

The Association's Historical Marker Program

The Historical Association of Southern Florida has dedicated two historical markers since those reported in 1952 *Tequesta*. Both are roadside type. They are of the same material and design as that adopted for the initiation of the program in 1952. The Association's committee on historic sites and markers chooses the sites and prepares the inscriptions.

On October 26, 1952, a marker was dedicated at Miami Interational Airport, Roger W. Toomey, manager of Pan American Airways' Latin-American Division made the principal address. Adam Kralik, oldest Miami employee of the airline in terms of service, and Adam G. Adams, President of the Historical Association of Southern Florida, unveiled the marker. Mr. Adams presented it to Dade County. I. D. McVicar, chairman of the Airport Committee of the Board of County Commissioners, accepted it for the county.

M I A M I
I N T E R N A T I O N A L A I R P O R T
(formerly Pan American Field)

Here Pan American World Airways amphibians took off on pioneer flights vital in linking the Americas. By Federal order on October 16, 1928, original 116 acres became first customs entry airport on U. S. Atlantic mainland. In 1929, first regular airmail was flown to Nassau Jan. 2; to Puerto Rico Jan. 9. On Feb. 4, Col. Lindbergh inaugurated regular airmail to Panama. In 1931, when Pan American began using flying boats from Dinner Key, Eastern Air Transport here started first scheduled passenger service to New York. In 1945, field was purchased by Dade County, expanded and renamed Miami International Airport.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA, 1952

On October 28, 1953, a marker was dedicated at Dinner Key, marking the site of the aviation base that was Miami's first air link with Latin America. Paul C. Aiken of Washington, D. C., former assistant postmaster general in charge of international air mail made the dedication address. Mayor Chelsie J. Senerchia accepted the plaque for the City of Miami.

On the same occasion the circle at Dinner Key was designated "Clipper Circle", and the entrance roadway from South Bayshore Drive was named Pan American Drive.

DINNER KEY

Picknickers in sailboat days gave the key its name. In World War I, it was a naval air base. In 1930, Pan American World Airways here inaugurated flying boat service to Latin America, erecting huge hangars and a terminal. The U. S. Government dredged first channel in history especially for aircraft. Over 100,000 visitors a month came to see the giant flying clippers.

Coast Guard established seaplane base in 1932. In World War II, Navy and Pan American operated flying boats here until Latin American Airports built for hemisphere defense enabled use of more economical landplanes. City of Miami purchased key in 1946.

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