1-1-1960

Carl Fisher's honeymoon house still stands

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MIAMI --- Carl Fisher, the flamboyant promoter and developer of fabulous Miami Beach, brought his bride, Jane, in 1910 to live in a fine old home that is still standing.

The Fishers called their honeymoon house "The Shadows," but now there's a sign on the old house calling it "Whitehall." It presently sits in the middle of Southeast 13th Street just off Brickell Avenue. Traffic is routed one-way around the structure in its awkward location.

When Jane and Carl lived here, the house was situated overlooking Biscayne Bar. This was the original "The Shadows," not to be confused with another mansion the Fishers had by the same name out on Miami Beach.

"Whitehall," or, if you please, "The Shadows," also has had the name "Rendezvous" somewhere along its long historical trail. It's looking a little old for wear nowadays, but through the years this building has been the site for gala social events when Miami was young.

The friendly Fishers presided here in this home from 1910 to 1914. The former Hoosiers had decided to come to Miami in preference to fashionable Palm Beach. Polly Redford, author who wrote "The Billion Dollar Sandbar," the story of the development of Miami Beach, wrote in the volume that she had asked Jane Fisher, just prior to her death why the couple came to Miami instead of Palm Beach. The answer was simple and straightforward: "In Palm Beach people thought we were just scum. We were nouveaux riches, you see."

It was fortunate for this area that the Fishers did come this way. He teamed with John S. Collins and others in putting over the Beach project.