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Vol. IV, No. IX

Key West, Florida

October 1979



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From the Editor

HELLO --

I SPOKE AGAIN with Ed Stickney, Monroe County Public Works Director, about the timetable for the construction of a high fence to go into the planned recreation yard for the County prisoners. He told me that they had received one bid on the job, and it was way too high. The contractors apparently felt that the old wall next to where the fence is to go is structurally unsound, and that when they dig their footings the wall might collapse on them. Ed feels that he has two options: one, to ask the Historical Board for permission to take down the old wall, and two, to have the County reinforce the old wall so that the fence contractor will not have to do it. If one or the other is done, it's expected that the contractor's bid will be more in line with the County's fund allocation for this project and work can start. Ed expects to know in ten days which direction they will pursue.

THE POPULAR KEEP OUR OCEAN CLEAN cover by David Wegman, which appeared



on our August issue, is now available on T-shirts. It can be purchased at Spare Changes, 507 Duval, and at Herb Garden, 900 Southard (children's sizes, also).

WHAT DO YOU DO when you live in the Lower Keys and you want to "investigate before you invest" in a company's product or services? Where can you turn if you feel that you have been unfairly dealt with by a local business? What you do is to contact the Better

Business Division's Lower Keys representative, Nick Nolte, at 294-8464, and he can help tell you what to do.

SHERIFF "BILLY" FREEMAN is sticking to his guns, and the members of the Sheriff's Department are answering the controversial questionnaire and are taking the lie-detector test. There have been some resignations as were expected, but by and large it looks as though most will comply with the Sheriff's orders. This has been a courageous act on the Sheriff's part, and Solares Hill salutes him.

MORE COMPLAINTS HAVE come in about belongings missing from cars that have been towed away to Alex's Junk Yard on Stock Island. I hope that we will have a fuller report on this problem in our next issue.

EVEN THOUGH Bill Westray and Mayor "Sonny" McCoy have been on different sides of the fence more often than not when discussing city issues, they both had gracious remarks to make about each other in the profile of Westray in our September Solares Hill. It is nice when adversaries can be generous to one another.

A FRIEND HAD his van towed away from in front of his house the other day. It was parked on a quiet street and was facing the wrong way. The van was ticketed and towed away within a period of a few hours. My friend had no opportunity to move his vehicle and faced a big towing bill. Shouldn't residents be given the courtesy of a 24-hour warning before a vehicle that is not blocking traffic or a danger to others is taken away?

SEE YOU NEXT MONTH.

Our cover artist this time is Ann Hudson Meek. She is a free-lance artist and holds the position of designer at the Key West Fragrance Factory.

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With a little help from our friends . .

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First Federal's Double-Bad Sisters

BY MACK DRYDEN

SHUCKING AND JIVING, clapping and cheering, laughing and stomping their feet, they strike fear in your heart when they take to the field, and they are always the team to beat.

They got rhythm like a black machine, and when a part breaks down they don't kick it. They oil it up instead: "That's alright, that's alright, we ain't hurt. Settle down, now, and play some ball."

An outfielder said that's their secret: "The other teams might be pulling against each other and fussing all

dies, in fact, and several mamas.

You couldn't tell there were ladies on the gun end of the bullets they fire across the infield, I'll grant you. And it's not real ladylike to hit screamers that tear off gloves in the infield and still roll to the fence. But hang out in the dugout and listen to them playing with their kids and each other, and you'll see why a contingent of male admirers always comes to cheer.

THEY PLAY AT Bayview Park, the park



THE FIRST FEDERAL TEAM. Front row, left to right: Janet Nickerson, Tangela Woods, Loiselle Butler, Vernette Strachan. Back row, left to right: Garfield Ashe, Ruth Ashe, Dottie McGhaney, Debbie Lowe, Phebe Bangle, Willie Ward. The plaque on the trophy reads, "First Place Women's Softball League, 1979 Winter Season, First Federal."

the time. We help each other out."

THEY LIKE TO SAY they're integrated because they've always got one or two white girls on the team. But the fact is that when you think of First Federal you think of the double-bad sisters. Fearsome Females whose feminine touch can be like a kick from a mule. There are a few who'll always feel better in jeans than in fluffy dresses and such, but most of them are just great women players. La-

with the tennis courts on Truman Avenue near White Street, and the bleachers are usually full of people who'd like to see somebody, anybody, beat them or at least give them a good game.

Willie Ward is the coach, the engineer who keeps the machine on the tracks. He's been a pressman at the Key West citizen for 32 of his 55 years, and he's been coaching women's softball for the last 12. Some of the girls on the team have been with him for six. The name of

the team has changed six times in those years, but the name of the game has always been togetherness.

"I think the reason we win so much is the discipline, the desire to play," he said. "They know if they don't show up for practice, they're in trouble. We practice at least once a week during the season."

BUT WHEN THE GIRLS started arriving for practice the other day while I was talking to Willie, I could see they didn't play for him because they're scared of him. They play for him because they love him.

"There's a certain satisfaction you get watching them perform that you don't get from guys," said Willie. "I'm everybody's Daddy. My birthday was Easter Sunday, and they had a big party with cake and sodas and all kinds of stuff. I didn't know what was happening until after the game. I never got so many kisses in my life."

"I think he's the best," said Yulonda Washington. "I love him. And the whole team sticks together. That's why we win. We're together."

RUTH ASHE, the power-hitting first baseman, agreed. "We know what each other can do. We're more like a family than anything, and we can joke and kid around and nobody gets offended. We stay loose. Mr. Ward, now, when he's on the field, he's all business. But when he's off, he's a friend to everybody."

Ruth and Loiselle Butler have been playing on Willie's teams for six years, and Loiselle thinks the family attitude has a lot to do with their success, too. "We can't play unless we act the fool and keep laughing," she said. "We don't appreciate winning unless we have a good time doing it. We think alike. We're together. Everybody's thinking the same thing: win this game and worry about the next one when it gets here."

HANG AROUND THE DUGOUT during a game and you understand why they say they're a family. For one thing, there are about a half dozen kids wandering around or being held by various players while their mamas play ball. And the teasing never stops. Willie sang a little tune near the dugout before the game, and one of the girls grabbed him around the waist and yelled, "Sings like a bird and got legs to match!" and then put her thin leg against Willie's for everybody to compare. The whole dugout started jiving the coach so bad he took off across the field to his box by third base.

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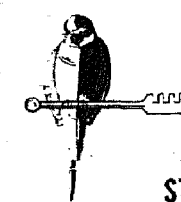
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Tange Woods keeps the team alive with her steady chatter from third base, and she entertains the infield with a running commentary on how lousy the girls at bat are and how they better not hit one anywhere near her. She dances across the infield after the third out and does a little shimmy in front of the dugout to let everybody know *somebody's* got some life out there. Tange is also hitting in the 600's and throws a screamer to first from third.

IT'S NO MYSTERY where Vernette "The Fox" Sullivan picked up her nickname. She shows up for a game in spotless white shorts, her hair pulled rakishly to one side, and wearing just the right amount of makeup. It confuses opponents, who don't figure anybody who looks like she just stepped out of a perfume commercial can pound the ball or throw it like Vernie can. And she also runs like a fox. Janet Nickerson, a fielder, is also deceiving. She's slightly built, so the outfield usually comes in when she steps to the plate, leaving her a couple of acres between them and the fence to use for target practice.

Barbara Cleare isn't deceiving in the least, but it doesn't do much good to back up when she tears the cover off the ball. Katie Clayton wears ankle weights before the game, and when she hits the base paths the dust flies, and she's just a blur. Loiselle is as sure-handed a shortstop as I've ever seen, and the bullets she fires to first base make a lot of men envious (like me, for instance, who has never gotten the hang of the sidarm throw).

THEN THERE'S STACY VALDEZ, who bats .655, and Phoebe Banele, Chanal Robinson and Georgette Robertson, all good all-round players. There's Stephanie Mingo, and the rookie Josephine Hart, and the white girl Sandy Hagan who's hell on second base. Tamra and Ann Denning are

a talented sister act, and Doretha Leland and Fawn Huddle are earning places in the lineup.

Garfield Ashe and his assistant Mark Harris help Willie coach. They're all the reasons First Federal is a winning team. They can talk about attitude and being tight like a family and all that, and it's all true. Good attitudes help win games. But the main reason they win every game they play is that they're the best players in the league, position for position.

I HATE TO SOUND chauvinistic here, but most of the women's teams just aren't very, well, polished. There's no such thing as a routine play, for instance. If a First Federal outfielder catches a high fly, her reward is mild applause and an "atta girl" or two because she's expected to catch it. If most of the others catch a fly ball, it's cause for a game-stopping celebration.

Tange Woods stopped a line shot the other night that would have knocked a small horse down. Vernie pulled what would have been a triple play if there hadn't been one out (she caught a line drive at second base, stepped on the bag behind a runner for two, and fired it to first to catch the other runner off the bag). Loiselle and Barbara, both right-hand hitters, can hit to right field at will, whereas most of the players on other teams just pray to God it goes somewhere.

The team is simply super good, and they're fun to watch, too. It often happens that teams get so good they think they have to be cool about it and not show any emotion. First Federal hasn't heard about that; the league and Key West are richer for it.



Up the Down Column

BY HELEN CHAPMAN

IF YOU ARE not a crossword puzzle aficionado, read no further. We CP nuts are not easy to understand. Why, for example, do I torture myself by reading the entire New York Times on Sunday before I start to work on the puzzle? Because when I was a kid, I never ate the icing off the cake first. That in itself ought to qualify me for some sort of institution.

We puzzle people are very selfish as a rule, although I have known a few who can work on the same puzzle congenially with someone else. I am not one of these. I jealously guard my puzzle from possible kibitzers, the bathroom being the safest place to hide. After I've completed it all except for some outfielder or the Spanish word for rock slide, I graciously relinquish it to a friend, saying (and oozing good will), "Here, I've done all the easy ones. You can finish it."

I HAVE KNOWN some people who can do only puzzles whose solutions do not appear until the following day or week. The lack of self-discipline of these folks is shameful. They will never buy a crossword puzzle book because they cannot trust themselves not to peek. I am made of sterner stuff; I have to be at the hair-tearing, scream-stifling stage before I peek. Even then I hold off, hoping the Spanish word for rock slide will flash at me in a neon-lighted dream.

Many incipient puzzle workers balk at the obscure words the creator brings forth from his wealth of reference books. They complain that nobody uses such words,

even if they do exist in the Oxford English Dictionary. Perhaps nobody does use such words, but that does not preclude the possibility of their becoming popular and useful. I show in the following fable proof that crossword puzzle words have their place in our literary legacy.

Aramis and A Bit O'Vetch (Var.)

Aramis ante'd his bubal into an aspen (he used to have an old gnu, but it expired) and was about to pray to Ra when a syzygy blew a cygnet onto his ana of Elia.

"Aha!" (sometimes "Oho!") he cried. "I see the Utes are playing the Rams at Provo instead of Orono. I must race over to the manse and tell the geek so we can sup on Edam and an olio of anser and eland."

He was ascending his Reo when it ejected a bevy of ohms. "Evoo!" he exhumed. "And just when my esne lost her ers!"

Since it was time for him to ret, he sped to his lea, but found the adit addled by an asp. Having ripened at Essen-on-Yser, he flexed his thew and ogled the ogre into the eagre.

And the moral of this saga is: Never let your ai drink ale with the tsar at a spa.



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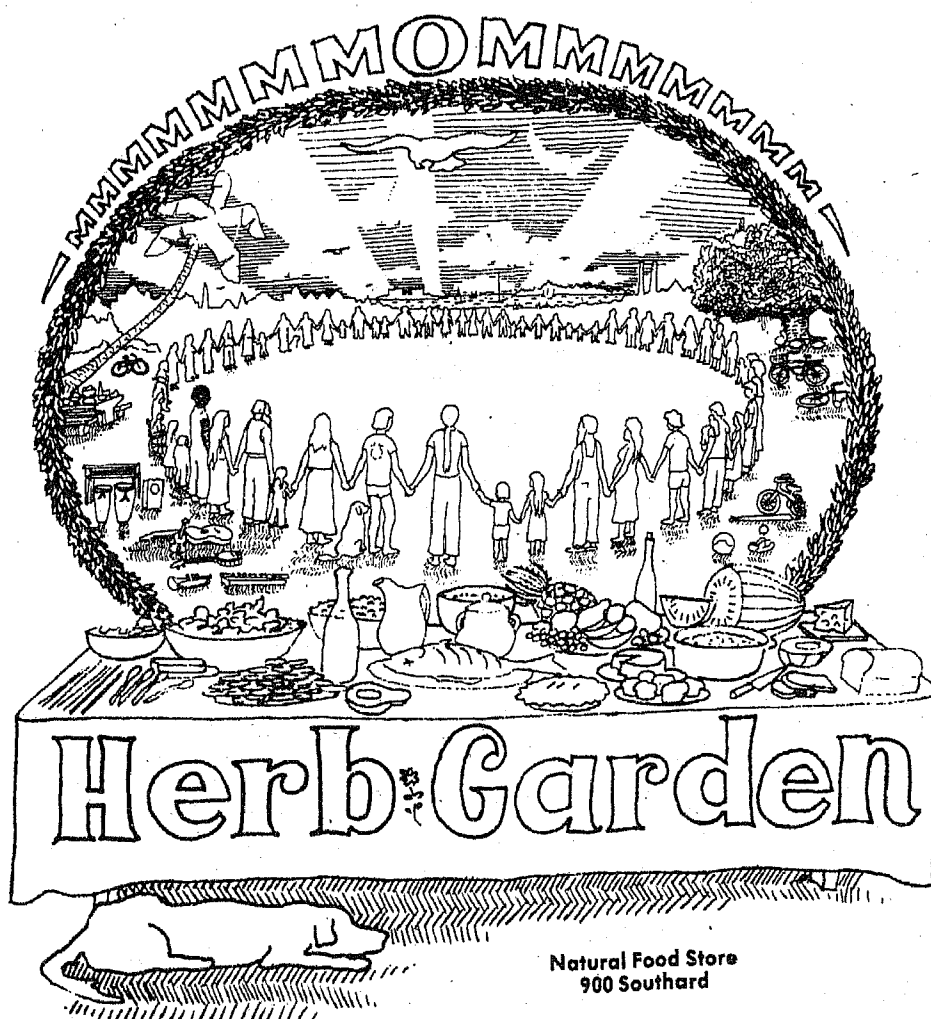
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and Bermuda salad
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topped with fresh fruit salad
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2. Piña Colada
3. Key Limeade — Made with
4. Grape Cooler 100% Natural Juices
Frosty Creamy Milk Shakes: all \$1.35
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FRANCES HAMES

BY MALCOLM ROSS

KEY WEST STANDS to lose one of its more interesting citizens at the departure of Frances Hames, who for many years has been regarded as the undisputed local authority on birds and bird identification. Frances, who originally came to Key West in 1942 in search of the great white heron, had grown up in Haywood County, North Carolina, on the fringes of the Great Smoky Mountains. Birds and other forms of wildlife were an ever-present and important part of her background.

When Frances came to the Florida Keys, the Great White Heron National Refuge had not been established in the Lower Keys, and this magnificent bird was regarded as a distinct species whose range in the United States extended no further north than the Keys. Since the establishment of the refuge in the 1950's (Frances was present at the dedication ceremonies in Everglades City, where President Harry Truman was one of the speakers) the great white heron has come to be regarded as only a phase of the great blue heron. This is of course an embarrassment to Washington, but the debate is by no means ended, and there is some feeling that the great white may still regain its status as a separate species.

BEFORE COMING TO Key West, Frances had lived in Atlanta, where she was a member of the Atlanta Bird Club, later to become the Atlanta Audubon Society. In 1942 the United States was smack in the middle of World War II, and Key West was involved in a heavy military buildup with many jobs available for civilian personnel. The prospects for local employment and the varied bird life of the Keys, which is unmatched in few places in the world (largely because of the unique geography which provides

ample habitat for many water and shore-bird species, as well as its location on major migratory routes), convinced Frances to settle in Key West. She found a job as a clerk-typist for the Navy, and in time away from the office she was able to pursue her interest in birds.

"Birding" (or "birdwatching," as it is known in England -- "birders" are American birdwatchers) was once regarded as a pursuit of certain members of the lunatic fringe, but during the past decades it has grown greatly in popularity and has now become a highly com-



petitive avocation. Frances recalls a time not too long ago when only two people in the United States had seen over six hundred species of birds. Now there are about ten people in the country who have sighted over 700 species, and they are led by the king of the birders, Joe Taylor of New York, who has sighted 735 species! Frances is a member of the elite "600 club," which now numbers about two hundred people, and she is credited with sighting 625 species.

BIRDING HAS BEEN Frances' major diversion since her retirement from the Navy in 1965, and the Keys and Key West have allowed her to add many species to her list. This winter's sighting in Everglades National Park of the Key West Quail Dove, which naturalist painter

John James Audubon first saw and named during his visit to Key West, marked only the second time in this century that this bird had been sighted in the United States. Audubon described it as the most beautiful bird he had ever seen. Although not the first to sight it, Frances was one of the first on the scene to observe it in its mosquitoey retreat on Snakebite Trail in the park.

Recent visitors to the Keys have also been the Bahama Duck and a pair of Antillean palm swifts, which took up residence in the Key West cemetery. These swifts, which have the curious habit of building no nest but glueing their eggs to palm fronds with saliva, were seen over a period of several weeks, but no evidence of nesting was observed.

FRANCES HAS LOGGED many hours in travel about the rest of the country in search of various bird species, but sometimes the objects of such searches remain elusive. Over the years she has made four or five trips to the western United States in search of the Calliope hummingbird, North America's smallest hummingbird, only to return each time without seeing it.

Frances regrets that birding does not attract more members to its ranks and recommends it highly to those people who need something to do. No vast expenditure for equipment is required, merely a good bird guide and a pair of binoculars. Many senior citizens and other retirees are now finding it a rewarding pastime and are contributing greatly to the knowledge about various species and their habits.

Frances laments that "It's not the old Key West anymore," but admits that there is still "something very attractive about the area." Her plans are indefinite, and she will probably find it difficult to stay away from the Keys and Key West for very long. Perhaps something as elementary as the local sighting of another exotic feathered wanderer will bring her back with binoculars to our shores.

