

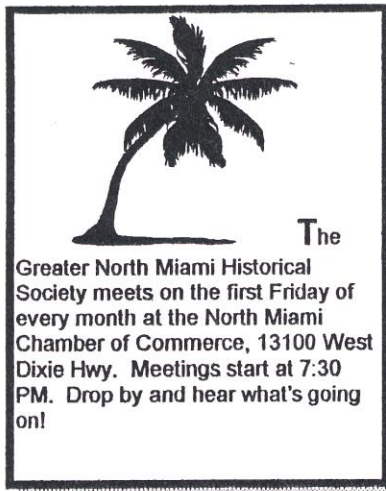
GREATER NORTH MIAMI HISTORIAN

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JUNE IS KEYSTONE 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 June 1998 we will overturn every stone in Keystone to discover what forgotten treasures lie in our citizens collective memory. We will wrap the month with a presentation at the June 18th meeting of the Keystone Point 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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ONCE UPON A TIME

By Blair Conner

At one time prior to 1926, North Miami was part of a greater area called Miami Shores. This greater area extended across the bay and encompassed Sunny Isles, along with a great portion of what is the west side of North Miami and portions of North Miami Beach. In February 1926 the area that we know as central was de-annexed.¹ V. Earl Irons the developer of Iron's Manor, was one of the powers of the de-annexation. It probably was to his advantage to have all of his subdivisions within a small town rather than be subject to the bureaucratic conglomerate of Miami Shores.

The Miami Shores conglomerate at that had a multifaceted agenda that was dealing with a hundred or so developers. Basically Irons owned and was developing most of the central North Miami area. There

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¹ Conner, Blair-2003 Clarification: This a bad word, Irons did not legally do any thing. However, by subdividing his land prior Town incorporation he was pushing the need for incorporation that would benefit him.

ONCE UPON A TIME

(from Page 1)

were stories that Irons coerced the County and State to reroute The Dixie to the potential center of the North Dade population. The night before the Town was officially chartered he hosted a huge party and sold a few more lots.

SHERMAN WINN MAKES DONATION TO SOCIETY

Sherman Winn, who was Mayor of North Miami in the late 1960s, recently made a donation of items to our organization and we thank him deeply! Mr. Winn, who is a legend in Dade politics, will soon retire from public service at the age of 75. Thank you Mr. Winn!

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE GNMHHS

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

FYI: HISTORY BUFFS

History Buffs and collectors! The Miami Memorabilia Club meets on the 3rd Monday of every month at Rivera Presbyterian Church, 5275 Sunset Drive. Seth Bramson president of the Memorabilia club and Director Of the GNMHS appeared recently in "History News" magazine and on Fox's TVs FX

Collectibles show as a super collector of Florida East Coast Railroad memorabilia.

CENTRAL HOMEOWNERS HOST HISTORY BUFF

Wednesday, February 18, 1998, the Central Homeowner's Association of North Miami hosted the GNMHS at their regular monthly meeting. The meeting was well attended and after a short business session, the history buffs presented a short program relative to three periods of North Miami history. Carole Helene of the Arch Creek started with the Tequesta Indians who inhabited the area prior to the Spanish explorers and brought the tale up the white settlers community of Arch Creek.

Shirley Huff related her days and the happenings at the Arch Creek Elementary School in the 1920s. While she was a student at the school, tragedy struck in the form of fire and the brand new school burned to the ground. The present day William Jennings Bryan Elementary School stands on the same site.

Blair Conner took on the tale of the North Miami Dirty Shirts of the 1940s. These young fellows got the unusual name because there were no city ball fields, no parks and no sponsors. They played all of their games out of town without a coach and in their old dirty, stained, and well-worn shirts (jerseys). They really became famous in October of 1945 when they presented the city with a Halloween night from Hell. Subsequent to that Halloween night the North Dade Youth Foundation

was formed and later grew into what we know today as the North Miami Parks and Recreation Dept. The boys made their point and clean shirts, coaches, and home games became items in the official city budget. A special thanks is given to Donavan Jones. A native North Miamian for presenting the GNMHS with a newspaper documentation relative to the Dirty Shirts activities and their more-than successful imminent status.

Lee Feldman, our City Manager and Tom Hood, our Police Chief were in attendance. Also there were Council members Duke Sorey, Tony Caserta, Frank Wolland, and Jeanette Carr. It is great to live in a city where the officials support the cultural efforts of the citizenry and are on hand for one-on-one conversation.

ARCH CREEK AN URBAN CENTER FOR TEQUESTA

By Carol Helene

The North Miami/Arch Creek area has never lacked for an intelligent industrious Folks having around the old bridge for thousands of years. The earliest inhabitants of the Arch Creek area were the Indians we call Tequestas Archeological evidence confirms that they were living in this area many years before the birth of Christ. Apparently, the area was used primarily as a camping ground. Most of Miami-Dade County was under water much of the year. The eroded limestone ridge in the in the Arch Creek not only provided dry land but also an abundance of food. Water from the everglades flowed through the creek. The bay was close by, providing ocean fish. The Tequesta middens or garbage
(continued on page 3)

TEQUESTAS (From page 2) dumps, show that ate sea and land turtles, oysters, and a large number of conchs. They were obviously excellent fishermen, as they were known to have also caught sharks, sailfish, porpoises, stingrays and sea cows. There were bones of rodents, and deer. In addition they probably ate the fruit form the coco plum, sea grapes, pigeon plum, prickly pear, and wild figs.

