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The City of Miami Beach is a paradox -- it is both limited and limitless -- limited in space and limitless in its scope. It is a City already famous world-over for its "rags to riches" growth -- in 35 years -- from mangrove swamp to the "Nation's Host". It is a City founded on the faith and foresight of individuals, developed by individuals, and today -- nurtured by individuals -- individuals who make up our citizenry.....

In 1567, a Spanish mission -- 1870 a coconut plantation failure -- 1915 incorporated with 33 qualified voters -- today a City with permanent residents numbering 45,541. Its' 7.1 square miles of land, 8.2 miles of ocean frontage, contains 12,338 residential, business, apartment and hotel lots -- and there is no longer land to be subdivided in Miami Beach -- in fact, in general attunement with the progress for which it is noted, this City without a slum, has already begun to demolish older buildings, -- building that would be considered up-to-date in many localities -- and new ones are being erected in their places. Since February of this year, 17 of these demolitions have been started

It is the City where auctioneers once used to give away free sets of dishes in order to sell lots -- and where now -- land is very often sold by the foot.....

It is the City whose first road was completed in 1913 -- and today has 130 miles of paved streets -- whose first telephone exchange was established in 1919 with 67 subscribers -- and today has more than 55,000 telephones.

It is the City whose first office of the Chamber of Commerce was established under a big beach umbrella -- the Chamber of Commerce

which reported that its mail inquiry for June totalled 11,070 letters....

It is the City with its famed Lincoln Road -- Lincoln Road that in the early '20's was one of the finest residential streets in the Greater Miami area that presently has over 225 stores that gross over \$40,000,000 a season....

It is the City that -- when its first hotel, the Brown Hotel was built around 1915, located between 1st and 2nd Streets on Ocean Drive -- people foretold its failure -- today has as its major industry -- hotels -- with one-fourth of all the hotel rooms in the State of Florida in its environs.

It is the City where mangroves and mosquitos once ran rampant -- whose fame as a haven for hay fever sufferers now spreads rampantly across the world....

It is the City whose assessed valuation in 1920 was \$224,000 -- in 1949 reach the amazing peak of \$283,891,200 -- and this year will be about \$290,000,000....

It is the City whose waterways, created by the dash of a pencil on a map, today has 63.26 miles of water frontage....

It is the City whose average year 'round temperature over a 40-year period is 75.2.....that in 1949 recorded *only* nine days with temperatures of 90 degrees or over....

It is the City where transfer students are accepted in its schools without loss of time or credit -- where tuition and books are free.....

It is the City where one can dine in a different establishment every day of the year and then have some left over --

It is a City of the times — of people — by people — for people — as modern as today....even tomorrow....a City visited yearly by thousands....a City of which we are all individually a part as the pioneers were a part they pioneered — Yes — but we continue to pioneer — to keep apace with our progress — so that our visitors will constantly feel like Christopher Columbus and discover a new WORLD around them.....

I'm proud to be a part of it — aren't you?