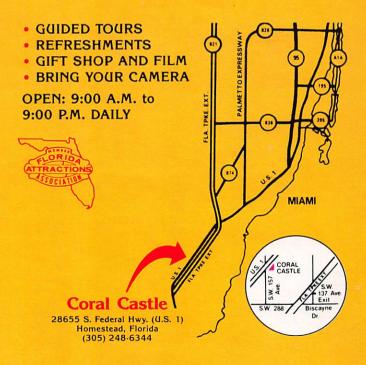
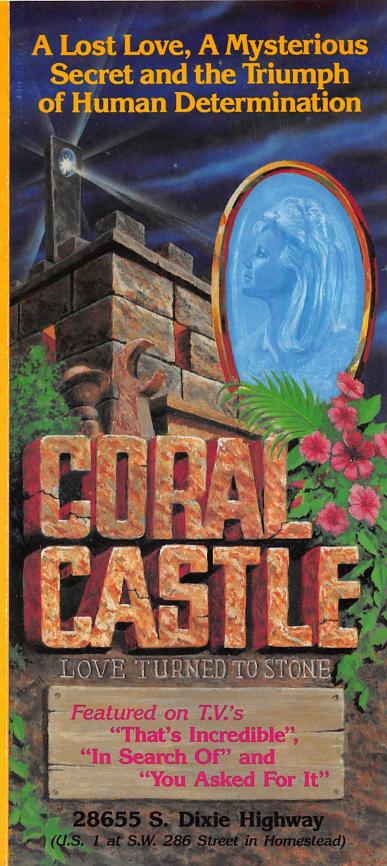


Edward Leedskalnin designed and built the Coral Castle.





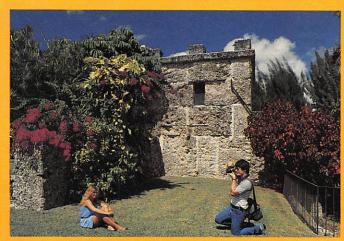
## The Stone Palace

Ed Leedskalnin, a 5 foot tall, 100 pound Latvian native, created the unique phenomenon that is Coral Castle as a tribute to a lost love. His carvings are symbolic of everything that mattered to him: Love, family, the State of Florida, astronomy and magnetism. With homemade pulleys and levers salvaged from automobile and railroad junkyards, he built a coral masterpiece that is one of the most amazing attractions in the world. Opened to the public in 1920, the Coral Castle is considered Florida's oldest operating tourist attraction.

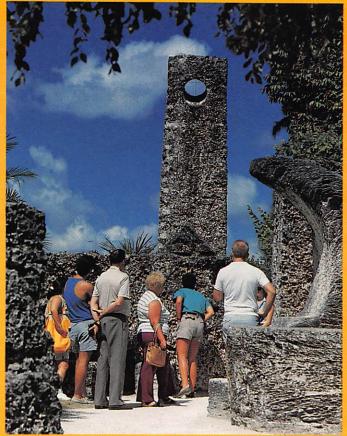
Ed constructed Coral Castle out of Florida's native Oolitic Limerock. He sculpted and carved over 1,100 tons of coral rock, with many of the pieces weighing over 30 tons. The moving and lifting of such incredible amounts of coral, using only handmade tools, seems impossible. Baffled engineers and scientists have compared Ed's secret method of accomplishment to Stonehenge and the Great Pyramids. Publications ranging from Readers's Digest to the National Enquirer have sent reporters to try and solve the mystery of the "castle", but to no avail.

Each individual piece of Coral Castle is magnificent in its own way. The 9 ton gate that swings open with a touch of a finger is extraordinary to see, and has commanded intense media attention throughout the years. A 20 ton, 20 foot tall Polaris telescope can be used to calculate the earth's path around the sun. The sun dial that Ed constructed accurately tells time and also indicates the solstice and equinox days. And as an ultimate act of devotion to the fiancee that had jilted him years ago, Ed built a 5,000 pound heart that is listed in Ripley's Believe It Or Not as the world's largest valentine.

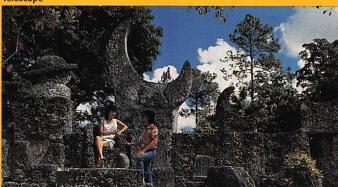
In 1984, this inspiring vision of dedication, love and, perhaps a miracle or two was placed on the National Register of Historical Places. The stone palace remains a puzzling and fascinating monument. To Ed Leedskalnin, it was the home he was destined never to share. To the rest of the world, it remains a natural wonder whose secret we may never share, but whose beauty will always be treasured.



Tower Room



Telescope



Throne Roon



Ripley's "World's Largest Valentine"



9 Ton Gate