



Friends of the Museum of the Everglades

P.O. Box 677, Everglades City, Florida, 34139

email: FME_98@hotmail.com

website: www.evergladesmuseum.org

Keeping History Alive at Our Museum

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OUR FOUNDERS

Funding to establish a museum in the Everglades was the dream of the Everglades Women's Club which eventually evolved into the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades.

Pauline Reeves was one of the last three members of the Everglades Women's Club. The responsibility of disbanding the Club and distributing its assets, which included the Old Laundry Building and the adjacent vacant lot, fell on her shoulders. For years a pizza parlor named "Susie's Subs" was their tenant and Pauline, assisted by Everett, had to perform the duties of the landlord including collecting rent, building maintenance, and securing the building from storms. The Women's Club sold the vacant lot which is now a parking lot for the restaurant Susie's Station next door.

Pauline had a passion to do something for the community and protect the building at the same time. First she offered it to the City as a gift but they didn't want the responsibility. After eight years of tireless negotiations, Pauline convinced Collier County to accept the building as a future museum. She worked single-handedly to see it accomplished. Finally, Pauline asked a few people for help and they agreed, going on to have "community work days" at the Museum (Pauline fed everyone with her famous Sloppy Joe's) and eventually the group of supporters became known as the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades.



On May 11, 2005, Pauline Reeves passed away. She was a very special person to all who knew and loved her. She was such an active soul in this community – she gave from her heart and therefore accomplished many things. She was a devout Catholic, and it was through her efforts that the Holy Family Catholic Church (the first Catholic Church to be built in the area) was established in Everglades City. Pauline's husband Everett owned and operated the Everglades Supermarket for 20 years. Several of their six children were "Gators" in various sports at Everglades City School.

The Pauline Reeves Gallery stands as a permanent tribute to Pauline Reeves who dedicated so many years of her life to the Everglades community and the Museum.



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