PIONEERING HISTORY

THE MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

2019 | Vol. 26, No. 4











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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Muhael Jakomhe III

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mary Pat Palombo Secretary

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Tish Champagne Ellie Everitt

Donna Fiala Allyson Richards

Myrt Rose Linda Sandlin

Cherry Smith Melissa Scott

Shirlee Vann Barcic Jory Westberry

Patricia Rutledge Exec. Director

Greetings to all of our members and friends.

This is the time of year where we reflect back and give thanks for our many blessings, as well as look forward with excitement to the coming New Year.

2019 was a very big year for the Marco Island Historical Society as we celebrated the return of the Marco Cat and Calusa artifacts, in addition to our 25th anniversary. Both are among the biggest events in our community this past year.

Over 35,000 visitors enjoyed the museum this year through the end of October. That is nearly fifty percent higher than the total number of visitors we had come to the museum for the entire year of 2018.

All of this success could not be accomplished without tremendous efforts by extremely talented people. So I want to recognize and thank the following people for making this happen: Pat Rutledge, Austin Bell, Susan Pernini, Heather Otis, Nancy Judd, Chris Willets, Jennifer Perry, the many volunteers and interns who devote their time, energy, ideas and work to make the experience such a positive one for each and every visitor.

I would also like to thank our departing board members for their dedicated service and commitment to MIHS. It has been an honor and joy to serve with Donna Fiala, Bruce Graev, Terry Morgan, Linda Sandlin, Melissa Scott and Cherry Smith.

The board and I are very excited to welcome our new board members who begin their terms in January: Linda Cassens, Sharon Lockwood, Jeffery Lutz, Mario Lucca and David Lupo. Welcome to the MIHS board!

As we look to the New Year, please consider telling your friends and family about the benefits of MIHS membership and the ongoing positive effects of contributing to the MIHS endowment. You can make a difference in helping MIHS benefit our community.

Happy Holidays and a very Happy Healthy New Year!

EVENTS

January 9, 2020

PANEL DISCUSSION / EXHIBIT OPENING: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN ARTISTS, FLORIDA CHAPTER

Program — 3:00-4:00PM

Exhibit Reception — 5:00-6:00PM

Rose History Auditorium / Marco Island Historical Museum

FREE

January 17, 2020

"CORAL REEF FOUNDATION"

Presentation by Roxanne Boonstra

7:00-8:30PM

Rose History Auditorium

Door: FREE (members) / \$10 (non)

January 22, 2020

'SPEAKEASY' EVENT

Pre-Party to 'Putting on the Ritz'

6:00PM

Rose History Auditorium

Tickets: \$50 per person

January 28, 2020

"OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW"

Presentation by Bob McConville

7:00-8:30PM

Rose History Auditorium

Door: FREE (members) / \$10 (non)

February 1, 2020

3RD ANNUAL PINEAPPLE DAY

11:00AM-2:00PM

Presented by Collier County Museums

Marco Island Historical Museum

FREE

February 8, 2020

'PUTTING ON THE RITZ'

5:30PM

Island Country Club

Tickets: \$225 per person until 1/15/2020

\$250 per person after 1/15/2020



ADIFFERENT KIND OF MURAL

PAULA ROBERTSON

he Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) invites visitors to "put yourself in this picture" by posing in front of an impressive 115-square-foot mural that captures the essence of the unique and beautiful natural history of Marco Island and Southwest Florida. The mural, entitled "Historic Island Wildlife" is being painted on site at the Marco Island Historical Museum (MIHM) by artist-inresidence Jarrett Stinchcomb. The public can watch the artist at work daily, weather permitting, during Museum hours. Completion is anticipated to be in mid-December. The mural will be a permanent addition to the Marco Island Historical Museum campus. On November 14, 2019 a "Meet the Artist" Reception was held to introduce the Marco Island Community to this special mural. Family and friends of the MIHS, the MIHM and the artist gathered to experience firsthand the creation of this breathtaking outdoor scene.

