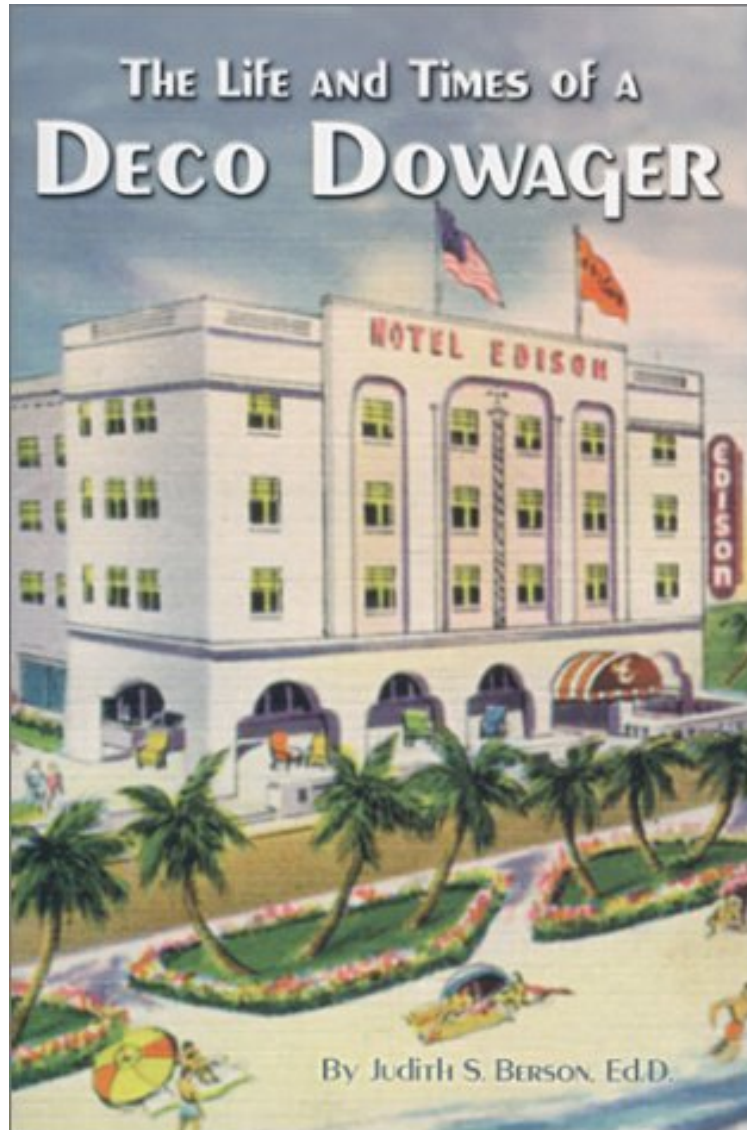


The Life and Times of a Deco Dowager : The Edison Hotel

Judith S. Berson

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Judith S. Berson : The Life and Times of a Deco Dowager : The Edison Hotel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Life and Times of a Deco Dowager : The Edison Hotel:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Sand in MY boots!By Bernie GoldReading the "Deco Dowager" took me back almost 50 years, It brought back memories of a time of uncertainty, December 1942, with the world at war, there I was 18 years old, taking my military basic training in Miami Beach. The beauty of the Art Deco district somehow detracted from the fact that I was in the army. Having buddies stationed in nearby hotels, including the Edison, coupled with Miami Beach itself, made my training period easy and pleasantly memorable. Reading Dr.

Berson's book refreshed my memory of those days. Her story is well written. The "World War II Years" segment, is a must for the 500,000 airmen who trained there during the period covering 1942-1945. I found the following review helpful. Missing much of the history. By A Customer I enjoyed the Deco Dowager, as I grew up on Miami Beach and am fascinated by the area and the architecture. What disappointed me in this book, is that the author ended her history of the hotel in the early 50's and didn't pick it up until the 80s. I realize that the area was not in its prime during her "missing years" but something certainly must have occurred. Who owned it? What did it look like? What happened there? Certainly the book would have been better served with more history of the hotel (and photos) along with the author's "potential realized" with celebrities. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A Slice of American Pie. By Bruce M. Singer The Life and Times of a Deco Dowager is a slice of American Pie. The interplay between the architecture and the times shows how the history of an area can be impacted by world events. The Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce carries this book in the Miami Beach Visitor Center because it provides insight into the fascinating history of Miami Beach. An easy read for history buffs.

