

**THE GREATER NORTH MIAMI HISTORIAN**  
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**THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI**  
**FEB 5, 1926 75 YEARS OF PROGRESS FEB 5, 2001**



**PHOTO BY JEAN PIERRE FAUTEUX**

**ONE OF THE SEVERAL BIRTHDAY CAKES THAT WERE CONSUMED AT THE  
BIRTHDAY PARTY HELD AT FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

Thanks to the City Commission, the Citizens of North Miami had two birthday parties celebrating the establishment of the City's municipal presence. On the Friday evening of March 2001 the first party was held in the beautiful landscaped patio of William Jennings Bryan Elementary School. This party had been well announced in the Neighbors Edition of the Miami Herald and the Home Owners Association across the city. A great many of the "Old Timers" came out to reminisce and visit with old friends. Along with old timers were loads of folks who have lived in the community for many years and shortly will be reaching the old timers stage. The food was great and abundant. The Johnson and Wales University team from over on the south fork of Arch Creek catered the affair. Have you been by there lately and seen the great landscaping and rejuvenation the University has applied to the creek banks and the area in general? Great job Johnson and Wales.

The principal at William Jennings Bryan, Paul J. Greenfield and his Assistant Principal, Eileen Wacks, were more than gracious in assisting the city employees who set up the electric, the audio-visual sound system, and the many other little problems that always jump up at the last minute. Ms. Eileen Wacks enlisted the Jr. R.O.T.C. cadets as escorts for the

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folks who had to hike in from the west parking area to the front of the building. I am sure that saved a few steps for all the “Old Timers” who probably would have tried to come in the west entrance like they did as kids. Great idea, they loved the escorts. The leaders of the North Miami High School Jr. R.O.T.C., Major John Samusson and Sgt. Willie Mills, are to be commended on the way their young people completed their assignment.



PHOTO BY GLENN O'HEARN

### **THE BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPED PATIO AT BRYAN SCHOOL**

While the Jr. R.O.T.C. Cadets were escorting, the boys and girls of the Police Explorer Post under the guidance of Lieutenant Kathy Ruggerio were directing parking in the overflow area of the school grounds. They did a great job. There were no fender benders or temper tantrums and all is/was well. This Police Explorer Post is the oldest post in the State of Florida, having its roots with a Junior Police organization that was initiated in 1945 by the then Chief of Police Karl Engle.

Julie Washington, the publicist at City Hall, and Gabe Colon, in City Planning, developed a “Power Point” show of 60 or so photos and records that were researched by Glenn O’Hearn of the GNMHS that documented the basic history of North Miami. It was a great show and in the future will be part of the city publicity program with a copy being turned over to the GNMHS for future use. The city employees who worked on this party but are unnamed did a great job as usual. Their work is always noticed, like in the Orange Bowl Parade floats, the Winter National Event, and now at the “Big 75.” Great job folks.

Last, but not least, is the volunteer squad of the Board of Directors of the GNMHS especially Glenn O’Hearn and Jackie Biggane who assisted Commissioner Scott Galvin, the Bryan School Administration and the City Staff. Commissioner Galvin is the spark plug of the GNMHS and you might say he is the founder of the organization. In 1997 he invited a group (that he considered local history buffs) to a meeting and from that meeting came the present organization that has gained considerable recognition in the community as well as some historians in the area. With every good job, there is one person who pushes it over the top. Anita Holoway, the Deputy City Manager, dealt with the organizational details and the follow ups and got the show over the top and on the road

You would think that this party was enough but the City set aside money for a big blow out that was held on the waterfront of the Cal Kovens Center at F.I.U. This party included a huge fire works display in the evening, and a midway with jugglers and clowns in the crowd. There were free cookies, cotton candy and popcorn from carnival type vendors. For the small children there was a booth that would paint and decorate their faces in clown fashion or showy with attractive designs. The fire works show at the end of the evening was spectacular. It was one that was equal if not better than any thing that Disney might have done. cont p3

Fireworks and fun was the order of the day, but the best thing about the party was that it was a family affair. The little ones scurried around the large campus with cotton candy from ear to ear while the big ones took in the scenic view on the beautiful waterfront that was the stage for the fireworks show. Every one was encouraged to bring a picnic basket and enjoy the festivities on the large grassy yard of the Center, however, not every one came to picnic. But there were quite a few who did so. Those not picnicking were enjoying the festivities and munching on the popcorn and listening to the music of the live band that had something for everyone.



