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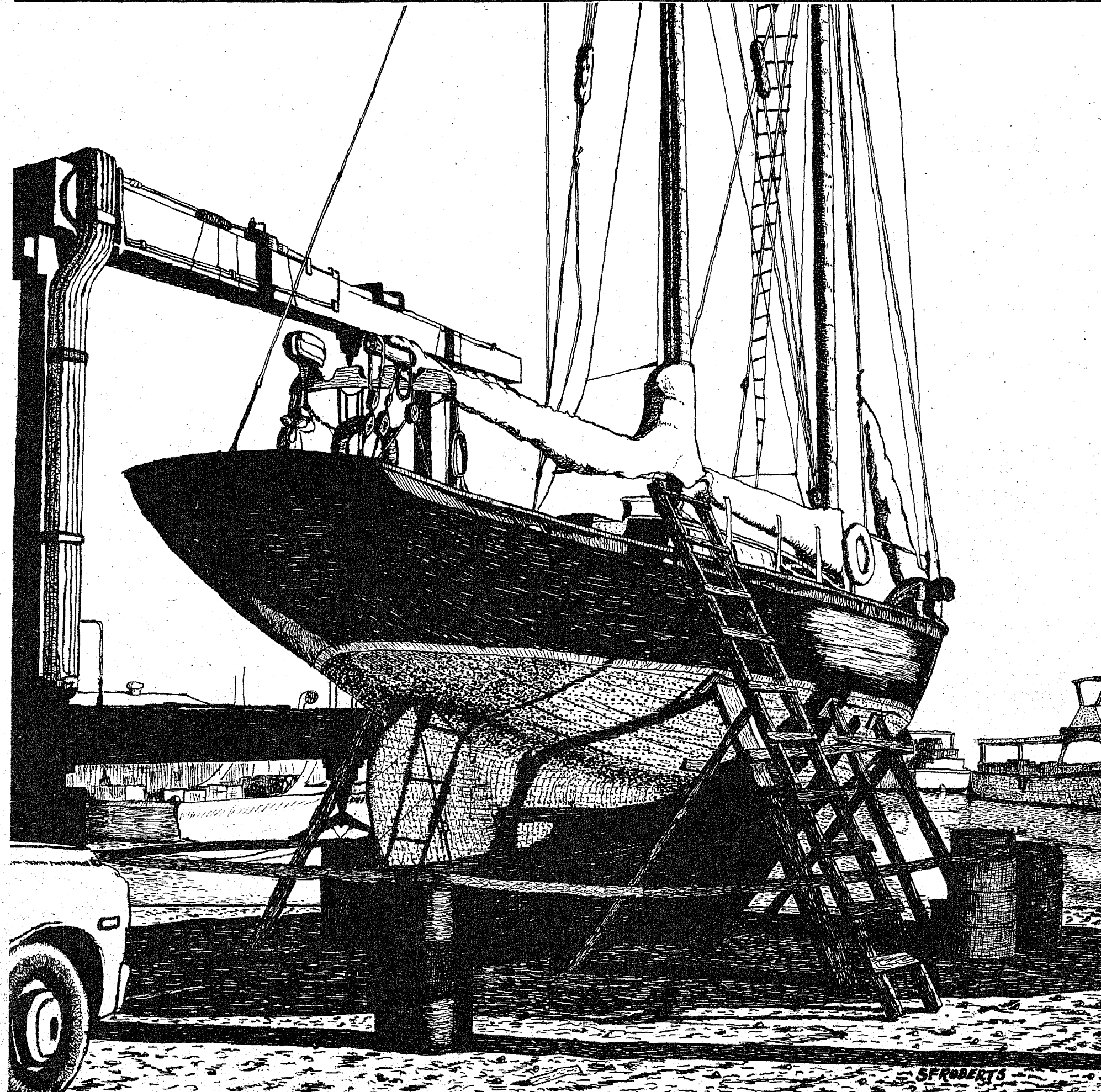
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Vol. III, No. 3

Key West, Florida

March 1978



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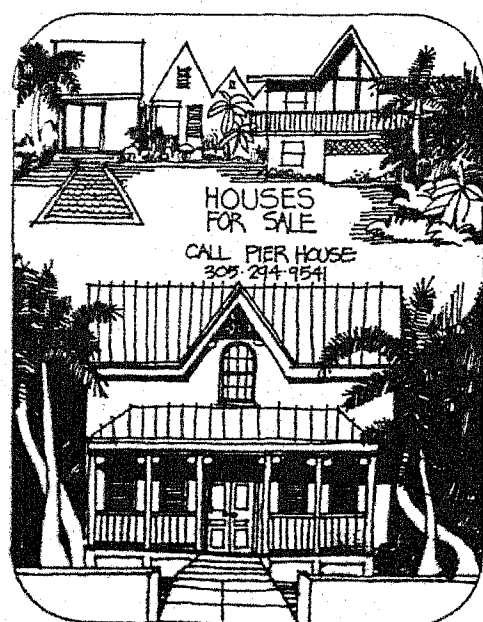
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From the Editor

Hello.
I'm sorry to report that Dr. Pro-fitt has been quite ill. He is recuperating now and should be returning to work in the near future. It would be a great help to the doctor if the people who owe him money for past services could get up to date with him now.

Had a nice note from a woman in Canada. Here is part of it:
I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to your beautiful city and can say the visit was all too short and have planned on making a return trip to Key West and for a longer period next time. Three days is just not long enough to see and enjoy all there is to offer. And today I am reading again your June/July issue. I have enjoyed reading the paper and have re-read it several times since being home and today, during our yearly blizzard -- snowed in, still blowing and snowing after three days and temperatures hovering at 0. The only things moving are snowmobiles, snowplows, and children playing. As much as I like snow, this is one day that I wish I were there in Key West.

Here is an update on the South Beach concession affair. In the middle of February, I spoke with City Attorney Joe Allen, who told me that he was going to recommend that the city reach an agreement with the present tenant, Island Renovations, Inc., stipulating that the corporation come with the back rent due to the city and that they post a \$5000 performance bond to guarantee that they would live up to the terms of the lease. Allen said he would recommend this action because it would avoid a long court case that would keep the concession area closed until it was settled. However, I spoke with Allen again on February 28, and he told me that he had sent a letter to the attorney for Island Renovations saying that inasmuch as no money has been received from the corporation to date, he will go ahead with the eviction suit. I personally feel that this is a better course of action to follow. There has not been a satisfactory relationship between the

city and this corporation, and I feel doubtful that it would begin at this date.

Several years ago, a rebate to the city taxpayers from excess money collected for an old bond issue debt service was authorized by the city commission. These monies came to \$76,091.74. The resolution, sponsored by Commissioner Lang Millan, stated that the city commission "desires to reduce the taxes imposed on the citizens of Key West," and that the money would be rebated to them "pro-rata to the amount they individually paid in debt service millage in the years 1973 and 1974." Several years passed and nothing was done with this money, and the matter came to the attention of new City Attorney Joe Allen. He told me that he would recommend that the city commission rescind the resolution because of the impracticality of rebating what would be such a small sum to so many people. He said that putting the money in the General Revenue Fund would be similar to rebating the money to the citizenry with a lot less expense and hassle.

I felt that Richard Marsh was too hard on the radio stations in last month's article "In the Air: Part II." I think that WIIS has done a fine job bringing us classical music and, wonder of wonders, opera. Even though they had to give up programming classical music in the daytime, it still is great to have it at night. While I don't listen to radio other than WIIS often, I know that the "Musica y Alegria" program on WKWF has been a great hit with the Cuban community, and on the occasions when I've heard Frisco Bob I've enjoyed his announcing. I'd like it if listeners would write in and let us know how they feel about local radio.

Have a nice month.

WT

Cover artist this time is Steve Roberts.

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With a little help from our friends . . .

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BOW RED

LET ME INTRODUCE to you Bow Red. His nice, sympathetic face is almost as familiar as the palm trees or any other island panorama.

There is the feeling here of a happy comedian always thinking to himself, "That's a good one! That's a good one!"

With Red, that's as important as a "Hello there." For instance:

Question: "What does a buffalo on the nickel stand for?"

Answer: "He doesn't have room to sit down!"

MY OWN SENSE OF HUMOR had become so dulled and atrophied that most jokes would automatically seem corny and set off sarcastic replies. But I warmed up to some of Red's in a hurry. Especially when I heard about the imaginary dog named Blackie he keeps company with. He's always telling people to watch out for his dog. Romo, at the little store where Red hangs out most afternoons, says that the delivery guy thought that Red had "lost his marbles" because he asked him if he wanted this dog. Red often tries to sell this invisible, soundless dog.

THERE ARE ALSO stories circulated about how Bow and his brother Carl painted the wrong house one time. It turned out good though, because they got paid by the owner. One house was on Frances and the other on Grinnell. It seems the boys just got mixed up. That can happen sometimes in Key West.

Bow tells a joke about another similar mistake. "I've got a good way to paint. Put the second coat on first."

THE LAUGHTER he can sometimes provoke must be reassuring. I believe laughter can also cure. The Eskimos say that when you can laugh with someone (really belly laugh, I think) that it is love happening. I have also read that a smile can affect all the vital organs in a positive way.

BOW RED, whose full name is Burland Johnson, was born in 1904 at the light house on the island of Punta Gorda, Florida. His father was a lighthouse keeper for 40 years. Bow Red claims he was always watching that light going around. "If you didn't keep your eye on it, it might go out."

At the age of nine, Red moved to Key West. His father operated the light house on Dry Tortugas. The family lived there for awhile, and they would come back and forth to Key West. The light went on at 6 p.m. and off at 6 a.m. "It was always going 'round."

"I'd get lonely out there," he says. Now 74, a retired house painter, a bachelor who loves people, an off-the-

cuff comedian, and a true gentleman, Bow Red (whose hair was once that color), shares a modest, spartan apartment above the new Fisherman's Cafe on Caroline with his younger brother, Carl Johnson, who can be seen riding around with a small



Bow Red at a familiar place
wooden propeller in the basket of his bike.

IT WAS HERE I spoke to Bow Red. He seems always willing to help out. He is

by Phoebe Coan photos by Karen Selsky

known to children and, in particular, has a keen relationship with dogs. Everyone seems to know of him. I used to always see him years ago, rocking on the porch of his place on Fleming, which used to be by Maloney's Bike Shop, Red says. At that time one could get a loaf of bread for a nickel.

BOW RED eats out a lot at the Fisherman's, although he can cook some at home. Bow remembers and misses the old Fisherman's Cafe, the older, crumbling place across the street from the newer model. He recalls it as an ice cream parlor when it was run by Thurland Knowles in the 1920's.

At that time, Bow Red was attending Harris School on Southard Street. The school went up to the twelfth grade. Bow dropped out at the eleventh grade and went out to the lighthouse to help keep the grounds up and "to help my old man." He was back and forth then to Key West and gleaned the rest of his education by reading newspapers.

"I came back to Key West to fool around," he says. "It was lonely out there."

ONE TIME when I went over to Bow Red's, he was in his Barca-Lounger, stockinged feet, baggy pants with stars up the sides of them. Under a conservative type suit jacket, he was wearing a lavender silk acetate shirt. He was sipping soup from a small pot, talking to a young boat couple, holding forth.

He was very kindly and patient, answering all my questions, always a joke on the tip of his tongue or sweet words for the baby, his eyes flickering like little lights.

BOW RED WAS three years in the National Guard. He did some boxing there. Charles Yates, a Key West friend, and he went six rounds once in Pensacola. It was a draw.

He also worked eight months at the post office and for the WPA.

Bow has spent most of his life in Key West. "Key West is the best place to be," he says. "Don't like that cold up north."

He fools around a lot still. Loves to "kibbitz" with the kids. "Kids are very good," he says.

Bow Red is known as a great dancer," he says. He lists as his accomplishments the Tennessee Waltz, the Mashed Potato, old time Tap, and the Twist. Jesus Romo from the little Romo's store, has seen him do his dance many times.

RED IS IN good health and hasn't had the flu yet. Said he was watching out for it. TV watching and "riding

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around on my wheel," are his greatest pleasures, along with looking at the water.

At one time he built boats. One he forgot to put the bottom in, and he had a hard time moving another one out the door.

He also skipped his Queen Elizabeth III, which was even in the papers a year

est game you can play. The answer is bowling, "cause you can hear the pins drop."

"Have you heard about the new style umbrellas?" Bow Red asks. "They got a hole on the top of them so you can tell when it stops raining."

SINCE MY TALK with Red, I've noticed



Bow Red, with friend Jesus Romo, in front of Romo's store

ago. He fished the waters then. "Now I've given up boats," he says. "I had no place to put it, and you can't make money now."

One time, Bow Red tried to hire a cook for his vessel. He put an ad in the paper and said his one requirement was that she answer his question, which was: "How do you cook pancakes?" The correct answer was: "round!" No one replied correctly.

"That's a good one," Bow Red says, "That's a good one."

BOW RED'S a comedian. "One of the best in Key West," he says. A stranger asked Bow Red, "Where can you get a good cup of coffee?" Bow Red replied, "If you find one, let me know, too." "That's a good one," he said, slapping his knee.

"Kids are about the same," he says. "We loved tops and marbles and flying kites." Bow Red wants to know the quiet-

I've been more able to play riddle games with my little ones. I used to love word games as a child...poetry and nonsense.


"How come the banana didn't jump over the fence when the apple and orange did?" Bow Red wants to know. "He's yellow." (A good one for the kiddies!)

I BELIEVE it is an act of love to help make people laugh.

"I believe in God and a Hereafter and that all the people that died are coming back," Bow Red says.

And in a final philosophic moment, "If you act right, you can get along. Don't drink, smoke or gamble, and you'll have enough money."

"I painted the wrong dock once," Bow Red says, "but nobody got mad."



foxy lady

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Where Do You Park?

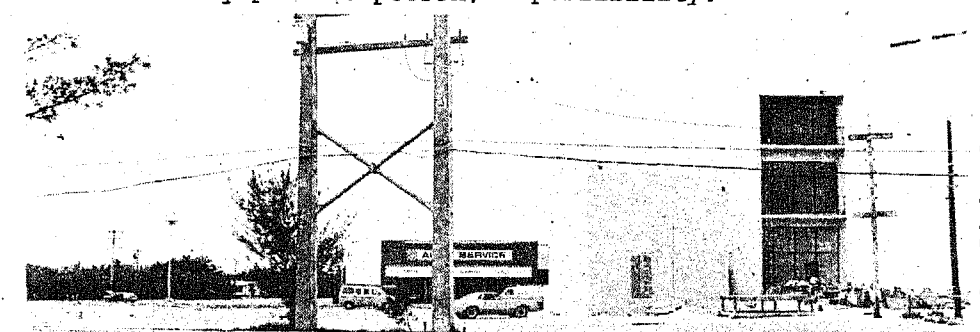
THE BIG BATTLE surrounding First Federal Savings and Loan Association of the Florida Keys' new building in Key Plaza is either almost over or just beginning, depending on what happens during the last days of February. Regardless of which way it goes, however, there's apparently no danger of First Federal successfully leasing public property for its own parking purposes, as some had feared.

The story is a complicated one, starting with suits and countersuits and complete with traditional legal nit-picking and sword-rattling.

THE ARGUMENT hinges on whether or not First Federal can come up with enough parking spaces to legally occupy its new four-story, \$1.65 million building. City ordinances require businesses to have one parking space for every 300 square feet of floor space, and First Federal has to come up with 146 spaces to satisfy the law.

The pleadings allege that realtor James A. Flenner and Justo Maquiera (who leased First Federal the land for the building) said they would lease adjoining land for parking, but First Federal didn't accept the offer, saying the price had been too high.

LOOKING FOR ALTERNATIVES, First Federal looked across Kennedy Drive at the land around the city baseball fields and decided to ask the city to lease them some of it. In 1949, the State of Florida decided that property to the city with the condition that it be used only for public purposes. The restriction in the deed for the park states that "the grant-ee or its successors or assigns shall never sell or convey or lease the property or any part thereof to any private person,



Front view of Florida First Federal with the disputed Flenner/Maquiera parcel to the left.

firm or corporation for any private use or purpose," but the city thought it could get some nicely paved parking spaces out of the deal and studied the possibility of getting around the deed restrictions.