"This will be an interactive artwork that depicts the region's fascinating and diverse wildlife that has played such a pivotal role in shaping the past, present and future of Marco Island as well as Southwest Florida," says Stinchcomb. "My hope is that this piece will create a greater connection between the visitor and nature and communicate the important role that our natural surroundings and wildlife have played in shaping the area's history."

Stinchcomb also created five works of art for the Museum's Windows & Doors to History permanent outdoor exhibit that spans 10,000 years of local history from the Pleistocene, Archaic, Glades and Calusa periods to the pioneer and modern periods.

According to MIHS Executive Director Pat Rutledge, "We expect thousands to visit Marco Island's first official selfie station. It is de-

signed to encourage the public to put themselves in the picture, share it with others on social media, and reflect on the importance of protecting the precious lands, waters and wildlife all around us."

The Marco Island Historical Society also is providing an intriguing opportunity to participate in the creative process by sponsoring one of the elements of the mural. Sponsors will interact with the artist to select one of the mural's many elements that include a Bottlenose Dolphin, Florida Panther, Loggerhead Sea Turtle and many more creatures that inhabit area lands and waters. Sponsors will be discreetly recognized within the work of art itself as well as in a prominently displayed plaque. For information on sponsorship, call Pat Rutledge, Executive Director of the MIHS, at (239) 389-6447.









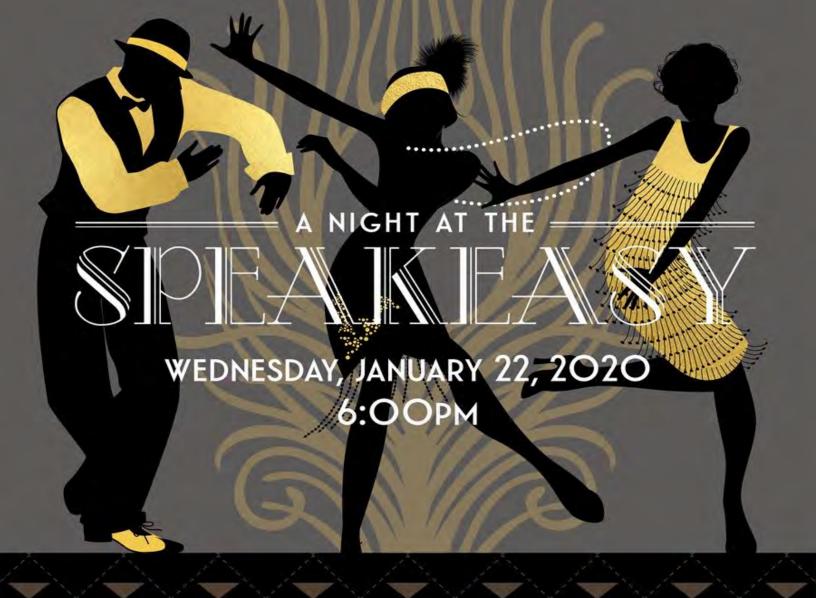
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Left top: MIHS Board and staff members with Jarrett Stinchcomb in front of his mural (Nov. 19, 2019). Photo by Susan Pernini. Left middle: Heather Otis (bottom right) accepts awards on behalf of the MIHS at the SEMC Conference in Charleston, South Carolina (Oct. 22, 2019). Left bottom: The MIHS and Collier County Museums were co-recipients of the 2019 Museum Excellence Award at the Florida Association of Museums (FAM) Conference in Orlando, Florida. Right top: (L to R) Amanda Townsend, Austin Bell, Roger Barganier, and Chuck Stanmore accept the FAM Museum Excellence Award (Sept. 17, 2019). Photos by Erin Wolfe Bell. Right bottom: Pat and Ron Rutledge at the "Preservation of Excellence" event at the Marco Island Hilton (Dec. 8, 2019).



MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY ROSE HISTORY AUDITORIUM

180 S. Heathwood Dr. Marco Island

FULL BAR SIGNATURE HOOCH - "CAT'S MEOW"

ENTERTAINMENT | DANCING

HORS D'OEUVRES

РНОТО ВООТН

WINE & SPIRITS PULL

TELL EM JOE SENT YA!

