



Bob Lamme

Wesley P. Wilson

Love Alice Cohen

PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies.....	Jim King, Chief Naturalist Metro-Dade County Park and Recreation Department
Invocation.....	Fr. James McLaughlin St. Martha's Catholic Church
Star Spangled Banner.....	North Miami Community Concert Band, Director Rocco Russomanno

Pledge of Allegiance

A Living Legend.....	Ruth Shack, Commissioner Metro-Dade County
A People's Park.....	Harvey Ruvin, Commissioner Metro-Dade County
Archaic Arch Creek.....	Howard Neu, Mayor City of North Miami
Bird's Eye View.....	Bill Bird, Director Metro-Dade County Park and Recreation Department
Department of Natural Resources and Arch Creek.....	Dr. Elton J. Gissendanner, Director Florida Department of Natural Resources
Y.C.C. Accomplishments.....	Becky Dickey, State Recruiting Officer Youth Conservation Corps
Presentation of Proclamation.....	Marjory McDonald, Mayor City of North Miami Beach
Eleven Years of Service.....	Bert Alberti, President North Miami Woman's Club
History: Tears and Trees.....	Rev. Charles L. Eastman Vice President Arch Creek Trust
A Labor of Love.....	Alice Cohen, President Arch Creek Trust

America the Beautiful by the North Miami Community Concert Band

Tree Planting by Daughters of the American Revolution

Singing of "Meet Me at the Bridge" written by Jessie Freeling

Trail Walk, Tour of Interpretive Museum, Picnicking

THE LEGEND OF ARCH CREEK MEMORIAL PARK

Until 1973, when it collapsed, the forty-foot natural bridge of oolitic limestone that spanned Arch Creek was one of South Florida's earliest landmarks. Prehistoric Indians occupied this site hundreds of years before European exploration. In the early 1800's, Seminole Indians lived in the area until forced out by United States soldiers during the Second Seminole War, 1836-1842. During the Third Seminole War, 1855-1859, a military trail connecting Ft. Dallas and Ft. Lauderdale passed over the bridge. In 1892 the first county road to South Florida crossed here, as did the Dixie Highway, which opened in 1915. In the past, this natural bridge had attracted both tourists and settlers. A community known as Arch Creek grew up around the Arch Creek station of the Florida East Coast Railroad. By 1903, there were sufficient settlers to warrant the opening of the Arch Creek Post Office, which later became the North Miami Post Office. Today, April 25, 1982, the dedication of Arch Creek Memorial Park is another landmark in the history of this living legend.



The iron landmarker at Arch Creek was sponsored by the N.E. Miami Woman's Club, Keystone Point Homeowners Association and the North Miami Parks, Recreation and the Beautification Board in cooperation with the Historical Association of Southern Florida.

DEDICATION OF ARCH CREEK MEMORIAL PARK (FOR CARL W. MERTES)

SUNDAY
APRIL 25, 1982
12:30 P.M.

“MEET ME AT THE BRIDGE”

written by Jessie Freeling

Chorus: “Meet me at the bridge. The natural limestone bridge. Meet me at the bridge at old Arch Creek. Meet me at the bridge. The little natural bridge. The natural bridge where all the good friends meet.”

IN MEMORY OF

Let us not forget the following people who have worked so hard to preserve this living legend:

Jessie Freeling

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Freeling

Polly Redford

Dr. William Gillis

Ripley Bullen

Joe Williams

Bert Mowers

Eric Ivy

City of North Miami Police Officer Carl W. Mertes who died in the line of duty on this site.

Miguel Padura is the artist chosen by the Art in Public Places Selection Committee to do a painting for the Interpretive Museum of Arch Creek.

Program artwork courtesy of Bob Lamme,
Dade County Artist.

Prints available, call
350-2547 or 888-6268 evenings.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Stephen P. Clark, Mayor

Barbara M. Carey
Clara Oesterle
Beverly Phillips
James Redford, Jr.

Harvey Ruvin
Barry D. Schreiber
Ruth Shack
Jorge (George) Valdes

M.R. Stierheim, County Manager
Bill Bird, Director, Park and Recreation Department
Jim King, Chief Naturalist

Special Thanks to:

North Miami Junior High Chorus Ensemble
City of North Miami Beach
City of North Miami
Little River Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Explorers Club
Florida Department of Natural Resources
Park Rangers
Arch Creek Trust
Metro-Dade Interpretive Naturalists