

Posted on Fri, Oct. 03, 2008

Tours spotlight Upper Eastside's history

By LAURA MORALES

The first bridge built in what was then called Dade County, the Little River bridge, cost about \$50 in 1892, according to architect and amateur historian Antolín Carbonell.

"The people who built it, neighbors from Lemon City, didn't get paid, but a commissioner appropriated the \$50 to get them some materials," Carbonell said with a laugh. "Even then, it was . . . pretty cheap."

Carbonell, a Belle Meade resident, once again is teaming up with fellow history buff John Bachay for a new season of Upper Eastside historic walking tours.

Beginning Saturday, the duo will offer the Biscayne Boulevard/Belle Meade Historic Tour, which covers about 160 years of the area's history. In 1857, the notorious boulevard was known simply as the Military Trail.

This tour begins at the Vagabond Motel, 7301 Biscayne Blvd., a Miami Modern landmark, lasts about 75 minutes and covers close to a mile.

A \$10 donation is requested.

Another tour to be offered Nov. 1 will focus on the history of the Shorecrest community, where Carbonell grew up.

It features the county's first canal, known as Dr. Potter's Canal, and prefabricated bungalows folks could order through the mail and assemble themselves.

"A company named Aladdin used to manufacture those," Carbonell said.

Both tours will begin at Shorecrest Mini-Park, located at the intersection of Northeast 84th Street and Eighth Court.

The first tour will be offered 11 times and the second only three.

For more information on tour schedules, e-mail Carbonell at antolingarcia-carbonell@gmail.com.