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HISTORICAL VILLAGE CELEBRATES LUMINARY WITH VINTAGE TABLECLOTH DISPLAY

November 9, 2016 – The Sanibel Historical Village will host its annual Luminary Day Open House with the theme, “A Sanibel 1950s Christmas ... Residents, Snowbirds, Tourists, and Ferries,” from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on December 2. Admission is free.

On display at the event will be a collection of vintage tablecloths, many from the 1950s. The tablecloths are on loan from volunteer docent Nancy Siegel. Siegel estimates she has more than 100 vintage tablecloths in her collection, although not all of them will be on display.



Volunteer Nancy Siegel with one of her many tablecloths, which will be on display on Luminary Day

Siegel started collecting Florida tablecloths on eBay. She soon started attending antique fairs, and her collection expanded to include other tablecloths with a design or color she liked. Siegel said she particularly loves her holiday tablecloths.

“I got started after I attended an art fair and saw a woman making clothing out of vintage tablecloths, so I thought I’d give it a try. I said to myself, ‘I can do this,’” Siegel said.

Siegel uses her tablecloths, sometimes needing two or three on a table due to their smaller size. “I believe they’re something to be used, not to be stuck in a drawer,” she said.

That dress Siegel bought at the art fair, the one that got her started collecting, was made from a tablecloth on which Fort Myers was misspelled Fort Meyers. Tablecloths with that misspelling are real collectors’ prizes, Siegel said.

The Luminary festivities take place from 3:30 to 5:30 on December 2, and admission is free. The BIG ARTS Community Chorus and BIG ARTS Brass Ensemble will be performing, there will be interactive activities in all the buildings, and volunteer Dave Richard will be playing the piano in Rutland House.

The Sanibel Historical Museum and Village is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. It is located at 950 Dunlop Road (next to BIG ARTS). Docent-guided tours are available at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at no extra charge, based

upon docent availability. There is handicap access to all buildings. For information, call 472-4648 during business hours or visit www.sanibelmuseum.org.

CAPTION: