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Florida history on display at odd spot

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Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



FLORIDA HISTORY ON DISPLAY AT ODD SPOT

By HAMPTON DUNN

CORAL GABLES --- The slogan of this dazzling community born during Florida's boom is "The City Beautiful." And the city fathers mean for that to be true --- even to the town's sewage treatment plant! In fact, the large round tank facility just off U. S. 1 not only is attractive enough to plug as a tourist sight, but seeing it is an adventure in education.

Muralist John St. John has dramatically traced in murals on the walls of the two giant tanks the 450-year history of Florida. They're the first outdoor historical murals on a municipal building in the nation. The fine project is doomed for destruction, however. The plant is on the campus of the country-club-like University of Miami which needs the site for a field house.

While it stands, the great murals carry you back in Florida history to the Aborigines. The famous Alberto Canto map of Florida dated 1502---a decade before Ponce de Leon arrived---is shown on the walls in the Discovery epoch. Another interesting map shown is the global map of Leonardo da Vinci of 1514--using for the first time the name "Florida", even though the state was considered an island.

The French influence here is depicted by a sketch of fort Caroline, and, of course, the Spanish occupations are well represented including a drawing of Fort San Marcos of St.. Augustine. The conflict between the white man and the Indian likewise is told. Also the modern development of Southeast Florida and Coral Gables itself is a part of the story in painting.