BUT THE PARK belongs to the public, and the state told the city it would have to buy the property outright from the state before it could lease any to

First Federal.

Meanwhile, Flenner and Maquiera sued the city and First Federal, saying that since First Federal didn't submit an adequate parking plan to begin with, the lease for the property the building is on was violated.

That put First Federal in a bind, of course, and they counter-sued Flenner and Maquiera for damages in excess of \$2,500 to cover legal fees and general vexation.

THE PLEADINGS allege that Flenner and Maquiera had depended on First Federal leasing their 200-by-200 parcel next to the building for parking, and that First Federal's refusal to lease the property devalued it, since parking is about all it's good for at this point.

Now, First Federal's attorney James Hendrick says the whole question "may well be moot," because First Federal has come up with enough parking spaces near its new building to satisfy the law. "We will submit an adequate parking plan to the city within 10 days," Hendrick said February 17. He said First Federal won't need Flenner and Maquiera's land and that the idea of leasing parts of the ball field "has gone on a back burner."

HENDRICK SAID First Federal "doesn't intend to occupy the fourth floor" of its new building initially, which he says will drop the legally required number of parking spaces to 106. Since the ordinance doesn't specify that a building has to be completely occupied, however, that point will no doubt be contested in court.

Hendrick said Ed Knight's Knibilt Corporation has agreed to lease some nearby property to First Federal for 79 parking spaces, and that 30 more are on the building site itself. If that plan doesn't work out, he said, "There's still another alternative which is a strong possibility."

Photo by Richard Marsh

by Mack Dryden

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notes and antic-dotes

by Dorothy Raymer

FOR DECADES, the saying has been accepted, "If you want to commit murder and get away with it, choose Key West." An early prime example was the recovery of the body of a man in nearby waters with his feet encased in a big tub of cement and his arms secured behind him with binding wire. The verdict by the coroner's jury was "Suicide."

IN THE SUMMER of 1949, when I was brand new on the staff of the *Key West Citizen* and had never covered a crime story directly, I was assigned to the aftermath of what was generally known as "The Weaver Killing." This came about because the regular police beat reporter, Bill Lee, had been "incapacitated" for the followup coroner's jury hearing. Bill had spent most of his paycheck at Sloppy Joe's. He was seated back at his news desk when his irate spouse rode up on her trusty bicycle, stormed into the news room, and felled her husband with a hefty clout administered with her parasol. Whether it was the blow on his head or the liquor or the combination, plus the shock of having "the little woman" at last rebel, Lee was hospitalized, and I had to take over his beat.

THE INITIAL STORY was headlined "Weaver Fatally Shot by Mrs. Weaver." Inexpert as I was in crime annals, I was startled at the lack of a more urgent headline. Nothing sensational, such as "Woman Shoots Estranged Mate" or "Wife Slays Ex-Husband."

The text which followed read: "Thomas Albert Weaver, proprietor of a steak house at the foot of Duval Street, was fatally shot last night at 10:45 o'clock by his former wife as he sat in Weaver's Camp (a bar and restaurant) on Stock Island, which was being operated by his ex-wife. Weaver died in Monroe County Hospital a few minutes after his arrival."

ACCORDING TO David Newton, a *Miami Herald* reporter who had been tipped off about the shooting and immediately drove to the emergency ward, Weaver was bleeding profusely from multiple wounds. Newton exclaimed, "My God! He looks like a sieve. Is he dead?" The examining doctor replied, "I haven't determined yet, but so far, I have found nine wounds." The ultimate count was eleven!

The shooting took place in the bar at Weaver's on the night of August 23. After the one-sided gunplay, Norvella Weaver sat down and said calmly to the shocked audience of about 22 witnesses, "Call the sheriff."

DEPUTY SHERIFF Frank Webber responded and placed Mrs. Weaver under arrest. According to the news story, Mrs. Weaver said simply that she was "annoyed" by Weaver's trespassing on the property, and that she had a peace warrant issued to prohibit him from molesting her and their two children after a separation and divorce.

"Murder will out," and there was much more to the pumping of all those bullets into red-headed Weaver, who was known as a hot-tempered bully. I wrote the follow through story for the August 25 *Citizen*.

A SIX-MAN coroner's jury convened in the office of the Justice of the Peace, the late Roy Hamlin, not far from the Monroe County Courthouse.

The office was jammed to overflowing, and the throng of spectators lined the outside of the little building, climbing up on boxes, garbage cans, and chairs to peer in through win-

dows. One enterprising man brought a little step-ladder and propped it up on the side of the building so that he looked into the room over my shoulder and breathed heavily right down my neck.

BEFORE THE SESSION actually got underway, exchanges of conversation by the onlookers was revealing. Among the comments:

"Tom Weaver was a red-headed summabitch, but he sure could turn out a good steak. Maybe she was jealous he was such a good cook, even though he only had that hole-in-the-wall corner of Duval and Front, and Norvella and her daddy run the Stock Island tavern."

"Listen, you dum dum! She killed him because after they dee-vorced, he kept comin' around and threatenin' her. Wasn't no good for the restaurant business. She was a cool customer. After all them shots she just sat down and sez, 'Notify the sheriff.' But somebody else say, 'Call the ambulance first,' because Tom wan't dead yet. After them first shots, he fell on the floor and was moaning, 'Help me!' She seen he ain't dead yet. She got a second clip for her gun, straddled the body and swore, 'Now you're really gonna get it.' and fires five more shots."

"Nobody interfered? Not even after she reloaded?"
"Nope. Everybody was just paralyzed. Besides when she was firing, a bullet ricocheted and hit a watcher in the leg. Nobody gonna brave all that shootin'."

THERE WAS more speculation. One comment was that "Mizz Weaver spent the whole afternoon practicing with her gun. She lined up beer cans on the fence behind the tavern. Said she was practicing on how to shoot rats." Comment -- "Well she got herself one! Weaver used to beat up on her all the time."

A young man sitting next to me on the left side of the J.P.'s office got my attention when he saw me taking notes. "Let me tell you the *real* motive behind this. Weaver came into the bar area and put 42 nickels in the jukebox. It played the same record over and over again. I was there. I endured and I loathed it. You want to know what that song was? It's called 'I Love You So Much It Hurts.' Well, no wonder she shot him!"

J.P. ROY HAMLIN conducted the hearing with dignity. Defense attorneys were the late Julius Stone and Thomas Caro, who became criminal court Judge. J. Lancelot Lester, assistant state attorney, conducted prosecution questioning.

THE FIRST WITNESS to testify was Dr. Herman K. Moore, who had performed the autopsy. He was not the physician in residence at Monroe County General Hospital when Weaver was admitted. Moore proclaimed that Weaver had died from abdominal wounds which caused internal bleeding. When asked how many bullets he had found in the body he replied, "There were eleven bullet holes all told, but I didn't find any bullets."

Lester asked, "You mean all the bullets that penetrated had gone on through the body?"

Dr. Moore flashed dark eyes and answered, "I examined the wounds, yes, but I did not find any of the bullets, because the body was embalmed before I was called on to perform the autopsy."

AFTER THE HUBBUB which trailed his revelation had subsided, Coroner Hamlin dutifully pounded his gavel to quiet side remarks. He asked the "six wisemen," as the jury was known, if there were any further questions.

"No questions, but we would like to hear Mrs. Weaver

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testify," Lester leaped into the fray like a fighting bantam. He objected with the peppery statement that this session was "merely a hearing, not a trial."

Hamlin blandly asked the defense team how they felt about the matter. Tall, suave and every inch the Harvard lawyer, Julius Stone bowed to the corner's jury and said, "My colleague and I would be delighted to have our client testify, if it would clear up circumstances in any way."

A JURY VOTE and five minute recess was ordered. The "six wisemen" made their way into a partitioned enclosure at the rear of the building. This was supposed to allow privacy and secrecy -- but one of the men on the jury wore a hearing aid which was not functioning properly. As a result the "secret" conference was very loud, and listeners in the main room heard all the shouted comments to accommodate the hard of hearing juror. The foreman declared that he was very curious and would like to hear the details of Norvella Weaver's side of the episode.

RECESS WAS ANNOUNCED by the justice of the peace while Mrs. Weaver was brought over from the County Courthouse jail where she was being held pending investigation. The mob dispersed to buy soft drinks and ice cream from vendors who had appeared and lent a carnival atmosphere to the hearing procedure.

Norvella Weaver, a willow brunette, finally arrived escorted by Deputy Frank Webber. She was dressed in somber black, save for a pair of twinkling rhinestone earrings. These were promptly removed on signal from her attorney, Julius Stone.

WHEN SHE STOOD UP to testify, she flashed her eyes toward the press section, then stood very straight in front of the coroner's stand, twisting a plain white handkerchief in her hands, but

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toys

COLDEST BEER IN KEY WEST

otherwise she maintained a controlled attitude. She had a thick "Deep South" accent. She gave her age as twenty-seven, which surprised me, because she looked older. Of course this may have been due to complete lack of makeup, probably on lawyer's instructions.

SHE DID NOT mention that she had been Tom Weaver's fourth or fifth wife when he met her down in Alabama, and that he had first been married to her sister, who died under mysterious circumstances. No details of this were revealed at the moment. Norvella did say, "I got lines in my face before my time because my husband made me take reducing pills. I was real heavy several years ago. And he shamed me in front of people and cursed me out. He even threatened to take my kids away and he beat me sometimes."

At this point the icy surface calm was shattered and Norvella sobbed. "My two kids, they come to me and they ask real pitiful-like, 'Mama, how come Daddy don't love you no more.'" Norvella dabbed at her eyes with her handkerchief, and the interlude brought clucks of sympathy from the crowd. I even saw one of the men in the jurybox wiping his eyes with his tie.

AS NORVELLA unraveled her harrowing life with her demanding and brutal spouse, and how she finally divorced him, her accent became more Southern, but the tone remained determined. She told of having to swear out a warrant to keep herself safe and to stop Tom from disturbing the peace. "But he kept coming around the bar and saying terrible things about me to customers. So I went to the law again and swore out a trespassing bond against him," she said.

INFURIATED, Weaver went to the home of a friend of Norvella, stuck a gun into the ribs of the woman, and forced her to telephone Norvella on the pretext of providing transportation from Stock

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Island to Key West.

Mrs. Weaver drove to her friend's home in a small truck and when she stopped, Tom Weaver jumped out of a hiding place in yard bushes. He pointed a gun at Norvella, she declared, and ordered her to drive back to the restaurant and demanded that she withdraw the trespassing restraint.

Incredible as it may seem, Norvella swore she struggled with her ex-husband even with the pistol confronting her. The gun went off and he sustained a powderburn on his hand. In the light of what happened afterward, this evidence stood Norvella in good stead.

IN THE ENSUING CONFUSION, she eluded Weaver and escaped, driving off to the sheriff's department. She immediately acquired a gun permit and purchased a .32 automatic revolver and adequate clips.

There was no witness summoned to state that Mrs. Weaver spent the rest of the afternoon in target practice. Nor was the friend called to tell of the struggle in her front yard between Norvella and Thomas. Of the more than 20 customers in Weaver's Bar later in the evening, only two responded for questioning.

HOWEVER, it was revealed that Tom Weaver ambled into the "Camp" and sat at the bar about 10:30 p.m., that night of August 23.

Norvella lifted her head and her voice inflection as she gave her account of the shooting.

"When I saw that man come in I went right to the kitchen where I had hid the gun under a towel. I wrapped it in a fold of my apron, and I went back to the bar. Tom went about armed continually, and he was right handy with a gun. I knew he had come out there to kill me that night. When I passed him, he jostled me and said, 'This is it!' That's when I shot him."

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THE PROSECUTOR ASKED, "Did Mr. Weaver have a gun? Is that what he jostled you with?"

Norvella frowned and answered, "I don't know. It could have been his elbow, but I wasn't taking any chances. He had a gun that same afternoon, as I done told you. It was either him or me!"

Lester parried, "But why did you reload the gun even after he was already wounded and lying helpless on the floor?" Without hesitation she said, "Because he wasn't dead yet!"

SHE HAD FIRED four more bullets into the prostrate Tom Weaver after the initial seven missiles had entered his body. She explained, "After I shot him for sure I just sat down and said 'Call the Sheriff.'"

Her gray-green eyes looked directly at the coroner's jury, and then she was led by her attorney to a front row seat next to an elderly man in shirtsleeves who kept wiping his perspiring face with a blue bandana. I was told that he was Norvella's father who had come down from Alabama to help her run the Stock Island business.

THE CORONER'S jury returned to the partitioned room, but Hamlin had realized that discussions could be overheard, so he cleared the main room. Markers were placed on coveted seats. One woman took off her shoes to put on her chair. In the interval, the cold drink vendors and the Good Humor Man did a sellout business.

After half an hour of deliberation, the jury and the audience filed back into their places. The foreman, J. Winfield Russell, answered Hamlin's request for decision with solemn demeanor. "We have duly considered all the facts brought before us. We all agree that this is a case of justifiable homicide, and the shooting was done in self defense."

Norvella Weaver embraced her father, sobbing in relief. The crowd cheered!

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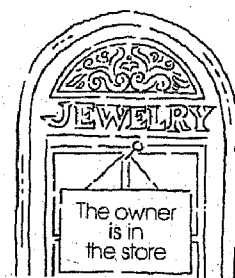
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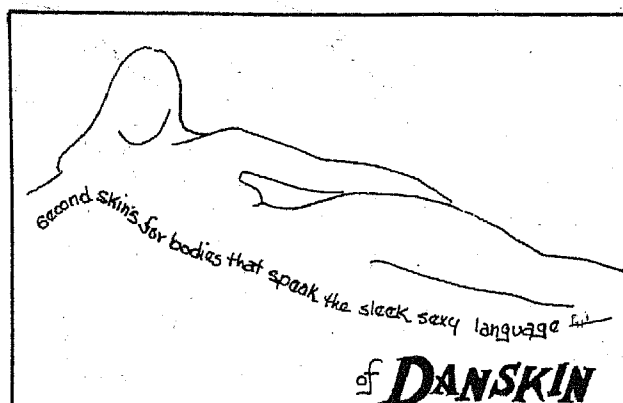
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editorial

KEY WEST is in a no-win situation with its present jail. It does not comfortably hold more than twenty prisoners at one time; due to the influx of people at this time of the year the arrests are way up. At the same time that the cry is heard to stop enforcing many of the minor ordinances -- the shirt law, sleeping in public, hitchhiking, etc. -- another cry is heard to enforce these ordinances to the hilt and put in new ordinances, if necessary, to stop the flow of "undesirables" to Key West. Jail expansion is out of the question; this jail was supposed to be closed down, but Sheriff Freeman's jail has no room for these minor offenders. There is sentiment in the city to keep the pressure up on the young itinerant travelers to discourage them from congregating in Key West, and one of the most effective means of discouraging certain visitors from staying is to bust them for an infraction of any of numerous laws on the books.

WHILE I MAY NOT approve of these methods of population control, the laws are, nonetheless, on the books, and if the citizenry say "enforce them," then they are going to be enforced until such time as they are repealed. But with a pattern of wholesale arrests must come a pattern of responsibility on the part of those arresting. Like it or not, the city has an obligation toward those it chooses to arrest, and that obligation is to provide them with certain minimum comforts while they are housed in our jail, and we have not been doing that.

I COULD NOT DISAGREE more with the statements of the police officials interviewed by Mack Dryden. To say that the cells are continually full of "animals"

LATER IN THE FALL of the year, the verdict of the Grand Jury, to which Norvella was bound over when the Monroe County Criminal Court went into session, was repeated. Norvella Weaver went free in the same verdict of "justifiable homicide."