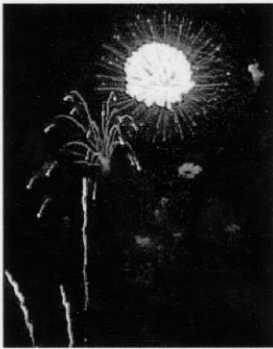
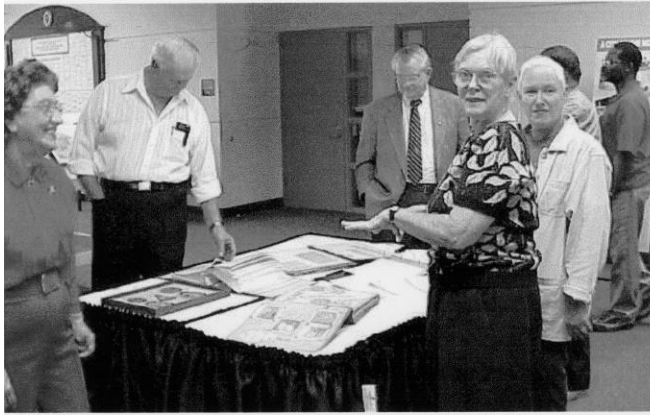
PHOTO BY GLENN O'HEARN

### **PICNICKERS IN THE EAST YARD ON THE WATERFRONT OF THE CENTER WITH THE BAND ON STAGE**

On the serious side of the affair was the Greater North Miami Historical Society's presentation of the last 75 years with photos, ephemera, and documents of the city's early struggle to stay alive in the depression and then its booming recovery in the late 50's that has gained it the name of the "Today's City of Progress." Jackie Biggane, Glenn O'Hearn and Blair Conner of the GNMHS teamed up with the Staff from M.O.C.A. (Museum of Contemporary Art) to organize and present the best of "75" collection. The Staff from M.O.C.A. was comprised of Jeremy Chestler, Kevin Arrow, and Claudia Miyar who added the professional touch of symmetry and color to the "75" collection. There were several hurdles to overcome for this presentation, such as cases and stands to display the original photos, documents and ephemera. Once again the unnamed heroes of the city staff came to the rescue. They constructed protective glassed in cabinets and sturdy racks to display the items. They also refurbished the frames for a large collection of photos that has been stored the E. May Avil Library. The Power Point show that made its debut at the Bryan School party was improved, added too, and set on automatic.

As citizens moved through the lobby they had the opportunity to sign in the guest book and put their name down for the future. Some one remarked that a time capsule should be placed at City Hall with items from the 75<sup>th</sup> Year to be opened at the 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration and that the book be placed therein. Sounds like a good idea?

The overall coordinator of the 75<sup>th</sup> Celebration at the Cal Kovens Center fell on Irma Plumer the Assistant City Manager for the City of North Miami. Irma set her plan in action and drew on the Directors of the GNMHS and the staff at M.O.C.A. and on her very talented employees. Without Irma and the city staff the festivities may not have happened. Thanks Irma and please compliment your city employees. All of you did a great job.



PHOTOS BURNHAM NEIL

**INTERESTED CITIZENS VISITING THE HISTORICAL EXHIBIT THAT WAS ON DISPLAY AT THE CAL KOVENS CENTER ON THE FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY CAMPUS FOR THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI'S SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVITIES**

# V.I.P.'s AT BRYAN NIGHT



PHOTOS BY GLENN O'HEARN

# HISTORICAL PHOTOS OF NORTH MIAMI AND ITS TOWN FOLKS OF TIMES PAST

**THE RURAL COMMUNITY OF ARCH CREEK FARMERS  
INCORPORATED AS MIAMI SHORES ON FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>  
1926 LATER TO BECOME THE TOWN OF NORTH MIAMI  
AND THEN THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI**