GULFSTREAM ROMANCE

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I stare at those golden curls framing that gentle face...and those placid green eyes.

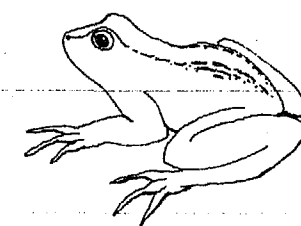
She fondles an avocado.
"Dear Lord, why wasn't I born an avocado?"

"Thank you sir, and have a nice day." I pick up my sack and walk out the door. I press my nose against the glass, leaving a greasy path of perspiration as I follow her progress along the frozen food counter at the rear of the store.

She casts an amused smile in my direction as I run out of glass and drag my nose across a foot of masonry. I walk home, my heart melting faster than the chocolate fudge ripple now running down between one dozen grade "A" medium eggs and two pounds of pork chops.

Why is it, I wonder, that the best loves of my life are the ones I never had?

by Kelly Harriger



The Buttery

(Poor Richard's)

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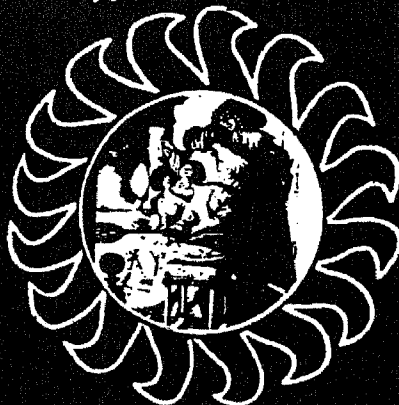
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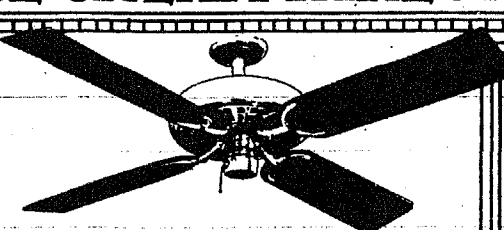
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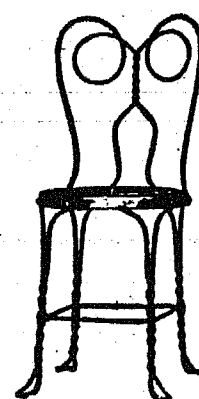
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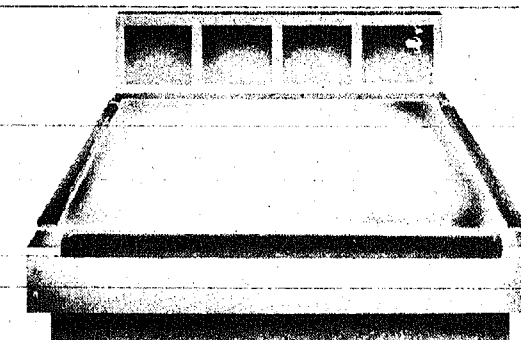
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notes & antic - dotes

BY DOROTHY RAYMER

I WAS A "stringer" for North American Newspaper Alliance back in 1948-49 when I got my first glimpse of President Truman, who had already begun to visit Key West periodically on his work-vacations at The Little White House on the Key West Naval Station, part of the big base here.

It was October 1948, with election month looming in the near future. The story I submitted on Truman's visit to Miami was not published by NANA because it arrived too late for outlet. But the story still serves as one of the zestier episodes, and was one of the reasons why I decided that I was going to move to Key West permanently.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ENTOURAGE had visited Miami. Truman addressed American Legion convention delegates at Dinner Key, then returned to the old airport on North West 36th Street for departure at the International Airport.

The road to the airport was lined with sweating spectators who doffed coats and ties in the late afternoon sunlight slanting in from the Everglades. One of the watchers, a tobacco-chewing truck driver, yelled, "Yawl must be expectin' Eugene Talmadge," who was then Governor of Georgia.

A huge garbage truck from the suburb of Miami Springs rolled to a stop at the junction of Le Jeune Road and 36th Street, right at the best vantage point for viewing the Presidential motorcade. The workers climbed out and stood atop the pile of garbage.

The frantic traffic patrol had no sooner got the ill-smelling truck out of sniffing distance from the Truman motorcade, when a horse van, bringing race horses to the Hialeah track, tried to back into position near a service station. People roared in anger, protesting the blocking of a view of the approaching Presidential party. The van driver finally gave up and drove on.

DOWN THE LINE came a Redtop Aerocar with a motorcycle escort, sirens screaming. Camera fans crawled on top of parked cars and shinnied up telephone poles and trees bordering the route. But this was a false alarm, not the arrival of President Truman and his family, just some other important passengers going to the airport. I never found out who they were, but they had a sense of humor. The four or five personages looked out of the car windows and smilingly bowed to the confused throng.

After this ludicrous interlude, the watchers were finally rewarded, and the real show rolled along the road, guarded by Miami's crack motorcycle police patrol, secret service squads, and other guards. Half a dozen limousines were in the lineup.

BUT THE BIG MOMENT was anti-climax. The President was hatless, but his daughter, Miss Margaret Truman, made up for the lack. On her head was a spectacular creation of orchid felt with a wide brim swept high on one side and swooping to her shoulder on the other. It was crowned with a feather plume following the rakish lines of the chapeau -- and it completely obscured her mother, Bess Truman, who sat by her side.

The streetsweepers and the garbage truck crews stood at attention lifting shovels, rakes and other work implements in salute to the President.

IT WAS DURING THIS same autumn when I began visiting Key West more frequently, gradually preparing to make the island my permanent address. I made inroads, getting acquainted with townspeople and cementing friendships, among them with Jeanne Porter Kirke, daughter of the late Jessie Porter Newton, and Opal Van Dueren, who operated the Old Island Trading Post, corner of Caroline and Whitehead Streets. The shop was owned by "Miss Jessie," who was then Mrs. Kirke.

The chief salesgirl was DeeDee Bessiere, a friend of Jeanne's, a lovely, tall, slender girl who looked like a high fashion model. She called me from Key West with a story she thought I would like for NANA, and she was correct.

MRS. TRUMAN WAS a rather shy woman who avoided social gatherings when she could. In Key West, her favorite "outing" was to come out the 1908 Presidential gate on Whitehead and cross over to the Old Island Trading Post, which is now part of the Pigeonhouse Patio Restaurant.

While her daughter, Margaret, shopped, Bess Truman liked to seat herself in a comfortable old rocking chair in the back room of the shop and chat with women friends who happened to be there, or with visitors, the wives of Washington VIP's who were here for conferences with the President.

Secret Service men always accompanied both Margaret and Bess Truman on the shopping tours, but the atmosphere was relaxed, and the Secret Service guard was pressed into additional service -- carrying packages.

THE LONG DISTANCE message from DeeDee revealed that Margaret Truman had been buying antique teacup and saucer sets, including miniatures, and that she was collecting them. The NANA story, circulated by syndicate, resulted in an "avalanche" of fancy teacups being sent to Miss Truman at the White House in Washington.

In fact, on the very last sojourn in Key West, years later, when the doughty ex-President held a press conference in the La Concha Hotel during a visit with the late Senator John Spottswood, Bess Truman recalled the incident.

When we were re-introduced, she paused and said, "Oh, I remember you! You were the reporter who wrote about my daughter's collection of teacups. We were absolutely swamped with presentations of them."

IN NOVEMBER 1948, after Harry Truman had been re-elected to a full term, he came back on his fourth visit to his working-vacation hideaway. Key Westers shared in his triumph. They had voted for Truman ten to one, with only 500 local votes cast for Thomas Dewey at the island polls.

The mayor of Key West at that time was the late A. Maitland Adams, who issued a proclamation making Sunday, November 7, the date of the President's arrival in Key West, "Harry S. Truman Day."

Some enterprising official suggested that the Chief Executive be presented, in a public ceremony, with a case of the savory green turtle soup canned by Thompson Enterprises, Inc., a firm in which the mayor had a business interest.

I INTERVIEWED MAYOR ADAMS. He said, "No, that is out of the question. We want the President to enjoy our restful atmosphere and relax. We aren't intending to commercialize on his visits. Lots of tourists come to see him, of course, but if President Truman keeps honoring us by coming here again and again, as he has, and as we hope he continues to do, needing a quiet rest, that's what we aim to give him."

People were permitted to greet the President if they saw him on the street. The First Baptist Church on Eaton Street arranged for Truman and his group to attend regular services as usual. On his public appearances, the Key West High School Band was assigned to play for him. A small, select committee formed the official welcoming unit. It was composed of the Mayor; John Spottswood, then a radio executive; Everett Russell; Judge William V. Albury; and local newsmen. Most of the fanfare was handled by the U.S. Navy.

THAT NOVEMBER 7, 1948, Key West citizens turned out in force, lining the route from Boca Chica Naval Air Base to the newly painted gate at the foot of Caroline, with cheers, enthusiastic applause, and shouts of "Give 'em hell, Harry."

No private invitations were thrust at Truman; it was considered a breach of etiquette. Key Westers were deeply appreciative of the President's attention to the city. The consideration, back then, of renaming one of the island's main thoroughfares became a reality. The former name of Division Street was changed to Truman Avenue, an extension of Roosevelt Boulevard.

BRISK MORNING WALKS in streets adjacent to the Naval Station bounded by Whitehead, once led the President to stop for a cup of coffee at The Caribe Restaurant, a glass and brick modern structure. It was located on Front Street, where Billie's Restaurant and Bar is now, and was owned by Sebastian Cabrera III.

The President paid for his coffee with a dollar bill. Cabrera had the bill framed and hung on a wall of this establishment. He also enclosed the coffee cup and saucer in a glass case with the cup and saucer unwashed, as a sort of shrine in memory of Truman.

Somebody broke into the restaurant eventually and stole the dollar bill, but Cabrera removed the encased cup and saucer and still has it, still unwashed, at his home.

THE DEVOTION TO TRUMAN has remained unsullied in other ways. The poker-table he had especially made has been preserved as a museum item. He and his card-playing cronies enjoyed many a game at The Little White House during his eleven stays here.

Merchants in town sent gifts to President Truman, and some were acceptable. I had a personal acknowledgement, in a White House letter, sent thanking me for a watercolor painted by the late Gerald Leake, which I had in my giftshop. It was a small, attractive view of the Little White House and was accepted as a souvenir. I also sent a lignum vitae walking stick made in the Virgin Islands, but I never did find out whether this was received. Nobody sent these tributes for personal or commercial recognition.

BY 1949, APPEARANCES in Key West by the President had become more and more frequent, but the populace never let down in their demonstration of affection for the Man from Missouri.

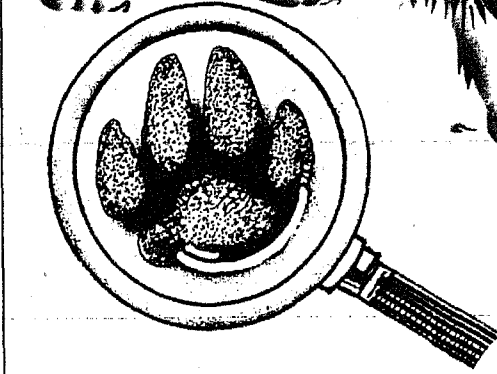
One of the reasons for this was Harry Truman's showmanship. For example, in 1949, on one of the trips to Key West, he arrived on a Sunday afternoon from Washington and was greeted with a shower of confetti strands. During the processional ride from Boca Chica through the outskirts of Key West, and then in the streets leading to the 1908 Presidential Gates, he let a strand of the paper ribbon cling to his sleeve as he rode in an open, sporty-looking cream-colored convertible. The green confetti fluttered in the sunshine.

Once inside the Naval Station gates, where formal reception ceremonies were to begin, Truman let the gala confetti spiral touch the ground. There was an immediate stir among the spectators of Navy wives and children gathered just inside the entrance.

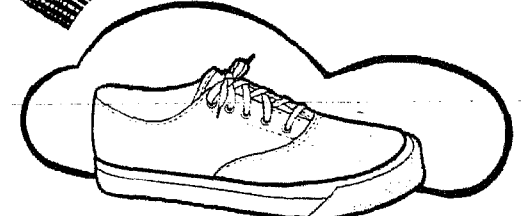
If it hadn't been for the shoulder-to-shoulder barrier of sailors lined up in "manning the rail" formation, the souvenir hunters would have scrambled for the green streamer. One small

continued on page 32

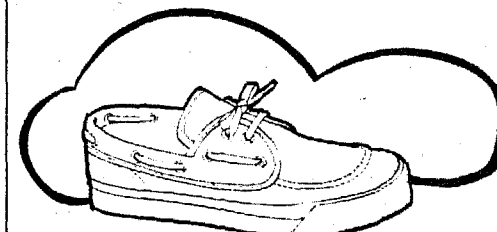
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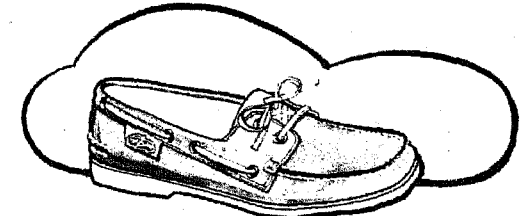
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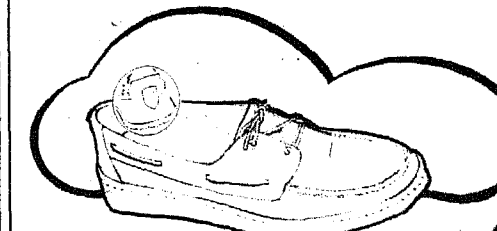
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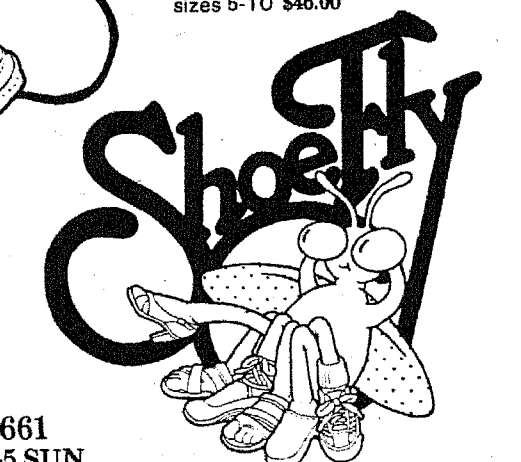
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PLEA BARGAINING: A CURE-ALL OR A COP-OUT?

BY KATHLEEN HARGREAVES

Part One of a Series

IN AUGUST, 1978, an 18-year-old armed with a gun, walked into a Key Largo convenience store, robbed the cashier, fled in a stolen automobile, and was soon apprehended by a Monroe County Sheriff's Deputy. In April, the youth walked out of court with a five year probation sentence. Days after the first crime was committed, another 18-year-old was arrested at the Marathon Post Office as he attempted to cash a stolen money order. He also had his day in court. But he's going to spend four years in prison as a result of his transgression.

Why? Mitigating circumstances? Perhaps. Differing legal approaches? Probably. Unequal enforcement of the law? Undoubtedly.

reduce crime on Key West's main drag, Kuypers explained that the prosecutors' workload increased to 200 to 300 cases a week during the police crackdown.

BECAUSE MANY OF THE arrests involved relatively minor law infractions such as possession of a few joints of marijuana, loitering, or drunk and disorderly conduct, Kuypers said that, more often than not, the defendants pleaded guilty as charged, paid a fine and were released from jail. In other words, they took advantage of sentence bargaining, the practice of offering reduced sentences in exchange for guilty pleas.

"Because defendants tend to plead guilty as charged in these cases, we ask the judge for two or three days sentence in jail; time they've already served.

PLEA BARGAINING -- "THE USED CAR LOT OF JUSTICE."

Armchair attorneys and potential law breakers, take notice. There's a lesson to be learned. It's called plea bargaining. And it's a legal tactic employed in as much as 80 per cent of all felony cases tried in Monroe County.

ALTHOUGH THE SUBJECT OF growing legislative debate, plea bargaining -- coined "the used car lot of justice" -- is generally acknowledged by prosecutors and defense counsel alike as the primary tactic that keeps our overtaxed judicial system from bursting apart at the seams. Consider it the crazy glue of the courtroom.

In its most simple terms, plea bargaining is the practice of exchanging a plea of guilty for some kind of judicial consideration to the defendant. Usually, the consideration takes the form of dropped or reduced charges and/or sentence.

SINCE A GUILTY PLEA eliminates the need for a trial by jury, the court (judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys and auxiliary personnel) is saved considerable time and money. When you consider that felonious crimes in Monroe County are rising steadily by as much as 15 to 20 per cent a year while judicial budgets and staff resources increase at a much slower rate, proponents of plea bargaining raise an argument worth investigating.

"If we didn't have plea bargaining, we'd never get anything done," offers Bill Kuypers, assistant State Attorney. Citing the recent Duval Street task force, an ad hoc street patrol formed to

If we kept everyone in jail for 40 days, the maximum sentence allowable on those charges, I'd hate to imagine how overcrowded the county jail would be.

"However, if we offer sentence bargaining and they (the defendants) don't plead guilty, then it's back to square one. We go to trial," Kuypers continued.

REGARDLESS OF A person's guilt or innocence, the options available to him are few and simple. He can plead guilty, pay the fine and spend a few days in jail, or he can hold out for a jury trial and post bond. If he can't post bond, then he can spend as long as ten months behind bars awaiting his day in court. Except for the rare individual who chooses principle over practicality, there is but one choice: accept the plea or sentence bargaining being offered and chalk up the entire regrettable incident to experience.

The situation is much the same in more serious cases, as well. Charges of armed robbery are dropped in exchange for a plea of guilty to second degree theft, a lighter offense. A defendant charged with uttering a forged instrument and possession of stolen property pleads guilty to the first offense. In exchange, the state attorney declines to indict him on the stolen property charge. For his cooperation, the accused is placed on three years probation.

A MAN WHO initially enters a plea of not guilty to charges of involuntary sexual battery, rape and escape, later, on advisement, changes his plea to guilty

of rape and escape. The sexual battery charge is dropped. Under terms of a negotiated plea worked out between the state attorney and the public defender, sentencing is deferred until a team of psychiatrists decides whether or not the man is mentally unbalanced. Had the accused insisted on his innocence and later been found guilty of charges by a jury, he could have faced a possible life sentence. But by entering a guilty plea to rape and escape (the sexual battery charge was dropped) the man faces a maximum 15 year prison term.

