

solares hill

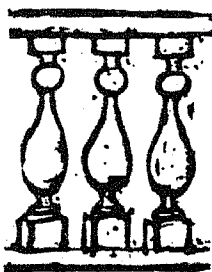


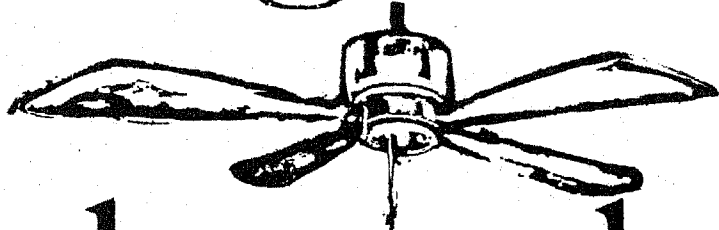
"The highest point in Key West"

VOL. 1, NO. 5

Key West, Florida

June, 1971

OUR SPECIAL

 sitting on the veranda
amid fans and ferns,
sippin' mint juleps, 
spouting tropical wis-
dom and  conch lore,
redshawling about the
neighbors, keeping cool,
 and whining
about the one that got
away

ISSUE



Our Choice: Tober of the Year

BUCKAROO STEAK RANCH PRESENTS:

FIRST ANNUAL KEY WEST BICYCLE RACE

JUNE 5, 1971

(IN CASE OF RAIN: JUNE 12)

ALL AGES - ALL CATEGORIES - ALL DAY

TROPHIES AND PRIZES

GRAND DRAWING FOR ALL ENTRANTS

ENTRY BLANKS AVAILABLE AT LOCAL MERCHANTS

OR BUCKAROO STEAK RANCH, SEARSTOWN

CATEGORIES

TRICYCLE AND TRAINING WHEELS (AGES 3-7)

CUBS/MIDGETS (AGES 8-11)

AMERICAN BICYCLE LEAGUE RACE (ALL AGES)

INTERMEDIATE RACE (AGES 12-14)

JUNIOR RACE (15-17)

OVER 18



Las Vegas' Pick

Back from a photo finish (tie for 39th) at the Tour de France, Solares Hill's own "Ace" Ptokapart has been given the Nevada bookies' nod to take the checkered flag at Key West's first "round-the-island pedal test." But "Ace" doesn't want to scare away the competition. He assures us he'll be equitably handicapped by the early A.M. June 5 after his training table on Duval St. starting at sunset the night before.

So come on out to the Buckaroo's Bike Race and watch our "Ace" leave them all in the marie dust.

Solares Hill is a community newspaper published every two weeks, except during the tropical summer when it appears monthly, on the slopes of Solares Hill, Key West's highest peak, by Solares Hill Publishing Co., 812 Fleming St., Key West, Florida, 33040. Subscription price: \$5.00 for 26 issues.

EDITORIAL MICHAEL PREWITT ART DIRECTION JERRY MILLER
EDITORIAL "DANCING BILL" HUCKEL PHOTOGRAPHY LEE BALLARD
ADVERTISING DONALD MARCH

With a little help from our friends ...

Vicky Lee, Spencer, The Filing System, Dink, Pat, Cas, Ray, Bud, Monroe County Library Historical & Reminiscence Society, 10-speed Sammy, Tom, Janet, Lowe House Nursery, JPN

Copyright © 1971. Solares Hill Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved.

Tober

What does Tober mean? Defining it is kind of hard but we can describe it. In Key West we have many examples of Tober.

Tober is Garfield umpiring a girl's slow-pitch softball league game.

Tober is Bud and Dorothy's reopening shindig at the Anchor.

Tober is the royal poinciana, now regal in its scarlet crown.

Tober is the restoration of the Mercedes Hospital (Poor Richard's) on Virginia St. by HUD and Hud.

Tober is Yehuda Guttman practicing scales during the intermission of his concerts at the Barn Theater.

Tober is Gerald Hernandez finding a parking space for his new Limey double-decker tour bus at Mallory Square.

Tober is "Bop" Brown and Sheriff "Bobby" Brown talking baseball.

Tober is making sure Mrs. Pell has enough paper for her cats.

Tober is having an apple from the Overseas Fruit Market, 934 Truman Avenue.

Tober is the beautiful wicker furniture in Paul Sawyer's office.

Tober is the jam session at Howie's on Sunday.

What is tober? It's what makes us say, "That's Key West and I'm glad I'm here."

Contents

- Cover Design by Jerry Miller
- The Big Race Tober Contents
- Consolidation by Louis Carbonell Editorial
- Summer Survival by Michael Prewitt
- The Sporting Life: The Griscom Bettle Interview
- Ace & Ed Mock Turtle Soup by Lyle Johnston
- From Our Community College by Carol Burston
- The Windisch Mural Capers by William Huckel
- Key West: Yesterday ... and Tomorrow
- The Inca Dove by Thurlow Weed
- MARC Summer Program Poems

CHILDREN'S ART

In our August issue, we will dedicate the Art and Poetry page to children's art. Art work by young artists (ages 0-10) may be submitted to Solares Hill, 812 Fleming St., Key West, Florida, 33040. Please submit to us any art work you wish to be considered along with a stamped self-addressed envelop and a short biography of the artist.

The Question of Consolidation

Louis Carbonell, Clerk of the Criminal Court of Record, Monroe County

Because of all the confusion, both in Key West and up the Keys, concerning the question of consolidation of Key West city and county services, Solares Hill went to Louis Carbonell, who has emerged as the primary advocate of consolidation. We felt it was important for the public to see in a clear statement just what Mr. Carbonell was proposing.

Presently Clerk of the Criminal Court of Record, Monroe County, and a former Key West city commissioner, Mr. Carbonell has had many years' experience in municipal and county positions.

The following is a tape recorded statement by Mr. Carbonell, taped the day after his speech to the Islamorada Chamber of Commerce...

Hello everybody, I'm Louis Carbonell, Clerk of the Criminal Court here in Monroe County and known as the spearheader of the consolidation movement that we are trying to put into effect here in our county at the present time.

Let me say this to start with. Quite a few people are of the impression that the city is taking over the county. That is not the fact of the matter. The fact of the matter is that the county is going to consolidate with the city, and the county government will control the entire county. That is due to the fact that the county has more money available in the County Courthouse. In one mill in the county tax it includes the entire county. When the city puts one mill in effect, it includes only the city limits of the city of Key West.

The ideal thing to do, would be to have one big consolidated county. In doing so that would immediately give us a population of 52,000 people. And when you've got 52,000 people, when you go to ask for help from the federal government, the state, or anyone else, it means quite a bit more than when you only have a 25,000 population, or only 4,000 or 5,000 people like some little areas on the Keys.

Now a lot of people have given me an argument about what the Keys are going to receive and what benefit they will get from consolidation. Let me say this right now, that the city of Jacksonville consolidated three years ago, and during that small period of time, they have lowered their taxes. True, the tax reduction has been very, very minor and very small, but in the meantime they have received services that the city of Jacksonville has never received before. These increased services are due to the fact that efficiency was put in effect up there. A lot of odd jobs - not odd jobs; I would say political jobs - were done away with up there. More money was coming in due to the fact that the governments were consolidated.

Just recently the Reader's Digest had an article on that particular consolidation in Duval County. You can find the article on page 11 of the May issue of Reader's Digest. They tell you all the improvements that took place in the short span of three years in Jacksonville. And I'd like to read that to you if I may. I'm not going to read the whole article; I'm just going to read the meat of the coconut here.

The article starts off: "How has Jacksonville done it? In 1967 voters approved the merger of all city and county functions eliminating a great deal of waste and inefficiency from duplicated facilities. Besides tax cuts, services have improved: The Police Force has been strengthened by 134 men. The Fire Department has been increased by 200 more men and enough money has been saved to install 7500 street lights and to replace 132 miles of worn-out sewer line." (We have quite a few worn out sewers in the city of Key West.) "...And to pave oversurface 676 miles of streets."

Now ladies and gentlemen this was done in a short span of three years in the city of Jacksonville. Jacksonville is not the only city that has been consolidated in the past. One of the biggest cities in the country, if not the biggest, New York City, has always been consolidated. You only have one Mayor that controls nine and one-half million people up there. You only have one Police Department, one Fire Department, one Scavenger Department, one Street Cleaning Department, one Recreation Department. They've been very successful over a span of over 75 years, there in New York City. True they have their ups and downs there, but that's due to the fact that there are more and more people residing there in New York than ever before.

But I maintain that if these other cities could do this thing, there's no reason why Monroe County can't do it.

Now Leon County, which is Tallahassee, Fla., the capital of our state, is going to vote on the same thing we're trying to do right here in Monroe County now. The people of Leon County are going to vote on consolidation come November.

Over here on the west coast, Tampa, Fla., which is Hillsboro County, is trying to put in what we call the manager form government and also what they

call a "home rule," which is another word for consolidation. All departments in Hillsboro County and municipal governments will be consolidated into one big home rule County. Again, there'll be big savings in taxes to the people of Hillsboro County.

Right up here on the east coast, in Ft. Pierce, Fla., which is St. Lucie County, they are now going through a consolidation period. They are working on a new charter to put in consolidation there.

So ladies and gentlemen I say this to you: If these other four counties, if these other cities throughout the country, can get together and consolidate because they think it's good for them, why can't we do that right here in Monroe County?

Rest assured that if I didn't think that this was good for the entire Keys and for Key West, I certainly wouldn't be out here fighting for it the way I am right now.

True, the people of Key West have the most to gain in this issue in the very beginning, but that's due to the fact that we are going to eliminate quite a few of the department heads in the city. You won't need a city attorney, we won't need two city judges, we won't need the City Court. All the busts will be transacted right here in the County Courthouse. And also the salaries of the city commissioners will be eliminated. There will be only one commission, which is your county commission. And, by the way, all officials in the county that will control this consolidation are to be elected by you. You, the people.

They are going to be voted on, ladies and gentlemen. It's up to you to put the people in office that you think will do the job that they should do to make consolidation a success.

Now just in case you don't know this, there are already three county offices consolidated with the city. Your County Tax Assessor, who is Joe Allen, does all the assessing for the city and for the county. Your Supervisor of Registration, William "Billy" Freeman, Jr., does all the registration for the city and for the county. And as of this year, your Tax Collector, Harry Knight, will be collecting all the city taxes and the county taxes.

So there you have already three departments consolidated. There's not too much left over there to consolidate.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me say this once more; that it stands to reason anytime that you have one big law enforcement department, one big county-wide fire department, one big county-wide recreation department, one big county-wide scavenger department; you've got to save money. A consolidated government has got to be operated much more efficiently than three or four individual cities.

Now we have one particular little city up here on the Keys known as Key Colony Beach. There we have 377 people there. Key Colony Beach wants to remain as they are. They want to remain as their little individual city and be independent. There's no reason why that can't be done. If they want to pay two taxes, a city tax and a county tax there, and remain as the Key Colony Beach City, they can remain that way. And I have promised the Mayor of Key Colony Beach, that I'll personally talk with my committee and see that when the charter is drawn up, that Key Colony Beach will remain as the City of Key Colony Beach.

Layton is another small city on the Keys with about 100 people residing there. They incorporated and formed a little city up there a few years ago. If they care to remain independent, they can do so.

It's entirely up to the individual cities; it's entirely up to the individual voters to vote what they think is best for the county.

I don't know of anything better that can happen to Monroe County today than to go into consolidation and go into it as soon as possible. We want to make one big happy family, one big happy county.

The city has an election in November. Only this morning we had a little meeting of our committee and we agreed to go before the city commission and ask them to put this consolidation question on the ballot and allow the city only, the voters of Key West, to vote to abolish the city, which will give us the same results that we're trying to get now on a county-wide vote.

Now if the City of Key West votes to abolish Key West, we don't lose the image of Key West. Key West remains Key West but it won't be the City of Key West. It will be Key West, Fla. Monroe County. That's the way it will be, but we'll still have the name Key West.

continued on p. 10

Editorial

THOUGHTS ON CONSOLIDATION:

1. Money. The consolidation will initially cost the taxpayer more money than the normal maintenance of the County. However, once the consolidation is totally set up, the millage rate on property taxes may be decreased.

To quote from the same Kansas City Star article referred to by Mr. Carbonell, "For the third year in row, property taxes have been reduced in Jacksonville, Florida. Granted, the reductions have been small—just 1 1/2 cents on each \$100 in assessed valuation a year. But during the same period most American cities have been looking desperately for new sources of revenue."

This decrease in millage for a consolidated Monroe County will be made possible through a streamlining of administrative and supportive services.

