

PIONEERING HISTORY

THE MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

2021 | Vol. 28, No. 4



‘Picture Perfect’ | Olds Family Visit | Hello Holidays | Peggy Palmer



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Cover image: Postcard, "Marco, Fla. Cocoanut Grove." MIHS Purchase (2017-2-11).

Image (above): Charles Louis (C.L.), Mary, Orida, and Rosalie Olds (February 12, 1914).

Photo by Saloma Olds. Gift of Martha Olds Adams.

CREDITS

DESIGN

Austin J. Bell

Kristin Conwill

EDITOR

Austin J. Bell

CONTRIBUTORS

Caitlin Benarroch

Paula Robertson

Heather Otis

Patricia Rutledge



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Michael J. Rourke III

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Greetings to all of our members and friends.

Happy holidays to you and your families! We also want to extend a warm welcome back to everyone arriving for the season.

This is an exciting time of year, and I would encourage you to bring your family and friends by the Marco Island Historical Museum to see the fantastic new *Picture Perfect: Marco Island in Postcards* exhibit and celebrate the holidays with the Key Marco Cat. If you are searching for holiday gifts for family and friends, the museum gift shop has some wonderful items to consider. On December 3rd we are having our Annual Meeting and Holiday Luncheon, and we are looking forward to a very special event.

The Marco Island Historical Society and Marco Island Historical Museum continue to generate an exciting energy for our community. This is a wonderful time to introduce new members to an amazing experience of the outstanding exhibits and interesting programs. They will appreciate it and thank you for the introduction to MIHS!

During this season of gratitude, I wanted to express my thanks to our incredible volunteers, amazing staff, great partners at the Collier County Museums, and the dedicated MIHS board members who all work together to take the Marco Island Historical Society and Marco Island Historical Museum to new heights.

Together we continue make a difference and enjoy a terrific experience!



Graphic design (above) by Sherri Morrison. Photo (below) by Heather Otis.

'PICTURE PERFECT' EXHIBIT OPENS AT THE MIHM

— PAULA ROBERTSON & AUSTIN BELL —

The Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) announces the opening of a new exhibit at the Marco Island Historical Museum (MIHM), *Picture Perfect: Marco Island in Postcards*. The exhibit is open to the public October 12, 2021 through January 22, 2022.

Picture Perfect: Marco Island in Postcards captures the history of Marco Island as it parallels the evolution of postcards since the early 1900s. The exhibit invites visitors to examine the role that postcards have played in promoting picturesque Marco Island, as well as the perceptions of identity and place they've helped to create.

See more than 60 original postcards from the Marco Island Historical Society's collection that span more than 100 years. The postcards chronicle life on the island from its early pineapple farms, quaint fishing villages, supply stores and Hotel Marco to modern Marco and its soaring beachfront condos. Visitors to the exhibit will receive a copy of a "Picture Perfect" postcard (image above left) while supplies last.

Since 1888, when W.D. Collier became the first Marco Island postmaster, visitors to the island have been sending mail to friends and relatives to share word of their time on beautiful Marco Island. The oldest postcard in the MIHS collection was printed between 1901 and 1907, which means that Marco Island has been the photogenic subject of postcards for more than a century.



Postcards (above) from the MIHS collections.

CALENDAR

December 9, 2021

“THE SOUND OF THE SEA”

Presentation by Cynthia Barnett

6:00PM

Rose History Auditorium

Presented by the Florida Humanities Council

December 14, 2021

“A DECEMBER TO REMEMBER”

Holiday Concert

7:00PM

Rose History Auditorium

Featuring international soprano Jodi Keogan

Tickets: \$25

January 11, 2022

**MIHS REENACTORS PRESENT,
“INTRODUCING BETTY COLLIER”**

2:00PM

Rose History Auditorium

Tickets: \$10 / FREE for MIHS members

January 12, 2022

**“THE NINE LIVES OF FLORIDA’S
FAMOUS KEY MARCO CAT”**

Presentation and book-signing by Austin Bell

6:00PM

Rose History Auditorium

Tickets: \$10 / FREE for MIHS members

January 18, 2022

“YEAR END UPDATE”

