

**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), Hannah Ineson, 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)
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*Make your check payable to "ESHP" and send it to
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TOWN CRIER

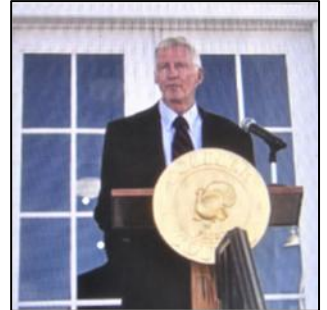
**EVERGLADES SOCIETY
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Newsletter

JUNE 2023
VOLUME 18, NUMBER 5



Mayor Howie Grimm & Terry Collier



Barron Collier III

photos by Helen Bryan

Colliers Celebrate 100 Years

We were honored to have grandsons of Barron Collier here in Everglades City for the events celebrating our unique history.

On April 29th the Museum focused on the 95th anniversary of the Tamiami Trail during which Terry Collier read the speech given in 1928 during the official opening in ECity

For the official County celebration on May 8, the date in 1923 when legislation was signed creating Collier County, Barron Collier III ("Barry") spoke about his famous predecessor at a ceremony in ECity which was the biggest town in the area 100 years ago and designated the County seat.

The original Barron Collier was interviewed by the Fort Myers News-Press on May 7, 1923, and is quoted:

"I intend to build the Tamiami Trail just as fast as it is possible to do it ... I realise that I have a great task ahead of me, but I have set my heart to that task, and I am sure that with my associates, I will be able to make it possible for many thousands to live where a few hundred have been living. If I succeed in this it will be blessing to all of Florida ..."

Thanks to Tommie

Although she is called the "Queen of Marco" she should also be recognised as the "Midwife of Collier County".

When the legislature was debating the establishment of Collier County in 1923, there were objections from Lee County which would be diminished when so many acres were carved out. It is thanks to Tommie Barfield, who travelled to Tallahassee to represent our area, that the legislation passed.

There will be a talk about her life on **Thursday, July 20**, which would also be her 135th birthday, at 2:00pm, in the Museum of the Everglades and there is a special exhibit at the Marco Island Historical Museum until August 5. For info, see the County website www.colliermuseums.com.





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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, July 1: ECity Independence Celebration

10:00am Opening Ceremony, City Hall porch
10:30am Parade; theme "100 Years of History"
11:00am McLeod Park: kiddies' contests, raffles, food
9:00pm Fireworks



Saturday, November 4: Centennial Music Festival

Rod & Gun Club, 12pm until whenever

Saturday, December 2: Swamp Heritage Festival

Big Cypress National Preserve, 10am-3pm

BOARD MEETINGS

Our Board of Directors meets on the first Monday of the month. The next meeting is on **July 10**, at 9:00 a.m. in the Visitor Center. Members are welcome. For info, phone Patty at (239) 719-0020.

ESHP MEMBERSHIP

We have 84 members plus 11 who have not renewed for 2023 and have been sent final reminders.

Welcome to new members:

Patti Davis Mahoney, Great Falls, VA
Bill Lindsay, Chokoloskee
City Seafood, Everglades City
Laura & Art Chappelka, Auburn, AL



Visit Us on FaceBook

New Board Member Hannah Ineson has made our presence felt on FaceBook. You can find us at <https://www.facebook.com/ESHP.org>

Save Taxes and Help ESHP

If you must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA account, have not already done so this year, and you wish to contribute to ESHP, which is a 501(c)(3) organization, this tax tip is for you.

To avoid income taxation on all or part of your RMD, you should instruct your IRA custodian to pay \$X.XX (up to the amount of your RMD) directly to ESHP.

The amount you donate is not taxable to you. Only IRA accounts are eligible for this, and only to the extent that the donor has not already taken his/her RMD for the particular year. For info, call our treasurer Elaine at (239) 695-2695.

Visitor Center



The Everglades Area Visitor Center & Trail Town Headquarters is in the coral-colored building at **207 West Broadway**. Stop in for information about local businesses and to see the work of amazing artists on sale there.



ROBERT (BOB) FLICK, 1936-2023

A Personal Remembrance

by Patty Huff, ESHP President

Bob Flick owned the Bank of Everglades Building from 1996 until he donated it to ESHP in April 2021.

Bob Flick was a remarkable man whom I met over 20 years ago when we both played tennis with a neighborhood group at McLeod Park in Everglades City. Anyone at any level in the community could come out and play; no rules, we just enjoyed playing tennis.

Bob with his daughter Patty had purchased the abandoned Bank of Everglades Building. Being interested in our history, I was pleased to watch as they transformed the historic building into a stunning Bed & Breakfast in 1998. For nearly 20 years the building was used as a B&B until 2017 when it was left unoccupied.

Preserving our history and culture was always important to Bob who, after he was unable to sell the building, was determined to restore it. I would stop by the Bank building and observe him knocking down interior walls and asking for early photos.

Eventually, when he realized it was too difficult to do this on his own, Bob donated the Bank Building to the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation which has recently received federal funding to rehabilitate the building as the Everglades Area Visitor Center and Trail Town Headquarters with a gift shop, art gallery, historical library, and conference room.

Bob's only request when he donated the building was that the film "Wind Across the Everglades" would be shown. The original bank vault will be named the "Bob Flick Theater" and visitors will be able to see the movie in which Bob played an extra.

The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation will be eternally grateful to Bob for his generosity and dedication to keeping our history alive.

Thank you, Bob.

I will always remember our talks and your hard work.

Editor's Note: Bob Flick moved to Naples from Ohio in 1957, the year that "Wind" was being filmed in Everglades City.