



# Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



## THE TANGERINE WAS ONCE CLASSY WINTER RESORT

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BROOKSVILLE --- A newspaper reporter recently looked over the old Tangerine Hotel here and wrote: "A bit of the pride, if not the grandeur, has returned to the Tangerine Hotel. It's no Hilton today, after 44 years, but it's clean and orderly and peopled by a respectable clientele and a new owner-manager determined to keep it that way."

Brooksville sits upon seven hills, just like Italy's Rome, and, is one of the state's more attractive communities. When the Tangerine was erected in 1928, at the tale end of the Florida real estate boom, it was located smack on U.S. 41. But a few years later, they rerouted this main highway through another section of town, thus isolating the hostelry a bit.

Originally the Mediterranean-styled building was painted a bright tangerine, and the hotel was named the Tangerine, thus saluting one of the top products of this citrus-producing area. The hotel now is painted white, but due to its age, shows a bit of tattle-tale gray in spots.

The hotel opened as a rather classy winter resort hotel, and weathered the Depression---tough years economically for most enterprises---fared all right through the World War II years. Then in the 1950's it provided the home for winter-training baseball teams.

Even in the 1970's the Tangerine continues as a successful accommodation. There are 12 rooms on the first floor, 28 on the second, and eight on the third floor. The hotel boasts a good average of occupancy:

Brooksville is the county seat of Hernando County, on the west coast of Florida. The county was named in honor of Hernando DeSoto, the intrepid Spanish conquistador who marched in this vicinity in his search for gold and silver after landing in Tampa Bay. For a short while the county's name was Benton, honoring Senator Thomas Benton of Missouri who had sponsored the Armed Occupation Act of 1842. Later the local folk soured on something the Congressman did, and changed the county's name back to Hernando.

