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World's most unique monument

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Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



'WORLD'S MOST UNIQUE MONUMENT'

By HAMPTON DUNN

KISSIMMEE -- An unusual "Monument of States" in Lake Front Park here was an imaginative creation from a do-it-yourself project of the Kissimmee All States Tourist Club.

Billed as the "world's most unique monument," the shaft was two years in the building. The tourists themselves did the labor. There was no paid architect, no paid cement finisher, no paid contractor, no paid stone mason or stone engraver. Around the structure is a Victory Walk, on which are inscribed in concrete the names of donors of one or more bags of cement.

The tower is in the form of an irregular quadrilateral step-pyramid of 21 varying tiers. It reaches 50 feet in the air, with a flag pole extending further upward.

Into the odd structure went more than 1500 stones from every state in the union and from 21 foreign countries. President Franklin D. Roosevelt sent a stone from the wall of his Hyde Park estate, Prime Minister MacKenzie King one from Canada and Gov. Rexford Guy Tugwell one from Puerto Rico. Stones from the states were sent by the governors.

The stone collection is a geologist's dream. Included are quartz, marble, granite, agate, flint, alabaster, coquina, meteors, stalagmites, petrified teeth, lava and many mineral ores.

The monument was dedicated on March 28, 1943, by the eloquent Claude Pepper, then U.S. Senator from Florida and now a member of Congress.