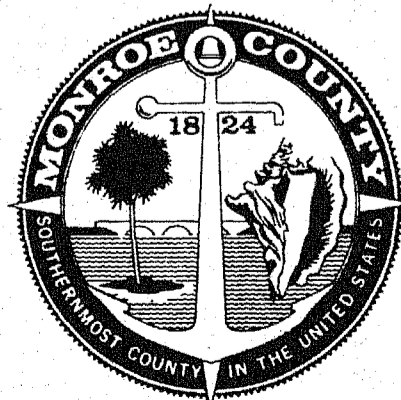
So we come around to the question of jobs. Let's take the law enforcement situation for example. Sitting in the County Sheriff's Department and in the City's Police Department on a given afternoon are, let's say, two dispatchers, 2 lieutenants, 2 secretaries, etc. Consolidation would cut out the duplication of support functions and allow for an increase in the on line services to the public. By cutting out a secretary and a dispatcher, the county-wide law enforcement division could increase its manpower out on the beat. The same kind of streamlining could go on in the other consolidated departments.

2. How specifically will this desire for consolidation be acted on? Mr. Carbonell and friends have petitioned the City Commission to put the question of un-incorporating the City of Key West before the public in the November election. The state legislature is empowered to incorporate or un-incorporate a municipality. The straw vote taken in November in Key West will show the legislature public sentiment on this matter. The legislature could then act, as early as their session in February, 1972, to un-incorporate the City of Key West and approve a new charter for Monroe County.

3. Candor. If the question of consolidation is to be fairly dealt with, then both proponents and opponents of the measure must be "out front" in their actions. The question has barely been opened to the public and already there are rumors as to the "powers behind the scene" who are manipulating and puppeteering for their own political advantage. Several County officials have refused to give statements on consolidation and Mr. Carbonell seems reluctant to name his "kickin' party." It is important that the residue of past political corruption, why can't this move for a new political structure also be the beginning of a fresher, more candid approach to politics for Key West and Monroe County.

4. Why consolidation now? Presumably the City of Key West's financial crisis has been largely responsible for this initiative toward consolidation. But the process of consolidation, if it is to be carried out thoroughly, is a long-term job. How does the question solve City Finance Director, Charlie Aguero's problem of meeting June's payroll? It is important that the problem not be lost in all the lofty brainstorming about new services and a greater tax base.

One county commissioner suggests that the contracting of municipal services to the county would be a first step in saving the city money and in



HOW TO SURVIVE THE SUMMER

A Manual of Tropical Wisdom and Conch Lore

Michael Prewitt

drawings by Dink Bruce

SUMMER SURVIVAL

It's 10 PM, late May and the termite residents of this Conch house are on the wing for their annual air show. Your reporter just went down to the kitchen for a glass of water. Returning he finds that he's covered with sweat and there's no southern breeze to step into. Late May and it's already this hot? How are we ever going to last the summer?

Next AM: Your reporter is on his bike looking for someone who's lived on this island for some time and has summered here without asphyxiation or heat stroke. Not only that, he thinks, since the town has settled down after all those frenetic visitors from up North have left, there must be some things that the hanger-oners do to enjoy this tropical summer.

As your reporter rounds a familiar corner, now scarlet from a poinsettia and its flower carpet, he sees his quarry, a conch lady of some acquaintance moving down the sidewalk as if it were Christmas Week. How does she stay cool and energetic?

"Excuse me, Ma'am. What do the native islanders do to stay cool and...how do you survive this summer heat?" Your reporter wipes his brow with the towel which has become as much of a fixture on his handle bars as the flashlight.

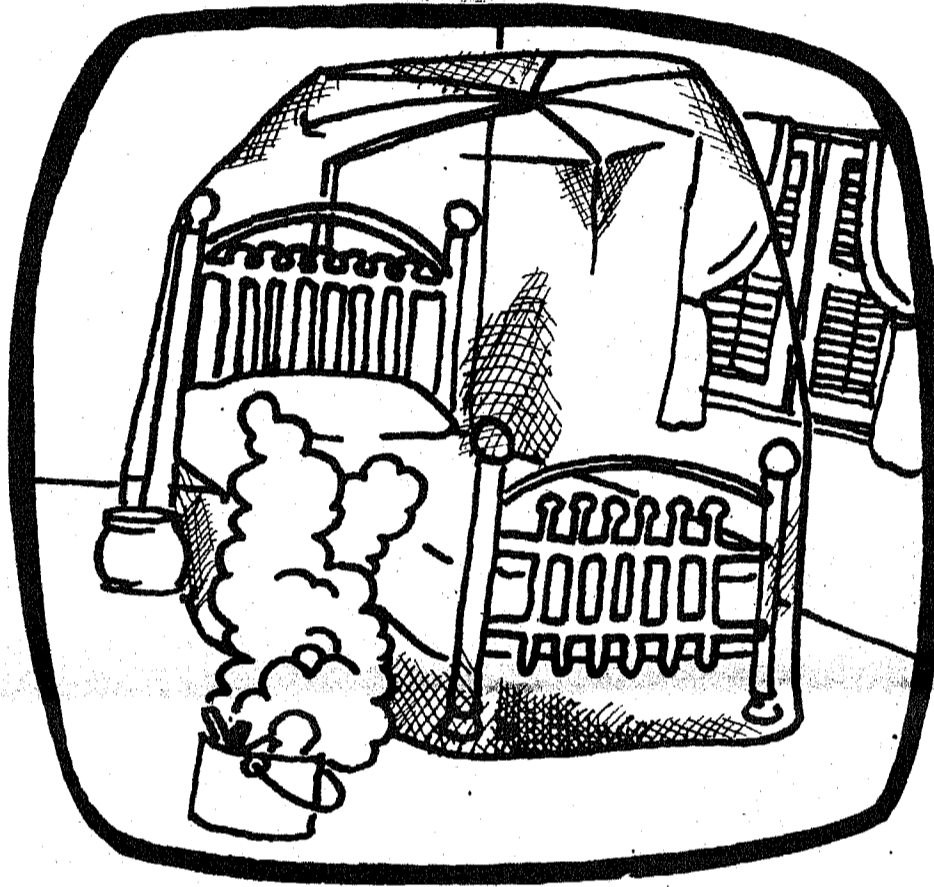
"Well, young man, we've been here awhile and you learn a few tricks. Season is what my daddy always said real conchs do durin' the summer. Said they just 'return under a wet rock and stay there.'" She grins and stoops to pick up the notebook and pencil which your correspondent has dropped while reaching for the towel.

Later on her porch, "amid ferns and fans" to quote from a recently seen magazine cover, our conch storehouse of information lets your man in Key West in on some well-tested summer survival techniques.

This visit and several other chats has enabled Solares Hill to put together a manual of hints for summer survival. Hope you're reading this in the shade, mint julep in hand.

Meanwhile, your reporter has found his own monogrammed wet rock near the top of Solares Hill and is rummaging (slowly) around among some old bottles marked Suseary. So far he's just found soda water, but here's a row with some darker liquid....

The mosquito bar was a delicate netting pitched over the bed allowing air to pass, but keeping the bugs out. Remember Toby Bruce's recollections of his days in Fogarty House as a boarder in Mrs. Watrous' rooming house. (described in vol. 1, no. 1, Solares Hill) Being WPA days, the house was full of government administrators and Toby's room was the second floor hallway. To insure that he wasn't eaten alive by the still plentiful population of mosquitoes (regrettably mosquito eradication was never a WPA project), Toby employed a mosquito bar over his bed.

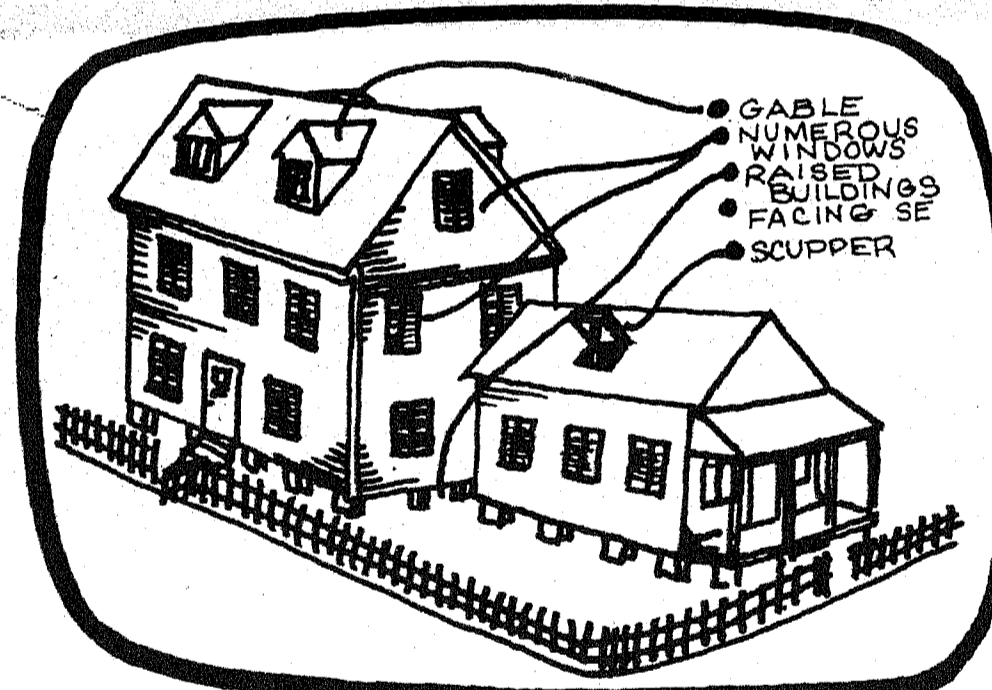
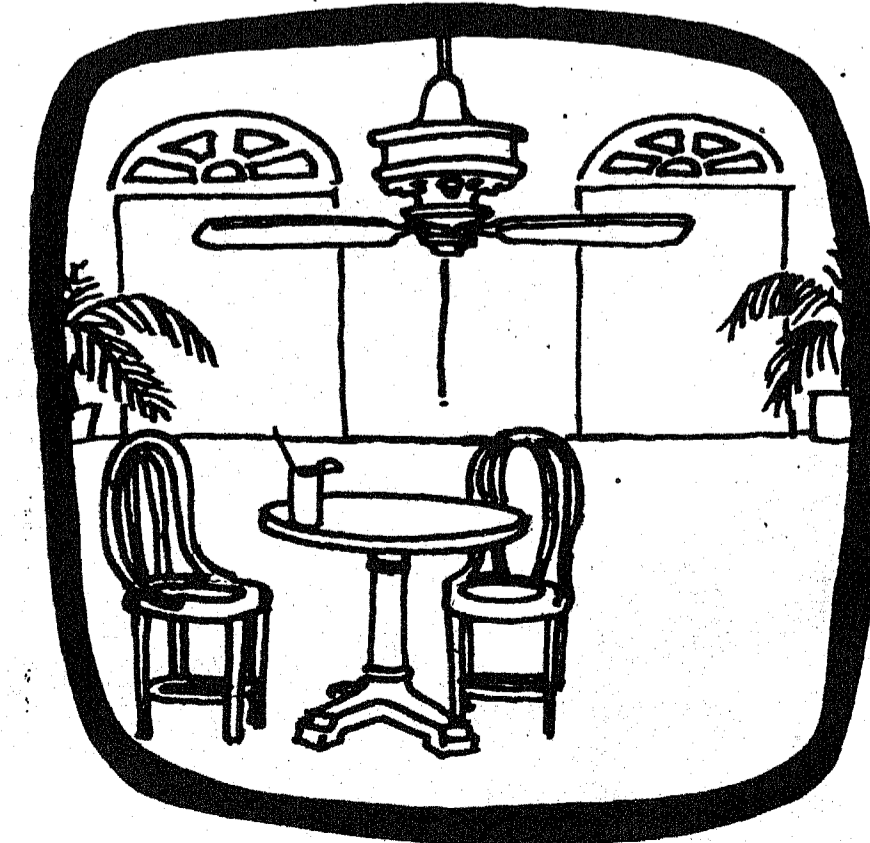


THE FANS

The rotary fan, after the inception of electricity on the island, became a standard in many conch houses, especially those which had the high ceilings so popular in the late 19th century. Today these rotary fans are still in use, circulating the air in many homes and commercial establishments all over the island. Take a look at the overhead fans in the Overseas Fruit Market, for example.

Rotary fans are by no means obsolete. The Hunter Ceiling Fan is the Cadillac of rotary fans and is available at Home Appliance Co., 605 Simonton St. Listen to what the Hunter people say about their fan.

