

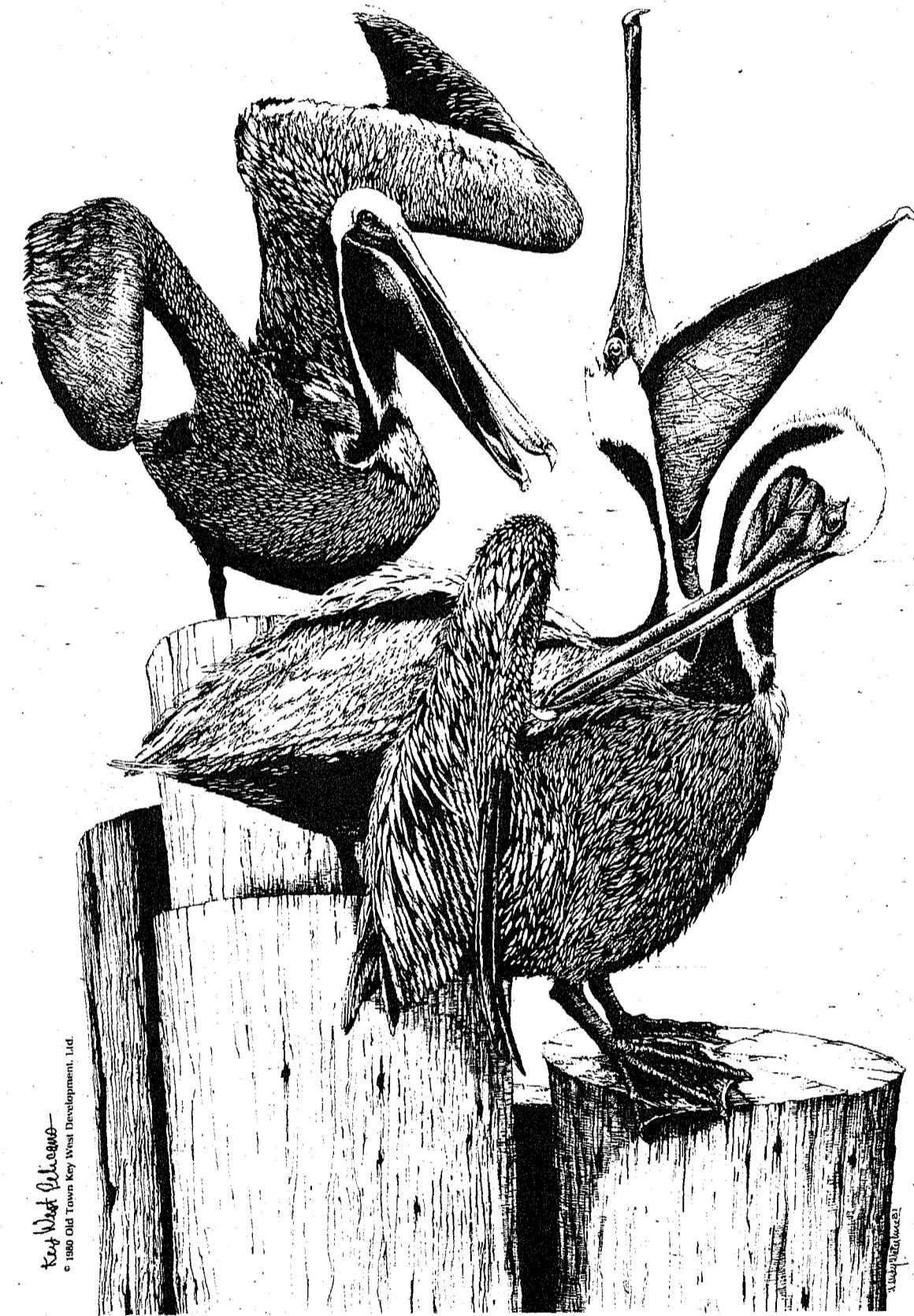
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VOL. VI NO. 9

KEY WEST, FL

OCTOBER 1981



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### FROM THE EDITOR

Hello —

I've never been comfortable running satire, parody or spoofs in the newspaper because I'm afraid that they might be misunderstood. Well, last month we ran a spoof and it got misunderstood. A writer had submitted a piece that was a take-off on the Hemingway Days' Hemingway look-alike contest and in it he wrote that Hemingway was not a good fisherman at all and that started the phone ringing. The writer was playing with the Hemingway look-alikes and certainly didn't mean that Ernest Hemingway himself was a poor fisherman. To anyone who misunderstood this article, Solares Hill apologizes.

