

January 1960

Clewiston Inn is Local Landmark, circa 1960s

Hampton Dunn

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/dunn_phototouring

Recommended Citation

Dunn, Hampton, "Clewiston Inn is Local Landmark, circa 1960s" (1960). *Hampton Dunn Photouring Florida Collection*. 250.

https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/dunn_phototouring/250

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Floridiana - General at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in Hampton Dunn Photouring Florida Collection by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usf.edu.



Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



THE CLEWISTON INN IS LOCAL LANDMARK

By HAMPTON DUNN

CLEWISTON --- Hendry County was created by the Legislature on May 11, 1923. The county seat is over at LaBelle, but Clewiston is the largest community in the county, and draws visitors traveling through on U.S. 27.

The county was carved from Lee County. Division of Lee figured in the 1922 legislative race. The plan was to slice off a piece of the eastern part of the county. This was done, with Hendry being established. But at the same session, another chunk of sprawling Lee County, on the southern side, also was chopped off, and Collier County came into being.

Hendry was named in honor of Capt. Francis Asbury Hendry, pioneer resident, owner of 50,000 head of cattle and known as the Cattle King of South Florida. He was an early governmental leader as well.

Clewiston is a relatively new city, its development dating back to about the same time the county was created. It was just a settlement on Lake Okeechobee known as Sand Point until a banker from Tampa, A. C. Clewis, discovered the potential. He helped to get the railroad to come here and put up the money to lay out the town. It thus was named Clewiston in his honor. It is called "America's sweetest town" --- in salute to the community's main industry, sugar cane growing.

A landmark here is the Clewiston Inn, well, known for its southern hospitality and Old South cuisine. The original hotel was built in the 1920s, but it burned in 1937. It was constructed of Cleotex and burned so slowly the occupants were able to remove most of their belongings with no personal injury and little loss of personal property. The present Clewiston Inn building was erected in 1938. In the hotel lounge is a conversation piece, a four-wall mural of Everglades wildlife.