"Operating at slow speeds, Hunter Ceiling Fans are ideal for quiet circulation of large volumes of air at low velocities. Extremely quiet operation, dependability and inexpensive installation have made Hunter Ceiling Fans the standard for hotels, restaurants, offices, stores, and homes since 1886. They are ideal for meat and fruit counters as vestibule fans in stores, and especially over open doorways to divert insects."



THE BREEZES

Conch houses are designed to provide their own natural ventilation. Before the advent of the air conditioning machine, native islanders had a definite system for cooling their dwellings.

In the morning the houses were closed up with the shutters allowing very little sunlight in. The windows were kept open and the slats in the shutters allowed for maximum passage of air.

By evening the houses were opened up and the scuppers, those small hatches still seen on the roofs of many conch houses, were propped up to allow the warm air to flow upwards and out of the houses. The prevailing southeast breezes almost always brought cooling air to the town in the evening. And the houses were readied for the breeze just as a sailing ship is rigged for sea travel.

There are stories still heard on some of our more remote lanes that the best way to insure good ventilation is to kick out your screens. Although the screens allow some air to pass through, the best air passage comes only with fully open windows.

Mosquitoes? "Mosquitoes," the conch has been saying even since the time when the island hummed with these swarming pests, "they don't bother us conchs; they're used to our old blood and are tired of it. They're just looking for fresh meat."

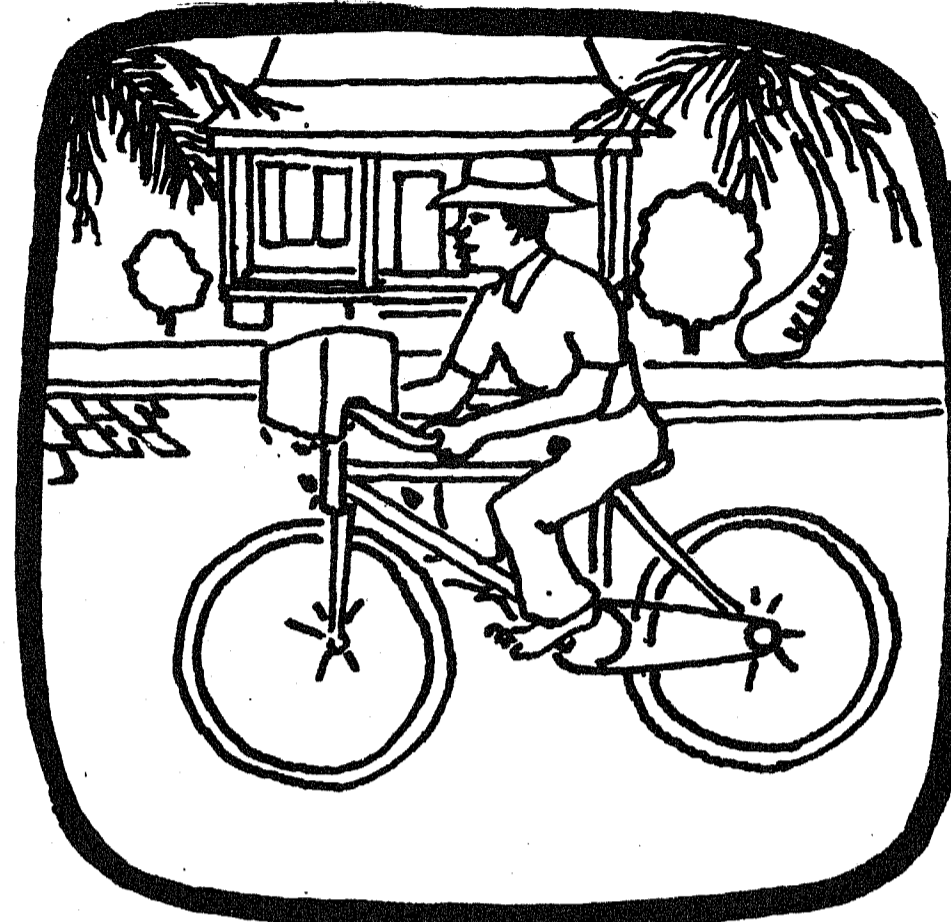
But whether the conch was really bothered by mosquitoes or not, conch culture provided several tricks which cut down on the biting insects. Just before bedtime, the house was closed up again and tobacco stems were put in a pot and ignited. The smoldering tobacco stems provided a smoke which chased away the mosquitoes and left the house free of the insects for most of the night. The tobacco stems were readily available from the cigar industry which boomed on the island during the island during the latter half of the 19th century.

Even with the conchs' bravado about his immunity to mosquitoes and the tobacco smudge put treatment, there was one last measure employed in almost every household to keep away the insects.

ICE

"Cool it, man, with ice from Consumer's"—early conch advertisement.

Before the automatic ice maker and even prior to the ice tray, the solid form of water was readily available in Key West at either the Consumer Ice Co. or Thompson's Ice House. Mr. Alfred Sawyer, manager of Herman's on Duval St., remembers pedaling home with a block of ice on his handle bars. Once home the ice would be shaved (cracked, to use the native term) and used to make a variety of coolers and ices listed below.



COOLERS, AND A JAM

The most common coolers for native islanders, before the advent of Fresca and Yoo-Hoo, were the tamarind and Spanish lime drinks. An afternoon visit on Caroline St. or Eaton St. was often highlighted by a tall glass of tamarind syrup and water over "cracked" ice. The syrup is made from the tamarind pods, soaked overnight. The next day take the pulp from the seeds and wash it. Then add sugar and water to taste (usually about a cup of tamarind pulp to a little less than a cup of sugar).

Trade Winds Cookery, by Norma A. Davis (The Dietz Press, Inc., Richmond, Va.) contains a wealth of information of foods and drinks which can be made from our native tropical fruits. White's Book Shop on Fleming St. had Trade Winds Cookery on order. The tamarind, Miss Davis tells us, is a laxative and "the beginning and end of the true chutneys." Here is her recipe for Tamarind Jam, which comes from Key West:

TAMARIND JAM

5 pounds shelled tamarinds
sugar
water

Cover tamarinds with water. Let stand overnight. In the morning, remove pulp from seeds by rubbing the tamarinds through a sieve. Return the pulp to the water in which fruit was soaked. Measure the mixture and add an equal amount of sugar. Roll until mixture is thick, stirring constantly to prevent scorching. Pour into sterilized jars while hot. Seal immediately.

The Spanish lime cooler is made the same way as the tamarind drink. Mixing to taste the lime juice, sugar and water, a syrup is produced. Over cracked ice, pour this syrup and water. Drink under a shady tree or on a porch.

RELAXERS

Julep is a word from the Ancient Persian meaning, "rose water." Today it means bourbon, sugar, a lot of ice, fresh mint and a veranda. Let's go back to *Pena's Garden of Roses* for their recipe of this quintessentially southern, summer, sippin' drink. Start the day before you want to drink your mint juleps. (It'll only take you a day to set up a regular schedule, if you're planning on becoming a steady mint julep drinker.) Make a syrup out of bourbon, crushed mint (the truly professional drinker-chemist deploys a mortar and pestle here) and sugar. Let this "martini" set overnight. The next day sniff the julep mix and sample occasionally until you and your potion are just right (this feeling is hard to describe in words, but seasoned mint julep samplers have little difficulty determining the moment of truth of a mint julep mix).

Make your mint julep over cracked ice; a layer of syrup, a layer of bourbon, another layer of syrup, again the bourbon, more syrup, more bourbon, until you've reached the top of one of those tall, frosted glasses. Garnish with a healthy sprig of mint.

Another favorite at *Pena's* (still served today at *Logan's* by Tony to many discriminating natives) is the "instant daiquiri." Rum, half a lime, ginger ale. Now, relax.

ICE CREAM

What can one say about El Anon (The Sugarapple)? Situated next to the Ocean Club on Duval St., El Anon for years was the hub of social life for most of Key West's young people. This famous ice cream parlor was owned and operated by Jesu Carmona, now residing in Miami. Jesu's fare included some of the finest ice creams the Southermost has ever seen.

Served in big Coca-cola glasses, Jesu Carmona's ices came in the flavors of all the tropical fruits found in this part of the tropics: mango, mango, cantaloupe, guava, chocolate (with walnuts), coconut (informed sources assure us that coconut ice is good for the kidneys), sourop, pineapple, and of course, sugarapple.

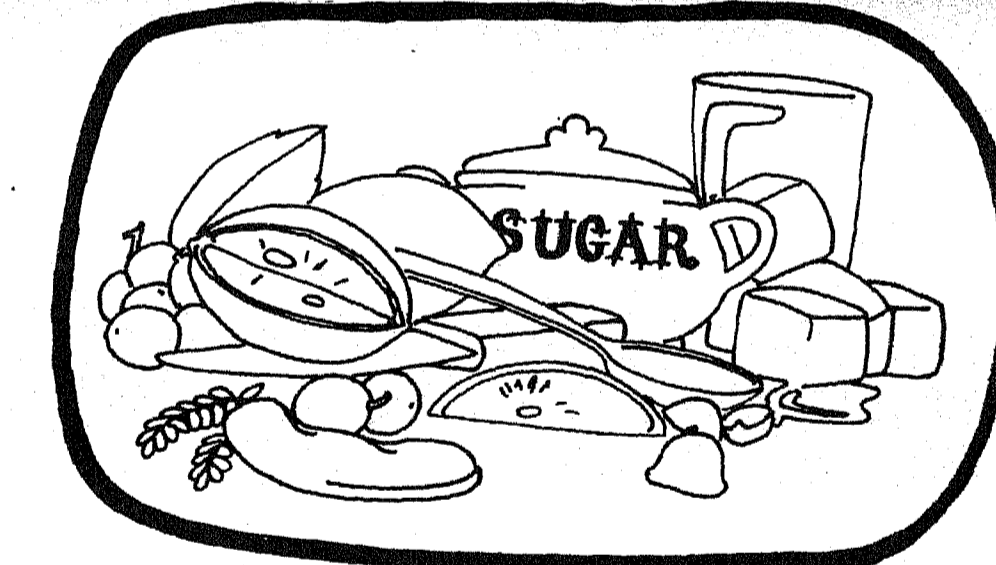
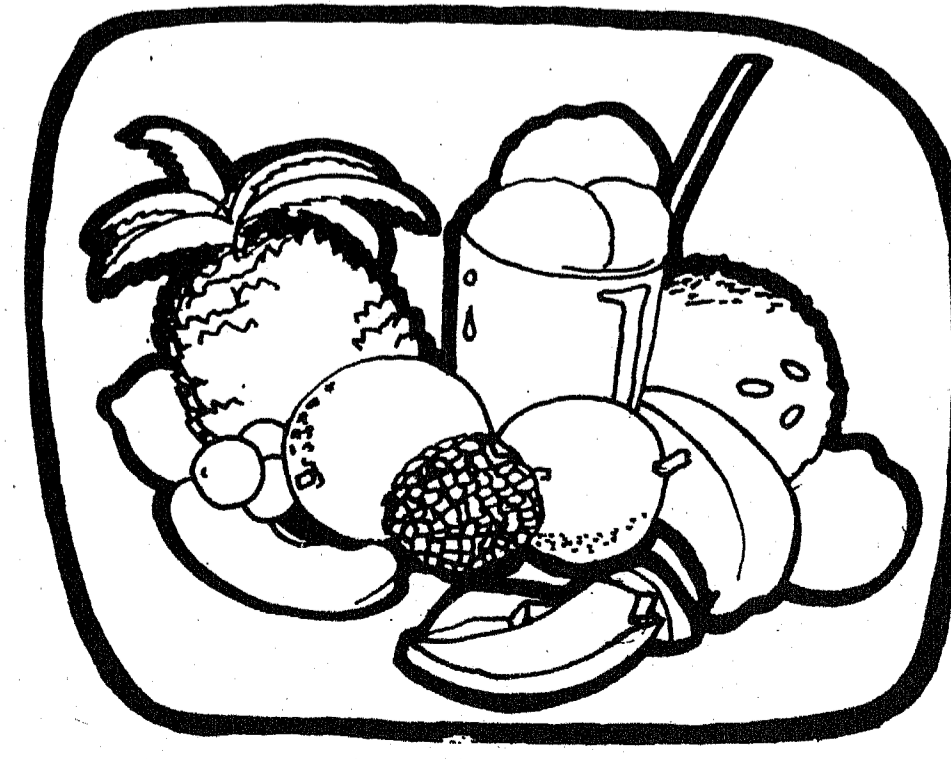
Today El Caribe Restaurant features many of the same tropical fruit ices. A favorite for many of the Duval St. regulars is Mangop.