Peter Suarez, well-known local artist, has done an unusual mural that graces the walls of the newly-redesigned Hickory House Restaurant. The theme of the mural is very Key West—check it out.

I've been hearing complaints about the car auction that the city has every few months. We will bring our readers a report on this next month.

I'm saddened that a suit alleging racism has been filed against the Governor and the local Key West political screening committee. The Black community had justifiably hoped that the replacement for the unexpected term of Tommy Thompson on the School Board would be a black. It didn't happen that way—whether it was stupid politics, crossed signals, or the fact that Robert Padron, who was chosen, totally outstripped the field, I don't know—but I don't believe that it was a case of racism. I would hope that the Black community would field some strong candidates for the next School Board election and get the representation on that board that they so richly deserve.

Sen. Renick wrote to members of the Governor's Cabinet enlisting their support in preserving Peggy Mills Garden. All replies were in favor of his wishes but the big worry was financing. However, some new approaches were suggested to the Senator which he is following up on, and we applaud his continuing efforts to get the garden preserved. Also, the Senator has written Sen. Chiles and Rep. Fascell about getting the Navy to pay a fairer share for the water they get from the mainland and talks are taking place on this one.

Last issue we wrote about an amazing and wonderful local man, Roosevelt Sands, Sr. We neglected, however, to mention the names of his parents or brothers or sister or his children. His parents were Augusta and Erskine Sands; his brothers and sisters were Thomas (deceased); Alice, a well-known nurse at Florida Keys Memorial Hospital; Sarah, mother of our great Coffee Butler; Erskine and Mary. His children are Eloise, Roosevelt Jr., Leonora, George (deceased), Dorothy and Rose. The Sands are one of our first families and I would love to be able to get a group photo of them to share with our readers.

Solares Hill has always wanted to praise a person when possible even if it also had reason to criticize him. In our editorial this month we express displeasure with the City Commission for permitting what we feel are overly-favorable amendments to an already established lease agreement between the City of Key West and Tropical Shell & Gifts Inc., which is run by Ed Swift and Chris Belland. Incidentally, though, I wanted to single out Ed Swift for praise for the fine job he has been doing on the Code Enforcement Board and also to mention that Ed and Chris played major roles in the unprecedentedly successful anti-tax rally at Jackson Square a few weeks ago.

Speaking of that rally—I feel that the Key West Business Guild really got things rolling initially. The final combination of the Guild, the group "Enough Is Enough" and "Cutback" working together had a tremendous impact on our local government and again proved that an aroused citizenry, working together, can get things done.

Wouldn't it be a great idea if we could get the cattle quarantine station remodeled as a new county jail?

Good news! The Nassau Police Band will be with us Oct. 28 for the Bahama Village dedication.

The Resort Tax will be on a referendum again and resistance to it has diminished

(continued on page 36)

Our cover artist this time is Wendy Waterline and her work is reproduced here with the kind permission of Old Town Key West Development, Inc. Wendy is a free-lance artist and is working out of the Solares Hill Design Group studios.

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ART DIRECTION.....SOLARES HILL DESIGN GROUP

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### GERALD SAUNDERS: FIRST MAYOR OF THE COUNTY

BY BUD JACOBSON

YOU CAN CATCH him on Duval Street, near the Thom McAn store, or strolling along, nattily dressed, usually checkered slacks and patterned shirt, pencil-line mustache, and a smile on his face.

"How you doin', Gerald?" "Fine and dandy, sweet as candy," comes the reply from one of the town's best known and most durable politicians --a living, walking, talking treasury of Monroe County information and history.