The examples are endless. "As far as our office is concerned, we're willing to talk to anyone about plea bargaining," states Kuypers, who quickly amended his comment by adding, "except for those people with a record a mile long. A lot depends on the character of the person involved. We get a record check back from Tallahassee and Washington on every person charged. Naturally, we wouldn't automatically drop a murder one charge to a lesser offense. Plea bargaining depends on the seriousness of the case, the magnitude of the crime, the judge, and the people involved."

"PLEA BARGAINING IS A PROSTITUTION OF ALL PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN THE CONSTITUTION. IT'S ABSOLUTELY WRONG...BUT PLEA BARGAINING IS NECESSARY. ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY."

-- JOHN KEANE, PUBLIC DEFENDER

KUYPERS FURTHER EXPLAINED that familiarity with courtroom procedures gives the prosecuting attorney a fairly accurate idea of the type of sentence any crime would draw -- should it ultimately proceed to trial.

"So we sentence bargain for that amount and avoid a trial. If we don't think we have a strong case, if we're faced with reasonable doubt, lack of witnesses or any other factor that would make the case hard to prove in front of a jury, we resort to plea bargaining," Kuypers said.

It appears that the only areas of courtroom procedure where plea bargaining is not the immediate recourse are clear-cut cases of innocence, heinous crimes, and the sale of illicit drugs.

JUDGE BILL G. CHAPPELL, with relatively few exceptions, insists that anyone arrested for selling drugs -- be it a kilo of coke or a bag of grass -- be charged with an offense punishable by prison.

"Most of the time he (Chappell) puts the guy in jail. He reserves the right to do so," explained Kuypers.

In a city notorious for contraband trafficking, perhaps the best known case in recent months involves the sentencing of Robert Crespo, a local resident employed at Garrison Bight Marina, to two years behind bars for the sale of one ounce of marijuana. When attempts at plea bargaining (which recommended that the charges be lowered from sale to possession) failed, Rick Fowler, assistant State Attorney, suggested that instead of

a jail sentence, Crespo be granted probation.

ALTHOUGH THE PROSECUTOR'S sentence recommendations are commonly accepted by the court, Judge Chappell invoked his authority to levy punishment and sentenced Crespo to two years in jail, the maximum of a variety of sentences beginning with probation.

Subsequent to his decision, Chappell pointed out it was his "standard policy to sentence guilty-pleading drug sellers to not less than a two year jail term."

In a Miami Herald article on the Crespo trial, Fowler was quoted as saying that street dealing is so prevalent that it would take "all our three judges more than four years to try all the persons accused of selling small amounts of drugs."

Crespo was one of the unlucky ones who experienced the severity of a judicial practice that allows armed robbers back on the street with a slap on the wrist and punishes a small-time first offender bag-salesman (who insists he was harassed by undercover narcs until he complied with their request) with a felony record

and two years behind bars.

AT QUESTION IS not the legality or illegality of the plea bargaining practice, but rather, the inequity of it.

John Keane, Public Defender, who speculates that the seven members of his legal counsel staff handle as much as 80 per cent of all criminal cases in Key West, offered some definite, if not altogether consistent, opinions on plea bargaining.

"I don't think there should be plea bargaining. I think it should be abolished. Totally. I believe every person has a right to his day in court. Plea bargaining is a prostitution of all principles contained in the constitution. It's absolutely wrong," says the man who readily admits to resorting to plea or sentence bargaining in as much as 50 per cent of the cases handled by his office.

In his next breath, Keane adds, "But plea bargaining is necessary. Absolutely necessary."

CITING FREQUENT IMPROPER charges laid by law enforcement personnel at the time of arrest, a totally insufficient number of prosecutors, defense attorneys and judges, and the lack of economic resources to improve the present situation, Keane says that plea bargaining is the only workable recourse available to the justice system in its present state.

"It would realistically take a 1,000 per cent increase in criminal justice appropriations to set up a system that would ideally do away with plea bargaining. Unfortunately, that money is not now, or

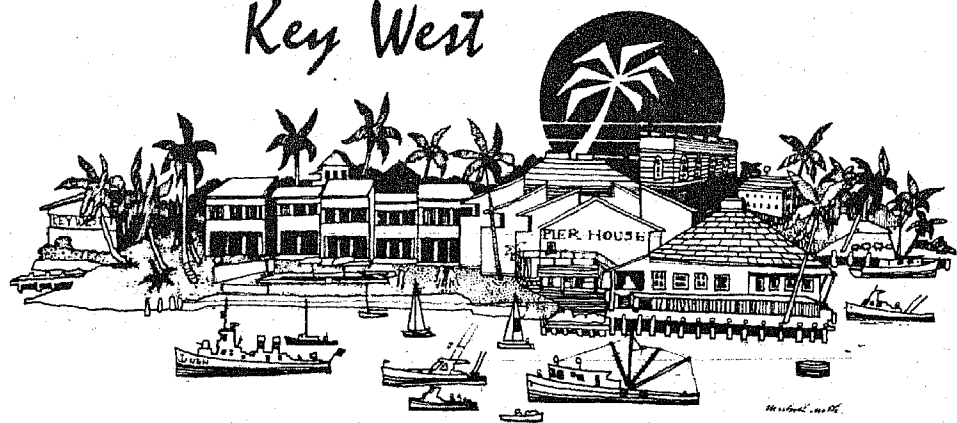


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in the immediate future, available. Right now, the Public Defender could effectively throw a monkey wrench into the Monroe County justice system by insisting on a trial by jury for every defendant we represent," Keane said.

IF ONE ACCEPTS Keane's professional opinion, the next question is, who would the abolition of plea bargaining serve?

Not the defendant. Especially not the indigent defendant who would have to spend an unconscionable amount of time awaiting trial. Not the attorneys. Both the State Attorney and the Public Defender agree that their caseloads are presently overburdened to the extent that they cannot devote enough time to each individual case entrusted to them. Not the courts. The Monroe County Court docket already is forced to handle as many as 60 to 70 felony cases each month. Some cases take as long as ten months to come to trial. Consider the backlog that present number increased to 350 cases per month -- the total number of felonies that could, theoretically, come to trial.

Not the public or the police. Realizing that the arresting officer must be present in court to give evidence against the accused, law breakers would be given virtual carte blanche to commit crimes on every street and laneway in Key West -- because all the police would be spending all their time in court.

HOWEVER, IF THE dissolution of plea bargaining would, in fact, result in the total breakdown of the judicial system as we know it, why is it that the abolition of plea bargaining is an issue raised by lawyers in the Florida State legislature every year? Although the proposal has yet to pass, Keane, himself once a spokesman on the subject, says that the movement to abolish plea bargaining gains momentum every year.

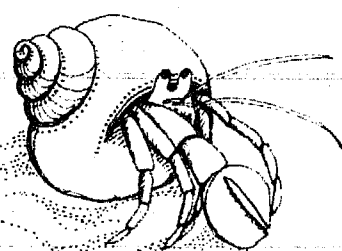
If rescinding plea bargaining is such an unthinkable action, why is it that studies show that the Alaskan judicial system is alive and well -- years

after plea bargaining was banned by the Attorney General?

If, as people say, the courts cannot function without plea bargaining in large population areas, why is it that Dade State Attorney, Janet Reno, is making every effort to eliminate the practice? Why have cities such as New Orleans, West Palm Beach, and Sarasota instituted limited bans on plea bargaining?

PERHAPS THE ANSWER LIES in a comment made by Keane. "It's my feeling that the criminal justice system is, in and of itself, a beautiful system. No matter what your personal feelings are about courts in the United States, the system is the best in the world. It could be better, perhaps, but it is the best of any offered. "It's the structure built up around the system, that which implements the system, where corruption, inefficiency, incompetency and unprofessionalism exist," he said.

In the next issue, Solares Hill will look into other aspects of the justice system.



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editorial

BY BILL WESTRAY

PUBLIC USE OF BEACHES

THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION in Article X, Section 11, specifies: "The title to lands...including beaches, below the mean high water lines, is held by the state, by virtue of its sovereignty, in trust for all the people."

In further explanation of this concept, the Florida Supreme Court has said, "...this title is held in trust...for the purposes of navigation, fishing,

and "no trespassing" signs being placed on the beaches prohibiting entry onto the beaches in front of these private properties. One private Key West owner has gone so far as to paint a sign on his wall that projects out into the ocean that prohibits swimming in front of his property and threatens violators of his edict with attack by a guard dog. In this case it appears that the ocean is washing out the foundation of the wall under the sign, so perhaps it will soon

"THE TITLE TO LANDS...INCLUDING BEACHES, BELOW THE MEAN HIGH WATER LINES, IS HELD BY THE STATE, BY VIRTUE OF ITS SOVEREIGNTY, IN TRUST FOR ALL THE PEOPLE."

---FLORIDA CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE X, SECTION 11

bathing, and similar uses. Such title is not held primarily for purposes of sale or conversion into money. Basically it is trust property and should be devoted to the fulfillment of the purpose of that trust, to wit: the service of the people." (Hayes v. Bowman 91 So. 2D 795, 799 (1957)).

Pursuant to the trust doctrine, the state safeguards a valuable, year-round, natural recreational resource. It is a resource which is being subjected to increasing demand as land development diminishes other available recreational areas. Simultaneously, new and old development is seeking to preempt some beaches from public use and reserve them for the private use of individual and corporate riparian owners.

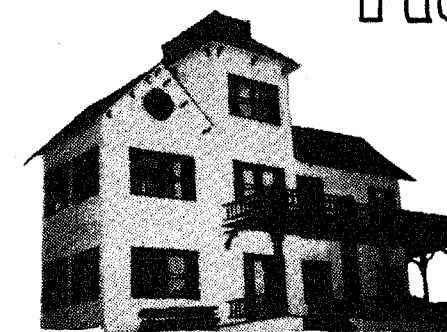
IN KEY WEST, this has resulted in fences, walls and other obstructions being placed athwart and on the beaches,



disappear due to natural causes. Both ends of the beach in front of the newly reopened Casa Marina in Key West have been fenced and walled off, and signs have been placed on the fences declaring "No Trespassing, Private Property."

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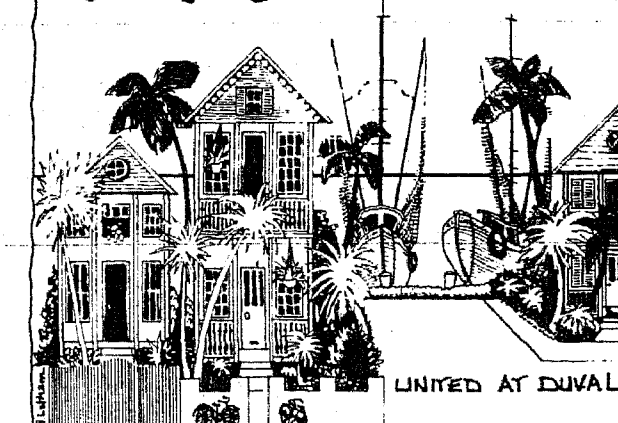


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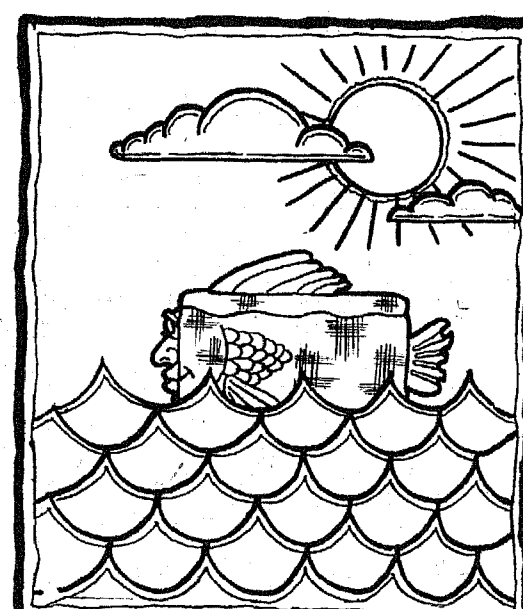
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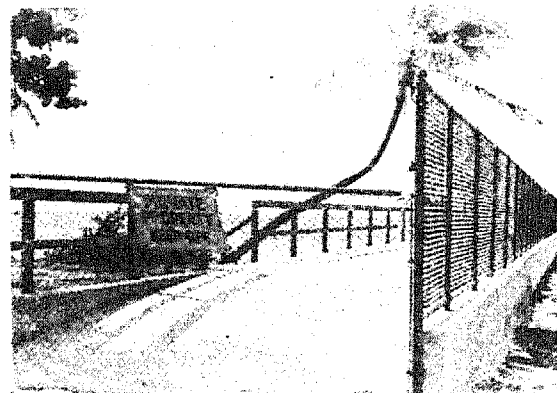
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ONE OF THE DIFFICULTIES many people have is in determining where the public beach begins and private property ends; that is, where is the line of mean high

of the tide, the usual tide, or the neap tide that happens between the full and the change of the moon." The court went on to adopt the definition of "ordinary

A STROLLER OR BATHER ON A BEACH NEED ONLY STAY ON THE SAND OR BARE BEACH BELOW THE VEGETATION LINE TO AVOID PRIVATE PROPERTY.

tide drawn. The U.S. Supreme Court, in an opinion written by Chief Justice Hughes in 1935, defined *mean high tide* for the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey as the average height of all high water at that place over a period of 18.6 years. While this may be a very precise definition of mean high tide, the practical



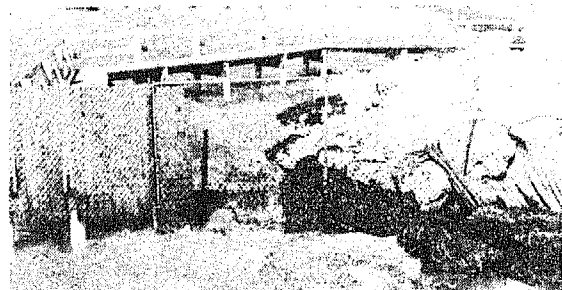
problem of making such a determination at many dispersed and remote locations is obvious. In 1940, the Florida Supreme Court noted that "ordinary high water mark or ordinary high tide (means) the limit reached by the daily ebb and flow

high water mark" as the "mean high water line" (MHW). The court then decided that where there is a significant seasonal shift in the high water line because of summer accretions and winter erosion, the winter and most landward mean high water line would result in the "loss of public rights in the foreshore or beach which the public always has a right to use." In 1973, the Circuit Court of the Fifteenth Judicial District went a step further in simplifying the determination of the mean high water line by adopting the use of the more easily ascertainable *established vegetation line* to serve as the mean high water reference point.

Pursuant to the above, the Executive Board of the Florida Department of Natural Resources, on May 21, 1974, adopted the *established vegetation line* as the mean high water line as reference for the 50-foot coastal construction setback line under Florida Statute 163.052.

THIS DECISION HAS not been modified or overturned in any subsequent court test and is upheld by the Florida Attorney General, and it is the only rule presently being enforced by the Florida Department of Natural Resources.

While it is nearly impossible for a layman to determine the 18.6-year MHW line, the established vegetation line is usually very easily determined at a



glance. Using this rule, a stroller or bather on a beach need only stay on the sand or bare beach below the vegetation line to avoid private property.

We believe that this article serves clearly to establish the right of the public to walk along the beaches without fear of reprisal or harassment by private upland owners. However, we are deeply concerned that local officials have allowed upland riparian owners to build fences, walls, impassable docks, boulders and other barricades which effectively prevent the public from traversing public beaches. We call upon the appropriate city authorities to initiate corrective action in this matter.

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Halloween Nostalgia

BY LOU THOMPSON

THE MOON IS FULL, and I must remember to keep one eye on it -- hoping and dreading to catch a glimpse of the old witch riding her broom, black cat hunched behind her flying cape as she cackles her way across the sky. My older brother warned me that the old witch swoops down to capture 8 year old kids like me.

It's difficult -- one eye on the moon, the other watching for goblins, ghosts, and other unspeakable creatures, while attempting to navigate from one house to the next, dragging a loot bag and hampered by a costume that keeps tangling itself around my ankles and feet. To make matters worse, visibility is only about half of what it is normally, due to a halloween mask that seems designed to smother a person. All this at a time when being aware is so critical, with horrors lurking behind every tree and bush, ready to spring on the unwary.

WHEN OUT TRICK OR TREATING, one's senses become more acutely attuned than at any other time of year. Sounds are



amplified, while the skin crawls just from touching the haunted night air. The smell of a goblin is right behind me, and shadows ahead magnify, changing

into threatening, creepy shapes. But I boldly plunge onward, munching on the sugary rewards for my bravery.

The first block conquered, I find myself at a crossroads. A realization reaches my brain, sent from trembling knees; it was easy in the old home neighborhood, but to get my fair share of the goodies requires leaving the safety of "home" block and venturing into unknown territory.

Hesitating just long enough for a group of other Trick or Treaters to pass, I follow along feeling braver at the tail end of the group. Let the guys out in front get grabbed by the goblins, that'll give me time to run.

NOW THAT I am reinforced by the group, jack-o-lanterns glow invitingly on doorsteps as the chant of "Trick or Treat" echoes into the night, almost reassuring enough to cause a person to forget to watch the moon.

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16
scurry from house to house, loot bags growing heavy. It's all those apples the anti-candy freaks give out. A mental note is made of the apple givers houses: avoid them next time, thus saving precious moments to get on with the candy harvest.

WHEN! MORE THAN halfway through the Trick or Treating hours, and nothing horrible has happened, except that no one has given me my favorite candy bar. Relaxing slightly, the eye watching the moon wanders from its mission. Both eyes are busy searching the loot bag, counting the candy bars and guessing how much the sack weighs. Twenty pounds, I decide. A good 20 pounds of candy. Those apples don't weigh much. With sound planning and a bit of hoarding the supply of sweets should last till Thanksgiving.

Whoops! Alone. While my mind wandered the other kids disappeared, and I am alone in front of the last house on the block. And it's the one.

