

FRIENDS • OF • THE • COLLIER • COUNTY • MUSEUM

3301 Tamiami Trail East • Naples, Florida • (941) 774-8476

# JOURNAL

Fall 1995

Volume II, No. 6

## LIVING HISTORY CELEBRATIONS!



OLD FLORIDA  
FESTIVAL



KEY MARCO CAT

Take a break from the sights and sounds of the 20th century and enjoy a leisurely stroll in time at the Friends of the Collier County Museum's annual Old Florida Festival.

Designed for the whole family, this two-day living history event gathers together some of the finest craftworkers, folklorists, musicians, and re-enactors from all over the state to revive and recapture the trades, times and frustrations of everyday life on the Florida frontier. Savor period food and enjoy the parade of old-time costumes.

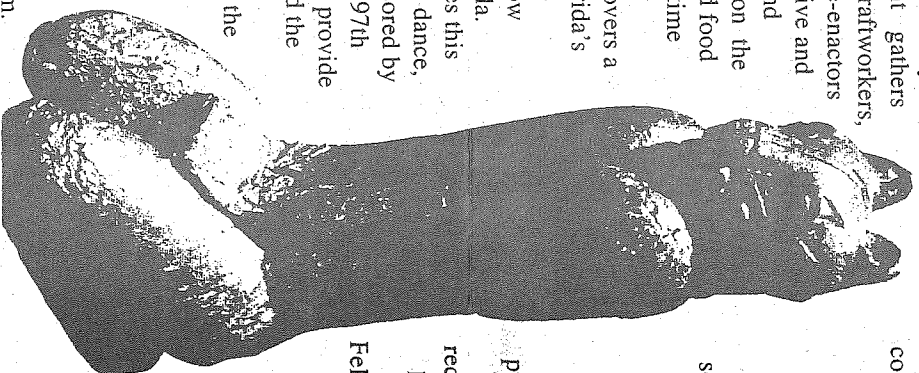
This year's program covers a 500-year cornucopia of Florida's past with more than 70 time-travelers on hand to show how life used to be lived in Florida.

Adding to the festivities this year is an old fashioned barn dance, The Cracker Cotillion, sponsored by the Naples Daily News. The 97th Regimental String Band will provide music for both the dance and the festival.

Join in the singing and the spirited performance of old time ballads!

Old Florida Festival runs two days, rain or shine, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, November 4, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, November 5.

Admission is \$3 for adults while children under 12 are free, with all proceeds going toward museum education and outreach programs and exhibits.



In 1895-1896, Frank Hamilton Cushing led the Pepper-Hearst expedition to Marco Island, Florida, where he discovered one of the richest archaeological sites in North America.

Miraculously preserved in the coastal earth were artifacts of the vanished Calusa Indians, the prehistoric inhabitants of southwest Florida. The resulting collection of wooden sculpture, painted masks, carved bone and shell tools and ornaments, and netting and cordage are unique; and the fine craftsmanship and preservation, remarkable.

One of the most recognizable and exquisite pieces is the wooden cat figure, the Key Marco Feline Figure. It is a 6 inch wood statue with the head of a cat and the body of a kneeling man, resembling the style of early Egyptian sculpture.

This statuette, never exhibited in Florida since its discovery 100 years ago, will be the highlight of this exhibit of a long-vanished civilization at the Collier County Museum during the first week of December.

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Timelines is published on recycled paper, by the Friends of the Collier County Museum. Co-editors: Gail Flatto and Janina Birrlo.



WELCOME NEW  
AND RENEWING  
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MESSAGE FROM  
THE PRESIDENT

After a long productive summer of organization and the completion of several ongoing projects, it is with great pride that I announce a phenomenal new season at the Collier County Museum! Of paramount importance is the fact that the museum has been selected to show the Key Marco Cat in its first appearance in SW Florida since its discovery. This unique event will be a magnet to attract visitors from all over the state. The tiny cat is regarded to be one of the premiere native American artifacts ever unearthed!

We are also honored to be presenting our Old Florida Festival and Cracker Cotillion to again bring back those thrills of yesteryear. Last year we entertained over 3000 people and look forward to seeing all area families at both events.

History truly comes alive at the museum. We hope you will share this valuable resource as we "Tell it like it was".