Another fine ice cream in the Spanish tradition is *manteado*, a type of vanilla, but with a hint of creamy, memory tang. *de Coma* brand Manteado is available at La Plaza Super Market, corner of Elizabeth and Fleming Streets. Be sure to insist on Manteado. It's not vanilla ice cream. *No es lo mismo.*

Isabel Lester is still making her own ice creams. The favorite for Little Lance (average consumption: half a gallon/day when available) is coconut ice cream. Here's Isabel's recipe:

1 quart	Coconut Milk
2 envelopes (2 cups)	Carnation powdered milk
1 pint	whipping cream
1 pint	half and half
3 cans	Magnolia sweetened condensed milk
	Jellied coconut meat
2 quarts	ice
	ice cream salt.

Scrape the jellied coconut out of the shell, being careful not to scrape down to the brown skin of the meat. Blend the coconut jelly with about a cup of coconut milk, until the meat is in fine chunks (Little Lance likes bigger chunks). Blend the rest of the ingredients and put in ice cream maker. Add ice and rock salt. Churn until crank is hard to turn (or motor is having a hard time). Yield: about one gallon. Isabel recommends the green Malayan coconut, but tells us that most species on the island make a fine ice cream.



OUTINGS

A picnic with wind-up phonograph (or transistorized tape deck) and some Coke with a little "freshener" and a line at the Butcher Pen Beach, (the Picnic Trees), corner of White St. and Atlantic Blvd.

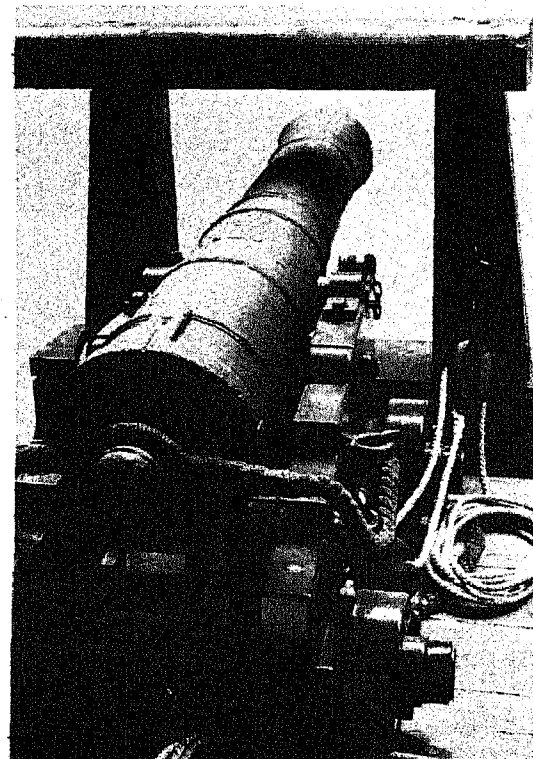
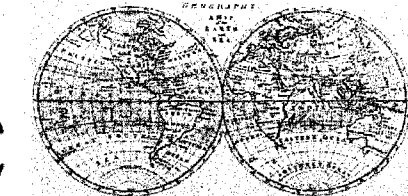
If you're lucky, there may be a group of musicians sitting on the bumper of their car, playing bongos, congas, saxs, blocks of wood, tin cans, etc. A calypso jam session.

The above collective wisdom goes to show that there are some tricks to summering here at the Southermost. Hope your mint juleps turn out as well as ours do.

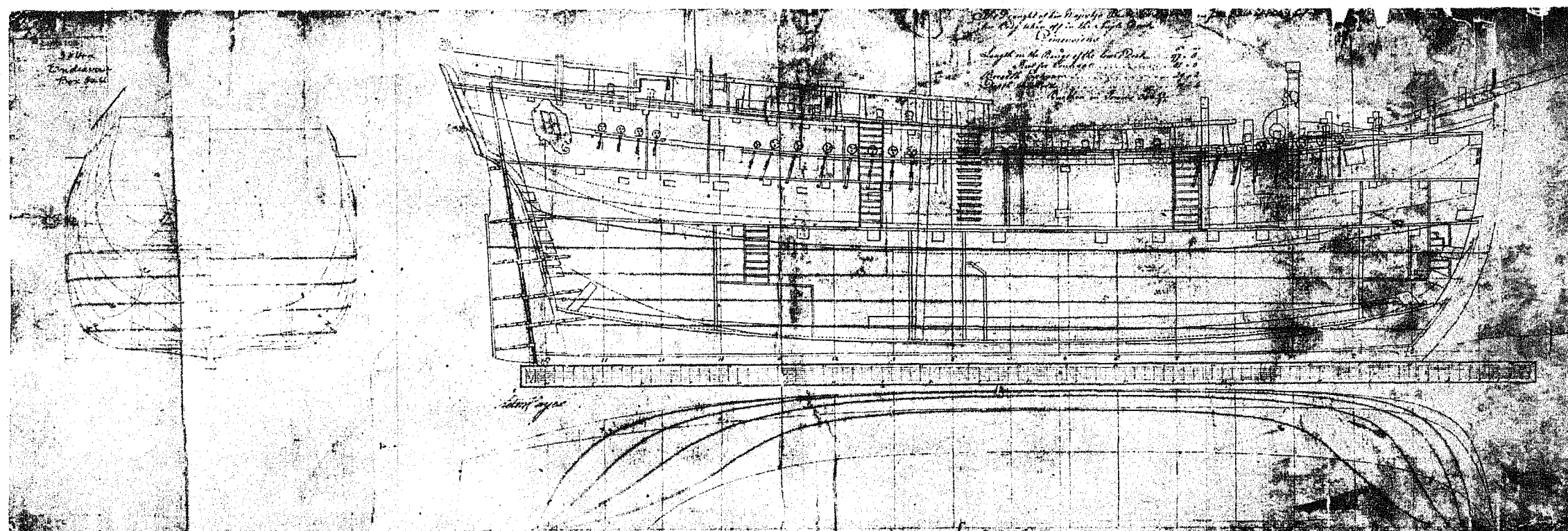
July: Survival Refresher Course

Just in case you'll be needing a refresher course in survival in about a month, Solares Hill's July number will feature a few additional tips on conch culture. We'll be looking down into the Art of Well Digging. Thurlow will be watching some of our summer winged visitors. And, if "Ace" survives the sunstroke he's sure to get in the bike race, he's bound to be pestering Ed. about one thing or another. So, as they say on Cable-Vision, stay tuned.

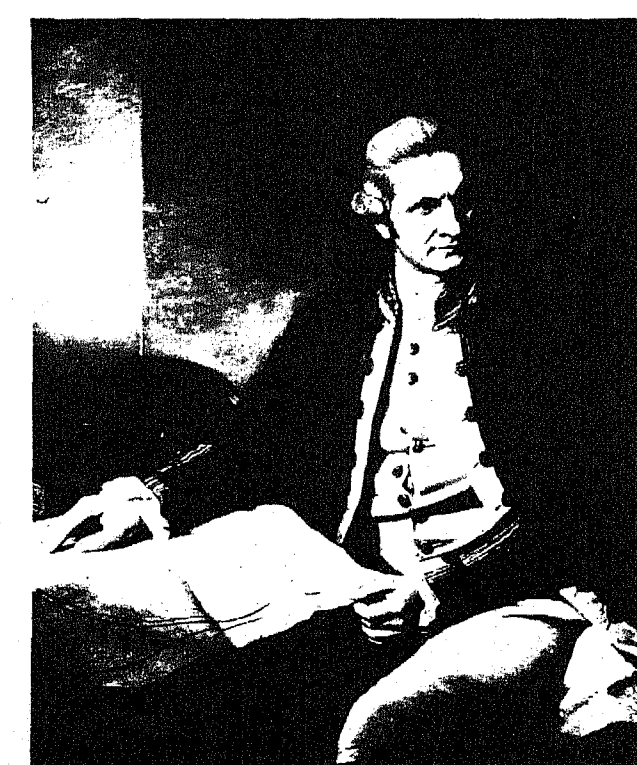
The Sporting Life of



1.



2.



3.

Griscom Bettie's Key West: after a day of fishing, Bettie perches on his widow's walk.

1. one of Cook's cannon's: abandoned, 1770; recovered 1969.

2. diagram of Cook's ship, the HMS Endeavor.

3. Capt. James Cook, 1776, by Nathaniel Dance.

Why an interview with this man Bettie? Griscom Bettie is a sportsman, an outdoorsman who gets up each day looking for the challenges which give his life—and his talk—the edge of a tempered blade. Associate the idea of respect with Griscom Bettie. He respects the fish and the sea which he faces every day. He looks for—and summons up—a respect in others. He respects himself.

Griscom and Daphne Bettie moved to Key West two years ago from Philadelphia. As Daphne says, Griscom is one of "those Philadelphia Quakers." Mr. and Mrs. Bettie use the familiar, "thee" in conversation with one another.

"Let me tell thee what happened today on the boat, Daphne."

"Oh, Griscom, thee does have thy problems on the boat, doesn't thee."

In Philadelphia Griscom Bettie worked as an engineer for the Budd Company, the world's largest manufacturer of automotive parts. He spent many years on planning and survey teams, developing the new vital metropolitan mass transit systems for some of the U. S.'s largest cities. Recently he had the job of test engineer on the Metroliner, the new high speed train running from New York to Washington, D. C.

Now Key West. Early to bed and early to rise, Griscom rides his 10-speed bicycle to Garrison Bight and Ed Ciesinski's Swim Fin II most mornings at 6:30. As Ciesinski's mate, Griscom Bettie has the time to involve himself in the things he loves best: fly fishing for bonefish and permit on some of his "hot spots" out in the flats, diving the reefs with an underwater camera, designing and redesigning boats, cars, motorcycles—the tools which keep him going.

The interview was held over and behind Metroliner beer in the restored living room of the Bettie's majestic house at 820 Southard Street. One of the main subjects to arise in our talk with Griscom was his part in the recovery of Capt. Cook's cannons off Australia in 1969. The report on the recovery, appearing in *Australian Natural History Magazine* (December, 1969), describes Griscom Bettie as "sportsman, scuba diver and engineer par excellence." Read on. We think you'll find that Griscom Bettie gave Solares Hill an interview par excellence.

SOLARES HILL: Your wife has said that you have certain very basic, very simple things that you believe in and that you live these things to the ultimate, that you stand by these things. I assume that beyond some religious things that these principles involu...

BETTIE: I don't know where religion starts and stops. I don't have the foggiest notion....

SOLARES HILL: Right, but beyond that there are

questions of physical adventure which....

BETTIE: Now that's religion.

SOLARES HILL: Well, then what does this mean to you? What does it mean to go to Australia, to look for cannons on the Great Barrier Reef, or to drive a train across Mexico?

BETTIE: Well, they're fun, they're exciting, they're new. There's machinery going. You meet pleasant people—a few bastards, but I've met an awful lot of nice people. My motorcycle friends are always good sports, always fun and generous to a fault.

SOLARES HILL: How did you get into motorcycling?

BETTIE: When I was twelve or thirteen I saw a Sears and Roebuck ad for an engine that would go on a bicycle. And I just went from there to about a hundred and fifty motorcycles since. Including some pretty sophisticated ones. I never was good enough to really compete, but I sure had fun. And the same thing applied to racing outboards, to airplanes—I raced airplanes a little bit, crashed three of them.

SOLARES HILL: Was this after you were a pilot, or before you were a pilot?

BETTIE: Hal! A good pilot doesn't crash.

SOLARES HILL: I mean was this after your service in WWII?

BETTIE: No. Well before that. I stacked up an airplane and got my license while I was still in the hospital, recovering from the crash. That was a head-on collision. Damn near lost this leg, see the scar? Put my head in the crank case of my engine.

And then when I was courting Daphne, I stuffed one into a field down in Virginia. And then just the normal problems of a combat pilot during the War. After the War I flew commercially for the fun of it mostly. A couple of hippodrome races, for instance.

SOLARES HILL: What's a hippodrome race?

BETTIE: This is a fixed race. We couldn't get airplanes with the same capacity and the same type, so we put on a show. I would lead for a while, and he would lead for a while, and then another guy would take it. Finally someone would cheat and win the whole shebang, and everyone would be sore at him.... great fun.

SOLARES HILL: Just like wrestling.

BETTIE: Yes, exactly like wrestling. We used to do that too.



Griscom Bettie

interviewed by Michael Prewitt

SOLARES HILL: It sounds as if this is almost a narcotic for you. One way or another, every day, some kind of physical challenge, some competition is important.