Presentation by Master Naturalist Bob McConville

6:00PM

Rose History Auditorium

Tickets: \$10 / FREE for MIHS members

January 26, 2022

**“MODERN BY TRADITION:
INNOVATION AND THE
TRANSFORMATION OF SEMINOLE
CULTURE”**

Online presentation by Andrew Frank

2:00PM

Presented by Florida Talks

OF EVENTS

January 28, 2022

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

5:30PM

Rose History Auditorium

Tickets: \$70

February 3, 2022

“COURTING STYLE”

OPENING EXHIBIT RECEPTION

4:30PM—6:00PM

Marco Island Historical Museum

Presented by the Island County Club Charitable Foundation

February 22, 2022

**MIHS REENACTORS PRESENT,
“THE CIRCUS LADY, BONNIE
BOZZO AS MABEL RINGLING ”**

2:00PM

Rose History Auditorium

Tickets: \$10 / FREE for MIHS members

February 24, 2022

**“CAT TALE: HOW THE PANTHER
BECAME FLORIDA’S OFFICIAL
STATE ANIMAL – AND NEARLY
WENT EXTINCT”**

Presentation by Craig Pittman

6:00PM

Rose History Auditorium

March 3, 2022

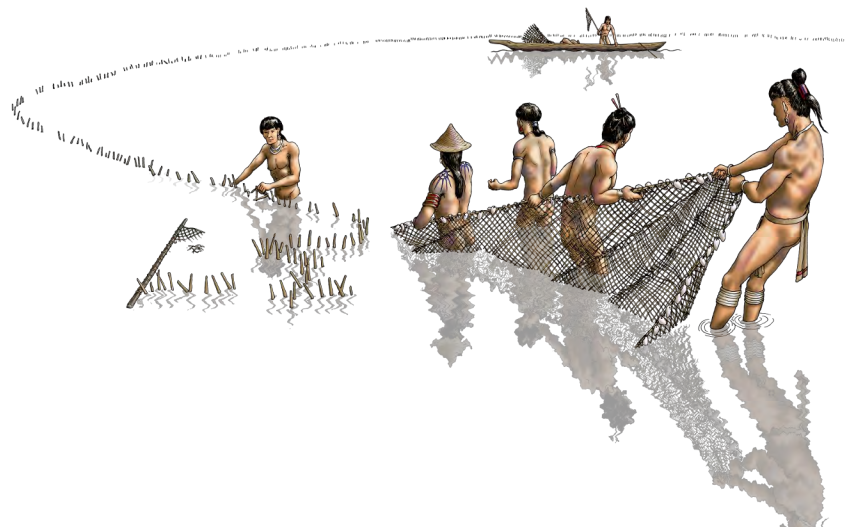
**“WOMEN’S FIGHT FOR
SUFFRAGE”**

Presentation by Peggy McDonald

6:00PM

Rose History Auditorium

Presented as part of Women’s History Month



OLDS FAMILY MEMBER VISITS THE MIHS

— CAITLIN BENARROCH & HEATHER OTIS —

It's not every day that Marco Island gets a visit from a pioneer family descendant! However, in November 2021, Lucy Hollingsworth made her first trip to Marco Island, where her ancestors, Drs. Mary and Charles Louis Olds, settled with their three daughters, Orida, Saloma, and Rosalie, in the early 1900s.

Lucy is the granddaughter of Rosalie Olds, the youngest of the three Olds daughters. Prior to this visit, none of her grandchildren had ever been to Marco Island. Lucy and her fiancée, Darren Loveless, visited the Marco Island Historical Museum and Society with former MIHS presidents Bill and Betsy Perdichizzi. Patricia

Rutledge, MIHS CEO, Austin Bell, MIHS Curator of Collections, Caitlin Benarroch, MIHS Operations Manager, Heather Otis, MIHS Collections Manager, and Rebecca Mazerowski, MIHM Museum Manager, were all there to greet Lucy and Darren when they arrived.