GERALD SAUNDERS was the first Mayor of Monroe County and he's now the Mayor-Emeritus as well as the official greeter (without portfolio but with plenty of Conch Certificates) and is given a yearly \$1,500 budget from the county for printing purposes although he rarely spends the money.

SAUNDERS' FAMILY IS straight Conch for generations back on both sides with a long tradition of public duty extending to his uncles and grandparents. Family names like Filer and Cleare are behind Gerald Saunders, and going back many more old Bahamian-Conch names.

"Around about the time 'the train was here,' (the old Florida East Coast Rail Way), "I used to get up at 5 in the morning, before school, and go out to the cigar factories with fresh doughnuts, a nickel each; take my bicycle and ride the streets; not many cars around.

"THE TOWN WAS kind of built around its commercial center then, the railroad terminal which was near where the City Electric has its plant. Lots of good hotels there for the travelers, and good restaurants, near Caroline, Eaton, Margaret and William streets, all through there."

HE LIKED PEOPLE, and politics was a natural for Gerald Saunders along with his life insurance business. His was a well-known face in 1941 when the city council had to be elected (that was before the commission-manager form of government) the Chamber of Commerce drafted the names of 12 men who were active in civic circles to run for office. Dr. Julio Depoo and Saunders were elected right off the bat without a runoff.

THEN IN 1946, friends prevailed on him to go for the county commission and he did. On the first go-round Saunders eliminated his two opponents, Maximo Valdez and Paul G. Albury. He was even then building alliances here and in the county that would last him for years. Not the least of his strongest friends were men who became commissioners later --Harry Harris from Tavernier, and

the subject and come to the point or you'd find yourself gently prodded by the chairman. No disturbing the speaker was the rule, and Saunders was not slow in tapping the gavel.

"ORDER, ORDER, PLEASE," he'd say and the meeting would proceed.

Long-winded rambling discussions and 10-hour meetings, agonizing debates and choosing names from a goldfish bowl, were not regarded as dignified or adult behavior.

"WE ATTENDED TO the public's business and kept to Roberts Rules as much as possible," Saunders recalled, which did not mean that there were not times

gavel at the door, said:

"Miss Ryder, you are creating a public disturbance—leave the chambers, forthwith!"

WELL, THAT WAS A show-stopper for the county commission. People looked up, turned in their seats, papers were shuffled, a deputy sheriff stepped forward and Miss Ryder stalked from the room. The unheard-of had happened; Gerald had booted out voting citizen. He knew she never had voted for him, anyway. Thus Jean Ryder became a part of local history, more or less.