There are two other events which bear repeating. When the grand jury was being selected in Sheriff Berlin Sawyer's office in the old courthouse, Norvella Weaver strutted in wearing a bright blue blouse and skirt and huge hoop earrings. She sauntered over to the sheriff, leaned coquily on his desk, and said casually, "Hi there, Berlin. Who is gonna be on the grand jury?"

OBVIOUSLY EMBARRASSED, especially with my presence as a reporter, Sawyer growled, "Norvella, you oughta know better than to ask that. Even if I did know, it wouldn't be right to tell you." She shrugged and asked, "So what are my chances of getting the same verdict I got from the coroner's hearing?"

Sheriff Sawyer shifted his broad-brimmed hat to the back of his head as he considered his answer. "Well, Norvella, it's this way. If you had just shot your husband, say once, or maybe twice, I don't think there would be any change in what the grand jury will decide. But when you went shootin' eleven times right on when the man was down and dyin'...that's something else again. I just don't know rightly what to think." He shook his head sadly.

THE SIGN over "Weaver's Sizzling Steaks" was changed, and the new owner ordered Weaver's name eliminated. By mistake the last word, "steaks," was erased instead of the first word, "Weaver's," and for weeks the sign read "Weaver's Sizzling..."

Conch town agreed in the consensus. "You can bet Weaver's sizzling all right -- on the Devil's grill."

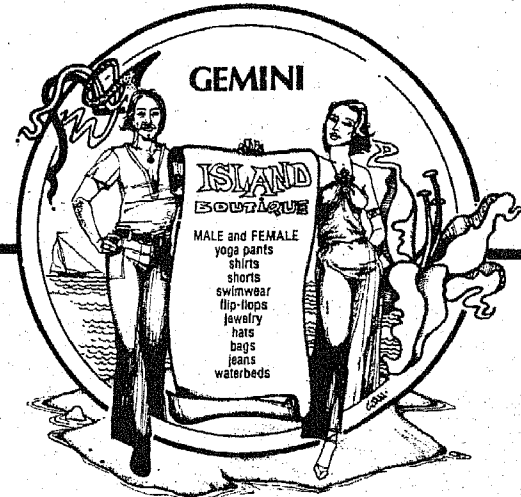
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who are hell-bent on destroying the jail is absurd. There is nothing selective in a wholesale arrest pattern, and many of those arrested for such things as sleeping in public have never been in jail before and seek only to get out as soon as possible. They have no interest in ripping up blankets, blocking up toilets, and creating a ruckus that could increase their time in the jail. No, you pick up a few hard-nosed rough types, but the vast majority of the young in jail are decent kids who made the mistake of hitchhiking in Key West or something like that.

IT APPEARS to be a fact that when the jail is full, there are never enough blankets to go around, and sleeping on a damp floor in an unheated cell on a cold night is unfair. Granted that while much of the current technique used in discouraging these kids from coming to Key West depends on making them as uncomfortable as possible, it is unethical and dirty not to give them the basic comforts expected in a jail. This does not make a jail a country club; decency is not luxury.

KEY WEST has the reputation of running a lousy jail. Maybe it is this lousiness that causes the commotions when they occur. It doesn't make sense to have a jail so bad that the prisoners are often tearing it up to protest conditions there. When you have hard-nosed types that are looking for trouble in the jail no matter what, segregate them from the other prisoners and, if they are destructive, give them extra time.

WHY DON'T WE improve the conditions in the jail? Let's make it less rage-producing. Let's give everyone who stays there a blanket for the night (maybe they should be assigned numbered blankets so that the jailer can keep track of them). Let's take a little

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better care of those who are sick. Let's stop thinking of all those in the city jail as animals; they don't all behave that way. I think that Key West would be pleasantly surprised at the reduction in destructive incidents at the jail if we improved the conditions there.

NOW I'M NOT saying that there are not some very unattractive types out on the streets these days -- there are. When these people make nuisances of themselves and break the law, then they should be arrested. But, no matter what, the jail that they are sent to should meet minimum standards of decency.

(At press time, it appears that the city is starting to do some painting at the jail.)

Bill Huckel, ed.

Poetry

August 1975
We went home
My friend and I
The bridges passed beneath the car
As quickly as the years have passed
It was night
The stars were bright and clear
Spread across the pitch black sky
Dimmed only by the headlights
Of those few cars on a midnight drive
Driven by unseen drivers
Flickering lights far out at sea
And I
With thoughts of tomorrow
On the way to yesterday

Some things seemed untouched
By time
The tree we climbed for Spanish limes
The same place
Only we have changed

continued on next page

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continued from previous page

A sweet old lady
With wrinkled face
As anxious as we
To remember
Her memories 30 years older
Than ours
But just as clear
And just as far away

For an instant
I thought I saw 2 little boys
Sitting on the upstairs porch
Of the old Conch house
Contemplating life
And the future
As seen through the eyes of someone
Whose biggest concern
Was a new bike or a broken baseball bat

Hillary is still there
Unaware, for the most part
That a thousand years have passed
Since the sapodilla fights
And baseball cards
As we drove away
I looked back to see
A lonely old man
Who was probably glad to see us
But
Is now lost in thought
Standing in the narrow road
Which was once a baseball field
A long time ago

Bollos, Conch fritas, Cuban bread
The beautiful colors of the sea
As clear
As a glass of 7-Up
The old lighthouse we climbed
For a pelican's view
Of the unique town which still belongs
To us

They haven't changed
The old men still sit in front
Of the old cafe
On Caroline Street
Unconcerned
That the doors will never open

Some things are gone
And in their places
Are attempts to improve
In some places
Nothing

At sundown
The hippies gather at the dock
To watch the sun
Disappear into the sea
The tourists gather
To watch the hippies

There are many
Who have come to Key West
To get away from it all
To escape the world
On an island
Unlike any other
And
There are those
Like my friend and I
Who left
To get away from it all
But feel the need
To go back
From time to time
To search for memories of youth
In the town that gave us
More
Than good times and Spanish limes
It gave us
A knowledge
And appreciation
Of what was
What is
And
What can be

by Bob Knowles

(Bob, who was born and raised here, has been working in another part of Florida. He misses Key West, and sent *Solares Hill* this poem that was inspired by a visit here.)

some remarks

Photos by Richard Marsh, except as noted.

HELP FOR MAIMED BIRDS

A GROUP OF students enrolled in a scuba instructors course at Florida Keys Community College were making an open water dive on Thursday, February 9, near Sand Key. As the buddy teams returned to the yacht *Coral* with drained tanks, they were greeted by a pelican drifting around the stern of the boat. The pouch on her lower beak was torn. Anything she tried to eat fell through this hole, and she could not create a suction to drink water.

WHEN SHE WAS lifted aboard, she showed few signs of fear. She looked pathetic, squatting in a corner, rocking from side to side with the roll of the boat. It was decided to call her Martha. She came to man for help, but the crew did not know what to do with her: put her out of her misery, return her to nature, or take her to a veterinarian. After a little deliberation, the crew decided to take her to a veterinarian, since they didn't know how to treat her themselves.

WHEN THE *Coral* arrived at Oceanside Marina, Martha was taken to Dr. William Deans of All Animal Clinic across from the dog track. Dr. Deans has a special interest in birds and will treat any wild birds brought to him at his own expense. He sedated Martha and sewed her up, then put her in his backyard. The Deans went out that night, and when they returned Martha was gone.

MARTHA HAD NO NEED of post treatment care as many birds do that Dr. Deans treats. A bird may be well enough to

leave the doctor's care, but not strong enough to survive in the wild. If a bird is grounded with a broken wing, he cannot survive until he can fly.

A "half-way house" is needed. This would be a home where a maimed bird could get food, shelter, and protection until he is strong enough to survive on his own. People who wish to help by opening up their homes to birds in this predicament can contact All Animal Clinic at 294-5255. Animals too can say, "I get by with a little help from my friends."

Kim Wise

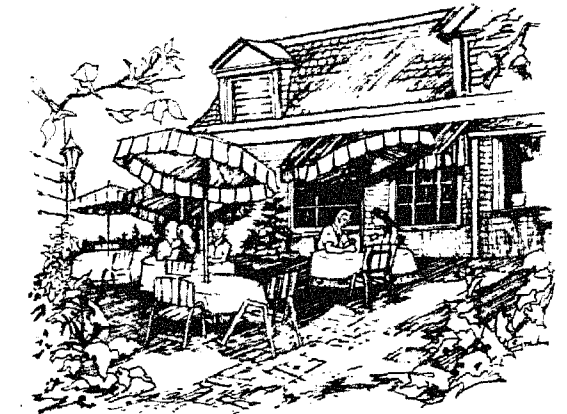
The County Commissioners have just designated March, MARC month. This will aid in "kicking off" their fund raising drive, and promote interest in their "Day in the Sun for MARC" fair -- to be held at Mallory Square on Sunday, March 5, 1978.

WHALE SKULL FOUND AND RETRIEVED

EARLY LAST MONTH John Ferra was chartered out to David Rice and Ephraim Marks on the 41-foot steel-hulled ketch *Sunyata*. While his clients were enjoying themselves off Boca Grande, John noticed a white shape in the mangrove trees about 1/3 of a mile down the beach. He discovered the bones of what was apparently a 50-foot sperm whale washed up on shore. They returned to Oceanside Marina that night, but John already had ideas of returning to fetch the skull, the largest intact piece of the skeleton.

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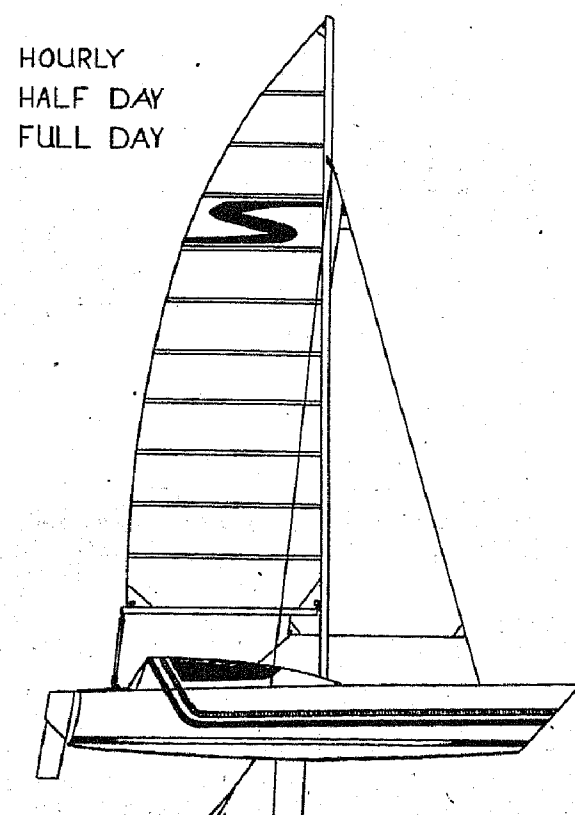
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A FEW DAYS LATER David and Ephraim told John they wanted the whale skull for their Conch house. After a little coaxing, John went to the marina on Stock Island and rounded up ten people for a crew. They sailed that night. Due to the weather the journey would take them three days.



Happy ending to a whale of a time at sea

Since the mangrove area was a quarter of a mile inland over shallow water, they had to carry the 650 pound skull about a quarter of a mile down the beach, where it was loaded onto an avon raft for towing back to Key West.

THE RAFT had to be tied in four places, each side, the front, and the back, so it could be towed straight through the water. Two people rode in the raft to hold the skull and keep it from puncturing the raft. It was a long slow ride back to Key West.

The amount of compensation: \$100 for the *Sunyata*, \$60 for the crew, and a night on the town for all.

THE SKULL will stay in the side yard of the house for a few weeks until the oil finishes dripping and the smell goes away. Then it will be moved into the backyard as a sculpture piece.

Kim Wise

WHEN MY FRIEND Ned Romano, the brother of well-known resident Frank Romano, came back to town a few months ago, he was setting up a seminar to help smokers give up cigarettes. Ned had done this successfully in Woodstock, New York, and had testimonials from those there who were helped. I said at the time that if his program (called Smoke Away Seminars or S.A.S.) was successful here, I would like to give a write-up to it.

SURE ENOUGH, it was successful. A good friend of mine, Susie Latham, a die-hard, two to three packer with ten years experience, enrolled in his program, and, -- it works! She's not smoking now, and while admitting that the coming months are not going to be pushovers, she feels that she will make it.

I noticed that another friend of mine, "Marmee" Hansen, had her picture in the *Citizen*, followed by the statement that she had given up smoking after many years thanks to the S.A.S.

I CALLED HER and she told me that she had smoked for 50 years and was a pack-and-a-half a day user. She said the program made good sense, that there was not the traditional climbing the walls after giving up smoking, and that "it really works."

Thad Lang and his wife Margaret were next on my list to check out. Both completed the course and have given up smoking. Margaret said, "You have to be willing to quit; Ned Romano is a guide, and you have to trust him. He'll help guide you to a smoke-free life."



Key West
The Last Resort

Contents

A Brief History
Restoration
Sightseeing
World of the Sea

World of Tropical Plants
Island Critters
The People
Creative Key West
Island Life
Services & Businesses

AT BOOKSHOP, 534 FLEMING, & OTHER SELECTED OUTLETS

FINALLY, I called a Charles Burroughs, a contractor on Big Pine Key. He was bubbling with enthusiasm about the program and about Ned. He had smoked four to five packs a day for 32 years and had tried off and on to give up smoking over the past 15 years. He said also that you have to want to give up smoking, and the strength of the program lies in its ability to prepare the person mentally and physically to actually become a non-smoker. "This is what got me over the hump," he said. "I couldn't do it on my own."

He's back to jogging and goes a mile and a half to two miles every evening, and daily his breathing comes easier. "I thank him (Ned Romano) every day I get up," Burroughs said.



Thad Lang (left) receives his S.A.S. diploma from Ned Romano.

WELL, it looks like my friend has delivered the goods. Hats off to you, Ned, and keep up the good work.

Bill Huckel

On January 23rd, 1978, a Key West Chapter of the National Organization for Women (N.O.W.) was reactivated.

At the First Decade Convention held in Detroit, Michigan, in April, 1977, N.O.W. pledged its national membership to the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment by 1979. They also agreed to continue working for all other issues affecting women.

The new Monroe County chapter discussed many aspects of the woman's movement, but will be primarily centering its efforts on the ratification of the E.R.A. in the Florida legislature.

The N.O.W. chapter will have a booth at the Monroe County Fair February 24th - March 4, to publicize the work of the Chapter and distribute information on the E.R.A. There will be postcards available, one to send to your state legislators to let them know of your support of the Equal Rights Amendment, and one to ask your congressman for a seven year extension for the time of ratification.

N.O.W. meetings will be held every Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. at the Poinciana Public School Library.

For further information please contact Marian Glass at 294-6339..

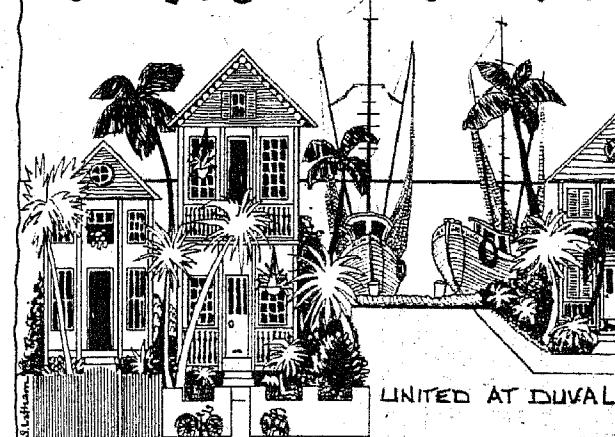
THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT:
Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

IN THE AIR UPDATE

IN AN ARTICLE in last month's *Solares Hill* I reviewed local radio stations and concluded that the programming left much to be desired: "The presentation is uninteresting, the announcers are dull, and the music is not worth listening to in order to hear the few good songs that are currently popular."

