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***The Magic City – Miami* by Arva Moore Parks**

John F. Reiger
University of Miami

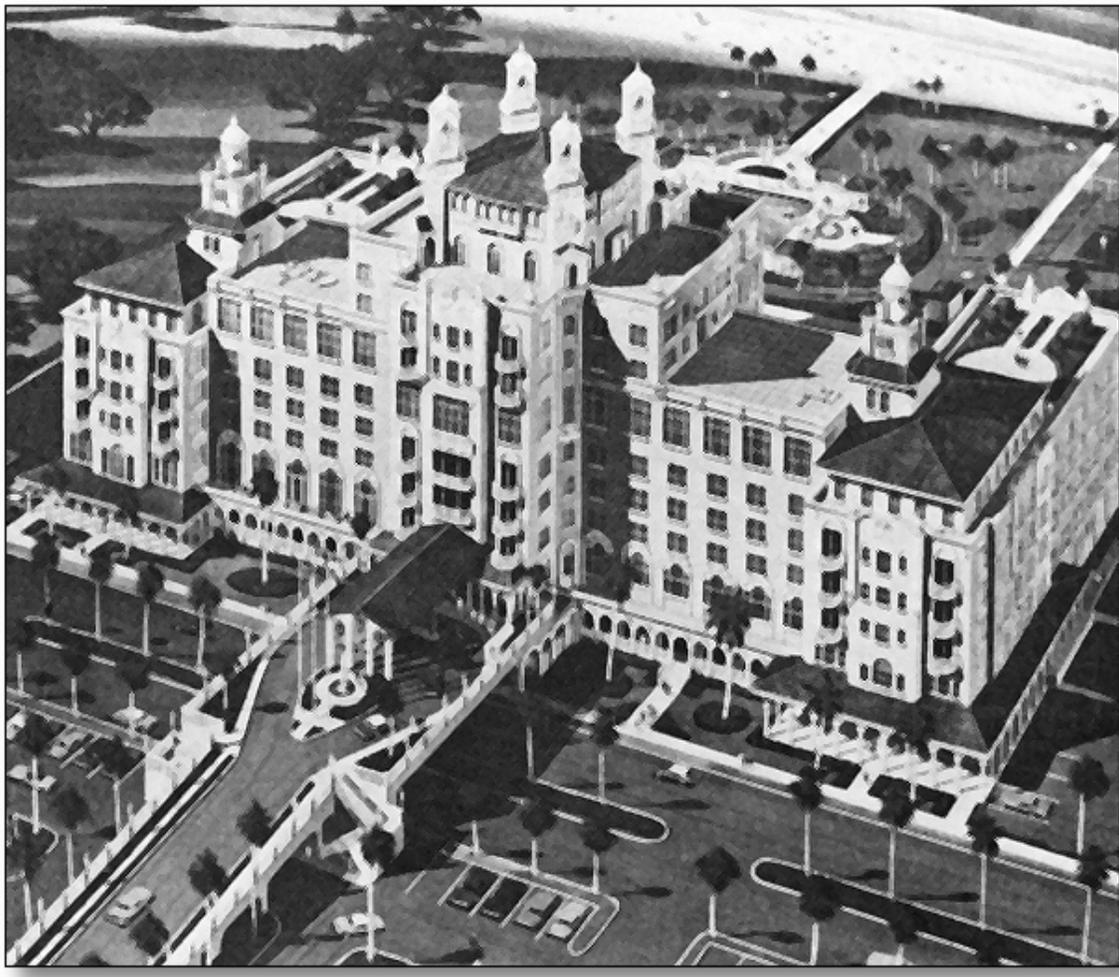
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Don CeSar, St. Petersburg Beach from *The Don CeSar Story*.

concerted effort won the attention of William Bowman, owner of the St. Petersburg Holiday Inn. Demolition plans, like the bullets threatening the Don's life, were successfully averted. The Don underwent renovation, including replacement of all plumbing, the removal of room partitions constructed by the government, and an exterior facelift. Bowman also removed the hyphen from the hotel's name, calling it the Don CeSar, and saved a significant St. Petersburg landmark from an untimely destruction for future generations to appreciate.

L. Glenn Westfall

The Magic City – Miami. By Arva Moore Parks. Tulsa, Oklahoma. 1981. Continental Heritage Press, Inc. Photographs. Pp. 224. Cloth.

The Magic City – Miami with text by Arva Moore Parks and photography by Steven Brooke, represents a contribution to the literature on the history of southeast Florida. Those who want a scholarly history of the city will have to go elsewhere, for the book has neither footnotes nor

objectivity – the author is a native Miamian who bubbles over like a chamber of commerce president about the glories of life in "her" metropolis.

If there is little real analysis in the text, it is the almost inevitable result of the book's being an example of the coffee-table picture-book genre. And it is rare for an individual to write a history of a city and concentrate on its bad points. Still, there will be readers – like me – who remember the old Miami that had abundant, clean freshwater, no air pollution, little traffic congestion, a low crime rate, and good fishing, and wonder if Ms. Parks has really made an effort to give the reader an objective history of Miami's recent past.

While some may find problems in her treatment of Miami from 1945 to the present, I doubt if anyone will find much fault with the rest of the book. As a popular history of the site of Miami, from prehistoric times through World War II, it is hard to beat. Indeed, the author has performed an invaluable service to the community by providing a vehicle whereby Miami's newcomers can acquaint themselves with the history of their adopted city.

And they can do so relatively inexpensively. Considering the high level of bookmaking involved, *"The Magic City"* is a real bargain at \$24.95. The author is to be commended for gathering together an amazing array of previously unpublished maps and photographs, and Steven Brooke has done an outstanding job of reproducing them on film. The book is beautifully designed, the paper is of fine quality, and the photographs prove – once again – that "one picture is worth a thousand words."

John F. Reiger

Vicente Folch, Governor in Spanish Florida, 1787-1811. By David Hart White. Washington, D.C. 1981. University Press of America. Notes. Pp. vi, 111. Paper.

Juan Vicente Folch is best known in American history as the beleaguered governor of West Florida who, in 1811, offered to cede Mobile to the United States and then reneged. David White's little book places the episode in the context of a career which spanned 26 years in the colony at a time when Spanish colonial policy was in great confusion. Exhaustive examination of Folch's correspondence has enabled White to follow Folch's daily activities with great clarity. The difficulty of dealing with Indians who kept demanding gifts which cost money, the near impossibility of obtaining funds for this and other purposes, the lack of adequate military personnel to garrison an extensive and volatile frontier, the increasing pressure of American settlers and the international wars and rivalries of the period were daily matters of concern for the intrepid Folch. Hampered by the rigid Spanish bureaucracy, his nation's declining power in the world and, especially, in relation to the burgeoning United States, and the inability to deal effectively with the Indians, Folch managed to tread a narrow path between the various pitfalls which awaited him. He patiently attempted to keep relative peace between the Indian tribes and the settlers in West Florida, while trying to avoid direct confrontation with the Americans along borders which were not clearly defined. From the book emerges the portrait of an able, although sometimes stubborn, administrator whose patience was considerably greater than one might think of the man who offered in a moment of frustration to cede his nation's colony to an aggressive neighbor. Folch explained that he had never intended to follow through on the offer, but was