

January 1960

## Colonial Hotel princess of yesterday

Hampton Dunn

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### Recommended Citation

Dunn, Hampton, "Colonial Hotel princess of yesterday" (1960). *Hampton Dunn Phototouring Florida Collection*. 163.

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# Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



## COLONIAL HOTEL PRINCESS OF YESTERDAY

By HAMPTON DUNN

WHITE SPRINGS --- By the time visitors reach this cozy little community on U.S. 41 north of Lake City, they are so anxious to see the Stephen Foster Memorial they overlook some interesting and historic landmarks that dot the landscape.

It's almost impossible, however, to miss the ancient Colonial Hotel, which sits square in the entrance to the park that memorializes the famed composer. The rambling wooden structure for many, many years housed the popular resort hotel. But in recent years it has been closed down and just sits there looking like, as someone says, a "Princess of Yesterday."

Many years ago, though, the Colonial was a dazzling social center. There were many guests, gala music, bright lights, romantic atmosphere, the finest of food.

The Colonial was one of the finest accommodations for visitors to old White Sulphur Springs, a favorite spot, also now closed and padlocked. The springs adjoins magnificent Suwannee River, which was immortalized by Stephen Foster in what is now our State Song.

The quiet little town of White Springs originally was a favorite spot for the Indians who came there to regain health in the magic waters of the spring. Townspeople boast that "If Ponce de Leon had only known about this spring, he would have had to hunt no farther for the Fountain of Youth."

