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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

At the Crossroads: New Exhibit Focuses on Rural Lifestyle History

Feb. 3-March 31, 2010 • Immokalee Pioneer Museum • 1215 Roberts Ave. • Immokalee, FL

(Naples, FL) – The Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch will open a new exhibit on Feb. 3 featuring a look at rural Floridians whose backgrounds are rooted in the past. *At the Crossroads* combines photographs with selected oral histories to allow the public to learn more about the people, stories, and events that make up our rural Florida communities.

At the Crossroads showcases Floridians hanging on to vanishing lifestyles and livelihoods that are tucked away in forgotten rural landscapes. They continue in ways of life that are seldom seen in today's Twitter world.

“There were people who were bootleggers all their lives. They made it right here in the swamps. They got moonshine here. Regular moonshine was 50 cents a pint. Sometimes they'd have a special for 75 cents a pint. They'd find in Uncle Bill's Special, roaches, ants, flies all in the same bottle. In some of these backwoods, country towns, you can still find bootleg liquor,” said brother and sister Vera Miles and Floyd Prevatt as quoted in the exhibit.

The black and white photographs by Eric Dusenbery depict people enjoying a simpler way of life offering a frame-by-frame glimpse into the lives of those who weave the past into the fabric of their own future. “Without the stories and documentary photography, the personal perspectives on historical events may be lost,” said Eric Dusenbery, photographer of *At the Crossroads*.

Dusenbery is the Executive Director of Cinderic Documentaries, Inc., a nonprofit organization whose mission it is to preserve history and traditional culture of vanishing places and lifestyles. “It's vital we document and record the history of these rural areas, and the importance of the subjects and their relationship to the community before it's too late. All too soon the opportunity will be lost forever.”

“People tell their stories and explain how things used to be,” Dusenbery said. “It was the ‘good old days.’” Many people may have forgotten the history along the banks of meandering rivers and streams, but not rural folks who know every inlet and the secrets hidden in palmetto swamps.”

The exhibit will be featured at the Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch located 44 miles northeast of Naples through March 31, 2010. For more information, call (239) 252-8476. *(hi resolution exhibit photo available)*

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