IN THOSE YEARS the now-famous Conch Certificates were dreamed up and Gerald

### DOWNTOWN KEY WEST

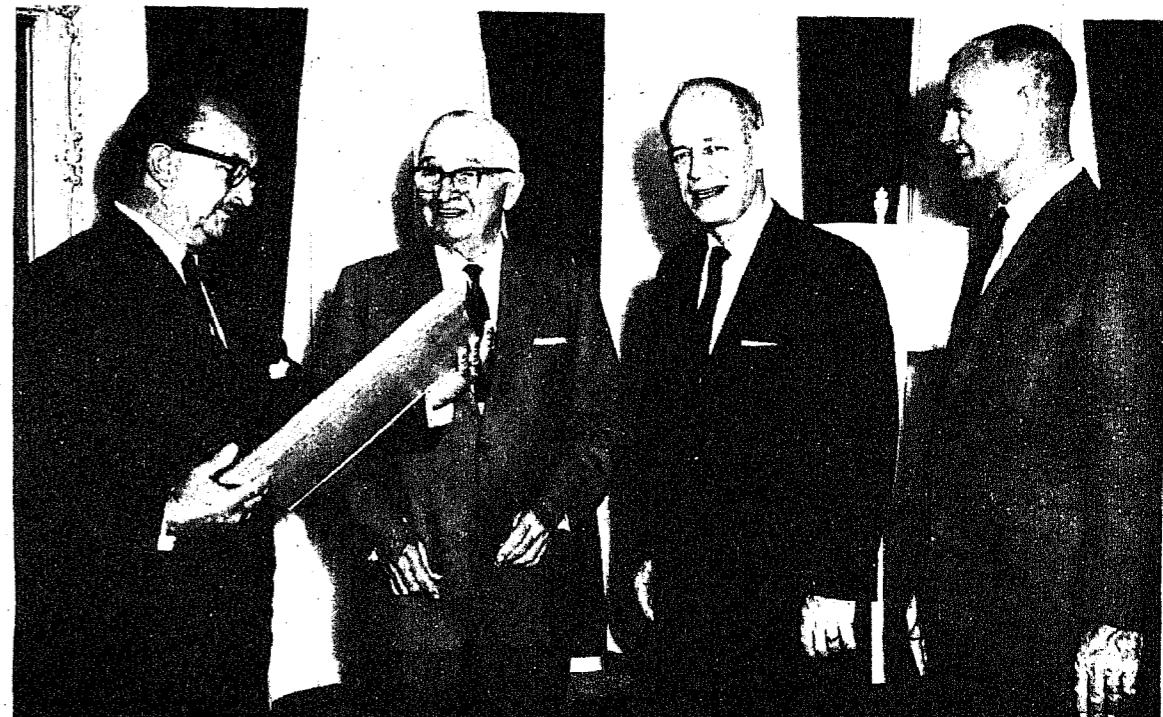
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when the train rolled off the track and tempers frayed. Once, a girl reporter from the local newspaper covered a steamy argument on the commission and after the meeting was invited out for refreshments by a couple commissioners. It was a long, long night. The next day, lo and behold, her notebook with all those spicy words and headline-quotes was missing. It was never found. The story was not nearly as juicy as it could have been.

"I ONLY LOST my temper once," Saunders said, "and I was driven to it."

The occasion was a tedious meeting when the late Jean Ryder, a lady from Tavernier who had been needling them about everything from roads to welfare, waving her arms and talking out of turn, was ruled out of order by the mayor. He said it once, twice and a third time. Then, in a stern voice and pointing the



Mayor Saunders presenting President Harry S. Truman with an Honorary Conch Certificate in the late 1950's. Looking on is Governor Farris Bryant and State Senator John Spotswood.

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Saunders began making the presentations: he reckons today that he has handed out over 8,000 of the colorful scrolls. Among those receiving the honorary award have been President Harry S. Truman, Key West's best loved citizen; Illinois Gov. Adlai Stevenson, Senator Ed Muskie, movie stars like Jayne Mansfield and the group from *PT 109*, Lillian "Piper Lil" Poiter, Guy Lombardo, the daredevils from the Navy's famed Blue Angels, admirals, generals; and visiting mayors, even one from an obscure town in New Zealand. Somehow, though, he missed Dwight Eisenhower and Dick Nixon when they were in town, briefly. "Republicans in those days were not the hot tickets that they seem to be today," he notes.

"PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND building

roads, as I recall it, were among our main contributions when I was on the commission," said Saunders. In the 50s and 60s as subdivisions were platted many of the developers persuaded the county chiefs to pave the roads. The matter took on a controversial side with the nay-sayers claiming the general public was not getting the benefit of the roads (some of them wandered off into far-out subdivisions where water and electric lines still are not in place). The commission majority, led by the late Harry Harris who ruled the road and bridge committee, disputed that, saying the point of the exercise was to "broaden the tax base" when the developer sold the lots.

THE PRESENT SHERIFF, William A. Freeman Jr., was on the commission then

and called them "roads of greed instead of need." Freeman, because he was against much of the majority's work, including almost anything the late sheriff John M. Spottswood proposed, especially his budget, took pride in the nickname of "Dr. No."

ONE OF THE stormiest projects the commission under Saunders ever touched was the famous "million-dollar bridge to nowhere"—there is only one and that was the short draw span over a fishing channel in Marathon.

