

EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Dedicated to our Unique History

P.O. Box 46, Everglades City, FL, 34139
 ESHP@hotmail.com • www.ESHP.org

The **TOWN CRIER** newsletter is issued periodically to keep ESHP members and the public informed of our activities. We welcome news and feedback.

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Everglades Society for Historic Preservation, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. The Society is concerned with the **preservation of all historic sites, structures, documents, artifacts, and memories** within the Everglades area.

DIRECTORS

Connie Barker, Helen Bryan, Hydie Friend (Vice-President),
 Patty Huff (President), Donald Kim,
 Elaine Middelstaedt (Treasurer), Marya Repko (Secretary)

ESHP MEMBERSHIP

(renewable each January 1st except for Lifetime categories)

- Individual (\$25)
- Family (\$40)
- Patron (\$100)
- Benefactor (\$500)
- Business (\$100)
- Extra \$ _____
- Life Individual (\$1,000)
- Life Family (\$1,500)

Make your check payable to "ESHP" and send it to ESHP, P.O.Box 46, Everglades City, FL, 34139

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TOWN CRIER

EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2023
 VOLUME 18, NUMBER 2



**Music Festival
Great Success!**



Despite the cold breezes, there was a warm atmosphere at our Music Festival on January 14 and we generated a nice profit of \$11,213 to benefit the Bank of Everglades renovation project.

Our thanks to the musicians, the Rod & Gun Club for providing the venue, artists and local businesses who donated items for the auctions plus dynamic auctioneer Kyle Plussa, and all the volunteers who helped.

COLLIER CENTENNIAL

The County was established in 1923 so we are celebrating the 100th Anniversary throughout this year.

Our City lamp posts will be festooned with **banners** depicting historical sites. For info about how you can sponsor a banner and be recognized in the accompanying booklet, contact Patty at (239) 719-0020.



Visitor Center

The Everglades Area Visitor Center & Trail Town Headquarters is the coral-colored building at **207 West Broadway**.

It is staffed by volunteers, all of whom live in the area and know of interesting things to do and see. Stop in for a chat and to see the work of our talented local artists which is for sale there.

For info, phone Connie at (419) 350-6650.


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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Weekend, February 17/18/19: Everglades Seafood Festival

 See website: www.evergladeseafoodfestival.org
Saturday, February 25: Art-in-the-Glades

10am-1pm, McLeod Park

Friday, March 10: Annual Meeting & Historical Talk
Celebrating Barron Collier's 150th Birthday

230pm, Everglades Isle

Saturday, March 25: Art-in-the-Glades

10am-1pm, McLeod Park

Saturday, April 29: Tamiami Trail 95th Anniversary

Museum of the Everglades

 See www.colliermuseums.com

BOARD MEETINGS

Our Board of Directors meets on the first Monday of the month. The next meeting is on **March 6,** at 9:00 a.m. in the Visitor Center. Members are welcome to attend and contribute ideas. For info, phone Patty at (239) 719-0020.

ESHP MEMBERSHIP

We have 84 members. Thanks to those who replied to the renewals notices sent out by email and post. To avoid the annoying annual hassle, become a Lifetime member.

Welcome to new members:

Mike Peppe, Naples

Jane Lamberson & Richard Swope, Naples

MUSEUM OF EVERGLADES



The Special Exhibit is "Southwest Florida Mounted Patrol" featuring an antique Harley-Davidson motorbike, similar to the one used to make sure motorists on the new Tamiami Trail were safe and had help when they needed it.

The Third Thursday Talk at 2:00pm on **March 16** is titled "Barron Collier and Interpol" and explores some of the Collier's involvement with local and international law enforcement.

The Museum, the little pink building at 205 West Broadway, is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9am to 4pm. Admission is free. For info, see www.colliermuseums.com or phone the Museum at (239) 252-5026.

News from Naples

Historic Palm Cottage is planning its grand opening on April 4th after extensive hurricane repairs. However, there are still monthly Chickee Chats in the Norris Garden.

For a schedule, see www.napleshistoricalsociety.org or phone (239) 261-8164.



photo of Bank of Everglades, 1969, courtesy Florida State Archives

BOE Update

President's Message

The Bank of Everglades Building will be rehabilitated as the Everglades Area Visitor Center & Trail Town Headquarters – the focal point in our historic city to welcome tourists.

The first floor of the building will have an information desk with brochures, a gift shop for local artists to display and sell their items, and an art gallery as well as space for community gatherings. Local volunteers will provide visitors with information about recreational activities, places to visit in our town, the Everglades, and the surrounding areas. The second floor will have a conference room for the community, an historical library, and provide space for small group meetings.

The old vault downstairs will be dedicated to the previous owner Bob Flick who donated the building to ESHP. He was an "extra" in the 1957 movie "Wind Across the Everglades", filmed in Everglades City and featured Burl Ives, Gypsy Rose Lee, and Christopher Plummer.

We are consulting with the Division of Historic Resources in Tallahassee to adhere to the proper rehabilitation of this building which was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1999. The first Bank was incorporated by Barron Collier in 1923 and housed in a small wooden building. The current building was constructed in 1926 and first used in 1927.

ESHP is receiving Community Project Funding from HUD to start rehabilitation, which is expected to be phased. Subjected over the years to our tropical weather and hurricanes, the building first needs foundation and stabilization work. Then, the original windows, including the Palladian window over the front door, will be installed. Additional funding will be needed to complete the project.

For info, see our special website www.Save-BOE.org where you can donate with a credit/debit card and download brochure. If you have questions, email ESHP@hotmail.com or phone Patty Huff at (239) 719-0020.