Savannah: magnificent

flowering trees.

SAVANNAH, Georgia I spent 25 minutes in picture of old Savannah. again. Savannah and for 25 yearning to go back.

enough to entrance.

Five-storey high cotton warehouses rose straight and it was easy to imagine factors (cotton As in Niagara, it was brokers) standing on the planned to have lace-like wrought iron vineyards to produce balconies that jut out wine and mulberry or-

These factors, dressed in morning coats and striped trousers, a soft tie closing their white shirt fronts and, no doubt, cigars in their bejewelled hands, would signal the price of baled cotton the ships waiting below.

Now I am glad I had to wait a quarter of a century to see it again because in the past years the Savannah that was being ruthlessly obliterated in the name of progress has been rejuvinated, refurbished and restored.

blessed with people of sidewalks. ability and foresight.

General James Oglethorpe established the early settlement and laid out American's first planned city. If you can cynical gesture, offered it on.

years I have been much like that of the suffered a recession and aped like open-mouthed Revival); the Wayne- for the scrumptious Niagara escarpment — a the city core fell into dolphins. On that first all-too- sharply to a narrow river wasn't until 1955, when it and revel in the mass of Regency townhouse, calories brief visit, en route home front. This was a superb was rumored that hand- color in the park-like where Juliette Gordonin a hurry from Florida, I site because it provided some Davenport House squares by the planting of Low, founder of the Wilkes' Boarding House, only glimpsed the not only sustenance on the was to be demolished to azalea, camellia, American Girl Scouts a real boarding house waterfront - but that was plain for the settlers, but make way for a parking wisteria, magnolia, grew up), and the Andrew with boarders. It is best to tification that protected taken. the towns to the north

from the stone facades. chards to provide Britain with silk. These plans petered out when it was found much more profitable to plant rice and, later, cotton. Then Savannah really flourished.

> The Savannah that flourished is the same Savannah travellers see

Cotton brought wealth. Mansions of magnificent proportions were added to the blocks of delicately homes: the earlier high and low stoop cottages and the row houses with their wrought iron en-Savannah was founded trance stairways just in 1733 and has been barely touching the brick

beautiful, intelligently

with houses on the black as a Christmas present. brick-paved streets. Run open to visitors.

Then, the Savannah Probably the best in- lived. up from the river's edge against the Spaniards in inheritors of foresight troduction to Savannah is The magnificent will be blocks long. came to the fore - the Historic Savannah Owens-Thomas House Mrs. Wilkes serves notably Anna Hunter and Foundation Tour. Air- (another English heaping platters of fried

> multiplied throughout the movement, and to the requested from visitors. boarding house reach, night until the entire city magnificent Regency- Accommodation in After you have eaten

are blasphemy.

the foundation, with the 31401. developed a holding fund. April (this year on night singles and \$33 for a

With funds subscribed, Friday, April 27 and double (U.S. funds) the foundation purchased Saturday, April 28), a Savannah has scores of Miraculously, this original condition.

pillaging when General at will. Every street, mansion. William Sherman, in a every square tempts you At any time of the year, is said to be the finest

railings. Find the rare (one of the south's finest the architecture - but The city's situation is In the 1950s, Savannah cast-iron downspouts she examples of Gothic-spare thought and space high flat plain dropping neglect and disrepair. It Or you can simply sit the style of an English portion must be 1,000 also a natural for- lot, that rapid action was rhododendron and Low House, where be there at 11:30 a.m. for

was alerted. By dawn, the style Scarborough House. Savannah ranges from your fill, you take your Historic Savannah Each spring in late the opulent to the prac- plate back to the kitchen Foundation had been March, there is an annual tical. From the gilden and pay your \$3. tour of Savannah homes charm of the De Soto to For further details Today, you don't speak and gardens sponsored by the ubiquitous Holiday about Savannah and its of parking lots to these the women of Christ Inn. There are even off- environs write Jenny gentle southern women of Episcopal Church. For beat accommodations, Stacy, Savannah Area Sayannah - the words more information, write such as the Eliza Convention and Visitors Tour of Homes, 18 Thompson House in the Bureau, 301 West Broad To preserve the 20 Abercorn Street, historic district, where St., Savannah, Georgia, squares of the city core, Savannah, Georgia, you can have a bedroom, 31401. kitchen, bath and balanced Georgian help of private financing, There is also, in late dressing room at \$30 a

1,100 houses. These were tour of hidden gardens, fine dining places, inthen resold to persons sponsored by the Garden cluding the Olde Pink who agreed to restore the Club of Savannah. This House, which is contained exteriors, at least to their tour includes the gardens in another restored of seven private homes historic house. One of the Now, you can wander and an ante-bellum tea at rooms, now an antique planned city was spared through the restored area the Green-Meldrim shop (hours by appointment, or by chance) a number of the historic example of the late

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By AILEEN ADAMS imagine a checkerboard to President Abe Lincoln You can stroll along the homes of Savannah are Georgian period in

squares and parks on the But, in our time, the your fingertips across the Among these are the The food almost sur-- Twenty-five years ago white squares, you have a city was nearly pillaged intricate wrought-iron Green-Meldrim House passes the excellence of Gordon House (built in southern desserts, each

Then there is Mrs. Juliette Gordon low later lunch, which begins at noon. By then the lineup

Mr. and Mrs. Hansell conditioned buses take Regency-type with chicken, bowls of you on a tour of the authentic furnishings) steaming vegetables and A telephone campaign National Historic District and the William Scar- mounds of homemade was organized. Five and to the Davenport borough House, are also biscuits, all plunked on people each phoned House, which began the open. A donation at each the centre of the table for another five and the calls whole restoration house of under \$2 is you to practise your

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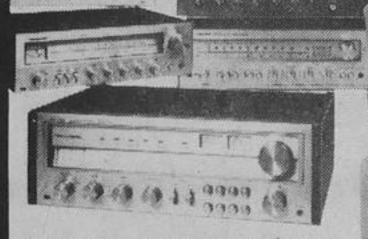
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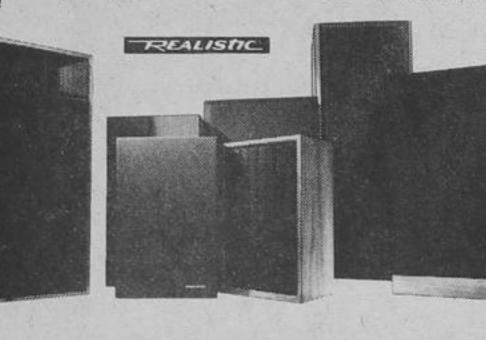
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