#### The Boot Key Bridge.

It leads to Boot Key, on the ocean side of Marathon, which was supposed to be built into a luxury residential area. There were glowing reports and studies and persuasive words from the developer who arranged to get some 300 followers to attend a county commission meeting in Marathon the night the politicians voted on the money. The money came from a bond issue and some of the commissioners had to travel to New York to sign the issue. That triggered some scorching editorials and pointed cartoons in the then-privately-owned *Keynoter* newspaper in Marathon (it is now owned by the Knight-Ridder group).

Charley Deal and Keith Wood ran the weekly paper then, and they pilloried the commission for what they branded a "boondoggle," in polite English. The Boot Key bridge, they insisted, went "nowhere." Today, alas, it still goes nowhere.

RADIO STATION WFFC has its studio out there but the rest of it is the domain of gulls, herons, frogs, and a road pocked with holes, weeds, and illegal dump sites.

"It was a headache, at the time," Saunders concedes.

IN THE THROES of road building to help the economy of the county, for that was the commission's theory, a causeway from U.S. 1 at Indian Key fell into the Florida Bay to Lignumvitae Key was proposed. A tourist mecca, they declared. That was like the red flag and the bull to the county's vocal conservationists. They packed commission meetings several times fighting the causeway, and in the end the politicians "saw the light." They dropped the whole idea.

IN THE LATE 60s, during one of their trips to Tallahassee for a legislative hearing, Saunders recalled, Commissioner Billy Osterhoudt used his own plane to fly the mayor and others north. On the way back one time, though, with Tuffy Roberts and Elio Bello in the plane, along with Saunders, the aircraft suddenly lost oil pressure and Osterhoudt, the pilot, brought it down on a smooth glide with the engine dead, smack into a cornfield. The plane was a total loss.

"THAT WASN'T FUNNY," Saunders said and his face even to this day gets angry, "we could have been killed. Billy did a damn good job and when we stopped he yelled 'everybody out! Run in case of a fire.'

"I got tangled in my seat belt trying to get out," Saunders said, "but I made it and, you better believe it, I ran like a rabbit for miles and didn't stop. That's the last time I ever flew anything, period."

The cause, it was later explained, was a careless mechanic at the hangar who failed to tighten the cap on the oil intake.

BACK WHEN HE was first on the city council, Saunders remembers, it was his deciding vote that named Paul E. Sawyer attorney for the city. The other candidate was the late Julius Stone, one of the slickest of the legal eagles ever

(continued on page 8)

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## NOTES AND ANTIC-DOTES

BY DOROTHY RAYMER

NOW FOR THE "piece de resistance" of "Only In Key West" incidents. This concerns the French Connection and it happened in the late 1950s or early 1960s. A flotilla of French destroyers made port and hundreds of French sailors were granted shore leave on the very first evening of the French Navy's visit. The streets of downtown Key West were flooded (in more ways than one) with hundreds of Frenchmen in summer uniforms, and wearing white, tam-shaped caps with red pompons on the top of the crown.

The red pompons became frazzled as the hours progressed, for the tradition, so it was said, is to tug out a souvenir tuft of the pompon and bestow it on any female who permitted a French sailor to kiss her. Incidentally, the romantic-acting sailors didn't just select the young and comely women; any age would do just so long as the woman cooperated! And plenty of them did.

AND SO THE French gallants thronged from bars to restaurants to shops, up and down Duval and its sidestreets, drinking and beating heartthrob drums until the 4 a.m. curfew.

By this time the "wee hours" were apparent in reality, to use a sort of "nursery" term. I was passing the patio of what was then Luigi's, Duval and Caroline streets, on my way home from a nightclub assignment, when I noticed a mob of French sailors standing three and four deep surrounding the circular fountain in front of the building (which is now Dedeck's Fogarty House Restaurant). On a closer look, from which I hastily backed away, I found out that they were using the fountain basin as a--well--as a watering hole.

