

## **Plant City Archives to move**

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The nonprofit group that helps preserve the photo history of the area is moving its operation to a larger home.

The Plant City Photo Archives plans to move this fall from 119 N. Collins St. to the former site of the Orange Blossom Tea Room at 106 S. Evers St. The restaurant building has 3,200 square feet of space, more than twice the size of the archives' current location.

Photo Archives President Ed Verner said the move is necessary because of the recent acquisition of retired Plant City photographer Gladys Jeffcoat's photo collection, which includes nearly 50,000 shots. Also, Jeffcoat's camera museum, now housed at the 1914 Plant City High School Community Center, will move to the photo archives' new location.

The Orange Blossom building, built in 1917, includes a separate room that can be used for the camera museum, additional office and storage space, additional restrooms, and a catering kitchen that can be used for special events. The tea room is in the historic district, one block west of the current location.

Plant City Photo Archives was organized in 2000 and operated out of office space, on loan from Verner Investments, in the Lee Building until 2005, when it moved to the storefront on North Collins Street. Since then more than 2,000 visitors have viewed the photo exhibits annually.

The archives has hosted many events for other organizations including the Greater Plant City Chamber of Commerce, the Arts Council of Plant City and a number of private parties.

The current collections include more than 100,000 photos, archives Executive Director Gil Gott said. More than 50,000 of the photos are scanned and digitized - and key word searchable - in the organization's computer system.

The archives is leasing the former tea room, which operated from 1994 until 2008. It also leases its current location, in a nearly century-old building that was once a department store.

### **ARCHIVES GRAND OPENING**

**WHERE:** 106 S. Collins St., formerly the Orange Blossom Tea Room

**WHEN:** 4 to 9 p.m. Oct. 22

**COST:** No admission charge

**INFORMATION:** Contact the photo archives office at (813) 754-1578, or e-mail [info@plantcityphotoarchives.org](mailto:info@plantcityphotoarchives.org).