Lucy grew up with her mother, Bambi Riedemann, and her three siblings in Glenview, Illinois. Bambi was the sole child of Rosalie Olds, who was the only Olds daughter to have children. As the staff raptly listened, Lucy recounted memories of her grandmother and great aunts and answered what questions she could about what their lives were like after they left Marco Island in the early



1920s. She fondly recalled visiting her great aunts, Aunt Sal, as she called her, and Aunt Orida, who she said were both incredibly sweet with “wee little voices.” One memory Lucy had was, at just seven years old, going to visit Aunt Orida with her family. She remembers choosing to stay back with her aunt, with whom she immediately bonded, instead of going out to sightsee. Many of Lucy’s details of her great aunt have faded over time, but she’s retained a lasting impression of how kind Orida was. Based on her childhood recollections, we know she must have been truly special.

During their visit to the Museum, Lucy and her fiancée had the opportunity to explore her family’s collection of photographs and correspondence that dated as far back as 1864 and continued into the 1940s. She was delighted to see among the letters to and from Mary, Charles, and their daughters, a letter from a very young Bambi to “Aunt Sal” that numbered among Saloma’s treasured possessions. Heather also displayed nearly a hundred family photographs in the MIHS Collections Research Center for Lucy and the staff to view together. As she looked through photos, Lucy made connections to her own daughters and recalled some faint memories she had of family tales, although she regretted neither Rosalie, Saloma, Orida, or even her mother spoke of the family’s time on Marco Island much.



Many of the stories the Historical Society and Museum are able to tell about daily life on Marco Island during the early 1900s are preserved in the Olds family’s extensive collection of photographs, letters, and diaries. The MIHS is pleased to announce that more of this history will be on public view at the Marco Island Historical Museum in an exhibit focusing on the photography of Saloma Olds opening in March 2022.



SAVE THE DATE ME HEARTIES

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2022

5:30PM

MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PIRATES & PEARLS GALA

ISLAND COUNTRY CLUB

CHAIRS: JIM & ALLYSON RICHARDS

PRESENTING SPONSORS: RENE & TISH CHAMPAGNE

TICKETS: \$225 PER PERSON

'HELLO HOLIDAYS' EVENT AT THE MIHM

Photos by Pat Rutledge



Above: MIHM and MIHS staff pose for a picture with Santa Claus.

Below: The MIHS gift shop is a great holiday shopping destination.



Above: The Naples Carolers performed on Nov. 18.

Below (L to R): Nancy Healy, Karen Connetta, and Caitlin Benarroch.



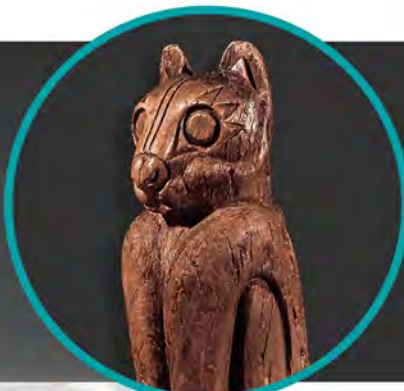
WHAT A TEAM!

Because of you...our members, our donors and our supporters,
we were able to accomplish great things!



16

The successful loan of 16 **new Key Marco Artifacts** from the University of Pennsylvania Penn Museum



5

The unprecedented extension of the **Key Marco Cat loan** for an additional 5 years

4,000

The implementation of **Virtual Programming** with over 4,000 views



The recipient of **four prestigious awards** by the 2021 Southeastern Museum Conference

We acquired and conserved a rare piece of Marco Island's Pioneer Past -

THE KEY MARCO SKIFF



97%

of our visitors rated their overall experience as **highly satisfied**

17,000

We welcomed over 17,000 **visitors** to our Museum Campus



The 2021 TripAdvisor Traveler's Choice Award as one of the Top 10% of **attractions worldwide**

We grew the Marco Island Historical Society **Endowment Fund** to safeguard the future of our history



I have spent a great deal of my life traveling far and wide and whether I visited beautiful historic cities or small rural towns, the first thing I did was to visit their museums or galleries. I am curious about all things historic and these large and small buildings hold the answers to the mysteries of the past. I want to contribute to preserving these cultural centers for the "curious" individuals of today and tomorrow. I'm not sure who stated this, but I've made it my motto, **"Giving is not just about making a donation.**

IT IS ABOUT MAKING A DIFFERENCE."