NEXT MORNING, KAY KERSEY, an artist, who was temporarily covering for *The Key West Citizen* the city hall beat at the old structure on Greene Street, arrived breathless and shocked at her desk. She announced, "There are more than 100 French sailors in the municipal court room, and all of them are charged with indecent exposure!"

She continued to be horrified, but I thought it was hilarious and asked to be assigned to get the story.

MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE Enrique Esquinaldo had to raise his voice and his gavel to bring a semblance of order and to calm the babble of mingled Spanish, French and English in explosive phrases. American and French naval officers, shore patrolmen, local police, and irate property owners thronged the court room, and there was standing room only as scores of French sailors filed in to testify.

JUDGE ESQUINALDO HEARD all the testimony and the protests of both sides of the "flooding" issue. He sorted out explanations which were not watered down and spouted in three languages. The "culprits of indecent exposure" accused the City of Key West of being barbaric and unsanitary because it did not provide public conveniences for French relief. In short, Key West did not have proper facilities, such as corner pissoirs, as in France. This was inhospitable and uncivilized, they deemed; and what was a poor distressed sailor to do when nature called, or rather, shouted, "When you gotta go, you gotta go."

IN THE LAST analysis (in this case of type of urine analysis) he could only use handy walls, bushes, trees, potted

palms on Duval, flower boxes at shops, lawns, and the fountain patio, none of which offered true privacy.

The home and business operators were the most upset and angry. The Frenchmen tended to shrug in traditional national gesture. The American officers and shore patrolmen snickered and choked back laughter. Some of the Cuban cops were indignant, but nearly all were sympathetic.

THE DISCUSSION LEFT everyone bushed, in different connotations, of course. Finally Judge Esquinaldo, who had managed to keep a straight face with just a hint of a grin throughout the procedure, pronounced his verdict. He said, "In the interests of international good will, all charges against our French visitors are dismissed. I do advise that French officers inform their men to use indoor plumbing in the bars."

He added, "I can only hope the potted palms along Duval survive."

AFTER THE DELUGE, the calm. Well, almost. My buoyant column was slightly dampened by a reprimand. Somebody sent my punning, lightly-meant column on the French invasion to French naval authorities, and I received a serious reprimand to my humorous approach. The communiqué from headquarters in Paris pointed out that while the behavior of the French was disturbing, it was obviously done out of necessity, whereas the innocent mistake was nothing compared to what all French, especially Parisians, endured from American military personnel over there.

And so townspeople bid adieu (pronounced "ah, dew," with a wink) and the sailors took French leave.

\* \* \*

THINKING OF OUTDOOR facilities, Key West used to have quite a number of backyard privies before the city ordinances clamped down on most of them. And a few of them were decorated. The work of art was done by an aging man with a shaggy head of long hair and heavy white beard and moustache to match. Denis Sneigr of the citizen staff nicknamed him "Old World Charm."

I never learned the old painter's real name. Old World Charm painted the doors and exterior walls of outdoor "Johns." He would come shuffling in to the citizen newsroom by the side door and never spoke to anyone except Don Pinder. He would knock on the door of Don's small back office and wait patiently for long periods if there was no answer. He was trying to get Don, chief photographer of the newspaper, to take photos of his latest privy mural.

IN RECALLING THE constantly-changing procession of characters-around-town, it is inevitable that a sketch of a mysterious and pathetic man called Cigarette Willie be included. He was always a loner and I never heard him speak. He crouched with a "comfort" blanket and a paper sack or two on a street bench under the huge banyan tree that canopies the corner of Simonton and Eaton streets, near the Old Stone (First Methodist) Church. Cigarette Willie always dangled an unlighted cigarette from his mouth, hence his descriptive label.

I NEVER SAW the color of his eyes because he kept them closed, dozing (or seeming to) by day and sleeping on the bench at night.

He wore cast-off garb which was apparently exchanged for clean outfits once a month.

