

THE GREATER NORTH MIAMI HISTORIAN

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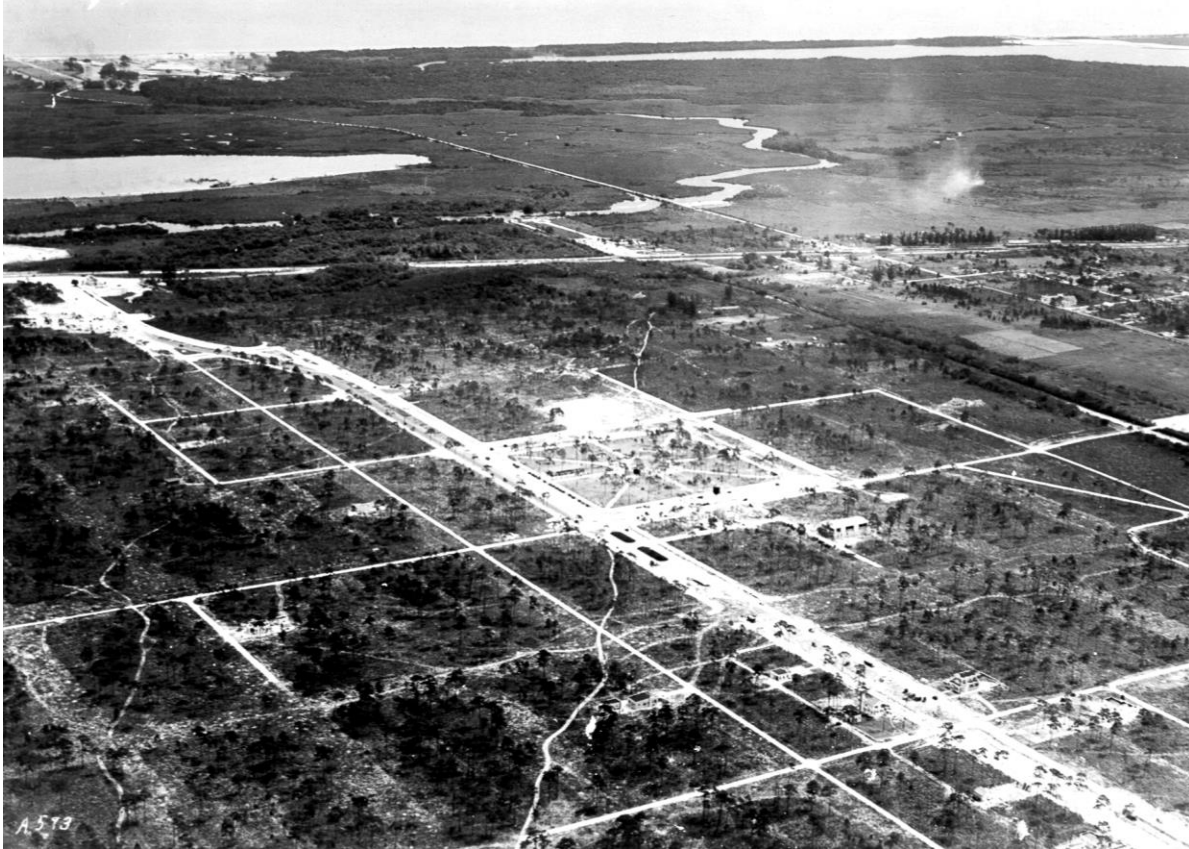
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FULFORD BY SEA AS SEEN FROM THE AIR IN 1925