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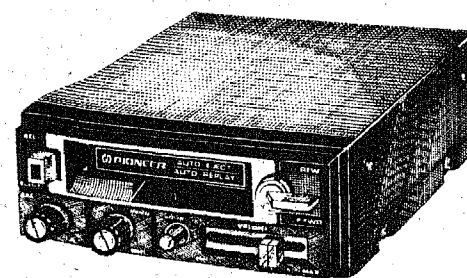
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IN THE OCEAN MOTEL AREA — FOOT OF SIMONTON ST.

issue when two new programs were inaugurated on WIIS-FM (107.1) as if to refute our conclusion, although they were planned weeks before, and they help lift Key West radio listening out of the dreary rut of unimaginative sameness to which it seemed to be dedicated.

LESLIE JAQUAYS follows Starlight Concert, the syndicated classical music program, with "Listen to Leslie" at 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday, except Tuesdays and Thursdays, when she comes on at midnight. Her "rock, jazz, soul, disco, everything" continues until 5 a.m., mellowing after 2 a.m. for "people sitting around having fun."

Leslie is 21 years old and working in radio for the first time. She sounds more mature than her years and more at ease in front of the microphone than is normal for one of her limited experience. Her voice is low enough to avoid the screechiness of most female microphone voices. Unlike the announcers on the other contemporary music stations, WKIZ and WKWF, Leslie programs her show to her own taste, using her personal record collection. Her selections are therefore limited until she builds up her library, but her taste seems to suit Key West better than the national charts and surveys used by the other stations.

BILL LORRAINE, who is well known to Key Westers as the editor of the *Key West Arts Review*, the organizer of the Frangipani Music Festival, and a musician (currently at the Hukilau Sundays and Mondays), presents three hours of "Classic Moods" starting at 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

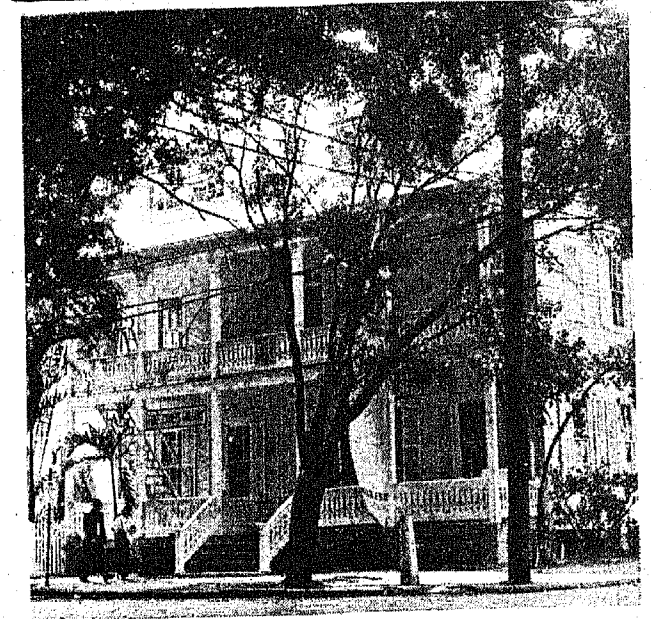
(Starlight Concert, which normally runs from 9 to 11, begins at 10 Tuesdays and Thursdays.)

Bill programs for "melody rather than virtuosity," bringing together a variety of related musical pieces. The selections are conservative: the casual classical listener will rarely hear anything unfamiliar.

A recent evening's fare included Debussy's *La Mer*, Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto in E Minor*, Tchaikovsky's *Symphony #4 in F Minor*, Respighi's orchestral suite *The Birds*, Ravel's *Bolero*, Vivaldi's *Concerto for Two Violins in G*, Chopin waltzes, and the Overture to *William Tell*.

LESLIE'S PROGRAM depends on her own good taste in contemporary music, and Bill's draws on his considerable background in classical music. Both are locally produced and appeal to a significant segment of the listening public. We feel that in initiating these new programs WIIS has taken a long step toward accomplishing its stated intention of fulfilling the music listening needs of those Key Westers who are not satisfied with WKIZ and WKWF's brands of contemporary music or WFYN's "beautiful music" format.

Richard Marsh



CONGRATULATIONS and thanks to the folks at the Carriage House. Though almost gutted by a recent fire, the house

has been speedily and tastefully restored. How nice that the owners got it together so fast! And again what a pleasure it is to pass by this beautiful corner.

THE SECOND and third concerts of this season's Casa Gato concerts, featuring the Zagreb Quartet, the official quartet of Zagreb, Yugoslavia, (composed of two violinists, a violist, and a cellist), will take place at 9:00 p.m. on Good Friday evening, March 24th, and Holy Saturday evening, March 25th, at the former cigar baron's mansion at 1209 Virginia Street. A limited number of tickets are available for the performance.



The proceeds of the concerts are to benefit the newly formed Key West Council on the Arts. Tickets for the evening, which will also include refreshments, are \$8.50 for each concert or \$15 for two concerts and are available at the following locations: Poor Richard's Buttery, Key West Rockcraft, and The Book Shop on Fleming Street, or by calling 294-0717 or 294-3269.

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WHO IS ROBERT WATSON?

written and illustrated by Malcolm Ross

THE ANALOGY may not be obvious to the casual observer, but historians and private detectives share a common bond: a desire to "get the facts" and to assemble a reality from the chaos of disjointed bits and puzzle pieces. Yesterday's worn and battered antique may have the appearance of a shabby, outmoded inconvenience to some, easily eliminated by modern technology and suitable only for the trash can, but the sensitive eye of the antiquarian may detect a dusty treasure which can conjure up a vivid picture of a bygone age. It is in the best Pinkerton tradition that the following interesting local story was pieced together:

AFTER THE DEATH of her parents Mary Anne became interested in trying to repair and prevent the further decay of what could be loosely described as the typical two-story Key West Conch house in the 500 block of Simonton Street into which her parents and she had moved in the mid 1940's. The house had a multitude of typically tropical Key West problems -- faulty plumbing (although its former owner was a plumber who had lived in it for forty years!), flaking paint, and countless termites: inconvenient by some standards, but then not so much different from the homes of friends and acquaintances, and generally about the best that could be expected from a remote 1x3 tropical island isolated on the fringes of the Caribbean by miles of water and tenuous ferry connections.

BOTH AN INTEREST in learning something about the house in which she had lived for the past thirty years as well as something about her family tree brought Mary Anne to the local and State Historical Section of the Fleming Street Library. With her Mary Anne brought the abstract for her property. (This is the ream of paper which traces the property back through time and its various owners almost to the original Indian inhabitants!) Among the names on Mary Anne's abstract were notables such as Juan Salas, who received the island of Key West as a grant from the Spanish crown, and John Simonton, the Mobile businessman who bought it from Salas and proceeded to carve it up like pot roast. Little is remembered of the latter man other than the fact that he bought "the Rock" from the Spanish don for the ridiculous figure of \$2000, and somewhere along the line someone decided to name one of Key West's major streets after him.

IN PERUSING the abstract, Betty Bruce, the affable historian who makes this section of the library her headquarters, noticed among the pages of names and previous owners one name in particular, that of one Robert Watson, who owned the property from 1869 to 1886. His purchase price at the time was \$400, and he sold the property seventeen years later for \$4000 -- apparently with some improvements. The name "Robert Watson" stuck in Betty's mind, and she headed for the stacks.

She returned shortly with a copy of the April 1976 *Civil War Times Illustrated*, an attractive monthly periodical devoted to articles and information on various aspects of the American Civil War -- obviously a must for every Civil War buff. A great deal of space in this particular issue was devoted to a diary written during the Civil War which is considered rare among Civil War diaries. Many diaries of course were written by civilians and men who served in the war, but most dealing with military experiences were written by officers, and there are few which have come down to us which were written by enlisted men.

THE DIARY described in the *Civil*

War Times Illustrated was not only written by an enlisted man, but by a man who served in both the Army and the Navy during this troubled period. Mention is



ROBERT AND CAROLINE KEMP WATSON
(CIRCA 1900)

made of his participation in the battle of Chicamauga -- one of the important southern skirmishes --, his experiences on a Confederate ship in the Savannah River, his transferral to battle lines in Virginia where he was taken prisoner three days before the war ended, and a post-war period in Washington, D.C., at the time of President Lincoln's assassination. Diaries written by naval personnel are virtually non-existent, but what makes the diary all the more remarkable is the fact that it was written by a young man who grew up and spent most of his lifetime in Key West. This man's name was Robert Watson.

THE QUESTION of course still remained: Was this the same Robert Watson whose name is on Mary Anne's property abstract and who once owned this section known as Tract 50 (another of John Simonton's innovations)? The next matter, of course, was to try to determine if this was the case. The date of purchase by Robert Watson which was recorded on the property abstract was 1869. The Civil War had lasted from 1861 to 1865. Was it plausible that this was the same veteran who, returning from the war, now in his early thirties and still a young man, had decided to invest in a piece of the island on which he grew up? This was a distinct possibility and a potential piece of the puzzle, but not convincing enough evidence to link this Robert Watson with the important Civil War document. More parts had to be gathered, more questions asked, in an effort to assemble a complete or more accurate picture.

IT HAS OFTEN BEEN SAID that both death and taxes are inescapable entities, and apparently Key Westers have been dying and paying taxes for quite a long time. Local tax records are fairly complete and have been committed to microfilm, and they are another accessible feature of the historical section of the local library. The name Robert Watson first appears on the 1866 Key West tax rolls, but he is listed only as a male of voting age and with no property. In 1867 his name appears again, and he

is credited with "three cattle and hogs," land valued at \$150, and \$50 capital. Several subsequent years of the local tax records are missing, but in 1874 they continue again, and in that year he is shown as owning one house, one store, and one lot in the section known as tract 50. Since there is no other Robert Watson appearing on the tax rolls, it would appear that this was the same man, but there is still nothing definite to link him with the Civil War diary.

THE PICTURE becomes clearer, of course, as more pieces are added to the puzzle, but the questions continue to pop up.

According to the records of St. Paul's Episcopal Church at Duval and Eaton Streets, Robert Watson and Caroline Elizabeth Kemp were married in the church in the spring of 1868. Is it also possible that he built the house at about this time as a home for his new wife and a place to raise a family?

FROM 1874 on the records read somewhat like a monopoly board, as both his brother George (whom he frequently mentions in his diary) and he acquire houses and lots, particularly in a section of Key West known as tract 13. Both brother end up owning most of the lots in this tract. In 1878 Robert, who is the less affluent of the two, is shown on the tax rolls as owning seven of them! As one who is familiar with the geography of the city might surmise, this area was later to become Watson Street, which now runs between Truman Avenue and United Street.

A NOT QUITE insignificant bit of information also appears on the 1878 tax roll. Robert is also assessed for a carpenter shop on Ann Street. It would appear from this bit of information that the man is not unfamiliar with woodworking techniques and likely was capable of building his own home. Because of the missing tax records it is impossible to determine the exact year that the house on Simonton Street was constructed, but apparently it was sometime between 1869, the year of purchase stated on the property abstract and one year after his marriage, and 1874, the year that the tax records pick up again and the house is first mentioned on the rolls.

IT IS TYPICAL of many of the frame houses in the older sections of Key West that they are often a combination of styles and building techniques. Such is the case with Mary Anne's house. A house was usually built in conformity with the styles and tastes of a particular time and generally determined by the technology of the period, but as the family grew and man's twentieth century impulse to surround himself with possession upon possession came to the fore, the original confines of the house became too restrictive, and the house had to grow too. Affluence may allow the necessary wherewithal to perform these renovations, but as is often the case with many renovated local buildings they lack a purity of design and often have a jumbled appearance. The less affluent family, on the other hand, probably learned to make do with less, and the house we see today is often a handsomer monument. Alteration -- the removal of architectural detail as well as its reverse -- has had its adverse effects on Conch architecture -- as elsewhere! -- and it is the rare case where the owner actually restores rather than renovates. (To those who would forget the meaning of the two terms, the former means "to return to a former state", while the latter means simply "to make new again".)

JUDGING FROM both interior and ex-

terior architectural detail and its inconsistency throughout the building, Mary Anne's house was clearly a mixture of architectural styles ranging from later nineteenth to mid-twentieth century. Heavily paneled doors with transoms above them (unusual for Key West), bull's eye motifs at the tops of doors and window moldings, as well as double-paned window sashes (rather than the older six over six sashes), harkened back to the latter part of the last century, while beaver-board and sheetrock walls and a simplicity of design gave mute testimony to the hurried pace of the twentieth century.

THE MAJOR CONCERN in constructing a house in Key West during the 1800's was the frequency of hurricanes which swept in from the Caribbean with an all too frequent unpredictability. Most homes on the island were constructed by the best local craftsmen -- ship's carpenters, who were highly skilled men familiar with shipbuilding techniques and the stresses and strains to which wooden vessels were subjected. Life so close to the sea had many similarities to living on the sea itself, with its high humidity and encroaching moisture, and during a hurricane a house could pitch and roll almost as much as any ship on a stormy sea. The strong winds accompanying these

hull of a sailing ship would swell with a rise in humidity, sealing out moisture from rain or the frequent summer storms.

MARY ANNE'S house conformed to the common Key West Conch style in all these respects with one interesting exception. The walls in the older section of the house were not of the distinctive tongue and groove boards, but plastered! Was it possible that these same plastered walls reflected a motif that Robert Watson had noticed and admired during the brief period after the war when he was forced to spend time in Washington, D.C., and New York City? It was mere speculation that this was a northern feature (and probably one of the few) that he liked well enough to include in the new house into which he moved his young family.

ANOTHER INTERESTING FEATURE of the local and State Historical Department of the library is the large volume of photocopies of the Sanborn maps of the older sections of Key West. These maps, which cover a period of about twenty years and were drawn up by the Sanborn Publishing Company of Broadway, New York, show the various streets of the city, property boundaries, and existing buildings. Ac-



storms could force a stone or brick house off its foundation, but a frame house with beams and supporting members of mahogany and other strong tropical woods would shift with the wind and settle back to its original place. If the building did come off its foundation it could be replaced relatively intact, as compared with a pile of crumbled masonry. Interior wooden walls of tongue and groove boards so distinctive of Conch houses were as well not an accidental characteristic or a cop-out from plastered walls so popular at the time in northern regions. The wooden walls like the

cording to Mary Anne's property abstract the Simonton Street property was sold by Robert Watson in 1886, but the earliest Sanborn map (1889) clearly shows a house (although somewhat smaller than the present one and without a porch) and a store and shed on the lot in tract 50. The store is apparently the one for which Robert Watson was assessed in 1874. On the 1912 Sanborn map the house has grown to its present rambling size, probably because of additions by subsequent owners.


THE CLINCHER came of course when Mary Anne picked up a copy of *Kinfolks*,

an extensive compilation of statistics relating to various Key West families and their genealogies. This two-volume work (also in the local historical department of the library), which was published in 1937 and is the fruit of the labors of a number of local Key West residents, not only had the information on Mary Anne's family tree that she was seeking, but also a fairly extensive section on the Watson clan. Not only is mention made of Robert Watson's Civil War diary, but it gives an outline of his military career and includes a photograph of Watson and his wife.

SOME OLD TIMERS who can remember back to the early years of this century likely still recall the tall bearded figure known as "Old Man Watson," whose stern intelligent features stare out of this photograph. Most of the puzzle pieces were now in place, at any rate enough to connect the diary of Robert Watson to the house on Simonton Street. According to the *Civil War Times Illustrated*, Watson's diary is in the Cornell University Library at Ithaca, New York, but a phone call to Cornell revealed that only a type-written copy is in their possession. According to their records this copy was supplied to them a number of years ago by a Maurice

P. Comdrick of St. Petersburg. How this copy came to be in his possession and the location of the actual diary -- if it is still in existence -- are anybody's guess.

NEXT MONTH: THE JOURNAL OF ROBERT WATSON



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JAIL MESS

by Mack Dryden

IT'S NO SECRET that the Key West city jail is a horrible place. Jails usually are, of course, but the city pokey here is probably worse than most. Former prisoners testify to it, the police admit it, and a county judge thinks it should be closed.

