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January 1960

## Marco Lodge

Hampton Dunn

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### Recommended Citation

Dunn, Hampton, "Marco Lodge" (1960). *Hampton Dunn Phototouring Florida Collection*. 225.  
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# Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



## MARCO LODGE: HISTORY AMID 'PROGRESS'

BY HAMPTON DUNN

GOODLAND --- Home cooked meals, featuring seafood, continues to draw Marco Island visitors to historic old Marco Lodge, just as they have for decades. The two-story, white clapboard building on the waterfront is a landmark of this now fast-developing island. But "progress" just came about the mid-1960's. Until then, this was an off-beat, quiet isle off the Florida coast in the Ten Thousand Islands.

The Marco Lodge originally was the family home of the family of Capt. W. D. (Bill) Collier, who built it in an old Marco townsite at the north end of the island. His grandfather, William Thomas Collier, was the first man to settle on Marco Island. This Collier family is not related to Barron G. Collier, the New York advertising man who came here and developed Collier County.

Captian Bill's home, according to a daughter, Mrs. Emma Collier Hudson, was erected in 1888 and contained but five rooms. Later, as the family increased, the roof was raised and a second floor was added. Through the years it was a private home until it became the property of the Barfields. Still as the property of Mrs. Tommie C. Barfield, it became a commercial inn known as the White House. In 1949 it was being operated as the Marco Lodge by Mrs. Marge Wine. Alex Tasetano, a native of Italy, came to Marco from Miami that year, primarily to rebuild the old Barfield home at Caxambas, met Marge, married her and then helped manage the lodge. The Ruppert family, then owner of the property, had development plans which did not include the Lodge. So Alex and Marge moved it to the present site in January, 1965.