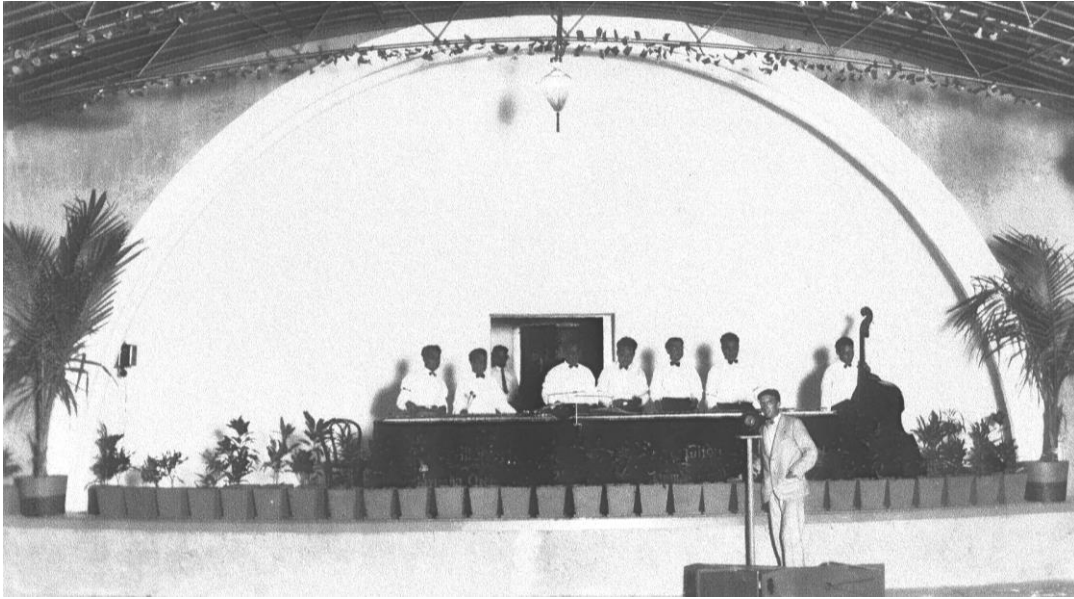


The Oleta River can be seen in its almost natural state. The main streets are West to East Fulford Blvd (NE 172 street) and Flagler Blvd (NE 19 Ave) North to South both running adjacent to City Hall and the Community Center as they still do but now it is the City of North Miami Beach. Look Close and you can see Sunny Isles Blvd wandering out through the tidal mangrove swamps to the Atlantic Ocean

In an earlier issue of the historian we told you about a fellow named Lafe Allen who in the early nineteen twenties developed the Town of "Fulford by the Sea" later to be known as the City of North Miami Beach. Recently Glenn O'Hearn one of the Societies researchers was visiting with Jean Bertani the Director of the North Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce to see if the Chamber had any input into the local history scene. She said that the Chamber might have some material or items that the Society may want to look at and see if they are archival. What the Chamber had, was a complete set (a book of 56) of the original photos that the developer of "Fulford by the Sea" had made of his development in the early nineteen twenties. We were able to make laser prints of the photos. Later Blair Conner made a Compact Disc copy from the originals for the Society as well as another for North Miami Chamber.

The photos include several aerial photographs but the majority of them are of the varied models of the homes as well as an array of commercial buildings and apartment houses. The community center included a band shell and a Radio Station. The Radio Station WGBU was one the earliest radio stations in the area. The photo also had pictures that were called scenic along with impressive views of the yacht basin over on the Oleta River. It also pictured a plan for a stadium on the river, however it was never built. It became a depression item.

MUSIC WAS A REGULAR SATURDAY NIGHT AFFAIR



Live from the bandstand of WGBU among tropical palms in Fulford by the Sea
Every Saturday night WGBU played dance music for the folks around southern Florida
THEY CAME BY THE BUSLOADS



There were a great many people from all over the United States in Sunny Miami and Miami Beach with money to invest in the great land boom of South Florida. Lafe Allen, the developer, and Merrill Tebbets, the financier through Tebbets company, "The Florida Cities Finance Company", were there to provide help to the investors or homeowners with their land acquisition problems. Trainloads of visitors came to Miami, Miami Beach, and Coral Gables after hearing the Florida land sales pitch and they came by busloads to see Fulford by the Sea. Not only did they come in on buses like the one shown above, they also came by the Intra-Coastal Water Way on one of Mr. Allen's Tour type boats. Allen and Tebbets constructed and financed a quality development that survived the great depression.

“TO BE OR NOT TO BE” MIAMI SHORES 1926-31

The Community of Arch Creek in the winter of 1925-26 was experiencing the problems of its expanding population and the need for public amenities. The small village was relying on dirt roads between their homes and the community center. Garbage was burned in backyard pits and out houses were a customary structure to be seen at the majority of the homes. Neighbors were longer than quarter of a mile down the road. In some cases they were almost next door. The over all community for the most part was still rural with tomato farms and other agricultural activity in abundance.