It's haunted and witches live in it. I know it by the way my stomach just stopped digesting caramels. It's a kind of knowing that has nothing to do with the fact that the house is set farther back on the lot than any of the others, or that the large front lawn looks just like the woods where Hansel and Gretel got lost, or that the only illumination in the yard and house is an eerie green glow coming from numerous jack-o-lanterns with unsmiling faces.

AND WHAT'S THAT NOISE? "Ooooooooh-oooooooh" faintly enters my ears and comes out in big goosebumps all over my body.

This is the house. The one I knew existed. The one that I feared from the start of the evening and had nightmares about last week. Yup, this is the place, and I'm ready. It's the last chance I've got to get my favorite

candy bar. After a deep breath, I holler "Trick or Treat?" and don't recognize my squeaky voice and wonder why my halloeen chant comes out as a question for the first time tonight.

I tighten every muscle ready to bound away before a slimy green hand can grab me. "Teeee-heeeee-eeeeee," says an unseen and terrifying thing from behind the crack in the door.

Stretching forward from the top half of my body, I strain both arms out attempting to hold the sack as close to the crack in the door as I can get it without taking another step closer. It's a painful position to hold for long -- feet facing the opposite direction and torso twisted like a licorice stick. But it's smart, I rationalize. I just untwist from the waist up as soon as the wicked thing behind the door drops some goodies in my sack, then run like mad.

"TRICK OR TREAT, teeee-heee-eeeeee,"

crackles from the crack, and the door creaks open just enough so I get a glimpse of the most frightening sight I ever hope to experience, even in my wildest nightmares. Nothing, ever, could be more terrifying than that ghoully thing that leans towards me. Every nerve in my body is like a spring, and my brain is sending frantic signals to run, run, run. But I hold my ground, going so far as stretching my arm holding the candy sack out even closer to the ominous thing lurking in the shadows. I'd gotten a look at the candy bars in a basket behind the door. My favorite kind. Full size, too.

Eating that candy bar would, most certainly, return my upended hair to its normal position, I thought as the creature dropped it into my sack.



CONCH-SCIOUS DECISION

You lie as you were born on a sandbar
and where you choose to live is often
where you leave your body.
Especially when the moon is full
and you take out sticks, coins or cards,
you see that what goes down, comes around.

Born into a line of gold-spoon suckers,
you are pleased when shillings fall away
and your breakfast costs recital of a poem.
You have left it all -- to simplify. Now,
when someone mentions monarchy,
you only think of butterflies.

Robin Kaplan

some remarks

CHANGES IN REPERTORY COMPANY; OCTOBER EVENTS PLANNED

IT HAPPENS AT the end of every summer in Key West. A few businesses leave town. Organizations change leaders and direction. And so it goes with the Southernmost Fine Arts Society, Inc., which recently received a \$9,700 grant from the Florida Fine Arts Council for its upcoming season.

Jay and Claudia Drury are heading north to pursue their careers there. As a result, there's been a change in the Board of Directors of the Society, with four new additions. Shelly Keller remains as President of the Society and Director of Development and Public Relations. Bruce Steinberg, Technical Director of the Tennessee Williams Repertory Company last season, has taken over as Secretary-Treasurer and Managing Director. Ellen Fernandez, formerly associated with Greene Street Theatre in its early years and instrumental in the success of the Repertory Company's Theatre for the Forgotten Program, is Vice-President and Director of Community Relations. Raymond Elmen-dorf, actor and the creative genius behind so many Greene Street Theatre sets for the past three years, and John Hayes, Director of the Children's Theatre program, have also accepted positions on the Board.

AS MANAGING DIRECTOR Steinberg puts it, "It would be misleading to assume that the Company will be pursuing the same ideals as before. With the departure of the Drurys, the Society will naturally change its goals and style."

Changes in the plans for the upcoming season are evolving, including a possible change in location. Last season brought many comments and complaints concerning the acoustics in the San Carlos Theatre. Despite its historic and cultural importance, the theatre isn't adequately equipped technically at this time.

DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN under way with Bill Prosser, Director of the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center at Florida Keys Community College, regarding the possibility of the Company performing there under his artistic direction. The facility is undoubtedly the finest in the Keys, and Prosser's credentials and experience are excellent. According to Keller, "It just makes good sense for the Repertory Company to join forces with the Fine Arts Center, and even other theatre groups in Key West if the end result is a better production. Our grant from the Fine Arts Council is partly for touring a Tennessee Williams play. The better the production, the greater chances for success on tour."

The season plans also include production of several one-act plays by Shel Silverstein, Key West resident, songwriter and author. Gorilla and Play a Little Judgment Music were chosen because they are humorous social commentary. They also jibe with the Society's goals of bringing entertainment and art to Key West audiences.

Free to Be You and Me, a collection of songs owned by MS. Corporation, will also be produced by the Children's Theatre using local kids under John Hayes's direction.

17
OCTOBER REALLY LAUNCHES the season with the first Southernmost Fine Arts Town Meeting on Tuesday, October 16, at 7 p.m. at the Picture Show, and the Benefit Masquerade Ball at East Martello Gallery and Museum on Sunday evening, October 28.

Says Keller, "We're trying to rally all Key West residents who want to know what's happening in the arts, as well as those that make them happen. Key West is going to see some real cultural events this year: Waterfront's presentation of Estelle Parsons's one-woman show in December, in addition to their season of theatre; the Community Concert Series; the opening of the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center at Florida Keys Community College. We want this meeting to bring together cultural organizations to let the community know what's happening."

THE MASQUERADE BALL on October 28 comes during the Key West Fantasy Fest '79, sponsored by the Tourist Development Agency. This will be the Society's first fund-raising attempt to match the \$9,700 grant from the state. For a ten dollar donation, guests will be wined and dined and get a chance to wear those Fantasy Fest Parade costumes one more time. Judges will select the ten best costumes with prizes for each. Details and tickets can be obtained by calling 296-3893 or writing the Society at PO Box 4071, Key West 33040.

THE ARTS ARE HAPPENING in Key West in a big way these days. If you want to get involved, don't miss the Southernmost Fine Arts Town Meeting on Tuesday, October 16, at 7 p.m. at the Picture Show, 620 Duval Street. And if you're looking for some Halloween fun, don't forget the Masquerade Ball on Sunday, October 28, at the East Martello Gallery and Museum.

The Arts are for People.
Support the Arts in Key West.

continued on page 27

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HURRICANES AND KEY WEST

(Ann Meek, our cover artist this time, suggested that Solares Hill report on what Key West could expect if it were hit by a hurricane. A good idea. We asked Dennis Henize of the Weather Bureau to give us a report. Also, we had two poems on hurricanes, some photos, and a letter from a friend of Ann Meek's who rode out Hurricane David in Santo Domingo. (This woman, Judy Porter, incidentally, has travelled the world as a professional photographer and is not easily rattled.)

Ed.

WHAT TO EXPECT

RECENT EXPERIENCES WITH hurricanes David and Frederic underscore the absolute necessity that persons choosing to live in the Keys fully understand what the situation is here regarding hurricanes. Horror stories abound. Some of the horrors are within the realm of the possible. Others aren't. A fairly comprehensive understanding of the facts is indispensable unless you plan on leaving the Keys for every hurricane that passes within 200 miles of here.

A number of factors, mainly having to do with our size and isolation, make for mass confusion. One major contributing factor to confusion is the broadcast media in the outside world, including Miami. Since we basically have only Miami TV to watch, we need to keep things in perspective, and realize that parts of what we see and hear do not apply to us. For seeing live coverage from the National Hurricane Center, and radar and satellite pictures, the Miami TV coverage is fine. However, pay no attention to possible storm effects or evacuation recommendations, unless they say that they apply specifically to the Keys. Even then, it would be best to confirm it locally.

DUE TO OUR sensitive location, most

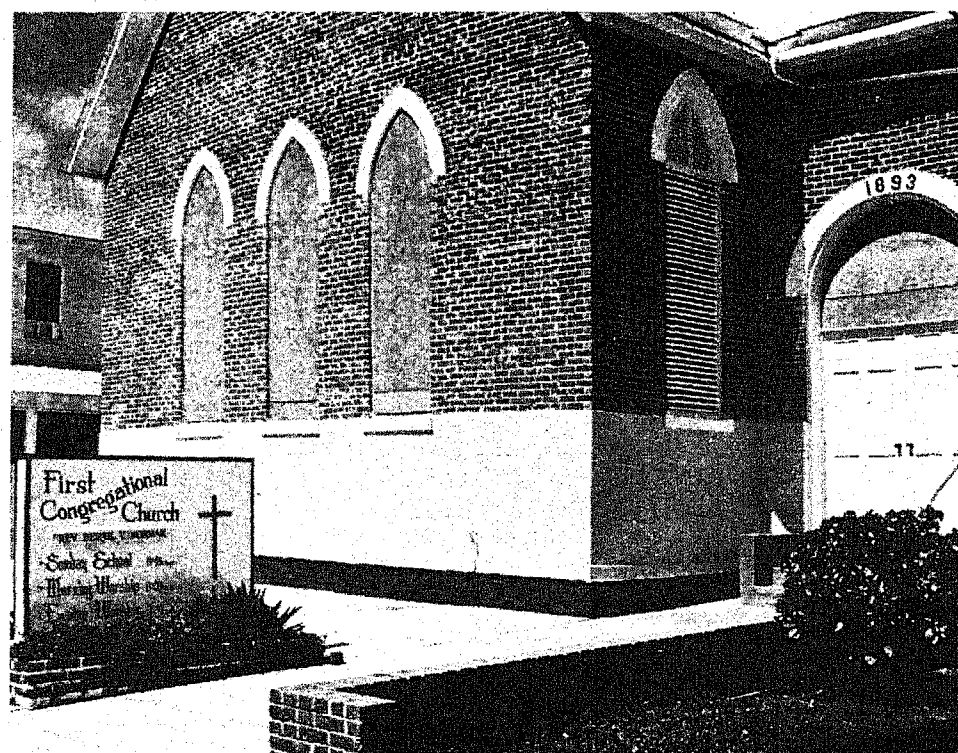


Photo by Richard Marsh

of the outside world assumes that the Keys are flattened by any hurricane that even comes near. The morning that Frederic re-formed west of Havana, a weather-caster on a national TV network forecast a turn to the northeast which didn't occur. Later that morning, the same network's radio news, which was carried by a station in Marathon, had Frederic heading toward the Keys, causing a minor panic for a while in the Middle Keys. Don't rely on outside sources for specific information.

Let's look at hurricanes, and what we should and shouldn't fear about them. It's impossible, within the scope of this article, to explain much about the workings of hurricanes. The explanations

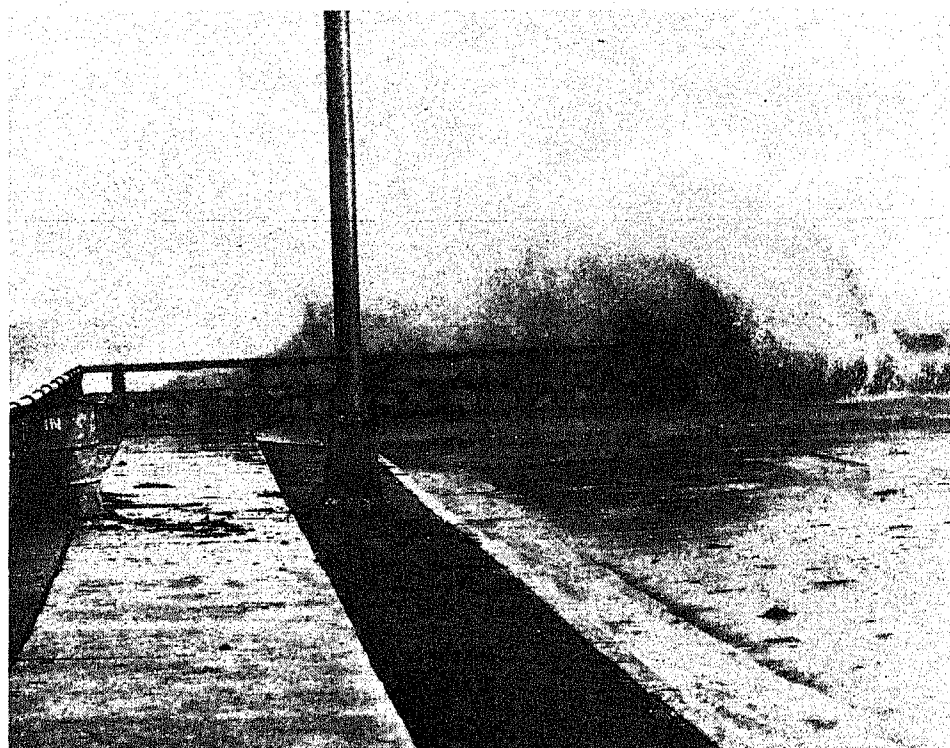


Photo by Dennis Henize

would be long, but the principles are fairly easy to grasp, and make interesting study if you're into weather-watching. There's a fair amount of material in the Public Library.

ONE OF THE distressing aspects of hurricanes is the agonizing uncertainty about what is happening, and what will happen in the short-term future.

Progress in hurricane forecasting will probably never get to the point where humans can pinpoint landfall with

cal figure. Winds of hurricane force (74 miles an hour or greater) typically extend out 75 to 100 miles, with the most extreme winds confined to a relatively small donut-shaped area which surrounds

the eye, or center. Winds are sometimes near calm in the center. So you can see that the area where the most destructive forces are is small, and that a few miles one way or the other can result in widely varying conditions.

A perfect example occurred in 1948. Two hurricanes crossed Cuba near Havana, then the Keys. The first was in late September, the second in early October. The October storm crossed the Middle Keys. The September storm crossed the Lower Keys, with the eye crossing over Boca Chica. Before the wind equipment there was disabled by the wind, it registered 122 miles an hour as the fastest one-minute average, with gusts estimated upwards of 150. A stone's throw away in Key West, the highest sustained wind was 73 miles an hour. There were no deaths, and damage amounted to only about a million dollars. The Turtle-Kraals were demolished, and 350 turtles were released to the sea. The waterfront took a beating, and about 100 boats were lost. On the lower end of Duval and Simonton Streets, the water came up as far as Caroline. Had the center of that storm hit Key West, things would have been far worse.

Living at the ocean's edge, we obviously are concerned about the ocean rising. Flooding is a very real threat in the Keys. The average elevation is four to five feet. The Lower Keys are blessed with higher-than-average ground on Big Pine Key, and on Key West (Solares Hill).

IF YOU STUDY hurricane history in our country, you will learn of a storm surge of around 25 feet in Mississippi in 1969, and of 20 feet plus in the Upper Keys in 1935. Storm surge is a product of tremendous wind force, and is the most destructive part of hurricanes in general. It is the piling up of water. Wind can blow faster than water can flow, so the extreme winds near the center of the storm cause water to stack up, which results in fairly rapidly rising water. This piling up does begin very gradually, when the storm is a considerable distance away. This is referred to as "storm tide" and is basically the same thing as storm surge, except that it is a slow, gradual rise rather than a rapid one. On a coastline of the mainland, where

the land is elevated, the water is pushed up against the land, and if it cannot flow inland, it will continue to pile up.

We are not on the mainland, and this is not what happens here. We do have a high flooding potential, but the "tidal wave" that a lot of people dread does not exist. In fact, "tidal wave" is a misnomer which is kept alive by people as supposedly intelligent as network TV newsmen. The classic "tidal wave," which travels over thousands of miles of ocean and creates horrendous calamities, does indeed occur, but it is properly called a "seismic wave" or a "Tsunami" and is caused by an earthquake or volcanic eruption. Seismic waves don't occur in the Atlantic, because the Atlantic is generally, and the Caribbean area especially, considered to be practically earthquake-proof.

(To use the term properly, we do experience tidal waves daily. The ocean water that is pulled toward the sun and the moon is a wave, with a very long wavelength. The crest is high tide, the trough low tide.)

SINCE THE LOWER KEYS are so near to deep water and wide open spaces to the west, water hasn't very much to pile up against, as it does on the mainland, or in the Middle and Upper Keys, where cuts through the Keys are generally narrower and fewer.

The Corps of Engineers says that with a frequency of once every ten years, the Lower Keys can expect a storm surge of four feet. This does not count wave action on top of this, nor very localized effects such as would occur where the lay of the land creates a natural funnel.

The Corps says that once every hundred years the Lower Keys can expect a storm surge of eight feet, and possibly nine feet with a frequency of once every

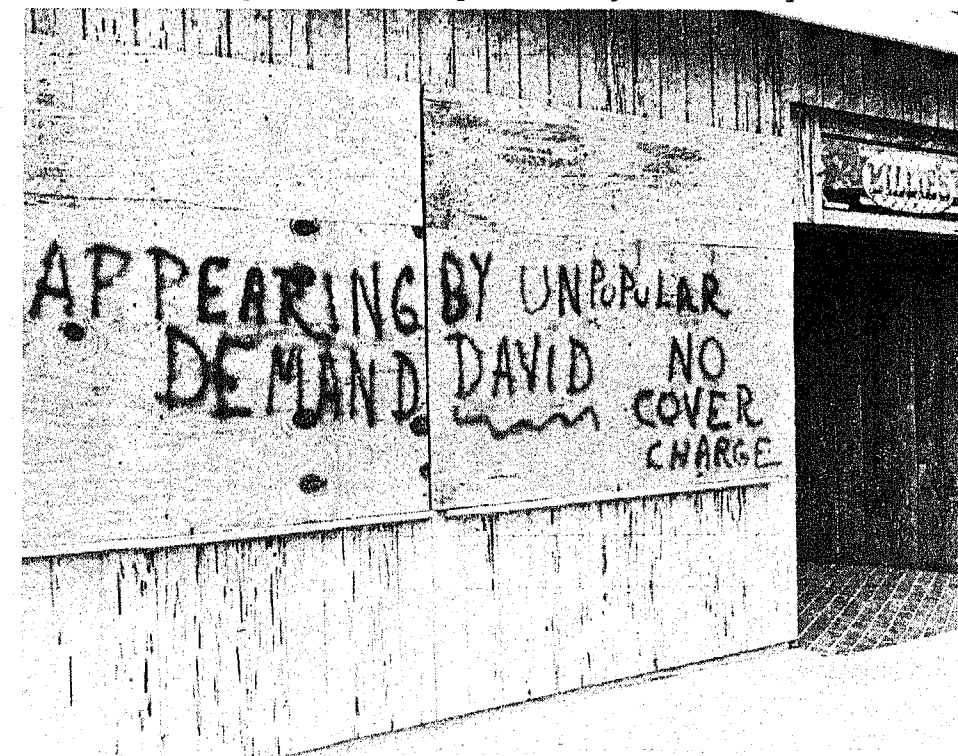


Photo by Richard Marsh

200 plus years. Nobody can really say those probabilities are accurate, since they are based on only about 150 years of experience. They are the actuarial figures used by the Federal Flood Insurance program.