MIHSNEWS

2019 HOLIDAY LUNCH & ANNUAL MEETING

Patricia Rutledge, Executive Director

Friday, December 6th was an afternoon of celebration at the beautiful Marco Island Yacht Club as members, friends, volunteers and staff of the Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) gathered to celebrate the holiday season and conduct the Society's Annual Meeting.

The doors opened to a seasonal greeting by Victorian Carolers delighting guests as they arrived. After time to share good cheer, MIHS Past President Alan Sandlin delivered an inspiring invocation and luncheon was served. The food was delicious!

A very special milestone was celebrated as dessert (a birthday cake) was wheeled into the room. Bob Sargeant, accompanied by his daughter Marsha, celebrated his 95th Birthday with his MIHS family. Bob and his late wife Thelma donated the funds to build the Museum Administration Building during the capital campaign, and he continues as a great friend of the museum.

Mike O'Rourke, President of the Society's Board of Directors, then opened the Annual Meeting. Mike and Pat Rutledge, MIHS Executive Director, thanked the six departing Board members for their service as we said a fond farewell to Donna Fiala, Bruce Graev, Terry Morgan, Linda Sandlin, Melissa Scott and Cherry Smith (photo right). The next order of business was to welcome our new 2020 Board of Directors with the addition of Linda Cassens, Sharon Lockwood, Jeffrey Lutz, Mario Lucca and David Lupo.

All attending were asked to bring an new, unwrapped children's book to be donated to the YMCA of South Collier Holiday Giving program, CEO of the Y, Cindy Love Abounader and Program Manager Stephanie Pepper were on hand to receive the books and to thank everyone on behalf of the children who will receive them. The festivities ended with an MIHS holiday tradition, the reading of the poem "Christmas Eve in Marco" by our own Alan and Linda Sandlin (photo right). Happy Holidays to all and a very Happy New Year!

NEW PROGRAMS AT THE MUSEUM

Alexandra Bates, Museum Assistant

The Museum is now hosting a "Mommy and Me" program the last Friday of every month. Join us for story time, early math and literacy activities and opportunities for children to confidently gain independence in a safe and loving environment. The class is designed for children 2-5 years of age and is approximately 45 minutes long. Caregivers are expected to attend and participate. Reservations are required and you can do so by calling (239) 252-1440 or online at CollierMuseums.com. To see the full list of themes and calendar dates please visit us at the museum or online at CollierMuseums.com

SECURITY GUARD JOSH KEREKES

Alexandra Bates, Museum Assistant

Josh is a Naples native who spent the last ten years serving in the Army. He comes from a military family and his grandparents moved to Marco in the 70's to work as commercial stone crabbers. Josh enjoys learning the history of his hometown at The Museum and is especially fond of the tarpon scales in the Pioneer Room. He loves Southwest Florida and his favorite piece of Marco history is the old missile tracking station. We are proud to have him as a part of our Museum Team!

MIHS NEWS



(L to R) Mike O'Rourke, Terry Morgan, Linda Sandlin, Donna Fiala, and Pat Rutledge. Photo by Ron Rutledge.



Linda and Alan Sandlin read "Christmas Eve in Marco." Photo by Pat Rutledge.



Ellen and Bill Camm. Photo by Pat Rutledge.

SELFIE SCENE

Marco Island Historical Museum November 14, 2019 Photos by Hana Snajdrova





Mike O'Rourke and Paula Robertson.



Jarret Stinchcomb (right) demonstrates his artistry.



Fans of the artist.



A great turnout to see the artist at work!



(L to R) Carolyn Burger, Jim Swanker, and Karen Swanker.



(L to R) Mary Pat Palombo, Susan Pernini, and Pat Rutledge.



Artist Jarrett (J.J.) Stinchcomb.