Tish Champagne
MIHS Board Member

We've accomplished so much together because of your support but we have more to do.

Together, with your help, we will continue to deliver on our promise to preserve and share Marco Island's history through award-winning exhibits, programs, and by caring for the treasures of the past that we hold in the public trust.



BECAUSE OF YOU!



Dear members, friends, and supporters,

Because of you, the Marco Island Historical Society has had an incredible year! After very difficult times, we are so grateful to have your support. However, we have so much more to do. With you help, we will continue in our mission to preserve and share Marco Island's history for generations to come. We can't do it without you. Consider making a tax-deductible contribution to our 2021 Annual Fund. Together, we can do so much!

Sincerely,

Patricia Rutledge

Chief Executive Officer

I will
make a
one-time
gift of:

☐ \$5,000 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other \$ _____

☐ Renew my gift ANNUALLY for _____ years (max 5 yrs)

☐ I would like more information on how to make a gift to the
Marco Island Historical Society Endowment Fund.

☐ Please contact me to discuss gift intentions, a gift in memory of someone,
or how to best impact a particular area of the Marco Island Historical Society.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City/ST: _____ Zip: _____

Payment Options: (Payment by check helps lower our costs.)

☐ Enclosed is my check made payable to Marco Island Historical Society

☐ Please charge my gift of \$ _____ to: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover

Card No: _____ Exp: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature: _____

☐ My gift will be matched by _____

For questions, please call Pat Rutledge at 239.389.6447. Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

The Marco Island Historical Society is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization and is registered with the State of Florida Division of Consumer Services and the IRS - Federal Registration number - EIN 59-3425001. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services at 1-800-435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation.

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

AUGUST - OCTOBER 2021

Single Membership

Patricia Anderson*
Litha Berger
Nancy Boyer
Anthony Buckun*
Patricia Bungert
Diane Chestnut*
Frances DePaul

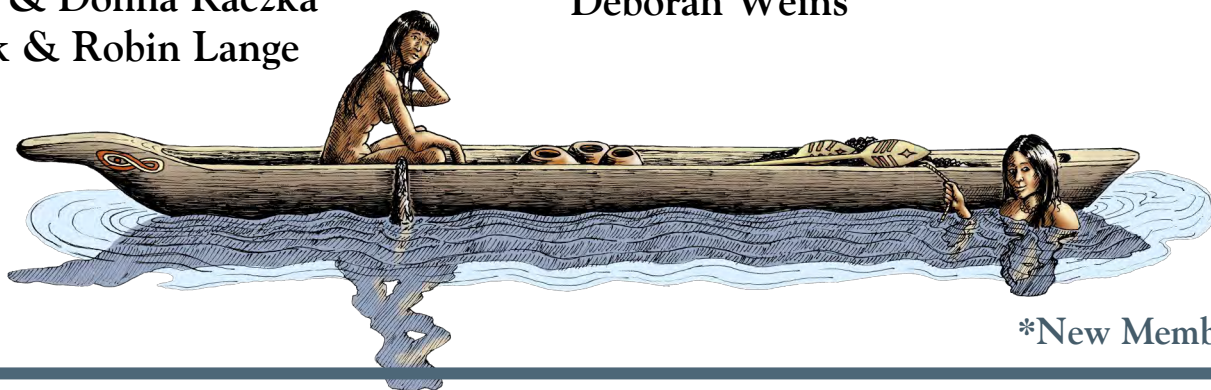
Philip Egizio
Alice Fiorini*
Joyce Frame
Joseph Kukene*
Donna Liska*
Barbara Malta
Mary McIntosh

