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America's Backyard: Road Tourism in Florida Before the Rise of Disney (1915-1970), exhibit brochure

Stephen Ford

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Additional Resources

Books on display

- *The enduring Seminoles : from alligator wrestling to casino gambling* by Patsy West
- *Florida: Empire of the Sun* by the Florida Hotel Commission
- *Florida's miracle strip : from Redneck Riviera to Emerald Coast* by Tim Hollis
- *Cypress Gardens, America's tropical wonderland : how Dick Pope invented Florida* by Lu Vickers.

About the Library

The Universal Orlando Foundation Library, known as the "Rosen Library," serves the research needs and interests of the Rosen College's students, staff, and faculty, as well as the needs of the greater UCF community. The Library also serves as an information resource center for the hospitality industry in central Florida. Our beautiful, 9,000 square-foot branch library is an integral component of the UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management.

Contact

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America's Backyard

Road Tourism in Florida
Before the Rise of Disney
(1915-1970)

Fall 2022 Exhibit at
UCF's Universal Orlando
Foundation Library



Libraries

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

ABOUT THE EXHIBIT

With the production of affordable automobiles, road travel within the United States would explode in popularity and become a quintessential part of the American experience.

Within this exhibit you will see the evolution of road tourism in Florida from the “tin-can tourists” of the early 20th century to the more modern attraction visiting tourists of the 50’s and 60’s.

This exhibit highlights road travel in the state of Florida from around the time of the First World War to 1971, the opening of Disney World.

Some of the items in this exhibit are being provided by UCF’s Department of Special Collections and University Archives. They will be on display throughout the fall 2022 semester.

Curated by:

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EXHIBIT

Tin-can Tourism and the Birth of Camper Culture - Learn about Florida’s first road tourists, the movement they created, and their legacy today.

The Draw of Florida’s Natural Beauty and Florida’s State and National Parks - Learn about how Florida’s natural beauty and parks has brought many road tourists to this state for over a century.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida - Learn about how the Seminole Tribe of Florida adapted to the influx of new tourists, profited from them, and helped create the character of modern Florida.

Selling Florida’s Cities - See how Florida’s then relatively small and unknown cities sold themselves to northern tourists.

Roadside Attractions - Discover how roadside attractions, such as animal shows, gator parks, and live performances evolved to entertain road tourists.

Botanical Garden Parks - Learn about how botanical gardens such as Bok Tower Gardens and Cypress Gardens paved the way for Busch Gardens and Disney.

WANT TO LEARN MORE

Florida Memory: State Library and Archives of Florida
(www.floridamemory.com)

IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Bok Tower Gardens

1151 Tower Boulevard, Lake Wales,
Florida, United States

Hontoon Island State Park

2309 River Ridge Road
DeLand FL 32720

Wekiwa Springs State Park

1800 Wekiwa Circle
Apopka, 32712

