

CORAL CASTLE

THE MYSTERY OF ED LEEDSKALNIN AND HIS AMERICAN STONEHENGE

Coral Castle is the first book to take an objective, journalistic look at one of America's most intriguing places—Coral Castle, located in Homestead, Florida, thirty miles southwest of Miami. It was built in the 1920s and '30s by an eccentric Latvian immigrant named Edward LeedsKalnín. He worked alone with primitive tools. He quarried, carved, and set in place more than 1,100 tons of coral rock, creating what is commonly known as the American Stonehenge.

How he accomplished this amazing feat remains a mystery. Some believe he was simply a talented stonemason and engineer. Many others believe he had somehow harnessed anti-gravity powers, which allowed him to lift and move the stones as if by magic. Several books have been written on Ed's other-worldly powers, and he has become a cult figure to those who believe in extra-terrestrials and in the magnetic grid theory. Skeptics have argued against these theories in magazine articles and on websites.

In *Coral Castle*, Rusty McClure and Jack Heffron survey the theories and interview experts on all sides of the argument, bringing this fascinating tale to a mass audience for the first time.

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From *New York Times* bestselling author Rusty McClure and Jack Heffron comes *Coral Castle: The Mystery of Ed Leedskalnin and his American Stonehenge*, a book waiting to be written for decades.

Coral Castle explores the mysteries of Ed Leedskalnin and his American Stonehenge built in Homestead Florida, 31 miles south of Miami International Airport.

Ed—a 5-foot, 100-pound Latvian immigrant—was jilted by his “Sweet Sixteen,” Agnes Scuff, on the eve of their wedding day and carved in her honor this colossal Taj Mahal from the ground up using nothing but homemade tools.

It has been documented that no one ever witnessed Ed’s labor in building his Stonehenge. How he accomplished this amazing feat remains a mystery. Some believe he was simply a talented stonemason and engineer. Many others believe he had somehow harnessed anti-gravity powers, which allowed him to lift and move the stones as if by magic. Several books have been written on Ed’s other-worldly powers, and he has become a cult figure to those who believe in extra-terrestrials and in the magnetic grid theory. Skeptics have argued against these theories in magazine articles and on websites.

In *Coral Castle*, Rusty McClure and Jack Heffron survey the theories and interview experts on all sides of the argument, bringing this fascinating tale to a mass audience for the first time.

Coral Castle is an everlasting monument to Ed and the people who have already explored it or wish to explore it.

Visit **www.coralcastlebook.com** for more information.

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Rusty McClure, is one of the *New York Times* bestselling authors of *Crosley: Two Brothers and a Business Empire that Transformed The Nation* and *Cincinnatus: The Secret Plot To Save America*, a novel that features Coral Castle. He has a Master of Divinity degree from Emory University and a Harvard MBA. An advisor and investor in numerous entrepreneurial projects, Rusty teaches the entrepreneurial course at Ohio Wesleyan University. He resides with his wife, daughters in Dublin, Ohio.

Jack Heffron, has written several books of instruction for writers as well as numerous articles for magazines, primarily on travel, sports, and popular culture. His work has been noted in *Best American Travel Writing* and has won awards from the Society of Professional Journalists and Authors. His column in *Cincinnati* magazine recently was chosen as the best in Ohio by the Cleveland Press Club. His short stories have appeared in many literary magazines and twice have been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. He has taught at writers' conferences throughout the country and lives in Cincinnati, Ohio.

CORAL CASTLE: STORY OVERVIEW

A National Treasure. A tour of Coral Castle as it stands today. Descriptions of the key elements, from the rock gate to the thirty-ton monolith. The groundwork for the story and the mystery behind the building of the castle is put in place.

Heartbreak in Latvia. The birth (in 1887) and early life of Ed Leedskalnin. A survey of turn-of-the-century Latvia and the capital city of Riga with a focus on the political turmoil with the Russian czar — and Ed's involvement in that turmoil. His meeting Agnes Scuffs, their relationship and engagement, and her decision to leave him at the altar. Also, Ed's work with his grandfather as a stonemason, where he learned the skills used to create Coral Castle.

Wandering America. Ed leaves for America, works in the logging industry in Washington, California, and Canada. Contracts tuberculosis. Moves to Florida during the 1920s Florida land boom, during which he apparently heals himself of TB. Buys a parcel of land for twelve dollars and begins to build a monument to his lost love, his "Sweet Sixteen."

Rock Gate. From 1920 to 1936, Ed slowly builds his strange and mystifying castle, which he calls Rock Gate Park, in Florida City. Neighbors witness the evolution of the castle but are unable to watch him working on it. Rumors develop and spread about the eccentric Ed. In 1936, for reasons that aren't clear, Ed decides to move the entire structure to Homestead, ten miles away.