CONSIDERING THE AVERAGE elevation of the Keys, even the 10-year storm is something we could do without. The water comes up, and the wind blows, to be sure. The sea can come up to and higher than many doorsteps, and the sea will be angry. But the deep-water flooding of water with no place to go will not happen. And the battering action of the heavy waves will be limited to the waterfront, with the high water in the interior of the island considerably less violent. A popular belief is that the reef is our saving grace. It may have a slight breaking effect on the waves in some places, but in rough weather the reef doesn't keep the swells from coming in

fairly close. The shallowness of the water close to the islands would break some of the sea action.

It is because the deep water west of Key West serves as a natural check-valve on storm surge height that we in the Lower Keys do not evacuate on masse to the mainland. Another reason for this is that US 1 becomes impassable in the Upper Keys area long before the arrival of the storm. The highway at Lake Surprise had water almost to its edge during David, even though that area was almost a hundred miles to the "good" side of David. (Tides were running high at that time anyway, from astronomical influences.) There is a system of shelters in the Lower Keys, which, in the event of a direct hit by a major hurricane, would be packed. For most hurricanes, most homes are safe, except for mobile homes, and low waterfront homes, which are the first to be evacuated.

LET'S EXAMINE THREE situations -- a weak hurricane, medium-strength hurricane, and the worst that could happen. The last one could be gruesome, so please remember that the vast majority of our experiences will be with weak ones, with an outside chance of a medium-to-strong one, and once every few lifetimes, a Big One.

For a storm of a given intensity, it is essential that descriptions of potential effects be rather generalized, for a lot of variables enter in. But for the sake of consistency, we will assume a direct hit by the worst winds in each of the examples.

A HURRICANE WITH 75 mph winds would not be devastating, and loss of life would be inexcusable. Such a storm would not be likely to do any structural damage to healthy structures. A few

lot of old houses have been gutted inside with no compensation made for structural parts removed. Others have been more thoughtfully remodelled, and are probably stronger than when built.

MUCH OF THE LUMBER used in the last 20 years is inferior to the hard pine used originally. Some sturdy old houses have fairly recent additions that are rotting and crumbling. Winds of 120 mph could cause structural failure of some buildings that were either poorly built or have been weakened considerably by time, termites and tools. Minor structural damage, particularly roof damage, could occur even in stronger buildings that are directly exposed to winds in this category. Water would likely be high enough to flow over some low areas on the east half of Key West, but wouldn't be likely to exceed a couple of feet in depth. A lot of residences would have a foot or so of water in them. It would be disconcerting, but not like a 25-foot high tidal wave.

FOR THE BIG ONE, let's consider a storm with winds in excess of 155 mph, something that in all likelihood will not happen in our lifetime. A direct hit from such a storm would be capable of flooding all the Lower Keys, except for the high areas on Key West and Big Pine Key, to a depth that would be hazardous enough even without the likelihood of some total building failures and many complete roof failures. The damage from a storm such as this could range from severe to unbelievable. It would be hard to imagine such an occurrence without some loss of life, but the pessimistic estimates in the hundreds and thousands would depend on a lot of things going wrong at the same time, such as a complete stoppage of traffic on US 1. Coincidences do happen, and frequently combine to cause catastrophes, but be assured that no kind of accident is likely to tie up traffic as long as it does in a normal situation.

For one thing, the drawbridges will stay open to highway traffic during evacuation. Also, for at least the next few years, there is an abundance of heavy equipment strung throughout the Keys, which the county Civil Defense people have thoughtfully arranged to use if needed, during and after a hurricane.

AN EXODUS BY HIGHWAY from the Lower Keys is advised against because it would hamper the evacuations of persons in the Middle and Upper Keys, who really do need to leave. Choosing to leave Key West in advance of a hurricane is not necessarily wrong, although it's not required for survival. If you happen to be inclined to leave the Rock anyway, and if you want to avoid a great deal of anxiety at the very least, you could take a little trip.

But if you do leave by car, give yourself plenty of time to avoid possible heavy traffic up the Keys. And remember that you are taking a risk of leaving for no reason, or worse yet, heading toward worse weather conditions.

SINCE YOU HAVE elected to live in hurricane country, you would be wise to learn what a hurricane can be expected to do to your property and what you can do to prevent damage. By making long-range plans for the storm that you know will come eventually, you can avoid that last minute rush for plywood and candles.

HURRICANE POEMS

HURRICANE NEVER CAME by Wanda Lawrence

David eyes our longitude from two hundred miles or more,
Tensing and flexing his muscles
right up to our front door,
But then he chose to drop us from his intended route,
Followed another, forecasters couldn't figure out.

David is now weakened, a tropical storm,
Much changed from the child warm waters had born.
He threw tantrums and houses over the Caribbean Sea,
Thrashing and violently screaming,
"Look at me, look at me!"

As he grew bolder and moved from his home,
It was Florida's coast he chanced to roam,
Hit or miss as his mood did suit him,
Would one be caught in his eye or rim?

Up the coast he arose such a clatter,
People fled from the menacing Hatter.
In a hurricane's lifetime I suppose he's an old cuss,
But I hear far as New England he's still kickin' a fuss.

And his sidekick tornados are helping his cause,
As if to remind us of one of nature's laws.
"There's more where I came from so remember that,
When you think of the time David was at bat."

HURRICANE by Bill Lorraine

It was two feet deep on Caroline Street
when the storm blew the railroad down
A storm with a grip on the Gulfstream
wind
and her wind blew the railroad down

The summer was slow back in thirty-five
for the railroad that went to sea
Only wreckers and spongers down in old
Key West
It was the end of the line for me

Down in the tropics the summer winds play
spinning the birth of a hurricane,
hurricane, hurricane,
the ocean sees through the calm of her
eye
but joins the wild dance of the hurricane,
hurricane, hurricane

The islanders knew a big storm was near
but we couldn't imagine a hurricane!
Soon the railroad met with the will of
the wind
and the wind showed no mercy

The clubcar darkened, the thunder roared,
Flagler's engines pounded, the ocean
soared,
and the eye of the storm was an hour wide
on Matecumbe Key

Down in the tropics the summer winds play
spinning the life of a hurricane, hurricane,
the ocean sees through the calm of her
eye
but joins the wild dance of the hurricane,
hurricane, hurricane

No one would see her wicked winds change
as she crashed across Long Key
The land became the will of the wind
then she whirled back out to sea

The keys recovered, the road was built
right where the tracks had been
Now I fish all day in these lazy blue
waters
and I'll always live on an island

WHEN I WROTE the lyrics to the Hurricane Song, I envisioned a man's voice, a voice with character, someone who could really have lived through the Hurricane of 1935. I decided to make a demo tape good enough to show the basic rhythm and melody and how the lyrics should sound. I got with Duane McCrary on electric guitar, Gary Saunders on

bass, myself on piano, and together we wrote the music to fit the words to the song. Since people react to hurricanes with emotion, the music had to not only fit the meter of the words, it had to evoke the powerful qualities of hurricanes as well. We decided on an up-tempo, story-telling beat. Then we needed a girl singer for the chorus part and a character "talking" voice. Captain Tony seemed perfect for the part and he liked the idea. Maria McCrary agreed to sing the chorus parts. In the taping session, Captain Tony used the "Conch" pronunciation of Matecumbe Key, and he suggested a reminiscing section for the end of the song that we will develop in our next recording session.

LETTER FROM SANTO DOMINGO

Dear Ann and David,

You'll be very disappointed in me. I've taken only one picture and written very little about Hurricane David. I'm still puzzling over my reaction; professional instinct deserted me. I cannot photograph something I loved, something that was so beautiful, when it has been battered and beaten nearly to death.

I agree 100% with your friend at the weather station. Don't stay in your house. That beautiful tree in your back yard could be the only thing left standing. And that minus many of its limbs. However, there is one compensation -- material possessions lose all value. You're just damn glad to be alive.

We live in a small apartment complex.



Photo by Dennis Henize

Only six units built of cement block and reinforced concrete. We face east and the front wall of each living room is wooden louvers in six sections from the floor to one foot from the ceiling. Jack and I discussed it a few days before and decided there was give between the louvers that would eliminate any buildup of pressure. We felt quite secure. When David turned from North to South blowing West, two sections of louvers came up from the floor and flew into the living room. I'm talking about 4' x 6 1/2' of lumber. A ceramic elephant and two huge pot plants stopped it from hitting Jack and I where we were sitting. It landed at our feet.

Must tell you though that Jack saved his drink, my beer and a kerosene lantern, then went back for the chair cushions.

There may be some wooden houses standing in Santo Domingo, but I haven't seen any. Fortunately, most buildings and homes are of cement block construction.

We live in the Western suburbs and after 20 days still no sign of electricity

although much of the city has been restored. We have water in the cistern which we carry into the apartment in buckets. Sparingly. An odd experience -- we were two weeks behind on laundry due to the water shortage so found myself in Plaza Independencia surrounded by modern government buildings where the Pope said Mass, U.S. helicopters overhead, doing the wash in the water fountains along with hundreds of others.

Huge cement power poles are down all over the place.

For a number of frustrating reasons this country -- the whole country -- was out of gas for some 10 days. Don't know how long it will take to get back to normal there. Jack has kept my car and his running on aviation fuel out of the DC-6's.

The road to the airport was a beautifully landscaped divided highway with a 15 mile park on the seaside. Sidewalks and cement park benches all along the way. A few palm trees still standing but all the pines are down, all the plants are gone. In fact even the top soil is gone. Bare lava rock like a lunar landscape.

I'm told Santo Domingo looks like a paradise compared to much of the country West of us. They say it reminds them of pictures of Hiroshima after the H-Bomb.

The assistance from the U.S. has been fantastic. They have brought in 12 choppers that deliver relief supplies including C Rations to areas cut off by flood waters.

Jack is working at the Military Base keeping Dominicans two DC-6's

shuttling supplies from Puerto Rico.

Allyson was here at home for David but Jack put her on the last flight out before Frederic. She had to get back to St. Petersburg for her second year at Eckerd College. She had had enough weather and was anxious to go.

The food problem will probably get worse before it gets better. Something like 80% of agriculture was destroyed. We're getting along fine on rice and beans and Spam. A chicken now and then.

I must add one thing about Hurricanes. We had reports on short wave from the U.S. and the Hurricane Center in Miami. We had all kinds of reports from the local meteorologists. Nothing reported was close enough to qualify as a good educated guess!

Don't stay in your house. Don't even stay on Key West. You're entirely too exposed.



Well Water to Fight Fires?

BY GARRY BOULARD

AFTER A SUMMER of water shortages announced by officials of the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority and speculation by members of the Key West Fire Department that if there were a major fire in the Key West area there would not be enough of a reserve water supply to adequately fight it, residents and leaders of the community have been seeking out alternatives to the present source of water.

One of the alternatives mentioned is close to home: the apparently vast and endless underground wells that at one time played an essential and major part in the everyday facilities used and enjoyed by Key West natives.

CAPTAIN JACK CAREY of the Key West Fire Department commented, "As far as many of us here at the station know, there are at least 6 or 8 wells in the downtown area alone that could be easily usable if they were fixed up." Carey, who joined the fire department in the early 1940's, remembers when the wells were used extensively for firefighting. "At one time, back in the 1930's and 40's, I bet there were over 60 wells in use on this island. Many of them we used in fires," he said.

There have been no accurate counts as to how many wells are presently in use, according to insiders at both the fire department and FKAA, because of the probability that many of the wells are now on private property. One insider from the engineering department at FKAA said, "Obviously many people here are using underground wells in their own backyards. The water is certainly more

plentiful than anything we can provide and probably better for you."

INDEED, A STUDY by the National Water Well Association (NWWA) (published recently in *Time* and *Newsweek*) shows that in the United States there is 20 or 30 times as much water underground as there is in all the lakes, streams and rivers combined.

The study goes on to state that "approximately 700,000 new wells are drilled every year. Wells presently provide 35% of the water used by municipalities -- and over 80% of the water used in rural areas for homes and livestock."

Certainly, city officials and members of the City Commission, who are constantly reminding the citizenry of the "tight" times ahead and the likelihood for more budget cutting, would be well advised to look into ways of developing and modernizing the old water wells located throughout the island.

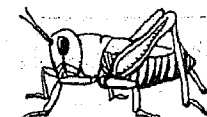
KEY WEST IS NOT ALONE, however, in failing to fully develop its capacity with underground wells. The NWWA study shows the state of Florida using under 10% of its total water supply from underground wells. Not a very impressive figure when placed next to states like Vermont, New Mexico, Oklahoma and South Dakota, where more than 50% of the total supply of water used is provided by ground water.

An employee of the Key West Old Island Restoration Foundation told *Solares Hill* that the idea of using the old wells may not be practical because "they're too old to be usable,

and the fire equipment probably wouldn't be adaptable."

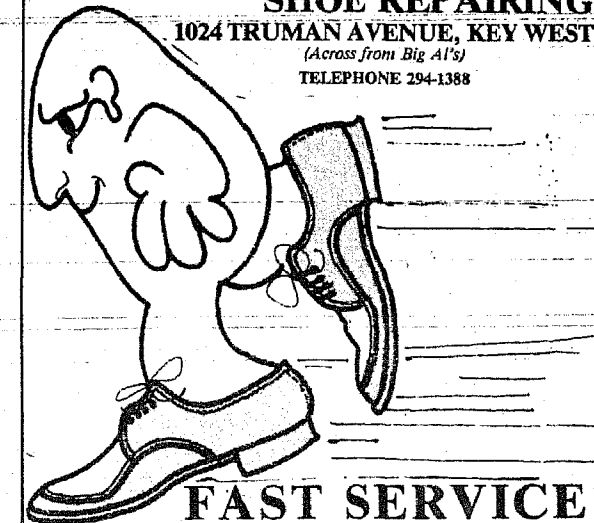
BUT CAPTAIN CAREY has pointed out that the old wells "could be cleaned out, and standpipes could be put in them for our equipment today." Carey, along with many other members of his department, feels that the added security of at least having an alternative water supply in case of a giant fire or explosion would be well worth any expense encountered in updating the wells. "Just remember," Carey added, "you can pump those things until hell freezes over."

And of course the greatest benefit of using the vast reserves of underground water (and this is something that, no doubt, a large number of residents have discovered already) is the simple fact of the renewability. Water seeps into the ground on a continual basis, every hour of the day, every day of the year. As long as that water isn't pumped faster than it's naturally supplied, there will always be "more where that came from."



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UNRAVELLED TRAVEL, PART II

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY AMY LEE DE POO

IN PART ONE, John and the girls begin their trip around the tip of Florida, after many weeks of planning and preparation. They pack their clothes in cardboard boxes and set out for Marathon, the first stop. John underestimates the power of a sudden squall, and the girls become soaked before they have time to put on their rain slickers. They arrive at Hall's Camp in Marathon, and John, fearing they'll catch cold, insists they walk into the hotel without their wet shirts, much to their embarrassment. Part two begins after they have left Hall's Camp and are on the way to the Caloosahatchee River.

UNRAVELLED TRAVEL, PART TWO

AFTER OUR INITIAL introduction to sudden storms at sea, I felt my sisters and I would be all the more experienced sailors, having escaped with our lives and suffered only minor damage to our sense of modesty. Our sense of modesty, as my father John saw it, was much magnified and certainly a drawback when it came to situations of high dramatic content and real danger.

The unpredictable ocean was a thing of great force that had to have constant respect from all of us, even if it meant giving up the prosaic protocol of land-bound existence, such as clothing that covered the upper half of the torso and relieving one's kidneys without everyone knowing it. We were out on the ocean all day long with no gas stations to stop at, so John thoughtfully provided a yellow bucket to provide relief when nature called.

When nature called on him however, a whole different procedure was called for. One girl would drive the boat, and the other two would poise themselves at the bow and gaze forward to the ocean and sky so as not to be indelicately aware of the personal necessities of our father.

We had to manage through these things with as much grace as possible, and even though the magnitude of the trip itself should have overshadowed our approach to the yellow bucket syndrome, it didn't. My father, in his infinite wisdom, pointed out to us that had Queen Elizabeth decided to join us on this trip, she too would have had to face the yellow bucket, but consolation in such an abstract sense failed to console me. I had failed to prepare myself mentally for this one particular aspect of the trip before we left and was haunted by it from start to finish.

THE DAYS ON THE OCEAN were as none I had seen on land before. With a slight breeze blowing, the surface of the water composed itself into a jagged expanse of white brilliance, each wave tip catching the sun and becoming cut crystal to the eye. The glittering vastness of it all could evoke a trance-like spell on the consciousness of the individual, and time and motion ceased to exist. We were hypnotized. I could see why John loved the ocean so much. The vision of its heightened glory had the effect of transporting one's entire being to that of another world, and we had entered that world.

The first leg of the journey was an approach up the west coast of Florida

towards the mouth of the Caloosahatchee River. Up until that point the speed of the boat was rather fast, so it was quite a difference to adjust to the subdued forward progress of the boat on a river, but it made observation of the surroundings all the more striking.