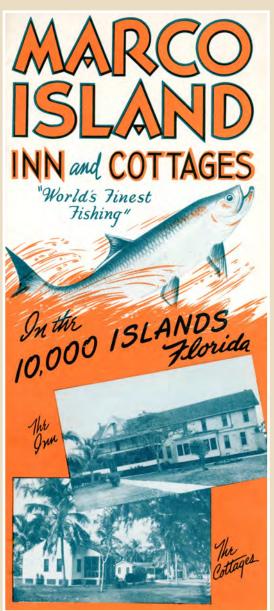


(L to R) Jarrett Stinchcomb, Pat Rutledge, Jennifer Perry, and Austin Bell.









The Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) acquired 342 items in 2019, including unique objects, documents, photographs, and publications. The MIHS Curator of Collections purchased 63 objects for the collections with \$2,113 in budgeted funds. An additional 256 acquisitions came to the MIHS through generosity of the donors listed here (page right).

If you have items in your possession that you feel might be of historic significance to Marco Island, please reach out to the MIHS Curator of Collections or Collections Manager to discuss a potential donation.

Thank you to our collections donors for their commitment to preserving Marco Island's history and heritage.

Above left: An unidentified passenger boards a Marco Island Airways Martin 4-0-4 airliner. Gift of Oscar Espejo. Above center: Virginia Hoffman Edington posing at Marco (c. 1948). Gift of Lynn Crane. Above right: Unidentified couple on the beach at Marco Island (c. 1975). Gift of John Knighton. Bottom left: Brochure for the Marco Island Inn & Cottages (1956). Purchased for the MIHS collections for \$37 on February 11, 2019. Opposite page left: Postcard showing the Goodland Cash Market (ca. 1955). Purchased for the MIHS collections for \$28 on Nov. 17, 2019. Opposite page, right: Rare photograph (c. 1930) of the ferry to Marco, which operated until 1938, when the first bridge to Marco Island opened near Goodland. Gift of Judith Lacks.

2019 ACQUISITIONS





COLLECTIONS DONORS

BARGAIN BASKET THRIFT SHOP

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PATRICIA RUTLEDGE

WILLIAM SCHETTONE

KATHRYN SCHMITZ

PETER SOTTONG

JOANNA AND DONALD SUNSHINE

JACK TAFFE

13

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: BOB BATTALINI

How well do you know the people behind the friendly faces of the Museum? In honor of our amazing group of volunteers, the MIHS is launching a series of interviews spotlighting one of the many whose dedication and efforts are vital to this institution.

When did you start volunteering?

Fall 2018.

How or why did you get involved?

I winter here, "snowbird" as they say, and so I visited the museum. I've always been a fan of history, and I thought it would be a nice way to spend a little time and meet some other people on the island. I'm a tour guide up north in the summer. I give architectural tours – the history of Chicago and architecture on the Chicago river and the lake front. I've been doing that for eleven years, but that's a paid position, three days a week.

How long have you lived on Marco Island?

I've owned a place here for five years, but I'd say maybe eight or nine, because we'd come and rent for periods of time. I have a lot of friends who are on Marco Island now, I've made friends, have relatives in the Naples area, and it's a nice place to be away from the cold for sure.

What brought you here for the first time?

I think I had one friend who was coming, spending a couple months, and I visited him, then I came and spent a month, and my wife came, and the more and more I came, the more I liked Marco.

What is your favorite story or moment from volunteering?

Well, I don't know if I have a specific story or incident that sticks out. Certainly, the arrival of the Key Marco Cat and the influx of so many more guests made it a lot more interesting and fun, so the arrival

of the Cat, in general. It changed the vibe here a bit. Also, one day when the Joanna Sanborn art exhibit was here, there were a couple of women and a man, and they were in there the longest time in that room looking at the art, so I went and I said, "Boy, you guys really appreciate her work." I say, "I like it too. I have some favorites. Do you know about her?" And she says, "Oh yes. It's me. It's my work." And I say, "Oh thank goodness, I came in and said something nice!"

What is the most surprising question you've been asked by a museum visitor?

I'm far from an expert on the island's history, but sometimes I'm surprised that people who even live here a little, they really realize [what they didn't know] about where they live, and I enjoy filling that in a little bit.

What is your favorite object or item in the Museum?