Yet one bank official said that Cigarette Willie came to

(continued on page 20)

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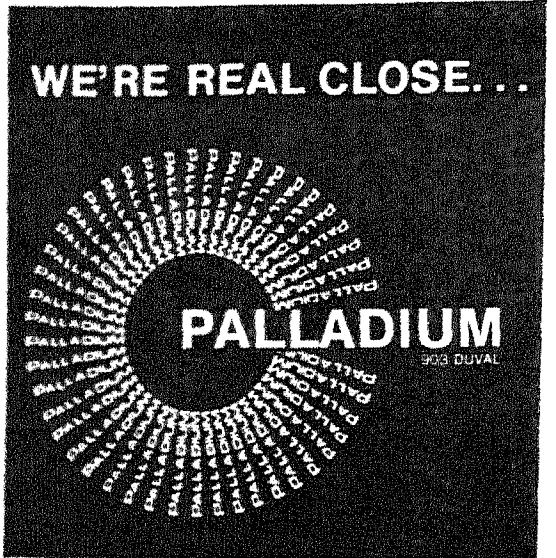
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(continued from page 4)  
to hit town, and the former administrator for the WPA.

The political reality of those times was centered around the late Rep. Bernie C. Papy who was, incidentally, the uncle of the young Sawyer. Before or since Papy, there never was a smoother or more shrewd politician, a man who knew all the strings in all directions and who over the years quietly headed the single most powerful political faction in Monroe County bar none. Saunders, along with hundreds of others, was a loyal and staunch friend of Bernie's but, in his own way, Saunders molded his own following.

WHEN HE MOVED over to the "county side," as they like to say, Saunders' vote placed Sawyer in the slot as attorney for the commission, and he served there for over 25 years, becoming one of Florida's leading authorities in county and state law. When Paul Sawyer was chosen by the county commission the other lawyer whose name was also up for the post was Aquilino Lopez Jr., later to become the top judge in Monroe County.

There was only one circuit judge in this county and for years Lopez held that spot with distinction.

THROUGH THICK AND then Monroe County Mayor Gerald Saunders (the title's honorary and was conferred by a special act of the legislature put forward by then-Senator John M. Spottswood) had guided the meetings of the county chiefs and was known by nearly every resident in Monroe County. He went to almost every function and club meeting, faithfully attended church and was available numerous times as guest speaker, toastmaster, or played violin for the assembly, wherever it was. He was the choir director for 15 years with the Old Stone Church and violin soloist at the Congregational and then

at the Fleming Street Methodist Church.

ON A WINDY and blustery day in the early 60s the late Sam Golan and his wife Margo opened the county's first Holiday Inn and on the platform, barring a blizzard, was Saunders and his violin. Eva Warner Gibson, who was then the Juvenile Judge, was the singer. Together the violinist and contralto rendered a stirring, if somewhat windblown, performance of "God Bless America."

"It was beautiful," Saunders remembers.

HIS COUNTY COMMISSION, he said, was responsible for the paving of Emma and Thomas streets in Key West, the modernization of Flagler Avenue, the Garrison Bight causeway, the Key West International Airport, the building of the sheriff's substations at Plantation Key and Marathon, the purchase of the

Clarence Higgs Memorial Beach (county beach) and much more.

WHEN HE WAS in a campaign, Saunders' overpowering strength came from two key precincts in the city. He was never beaten in those precincts. But then, as is not the case today, the city's overall voting weight was heavier than the county's.

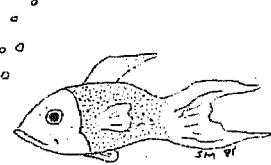
In six terms he knocked out some stiff competition—Harry P. Knight, Paul Mesa and the late Bill Cates. In 1970, however, change was in the wind and Marathon's Bill Carter took his chair but only lasted one term; he was defeated by Jerry Shipley who lasted one term and was knocked over by the present chairman George Dolezal.