The center of the community around the Dixie Highway (NE 125th Street) and the F.E.C. Railway station was beginning to expand to the west and a bedroom community was beginning to take shape. People who worked in Little River and further into Miami were beginning to move out into the country. The prospects of dirt roads, outhouses, and well water were not being taken lightly. The automobile was bringing the two communities closer together time wise. So in that winter of 1925-26 the new city folk move ins and the old timers began to join together in what was described in the Miami Shores Bulletin as “Mass Meetings.” The Mass Meeting was no more than what is called a Town Hall meeting today.

The first order of business was to incorporate the community and give it a name. You may ask why did they need incorporation. They needed incorporation so a tax base could be established and the needed amenities could be provided (paid) for. In those days the land developer did not have to provide the improved streets and water and sewer as is done today. He only had to provide a residential lot and a deed. If the community wanted the roads, water and sewer, it had to provide for them through a community or municipal tax structure. After some debate at the Mass Meetings the consensus name of “Miami Shores” was chosen. The process of incorporation was easy but retaining the name became difficult. After a series of litigation that involved state legislation the name “Miami Shores” became the name of another area of the county.

On February 5th 1926, the Community of Arch Creek became an incorporated Town at a mass meeting¹. Under the laws of Florida all the citizenry needed was a 2/3 vote of the registered voters in the defined area. They had more than the 2/3rd needed at the Mass Meeting to incorporate. Earle Morgan was voted to Chair the meeting and appointed Edward C. Dougherty as Clerk for the Mass Meeting². The major players in the incorporation were D. B. Baker, Edward C. Dougherty, Earle Morgan, V. Earl Irons, Arthur Griffing, J.B. Jefferies, W.P. Brion, R.L. Gribble, and William Bennett. D.B. Baker was a house builder and certainly a bonafide incorporated town with the capacity to provide basic amenities would be beneficial to his business. Mr Irons, Mr. Griffing and Mr Jefferies were all subdivision or land developers. Incorporating the town and the subsequent construction of improvements would certainly boost land/lot sales. Mr Irons, however, did not wait for the town to build a water system; he built the first water plant in the area with the development of Irons Manor. Mr. Dougherty was a young lawyer who was new to the community but fit well into the crowd of developers. He was nominated to be Clerk of all the Mass Meetings related to the incorporation. Earle Morgan was the owner of a road construction company who was to build a lot of roadways and sidewalks in he Town. Mr. Bennett and Mr. Gribble were businessmen, spokesmen, and leaders of the old timers in the Arch Creek Community.

¹ Miami Metropolis February 4, 1926 Article Announcing Mass Meeting

² Meeting Transcript Dade County Public Records Book 929 Page 193

(CONT.) INCORPORATION

The first election followed at the same meeting: D.B. Baker-Mayor, Edward Dougherty-Clerk, and J.T. Williams-Town Marshall, and seven commissioners Earle Morgan, V. Earl Irons, Arthur Griffing, J.B. Jefferies, W.P. Brion, and R.L Gribble. For the next two years more or less the Town was going to wrestle with the name of Miami Shores. Why the conflict over the name came about is still a mystery but it is reasonable to believe that J.B. Jefferies an executive with the Shoreland Company was at the seat of it. The Shoreland Company was planning to or had platted several subdivisions to the south that were using the name Miami Shores in their title. The name Town of Miami Shores was an identity issue for the Shoreland Corp. Arthur Griffing the developer of Biscayne Park, in most cases, was vociferous and sided with Jefferies in most issues dealing with changing the name to the Town of North Miami. V. Earl Iron's, for the most part, took no issue with the matter but usually sided with Jefferies. W.P Brion said he did not see any need to change the name but if the people wanted it he would vote to change, but he leaned to changing it in the end vote. Gribble was definitely for keeping the name of Miami Shores. Prigg's position is unknown. In one vote, however, the commission passed a resolution to change the name. Who voted for what was never made clear by any published source. A research of the Town records would have to be done.

