



Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



THE MONUMENT ON THE BISCAYNE BAY ISLE

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MIAMI --- When they incorporated this little fishing village in 1896, the folks wanted to name it "Flagler" after the greet Florida developer who got things moving here about that time, Henry M. Flagler. But the railroad and hotel magnate, who'd made many millions in Standard Oil before coming to pioneer Florida, didn't want to be so honored. He prevailed on the voters to adopt the Indian name of Miami, meaning "Big Water."

But today there stands an unusual monument in an unusual spot to honor Flagler. It's 96-foot pillar-shaped and spire-topped shaft erected by another famed local developer, Carl F. Fisher, the wizard of Miami Beach. The tall monument, which stands on a tiny isle in Biscayne Bay near the Venetian Causeway, is surrounded by four symbolic figures sculpted out of precast cement by H. P. Peterson. The figures represent "pioneering," "engineering," "prosperity" and "industrialism," symbols which apply aptly and equally to both Flagler and his admirer Fisher.

The memorial was built about 1920 and the small island was dredged up for a total cost of \$150,000. In 1939, it was deeded to the city of Miami Beach.

Flagler has often been called the "Father of Miami" for triggering the growth of the small community into one of the fastest growing metropolis in the country. When the tracks were extended from West Palm Beach to Miami, Flagler's railroad was renamed Florida East Coast. And, as he had all down the coast, the developer built an elegant hotel, this one named the Royal Palm.