THE GRIBBLE COLLECTION

**THE SITE OF THE NORTH MIAMI CITY HALL IN 1909**



PHOTO DONATED BY JOHN O. BEW OF ATLANTIC PHOTO

**THE BRAND NEW MIAMI SHORES CITY HALL OF 1927  
NE 125 THE STREET AT NE 8<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE**

## TIME LINE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI 1885 - 1965

Begin Arch Creek Community	1885
	1890
Flagler's Rail Way	1896
	1900
Elmira Colony, Farmers from New York	1905
Community Hub shifts to 125 <sup>th</sup> St. and FEC R.R.	1905
Arch Creek School	1905
	1910
First Church, all denominations, later the Union Congregational.	1912
Population of area 100+/-	
	1920
Farming, mostly tomatoes at its peak	1921
Land Boom at height, developers like Earl Irons and Art Griffing start sales	1923
West Dixie High Way and Biscayne Canal under way	1924
Population 500. Great American depression on hand	1925
Feb, Town of Miami Shores incorporated. City officials including Town Marshall, Tax Collector. First Town Newspaper The Bulletin published. Town expanded to oceanfront.	1926
Arch Creek School Burns	1927
Bryan School built to replaces Arch Creek	1928
Depression still prevails	1930
Oceanfront lost from City limits in Court case.	1931
	1935
North Miami Zoo opens	1936
Office of Marshall becomes Police Chief	1936
Population 1,973	1940
December 7 World War II	1941
World War II ends. Miami Aviation Country Club opens. The North Dade Youth Foundation formed and so ends the Dirty Shirt recreation era.	1945

**HISTORICAL PHOTOS OF NORTH MIAMI AND ITS TOWN  
FOLKS OF TIMES PAST**

**CONTINUED  
TIME LINE  
1885 – 1965  
CITY OF NORTH MIAMI**

Park View Corner, Miami Shores Florida



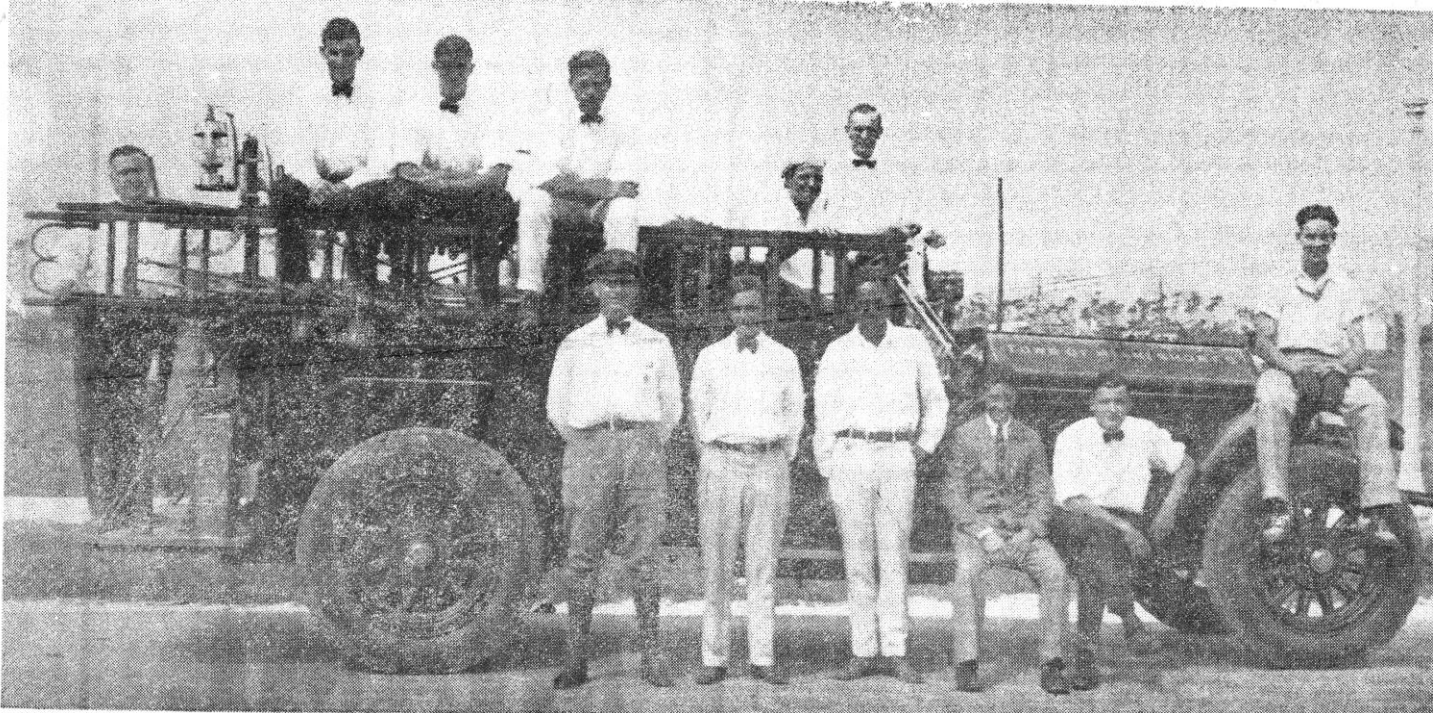
PHOTO DONATED BY JOHN O. BEW OF ATLANTIC PHOTO  
**WEST DIXIE HIGHWAY SOUTH OF 125<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
PARK VIEW CORNERS**