The resolution sent the Town Clerk, Mr. Dougherty, to the State Legislature (which was in its final session) with a request for a name change through the State legislature process. Mr. Dougherty had Carte-Blanche authority to write the legislation and he wrote it on the train trip to Tallahassee³. Dougherty knew that this was a hot issue in Town and if it passed he would be a scapegoat, so he included a paragraph that approved the name subject to vote by electors. It is evident that someone had planned all this action before hand, as there were only three days left on the Legislature's calendar. Mr Dougherty's hastily written Bill went through the House and Senate without opposition or debate and only a slight question on the electors having the final vote. Now that the State Bill passed⁴ an election was needed to make the change permanent. The question came down to the point of whether the Town would be North Miami or Miami Shores. Several other names were considered but never were seriously injected into the issue. The Town got in a big uproar with several straw elections that finally voted the change down. In the final vote to comply with the legislature, the vote went solidly to keep the name Miami Shores. There were several more attempts over the next 5 years by the developers to change the name. It was never the intention of the residents to change the name. Many of the developer's reasons were valid and many were conjured up for the media.

On July 24, 1931, the Town of Miami Shores became the Town of North Miami by an act of the Legislature. This time there was no clause for a vote by the electorate. The name, Town of Miami Shores, went into oblivion but was picked up shortly thereafter by the Shoreland Executives. The next move was to incorporate a new Village by the name of the Village of Miami Shores.

By Blair Conner:

A great deal of the information about the major participants and the issues found here, came from reading between the lines of the copies of the Miami Shores Bulletin a local newspaper printed in 1927 and 1928. Other information came from a document file (collection of news items, telegrams, letters and numerous other documents in the archives of Greater North Miami Historical Association.

³ Document File Greater North Miami History Society

⁴ Journal of the Florida House of Rep. and Senate SB904 June 6, 1927

WHAT'S NEW OR IS IT OLD?

John Bew one of the old timers in North Miami came along this time with four great photographs of North Miami in the early twenties. John and his family were the owners of prominent Atlantic Photo Company down in Little River. Rory Ramsauer the son Henry Ramsauer a former teacher at William Jennings Bryan Elementary donated a photo album. The album is collection of photos of students between 1951 1959 that his dad considered special children. Jacki Biggane came along with a Police Athletic League baseball cap and Joyce Mumford gave up to us her copy of the Newspaper that headlined "Snow in Miami." The new North Miami Community Center was opened last month and President Galvin filed the opening Commemorative Packet in the GNMHS archives. Mitch Green was by again this time he had an old North Miami High School "Pioneers" button for us. He also contributed 5 dozen file folders for the file cabinets in the archival room. Our most interesting donation was the Jane Bertani's "Fulford by Sea" photos on the pages 1 and 2.



FEC RAILWAY DEPOT NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA
PHOTO STATE OF FLORIDA ARCHIVES

**LAST TRAIN TO POINT'S NORTH
PASSENGER SERVICE ENDED
JULY 31, 1968**

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There are lots of things happening at the Greater North Miami Historical Society. I thought I'd update you on several of the things discussed at recent board meetings.

First and foremost, we are approaching the 75th Anniversary of the City of North Miami. Originally established as the Town of Miami Shores in February 1926, we are gearing up for grand-scale celebrations during the year 2001. Our thanks go out to North Miami Councilwoman Jeanette Carr for her spearheading a \$50,000 city budget set-aside for celebration events. Although that money was not earmarked for the Historical Society, we will be having committee meetings in the coming weeks to discuss potential birthday projects we can suggest to the city. Some of the ideas already floated include a calendar, birthday party at Bryan Elementary, and a parade. We hope that we will be able to play an integral part in what will surely be a memorable series of anniversary events.

We're also looking at participating in the 2001 "Dade Heritage Days" even that will be held March 16 - May 13. "Dade Heritage Days" is a celebration of the history and culture of Miami-Dade County. Events will include Everglades canoe trips, boat tours, historic architectural tours, and Miami River-Day, the only downtown event that illuminates the cultural value and curiosities of the Miami River. In December, we've decided to hold our annual holiday party, rather than the usual board of directors meeting. Bring your favorite covered dish to the Chamber on Dec. 1st at 7 PM. The holiday party is always a festive way to get the month rolling.

