

Henla meye -

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In 1567 a Spanish mission was built on what is now Miami Beach by Don Pedro Menendez, founder of St. Augustine and Spanish governor of Florida. The harbor was used as a port of call and refuge and apparently no serious attempt was made by the Spaniards to develop a colony here.

In 1870, Henry B. Lum, of Ohio, started an unsuccessful coconut plantation. John S. Collins invested in the project, later came to live and establish a tropical fruit farm.

In 1912 the island was connected with the mainland by the Collins Bridge, about where the Venetian Causeway is now located. Carl G. Fisher came in 1911, loaned the Collins family money to complete the bridge, saw the possibility of development and started the first land boom.

Three companies started development of Miami Beach:
Ocean Beach Realty Co. - Lummus
Miami Beach Improvement Co. - Collins
Alton Beach Realty Co. - Fisher

In order to promote building of houses on Miami Beach, the Lummus Company gave away 33 lots on Collins Avenue to people who would agree to build houses on them - these were completed by the latter part of 1914.

March 26, 1915 - Miami Beach was incorporated - had 33 qualified voters (women could not vote at that time). Incorporated area took in all of the territory from ocean to bay - from Government ship channel to what is now known as the Firestone Estate.

J. N. Lummus was the first Mayor.

Present City Manager Claude A. Renshaw has held that position since September 1925 - has been the only City Manager.

Present City Clerk and Tax Collector C.W. Tomlinson has held that position since August 3, 1920.

Auctioneers trying to sell lots on Miami Beach used to give away free dishes to people attending sales.

Glenn Curtis trained fliers on Miami Beach until 1915 - first aviation field in Dade County - Fleetwood Hotel now stands on site of hangars.

First road in Miami Beach was completed in 1913. Now has 130 miles of paved streets, 112 miles of sidewalks.

Area of Miami Beach today covers 17 square miles - 8 square miles of land, 9 square miles of water. There are $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of ocean front,

Arrive 1910-15

Brown Hotel was first hotel - stood between 1st and 2nd Streets on Ocean Drive - Wofford Hotel was the second. Roney Plaza built in 1925 - first hotel in country to have cabanas.

1920 census gave Miami Beach population of 644 - five years later City had population of over 15,000. 1945 State census showed 32,256 permanent residents -- Winter of 1949, 115,000.

Assessed valuation in 1920 was \$224,000 - increased in five years to \$5,540,112. Present assessed valuation is \$283,891,200. Bonded debt is \$7,505,000.

*289,370,300 -
1949 -*

The City tax rate is 18 mills.

Miami Beach has six public schools and 15 private schools.

There are two hospitals in Miami Beach, and a total of ten churches and five synagogues. There are 361 hotels now available with 24,359 rooms, and 1,354 apartment houses - approximately 5,000 single family residences. There are six public beach parks, and seven public sports and recreation centers.