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Governor's grove a symbol of friendship

Hampton Dunn

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Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



GOVERNOR'S GROVE A SYMBOL OF FRIENDSHIP

By HAMPTON DUNN

CLERMONT --- A roadside treat awaits travelers going along U.S. 27 just south of this community in the heart of Florida's citrus land. There is a little one-acre orange grove that forms a backdrop for a rest stop with picnic tables.

It's "Governor's Grove," a unique attraction established in 1958 by Minute Maid Corporation, one of the state's giants in the citrus business. It serves as a symbol of perpetual friendship between the State of Florida and the states and territories of the U.S.

Tourists can see close-up bearing Valencia orange trees, which mature in the spring and bear what is considered to be the very best juice orange. Each tree with its surrounding 400 square feet of rich Florida soil is dedicated to a state or territory and to its Governor and residents.

The Grove was put out the year the National Governor's Conference was held in Miami Beach. The aisles between the trees in the grove are sodded to provide ease in leisurely strolls among the trees. And from the picnic area at the sites visitors have a captivating panoramic view of Central Florida's grove lands. Tons of thousands of persons stop at "Governor's Grove" each year.

Nearby, a few miles north on U.S. 27, is the amazing Citrus Tower, while a few miles south, also on U. S. 27 --- or "Citrus Boulevard," as it has been designated --- is the Lake Placid Tower. Visitors may get exciting views of the state's No. 1 agricultural industry.