Firestone			
30 x 3 1/2	CORN	4-40-21	BALLOONS #8.40
31 x 4	"	5-77-20	" 16.05
32 x 4	"	6-00-21	" 17.00
SOME GOOD BARGAINS IN USED TIRES			

HUNDLEY'S TIRE & BATTERY **5**
Adv. June 11, 1927 Miami Shores Bulletin



State of Florida Archives ca 1927 Town Hall Miami Shores, Florida

Construction plans on the new Miami Shores Town Hall began Shortly after the incorporation on February 5th, 1926. Construction probably began in the fall of 1926 with first meeting being held November 17, 1927. Local Companies and individuals did almost all of work. Some of the work like the structural steel was given out to Miami firms. The limber came from the Miami Shores Lumber Company down on NE 95th Street and the Rail Road. The Town Council passed several interesting ordinances during construction. One ordinance required the companies doing construction to hire local laborers. Another one was supported by the local Chamber of Commerce that required the companies to pay the workers in cash and not by check. The workers with cash in one hand could patronize the local merchants. They did have to go to a bank down in Little River and spend the money before they got back home. Illegal! Well it was 1927.



State of Florida Archives ca 1925 City Hall Opa Locka, Florida

The City of Opa Locka a completely planned and developed by the famous aviator Glenn Curtis was developed a little earlier than the Town of Miami Shores. In contrast Miami Shores was developed by community action of an existing settlement to provide themsrlvs with the needed amenities for comfortable community life.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL NOTES

The first ballot to be deposited in the ballot box at the Special Election last Monday was the first vote cast by that voter --- Miss Helen Linton, who recently attained her majority.

Mrs. Arthur H. Wagener entertained with a Halloween Party at her residence on the Dixie Highway on Thursday, October 20th in honor of her youngest daughter, Mary Jane, whose sixth birthday was the day's event.

Halloween games were played and cake and ice cream were served. many nice presents were received by little Miss Mary Jane, and a good time was reported by the following little guests: Doris Molten, Nancy Griffiths, Mary Lou Crusey, Jane Klefeker, Junior Hawthorne, Grace Davison, Nancy Fowler, Inez Keen, Gertrude and Mary Jane Wagener

Mr. and Mrs. C.M. Courrier returned from their summer home at Marblehead, Mass. last Saturday and are greeting their legion of friends in Miami Shores.

Miss Betty Klefeker, assisted by her sisters Sarah and Corabel, entertained the Victory Class of Young People of the Community Church at the Klefeker Apartments on Griffing Boulevard last Wednesday evening at a Halloween Party.


The rooms were appropriately decorated, and many of the guests were in costume. The featured game of the evening was the ever popular "Bunco". Halloween games were played on the lawn and king fun reigned during the entire evening.

Delightful refreshments were served in Halloween style at the close of the festivities, and the young people voted it to be one of the most delightful parties of the year.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Morgan and family of Harding Avenue returned from Boston Tuesday morning. The drive down took six and one half days, with roads that were excellent, the trip proved to be a delight

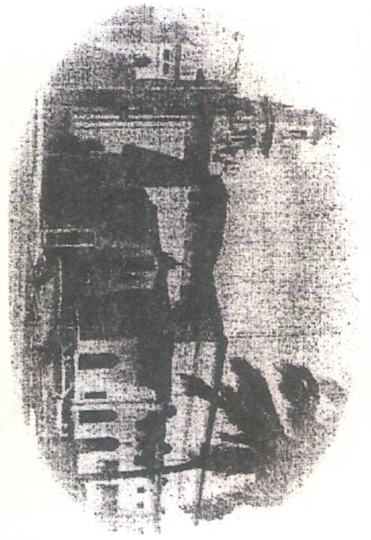
Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Lot have taken an apartment in the Klefeker Apartments on Griffing Boulevard and are now at home to their many friends there.

The Lambskin Club will hold its next regular meeting on Thursday evening of next week at Potts Hall. All Master Masons invited.

<p>When something about your car needs repairing DON'T LET IT GO! Let us catch those little things that soon would grow into a BIG BILL - BISCAYNE CENTER AUTO SHOP</p>	<p>The Party Season is at hand - YOUR HAIR means everything to your Appearance - See Miss Lockwood Rosetta Blvd Little River</p> 
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Halloween was upon the old timers and it's upon us again. So will we see the Great Pumkin? Look into the night sky so scary and look on the steeple at the library. Will the Great Pumkin come back or has it fallen in with the Medicare Pack.

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**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ **FAX** _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES \$10.00 ANNUAL