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world's most beautiful swimmin' hole

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Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL SWIMMIN' HOLE

By HAMPTON DUNN

CORAL GABLES --- Developers and promoters of lovely Coral Gables during Florida's flamboyant boom days in the 20s weren't content just to turn an old rock quarry into "the world's most beautiful swimmin' hole," they dreamed up ingenious stunts to exploit it.

Would you believe Paul Whiteman, the rely-poly moustachioed maestro, leading his jazz band in a bathing suit as the musicians swung out right from the cool waters of the Venetian pool? And how about the silver-tongued orator, William Jennings Bryan, being paid \$50,000 a year to pitch daily sales speeches poolside? And some of the world's first and most glamorous beauty contests were held on a board walk across the pool?

The municipal swimming pool, which attracts 200,000 visitors a year, contains 810,000 gallons of fresh water along with rock towers, caves, arched bridges, a waterfall, islands and a sandy beach. These plus shady perticos, vine-covered loggias, great Spanish towers. All this, and plenty of palm trees, too. A veritable architectural achievement.

A unique and living souvenir is given visitors to the historic pool. It's a leaf from an "air plant," otherwise known as Cathedral Bells or Kalanchoe, which will grow indoors or out, without soil or water. It's a native of tropical Asia.