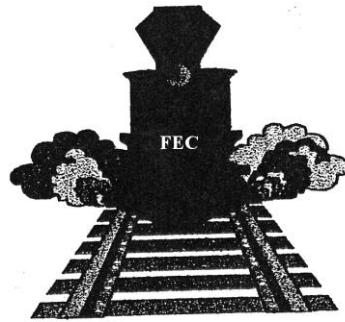
The Indians made dugout canoes, fishing gear, and bows and arrows, from clay found in the area they fashioned bowls and pots. Women wore Spanish moss skirts and the men wore breechcloths. Their shelters were probably simple huts.

An undated typescript gave the following description of a Tequesta burial mound, found just west of Arch Creek Natural Bridge. They found skeletons buried on a level in a circle, heads in feet out. There were on the skeletons, flat shells, arranged, as a necklace would be, a large on the breast, and smaller ones around the neck. Each shell had two holes.

What happened to these early inhabitants who were gone by the 1763? The most recent information comes from newly translated letters and documents from archives in Seville.

Probably there was an immigration of to Cuba about 50 years before that time. In 1711 the Catholic Bishop in Havana took up a collection to finance a rescue expedition for the Indians. Some had arrived to report that the British backed tribes were destroying their villages and selling their people into slavery. Smallpox and other diseases killed many of them. The Priests were disturbed by their obvious fondness

of rum. Despite their fondness for their children, the practiced chills sacrifice when a Chief or other important person died. According to the records, about 80 Indian families fled to the Keys and then boarded a boat to Havana in 1763. That is the last account of the Tequestas in Florida.



FEC STATION RAZED

It is with great regret that we note the demolition of the Arch Creek Railroad station formerly located on the Southeast corner of NE 130th Street and 16 Avenue. The building, which most recently served as a Florida Driver's License office, was razed on February 18, 1998 to build a storage facility, The station built in 1955 saw the likes of Elvis Presley and Lucille Ball pass through during their South Florida visits. According to the Miami Herald it was initially a stop for the northern FEC passenger routes to Chicago. In August 1965 the terminal began only local passenger streamliners running from Jacksonville to Miami. On July 31, 1968 trains stopped dropping passengers off at the terminal and the railroad company began solely transporting freight cargo, which is what the FEC tracks are used for today.

We will certainly miss this unique landmark! The GNMHS is looking into purchasing a marker for the site.

NEW TRACT READY AT IRONS MANOR

(The following article is reprinted from the Miami Herald, Thursday February 4 1926)

The Iron's Manor Sales organization will hold a banquet tonight in celebration of Friday's opening of Tracts B and C to the High Pines section of the Manor.

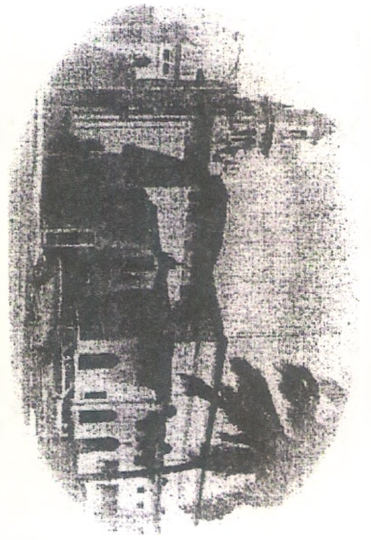
V. Earl Irons, President of the Irons Land Development Corporation will open the banquet at 8:15 p.m. in the Chez Rene French Café, 146 SE 8th Street. More that 150 persons are expected to attend the banquet. Dinner dancing, speaking and various games are on the program

Because of the unusual sales success which greeted the marketing of Section A of the High Pines District, Sections B and C are being placed on the market. According to Mr. Irons the two new Additions comprise approximately 175 acres lying north of Section A. Passing directly through the center of the two additions is the West Dixie Highway, which is being built from Biscayne Park to Fulford by County at a cost of \$118,000.

Improvements in Section B and C is well-paved streets¹, electric lights, fountains, plazas and shrubbery on every lot. A feature of the Friday Banquet will be a predevelopment discount of 30 per-cent on all lots.

1 Well- paved meant rock roads

The Greater North Miami Historical Society



The Greater North Miami Historical Society is an organization established to preserve historical artifact, written, and oral history, ephemera, and memorabilia relating to the current City of North Miami and the areas surrounding the city.

The Society came into being when a group of interested citizens decided that the history around the Arch Creek Basin was as important to county history as is the Miami River Basin. Collections or data gathering, along with archiving are its basic tasks. The Society needs the papers, the photos, the stories, and any other documentation that is important to the historical archives of the community. The Society needs the help of the community and the friends of the community. So if you have a document, a photo or a story that you can donate or let us copy please contact us at the below address

13100 WEST DIXIE HWY
NORTH MIAMI, FL 33161
(305) 891-7811 FAX (305) 893-8522

**GREATER NORTH MIAMI HISTORICAL SOCIETY
13100 WEST DIXIE HIGHWAY
NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA 33161**

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
GREATER NORTH MIAMI HISTORICAL SOCIETY
13100 WEST DIXIE HIGHWAY NORTH MIAMI, FL. 33161**

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MEMBERSHIP DUES \$10.00 ANNUAL