John E. Reble, President



## VOLUNTEER CORNER

As the new volunteer coordinator at the Collier County Museum, I look forward to working with each member on a volunteer project. Knowing the dedication of Friends members in past Museum events and exhibitions, I am confident that each of you are looking forward to getting involved in the "Key Marco Expedition" exhibit. Due to the anticipated increase in visitors and tour groups coming to the Museum to view "the Cat", we will need a number of dedicated interested members to lead tours of the exhibit and provide information to visitors. If you are interested in becoming a docent or visitor information representative, please call me at the Museum. A minimum of two hours per week is preferred and we are always seeking individuals who are willing to work an occasional Sunday afternoon. If you have any questions regarding docent training opportunities, time commitments, or scheduling, please give me a call or stop by the Museum office. And many thanks again, to all volunteers -- past, present and future.

*Sincerely,  
Andrea Bour-Plant*



## SESQUICENTENNIAL

The Collier County Museum is pleased to present "Celebrating Florida's 150 Years of Statehood", a traveling exhibit developed by the Florida State Fair. The exhibit presents Florida's history using a diverse array of images, emblems, proclamations, and documents. The exhibit features an exceptional map display which shows Florida, real and imagined. Also represented are emblems that are uniquely Florida's, the history and changes of the Florida State Seal, and many of the flags that have flown over the Sunshine State.

"Celebrating Florida's 150 Years of Statehood", is one of four events the Collier County Museum will host in commemoration of Florida's Sesquicentennial.

This exhibition, open to the public, will run through November 30, 1995.



## FLORIDA THEN AND NOW

A traveling exhibit entitled "Florida Then and Now" will be at the Collier County Museum, as part of an outreach program which places museum exhibits on statewide tour.

This exhibit is a reflection, through photographs, of the diversity of elements and unique qualities of Florida which have inspired the state's unprecedented growth. Designed for international travel and captioned in five languages, this

exhibit interprets the many facets of the state's history, environment, geography, and economy that have contributed to Florida's world-wide mystique.

This comprehensive display is one in a series of traveling exhibits produced and placed on statewide tour by the Museum of Florida History, Department of State in Tallahassee. The Traveling Exhibits Program is designed to offer Floridians greater access to their cultural and historic heritage.

"Florida Then and Now", is one of four events the Collier County Museum will host in commemoration of Florida's Sesquicentennial. This exhibit will open to the public November 2, 1995 and run through November 29, 1995. For further information, contact the museum, 813-774-8476.



## WILD AND WOOLY

Many newcomers have difficulty visualizing life in nineteenth century Florida but the truth is, it was very similar to life in the American West. All the elements were here: the disruption of the lives and cultures of native peoples, gunfights, cattle ranches, saloons, vigilantes and more. From 1830s Tallahassee, where even elected officials packed guns and knives for protection, to the cattle ranches of the Peace River and the saloons of Lemon City, Florida earned a well-deserved reputation as the wildest frontier on the American continent.

Lee Gramling, author/adjunct professor, will take visitors back to Florida's wild and woolly past at the Collier County Museum on November 5, 1995, at 2:00 p.m. This lecture/slide program, funded by the Florida Humanities Council, is free and open to the public.

The Florida Humanities Council is a non-profit organization funded by private donations, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Florida's Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs.



## JUST THE FACTS

Address: 3301 Tamiami Trail East, Collier County Government Center.

Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Admission: Free

Tel.: (941) 774-8476 • Fax: (941) 774-8580

Family Days regularly scheduled • Museum is wheelchair accessible.

## FRIENDS OF THE COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM HELP US TELL IT LIKE IT WAS!

By becoming a member of the Collier County Museum you help to preserve the rich and varied heritage of this unique area from the Calusas to the beginning of modern-day life, all those who lived here have a story to tell - stories that come to life at the Museum. Your contribution can make a critical difference. Won't you join us in telling it like it was? **Membership Privileges:** As a member, you'll receive Timelines newsletter; discounts on purchases at the museum gift shop; and priority invitations to programs and events. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Category \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you! Friends of the Collier County Museum 3301 Tamiami Trail East Naples, FL 33962 (941) 774-8476 Fax (941) 774-8580  
 Museum hours: 9 - 5 Mon. - Fri. Admission: Free Wheelchair Accessible