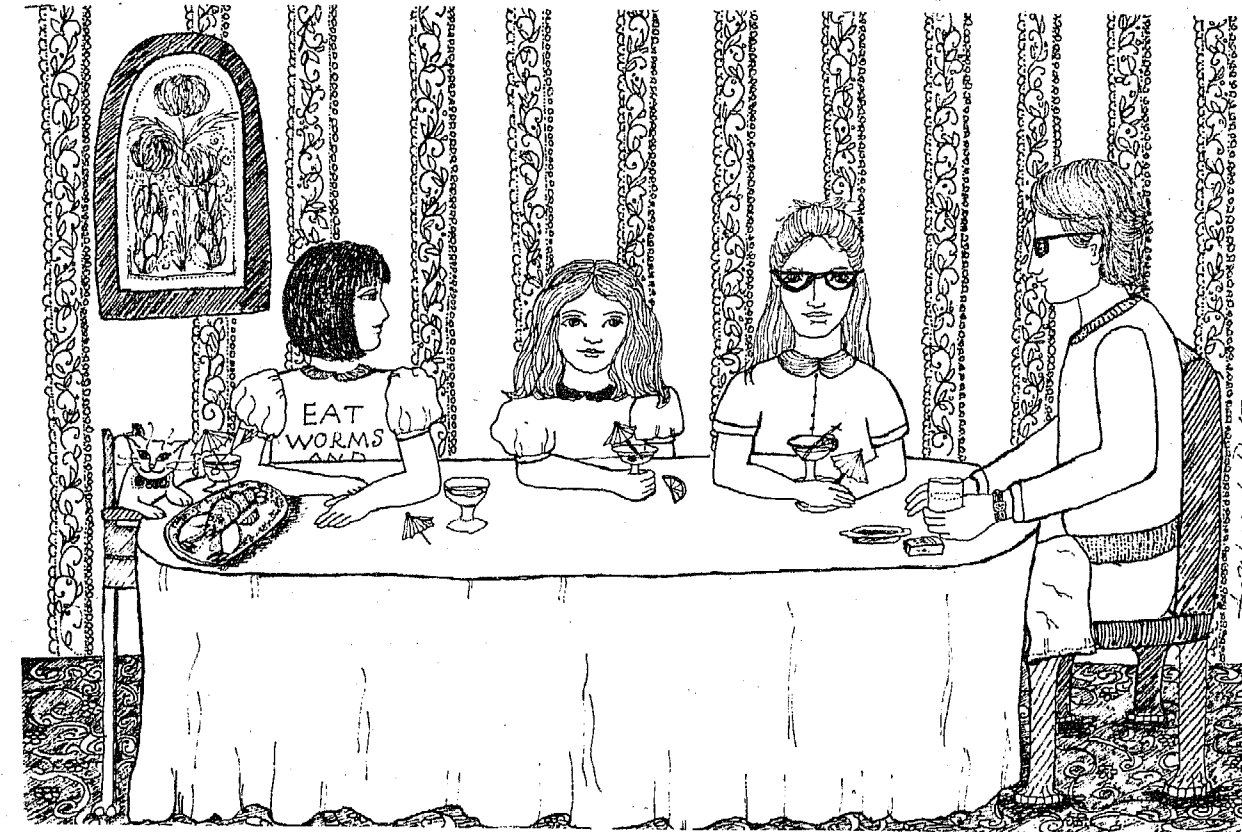
THE RIVER ITSELF took a slow wind and afforded us a serpentine relaxation as we moved calmly through the water. People with long poles fished from bridges, cows meandered on the banks, and the lushness of Florida vegetation was everywhere. The little places we stopped for gas were cinematic in their quality of remoteness to us -- the gas pumps on one little dock looked to be straight out of the twenties with rust edging the chrome around the faded red and white lettering. The coke machine was hand-cranked, and I don't think the proprietor had a tooth in his head. The all-pervasive stillness of river life gave me the sense that we were in a land within a land, a place with pace all its own that seemed to just be there. The narrowness of the river served to broaden my own horizons.

WE TRAVELED ALL DAY each day and stopped at night to sleep in little hotels and make good use of the showers and restaurants, because John had a peculiar insistence on good food and cleanliness. At dinner John would entertain us with stories of his experiences, and we were indeed the enraptured and sophisticated audience as we sipped on Shirley Temples and Buster Browns, non-alcoholic drinks adorned with paper parasols, plastic swords, cher-

ries, and orange slices.

One night we happened to end up in a hotel that had a beautiful old dining room with very high and ornate ceilings. John said it reminded him of the Casa Marina Hotel in its heyday. He had been a bartender there when he was young and remembered a very amusing incident

with her tonics that she failed to realize her halter had come off. She sat at the bar patiently waiting to be served, while aghast patrons could only wonder what possible motivation she possessed for such a breach of taste. A waiter with a large beach towel was summoned, and they told her it was a



concerning a very old and very wealthy woman with a pronounced preference for vodka tonics and sunbathing, the vodka tonics apparently taking the edge off the bright tropical sun.

One day she had come back into the bar to get a refill from my father, who was on the day shift, and was so dosed

little breezy that day and covered her up. This was so amusing to us, but on a more poignant scale, because I remembered our similar humiliation at Hall's Camp when we had no dry shirts. I made a vow never to drink tonics on the beach when I got older.

WE FINALLY MADE IT to the end of the river and had to cross Lake Okeechobee. That was to be the longest and most monotonous stretch on the entire trip, because, as lake water goes, it is not very attractive and remained a very dull grey the whole crossing. A small squall came up and was the only exciting thing about Lake Okeechobee. I decided it was one place that would never need revisiting in my lifetime. That and Hall's Camp.

Presently we arrived at the entrance to the St. Lucie Canal. John had schooled us on the procedure of the system of locks used to facilitate the movement of vessels by alternately raising or lowering the water level by the use of huge steel gates. This was very exciting to us because of its sheer novelty. We had to stay in the boat and hold it off to prevent damage to its sides. It was like being in a huge bathtub that filled up, and then you floated out the other side.

But sometimes we had to wait inside the locks, and it got to be very hot since there was no breeze. This wore on the patience of my sisters and myself, and we inevitably got into arguments and squabbles and tried to kick each other when John turned his back. I was sure Kathryn was part mule, because she had the ability to deliver a lightning fast sideways kick with her heel bone while steadfastly maintaining the countenance of a saint.

JOHN DIDN'T LIKE fighting among us at all, and if he caught you poking or kicking your sister, he would put a stop to it immediately. Then you could be sure you would pay for it later by having to perform some horrible task like cleaning the ice chest or the dreaded yellow bucket. There were many times I had to swallow my rage and make silent promises to remember the indiscretions of my sisters once we were back in Key West and my vengeance could

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At last we left the St. Lucie Canal, came out through the St. Lucie Inlet and proceeded down the east coast of Florida, past Jupiter Island, and headed towards Fort Lauderdale. John knew of a place called Pier 66 where you could drive up in a boat and park it, just like a car, and stay in the hotel there. We did that and were highly impressed with the electric golf carts the hotel provided to move luggage.

Had I known pretension to exist in boating society, I would have written Vuitton all over my cardboard box long before we got there, because our clothes containers looked more like they belonged on a Mississippi tugboat than on that electric cart. Such childish preoccupation with status never seemed to bother John, and he made us walk through the lobby with our cardboard boxes anyway. I added Pier 66 to my list of places never to come back to.

NOW WE WERE truly past the major part of the journey. The most difficult passes had been negotiated, and the rest of the trip would be smooth sailing, according to John. I had to admit that I felt pretty lucky to have come this far without a major disaster, be it due to weather or the behavior of my sisters and myself under unfamiliar conditions.

The closeness of being on the boat all day was beginning to show in the attitude among us girls. When before we all were doing our very best not to irritate each other, a lot of time and water was behind us, and generosity in spirit was fast becoming a miserly re-past. Kathryn's obsession for being

the be all, end all authority on every subject began to surface with itchy regularity. As far as Martha and I were concerned, EVERY subject was a sore subject that required the soothing balm of her mental unction. When John wasn't making us all sit in the back to make the boat go faster, I would sit by myself near the bow to avoid confrontations with the bottomless oral oracle gaping at me every time I made a statement.

WE TRAVELED ALONG the coast of Florida far enough out to avoid pleasure boats but still near enough to see large landmarks. John would tell us what we were passing when we were passing it, so that we could all get a good look. As it happened, all three of us were standing on the bow when the Fontainebleau Hotel became visible. At that time it was probably the largest hotel on Miami Beach, and John pointed it out.

Martha must have had trouble hearing him, because she claimed she didn't see it. Kathryn was in a particularly authoritative mind and began pointing her finger along Martha's temple to get her line of vision at the correct spot. This was too much of an assault on Martha's intellectual integrity, so she retaliated by doing the same thing to Kathryn. I was standing by the rear of the bow rail when I saw what looked like a very familiar pair of thick, black-framed glasses fly by, hit the foam in the side spray of the boat, and disappear forever behind us. I heard the anguished screams of my older sister. "I'm blind! I'm blind! I can't see! Oh God, help!"

JOHN WAS INCREDULOUS. He stopped the boat.

"What the hell happened?"

Martha spoke up.

"Well, you see, Kathryn was poking me in the face and she was bothering me and..."

"Oh you lie! I was showing you the hotel and you hit me in the face!"

John had had enough. I was considering maybe jumping overboard and hoping a Russian trawler would pick me up, and I could start another life somewhere in Siberia, speak another language, and not have to suffer the wrath of my father. Then I remembered how I hated cabbage, and the largest piece of ice I had ever seen was at Thompson's Ice House on Caroline Street, so I resolved to remain and pay the cruel debt fate had just bestowed upon us all. I did feel a tremendous sense of relief and security from the fact that Martha had committed the heinous crime and took great comfort that I was far removed from the painful glare of her guilt. I stepped back. Martha could suffer alone.

KATHRYN WAS SQUINTING and rubbing her eyes and crying. John still could not believe it had happened but was trying to figure out what to do. We couldn't go on with one member of the crew virtually incapacitated and sightless, it was much too dangerous. John thought for a moment and then told us we would have to head in to Miami Beach, find an optometrist who could fill her eyeglass prescription that would be phoned up from Key West, and then proceed from there.

John docked the boat at some slips that were right there by a street and went off to look in the phone book for a nearby and fast optometrist. He came back, took Kathryn by the hand, and instructed us to watch the boat and not to talk to strangers. It was right after noon.

"But what if we have to go to the bathroom?" I asked as he was leaving.

"What do you think that yellow bucket is for? You know what to do,"

he said as he struck off to catch a cab.

"But there are people walking by and they'll..." I started to say as he disappeared. Well, that was just great. I was thoroughly disgusted. It was bad enough we had to sit in the boat all alone, no radio, no books, no cookies, no privacy, and all in the dead heat of Miami's cement afternoon. I was not too happy with Martha's company either, since she was the cause of all this misery.

We sat there. It got hotter and hotter, and there wasn't a breath of air to be had. The afternoon stretched on and on, and I was really not feeling very well. I was wishing I hadn't drunk that last soda on the dock before we left that morning, as nature signaled to me I might have to resort to using the ultimate in modern inconvenience, the yellow bucket.

"Thanks. Thanks a lot, Martha. I have a headache, I'm sweating to death, and I have to go to the bathroom. You really did it this time."

"Don't thank me. Thank Kathy. She's the one who started it all. She wouldn't leave me alone. She was bothering me all morning and you know it and besides..."

"Oh shut up. I don't want to hear it. I'm in pain. I have to go to the bathroom."

"So go. Who's stopping you?"

"You know perfectly well there's people walking by every minute. Someone will see me."

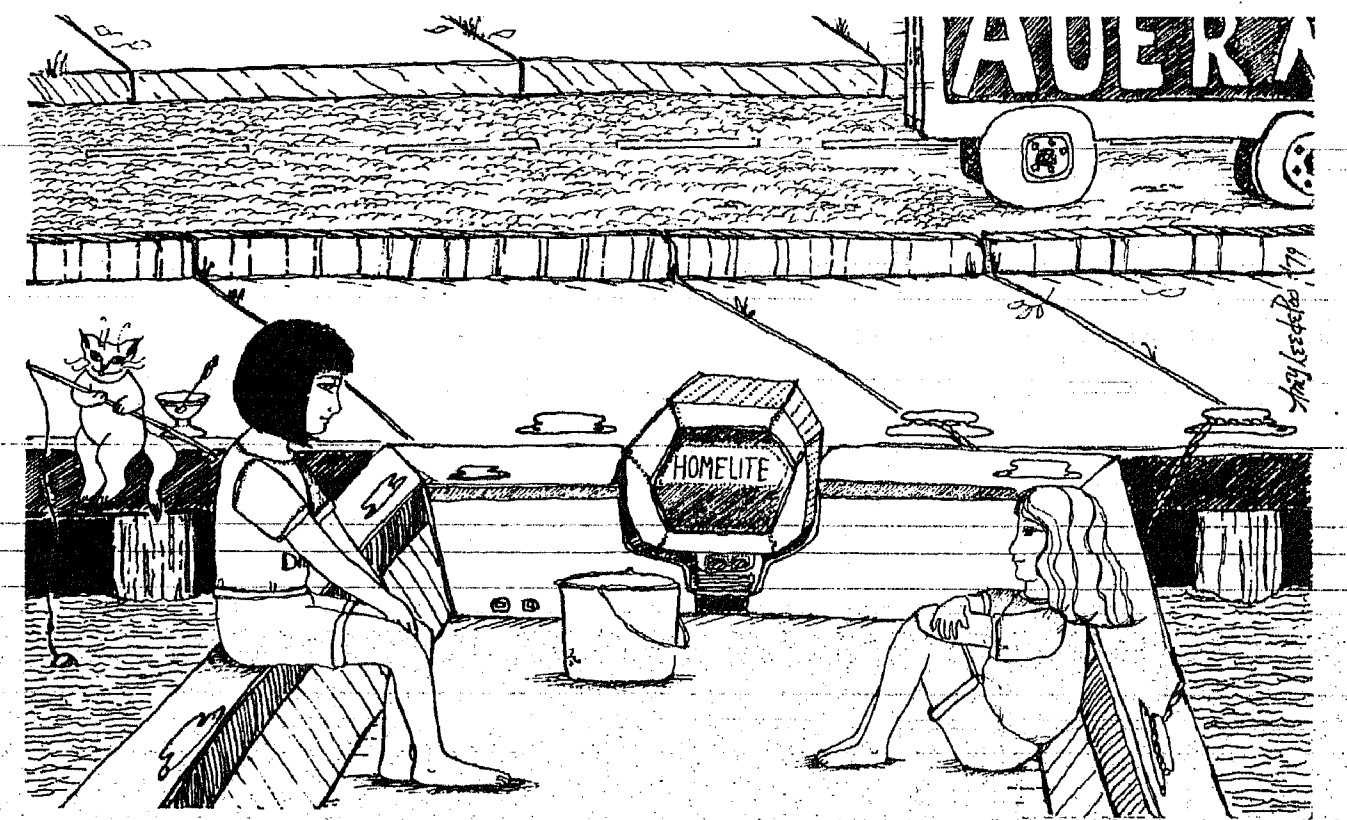
"Who cares? They've all seen it before. Go ahead. I'll hold up this towel."

I WONDERED WHERE her mind had gone -- that sure wasn't any solution. I couldn't think of anything MORE eye-catching than the sight of some fool holding up a very small towel with another idiot sitting on a bucket behind it. I decided to wait until John came back and we were well on our way out to sea before I compromised my civilized principles.

The afternoon stretched agonizingly

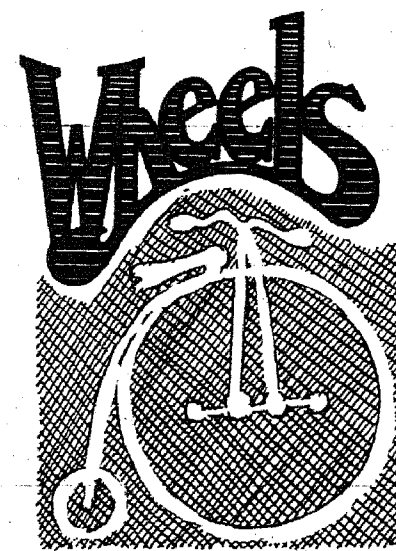
pushed off to resume our journey.

WHEN WE WERE a little ways out, I told John that I had to go to the bathroom the whole time they were gone, and



of shiny new glasses. John was in no mood to mince words or hear of my painful condition. He quickly untied the boat and started the motor, and we

I was still in that painful state. "Well that's pretty stupid. Why didn't you go? That's nothing to be ashamed of. Hurry up and go now so we



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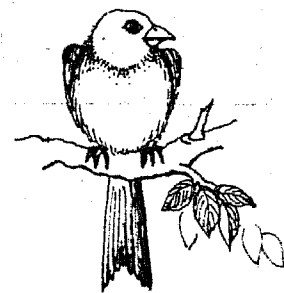
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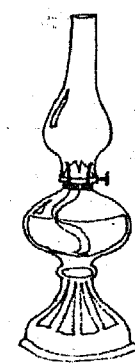
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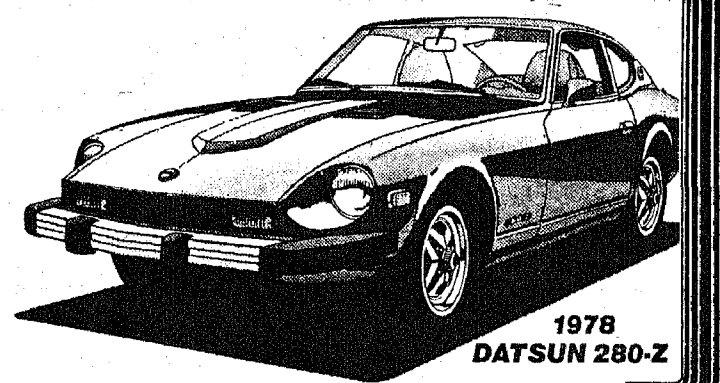
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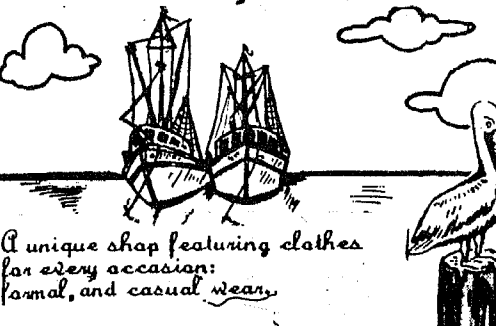


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can speed up and make up some lost time."

I ran to the back of the boat,
grabbed the bucket, and relieved myself.
Being in such a hurry, when I stood up
I kicked the bucket over. This was more
than John could take in one day.

"Jesus, Amy, what's the matter with
you? Can't you even do a simple thing?
Now get some water and rinse the deck.
Be quick about it, too. Here, take the
sponge."

