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cars go around grave in street

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Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



THE CARS GO AROUND GRAVE IN STREET

By HAMPTON DUNN

NEW SMYRNA BEACH -- Canova Drive here is a narrow little street. It's named for the brother of singer Judy Canova, a former landowner in the area, but it's best known because motorists have to go around an "island" in the middle of the road.

The island is the grave of 16-year-old Charles Dummett, son of a pioneer citrus grower. The lad, who was fatally wounded in a hunting accident, was the only son of Capt. Douglas D. Dummett (sometimes spelled "Dummitt"), a member of Florida's Citrus Hall of Fame because he was regarded as the "Father of the Indian River Citrus Industry."

Captain Dummett had come to this country in 1807 from Barbados Island. In St. Augustine he married a socially prominent woman, but she deserted him. He moved to this section, a part of what was known then as Mosquito County. Here the Captain married a young Negro slave girl, Anna. He became noted for fighting Indians as commander of the "Mosquito Roarers" in the Seminole Wars. He also served in the Territorial Legislature.

The couple had three daughters and young Charles. The youth was home for Easter holidays from school up North when the tragedy occurred, on April 23, 1860. Captain Dummett sadly buried his only son on the property. A marble slab marks the grave. The Dummett family later moved to Merritt Island where he developed the fine Indian River orange.

When Canova Drive was built, the engineers left the grave of Charles Dummett untouched.