Phyllis Milano
Lynne Minozzi
Karen Reid*
Joan Thesing*
Gwendolyn Yance

Family Membership

Sally Bataran*
Ken & Rhoda Bell*
Richard & Margo Corkins
Charles & Holly Erker
Aimee Good & Bob Madden
Christopher & Jane Hansen*
Richard Hansen &
Eleanor Erickson
Dennis & Georgia Hess
Jeff & Donna Kaczka
Jack & Robin Lange

William & Ellen McCahill*
Robert McConville & Catherine Price
James & Karen O'Donnell
William & Georgia Pavin
Thomas Rentz
Bob & Karen Shmihluk
Gwynne Steiner & Craig Blume
George & Leslee Thompson*
Dave Tobiasz & Leesa Carls
Deborah Weins



*New Member

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

AUGUST - OCTOBER 2021

Patron Membership (\$250)

Alfred & Bonnie Bozzo*
Richard DeWoskin & Randi Schannon
Eugene & Paula Erjavec
Corrie Grado
Richard & Joyce Kaelin*
Robert & Carole Leher*
Michael Mackenzie & Francisco Varela*

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Ron & Vicki Saffin*
Arne & Jill Sandberg
Dr. Jeffrey & Lenore Yale*

Benefactor Membership (\$500)

Joe & Mary Beth Cummings*

Tommie Barfield Circle¹ (\$1,000)

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Rene & Tish Champagne
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Susan Tan Chang
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Alan & Linda Sandlin
Preston & Keely Stiner
Chris Sullivan



Artwork by Malenda Trick.

¹Active Members

*New Member

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

PEGGY PALMER

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.

This month's featured MIHS Gift Store volunteer is Peggy Palmer.

When did you start volunteering at the MIHS?

When I moved here, which is now about four years ago. My mother sort of drug me by the hair!

How or why did you get involved?

Because my mom, Louise Russell, was volunteer extraordinaire. She started volunteering before the MIHS even moved into this building. When they opened the Marco Island Historical Museum, she became really active with the historical society. She was doing scheduling of all the volunteers until Jess, the former museum assistant, took it over. At that time, she was in her late eighties!

Did you always volunteer in the gift store?

No, I did do the front desk initially, and I really did have to learn about the history. But my background is retail, and for me, it was a natural fit to go into the gift store. I mean, I can use the register and it doesn't bother me, and I can sell people on merchandise.

What is it that you love most about volunteering here?

Meeting new people is always fun, but meeting all the people who come through the museum is really fun. They're excited to be here, and usually they love the museum. Most people that go through are really impressed and think it's amazing, and so then it's fun to talk to them. You always find out where they're from, and sometimes you have things in common.

Do you volunteer for any other organizations?

I do. The Bargain Basket. That's because of my mother too. When she stopped volunteering, I took her time slot. I was also on the Sponsors Committee for the Newcomers Club and have been helping with the club's 50th anniversary planning.

How long have you lived on Marco Island?

Since 2018. My husband passed away, and I was managing this exclusive women's clothing store that ended up going out of business. So, with my husband dying and a year later the store closing, I had every intention of moving to New York City, because I really wanted to go and work in an art gallery. That was my next thing. But then I started to think about my mother, who at that point was 88 and all alone. I don't love living alone, so I kind of packed up my car, called my sister, said let's take a road trip down the east coast, and I moved here. It was kind of spur of the moment, I must admit. You know what it was – it was also the winter going into New York City and I'm thinking New York City or Florida. I decided I could always move to New York City later (laughs).

What brought you here for the first time?

Well, my parents built their house here in 1979, and I probably was the first kid that came to visit out of New York City. I thought, Oh a house in Florida, okay I'll come. I ended up coming down around one week a year, when my work schedule allowed.



Photo by Heather Otis.

What is your favorite story or moment from volunteering?

Let's see. There's a couple things. There are a lot of people who come through who get entrenched in the gift store, and I usually say, "Did you see the Cat?" And they say, "What cat?" By the way, that happens all the time. And I say, "Well come on back! You've got to see the Cat, because that's the whole thing here." And they usually point to the big Cat out in the gardens, and I tell them not quite and bring them around the corner to see the artifact. And then occasionally, I'll get a really good sale. I had one guy who just started plopping books on the checkout counter. When he stopped, it was like \$400 worth of books, and I said, "Are you taking all of these?" He said, "Yep, I want them all." Books of all things.

