The name would commemorate Arthur Criss (1898-1984) who came to Washington in 1902. The Criss family purchased the property on which part of the stream flows in 1959. The family had several get-togethers on the property, and would go clamming.

Arthur Criss held many jobs over the years, from working on the Space Needle, to becoming Captain of the Seattle Fire Department. Mr. Criss told his family to never sell the property, and it is now in a family trust.

The stream is referenced as "Shine Creek", most likely for the nearby town of Shine. The stream is officially unnamed, and appears without a name on USGS maps.
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