BETTIE: Narcotic is a good description, as a matter of fact. I got involved in the go-kart craze and I found that this was very very real auto racing. Except that you were on a roller skate capable of going 60 or 70 mph, and you were racing with another guy inches apart the whole meet. The whole thing was inside of a ball field. The power and weight ratios were comparable to really hot stock cars. But the whole vehicle would weigh 90 pounds. And your lateral loads were higher than anything that Grand Prix cars can produce. And that was fun.

Except I got on my head pretty often. By that time it was pretty late, I was pretty old, and pretty brittle. And there were always kids that weighed 50 or 60 pounds less than I that could run off and hide. The thing that made this stuff fun, was that I'd get to the track first. This is how I got the pole position. They didn't have the time or the money to have trials, so I wound up on the pole pretty regularly. And I got pretty good, so I could cheat. And I could jump the flag by eight or nine feet, and this would mean that I could lead the whole shebang for maybe a quarter of a lap, before the hot shots started coming by. That was fun.

I was activities chairman of a sports car club for awhile. I built a car, and the car was known as the German Vermin. It was a Volksey that was modified. Now, it turns out to be the prototype of the Formula V. I guess I was the first to find that you could take a VW and turn it into a fun race car. And then other fellows went many steps further and did it properly, except I happened to be among the first. As a consequence I had a ball going into a race—national races like Marlboro—and running off and hiding from six and seven thousand dollar cars. This "roach" was running away from them. The car would have been illegal by modern rules with Studebaker pistons in it. It did all sorts of crazy things.

SOLARES HILL: What about this expedition to....

BETTIE: Which one?

SOLARES HILL: I don't know about any others except the Cook's Cannons expedition.

BETTIE: The cannon one is the epitome of them.

SOLARES HILL: What kind of a person gets involved in an expedition like that?

BETTIE: A real screwball. There's no return, nothing given back for it.

SOLARES HILL: And you get your name in the

Guinness Book of World Records, and....

BETTIE: I doubt it.

SOLARES HILL: So, is this the kind of thing where you are making your own challenges?

BETTIE: I don't know; I never thought that one out. All I know is that there were three of us that wanted awful bad to have some fun, and see this new country and see if we could do something nobody else had been able to do. And we had all the acres. We had the best man in the world for electronics, and the best man in the world for mapping, and a couple of pretty decent divers who could keep machinery going.

SOLARES HILL: I'd like you to explain this expedition. Just what were you looking for?

BETTIE: Well, we were looking for Capt. Cook's cannons.

SOLARES HILL: This is Capt. James Cook who did much of the exploration of the Southern Hemisphere in the eighteenth century?

BETTIE: All of it. Capt. Cook is the most extraordinary man that ever came down the pike.

SOLARES HILL: He's one of your heroes?

BETTIE: He is the hero as far as I'm concerned. He told us where this wreck was in his journal—within feet. The Aussies or the U. S. couldn't have been any more accurate than he. And by the way, this is before a clock; he didn't have a chronometer. He was using reference points from a piece of land that he hadn't yet discovered. And that cannon was within feet of where he said it was.

SOLARES HILL: Let's pursue your feelings for Cook. What makes you feel that he was that kind of man, that kind of superman?

BETTIE: Well, he was the first man to map accurately the Bering Straits, the first one to prove there was a distinct chance of a Northwest Passage. He found New Zealand, he found that New Zealand and Australia were separate continents. He found that Magellan was eighteen hundred miles off in his placement of the Hawaiian Islands or, as Cook named them, the Sandwich Islands.

Cook was the first man who could take a crew to sea and bring 92% or 93% back alive. Because scurvy and beriberi had invariably cut the crews to practically nothing with voyages half his length. He was the first man to understand that crews were people, and that they were valuable assets, and a damn sight more

valuable if they were working, than if they were in sick bay, or heaved over the side. I just think he's the greatest man that came down the pike, as far as the sea is concerned.

SOLARES HILL: How did his cannon get where they were? Did his ship sink there, or were they thrown overboard?

BETTLE: Cook's ship didn't sink, but as he was trying to circumvent Australia, and prove that New Zealand was separate from Australia. He was coming up from the south--let me get my bearings straight. Coming up from the south, Cook was mapping the coast of Australia, proving there was no connection between Australia and New Zealand. Anyway, he learned to his horror that he was trapped by the Great Barrier Reef.

SOLARES HILL: How much did his ship draw?

BETTLE: 14 feet, maybe 13. Don't forget now that nobody else had been there. Everytime he'd take a poke and look, he'd run into the reef. There are holes through, but he couldn't be expected to find them. Also he wanted to find Australia, so he was busy going up the coast. Finally one night he was tacking east and his leadman found: no bottom, no bottom, no bottom. And then... crunch. And they were up on a head, and it hulled her. Tide was dropping, couldn't get off. And the harder they tried, the worse they augged themselves onto the thing. So he tried to get her off in the next high tide, and she was in worse shape, taking water. So he dumped over fifty tons of materials including all his cannons, all his shot, ballast, stone, and iron. We didn't know about the iron; we found it, that's how we know about it. The iron was in bars--quite sizeable bars, eight by eight by four feet. These were apparently poured as ballast.

SOLARES HILL: So we have Capt. Cook's cannon on the Great Barrier Reef, off North Queensland, Australia. And this is the Holy Grail, for the three of you, I guess.

BETTLE: Yes, and it was a Holy Grail for a hell of a lot of other people who didn't have the instrumentation or the skills to find it, too.

SOLARES HILL: How many previous expeditions had tried to find the guns?

BETTLE: No one really knows, but we were told forty to fifty. And some of them were fairly serious expeditions, including one by a very famous Australian diver.

SOLARES HILL: Where did your expedition begin? Who sponsored it?

BETTLE: Philadelphia. The prime sponsor was Virgil Kaufman, head of Aero-Services Corp. at that time. Aero-Services is the largest mapping company in the world, aerial mapping company. Kaufman found the map, and he had many, many other finds. His problem simply was that he ran out of the world to map. No, this is no kidding. All of Kenya, all of Africa, all of Egypt, all of what is now Israel, and a great portion of India, a lot of Europe, and an immense part of Canada, the U. S., Mexico, and South America, all of Australia--Kaufman has mapped all of this from the air. He found the ore and the oil in Australia.

Anyway, from Philadelphia we flew to Sydney, then to Cairns. In Cairns we picked up this fellow, Vincent Vlasoff, who had sold the idea originally to Virgil, and we went out in his boat *Proteus Saas* to Endeavor Reef where we found the cannons from the *Endeavor*, Cook's ship.

SOLARES HILL: You said it only took you three days to find the guns?

BETTLE: Right.

SOLARES HILL: You must have done a lot of studying prior to the trip.

BETTLE: Eight years. Plus the hunches Virgil had had when he was mapping Australia.

SOLARES HILL: What was it like when you sighted the guns for the first time? I suppose that was quite a moment.

BETTLE: For three days, Ken Myers of Seaborn Electronics and I ran this 17 foot boat up and down the reef doing the search with magnetic detection devices. We put out buoys and worked in ten foot patterns. We got this wild reading on the machine, so we threw a buoy marker with a brick anchor overboard. Then we went back to the big ship. We told them we thought we had found it, loaded a couple of guys on the boat and went back. We were so anxious to be sure we kept the position that I didn't go over the side right away. Two of the other fellows went over the side, and one of them saw the butt of this gun sticking up, and gave it a whack with a hammer, and Lord, it was a gun. It looked just like a piece of coral.

Now coral grows close to five inches a year. And this had been about two hundred years. The gun apparently went down point first. And it had stayed that way, for some idiosyncrasy of the bottom. Just the butt of the gun was showing. Some of the others were six feet underneath the coral.

SOLARES HILL: How did you cut that coral?

BETTLE: Chisel and hammer. We took the first two cannons out very carefully. The others were so deep, we shot them with dynamite. And then we hoisted them out.

SOLARES HILL: From the surface layer of the coral down to the metal, how many inches of coral growth was there?

BETTLE: The last two cannons, which were the deepest ones, I never saw. I would think that the growth was several hundred inches thick. That took a lot of dynamite. I wasn't there for the last two. We found them and marked them, but by that time we had run out of time and money. The Aussie government came in and raised the other two. And they were princes, they were. They

didn't give us any help, and then after we found the guns, they took them from us. But all kidding aside, they couldn't have been nicer. We knew that we were going to loose the cannons the moment we got them. The Aussies were fun, they were awful nice people.

SOLARES HILL: This is kind of a Hemingway question. The first home Hemingway had, after he came back to the U. S. after Paris and all that, was Key West, Florida. And one of the reasons for this choice was that he felt challenged all the time here--by the physical environment, by the sea, by the life in this town. From talking with you, Grieco, it seems to me that certain things Hemingway was after in his life, you're interested in as well. Did you choose Key West as a new home for some of Hemingway's reasons?

BETTLE: Well, our choice of Key West was two-fold. First off, I wanted the outdoors, the ocean, the reefs, the diving and the fishing. And that could have been many places, besides Key West. But Daphne wanted a cosmopolitan atmosphere. She wanted age, she wanted antiquity, she wanted superb gardening. And to the best of my knowledge, Key West is the only place in the world that answers all these needs. There are undoubtedly spots in Anchorage, Alaska which would produce fun outdoors, surprisingly good gardening, but somewhat seasonal. We tried to do New England. But you can only fish for a little while and I get bored with it. And Daphne couldn't garden but about three months a year. The Middle South didn't fit my outdoors requirements. The Deep South did, but not Daphne's growing requirements, or



Arriving at the track early, Bettie (right front) garners pole position.

is your vocation?

BETTLE: I'm a mate for Capt. Ed Ciesinski on the *Swim Fin II*. We take diving parties and fishing parties, and good ones too. I've learned more about diving and fishing in the year that I have been working for him, than in a lifetime before. And Ed Ciesinski is an absolutely outstanding person, as are many of the other charter boat skippers. There is an awful lot of knowledge of natural history in these guys' heads. Men like Ciesinski and Reagan and Hare and a couple of the others make a very real effort to be true conservationists.

SOLARES HILL: What's a true conservationist?

BETTLE: Well, my version of a house is a Quonset hut, which you can hose out, which you can keep clean with a fire hose. This would suit me just fine. In one end of it I'd have my tools, weld, and do my mechanical work. The other end would open up if I wanted to get something out. There would be a couple of bunks stashed off in the corner and a big kitchen. Now, this would suit me to a "T". And this business of cleaning with a fire hose is great. I had no idea I was getting into this thing. But she loves it, she loves it.

SOLARES HILL: The house was built by John Lowe, Jr. in the mid-19th century. Do you know the date?

BETTLE: He bought the land around 1850, and we're guessing at 1855 to 1860 for the house.

SOLARES HILL: This is a Bahamian style, isn't it? These stores with a widow's walk. Do you call it a widow's walk?

BETTLE: We do, but Lowe didn't. He called it a Captain's walk. But I think most people call it a widow's walk. And we had a perfect example of why it's so called. The nurses over here at Dr. Hare's (Hare's office is next door, corner of Elizabeth and Southard) wanted to come through the house a year ago, so we opened the house up for them when the doctor was away. So we took them up on the widow's walk, and a Navy ship, a destroyer was coming in. It had apparently been on a long cruise. This little girl got all excited. First off she asked why this was a widow's walk, and I didn't say very much, because the other girls were chattering. And then she saw her husband's ship coming in. And she said, "Oh, my goodness. That's my husband's ship." And I said, "Now you know why it's called a widow's walk." And she went, "psssst!" at me. That was really quite comical.

SOLARES HILL: Are the waters endangered here? We have endangered species, do we have endangered waters, waters that are going to be played out? Since you first fished and dived these waters, has there been a big change in the amount of sea life?

BETTLE: Yes, there's a vast difference. I guess I first started to swim with Ciesinski in 1949 or 50. I'm sure it's been at least 20 years. And there's been a very real drop, at least on the Eastern Dry Rocks and other reefs. I think the answer is that the reefs have been overworked. The worst offenders are people who just don't give a damn, and figure they're going to be here for a weekend, so they kill whatever they can. continued on p. 10

Ace & Ed.

Dear Readers:

Key West, as you know, is not exactly one big grab bag of volunteer talent for newspaper work. So when "Ace" started helping us, we were right there with all the support that we could muster. I even loaned him my bicycle as you can see from the heretofore printed now seen adjacent facsimile of "Ace."

But, lover of the Peace Corps concept or not, this office has to admit that "Ace" is getting a skosh out of hand. Here, members of the jury, is some evidence of our latest tetes-a-tetes-a-manos-ad nauseam.

SOLARES HILL: So, in a way you're involved with this house.

BETTLE: We're involved.

SOLARES HILL: Maybe you've got a tiger by the tail....

BETTLE: I'd burn it down and build a Quonset hut.