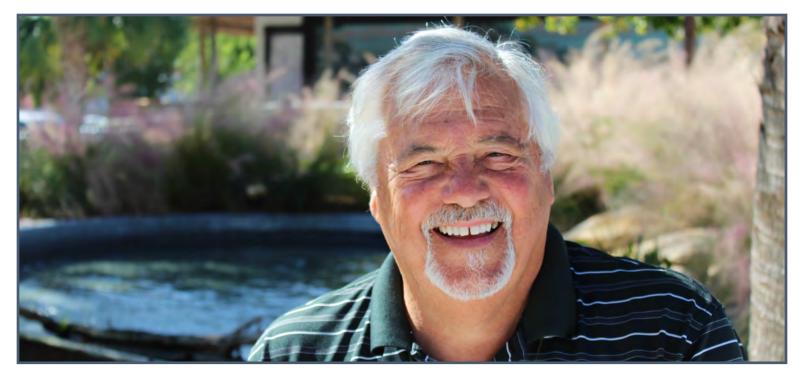
Well, by far I love the 28-minute video, because it's an encapsulation of the history here, so that would be my favorite. I also love the Native American section, you know what they did there, that's just an amazing display that they've done, and of course the artifacts that we have now.

What is your favorite food?

My favorite food is spaghetti and meatballs, without a doubt. Followed closely by hotdogs. I would pass up a steak any time for a good plate of spaghetti.

Favorite color?

Red.



Bob Battalini on the museum campus. Photo by Heather Otis.

Favorite animal?

I'd say dogs, even though I don't own one. Where I live, even though I live in Chicago, we have backyards with no fences, and I've had neighbors that have dogs, and I always have treats. I like when they come, I like to pet them, they're soothing, I enjoy it. But owning one, taking it out in the winter and all...it's just like a boat, it's best when your friends own one. Same with a dog for me.

Favorite place or thing to do on Marco Island?

Well, I ride my bike. In Smokehouse Bay where I live, they call me "Bicycle Bob." Not that I'm a great cyclist, but I ride my bike all over the island, and sometimes, depending on the weather, I'll take whatever book I'm currently reading with me and bike to Mackle Park. I'll ride my bike under the Jolley Bridge where the guys are fishing, and I'll find a shady spot and read my book, watch them catch a fish, anything to kill time on Marco. I love riding my bike and getting around – when I come here to volunteer, I always ride my bike.

What are your hobbies outside of volunteering at the Museum?

Well, golf. I golf less than I used to here, but I golf quite a bit at home in the summer. I've learned to play pickleball here, and they do it a lot in season at Smokehouse Bay. It's old man's tennis, shorter court, and its

kind of like ping pong but there's no table, you're on the ground, and you don't have to cover as much distance as you would tennis. Going out to dinner is another pastime (laughs). I do know the restaurants on Marco!

What is one thing people might not know about you?

Well, I spent 40 years as a Chicago policeman. I was 33 years in the detective division. When I left as a supervisor, I was the most senior detective in the city of Chicago, so I spent a literal lifetime in the occupation – I was twenty years old when I left the service, and I served on the force until I was 60.

If you were to improve the museum in some way, what would you do?

I'd have to give that more thought. I think this small museum, it's really excellent. I would like our laser pointer out for the map, because I like to point out – and visitors like to point out – where they're staying and where they've been. That's a minor thing, but a major improvement here, gee, I don't know. That's hard for me to come up with. That's a comment I often get from guests and people I know who visit - they're surprised at how nice this museum is and are very complimentary about it.

