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Collier memorialized in Royal Palm Hammock

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Dunn, Hampton, "Collier memorialized in Royal Palm Hammock" (1960). *Hampton Dunn Phototouring Florida Collection*. 146.

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Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



COLLIER MEMORIALIZED IN ROYAL PALM HAMMOCK

By HAMPTON DUNN

COLLIER-SEMINOLE STATE PARK --- The biggest landowner of the biggest county in Florida was the man for whom Collier County was named.

Barron G. Collier, who had accumulated great wealth from street-car advertising in New York and all over the country for that matter, was the pioneer empire builder who came to Southwest Florida and started buying up real estate in 1921. He bit off such a chunk of what were then Lee and Hendry Counties, that the new county created was named in his honor. It's been estimated he owned from 90 to 99 per cent of the county and of course was its largest taxpayer. At the time of his death in 1939, he rated as the largest landowner in Florida. Collier County's 1,300,000 acres make it the largest county in size.

The dynamic developer of a wilderness area is appropriately memorialized in Collier-Seminole State Park on U.S. 41 south of Naples, part of the land which was given by Collier for park purposes. The park consists of 6,400 acres much of it in its native state of mangrove jungle. It is just about as far north as the stately Royal Palm may be found in its native habitat and the area is often referred to as "Royal Palm Hammock."

The magnificent memorial consists of a colonnade and bust of Collier, Flanking and colonnade are tablets mounted on native rock listing the names of Federal troops and Seminole Indians who gave their lives in bloody battles in the Indian wars. Collier's most significant memorial is the lively, vibrant and prosperous section he envisioned and carved out from the Everglades.

