

THINGS WE NEVER KNEW ABOUT MIAMI BEACH BEFORE:

1. Bay used to lap right around Drexel Avenue.
2. On dedication of Biscayne Bridge over Biscayne Waterway, Mr. Tomlinson was asked how it came into being -- he said that Carl Fisher came in one day and spread out in front of him a map of that section of Miami Beach. "Tommy", he said, "We have to have some more ocean front property" and with that he took out his pencil and made a circle - and that circle is now Surprise Lake - then he said, "We will have to have some way to get in and out of that lake for yachts and boats" and made another dash, and that dash became Biscayne Waterway.....and with another dash of his pencil he created Surprise Waterway -
3. 1920 census had 644 people living in Miami Beach - at that time the section where City Hall now stands northwards to Lincoln Road was laid out by the Miami Ocean View Company just like a park - with streets and flowers and a person standing on 5th Street could see all the way up to Lincoln Road as there were just flowers and streets. A few of the buildings were Brown's Hotel at 2nd St, and Ocean Drive, Hibiscus Apts. at 1st and Biscayne, the Woodford Hotel and the Breakers.
4. Miami Beach was connected to the mainland by a long wooden bridge, at the location that is now Venitian Way. About a year later the Flamingo hotel was started - Mr. Tomlinson laid out the pilings for it - and while driving friends past the sight, the opinion was expressed that it would never prove profitable.
5. When Mr. Tomlinson arrived in Miami ^{Beach} they were pumping out the property that is now Bayshore Golf Course and it was Mr. Tomlinson's job to lay out the bay line - Alton Road was a mangrove line which he used in shaping the bay.
6. They used to have regattas in Miami Beach which were watched from a pavillon that ran along 11th and 12th streets - these regattas were started by Pete Chase and were big events on the social calendars and yachts from all over participated in them.