This book serves to document the revitalization of Miami Beach's Art Deco architecture and one of the grand dames of Ocean Drive --the Edison Hotel. Standing majestically in the epi-center of the South Beach's historic district, the story of this hotel symbolizes the history of the Art Deco District. The book also describes the unique role the region played during WW2 when the hotels became barracks to over 500,000 Army Air Corps servicemen. The author likens the Edison to a phoenix that has risen again to bare itself in its most colorful plumage.

From the Publisher Read the book that brought the Vets back to Miami Beach. Numerous authors have chronicled the rebirth of the Art Deco District, but while writing The Life and Times of a Deco Dowager: The Edison Hotel, author Judith Berson actually rekindled interest in an often-overlooked aspect of Miami Beach's history--the WW2 years. Between 1942 and 1945 nearly one half million service men took over 300 hotels and buildings. While researching her book about the South Beach hotel, Berson discovered a group of Army Air Corps veterans who were trying to coordinate a reunion. The author was reminded of her late father's stint in Miami Beach as an Air Corpsman and offered to help organize activities for the returning vets. As the owner of the Edison, she was able to provide the headquarter hotel and she coordinated a large group of committed civic leaders to make Sand in Our Boots, the first ever Miami Beach WW2 Veterans Reunion, a reality. More than 50 years after they ate, slept and trained in the same place where millions of visitors come to have fun in the sun, they returned for Pearl Harbor Day 1999 and will be returning again this year. The former GIs are now in their 70s and 80s, but their spirits were high as they returned to the city where, in the words of one vet, Miami Beach is the place where we left youth and innocence behind and departed on the bloodiest greatest war of history. Miami Beach is the place where sunshine and ocean left a bright spot in our minds as we carried on the battle in the blood and sand of the South Pacific, in the deadly skies over Europe and Japan, in the arctic cold of the Aleutian Islands and on the beaches of Normandy. Coordinating the reunion delayed publication of the book for a year, but according to the participants, it was well worth it. George Neary, Director of Tourism for the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, said the reunion was the most emotional event he has ever attended in his years in Miami Beach. He now describes the event to tourism groups throughout the nation as an example of what an ad hoc group can accomplish when they are passionate about an issue. Roberto Datorre, President of the Miami Beach Community Development Corporation and one of the volunteers who helped make the event a success, praised Berson for spearheading the reunion. He said the reunion helped to shed light on the unique roots of Miami Beach as well as giving recognition to those who served our country in World War II. Berson is happy that her book will be available in time for Sand in Our Boots 2000, Dec. 6th-10th, 2000 with the Edison Hotel again serving as the headquarter hotel for the event. From the Inside Flap There are many reasons to appreciate Miami Beach. The sand, the sun, the water and the beautiful year-round weather are its natural resources. While these qualities alone have attracted so many visitors and residents in its relatively short history, what truly gives the city its unique appeal is its architectural achievements. Miami Beach has been recognized as possessing the most significant concentration of Art Deco style architecture in the world. This recognition has served to revitalize not just the structure of its buildings but the spirit of its citizens as well. A great community effort and commitment was necessary to restore the city, and the citizens rose to meet the challenge. This book serves to document one of the revitalized South Beach structures--the Edison Hotel. The story of this hotel symbolizes the history of the Art Deco District. The author likens the Edison to a phoenix that has risen again to bare itself in its most colorful plumage--and in so doing, a spirit is revealed that is even brighter and more beautiful than ever before. About the Author The author moved from New Jersey to Miami Beach 26 years ago, where she lives with her husband Steven Z. Levinson, a real estate developer. "Deco Dowager" is her third book, following "Earn While You Learn" and "How to Add Hours to Your Day Using ESP." She is a frequent speaker and has written numerous magazine articles. She holds a doctorate in Adult Education from Florida International University, an MA in Psychology from Montclair State University, and a BS in Business Administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Prior to taking over the day-to-day management of the Edison Hotel South Beach, Dr. Berson was a college administrator. She retired from Broward Community College where she was Assoc. VP for

Student Affairs and Director of Financial Aid. During her 19 years at BCC, she attained national recognition for developing and administering innovative community service programs.