

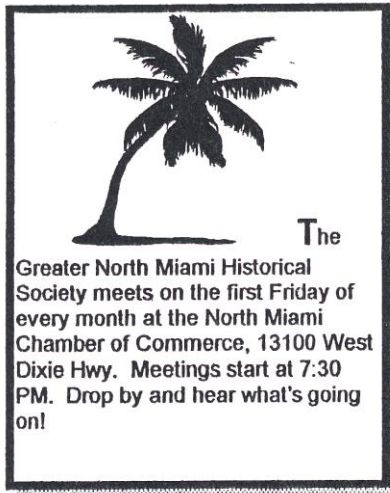
GREATER NORTH MIAMI HISTORIAN

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FEBRUARY IS CENTRAL NORTH MIAMI HISTORY MONTH

Get ready North Miami! We're about to kick off an exciting month of historical exploration in our city! For the entire month of February 1998 we will overturn every stone in central North Miami to discover what forgotten treasures lie in our citizens collective memory. We will wrap the month with a presentation at the February 18th meeting of the Central North Miami Homeowners Association.

We want to visit as many Clubs, Churches, and groups as we can in an attempt to record a detailed of this area. If you know something we should examine, please don't hesitate to let us know. You could possess a long lost secret.



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HOW WE GOT STARTED

The Greater North Miami Historical Society began as an informal group, called together at the North Miami Jaycee Hall by Scott Galvin.

Galvin's interest in City history was peaked at a 1996 meeting of a Central Home Owner's Association. Several members of that group made their own presentations of historical items that night and he realized there were others interested in the too!

Through 1997, the group met monthly at the North Miami Chamber of Commerce building. Members Jacki Biggane, Glenn O'Hearn and Gwen Fernandez moved to categorize the many items of historical, interest which were in city possession. In September 1997 the group christened itself.

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THE NORTH MIAMI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HOW WE GOT STARTED

The greater North Miami Historical Society and incorporated with State of Florida.

Eventually the group hopes to open a Greater North Miami museum

BABE RUTH WAS



HERE!

Rumor has it that Babe Ruth made one of his last public appearances at the site of what is now Stembridge Furniture on West Dixie and NE 125th Street.

If you have a picture of his appearance, or know details about it, please contact us immediately! We are anxious to learn about the Big Bambino's stop in North Miami!

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE GNMHS

It's easy to become a part of North Miami's newest and most exciting organization. Simply mail your name, address, and phone number to 13100 West Dixie Highway, north Miami, Fl. 33161, Don't forget a check in the amount of \$10.00 payable to the GNMHS.

**THE OLD TIMERS REMEMBER
TOM'S GARAGE 1934 -1946
625 NE 125TH STREET
PHONE 7-2984**



By Blair Conner

Tom's garage was owned by Thomas T. Ritten between 1934 - 1946. The original building at 625 NE 125th Street was constructed some time in the 1920s with the development of Iron's Manor. It was severely damaged in the 1926 Hurricane. The entire roof was blown away . It sat vacant until about 1934 when Ritten got permission from an out of state owner to use the rent free . That owner was not concerned with the heavily damaged building . He was not even paying taxes on it as was common in the depression era. Ritten began his auto repair business within the walls of a roofless building. He worked under large Tarpaulins erected over the remaining roof beams. As time went by the business began to prosper.

As Ritter's business prospered he engaged a lawyer and acquired the building. He fixed the roof and purchased the adjoining properties. He became one of several merchants who supplied the basics to a population which was beginning to revive.

Ritten was always active with the business community and during the 1940s was a member of the Town Council. He advocated in the 1930s the paving the Town's road rather than maintain the rock and oil topped streets.

The original building still exist, but is within continuous line of buildings, which run down the north line of NE 125th Street between West Dixie Highway and NE 7th Avenue. The tow truck shown is a 1932 La Salle Cadillac customized fro towing purposes.