



[Pictured above: Artist rendering of the Sears, Roebuck and Company Department Store in a postcard. The Sears, Roebuck and Company Department Store in Miami, Florida was an Art Deco building built in 1929 for Sears, Roebuck and Company. The building was the first known implementation of Art Deco architecture in the county and was spectacular. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in August 8, 1997. Only its tower remains.]

Miami Pioneers

Research / Online Video Archive / Documentary

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Miami Pioneers is based upon a simple but powerful concept, created by Bob Powers. Bob, who has spent most of his life in Miami, became intrigued with the fascinating stories on his friends and neighbors, many of whom had spent most of their lives in Miami, as well.

Bob realized that as each lifelong Miami friend ages, succumbs to poor health or passes away, a crucial part of the oral history of Miami and its century of existence could be lost, as well.

Bob's idea is about capturing, in their own words, the stories, anecdotes, legends, and folk histories before they disappear forever. Some of their lives and stories go back to Lemon City and Julie Tuttle. Some worked with John Deering and several knew or worked for Al Capone.

To lead this project, Bob asked historian and film curator, Dr. Mark Woods, a researcher at the University of South Wales and formerly at Florida International University.

Working with local researchers, archivists and talented Miami film crews, Dr. Woods will lead the research project, culminating in the creation of a unique, online repository of:

- Folksonomies
- Oral histories
- Family heirloom artwork
- Rare photographs
- Links to other local history archives,
- User-interactive search tool for families, friends and researchers.

While the online archive is being created, interviews will be conducted and edited into narrated segments of a made for television documentary, based on the entire historical research project.

Dr. Woods has organized a research project that will accomplish three goals:

Collect, collate and annotate the related research documents and memorabilia connected with each interview;

Conduct and videotape and/or record interviews with key individuals, while they are still vibrant and capable of sharing these stories;

Produce an online video archive, resulting in a television documentary film, featuring narrated highlights of this timely research and remarkable, real life interviews with the last generation of the 'Miami Pioneers'.

The proposed Miami Pioneers list includes:

- A. **Jane Cane** — WWII Marine Vet, husband start what is now the Paramedic service, which the entire industry is modeled after, she is 92, 305-541-3943.
- B. **Curtis Kerns** — Korean War Vet did expeditions to the Amazon met Indian tribes and wrote books on them many don't exist anymore. Electrical Engineer 80+ 305-763-9370
- C. **Robert Griffin** — Miami Dade Police officer from the 50's to the 80's 69
- D. **Bonnie Fernandez** — Native Miamian Father worked for Al Capone Mother worked for John Deering. 305-557-3407
- E. **Ruth Espejo** — Native Miamian mother played Pro Softball League, The family owned a great deal of real estate Coral House Castro, 67, 786-260-4447
- F. **Carl Strayling** — A&M Football player runs the 5th St Gym on Miami Beach during the time of Cassis Clay. 305-607-6862
- G. **Rev. Robert Barbar and son Kevien** — dad is in his 80's, both are Native Miamians 305-893-6894
- H. **Daniel Miller** worked for the Turchin brothers whom developed Miami and Dade County in the 1960's, 305-305-0106

- I. **Ann Carlson** — one of the first US cultural ambassadors, before and after WWII. Rico James the fashion guy has already filmed her.
- J. **John Evans and his parents** — all lifelong Miamians, John as an engineer helped to build many of the skyscrapers that have come to define Miami as an international city with world class architecture and neighborhoods.
- K. **Gus Dewinkler** — Lambda — has a lot of fotos
- L. **Alex Ayala** — Robert Malone campaign.
- M. **Jack Wayman** — His parents owned the 2-story house now used by the Cushman School, on Biscayne Blvd. He is a wealth of information and will be the crown jewel of your documentary. Jack Wayman 845-353-1133. [Please let him know you are a friend of the Cushman School, mention Fredi Milberg and Arvi Balseiro.]
- N. Additionally, the research and archive will also feature interviews with Miami Cushman School employees and friends, and several will be featured in the television documentary based on this research, newly videotaped interviews and related archival footage.

Cushman Employees:

- 1. Connie Siemon — 305-335-4730
- 2. Jan Fike Reese- (H)-305-757-3120 (c) 305-409-2031 (Sid Reese, Jans husband is also happy to be involved)
- 3. Shirley Davis- (H)-305-758-1735 (c) 305-790-3852
- 4. Cushman Board Member-Miami and Miami Shores Resident, Martha Anne Collins- (c) 305-332-3499
- 5. Former Head of School — Miami Shores Resident, Joan Lutton- jdl59@aol.com <mailto:jd159@aol.com>
- 6. Dr. Chester Morris (Friend of Shirley Davis) 305-934-7036
- 7. S. Jacobs (Friend of Shirley Davis) 305-758-0656
- 8. Parents of Arvi Balseiro — Al/Phyllis Sepe- (H) 305-759-2310