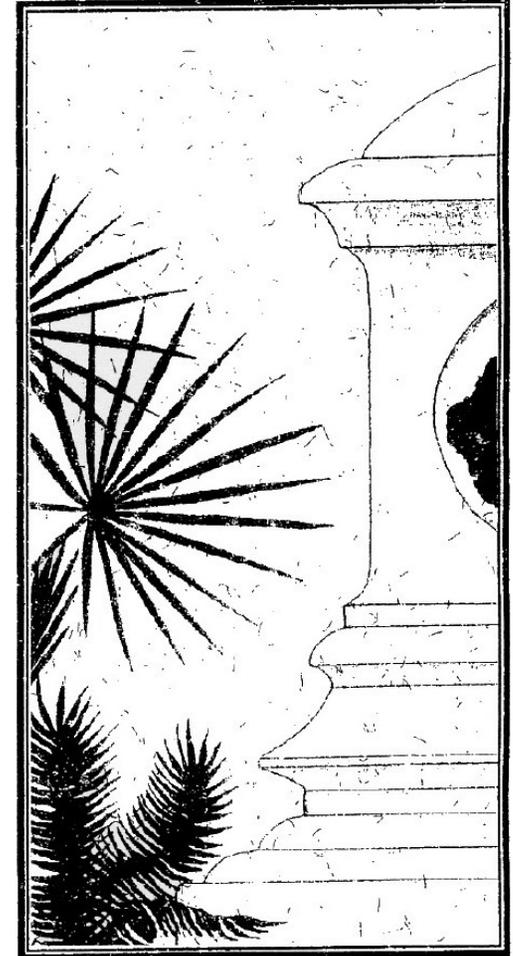# PINEWOOD CEMETERY

A RESTORATION PROJECT

Pinewood Cemetery is located
one-half block South of Sunset Drive
0.9 mile east of Red Road and
0.4 mile west of Cartagena Plaza

Pinewood Cemetery is located in the City of Coral Gables on Erwin Road (47th Avenue) south of Sunset Drive. It is the oldest cemetery south of the Miami River, and the final resting place of many of Dade County's pioneer settlers.

It was first known as Larkins Cemetery, named for the Larkins settlement that eventually became South Miami. Later, the cemetery was called Cocoplum, Pineywoods, and finally, Pinewood. The importance of the cemetery is evidenced by the names of early prominent lot purchasers. Among the families recorded were Barrs, Combs, Dowling, Hardee, Larkins, Laesch, Brooke, Mitchell, Munroe, Pent, Perry, Plummer, Romph, Roberts and Walker.

The last known burial in Pinewood was in the 1940s. After that the cemetery stood forgotten, the descendants of the deceased having scattered. The cemetery became overgrown and was desecrated by vandalism. Headstones were broken and stolen.

◇ ◇ ◇

In 1983, a group of citizens devoted to history, genealogy and historic preservation took an interest in the restoration of the cemetery. The City of Coral Gables lent its support by creating a citizens' advisory board and later by the allocation of funds for the restoration project.

With the dedication of the Pinewood Cemetery Advisory Board and the support of the City of Coral Gables, significant progress has been made in returning the cemetery to a place of beauty and dignity.

In 1989, the City of Coral Gables provided funds to construct a rock wall along the Erwin Road boundary. The Coral Gables Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution placed a bronze historic marker on the new wall. Several of the missing gravestones were located and returned to their original sites.

A master plan for the clearing of undesirable vegetation and the replanting of native plant material was developed. Plants and trees are being labeled with identifying markers.

Research is ongoing through Dade County historical records and through burial records to identify those buried here. In some cases, exact locations are known, but many are not.

"Pioneer Day" is held each year at the cemetery to honor those buried here. Many neighbors of the cemetery, descendants of those buried at Pinewood and interested citizens of Coral Gables, attend the service. The public is invited.

Pinewood was a simple rural cemetery. The goal is not to transform it into a modern cemetery. Rather, it is the goal to return it as much as possible to its original state – to create a place where school children will come on field trips to study history, birds and plant life, and where adults can stroll in a tranquil setting, pausing to reflect on times past.

If you would like to be a part of the ongoing restoration and maintenance of the Cemetery, you can make a contribution by filing out the form on the opposite panel and mailing it with your check to:

**City of Coral Gables,
Historical Resources Department
Pinewood Cemetery Restoration Fund
Post Office Box 141549
Coral Gables, FL 33114**

For information on these programs, please call the City of Coral Gables Historical Resources Department at 305-460-5093.

Revised: 03-18-11

PINEWOOD CEMETERY RESTORATION FUND

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

P.O. Box: _____

City:_____ State:_____

Zip Code:_____.

Phone Number:_____.

Email address:_____.

I would like to make a monetary donation in the amount of $_____ to be used towards the restoration of Pinewood Cemetery. ***Please make checks payable to the City of Coral Gables, Pinewood Cemetery Restoration Fund.***

❑ I have artifacts, expertise, information or time which may be of value to the restoration efforts.