Two incidents a week apart in February were supposedly triggered by what one of the prisoners called the "disgusting" conditions at the jail. One night a group of prisoners who tore up a toilet and threw pieces at the guards had to be subdued with water hoses. A week later two women prisoners attacked a jailer with a wrench and a night stick, and one said later she'd have done "anything" to get out of the place.

FORMER PRISONERS told *Solares Hill* that conditions in the jail range from "okay" to intolerable. They said there are rarely enough sheets and blankets to go around, soap and towels often aren't provided, lights stay on around the clock, and cells are packed to the limit and are generally dirty. Some said a lack of reading material contributes to the occurrence of vandalism and fights.

Some former prisoners said they thought the conditions were intentionally bad so transients arrested for misdemeanors wouldn't stay in Key West when they got out of jail. "It's one way to keep 'undesirables' out," said one. "They want the word to get out that Key West is a bad place to get busted."

A MAN who was jailed last month said he saw three men in the jail who were being denied medical attention. "One had pus coming out of his ears, another one had open sores on his hand, and another guy had badly swollen legs. They'd been trying to get some kind of attention for three days," he said.

He said that when he was incarcerated

ated there were 18 to 20 people in a nine-by-fourteen foot cell, no blankets, no bunks, and the concrete walls and floor were damp. "It's a desperate situation, and there's nothing you can do about it when you're in there," he said.

TWO BASIC FACTORS combine to make the jail situation bad for everybody on both sides of the bars. First, the city has just enough money to provide no-frills, basic services to its law-abiding citizens. Second, Key West probably has more moneyless street people for its population than any city in the country. If you can't legally eat, sleep or travel in a town -- and you can't without money in Key West -- you stand a good chance of ending up in the slammer.

COUNTY JUDGE Lester Garringer said the city needs "a stockade" to accommodate all the offenders that come through his court (170 bond hearings in January alone), and that he feels the city jail should be closed. He said he gets a "significant" number of complaints about the lack of sheets, towels, soap, toothbrushes, etc. in the jail. "The county should have a central booking office and house all the prisoners," he said. "We're duplicating work."

DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF Larry Rodriguez admitted that the jail "runs short" of such things as soap and towels but said it's impossible to keep enough. "The bastards tear up everything you give them," he said. "They flush towels and pieces of blankets down the toilets, they rip the fixtures off the wall, they make robes and shoes out of blankets. In October I had new mattresses for every bunk (there are 18 in the jail), and now I've got to order again. They destroy them. Some mornings when we go up there it's a disaster."

Rodriguez said two jailers are on duty during the day but only one is on at night. "He has to come down to take their belongings and fingerprint them, and when he goes back it's a mess. The ingenuity of some prisoners is unbelievable. They'll destroy anything they put their minds to."

THE DEPUTY CHIEF pointed out a hole in the ceiling of a cell that a prisoner had torn open with his head. "We patched up his head," he said. "Now we got to do the roof."

Regardless of the problems the inmates make for themselves, however, the


state requires the city to maintain certain minimum standards for a minimum security holding facility such as Key West's. The state Department of Offender Rehabilitation periodically sends an inspector down for surprise visits, but Police Chief Winston (Jimmy) James said the inspection reports are not public record and declined to let *Solares Hill* look at the latest one.

DEPUTY CHIEF RODRIGUEZ read parts of a report made last June (he declined to let *Solares Hill* read it, saying the report contained a description of "a personnel problem that has since been taken care of"). "We can meet the requirements," he said, "by re-doing the ventilation system, painting the cells, fixing cracks in the floors (water often drips into the courtroom below), and making alterations in the women's cell. We'll probably have to have a full-time matron for the women eventually."

MEANWHILE, the police and other city officials say they're doing the best they can with what they've got. And anyone considering violating a city ordinance in Key West is hereby advised that what they've got is pretty unpleasant.

[Editor's note.]

I called Tallahassee and asked if the reports on jail conditions by the Office of Prisoner Rehabilitation were classified information, or if they were public record. They told me that they were public record. Part of a report on the Key West Jail, dated October 30, 1977, reads: "This facility is in very deplorable condition...there is not sufficient staff to run place...ventilation is poor and lighting is insufficient...the entire jail is in need of repainting...there is no fire plan..." --W.H.]



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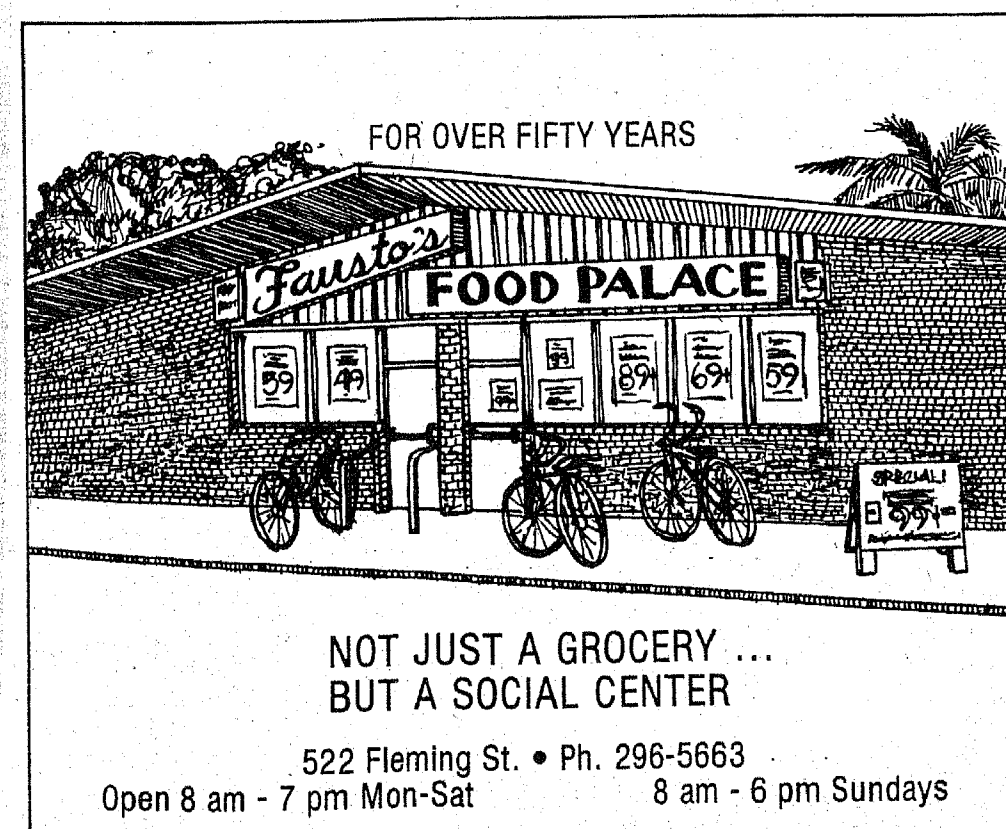
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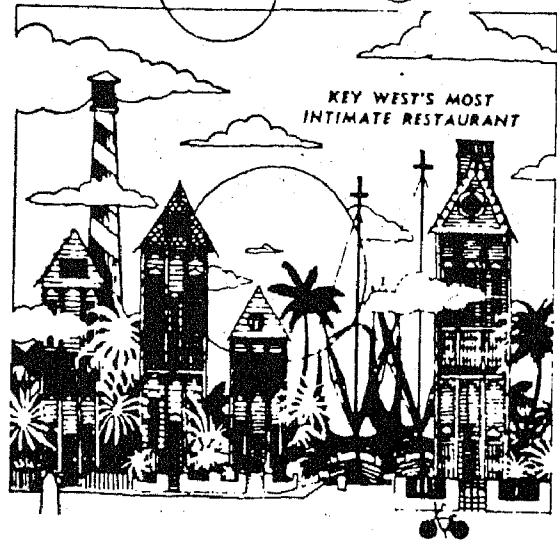
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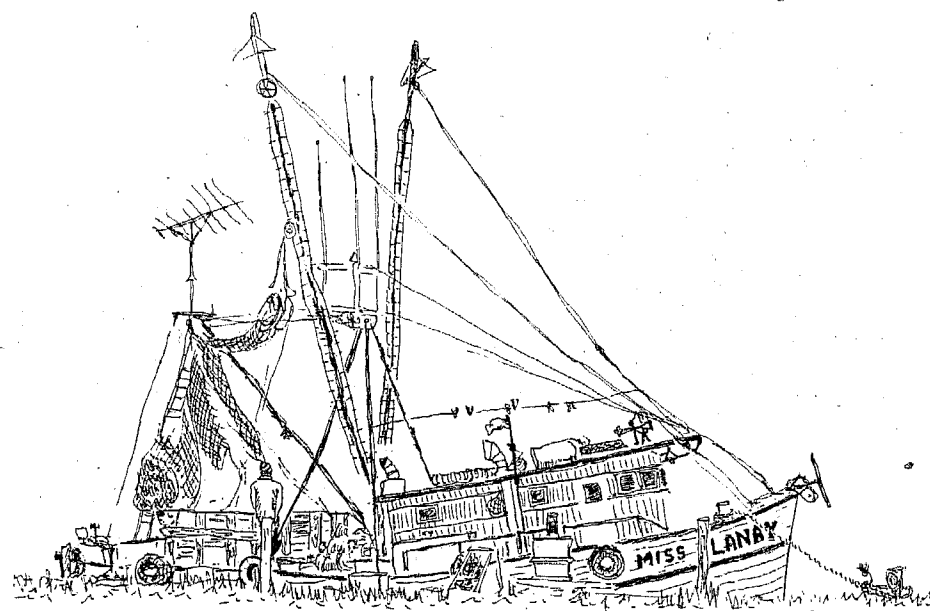
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MISS LANAY and me

written and illustrated by A. Knight

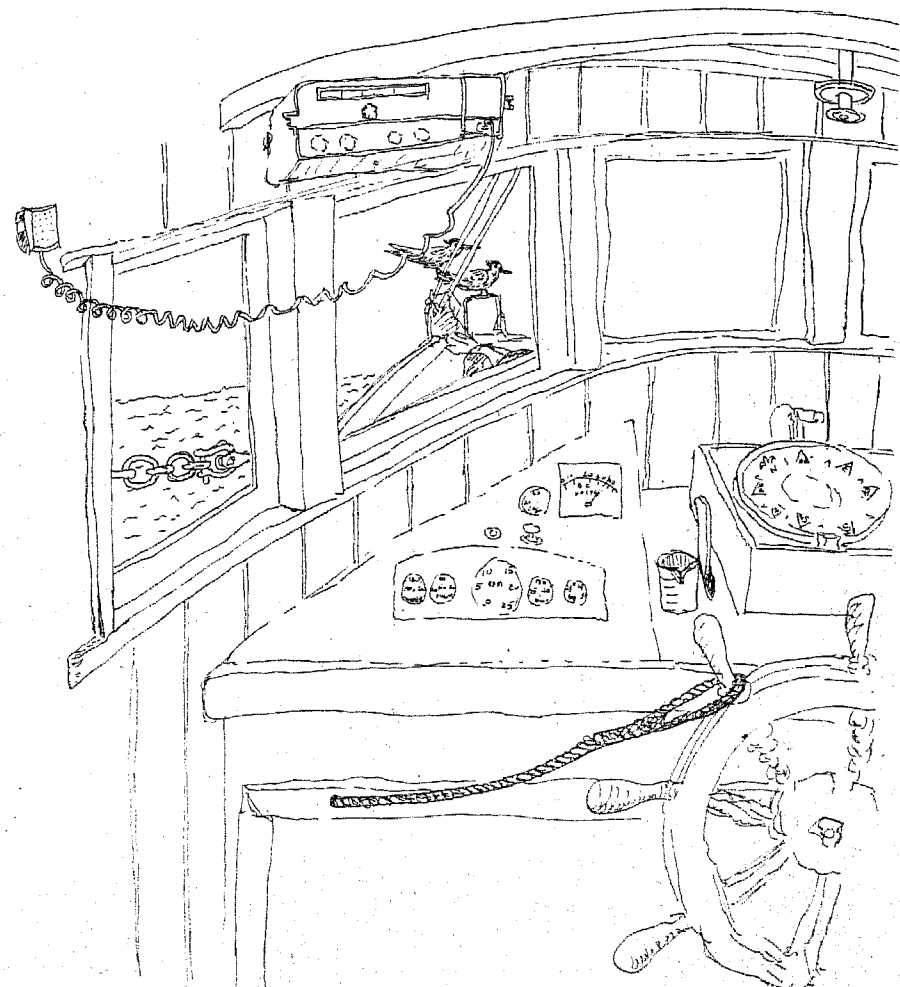


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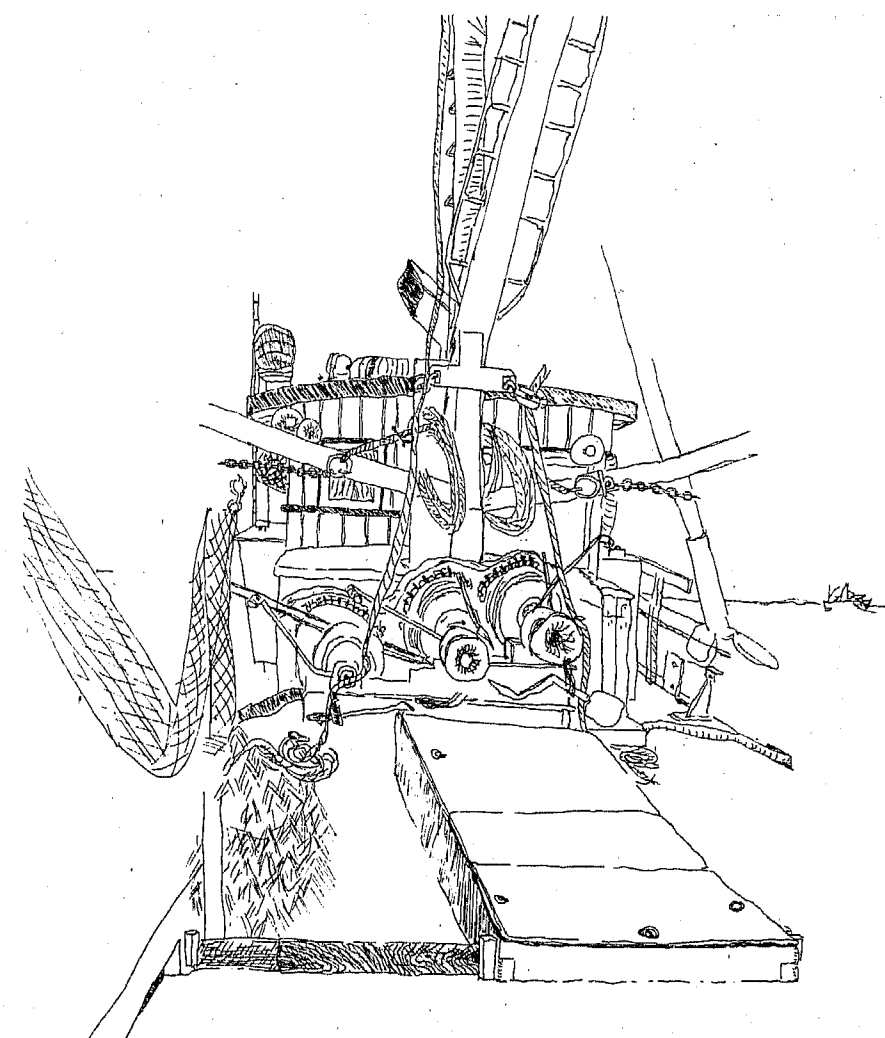
I MET *Miss Lanay*, not by walking the docks for she is a class lady not to be picked up, but was introduced through the CETA Shrimp School program in which I was enrolled at the time. She sat at the dock and was the smallest in size there. I figured by stepping off the distance two paces for five feet that she was forty to fifty feet long. Her wood hull was built about 1962 or '64 with new fiberglass water tanks.

