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## First 'Road of Remembrance' in nation

Hampton Dunn

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# Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



## FIRST 'ROAD OF REMEMBRANCE' IN NATION

TAMPA --- "May these trees you dedicated on the first Road of Remembrance in the United States live as long as the memory of the 106 you so finely honor."

This was the message from the president of the American Forestry Association when Tampa dedicated its Memorial Highway to honor Hillsborough County's World War I dead on January 2, 1921.

The project was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Tampa. The planned asphalt road replaced a shell road from Howard Avenue, then the City Limits, on Grand Central to the Pinellas County line. The 15-foot highway was 132 miles long and cost \$870,000, and when opened was considered one of the finest highways in Florida. The Rotarians spent \$7,500 for beautification, lining both sides of the road with water oaks and oleanders of several colors.

Two monuments were erected, as well as milestones. One monument stood in the center of Grand Central (now J. F. Kennedy Blvd.) and as cars became more numerous, the shaft became a traffic hazard. It later was moved to the entrance of the American Legion cemetery which fronts on Kennedy Blvd. At present a monument and the milestones are neatly arranged in a park at the beginning of Memorial Highway, just north of Kennedy. Expansion of Tampa International Airport and the new expressways also caused absorption of part of Memorial Highway.

The late Tampa Tribune editor, E. D. Lambright, wrote the eloquent inscription on the monument.

