier County Museum. Co-Editors: Gail Platto and Janina Bittolo.*

### NEW BOARD ELECTED!



At its annual meeting held March 9, 1995, in our spacious lecture hall, the Friends elected a new slate of officers and board members. The 1995 Board of Directors are as follows:

**President:** *John E. Reble*,  
City of Naples chief fire prevention code analyst  
**Vice President:** *Mary Chenery*,  
Vice chairman of Historical/Archaeological Preservation Board  
**Treasurer:** *Caroline Hermis*,  
Receptionist, City of Naples Fire Department  
**Secretary:** *William Saladino*,  
Art teacher at Poinciana Elementary School

**Charles M. Abbott**,  
Naples Contractor/Builder  
**Janina Bittolo**, Free-Lance Writer  
**Indi Earl**, Long-time guide and supporter of the Museum  
**Myrna Elia**, Experienced in community activities  
**Gail Platto**, Operations Manager,  
FGF Insurance Group  
**Valerie Hancock**, Chemistry Teacher in Immokalee

**Jan Kenyon**, Visiting Community Nurse for Miccosukee Reservation  
**Arthur R. Lee**, Chairman of Historical/Archaeological Preservation Board  
**Adison Miller**, Realtor  
**Susan Storrer**, Attorney  
**Lynn E. Wuesthoff**, Vice President/  
Senior Relationship Manager,  
Chemical Bank, Naples

*We offer congratulations and a gracious welcome to  
Andrea Bour our new highly needed Museum Technician!*



Peace of Mind Banking  
**SUN SHINES ON MUSEUM**

*Maintaining its tradition of caring personally for the individual and community, SunBank has generously pledged to "shine on" the Collier County Museum. SunBank is underriverting the newsletters of the Friends of the Museum, who wish to acknowledge this warm partnership and support.*



## OCHOPEE, THE HISTORICAL POST

### OFFICE

On Saturday, February 25, 1995, the Ochopee Post Office took another step into history. Long reputed to be the smallest post office in the United States, Ochopee was honored at a dedication ceremony celebrating its recognition as a Collier County historical site by the Collier County Commission.

Arthur Lee, chairman of the Historical/Archaeological Preservation Board, welcomed the audience and introduced the speakers of the day. The Honorable Bettye Matthews, chairman of the Board of Commissioners, noted the importance of the ceremony and the value of a concern for our past, while praising the tremendous turnout. Gene Wooten, owner of the property on which the post office stands, greeted the Ochopee residents, old and new alike. Expressing his interest in preserving Ochopee history, Wallace Hibbard of Big Cypress reported hiring an intern, who will compile historical data through oral histories and memorabilia gathering. Fire Chief Vince Doer spoke of preserving artifacts and mementos of Ochopee's past, while Ron Jamro, director of the Collier County Museum, presented bits of history to prompt memories of old.

The crowd was bustling with excitement, as the speakers poignantly sparked feelings of camaraderie and reunion. Former members of the Ochopee community came from all over Southwest Florida to greet and embrace old friendships. Many of the attendees, some original settlers and some descendants, met for the first time in more than 30 years.

Among the most notable were the first youngster born in Ochopee and her mother. They were joined by a local restaurant owner and the partner of the nearby filling station. The woman who claims to have brought nearly 100 babies into the world of

Ochopee was hugged by everyone. As was obvious, Ochopee had been and still is a warm and friendly community. To help continue and preserve this legacy, members of a dozen families are eagerly writing their family histories, capturing the personalized traditions, experiences and memories of those who have called Ochopee home.

Several members of the community are contemplating forming an Ochopee historical society, and the possibility of a museum is very real. It is also anticipated that this and future events may be submitted for inclusion in the sesquicentennial calendar of Florida, which will be maintained as documentation of the appropriate celebrations honoring the State of Florida on its 150th birthday.

*Mary Cheney*

### OOPS! —

January's Timelines made Florida younger than she is: Florida was admitted to the Union in 1845 — not 1945!



## HOMEGROWN HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

April 4, 1952:	Naples City Council re-names Second Street as Gordon Drive.
April 8, 1888:	Naples' first post office is opened in a small shed at the foot of the pier.
April 14, 1951:	Warner Brothers film crews arrive in Naples to shoot "Distant Drums" starring Gary Cooper.
April 24, 1938:	The Marco Island ferry is replaced by a new road and bridge across Marco Pass.
April 26, 1928:	The Tamiami Trail is officially opened to traffic in a ceremony at Everglades City.
May 8, 1858:	U.S. Army Colonel Gustavus Loomis declares the Third Seminole War officially ended.
May 9, 1939:	Florida lawmakers pass a conservation bill protecting alligators in Collier and 25 other counties.
May 24, 1982:	Palm Cottage in Old Naples is entered on the National Register of Historic Places.
May 31, 1887:	The Naples Town Improvement Company records the sale of the first 80 lots in Naples at \$10 apiece.

### HELP US TELL IT LIKE IT WAS!

Bring to life stories generations of Southwest Floridians have told! As a valued friend of the Collier County Museum you also help to expand our educational programs, exhibition areas and research facilities. **Membership Privileges:** *Timelines* newsletter, Museum gift shop discounts, priority program and event invitations and a copy of *South Florida History* magazine. Best of all, membership gives you the personal satisfaction of knowing you are a vital partner in preserving the heritage of Southwest Florida for generations to come.

☐ Yes! Enclosed is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Friends of the Collier County Museum for membership as a:  
☐ Student \$5 ☐ Individual \$25 ☐ Family \$40 ☐ Senior Citizen \$15 ☐ Friend \$100 ☐ Sponsor \$500 ☐ Patron \$1,000

The Friends of the Collier County Museum is a registered 501(C)(3) not-for-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Seasonal Address \_\_\_\_\_ Date from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ How were you introduced to the Museum? \_\_\_\_\_

Perhaps you would like to give the Collier County Museum as a gift.  
☐ Yes, I want my friend or client to share my experience:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Category \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Thank you! Friends of the Collier County Museum 3301 Tamiami Trail East Naples, FL 33962 (813) 774-8476 Fax (813) 774-8580

Museum hours: 9 - 5 Mon. - Fri. Admission: Free Wheelchair Accessible



## WELCOME NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS!

Charles M. Abbott  
 Clifford B. Barksdale  
 Janina Birolo  
 Aida M. Bresher  
 Mr. Leslie M. Brown  
 James A. Clark  
 Mr. & Mrs. David L. Dawson  
 Mrs. Myrna M. Elia  
 Fredric Epstein  
 Mr. & Mrs. Fred Flato  
 Mr. & Mrs. John H. Flora  
 Paulina Greer  
 Mr. & Mrs. James J. Gruszka  
 Mrs. Valerie Hancock  
 Mrs. Joan Huntoon  
 Jan Kenyon  
 Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Lee  
 James Long  
 Addison "Tex" Miller  
 Louise S. Murphy  
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles B. Price, Jr.  
 John Raker  
 John E. Reble  
 Louis Rusitzky  
 William P. Saladino  
 Patricia Sanders  
 Mrs. Mason Scudder  
 John W. Thompson