SOLARES HILL: But it's ... you're involved in some kind of restoration of it.

BETTLE: Up to my neck! Yes!

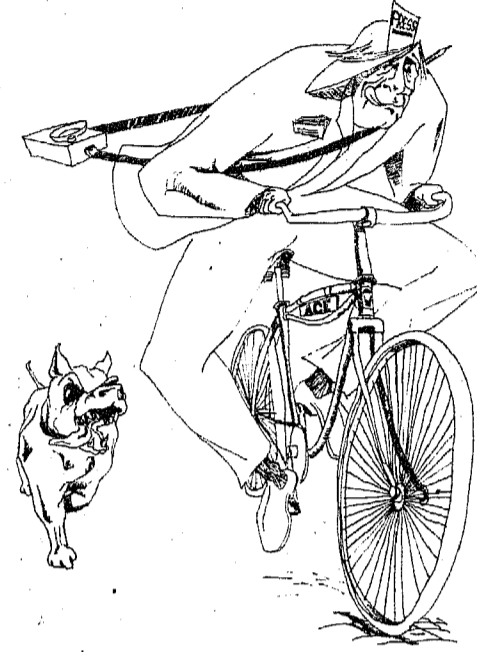
SOLARES HILL: Do you feel, besides your Quonset hut feelings, that this town should be preserved as a sort of 19th century sea town?

BETTLE: I for one would love it. But I don't see how it could possibly be.

SOLARES HILL: Having moved here and having found Key West to be a unique place to satisfy your needs, what are you doing here now? What is your....

BETTLE: Exhausting myself.

SOLARES HILL: Besides exhausting yourself, what



From: Editor, Solares Hill
To: "Ace" Pickapart

Ace, I still feel that \$300 is too much but my wife said I should get you out so you could take pictures for my daughter's party tomorrow night. Come at 7:00 p.m. sharp and bring a present.

Yours,
Sol Hill

P.S. I charged your account for the bail money.

From: "Ace" Pickapart
To: Editor, Solares Hill

Hi Sol,

I realize it's been a long time since I wrote, but I felt that you would understand. Here I am in northern Stock Island and you should see the Stone crabs and crawfish. Why, I can walk into the water and catch them by the buckets. As a matter of fact, I stumbled on this spot (actually, I was wading and a crab attached himself to my foot) which is a horde of sea life.

It seems there once was a wooden bridge there, but it burned. Well, nearby is a paradise of marine life. I wonder if we couldn't postpone the next edition 'till after the season; boy, we could get rich. Please see about licenses, etc. I'll just pile them up until you get here.

Richly yours,
Arny, the Fisherman
P.S. Don't let anyone in Key West know or we'll have everyone horning in.

From: "Ace" Pickapart
To: Solares Hill

Honestly Sol,

I mean, all I did was for you; what is the matter with making a little side money. See if I tell you the next time I go moonlighting. You didn't have to get so mad, after all the Conservation man let you go with just a warning. I had to tell him I was just working for you when he caught me with all those "shorts." I always thought shorts were something you wore, not little

Fabric World

TELEPHONE 294-1773
613 SIMONTON ST.
KEY WEST, FLA. 33040

crawfish. Anyway, he let you keep the Stone crab you caught on your finger, didn't he?
Well, from now on I'll work hard at reporting for you. As a matter of fact, I have a great article about you with the "short" crawfish and the law, as well as a swell picture of the crab on your finger.

Yours,
Arny
P.S. That was a nasty looking color that your finger was turning. I got it all on color. Am forwarding an 8 x 10 of same.

From: Editor, Solares Hill
To: Mr. A. Pickapart

Mr. Pickapart,

I wish to inform you that your services are no longer needed. Turn in the camera, your press card and your peace symbol.

Solares Hill

From: Editor, Solares Hill
To: "Ace" Pickapart

Dear Ace,

Forgive me for the last foolish letter I accidentally wrote you. Why didn't you tell me that you sold 12 ads for one year, cash in advance. Come home "Ace" all is forgiven.

Fondly,
Sol Hill

To: Editor, Solares Hill
From: "Ace"

Sol,

What is that fog that rolls in each day to cover the highway, Jr. College and half the island? I could hardly find my way to the front of my house, and I live in a one room apartment. I'll be down to see you if I ever can find the street.

Lost,
"Ace"

From: Editor, Solares Hill
To: "Ace" Pickapart

Dear Ace,

We don't have any fog in Key West; it must be that imported incense made from retrace tapes and cork that you use. Quit fooling around; we need some new; besides, I'm getting tired of my brother-in-law wanting to publish his poetry.

Desperately,
Sol continued on p. 10

Mock Turtle Soup

Lyle Johnston

For the fourth time in a row we must, at late notice, weasel out of our article predicting the inevitable outcome of the New Hampshire Presidential Primaries. As you must know by now, this election is of extra interest to Key West residents this year. Particularly because Conchs are known for their unique sense of humor, and are continually eager to be provided with a few extra laughs. Perhaps in the next issue we will go out on our limb with our privileged information and astute deductions tucked securely under our arm ready to bellow the news. Until then we will talk about the American and International Red Cross, ping-pong, and the price of bananas. We understand that two Senators of Washington (Cooper and Church again, natch) have proposed legislation to limit defense spending to projects directly concerned with bringing the boys back home. What this means, essentially, is that the Senate might soon be legislating the end of the "war" President Nixon, like every one of us, is predominantly concerned with one item: the quick release of every American POW (coincidental with the securing of votes in 1972). Outwardly the President seems to have a somewhat revolutionary idea. For centuries there have been wars of all types: religious wars, geographical conquests, petty feuds and economic dominations. In most wars there have been POWs. They have been, in general, returned to their home territory after the warring has ceased. Now Nixon wants our POWs back before he'll stop the war. Did he learn that in college or in California?

But anyway, the Red Cross can't help him with treating the POWs; under the terms of the Geneva Conference agreement the Red Cross may only intercede in a declared war. So now in spite of ten years' unofficial fighting and the apparent will of the U. S. Senate, we must declare war to gain the Red Cross's aid in retrieving our prisoners. Then, if the President pleases, we may depart Southeast Asia. First things first...
We at Mock Turtle Soup were never very good at ping-pong. Our sister used to wallop us good (even if she made up her own rules as the game progressed Not to demean her methods). Heaven knows that Secretary of State Rogers toes the line on rules waiving. He was so eager to pat China on the back for having ping-pongers in for a game that he verbally destroyed every reason we've ever had for being at war. We no longer seek to halt the imperialist yellow menace in the Far East. We only want to be good sports. Alas, the price of bananas is skyrocketing.

(Extra news note, Local type: The broadcast of the recently tele-taped City Commission meeting will probably be postponed until it can be determined whose nose took up most of the picture viewing area.)

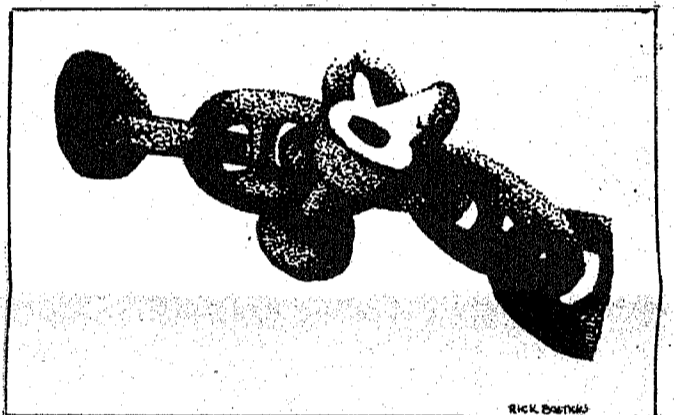
From Our Community College

Carol Burston

I went out to the college on Tuesday night with the idea of joining in the final rush to register for Term III A. Much to my sorrow, however, there was very little rushing being done--by students or faculty. Most of the students must have registered early to avoid the rush since classes are pretty normal in size, and it looks like everyone is settling down for a long, hot summer.

The first night of classes held a pleasant surprise for many of the students. Dr. Pierce, a retired professor from the University of Florida, met in Room 210 with students from the Physical Science II, General Ecology, and Trigonometry classes to show and explain a film he made a few years ago about coral reefs. It was set in the waters around Tahiti, Australia, and India--to name just a few places, and Dr. Pierce emphasized the similarity between the coral reefs on film and those along our own Florida Keys. There were several excellent shots of unusual underwater life such as the Razor Fish which swims vertically and the giant clam. Also shown was the Crown of Thorns starfish, feeding on live coral. Dr. Pierce explained that at the time the film was made, he took no notice of the Crown of Thorns because it had not yet been recognized as dangerous to the reefs. The film was altogether delightful, and I regret that I did not have the opportunity to speak with Dr. Pierce afterwards. Did you know that our college will soon have the only real (college) boating repair shop in the state? That's right, so next time you attend a class and see people busily at work where the clinic used to be, salute them because that is the location site of the new Marine Biology building where all this will take place. Local mechanics will be able to take courses from a factory representative (under the college's supervision of course), and C Building will be arranged so that boats can either arrive on the water or be brought on a trailer or repairs. Also housed there will be a TV repair center, and the Diesel Shop which has been located near Cue Time until now.... And Ladies: there will also be courses held there in Automobile Engineering--For Women Only!

I thought you might be interested in some first-hand comments concerning Volume II of



Art work from Crux, Rimes and Tales.

"Crux, Rimes, and Tales," the Florida Keys Literary Magazine, so I interviewed one of the editors--me! They tell me the magazine is a success, and for that, I am grateful (and greatly relieved to be sure!). Many hard working students submitted material, and we ran everything we had room for. Also, the magazine staff proved very capable--at least Cathy and Bob did. (I only worked hard trying to look capable!) Anyway, I had a wonderfully good time, and one special adventure I must share with you. Do you know how to type on an electric typewriter? Well, I didn't, but when they told me I had to type on one I sat down obediently and began hammering away. After typing several stencils (which are a real pain), I opened the top of the machine to reattach the ribbon for regular typing. I found that some nut (me?) had let the cartridge keep unwinding, and there were miles--literally--of typewriter ribbon lying in the bottom of the machine. Well, I couldn't leave it like that, so I wised the cartridge out and began rewinding the ribbon by hand. It took over two hours, and I think about a foot-and-a-half on the end was twisted beyond repair, but I finally managed to get the thing back together, and I shall never-ever touch an electric typewriter again! So much for my little adventures. When I said we all worked hard, I meant it, and our pride (and pleasure) in the finished product made all the hard work worthwhile. I'd like to personally thank everyone who contributed in any way, large or small, for the success of our Literary Magazine.

Marion Steven's
ARTISTS UNLIMITED
The Unique Art Gallery
Keys and Caribbean
Invites you to Trip and/or Buy
221 Duval St.

Griscom Bettle

continued from p. 8

get their hands on. So I'm sure that Reagan, Hare, Ciesinski and several others are extremely conscious of this waste and are trying very hard to protect their super hot spots.

SOLARES HILL: What species have been most depleted, from a diver's point of view?

BETTLE: Certainly the lobster has.

SOLARES HILL: Can you describe what lobstering was like in 1949?

BETTLE: Where we now find one on a reef, we used to find a hundred. Many of these reef hiding places for lobsters have been decimated. And in some places up around Key Largo there were grouper holes that people swam on all the time. The groupers finally got smart and moved out. But I don't think they killed them off. The groupers simply got the smart and moved to a less vulnerable place. And certainly the fish are smarter on these reefs now. They're as all get out. You used to swim up to them, and get close to them easily. Now you can still see them, but they're hard to get to.

SOLARES HILL: Do you shoot fish with a spear gun?

BETTLE: Yes, on occasion. And it's not that easy either. You usually find some obese S.O.B. that can't get out of his own way, bitching about the spearfisherman being unsportsmanlike. Well, hand him a spear, and the bastard will drown—let alone, outswim a fish. So it isn't that unporting.

SOLARES HILL: Have you heard the statement Hemingway made, like this: "The only way fishing is a sport is if you take a...." and then he was very specific, he said, "...a certain number hook, and a certain weight line, and bait it a certain way and throw it in the ocean. And then you take a certain number hook and put it in your mouth, and then you have at it." Hemingway said, "Who's that's fishing. The reel is just playing at it!" But as a diver I don't really understand anymore how people can sit and fish with a rod and reel. That abstracts the thing too much. I like to be down there with the animals, you know.

BETTLE: I think you are being unfair to the rod and reel people. When you can stand on the bow of my boat, and you see a barracuda in three feet of water and you cast a fly and tease him up in such a fashion that he'll take it. I think you'll find that this is pretty darn sporting and pretty darn difficult.