What is your favorite object or item in the Museum?

Okay, so you've got to say the Cat, right? You do have to say the Cat, one. And then two, I always like the Modern Marco exhibit. I find myself gravitating to that room. I really like the Marco Sari and the mid-century modern pictures.

Favorite place or thing to do on Marco Island?

I don't know that I have a favorite place. I mean I think what's important – I'm so involved with this Newcomers Club, right – is to meet friends and do stuff together. So I guess you would say my favorite thing to do on the island is new things with the Newcomers Club and the friends I've met in the club.

What are your hobbies outside of volunteering at the Museum?

I do enjoy staging houses, things like that. I've been doing my mother's house, and she didn't really touch it since the nineties, so I've been going through it and updating. I painted a lot of the pink interior and replaced the pink carpet and redid my bedroom, the guest bedroom, even my mother's bedroom.

What is one thing people might not know about you?

I spent fifteen years in London, well, fourteen years in London and one year in the south of Spain. I lived in Hamstead, which is northern London, and had a frozen yogurt business. I went from being a buyer at Bloomingdale's and Lord & Taylor buying upscale women's clothing to selling frozen yogurt in arenas all throughout England.

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

So we've been trying to upgrade the gift store because the museum is so fabulous. Then you come to the gift shop, and it is kind of a stepchild. Nancy's made some fantastic changes the last few months, getting rid of the tiki roofs, filling the window with new displays, and upgrading the furniture. I love it, and I think we just need to keep evolving as the museum does.

BECOME A MEMBER

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!

Single (\$75 per year)

- Free Entry to our MIHS Lectures & Exhibit Openings
- Free or Discounted Admission for Other Special Programs
- 10% Member Discount in Museum Gift Shop (Excludes Consignment Items)
- Invitations to Exclusive Member Only Events
- Email Notification of Upcoming Events and Exhibits

Family (\$125 per year)

- All the Benefits of Single Membership for Two Adults plus Children and Grandchildren (18 and under)

For a Limited Time, All Membership Levels include NARM (North American Reciprocal Museum) Program.

Patron (\$250 per year)

- All the Benefits of Family Membership
- Listing as Patron on Website & Newsletter
- Invitations to Sustaining Membership Events
- Private Collections Tour with MIHS Staff (Up to 6 people)

Benefactor (\$500 per year)

- All the Benefits of Patron Membership
- Listing as Benefactor on Website & Newsletter
- Complimentary One-Year Family Membership to Gift to a Friend or Family Member

Tommie Barfield Circle (\$1,000 per year)

- All the Benefits of Benefactor Membership
- Listing in the Tommie Barfield Circle on Website & Newsletter
- Exclusive Invitations to Exhibit Previews & Receptions

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

LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP

- ☐ \$75 Single ☐ \$250 Patron
☐ \$125 Family ☐ \$500 Benefactor
 ☐ \$1,000 Tommie Barfield Circle

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- ☐ My/Our Check Made Payable to the MIHS is Enclosed
☐ Charge My/Our Membership to: ☐ MC ☐ VISA ☐ DISC

CARDHOLDER NAME

CREDIT CARD NO.

EXPIRATION DATE

CVC

PLEASE PRINT CONTACT INFORMATION

☐ Mr. & Mrs. ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Other: _____

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

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PREFERRED PHONE

EMAIL

Thank You For Your Support!

COLLECTIONS CORNER

Thanks to your generous support, the MIHS works every day to preserve and share the more than 40,000 items in its collections. Each issue, we will feature a new item from the collections.



Rug hook pillowcase

Key Marco Cat design

Josephine Faiella, maker

c. 1980

Gift of Francesca Parlapiano (MIHS 2001.05.001)

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© Marco Island Historical Society
180 S. Heathwood Dr.
Marco Island, FL 34145
(239)-389-6447 themihhs.org