CONNER COLLECTION - IRONS MANOR PHOTO  
**THE ARCH CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOL 1918 – 1927  
CONSUMED BY FIRE IN 1927 - REPLACED BY THE  
WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN ELEMENTARY AND JUNIOR.  
HIGH**

- Chamber of Commerce formed. Big wet hurricane drowns county, North Miami high and dry 1947
- Vets housing boom begins 1948
- West side expansion. Youth Foundation has a paid City Recreation Dept leader. 1949
- Schools and Churches expand move into the expanding city City Silver Anniversary. 1951
- Named fastest growing city in U.S.A. West side connected east side by new bridge over Biscayne canal at 125<sup>th</sup> Street City Recreation Dept in full operation and the Youth Foundation absorbed. 1950
- Town becomes a City under new State charter and gets a City Manager form of government, 1952
- City 100% sewerred 1954
- City of Progress Bonds 1955
- Completion of Fire Stations, Swimming Pools, Library, National Guard Armory Sunkist Community Center. FEC Rail Way opens a new modern passenger station. Best Drinking Water in the state award 1956
- NW 7<sup>th</sup> Ave widening by State was completed (HOO Rah) a big parade was in order. Key Stone Point has replaced the Miami Aviation Country Club and is completely built out. 1957
- San Souci began construction 1958
- I-95 Expressway Completed? 1959
- Population over 23,000 1960
- North Miami General Hospital opens. 1963
- West Side it own water plant 1964
- Unimaginative bureaucrats tore down the old City Hall. Ivan Tors Studios open. Interama begins. 1965
- Studio City opens Channel 2. A permanent Veterans Monument is placed at the Armory. 1965

**HISTORICAL PHOTOS OF NORTH MIAMI AND ITS TOWN FOLKS OF TIMES PAST**



**THE MIAMI SHORES / NORTH MIAMI FIRE DEPT 1927**

**EARLY TEACHERS AT WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN AND THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS**



**BACK:** Mildred Mahood, Marion Conner, Willie Partee, Ida Meyers, Nettie Jones, Florence Cadwallader



**FRONT ROW L/R:** Bonnie Morgan, Doris Lasher, Unknown, Alberta Lasher, Ethel Stone  
**MIDDLE:** Corabell, Klefeker, Carolyn Stephens, Unknown, Emma Parsons, Ethel Stone  
**BACK:** Teacher, Roscoe Glenn, Donald Mc Corquodale, Edgar Hurd, Bob Huff, Leon Maxwell, Harry Norris,

**In closing, the Presidents Message:** It is impressive to consider the road that North Miami has traveled in its first 75 years. We've gone from being a prosperous farming area, to a sleepy, bedroom community, and now to the 4<sup>th</sup> largest city in Miami-Dade County. As we move ahead to bigger and better things, it is wonderful on occasions and celebrations like this to reflect on the fantastic memories that have been created by our families and friends both past and present