When you take a barracuda the same size and you've been in deep enough water where you can swim and you swim up along side and hit him with a Harpoon. I think you'll find that the odds are on your side. They're certainly not on your side fly fishing in three feet of water. I think there's plenty of room for both the rod and reel, and the swimmer. The swimmer who is criminal is the one who kills promiscuously. Just because he sees a pretty little angel fish, he'll poke it. Just to say he could poke it. That's assinine. But I've seen hundreds of people do it. Or it's equally stupid to kill an amberjack, just to be able to kill it.

These charterboat captains have two products, one is to catch fish, and the other is to catch customers. And you've got to put the two together so everybody is happy. One of the guides lost a party this morning. It seems that some of the members of the party caught fish but the host didn't. So the host cancelled the whole thing for the next day.

SOLARES HILL: Do you plan to continue this work as a mate, or do you plan to get a boat eventually?

BETTLE: I have a boat, and I am a licensed guide, but I intend to stay with Ciesinski as long as he'll have me. Not only that, I learn from him, but I'm fond of Ed, and I love swimming with him and learning what he's doing. And his peak season is at my kind of fishing's lowest ebb. From May on, the shallow water fishing gets to its best. I plan to work my own boat doing shallow water fishing, but I intend to stay with the *Swim Pin II* as long as he'll have me.

SOLARES HILL: I understand light tackle fishing is the vogue in deep sea fishing now. People who are real sportsmen are now fishing big game fish on light tackle. Is that true?

BETTLE: I don't think so. I think that light tackle fishermen are lousy sportsmen who have already caught the fish, and are now trying to do it a little bit more difficultly. But a guy from Wisconsin that comes down and has never been out before, hasn't a prayer fishing with light tackle. But he's still sporting enough to go out. So you give him a tackle that he has a chance with.

There's nothing unporting about using a fifty pound line on a fifty pound fish, which we did today. We nearly lost all the line as a matter of fact. And had we had twenty pound line, the poor fish would have gone off with two hundred yards of line trailing behind him. And he'd have been killed, but he would have killed himself, we wouldn't have caught him. He'd run around with monofilament line hanging out of him until he would have starved himself to death. He's dragging all this line behind him, two hundred yards of it, and this produces enough friction, so he would have an awful time catching anything.

No, I don't agree with you, that light tackle is necessarily sporting. And sometimes it's cruel. On the other hand, medium tackle may be the best of both, because it will probably break closest to the hook. It will put the least resistance on the fish and will give you a decent chance of retrieving the fish. With today's party we had quite a heavy line. I had the drag set as if it were twenty pound line, because the fish's mouth was twenty pound, not the line. Billed fish (marlin, sailfish, etc.) don't have big jaw bones and places for the hook to catch. This one today caught the



The prize.

hook in flesh and it went into the roof of his mouth. We landed him after about forty minutes. But just a couple of tweezers and the hook came right out. Had our party given him any slack, and we would have lost him. Had we pulled it harder, we would have pulled it right out of his mouth. It came out just right.

So super light tackle fishing is not necessarily more sporting—maybe more fun—but not necessarily more sporting.

SOLARES HILL: Sounds like you're really involved down here.

BETTLE: This is what we wanted to do. We got our kids educated, or almost educated, and they are all doing well. With taxes as they are now, you can't give a kid an inheritance. All you can do is give him an education and a desire to work. We accomplished that with our kids, I think. Although one of them is still in college.

Now it's our turn. Our turn for doing what we want to do, while we can do it. Grow things, fish, hunt. I'm going to Canada next June for ten days for salmon fishing. Try to return some of the nice things my dad did for me. I'll be guiding him up there. It's going to be funny, because he's a hell of a lot better fisherman than I am.

COMING: Thomas McGuane writes about Permit fishing on a fly.

Ace & Ed

continued from p. 9

To: Editor, Solares Hill
From: "Ace" the ace

Sol,

I have found the offending culprits, and you'll never guess who they are. Remember the fog I was telling you about? Well, it seems they used to burn garbage at the city dump on Stock Island. Well, listen to this: Last year the city said no more burning as it creates a fog and a smell you'd never believe.

Well, it seems that lately whenever the pile gets too high some arsonists set it on fire, then flee the scene.

Sol, I sat at that dump for three nights running and tried to catch the culprits, and I have them "dead to rights" on infrared film. I developed the film and you'll never guess who they are!

They are flaming seagulls and their helpers are crows. I figure the crows start the small fires, and the seagulls cover themselves in flames and dive right into the trash. Presto a fire producing fog and smells. Pretty good work, huh? Will send a follow-up story.

Sincerely,
Ace



Consolidation

continued from p. 3

Now if the City of Key West votes to abolish Key West, we don't lose the image of Key West. Key West remains Key West but it won't be the city of Key West, it will be Key West, Fla., Monroe County. That's the way it will be, but we'll still have the name Key West.

Now if the people vote for consolidation and abolish the City of Key West, the people on the Keys won't take over the city's money problems. We intend to pay more taxes in Key West, but not on the Keys. The Keys people will continue to pay their 20 mill just like they pay now. But Key West will have to continue to pay their taxes in order to continue to receive the services that we're getting now, at least for a period of a year or two years. After that the taxes will be wiped off completely and we in Key West tax district will only be paying one tax.

Within a period of the two years, the county will be able to absorb the city. But the county won't pay the city's bad debts. Whatever debts the city owes over there today, any bonded indebtedness, any money that they borrowed, is going to have to be paid by the people that live in Key West, not the people on the Keys. I want that distinctly understood.

That is consolidation. Consolidation is going to definitely improve all the services of the county. You're going to have more people patrolling the highways. You're going to have more firemen. And with a regular fire department, ladies and gentlemen, your insurance rate automatically is reduced 20 percent. That's an added benefit. You're going to have more street lights, on the Keys. You're going to have more paved streets.

Now, you're going to say, "that costs money." Sure it costs money, but every year there's more tax money coming in to the county. The more improvements that are put in the county, the more taxes come in. So it's not going to increase the millage; the millage is going to remain the same. The millage will remain 20 mills and that is tops. And in time even the 20 mill rate can be cut down. But I don't see any cut in the next couple of years. However, I repeat: there will be no increase. I promise you that from the beginning and that will be carried out.

I would appreciate it if you just consider this proposition of consolidation. Don't take my word for it. Make up your own mind. Make your own investigations.

But in closing let me say this. The New York Times, which is probably the most prestigious paper in the country today, certainly the largest one, just a few months ago came out advocating the advantages of consolidation throughout the country. The Kansas City Star came out - mind you these are papers out of the State of Florida - stating the advantages of consolidation. The Reader's Digest, which is probably one of the widest read magazines in the country, writes in their little story here on page 11 of the May issue: "Similar results are possible nation-wide if enough citizens have the courage to wipe out the barriers that had their roots in the rural, frontier society. Competing services by cities and counties make no sense in the 1970's."

There you have it right there, ladies and gentlemen. There's no sense in having two different services when both can be consolidated and give you a better service. That's 1970. Thank you for all the support I'm receiving. I'll appreciate it if people will read this and will continue to support consolidation.

And if I can answer any questions, you can call me at anytime, or stop me on the street. I'll be only too happy to answer whatever questions you ask me.

I appreciate this opportunity to talk to you; and I hope the newspaper's coming here today and interviewing me to give you the facts of consolidation. Thank you very much.

Editorial

continued from p. 3

beginning the consolidation efforts. Already many City functions are performed by the County. And Monroe County each year pays the City of Key West \$600 for fire protection on Stock Island. By closing down many city services and contracting them out to the County the City could consolidate its services without losing its incorporated status.

But should the City of Key West stay incorporated? Does Key West as a municipality really serve the public better than a consolidated county structure could?

Look at the past record of the City: fiscal crises, back-passing from one commission to the next, the perpetual cloud of political infighting and backroom maneuver, the curtailment of services such as the HUD program. It's time to set up a new administration, capable of breaking the cycle of Key West City government. Opponents of consolidation warn that the City of Key West will lose its identity. Through consolidation, a new identity, an image of progressive government capable of dealing with the increasingly thorny problems of land and economic development, ecology, public safety, can arise.

Consolidation committee. A volunteer committee has been formed to draw up the charter for a consolidated Monroe County government. Members of the committee are: Louis Carbonell, John Quinn, legal adviser, Sonny Higgs, Anthony Miles, Helen Castro, Edwin Felton, Gerald Abreu, Jr., George Santana, Murray Cooper, Danny Delmar, Carey Trumbo, Edwin Curry, Ann Golenkov.

This committee welcomes anyone interested in expressing his views on the consolidation question. Mr. Carbonell can be contacted for information as to time and place of committee meetings. After the Duval and Leon County consolidation charters have been received, the committee will meet on a regular weekly basis and work on the Monroe County charter with the other counties' charters as models.

The Windisch Mural Capers

William Huckel

Robert Windisch, the former operator of the New Moon Art Gallery and a well-known artist himself, has once again stirred up controversy.

Windisch, who recently completed a mural outside the Atlantic Shores Motel office, was hired to paint a mural inside the new restaurant annex of the Gate Bar. The restaurant is featuring tacos and Bill, the owner, wanted a mural on a Mexican theme.

Indeed, Windisch painted a Mexican asleep under a cactus with mountains in the background but, as he explains, "About the Desert Nymph; it really is incomplete. The man wanted a Mexican on a donkey. I agreed to paint a Mexican on a donkey scene in the fashion of a commercial illustration. I knew what he wanted and I let myself believe that I would do his bidding because I needed the money."

"But when I got in the painting (lost in it) my true self, the artist within came to the surface. Magic did creep up from the subconscious as it does in Art when the incubation of the artist can stay dormant no longer. The artist cannot help himself when the eye is about to hatch - no control. And (so was) born the Desert Nymph."

This "Desert Nymph" caused the trouble. As Bill says, "The rest of the painting is fine but this thing he put in is not suitable for a family style restaurant."

The Nymph or Mutation, as the artist sees her, sports a surreal smile and wild, swirly, bulbous breasts. Amply and bizarrely fleshed, she dances in front of the sleeping Mexican. Windisch says, "I have no control over the life, death, future of my mutations. What I see in them is Freedom, Joy, Hope, Pleasure. Freedom from human complexities; Hope for a life of truth, love, wisdom; Joy of living for the moment; Pleasure that freedom, home, and joy give."

Friends of the artist heard that the mural was going to be painted over. Bud McArthur of the Old Anchor Inn agreed to take the mural. Bill of the Gate Bar was agreeable to do this if the panels of wood would be replaced. They were.

The Desert Nymph was rescued and with the help of Lt. Titq Casamayor, who was present at the time, the mural was nailed to the ceiling of the back room where it is today.

An earlier controversy involving Windisch centered around a painting he did of Castro a few years ago.

Windisch says "... about the Castro painting: this was a large mural depicting Castro with a dove on his shoulder, with a pitchfork in his hand, sticking it into a pig dressed in the American flag. The pig looked like (President) Johnson. Behind Castro were starving peasants, skeleton-like, coming down on the pig with machetes. Yes, it was a bad-ass political painting."

"At that time at the New Moon Gallery (formerly at the corner of Greene Street and Duval) a school of art was founded by Bruce Larsen (now gone to the happy painting ground), Philip Mitchell, and myself. We called ourselves 'The Self Conscious Revolutionaries of Art.'"

