

# Koreshan State Historic Site Newsletter

Spring - Summer 2005

Welcome to the second edition of the Koreshan State Historic Site Newsletter, sent to our friends and supporters. This edition is getting out a little later than we wanted, however, we hope you enjoy it. In the future we will try to publish more often.

## What's News:

**Park Manager Returns** – Park Manager, Bob Baker returned to work on April 11<sup>th</sup> after suffering a mild heart attack.

**The Party's Over** – This year's "Season" has pretty much ended with the old trailer park, which is used to house the many different motor homes and trailers, has emptied. It was a very good year with many volunteers doing many different things. The highlight of this season was the recreated *Manor* bridge which was built over the canal to what has been termed *Monkey Puzzle Island*. (see picture and story to the right).

**Documentary Filmed** – KPI TV, an independent production company, spent some time in the Historic Site taping for an upcoming documentary on the History Channel. At this point we have no information as to when or if the program will air. We will keep you informed.

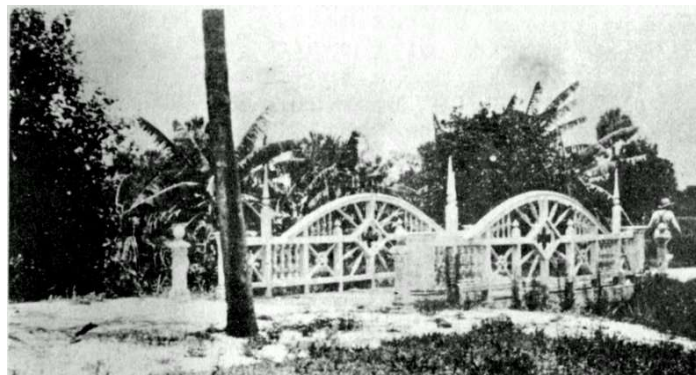
More "*American Eagles*" -- The Fort Myers Historical Mueum recently donated 80+ copies of the American Eagle. Most of the issues were recent (1985-1998), however there were a few copies from as early as 1936, 1942 and 1943. The October 1936 issue included a section that is very similar to the "**Community Current Events**" column that appeared in the *Flaming Sword* for so many years. This column gives us some insight into the everyday world of the Koreshans and the people of this area. There are also more of the Henry Nehrling articles. To our knowledge there is no index of just how many articles were written.

The *Community Current Events* column is currently being scanned with the text then being imported into our catalog and indexed. Eventually we will be able to find any name that appeared in the column by doing a simple search. These are the kind of projects that we are working on.

Do you have any information, photos, stories etc. that you would like to share? Contact the Park, or send us an e-mail. We are always interested in these things. If you want to submit original photos we can scan them and return the originals to you.



*Victorian Bridge Completed – Volunteers have recreated the bridge (above) based on the photo below.*



Many of the original artifacts, objects etc. that once existed in the park are now gone or overgrown. Staff use many different means to try and re-create the look and even the "feel" of things long since gone. The bridges pictured above are no exception. The original photo is not one that is found in our collection, but instead was taken from a book entitled: "*Koreshan Unity Settlement 1894-1977*" by G.M. Herbert and I.S.K. Reeves, two Florida architects who did a study and preservation project for the Koreshan Unity in 1977. Their in-depth study has shed light on many aspects of life here and their contribution has proved invaluable. This is why we are always interested in anything anyone has to offer us with regard to the people, the buildings and life in the Unity. The "*Reeves Study*" as it is known helps us as well and many times leads us in the right direction.