THE WEATHER held up our trip a few days, and we cleaned and painted her well taken care of body. She looked so pretty, clean, and well cared for. On Sunday, Franklin Stevens, the owner, captain, and master of the vessel, came to my house just as I finished baking some whole wheat raisin pecan honey bread for the trip. Off we rode to Stock Island to meet David, a fellow classmate, and Abraham, the rigman, who, I found out later, is a fine chef besides being an able seaman.

THE LIFE of a fisherman on the sea in wooden ships is definitely a soulful, religious experience. The sunrise, the sunsets, the night time, the wind, the cold, the intensity



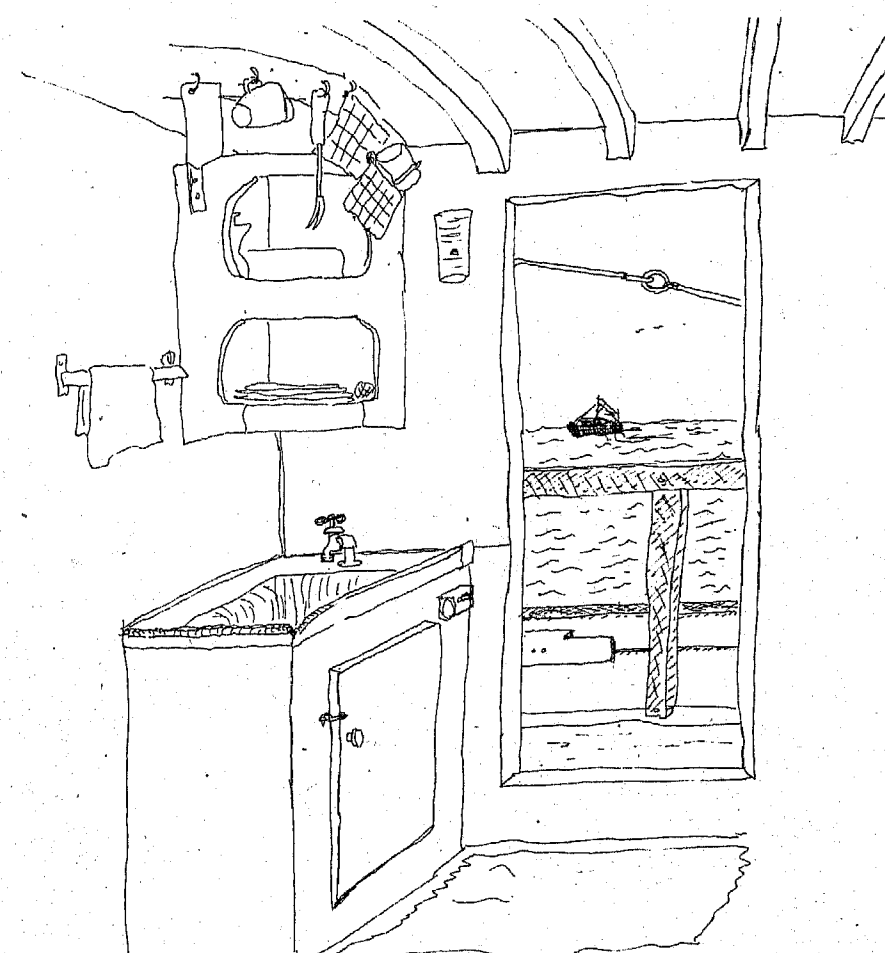
VIEW OF THE WHEEL HOUSE



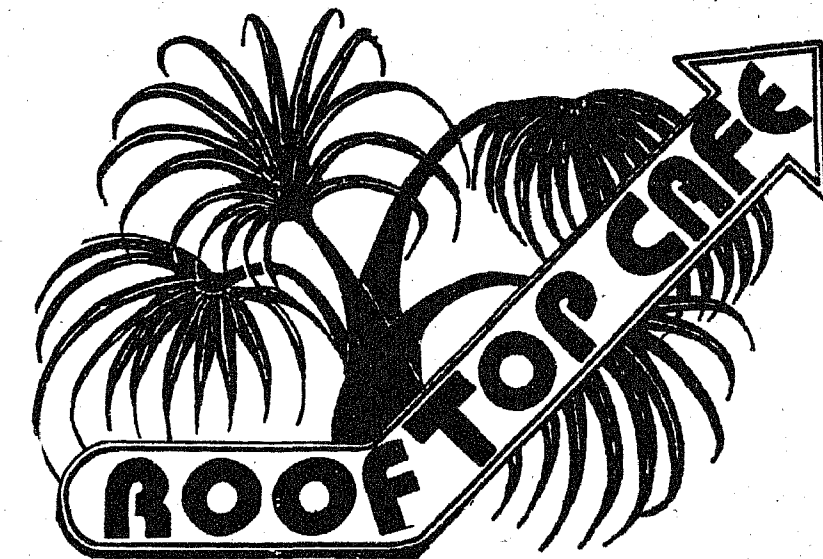
VIEW OF BACK DECK, WINCH AND ICE HOLE HATCH COVER

of the here and now moment.

IT BEING FEBRUARY, we had cold fronts and the shrimping was poor and we got only one box (100 pounds) of shrimp. But the people of this boat, Captain Franklin, and Abraham did their job in a gentlemanly fashion, and we had no injuries or damage to rigs or nets. A cold front brought us in, and the school coordinator (Ski) came out to the Morgan Shrimp Company dock on Stock Island and pulled Dave and me off *Miss Lanay* to let two more students get the experience. The next day, I resigned from school to sail south to Belize with fond memories of Key West. I hope to return to Key West, and, hopefully, the *Miss Lanay* will still be here with her joyful crew.

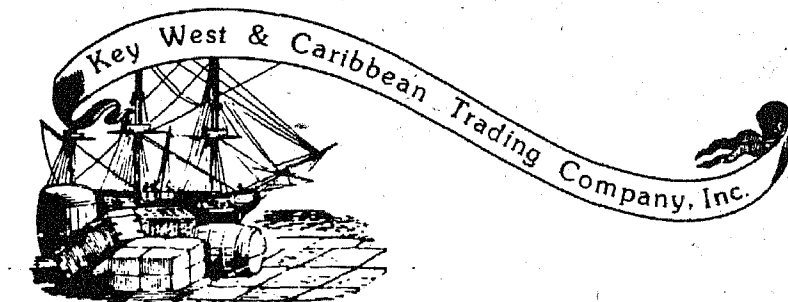


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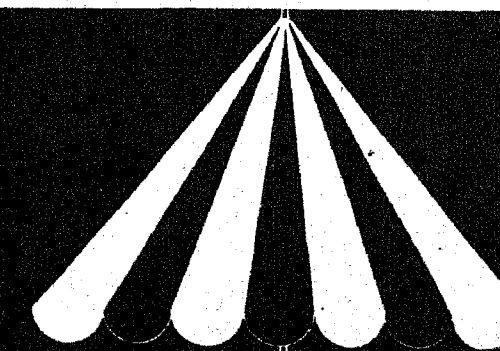
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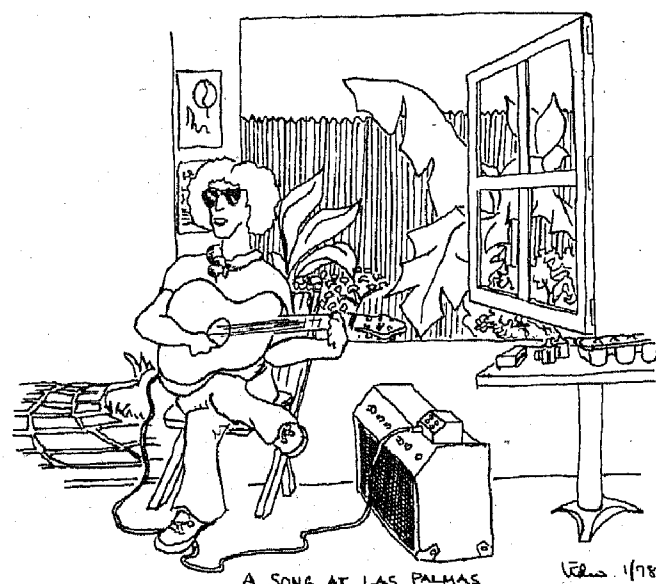
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Vera 1/78

RED DOORS

photos and article by Richard Marsh

WHEN IS A BAR not a bar? When beverages are no longer served to the public, the bar furnishings are removed, and the doors are closed and remain closed for several years?

Or when hotel and restaurant licenses are no longer purchased and the building is used for a single family dwelling?

IT MIGHT SEEM reasonable to assume that when a building is not operated as



The 800 Caroline property

a bar and is not furnished as a bar that it is not a bar, regardless of what it may have been in the past. But this question is at the heart of an issue that is currently before Circuit Judge J. Lancelot Lester, and when seemingly simple questions become couched in legal terms and shrouded in unknown motives, nothing is simple anymore.

This is a complicated matter. The proven facts are few but stable. The truth is probably hidden in rumor and

supposition. There are more questions than answers. We will lay out the situation piecemeal and refrain from attempting to connect elements that are not provably related.

WHEN JANIE AND BILL Birmingham bought an old house at 809 Sawyer Lane in May 1975 to renovate and live in, they decided that a nearby bar, the Mascot, down the lane and around the corner at 812 Caroline, would be a tolerable nuisance. The nearest other bars are blocks away.

THE RED DOORS INN, 800 Caroline at William, had a long and often lurid history as a colorful waterfront tavern until 1972. The sidewalks outside often ran red with some of that color, and, although its name changed from the Horse-shoe Bar in the 1950's to the Wagon Wheel Tavern in the 1960's to the Red Doors Inn in 1969, it was frequently referred to shudderingly as "The Bucket of Blood."

THE FACT that the Red Doors property abuts on the Birminghams' back yard did not disturb Bill and Janie, because under Lynn Williams' ownership, beginning in 1973, the Red Doors had not been used as a bar. In fact, according to Williams, it was closed as a bar in July 1972. The Red Doors had not operated as a bar for nearly three years when the Birminghams bought their house. They felt protected by the city's Zoning Ordinance (Ordinance 69-29, Appendix A in the Code of Ordinances), which seems to state clearly that the Red Doors can no longer operate as a bar.

The 800 block of Caroline on the

side of the street away from the water was zoned HP-1, which prohibits bars, with the enactment of the Zoning Ordinance in 1969. However, many non-conforming uses were "grandfathered in," that is, allowed to continue in non-conformance with HP-1, under certain circumstances.

BUT ACCORDING TO Section VI, 6 (e): "When a nonconforming use of a structure, or structure and premises in combination, is discontinued or abandoned for six (6) consecutive months or for eighteen (18) months during any three-year period (except when government action impedes access to the premises), the structure, or structure and premises in combination, shall not thereafter be used except in conformance with the regulations of the district in which it is located."

Since the Red Doors had not been used as a bar for more than six months, the Birminghams felt assured that it could not again operate as a bar without a zoning variance, which they would surely contest.

THE BIRMINGHAMS moved into their house in January 1976.

In November 1976 Lynn Williams sold the 800 Caroline property to Widow's Walk Ltd., Inc., of Winter Park, Florida. In conversations with Williams, the Birminghams learned that the new owners intended to use the property as a bar.

AT THAT POINT and for the next several months the Birminghams checked regularly with Madeline (Inky) Bean, Administrative Aide to Director Woody Niles at the City's Building and Zoning Department, to see if 800 Caroline could become a bar, or if anyone had inquired about opening a bar there. Mrs. Bean consistently answered that the property was zoned HP-1 and could not become a bar.

ALARMED BY evidence of continued and extensive reconstruction going on inside the Red Doors building, and realizing that the new owners would need approval from the Monroe County Health Department to obtain a liquor license, the Birminghams contacted Bob Keller, Monroe County Health Inspector, in June 1977.

Keller told them that Geoffrey Ball, a representative of Widow's Walk, had shown him plans and drawings of a proposed bar to be named The Chandlery and stated that Widow's Walk intended to operate the bar at 800 Caroline. Keller also said that Ball had shown him a letter signed by then-City Attorney Manny James, City Manager Ron Stack, and Building and Zoning Department Director Woody Niles that said that the Red Doors property could be used for commercial purposes, including a bar.

THE BIRMINGHAMS called Ron Stack to ask him about the letter. He denied knowledge of it, but called the Zoning Department to ask if they knew anything.

As it happened, Ball was in the Zoning Department office at that moment with the forms for a liquor license and the James-Stack-Niles letter, waiting for Niles to sign his final official approval on the liquor license forms. Stack had the approval temporarily halted. The Birminghams were not able to obtain a copy of the letter at that time.

The Birminghams then presented a petition with the signatures of 25 of their neighbors to James, Stack, Niles, and Mayor Sonny McCoy and the City Commissioners demanding "an immediate public hearing in reference to the recent zoning approval (i.e., the letter) for the corporation known as Widows Walk, Ltd., to operate a non-conforming business (bar and/or supper club) at 800 Caroline Street, which is now in an Historic Preservation One zoned



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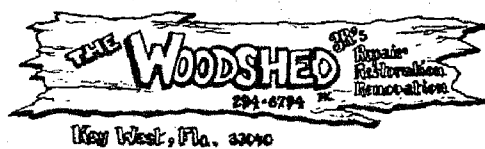
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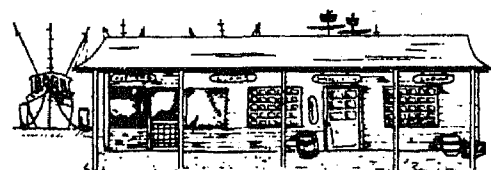
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district." The petition noted that approval was given without notification to the residents of the area and asked that "any further licensing be halted until there can be a thorough investigation."

NO RESPONSE came from City Hall, but the proposed bar at 800 Caroline, which was scheduled for a November 1977 opening, has not opened.

The Birminghams and some of their neighbors hired attorney Joe Galletti and entered into a class suit against Widow's Walk, the Old Island Restoration Commission, and the City of Key West, asking the court for a declaratory judgement to keep 800 Caroline from being used as a bar.

The Birminghams' position is that 800 Caroline cannot be used as a bar because it has not been used as a bar for more than six months, citing the above section from the Zoning Ordinance.

IN ANSWER to an interrogatory from Galletti, William Rowland, an officer of Widow's Walk, Inc., and its attorney, included a copy of the elusive letter from City Hall approving 800 Caroline for commercial use. Here is the text of the letter, which is dated October 6, 1976, and written on then-City Attorney Manny James' letterhead and signed by James, Stack, and Niles:

Gentlemen:

"Please be advised that in regards to your recent inquiry concerning the Red Doors Inn located at 800 Caroline Street, Key West, Florida, we offer the following opinion.

"The Red Doors Inn is located in an HP-1 Area which would normally prohibit commercial activities, but since the property has been used as a commercial property prior to the adoption of Ordinance 69-29, and the Division of Hotels and Restaurants has issued li-



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censes for the establishment for the past several years and since the property has not been used as a single family residence, it is therefore our decision that the property can continue to be used for commercial activities. The property has not lost its commercial usage as opposed to a single family residence usage. We should also keep in mind the many businesses and commercial establishments which abound in extremely close proximity to the subject property.

"A restaurant, gourmet food shop, lounge, apartment house, antique shop, art gallery or other commercial establishments can be conducted on the property.

"If we can be of further help in this matter, please advise."

CITY ATTORNEY Joe Allen says that the letter represents the city's position. The intended use of the property as a bar, according to Allen, "is a legal non-conforming use, because, according to the letter, it continued in commercial use because the licenses were kept up."

Allen feels that the action should be only between the Birminghams and Widow's Walk, and that the city should not be involved.

FORMER CITY ATTORNEY Manny James, clearly at a disadvantage in trying to recall the circumstances surrounding a letter written a year and a half ago, said, "I think somebody just asked me if this property can be used for commercial purposes, and I said that if commercial activities had been going on before the ordinance and are still going on now, those activities can continue."

