



In 1896, Frank Hamilton Cushing created a major sensation among archaeologists when he found, here on Marco Island, an until then totally unknown Native American culture that he named “Key Dwellers.” Cushing led an expedition organized jointly by the Smithsonian Institution and the University Museum, Philadelphia, and sponsored by Dr. Pepper and Phoebe Hearst.

It turned out that among Cushing’s finds were some of the finest artifacts ever unearthed on the Eastern Seaboard. A veritable treasure trove of more than 2000 objects, practically the entire inventory of a village, came to light from a swamp near where the Old Marco Inn now stands. Merald Clark’s mural found in the entrance of the Marco Island Historical Museum’s Paradise Found exhibit brings this archaeological dig and the prehistoric village it uncovered to life.

*Dig through the layers of Marco Island’s history to find the objects listed below.*

- 3 Key Marco Cats
- Soda Bottle
- 4 Birds
- 5 Masks
- Record
- Broken Plate
- Gold Coins
- Old Marco Inn
- Panther
- Clam Shells
- Sponge
- Gloves
- Pink Shell Necklace
- 3 Buckets
- Old Cellphone
- 2 Shark Tooth Tools