

## Mary Cotto Memory

I have so many memories of the Miami Marine Stadium-it is like I grew up there.

The first thing I remember was a sing-a-long concert with Mitch Miller in the summer of 1968. It was great-we had lyrics to the songs and everyone in the grandstand sang the songs as Mitch and his group sang.

Ray Stevens was the summer of 1974, and it was quite a show. At the time, his big song was "The Streak". As he sang, a young man-buck naked! - ran across the stage in front of the band and dove in the water. The police looked for him but couldn't find him. Everyone in the stands was surprised-it was quite a shock-then everyone just laughed. It was over and done with so fast.

I also saw Kenny Rogers. Ronnie Milsap, who is blind, was the opening act for Kenny. When he was introduced, Milsap turned to where he thought the Miami was and said "Miami, you have a beautiful skyline!" as if he could see it!

The Beach Boys were a great show which my husband and I saw. After the show, I went down the ramp and Mike Love, one of the Beach Boys, gave me the cap which he used to wipe off the sweat.

We saw others-Dionne Warwick, Vicki Carr. Vicki Carr sang a lot of songs in Spanish, as she thought this would appeal to the Miami audience. However a lot of people who were there wanted to hear her standard songs such as "It Must Be Him". My husband, who is Hispanic, translated the songs for me.

Do I have a favorite? Not anyone in particular. My adult life evolved through experiences at the Marine Stadium, from a college person, to a career person, and later I was married-kind of like a time line.

The Miami Marine Stadium reminds me of the movie "Picnic" starring William Holden. There was a scene in the movie about a country fair-the music, the lighting, it was just so romantic. The Marine Stadium always reminded me of that movie, there was just no other place like it.