WIDOW'S WALK'S position, leaning heavily on the letter from City Hall, is that, since the property had operated as a bar previously and had kept up hotel and restaurant licenses after the



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bar was closed, the property had not reverted to non-commercial usage and was still exempt from conformation to HP-1 zoning. We have not been able to determine if the licenses were in fact kept up continuously since the closing of the bar.



Interior of Birminghams' partially renovated house

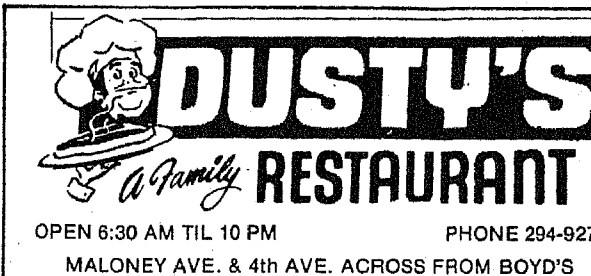
But in answer to Galletti's interrogatory Rowland also stated that Widow's Walk was in the process of purchasing or attempting to purchase a liquor license. So regardless of whether



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or not the restaurant license was kept up to date, 800 Caroline had certainly not been continuously licensed to serve liquor -- that is, to operate as a bar.

THERE IS ALSO a question about how City Hall viewed the status of 800 Caroline before the James-Stack-Niles letter to Widow's Walk.

Mike McCall, a local artist, tried to apply for a business license to operate an art gallery at 800 Caroline in July 1976. He said he was told by Blackie Valdez, City License Inspector, that the property could not be licensed for commercial use because the zoning had changed six months after the Red Doors closed, and he would have to seek a zoning variance in order to use the property commercially. McCall said that then-owner Lynn Williams had told him the property could be used commercially. Valdez says he does not remember any conversation with McCall about opening an art gallery at the Red Doors, but that it was his understanding that no business of any kind could be opened at that location without going through the Old Island Restoration Commission and the board of adjustment. Valdez says he personally feels that an art gallery would fit in with the character of the neighborhood and the HP-1 zoning, but that also would be subject to review by the OIRC and the board of adjustment.

(AFTER STATING that the Red Doors ceased to operate as a bar in June 1972, Lynn Williams refused to answer any further questions about the property. He referred us to his attorney, saying that the matter was in litigation. Williams' attorney, Bob Sauer, said he did not know the answers to our other questions, which were: How was the Red Doors property used after June 1972, and who owned it before Williams? We were not able to contact Stack or Niles, and our calls were not returned.)

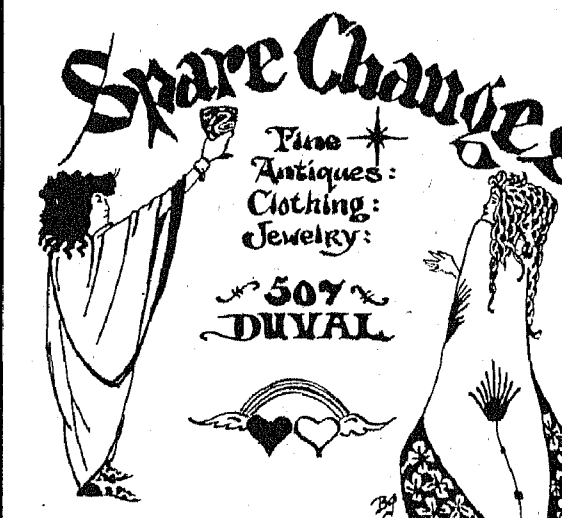
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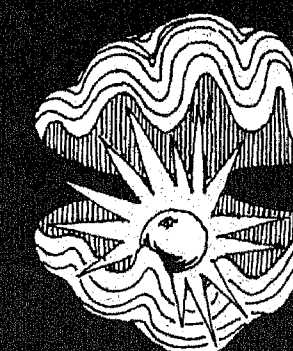
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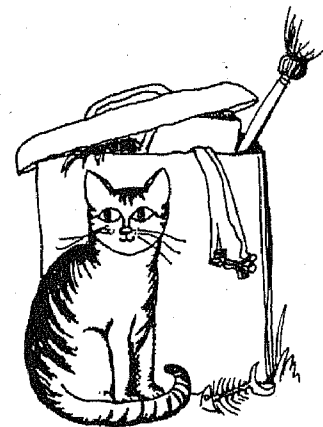
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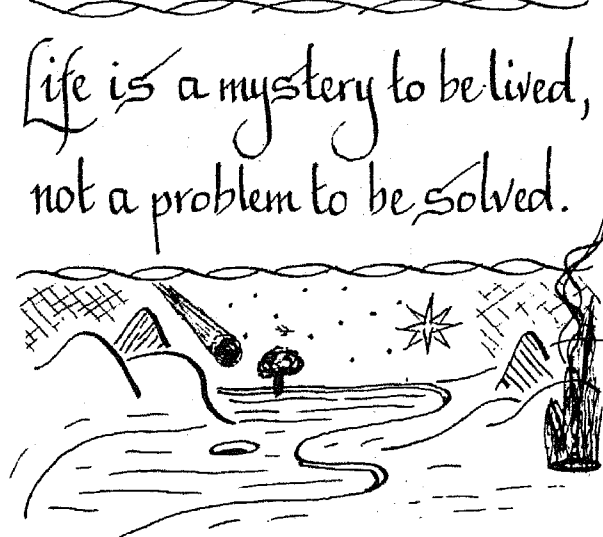
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ALTHOUGH the question of the use of the property at 800 Caroline as a bar and its status of conformance or non-conformance to HP-1 zoning based on its use as a bar is the crux of the legal arguments, we feel that there are two items that are equally important, though less obvious:

"NO EXISTING STRUCTURE devoted to a use not permitted by this ordinance in the district in which it is located shall be enlarged, extended, constructed, reconstructed, moved or structurally altered except in changing the use of the structure to a use permitted in the district in which it is located."

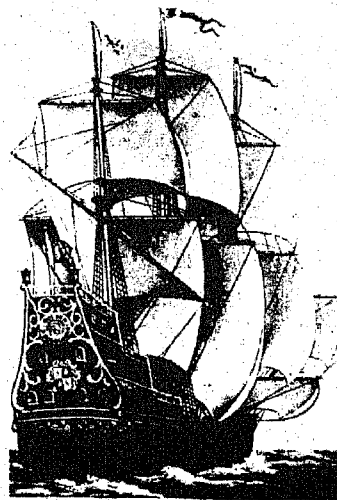
[Zoning Ordinance VI,6 (a)]
Although the second story at 800 Caroline has apparently been consistently used for apartments for several years, the downstairs has been used as a bar until 1972, as a life drawing classroom-studio for at least a part of 1974, a leather factory from approximately late 1974 to late 1975, and living quarters from early 1976 to mid-1977. The downstairs was altered in one way or another for all these uses, but since Widow's Walk bought the building extensive reconstruction has been carried out downstairs in apparent violation of this section of the ordinance.

"IF NO STRUCTURAL alterations are made, any non-conforming use of a structure, or structure and premises, may be changed to another nonconforming use provided that the board of adjustment, either by general rule or by making findings in the specific case, shall find that the proposed use is equally appropriate or more appropriate to the district than the existing nonconforming use." [Zoning Ordinance VI,6 (c)]

The James-Stack-Niles letter seems to say that, since the 800 Caroline property never ceased its commercial, non-conforming use and therefore never

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reverted to HP-1, it can continue in a non-conforming use. But the ordinance clearly states that changing from one non-conforming use to another non-conforming use must be approved by the board of adjustment (that is, the city commission sitting as the board of adjustment) as being "equally appropriate or more appropriate" to HP-1 zoning.

EVEN IF it is granted that the property continued in non-conformance through various uses since 1972 (although, without approval from the board of adjustment, and therefore illegally), the board of adjustment would have to find a bar "equally appropriate or more appropriate" to HP-1 zoning than, say, a life drawing class or an apartment house.

HP-1, incidentally, permits multi-family dwellings not to exceed four dwelling units. It prohibits "all uses not specifically or provisionally permitted herein; any use not in keeping with the residential character or professional character of the district."

ON THE BASIS of a reasonable person's reading of the zoning ordinance and the evidence presented here, *Solares Hill* feels that the position of the Birmingham and their neighbors is clearly supported by the law. We agree with the intent of the HP-1 zoning -- "to protect and enhance the character of the residential historic areas" -- and feel that the re-establishment of a bar at 800 Caroline would violate this intent. We hope that the court will support the intent of the ordinance and the Birmingham's position when the case comes to trial, probably some time next month.

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IN LAST NOVEMBER'S *Solares Hill*, Thurlow Weed and I jointly wrote a brief article about a proposed weather station to be built on county land in the salt pond south of the west end of the airport runway. Four thousand cubic yards of fill would build up about a half acre (200 x 100 feet) for an office building, parking area, radar tower, weather balloon launch building and apron, and weather instrument site. The new weather station would occupy a



Proposed weather station site is at west end of salt pond (extreme left of photo) between runway and South Roosevelt Blvd.

portion of the west end of a natural salt pond (which the county claims is artificial) in which rare and uncommon birds regularly feed. The existing weather station is at the east end of the same pond, next to the Highway Patrol Station.

A COMPREHENSIVE article about the salt ponds and Rest Beach and other threatened and disappearing wildlife habitats in the Key West area will ap-

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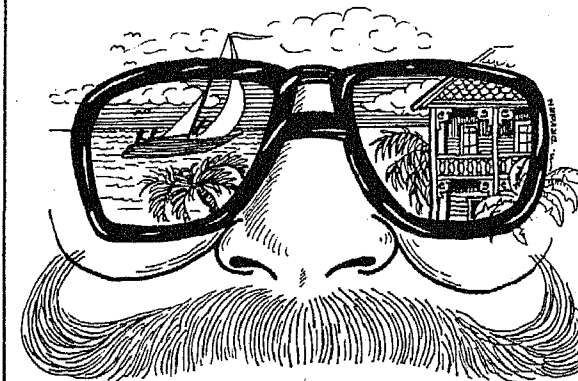
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pear in next month's *Solares Hill*.

MEANWHILE, the county is going ahead with its plan to build the weather station, which it will then lease to the U.S. Weather Service. The Army Corps of Engineers has received an application for a fill permit from the county. Interested individuals and groups have until March 13 to make their opinions known to the Corps of Engineers.

Write to:

John Santorelli
Jacksonville District
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Department of the Army
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photo and article by Richard Marsh

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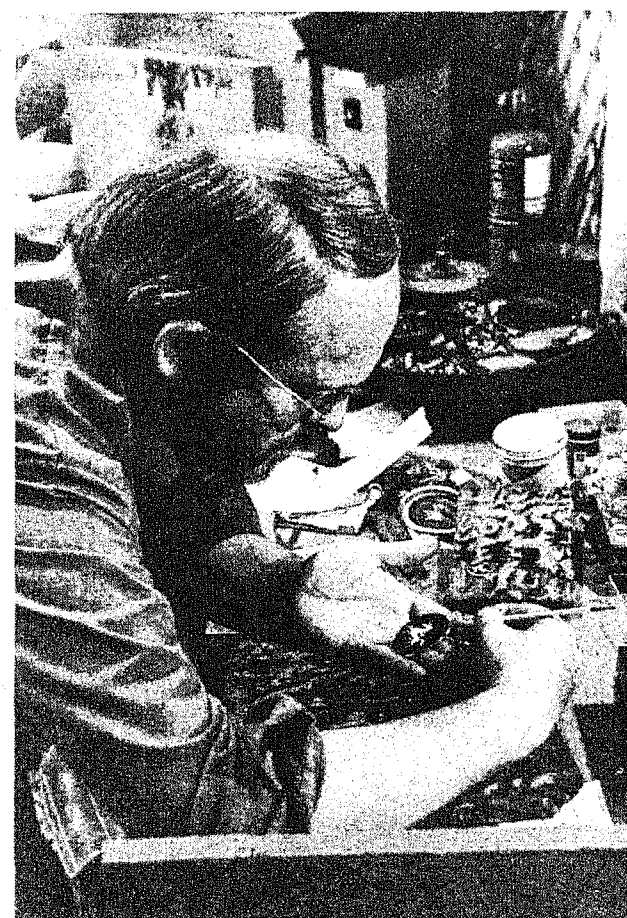


ART FROM NATURE

photos and article by Richard Marsh

"NATURAL OBJECTS -- things made by God, not by man -- are more interesting to me," said Malcolm Ross in summing up

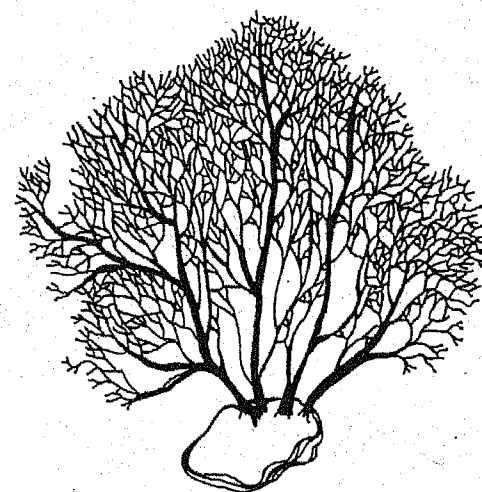
not draw or paint Conch houses, shrimp boats, or any other manmade object. Malcolm was born and raised on an



Malcolm works on a pendant in his studio in the Harbor House

the reasons why he chooses animals, shells, and the human body for the subjects of his art and craft. He does

upstate New York farm, surrounded by Nature. He has acquired an instinct for natural form, and for this reason is




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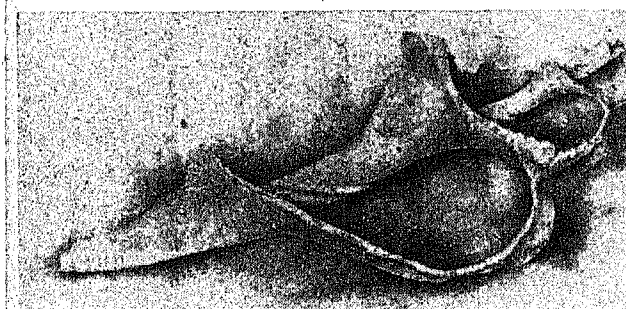
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quick to notice and grieve over the subtle and more obvious changes effected by human incursions into the few remaining natural areas around Key West: Rest Beach, the salt ponds, Cow Key, and many of the formerly unspoiled beaches along the Keys.

AFTER TAKING a BS in Art Education from SUNY at Buffalo and an MA in Fine Arts Education from Teachers College at Columbia University, Malcolm taught at



Prize-winning watercolor

the junior high level in New York State for seven years. He came to Key West in 1967 and taught at Florida Keys Community College for four years. He established his La Sirena studio in the Harbor House ten years ago, where he does gold and silver jewelry with an emphasis on enameling.

He still draws and paints, however, explaining, "I feel that I'm an artist working in a craft medium."

ALTHOUGH AN ARTIST may often drift from drawing to painting (abandoning the stringent discipline of draftsmanship for color, against the advice of the masters) or from drawing to craftwork to make a living, Malcolm continues and succeeds in all three media. His art hangs in the Art Center; he won first prize in watercolor in the 1976 Annual Juried Show at the East Martello; he conducts private art lessons, including


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weekly life drawing classes; and his jewelry shop thrives.

Malcolm organized the Sidewalk Craft show in 1974, 1975, and 1976 with little assistance, until he gave it up as too much thankless work.

HIS INTEREST in theater keeps him involved in the Waterfront Playhouse. He designed the costumes for the current production, *The Boy Friend*.