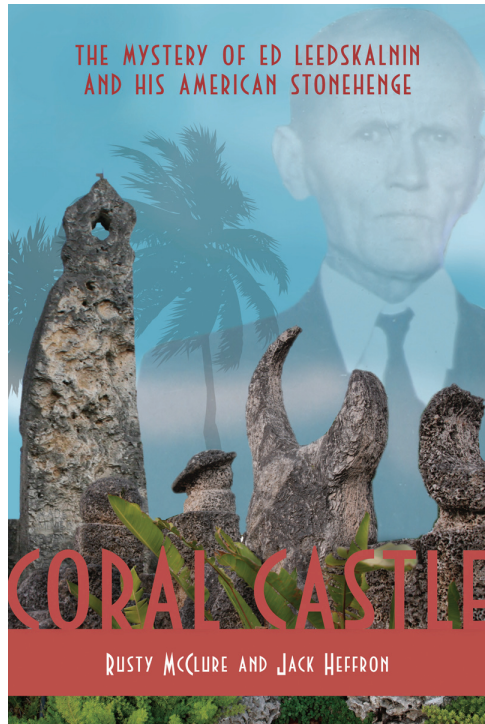
At Home in Homestead. Ed applies for a patent on the device he used to move the huge rocks. Some speculate that it harnessed anti-gravity powers. He writes a number of small books and pamphlets on his theories of magnetism as well as on his broader philosophies of life. In 1951 he takes a bus to Jackson Hospital in Miami where he dies three days later. Official cause of death is malnutrition.

Coral Castle. After Ed's death, his nephew and family take over the castle, which Ed always called Rock Gate Park. It becomes known as Coral Castle and changes ownership a few times, becomes a well-known tourist attraction and is open to this day. It is studied by engineers and scientists who cannot agree on how — and, in some cases, why — it was built. In 1986, the famous rock gate is repaired, though a 5-man crew is unable to reset the gate as precisely as Ed did it himself.

Anti-Gravity, Magnetic Grids, and UFOs. A number of books, articles, television shows, and Web sites have examined Ed and Coral Castle, presenting theories that range wildly. Some state that Ed learned the secrets of defying gravity. Some say he learned them from alien beings or from an earlier incarnation in Atlantis. Interviews with proponents of these theories.

Sound Engineering. Here we look at the skeptics who believe Ed was simply a talented stonemason who knew the basics of leverage and built his castle with that knowledge. Experts weigh in, including a man in Flint, Michigan, who is now building his own Stonehenge.

Epilogue. Our goal is not to settle the argument of how Ed built Coral Castle so much as to present the known facts and the various theories in a dispassionate, objective way.

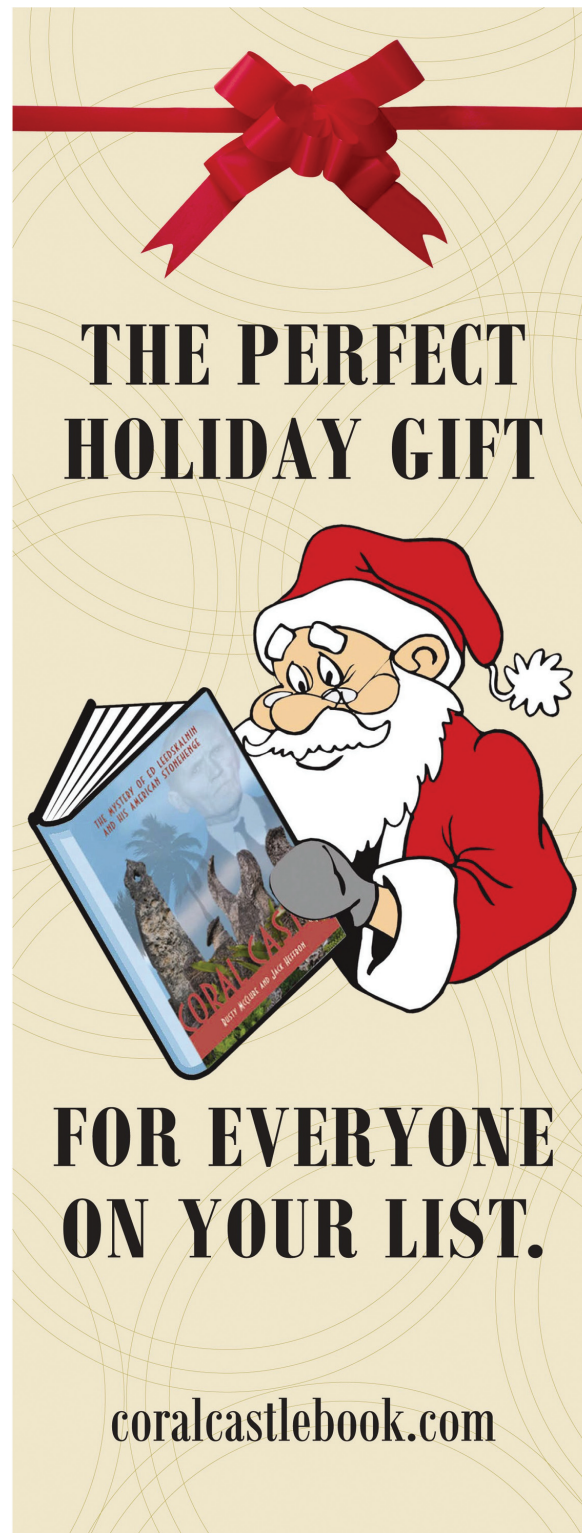


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