

VINTAGE SHELL FAIR WINNERS ON DISPLAY AT HISTORICAL VILLAGE

February 22, 2014 – Three vintage Shell Fair first-place winning entries are on display at the Sanibel Historical Village and Museum. Normally hanging in different houses, the three are gathered into one exhibit in honor of the upcoming 77th Annual Shell Festival at the Sanibel Community House.

The winners on display at the museum are from 1963, 1964, and 1965. All are large; one is a bouquet of flowers, another is a bouquet of lilacs, and the third is an all-white bridal bouquet.

The Shell Fair grew from a non-competitive display of islanders' shells at the Island Inn (The Matthews) to the internationally known event it is today. According to an article in *The Islander* in the late 1960s written by Mrs. Howard Schriner, the fair used to be known not only for its seashells but for its fresh coconut pies and cakes baked by island women. Those things and "fancy work"

were sold to visitors with the money going to support The Community House.



1963 Shell Fair winner on display at the Sanibel Historical Village

Each year, a "shell box" would be raffled off. It soon grew legs to become a "shell table." The year of Mrs. Schriner's article, the shell table was handcrafted of Australian black wood and Honduras mahogany and held a Florida collection of 97 shells of 85 varieties.

Whether 1937 or 2014, the Shell Fair is part of Sanibel's history, and the Historical Museum and Village is proud to own and share three winning entries.

The Sanibel Historical Museum and Village is located at 950 Dunlop Road (next to BIG ARTS). Admission is \$10 for adults 18 and older; those under 18 and members are free. 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. Admission to go to the Gift Shop only is free. For information, call 472-4648 during business hours or visit www.sanibelmuseum.org.