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2019

Single Membership

Aitkenhead, Dawn Barter, Betty Daye, Judith DePaul, Frances Eby, James* Egizio, Phillip

Ettensohn, Pat Fiala, Donna Johnson, Peggy Milano, Phyllis Miller, Jim O'Brien, Judith Pastore, Joyce Read, Virginia Wallen, Sandra Yance, Gwendolyn Zinn, Adolph

Family Membership

Balk, James & Shirley
Campbell, John & Marlene
Corkins, Richard & Margo
Enstrom, Dennis & Kathy
Erker, Charles & Holly
Farnsworth, Ben & Judy
Good, Amiee &
Bob Madden*
Hess, Dennis & Georgia
Hornak, James

Josselyn, Steve &
Bette McGilvray
Kaczka, Jeff & Donna
Kaelin, Joyce & Richard
Landis, Gary
Lange, Jack & Robin
Niemczyk, Stan & Donna*
O' Donnell, Karen & Jim
Osborne, Peter*
Schira, Gary & Mariann*

Spence, Martha*
Steiner, Gwynne &
Craig Blume
Surabian, Carol
Tobiasz, Dave &
Leesa Carls
VonBereghy, Dwyn
Walsh, David & Susie
Weins, Debra

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2019

Patron Membership (\$250)

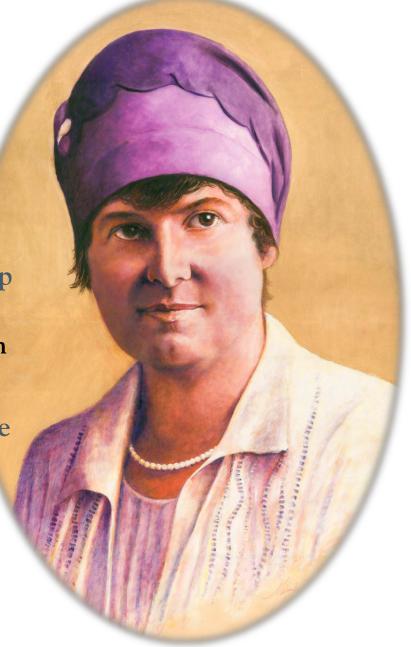
Maria Bachich Charles Carswell Bruce Graev Richard Maly Arne & Jill Sandberg*

Benefactor Membership (\$500)

Paul & Sandra Fernstrum

Tommie Barfield Circle (\$1,000)

Jean King



*New Member

Portrait of Tommie Barfield. Artwork by Malenda Trick.

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Since 1994, the Marco Island Historical Society has been preserving and sharing the history and heritage of our community. Join us as we make history!

Student (\$25 annually)

- Email Notification of Upcoming Events
- Free Entry to our MIHS Monthly Program & Exhibit Openings
- Free or Discounted Admission for Other Special Programs

Single (\$75 annually)

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- Free Entry to our MIHS Monthly Program & Exhibit Openings
- Free or Discounted Admission for Other Special Programs
- Receive NARM benefits for addtl. \$25

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- Free or Discounted Admission for Other Special Programs
- Receive NARM benefits for addtl. \$25

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- All the Benefits of Family Membership
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- Invitations to Sustaining Membership Events

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- All the Benefits of Family Membership
- Listing as a Benefactor on our Website & Newsletter
- Invitations to Sustaining Membership Events

Tommie Barfield Circle (\$1000 annually)

- All the Benefits of Family Membership
- Listing in the Tommie Barfield Circle on our Website & Newsletter
- Invitations to Sustaining Membership Events
- Exclusive Invitations to Exhibit Previews & Receptions with Visiting Museum Guests
- Annual Luncheon with MIHS Staff and Tour of Collections

All Membership Levels include special Gift Shop promotions.

Yes! I/We Want to Make History & Join the MIHS!

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|--|------------------------------------|
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| \$125 Family \$1000 Tommie Barfield Circle PAYMENT OPTIONS | NAME(S) |
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| | CITY ST ZIP |
| CARDHOLDER NAME | PREFERRED PHONE |
| CREDIT CARD NO. | EMAIL |
| EXPIRATION DATE CVC | Thank You For Your Support! |

COLLECTIONS CORNER

Thanks to your generous support, the MIHS works every day to preserve and share the more than 50,000 items in its collections. Each issue, we will feature a new item from the collections.



Doxsee Clam Factory, Marco, FL

Photographic Print

c. 1927

Photo [likely] by William Gibbs, Marco, FL

Gift of Judith Lacks on behalf on Angie Reterstors (MIHS 2019-39-007)

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