HE POINTED to his favorite sheeps-
head sponge that had been carefully
cured in the sun that we used to clean
the boat. I picked it up and was about
to catch some water from the wake in
the back of the boat when my foot
caught on a stack of rope and poles.
Looking down to extricate my rather
large foot, I forgot that I was also
attempting to catch sea water in the
bucket, and the bucket caught the sur-
face of the water and about wrenched
my arm from its socket. Foolishly, I
tried to hold on with the other hand,
which was holding the prized sheeps-
head sponge. Needless to say, I said
good-bye to both the bucket and the
sponge.

John turned around and could not
believe his eyes. I tried to stammer
an apology, but didn't say anything.
Just then a towel flew off the ice chest
to become yet another donation to Bis-
cayne Bay from the generous de Poe
girls. Poor John was so livid, I de-
cided to hide the bait knife.

John had two scotches before dinner,
and there were no Buster Browns or
Shirley Temples served that night, to
say the least. We stayed at Jane Reno's
house the next night, an old friend of
both my parents, and she let us chase
her peacocks. We took all the tail-
feathers we could find and stuck them



in our shorts to look like tails, but
John was not amused.

A few days later we were back in
Key West, and the sting of our crimes
had worn off a little at least, because
I heard my mother laughing.



SOME REMARKS continued from page 17

ANNUAL DEALERS MEETING

KEY WEST FRAGRANCE and Cosmetic Fac-
tory, Inc., one of Key West's largest
private industries with retail outlets
from California to the Caribbean, will
be hosting their annual Dealer Seminar
October 14-17 at the Marriott's Casa
Marina Resort.

Independent owners of Key West Frag-
rance stores from California, Arizona,
Illinois, Ohio, Georgia, Washington, D.C.,
Maryland and other areas, as well as
Florida stores, will be represented at
the three day meeting, which will kick
off Sunday, October 14, with a cocktail
party at the Casa Marina.

KEY WEST FRAGRANCE initiated a
formal, non-franchised distributor pro-
gram, which is centered on a private in-
vestor opening a duplicate of the Key
West Fragrance store located at 524
Front Street. The program, introduced
in January 1978, has generated some
twenty additional stores across the
country to date.

The "Bringing of Key West to the
rest of the world" theme has also at-
tracted wide-spread attention within
the billion-dollar-a-year Fragrance and
Cosmetic Industry. Messrs. Frank Romano
and Joe Liszka, owners of Key West Frag-
rance and Cosmetic Factory, Inc., are
hosting the event, and some sixty deal-
ers are expected to attend.

BUDGET-CUTTING, and sometimes the
blatant lack of it, has in recent months
made for some peculiar ironies in the
activities of the Key West City Commis-
sion.

To wit: Ever since the new city
budget has been up for approval by the
commission, the press and the media in-
general have quoted Mayor Charles "Sonny"
McCoy and City Manager Ronald Stack as
saying things to the effect that "we
have to start tightening our belt," and
"there's just not enough money to go
around."

NOWHERE WAS THIS sentiment aired
more frequently than in the negotiations

with the union leaders of the Key West
Fire Department. To nearly every request
union president Michael Almeda has made
for increased wages or more equipment,
he has been answered by the "more impor-
tant" need for austerity, reminded that
the city is in debt, and told to try to
set an economizing example for residents
of the community.

Yet an interesting point was brought
up by Almeda at a September city commis-
sion meeting that might provide an in-
sight into the kind of thinking that
goes on behind such public statements.

ALMEDA SAID HE had been under the
impression that negotiations for the fire
department were supposed to be conducted
by commissioner Alton Weekley and City
Manager Ron Stack. "But," Almeda said,
shrugging, "the only people we've been
negotiating with have been paid consul-
tants that don't even live here."

Almeda asked why Weekley and Stack
couldn't take part in the negotiations
and thus save the city the price of hir-
ing the outside consultants. Commis-
sioner Bruce Esquinado offered, "Because
when they did before, you (meaning the
union negotiators) could never come to
an agreement with them."

ALMEDA PERSISTED. "How much money
are these consultants being paid?" he
asked. McCoy and Stack looked at one
another, then Stack answered, "Sixty
dollar an hour."

Almeda seemed incredulous. After
the meeting he said, "They're paying
these people to take money away from us.
It just doesn't make sense."

In an interview last month with
Solares Hill, City Finance Director Lucy
Hicks disclosed that the consultants
also receive \$30 an hour for travelling
time, and that the total expense for the
paid consultants had already passed the
\$7500 mark, with no solution in sight.

HOWEVER, MRS. HICKS pointed out that
"these consultants could be very valuable
for the city. They are specially trained
in the areas of productivity and economiz-
ing research. Ultimately, they may save
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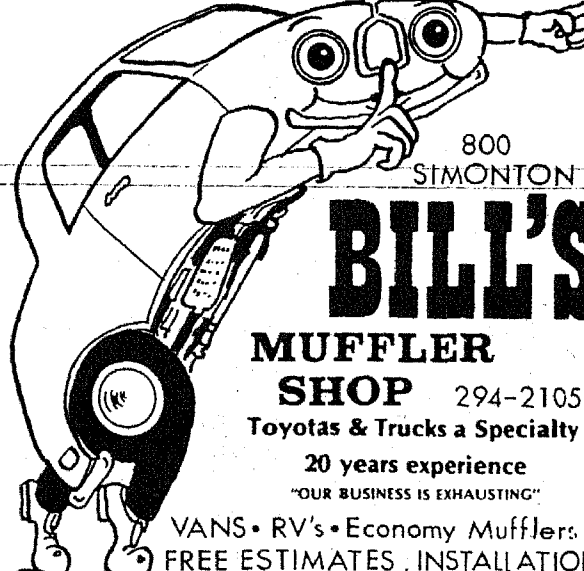


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The Blue and the Gray

BY RICHARD MARSH

ACCORDING TO MANY politically savvy observers, the framework of Key West's government is too thoroughly rotten and the healthy parts are too few to try to salvage the whole structure. City government should be abolished, they say, and the services now provided by the city should be taken over by the county.

It is pointed out that city taxpayers, who support city services, are also paying the county for services that they are not getting from the county. One of these services is police protection. Although the Sheriff's Department does provide some services to city residents, by and large the police

allegations of corruption at City Hall.

SHERIFF WILLIAM (BILLY) FREEMAN last year presented the city with a proposal for taking over all city police work that he says would provide city residents with the same level of services they now receive from the Police Department at an annual savings of some \$300,000. In general public discussion, this considerable savings is used as a major reason to disband the Police Department. In private, however, it is argued that putting city law enforcement into the hands of the sheriff is the only way to weed out incompetent or corrupt officers who are entrenched in

...WEED OUT INCOMPETENT OR CORRUPT OFFICERS WHO ARE ENTRENCHED IN SOME HIGH POSITIONS IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

work is done by the city Police Department.

Separately and together with the discussions about abolishing city government entirely, there has been talk of disbanding the Police Department and letting the sheriff handle all the police work in the city.

DURING LAST WINTER'S debate about whether or not the city government should be abolished, most of the public discussion revolved around the question of finances: Would abolishing city government and letting the county take over save Key West taxpayers money, or would it cost more?

But offstage, off the record, out of the limelight, and away from the microphone, it was not money that proved to be foremost in people's minds, but

some high positions in the Police Department and who are responsible for incompetence, lack of discipline, and deteriorating morale among the lower echelons.

It is a seemingly simple solution to a complex problem. If the Police Department is disbanded, all of the police would be out of a job. Many of them would apply to the Sheriff's Department, since the sheriff would need about as many new deputies to police Key West as there are now policemen.

But the sheriff would be free to pick and choose whom he wanted to hire, and he would be able to require financial disclosure and polygraph tests of the new applicants. The bad apples would presumably not apply; if they did, they would supposedly be eliminated by the screening process.

BUT CAN'T SOMETHING be done through the system to weed out the problems in the Police Department? The system includes the police chief, the city manager, the city commission, the state attorney's office, and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). Apparently, any appeal made to either the governor or the attorney general would be shuffled to the FDLE or the local state attorney's office. Surely one or more of these persons or agencies could investigate and correct the situation, couldn't they?

One answer to that question came at last January's legislative delegation hearing in Key West. Senator Vernon Holloway, the chairman of the hearing, after listening to several accounts of corruption at City Hall and in the Police Department, asked one complainant, "Have you gone to the local state attorney with these accusations?"

The audience howled with cynical laughter, visibly startling the senator.

I HAVE BROUGHT UP the subject of the local state attorney with many city policemen and sheriff deputies, who necessarily have frequent dealings with that office. Their reactions are invariably negative; some are unprintable.

Several policemen and deputies have told me that if they had proof of wrongdoing within the Police Department they could not think of one person or agency having jurisdiction in the matter that they would feel comfortable or safe in talking to. Some examples were given, including one in which a city patrolman reported an irregularity involving a superior officer to the FDLE. He was called on the carpet the next day. Evidently the well known bureaucratic phrase "Cover your ass" was communicated from the supposedly incorruptible FDLE to the superior in question. Instead

of investigating the accusation, the FDLE simply warned the officer that someone was on to him. The patrolman learned that his sworn duty to enforce the laws is expected to be interpreted loosely and applied selectively.

THEORETICALLY, KEY WEST has one police department; in practice, there are several. Lacking competent leadership, many of the lower echelon officers and patrolmen have, in effect, made mini-police departments of each watch (work shift). Paying little more than lip service to the few directives from on top, they fill in with instinct and their own experience what is lacking in the way of discipline and leadership from the upper levels of the chain of command.

These teams man the front lines and provide Key West residents and visitors with a more competent level of police protection than one might expect, considering the conditions under which they work. Still, under the circumstances, it is not surprising that the work can get slipshod at times.

I ONCE GOT A 17-year-old boy out of the city jail by calling a records clerk's attention to the birthdate on his arrest record. Of course, the boy should never have been put in jail in the first place, but the arresting officer and the jailer were careless. I mentioned in a previous article that some of the written reports are so poorly done that a judge once dismissed a case because the arresting officer failed to say what the defendant did.

The lack of communication is so bad, one policeman told me, that often the first he hears of a department policy is when a reporter interviews the chief and the policeman reads about it in the newspaper.

(I might mention at this point that speaking frankly to a reporter can be one of the hazards of being a policeman in Key West. I have spoken with nearly

every city policeman, many sheriff deputies, and several other close observers during the past year. The generalizations in this article are based on what has been told to me by people in positions to know what is happening, but it would be impossible for anyone to determine who said what. My sources were glad of the opportunity to talk about conditions in the Police Department, with the assurance that their remarks would not be attributed to them. They spoke to me in hopes that some good might come of it.)

POLICE WORK IS hard and dangerous. For an honest policeman there are few rewards, and those are mostly the intangibles like the feeling of accomplishment in saving a life and solving or preventing a crime, and the personal satisfaction in a duty fulfilled and a job well done. Most policemen are in that line of work because there is nothing else that would give them those im-

SHERIFF FREEMAN'S PROPOSAL deserves more than the cursory glance given it by the City Commission when it was submitted last October. Freeman attended a meeting with City Manager Ron Stack, City Commissioners Mary Graham and Alton Weekley, and Louis Carbone, president of the American Association of Retired Persons, to discuss the possibility of the sheriff's taking over three responsibilities now in the hands of the Police Department: communications, jail, and the detective division. It was agreed at that meeting that the sheriff should submit a proposal to the city that would encompass all of the police operations in the city.

It was this proposal that was rejected by the City Commissioners, saying that it was not what they had asked for. Freeman contended in his proposal, "A law enforcement agency's operational and support functions are integral parts of the total operation and should not

THIS IS AN IDEAL TIME TO PROVE THAT "BUSINESS AS USUAL" AT CITY HALL AND IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF KEY WEST.

portant intangible rewards. And they are Key West policemen because they love Key West.

Deprived of support from some of their superiors, frustrated by the uncaring attitude of the City Commission, and fearful of retaliation if they try to improve their situation, they are trapped in a job they love in working conditions they despise. They want to be policemen in Key West, and the only way they can go on doing that under the present circumstances is to grit their teeth and man their watches the best they know how and try not to think about what goes on "upstairs." It is not only the higher salary that lures Key West policemen to the Sheriff's Department and other police agencies.

be separated. To separate these functions would create disadvantages, inefficiency, and mismanagement of vital community resources."

IN A FOUR-PAGE PROPOSAL "to assume the responsibilities of police service for the City of Key West by contractual agreement" dated October 23, 1978, and sent to the City Commission, City Manager Ron Stack, Police Chief Winston "Jimmy" James, and Louis Carbone, the sheriff said that he could provide the same police service for \$784,975 that the City would have paid \$1,062,307 for by running its own department.

In a recent interview, Freeman said that inflation would bring last year's projected savings of \$277,332 to about \$300,000 this year.

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The proposal listed several advantages of consolidation of city and county police services, including centralization of responsibility, concentration of manpower and resources, elimination of jurisdictional disputes, and better opportunities for grants. Duplication of communications, records, jails, and supervision would be avoided. Employee benefits would be improved through higher salaries, better retirement system, and greater opportunities for promotion.

FREEMAN'S PROPOSAL did not mention the main objection, along with the fear of concentrating so much power in the hands of one man, that has been voiced to me by city policemen: the loss of seniority, rank, and retirement benefits by veterans who may have spent all or most of their working lives in the Police Department.

Most policemen, deputies, and close observers agree that, whatever problems may exist in the Sheriff's Department, it has traditionally enjoyed a cleaner reputation than the Police Department, and the financial disclosure and polygraph requirements instituted by Sheriff Freeman will do nothing but improve the situation. On the other hand, some question the constitutionality and effectiveness of those requirements and contend that having the sheriff take over police work in Key West will compound the present problems, not solve them.

MOST PEOPLE FEEL that Freeman, who had no law enforcement experience before his election to office three years ago, is a good business administrator and is generally doing a good job as sheriff. But many point to the day when Freeman may be defeated in an election or retire, and they fear that another sheriff -- at whose pleasure the deputies serve, unprotected by the Civil Service Board -- may not be as fair and honorable as Freeman.

Freeman's proposal deserves more attention than it is evidently going to receive from the present City Commis-

sioners. But the voters will have the opportunity next month to elect a mayor and two commissioners, thereby changing the majority and thus the direction and philosophy of the City Commission.

WHILE THE CANDIDATES campaign this month and next, the voters can show that they really want to professionalize the Police Department by demanding that a significant change in police leadership be made a campaign issue. This change could be brought about by consolidation with the Sheriff's Department, by a grand jury investigation of the Police Department run by an outside state attorney, or by replacing the present leadership with proven, experienced leadership from outside Key West. By going outside the city, if only as far as the county, the influence of the machine that runs Key West politics can be diluted or avoided.

This is an ideal time to prove that "business as usual" at City Hall and in the Police Department is no longer acceptable to the people of Key West.



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BY EMMA CATES

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Mercury in Libra, after the 6th in Scorpio
Saturn in Virgo
Jupiter in Virgo
Mars in Leo
Uranus in Scorpio
Neptune in Sagittarius
Pluto in Libra
North Node in 6 degrees of Virgo

The Full Moon on October 5th is in the sign of Aries. The eleventh house of the chart of Key West will be aspected in a stressful manner. Friendship and money will not mix well at this time.

The New Moon on October 21st in Libra aspects the fifth house of the chart of Key West, also in a stressful manner. The fifth house is the area of creativity, so new and creative ways to come to terms with problems in the money department may be the outcome of these stress aspects in the chart of Key West. Saturn, the ruler of our chart, is joined by the Great Benefic, Jupiter, in the sign of Virgo. This is a very positive aspect for Key West, and it will continue for one year, until the fall of 1980.

There will be a stellium of planets in Scorpio, conjoining transiting work and employment in a favorable way during this period. The sign of Scorpio is strongly aspected in Key West's horoscope, and reacts strenuously to transits. At present, we are under very favorable aspects. The employment picture at this time is under very good and positive vibrations.



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BOUNTY

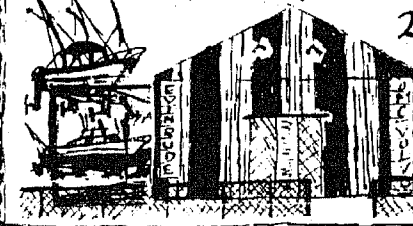


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wkend
7-6

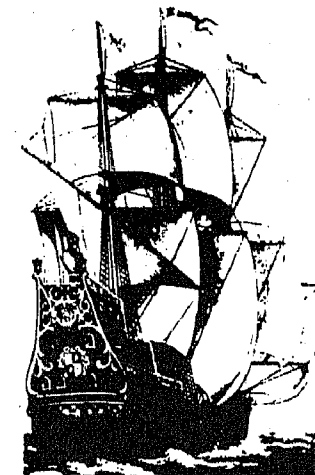
There are many ways to be stimulated. Some take their stimulation from the atomic peppers they serve with some of the creative dishes at the Orchid Tree. Others prefer more intellectual pursuits. For instance, a customer at the Orchid Tree was recently heard to ask, "Just what is the philosophy behind the I Ching?" I shall now devote this month's ad to a discussion of this query.

If one is to fully grasp the I Ching message, it is important to note that no devotee of such ever watches Charlie's Angels, is found on the Long Island Expy., or is a member of Leon Spinks' entourage. Such a person has never been known to be employed by Mutual of Omaha, nor has any I Chinger ever been seen eating in any restaurant where over 10 billion of anything has been sold. They have been seen eating atomic peppers at the Orchid Tree, at which point they act no different than you or I would, gasping frantically for a glass of water.

1114 Truman Ave. Mon-Sat Sunday
Closed Weds. 12-4 9-1 Brunch
296-9290 7-11 7-11

Treasure Ship

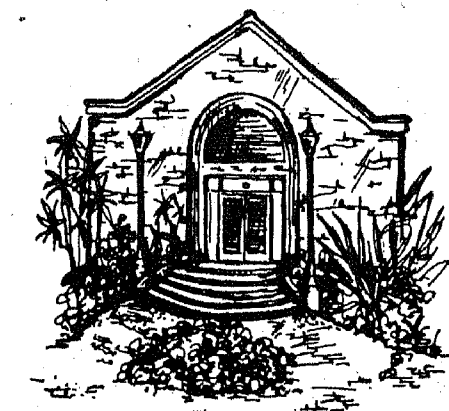
Atocha Coin Sales



Take a guided tour of a 168-foot Spanish treasure galleon built by Treasure Salvors, Inc. of Key West, the world's largest treasure hunting organization. See what life aboard ship was like in the 1600's. See some of the treasure that has been found in Florida waters. See the cannons from the "Nuestra Señora de Atocha" which sank in 1622 off Key West. She carried a cargo valued at over 100 million dollars. See the techniques Treasure Salvors is using to recover her gold, silver and gems.