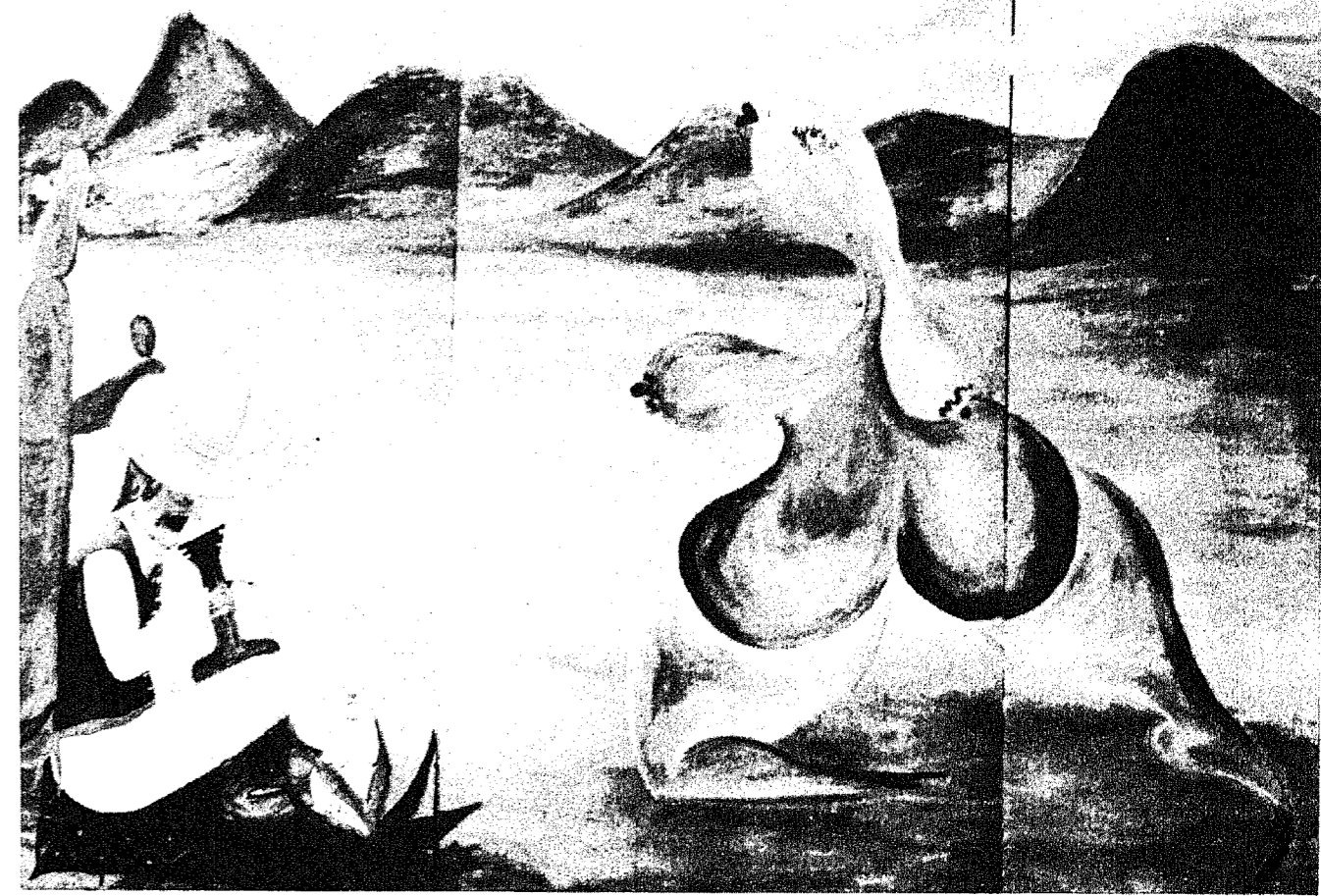
"None of us were bad-ass painters but we urged each other on to paint political and revolutionary-type art. What we were really doing was testing the Constitution of the U.S. and the reaction in Key West. We really wanted to know how far we could go before someone got busted for 'freedom of speech' in words and in painting."

"Well, I did it. After I finished the Castro mural, Bruce Larsen rented an old store front on Truman Avenue (the Old Tomato Patch) in a Cuban section. It had a large glass window facing out on the street. We put the Castro painting in the window at night."

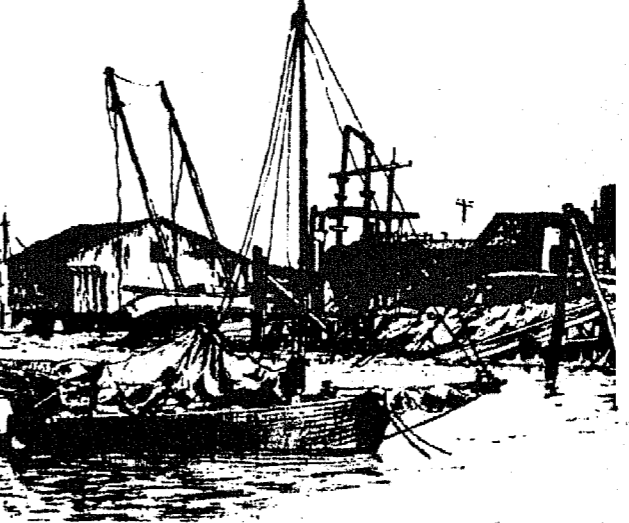
"The next morning a large group of Cubans gathered in front of the store. They shouted and threatened to burn the store down. Finally, the Police came and arrested the PAINTING. They put the painting in the paddy wagon and took it down (to the station) and took it to the Police Station to bring Castro. Chief James returned the painting and warned me not to try to show it in public again."

"Well, we did find out about freedom of speech and the freedom that an artist does have in this country - DON'T ROCK THE BOAT!"

Windisch is no longer in Key West. People haven't forgotten him or his work, though. If you are curious to see what he is painting today, go to the Old Anchor Inn and look up at the ceiling in the back room. Hanging from the ceiling is a real Windisch mural.



Key West: Yesterday...



Cedar Box Mill etching by F. Townsend Moran

1914: What Key West Needs

by Mayor J. N. Fogarty

The city of Key West has a very clear and well defined idea of what its needs are, and the city government, together with the business interests of the city, will lend every possible aid interest to help those who come here to supply our needs, or who may be seeking information in regard to conditions in Key West, with a view to investing.

Key West needs a water supply. To the company or individual that would install a fresh water supply in Key West, the most liberal franchise would be given, and in addition, every possible co-operation would be extended.

Key West needs a state bank. The charter of such an institution being much more liberal than are the national bank charters, the institution would be able to handle mortgages on real estate, and would not only be a boon to the city, but would be a paying institution from the state.

Key West would be an ideal location for a sugar refinery. Being close to the sugar fields of Cuba, the cane might very easily be shipped here, refined and sold at a good profit, since the saving in duties would be a big item.

Key West is the ideal location for a large or several small button factories. The shells may be had here in abundance for the picking up, and with the product costing practically nothing - and it of a very fine grade - there is no reason why a big profit could not be made on such an invest-

ment. Key West needs a large fish canning factory. Such a factory would furnish additional markets for the fish that abound in Key West waters, and could be operated for less expense and at greater advantage than in most any other city in the country.

Key West, of course, wants more cigar factories, and will aid in the building and equipping of good factories.

Being so close to Mexico and the oil fields of Texas, Key West is the ideal location for any kind of factory that could operate with oil as a fuel. It can be bought cheap, transported for very little, and for that reason should be taken into serious consideration by those who are looking about for a place in which to locate.

...and Tomorrow?

1971: What Key West Needs
What do we need now, Mayor Cobo, Mr. Commissioners?

Now under Management of
Bali Hai Bob

El Mocambo

Open 24 hrs.

US 1 Big Coppit Key
HAPPY HOUR
MON., WED. & FRI. 4:30 to 7
large draft 20¢

TURTLE KRAALS

One of the most unique exhibits in Key West, and the only turtle Kraals in America!

Military personnel active and retired, free

One block north of Collins and Margaret Sts.

Capt. Tony's SALOON

428 GREENE ST. KEY WEST, FLA.

The Inca Dove

Thurlow Weed

Less dramatic than the appearance of the Cattle Egret in the New World in the 1950's, where it had never been before, but no less interesting to local birdwatchers is the presence of the Inca Dove in Key West.

This bird's range has traditionally been from southern Texas along the coastal lowlands to Costa Rica and Nicaragua. In North America it was long thought confined to Mexico and the immediately neighboring parts of the United States.

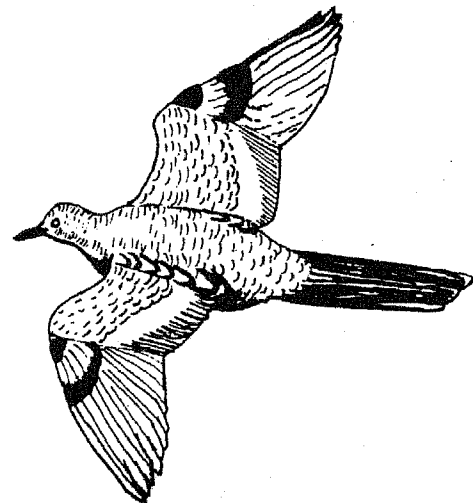
However, it has been extending its range north and east, and is now to be found along Amelia Street between Simonton and Elizabeth. It is frequently seen near the Simonton-Truman intersection and in the grounds of the Convent.

It looks like an overgrown Ground Dove (about 6 1/2 inches long and less chunky) with a long tail edged in white. Its back has a scaly effect, and when it flies there is a distinct reddish cast to the wings, as in the Ground Dove.

The Inca Dove, like the House Sparrow, is a seed-eater, and if you put out birdseed, watch for it. On Amelia Street it also hangs out with Red-Winged Blackbirds.

Its nest is a fragile platform of twigs that looks too frail even to support a single egg, let alone an entire nesting Dove. But somehow it seems to have spread these nests from Texas and Mexico all the way around to Key West.

We have lost the Passenger Pigeon and probably the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker as well, but we have gained the Cattle Egret and the Inca Dove.



The Inca Dove by Cas Still

Sunshine Center

"Out and About" plans are underway for the Sunshine Center's annual summer recreational program. This year's program will be similar to last years. It will begin July 5 and run daily (except weekends) 8 a.m. until noon until August 13. Tuition is \$25.00 for the summer; however, it will be waived for those who cannot afford it. Parents may be asked to make transportation arrangements to and from school.

We are pleased to have Miss Cas Still as coordinator for this program. Cas has been a regular volunteer in the pre-school program and we are looking forward to adding her to the staff for the summer. Any parents interested in the program should contact the Center, 6-8713, or come by.

We do need additional volunteers to work with the summer program. No age limit. Students and adults alike are welcome to work with us. If you are interested, please contact Donna Weinstein, 4-3094, soon.



charcoal drawing by Terence A. Denehy

Classified

Bicycles

B&B 822 Fleming Street

We Buy - Sell Used Bicycles - Repair All Makes - Three Speed Bikes For Rent - Like New Paint Jobs

Ray's Bike Shop 906 Truman Avenue

Featuring 3-5-10 Speed Bicycles. We Repair All Makes. Rentals Adult Tri-Bikes, From \$105. Competition Bicycles. Open 9-5:30.

Pets

Ray's Bike Shop 906 Truman Avenue

Parrots, Chattering Lorays, Conures, Canaries, Parakeets, Cockatiels, Gerbils - We Special Order Monkeys and Small Animals - Featuring Tropical Fish

THIS IS OUR SUBSCRIPTION FORM



26 issues of SOLARES HILL is a lot of TOBER. We'll be on hand this summer chronicling the art and science of staying cool and landing those big ones. And we'll keep you posted this fall on the changing of the guard at City Hall. Our future interviews will corner black militants, renown playwrights, outspoken lawyers and presidential candidates. Subscribe now to the highest point in Key West, SOLARES HILL.

MAIL TO: SOLARES HILL 812 FLEMING ST.
KEY WEST, FLA. 33040

HERE IS \$5.00 FOR MY SUBSCRIPTION (26 ISSUES) TO SOLARES HILL.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Poems

I OWN NO FURNISHED NO PAINTED HOUSES

i own no furnished no painted houses
it seems i have always lived from there
to here in rented rooms
each telling it's part of the search
when you came to me
i told you i was lonely
i told you i needed you
i told you i was free
i told you i have no place other than
that place where i am
nothing ends with good-bye
memories fade painfully into meaning
but nothing ends
i have not lied
for loneliness is as cold as the voids
of the night
i have not lied
the need inside my arms is as real as my
hunger for food
i have not lied
freedom is as real as the reason for the
search
i have not lied
i own no furnished no painted houses

e.g.alexander

THANKS FOR HEAVEN
Ken Ponchel

And when I had
Nothing left to
Say to him,
I turned to him,
And thanked him for
heaven
And him and
him and her and
you and everyone
in between.

BYE, BYE BLACKBIRD
Ken Ponchel

On the pathway to the
stars,
It's a long and lonely road
A near narrow footpath
With oblivion on
either side.
If you're careful
If you're patient
The answers will flow
to you.
But if you look too hard
Or overstep the path ----
Infinity isn't a pleasant
place to fall into;
And if you should
survive the drop,
It's a long climb back.
Ken Ponchel

Sing a song of pollution,
It's a horrible way to die.
Four and twenty blackbirds
Gassed in the sky.
If the sky was open,
The birds, how they would sing.
Now isn't this a pretty plea
To put before the king?

SWIFT'S

VIVITAR MODEL RC-720 Solid State Stereo Recorder

Reg. \$179.95. Special **\$119.95**
auto shutoff

wow & flutter .3% RMS - MAX

2 air suspension 6 1/2" FAS1B speakers

output 20 watts, frequency 30-12000

The best cassette sound ever heard,

with AM-FM \$159.95

