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# Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



## THE AGING 'BAY VIEW' IS 'FIRM AS A ROCK'

By HAMPTON DUNN

MELROSE --- She's called "Bay View," this rambling, aging frame house sitting atop a knoll overlooking Sante Fe Bay in this rural community in North Florida. She is a direct connection with the past, for in the 1880's this building was the social and civic center of Melrose.

Melrose , incidentally, is on State Road 26 east of Gainesville.

In the last quarter of the last century, Melrose was a prosperous area with citrus being king. But came the disastrous Big Freeze of 1894-95 and the townspeople went broke, the citrus industry moved to warmer climes of south Florida and "Bay View" became somewhat of a ghost of the happy past.

Mrs. Kennie L. Howard was born in the house, which her parents built, in 1880. She grew up, was married, traveled in California and South America and elsewhere. Finally, in the late years of her life, she made a sentimental journey back to Melrose, and her beloved "Bay View." Then she came home to stay and to write a book about her birthplace, a volume entitled "Yesterday in Florida." It was published in 1970.

Before Melrose had a hotel, "Bay View" housed guests to the city. In her book, Mrs. Howard reports that "Bay View had a substantial foundation and it housed substantial Americans."

"The lumber in its walls was home cut of virgin pine wood," she continued. "The trees from which the wood had come were brought to the antiquated sawmill in pieces to use for a particular home. All this came before the turpentine business found and cut into the lovely old pine forests of the Lake Region.

Today, in the advanced years of the 20th century, Bay View stands as firm as a rock; best of all, it retains its charm of long ago."