Malcolm also belongs to the Madrigal Singers and the Audubon Society and writes frequently for *Solares Hill*, spec-

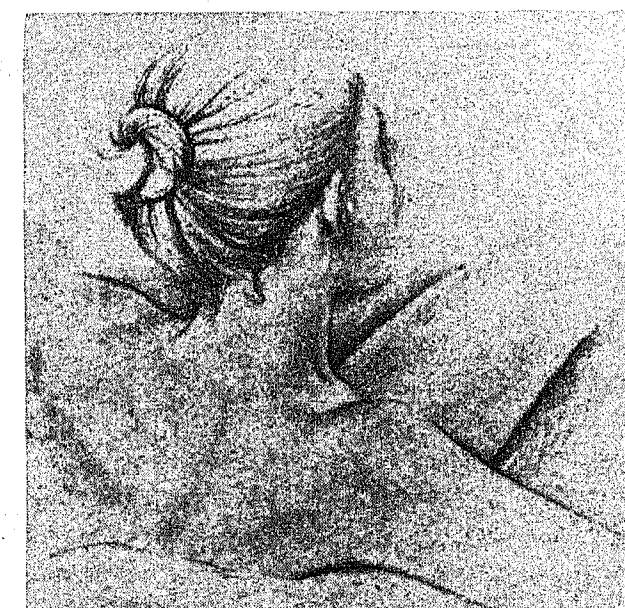


Figure study by Malcolm

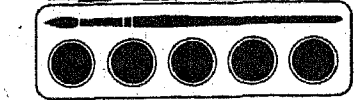
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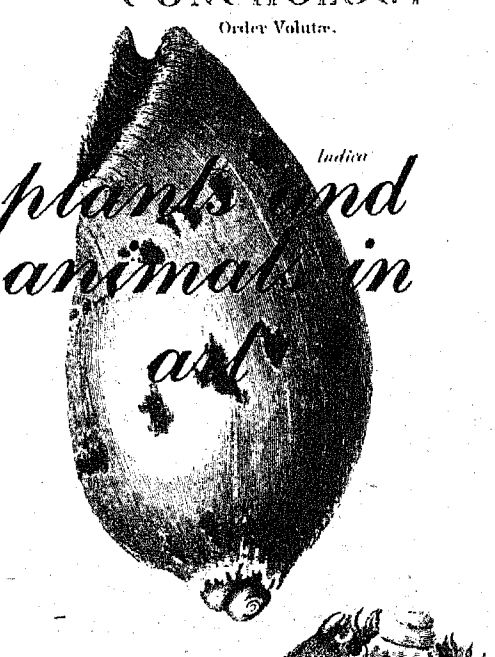
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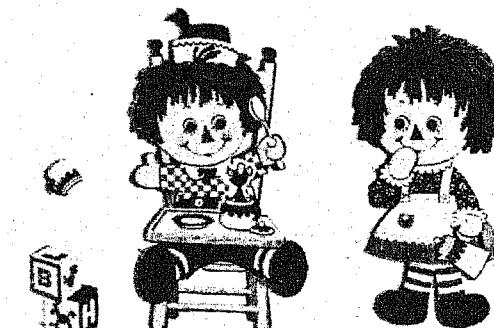
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Reviewing Stand

LOVE'S LABOR is not lost in *Key West: The Last Resort*, created and coordinated by Chris Sherrill and Roger Aiello, whose production of the book is obviously the result of captivation with the island. They have succeeded in producing the most complete guidebook ever published about Key West. It should be considered as the authentic local Baedeker.

CHRIS AND ROGER operate The Bookshop at 534 Fleming Street. They were aided and considerably abetted by artist/writer Mack Dryden, who did the original illustrations and much of the written material. Besides maps and charts, there is a remarkable collection of photographs in black and white as well as color inserted in the pages. Recognition of local people who were the sources for this appears in a foreword, a list of acknowledgements.

THE CONTENTS are divided into five departments, and the book encompasses facts, legends, a brief history written with sparkle, a silhouette of the past, and the shape of things to come.

Following the compact overall look in the introduction, covering weather statistics, fishing, and general environment, comes a chapter titled "The Old Island." Herein, the historical background appears, followed by the restoration movement, and, most important, the sightseeing section with explicit directions for a do-it-yourself tour. Locations of special houses and buildings are pinpointed. Even permanent residents will be enlightened by the detailed information.

PART III, "World of the Tropics," includes a variety of sea lore and reef and diving topics, as well as treatment of subjects on fishing, sponging, turtles, beaches, boating, hurricanes, and even a

bit on moon madness, which seems to influence the population periodically. Comments are injected with lively humor.

In "World of Tropical Plants," the descriptive passages are accompanied by drawings. Animals, birds, insects, dogs and cats, and other native fauna are written about under "Island Critters" in animated fashion.

FOURTH SECTOR, "Island Life," is a delineation of inhabitants: Conchs, Gays Cubans, Blacks, the street people, and a surprising bit on voodoo and obehah. Cultural aspects are polished gleamingly for showcase material on "Creative Key West:" artists, writers, craftsmen, theatres, concerts, festivals, and the like. The mini-biographies of the writers and artists are concise. There is one important correction. Edward Aarons, fiction suspense novelist, is noted in the list of writers maintaining homes here. Aarons died a couple of years ago of a heart attack.

THE LATE Benedict Thienen once observed, "The term 'social circles' in Key West is an apt one. It involved a great deal of spinning." His quotation is one of the segments under "Island Living." More serious topics include the economy, the high cost of living, and low salaries in comparison with other regions. The future development of the island naturally involves the Naval Base situation and speculation as to what will be forthcoming.

SERVICES AND BUSINESSES are scrutinized in Chapter Five, the final portion of *Key West: The Last Resort*. Transportation, lodging, restaurants, bars, recreation facilities, sports, shopping, and the rich pasture of the real estate field are surveyed.

Guidelines with sidelights and highlights form the excellent travel guide, valuable to the tourist and regular residents. The book contains 186 pages but

is lightweight, easy to carry, and makes a perfect gift as well as souvenir.

PUBLISHED BY the Key West Book and Card Company, 534-536 Fleming Street, Key West: *The Last Resort* is available at the Bookshop (same address) and at

other book stores, newsstands and strategic distribution spots.

by
Dorothy Raymer

KEY WEST'S HOROSCOPE

BY EMMA CATES

Sun in Pisces, after 20th in Aries
Venus in Pisces, after 10th in Aries
Mercury in Pisces, after 11th in Aries
Saturn in Leo, retrograde
Jupiter in Gemini
Mars in Cancer
Uranus in Scorpio, retrograde
Neptune in Sagittarius
Pluto in Libra
North Node in Libra

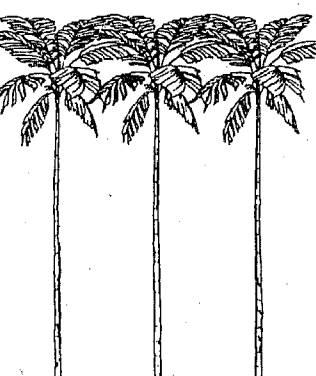
The planets in the sign of Pisces fall right on the midheaven of the chart of Key West this month, so the city will again be prominent in national news. Items about water will be featured.

This aspect also triggers a good trine in water signs in the Key West

chart, which will be good for the job market and the money earned department. While Mars transits our second house, the opportunity for financial successes is emphasized. Federal grants and other government monies will be made available, but only after much work and effort is expended. But the outlook is very good for continued improvement in the financial department of the City.

The tourist influx will continue to be heavy, but much complaining will be heard from the natives about a "slow season." Pisces is the "complainer."


Toward the latter part of the month, when the planets move into Aries, there may be a little "rumble" that will concern finances and lead to legal entanglements.



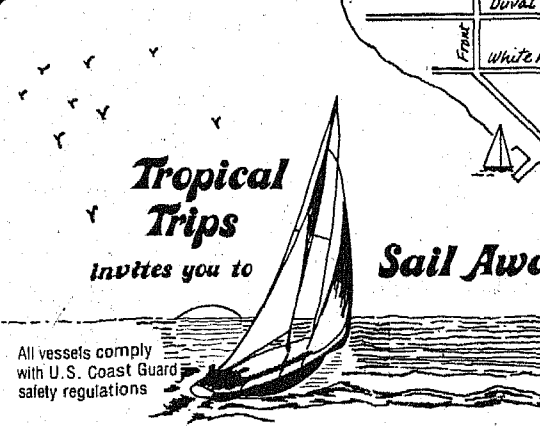
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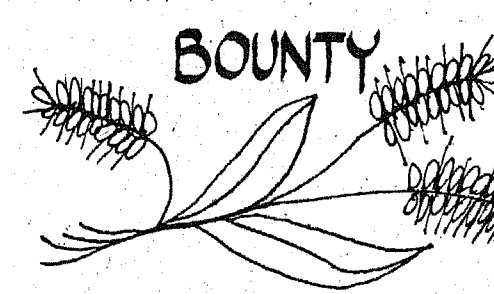


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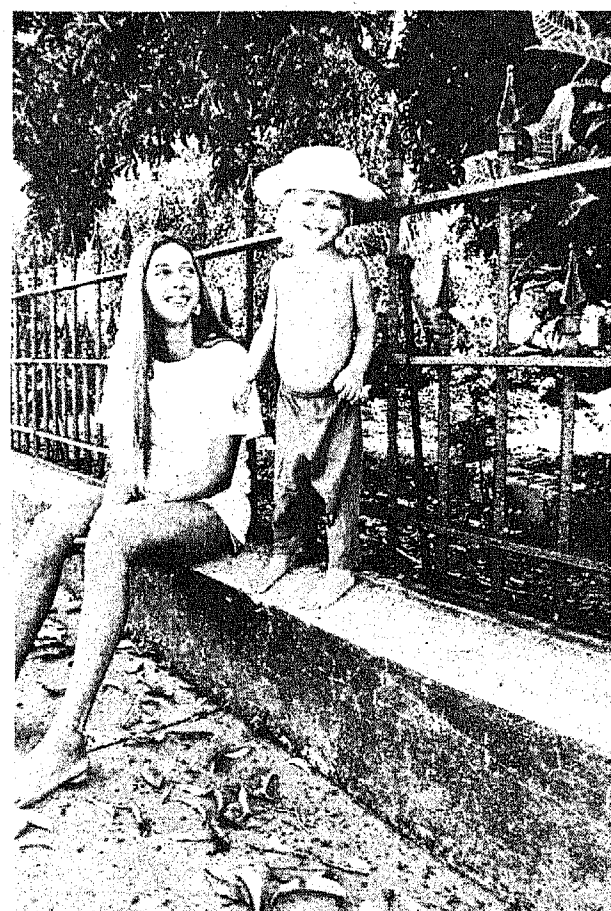
Walter's Tree



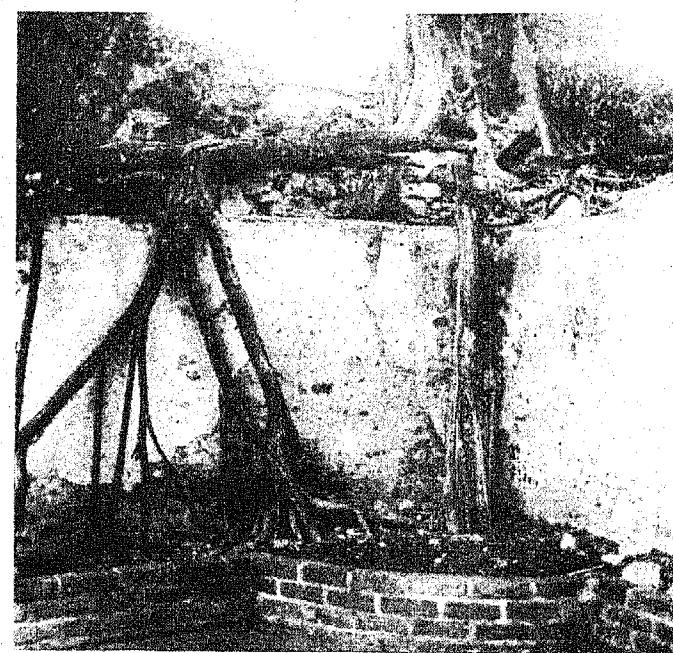
Fleming Street, 1974



Albury House, 1973



Jackie and Willie, 1973

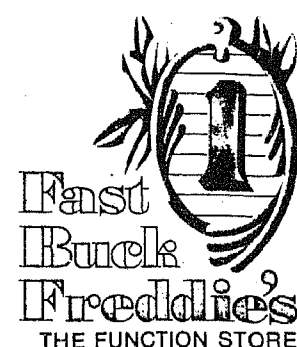


Banyan Decor, 1974



Yehuda's Porch, 1972

**PHOTOS BY
JANICE
WAGONER**

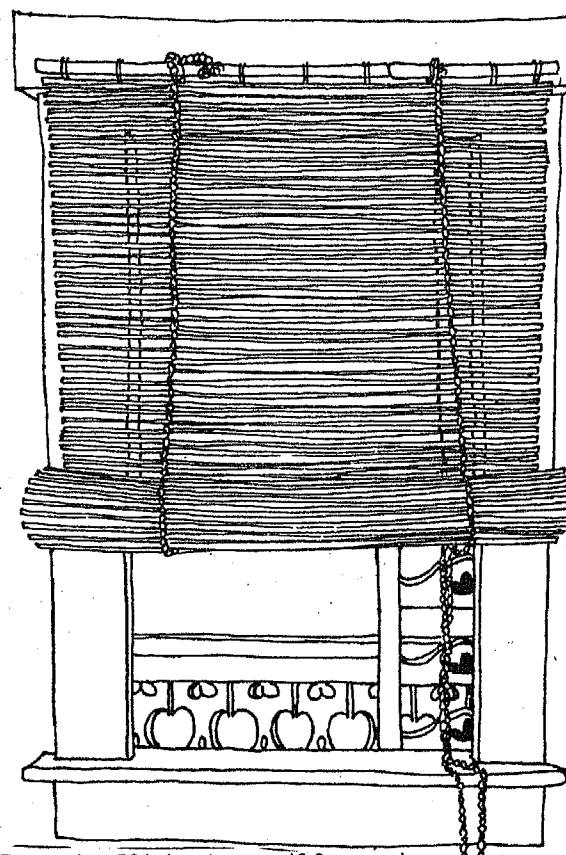


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Using the navigators eye as our compass...
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The wind has taken our sail,
And we too have been torn by the winds' anger.
Flying fish had warned us we would be intruders,
But we ignored their pleas.
...Now, our clothes have become jetsam,
Lost as we fought the pull of a rugged moon.
Where is the light of Sand Key?

Seaweed ties me close to the side,
A mate keeps a grasp on my legs.
Across the slippery deck, he and I slide,
As splinters scratch our blistered flesh...
Maintaining a rhythm with the violence around us,
We cling,
Floating in and out of each other's hold,
Preserving one another as long as we can...
Where is the light of Sand Key?

by Cynthia Post

DAPHNE BETTLE'S NURSERY

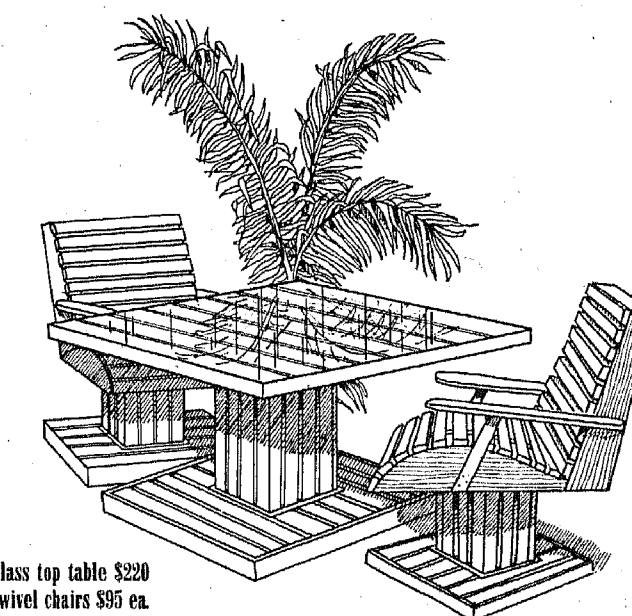
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