WRECKERS WHARF
633 Front Street

The Key West Players



OUR 40th YEAR!

Private Lives

BY NOEL COWARD

Directed by Ruth Newton

November 5 - 10

Box Office Opens Oct. 29

Waterfront Playhouse, Mallory Square

Admission \$3.00

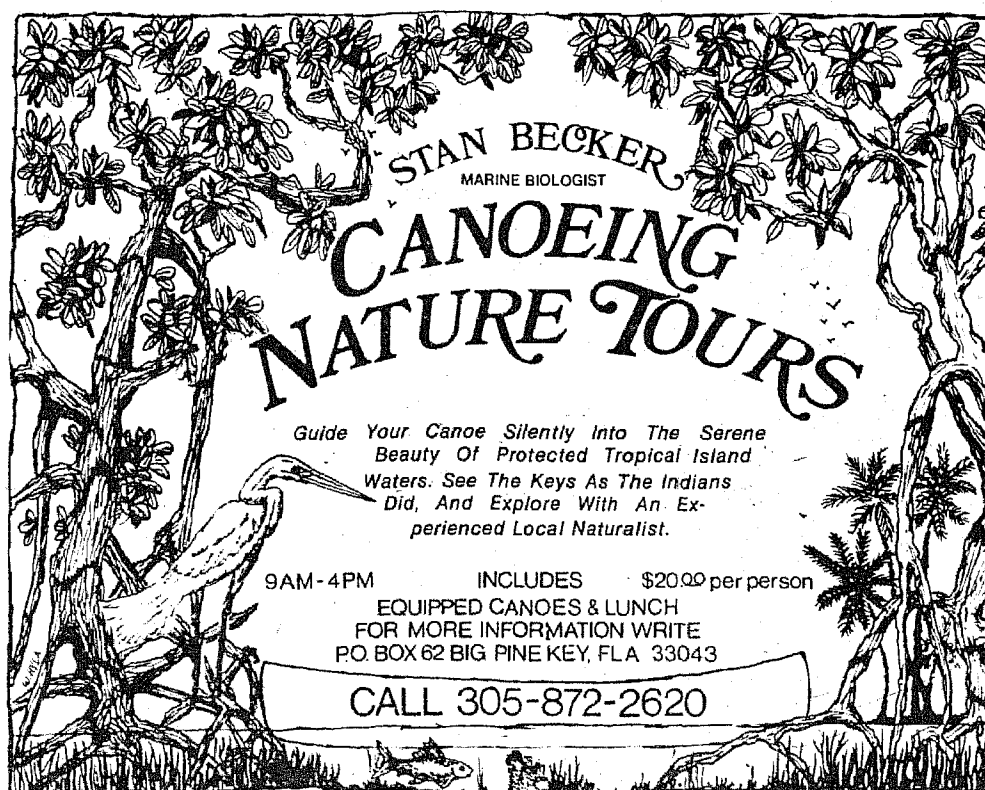
Friday & Saturday \$3.50

Season Subscription \$12.00

Box Office Open 11 am to 4 pm

Daily except Sunday

Telephone 294-5015



Ready in a Flash!

3 New Cameras from Kodak...

2X
Telephoto Lens

Only **\$59.95**

KODAK TELE-EKTRALITE 20 Camera Outfit

- Swing-out electronic flash
- Telephoto lens brings subjects twice as close
- Normal lens for regular shots
- Easy aim-and-shoot operation
- Includes film and batteries

KODAK EKTRALITE 30 Camera Outfit

- Swing-out electronic flash • Automatic exposure control • 1/500 second, stop action shutter speed • "Use flash" signal in viewfinder
- Aim-and-shoot simplicity

Just **\$67.95**

2X
Telephoto Lens

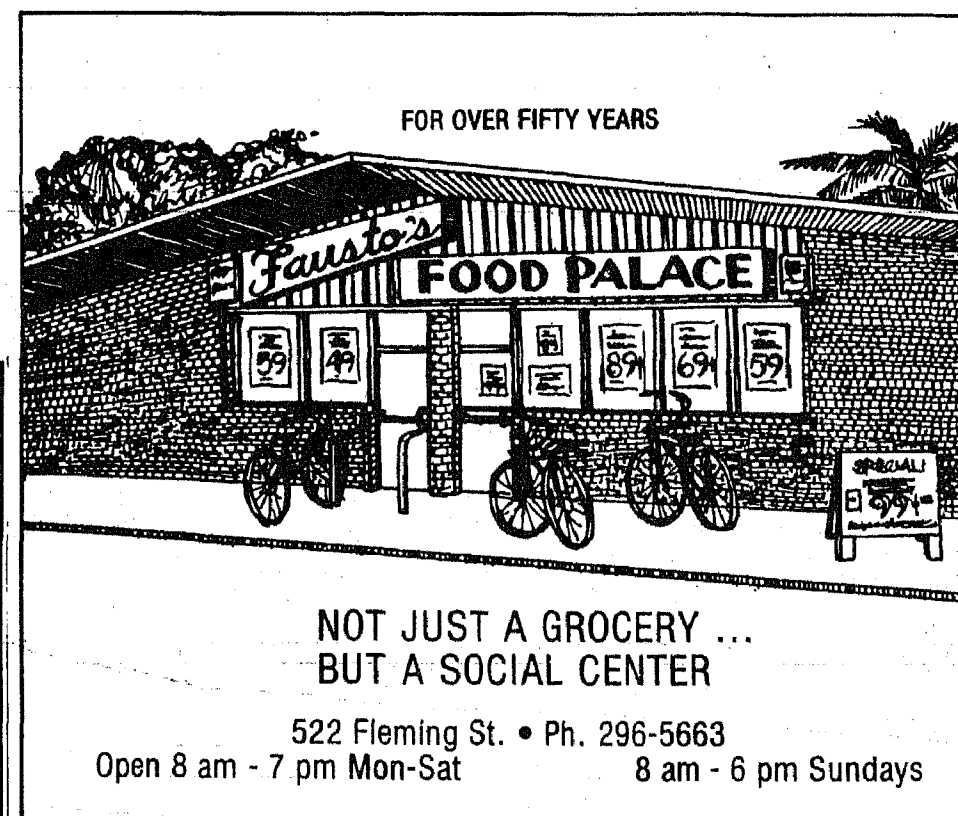
KODAK TELE-EKTRALITE 40 Camera Outfit

- Swing-out electronic flash
- Telephoto and normal lenses
- Automatic exposure control
- 1/500 second, stop-action shutter speed
- Continuous focus from 5' to infinity

Outfit **\$94.95**

SWIFT'S CAMERA & STEREO
423 DUVAL STREET
296-8576

All outfits are complete with film and batteries.

[illegible]

**Take a Second
To See Our Seconds!**

Terrific savings on nearly-perfect
Casserole Baskets
Plant Stands
Waste Baskets

You name it, you'll probably find it
in our seconds bargain room.

American Wicker Factory Outlet
524 Duval St., Key West

MasterCard Visa

OCTOBER CLASSES

THE COOK'S BAZAAR
— ON DUVAL ST. —
KEY WEST

9th TUES. (7-9) VEGGIE FEAST
12th FRI. (7-9) FISH 'N' CHIPS
16th TUES. (7-9) CURRIES
18th THURS. (10-NOON) WOK LUNCH
20th SAT. (10-NOON) COFFEES
23rd TUES. (7-9) CHINESE
PINNERS

SPACE LIMITED
SIGN UP NOW
611 DUVAL ST. . . . 296-6056

LETTER TO THE Editor

THE IMPENDING LEASE of the golf course by the city to developers brings to mind the many other leases now held by lease holders, in which the city does not derive any substantial revenues for our best lands. Not long ago I wrote of the research I had made into city leases and found many for \$1 per year and no substantial taxes on the improvements.

This week I went into the property appraiser's office and looked up the appraisal made of this 130.8 acres of choice prime land that comprises the golf course. I found the appraisal was too low for such magnificent land and the appraisal was for \$724. At the rate of millage allowed it would produce only \$17. This amount for 130.8 acres of scarce land that now comprise the city's holdings behooves us to ask the property appraiser to reevaluate his appraisal when the title of the property reverts to these developers whose idea will be to produce a championship golf course for the public, I hope.

The tax-exempt basis now enjoyed by the golf course, as city owned property, will disappear when the new owners take over. I hope they understand that being city owned land in private hands will not exempt their taxation of the golf course and, in particular, the perimeter, which will blossom with condos, and expensive second homes for the rich and near-rich.

THE PROPERTY APPRAISER assured me that he will personally reappraise all golf course lands with emphasis on the perimeter, which will be charged on a per-square-foot basis instead of an acreage basis. For that I am thankful. Too long have our leases on our proper-

ties been in favor of the lessee and the benefits are not in the citizens' favor. This will be our chance to add to the tax roll millions of new dollars that could eventually decrease our millage in the city to a more satisfactory figure. Our city commissioners must incorporate a definite time limit to renegotiate any lease, so that the city or the lease holder could reconsider their holdings and to no extent should our faith and credit of the city be used to finance any construction or development. We deserve extreme caution by our city commission, because it will be for a very long time that our most valuable choice land will be handed over, maybe for 99 years, and that is a long time. Remember this is our land, and we deserve the best and highest use of this property for ourselves and our children.

by Lawrence Gomez

SPEARFISHING

They see me come.
They are wary, attentive.
One comprehends that I am his;
The others fear, but witness.
Movement slows as I descend
To stalk an amethyst moment, when
I loose my lightning lance,
Striking a death's panic dance,
Flashing all a lightening glance
Beyond necessity to
Eternity.

You lie impaled.
Too late alarmed,
You hardly believe the change
To breathless and afraid.
"Your life shall fuel mine," I say.
And yet,
As the light slacks in your eyes to null,
I wish that I could put you back.

elf

"... The prettiest & most unusual jewelry we've seen ..."

— N. Y. Times

"... The best jewelry on the island ... must be seen ..."

— Vogue

"temptations ..."

— W

KEY WEST'S NEWEST LOUNGE & RESTAURANT

BIG SCREEN TV FOR MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

OPEN
7 DAYS
MON-SAT
7 AM-4 AM
SUNDAY
NOON-2 AM

SUNDAY NIGHT TALENT CONTEST

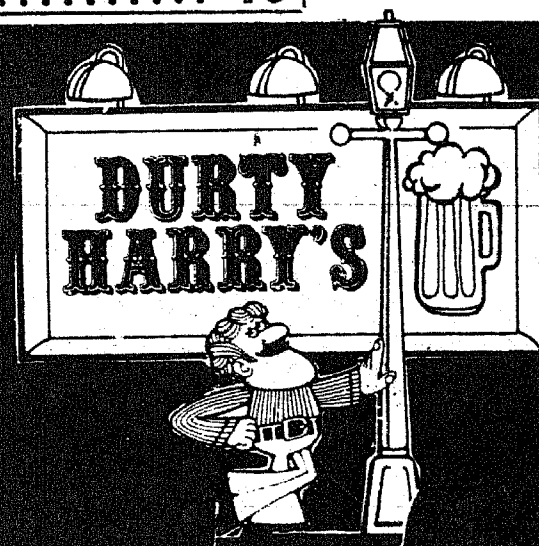
PRIZES
1ST.....\$50
2ND.....\$25
3RD.....\$15

JUDGING BY LOCAL
RADIO ENTERTAINMENT
AND BUSINESS
PERSONALITIES

ENTERTAINMENT
NIGHTLY—TUES-SAT
DEBBIE NEVINS
ON ACOUSTICAL GUITAR

HAPPY HOUR
5:00-7:00 PM
BAR-HI-BALLS \$1.00

EARLY BIRD
HAPPY HOUR
7:00-9:00 AM
BAR HI-BALLS &
BLODDY MARY'S \$1.00

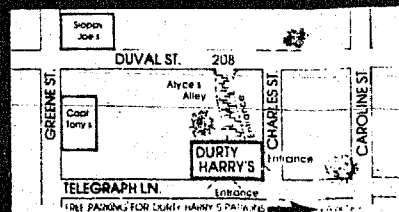


208 DUVAL STREET
IN OLD TOWN

Kitchen Opens 7 AM
Serving Breakfast
ALL HOURS

TALENT CONTEST

STARTS AT 9:30 PM
CONTESTANTS MUST
REGISTER BETWEEN
8:00-9:00 PM
FREE DRINKS
TO CONTESTANTS



goldsmith

114 fitzpatrick street 294-1243
hand fashioned jewelry

FANTASY FEST

AIDED BY A forward-looking group of Key West businessmen, the first annual Fantasy Fest, scheduled for October 26, 27 and 28, looks to be as lively a weekend celebration as Key West has known. The Tourist Development Association of Key West (which is composed of local businessmen) has planned an on-going adult costume party which will feature a great parade with floats and costumed entrants; a Masked Ball; and a \$1,000 prize for the best costume.

Friday night, October 26, the festival will officially begin with an opening ceremony at Mallory Square. There, the Grand Mistress of Madness, Mary Ellen Toppino, will intone all "spirits, spooks, ghosts and goblins to join the ceremony." An Island Seafood Fest, accompanied by Calypso music and dancing, will follow at Mallory and last

until 10 p.m. And then, a Masked Ball, which will feature a prize for the best costumed couple, will be held at Marriott's Casa Marina from 10 p.m. till 2 a.m.

Saturday at 9 p.m., the Grand Parade will begin at Virginia Street and Duval and continue down Duval past the reviewing stand, where the judges will be watching for the best float and marching band to pass by. Judging for the best costume will be held at the end of the parade at the reviewing stand at Front and Duval. All costume entrants are urged to march in the parade if they are able to. For the best float and the best marching band, the awards will be perpetual cup trophies. Prizes will be announced at midnight.

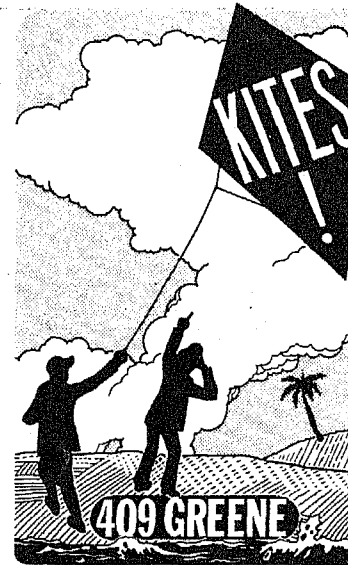
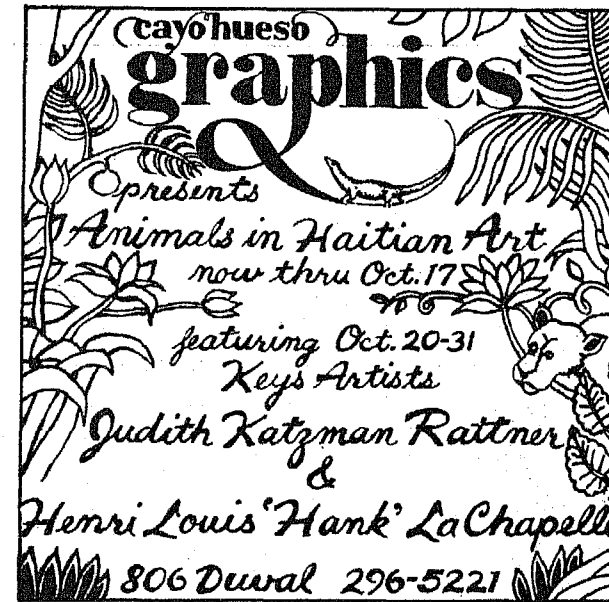
All vehicular traffic will be banned from Duval Street during the parade and from Eaton Street and Duval

to the water from the end of the parade until 2 a.m.

Sunday will be a day of repair: Hangover Brunches will be offered at the Casa Marina and the Pier House.

Entry forms for the floats can be obtained at Fast Buck, Air Florida ticket counter, Cavanagh's, Key West Fragrance and Cosmetic Factory, the Conch Tour Train box offices on Front Street and N. Roosevelt, Bird in Hand, Casa Marina, and Pier House. The deadline for float entrants is October 15. Entrants for the costume contest (all entrants must be 18 or older) can register up until the night of the parade, however.

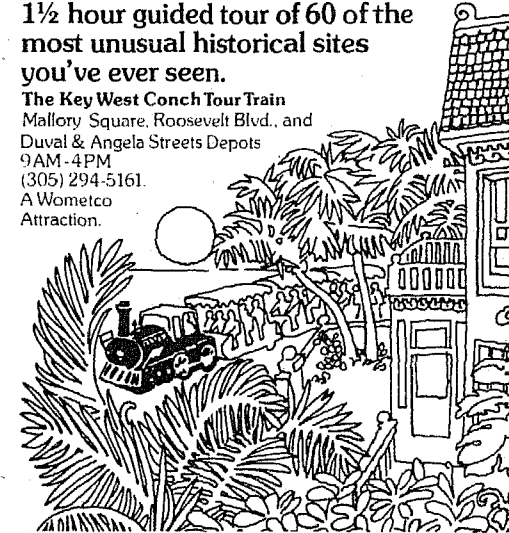
Festival promoters expect from 10,000 to 20,000 revelers to come on down for the fun. This is the first of an annual event and should give a great shot-in-the-arm to local businesses during this generally quiet off-season time.



Your key to the Key.

1½ hour guided tour of 60 of the most unusual historical sites you've ever seen.

The Key West Conch Tour Train
Mallory Square, Roosevelt Blvd., and
Duval & Angelo Streets Depots
9AM-4PM
(305) 294-5161.
A Wometco
Attraction.



Coming Soon

FISH

(A SEAFOOD HOUSE)

*Varieties of local fish
for the
varieties of local people*

4-3374
132 Duval St.

Catty-Corner
From Sloppy Joe's