

Don Bennett Memory

I live in Columbia, South Carolina. Across the water, Jimmy Buffett's wife's family lived. In the 1960s, Jimmy played around town and we partied together. I worked on rigging and lighting at for shows, and I did many famous bands. I did Buffett's shows, Elvis, many others. Now, I am I'm the head load in guy and I still work for Buffett.

Years and years ago, we heard that Jimmy was doing a show at the Miami Marine Stadium and as hippies, we wanted to do everything that was cool so we just had to go. So we went down there, got out into the Stadium and I said "You've got to be kidding me". I couldn't believe it. We were right next to the stage on some sort of float.

When Jimmy was young, he was cute! And when he went onstage, people just began to go crazy. I'm yelling at him (he didn't see me) but we just went right on singing and dancing. Meanwhile, the cops were in charge of watching us and making sure we didn't do anything "illegal".....That was the coolest place in the world to go to and it was one of the most wonderful times of my life.

I have a keepsake from that night. We were partying at the side of the Marine Stadium and I saw a newspaper bike for The Miami Sun. I just jumped on it and rode it off. We ended up putting it in the car and taking it home and I still have it. Though I have since spray painted the bike, I still made sure to leave the "Miami Sun" labels visible.

I would love to go back to the Marine Stadium and do it again. I've been to some good places for concerts, but you felt something different at the Marine Stadium, you knew it was great. When I found out that Jimmy was working on it, I wanted to help.

It is a great place and I am hoping that you are going to take it and show people what "cool" really is.