HE HAS THE singular honor, also, of being the only county commissioner ever to have a street named after him

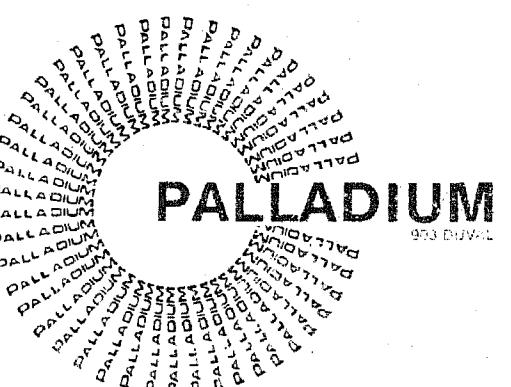
while he held office. That's Saunders Lane (47th Street) in Marathon. You can see it on the signpost.

"I THINK THE old county commissions had the best years, the most productive ones, and I think we were closer then to all the people from the north end to Key West. It was smaller then, it seems. Maybe that's the difference," Saunders concluded.

When you see him, say hello.



IT'S ALMOST HERE...



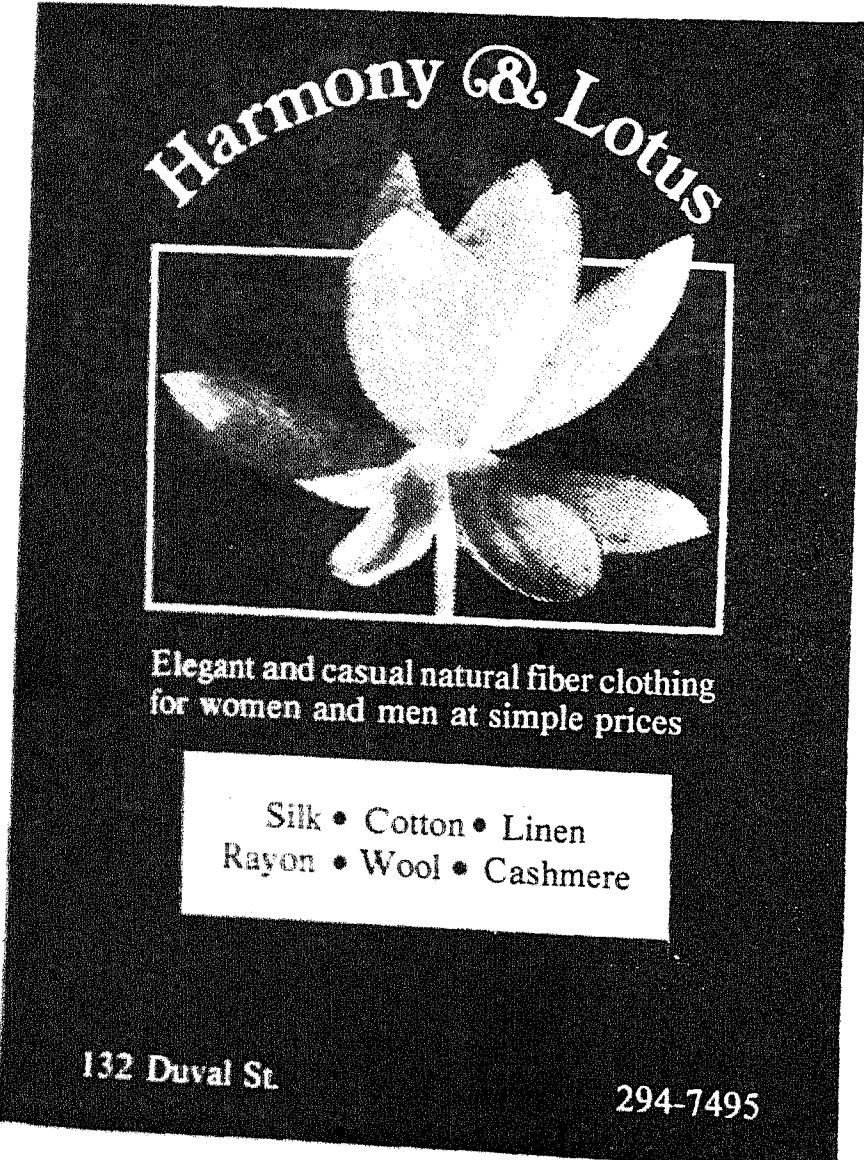
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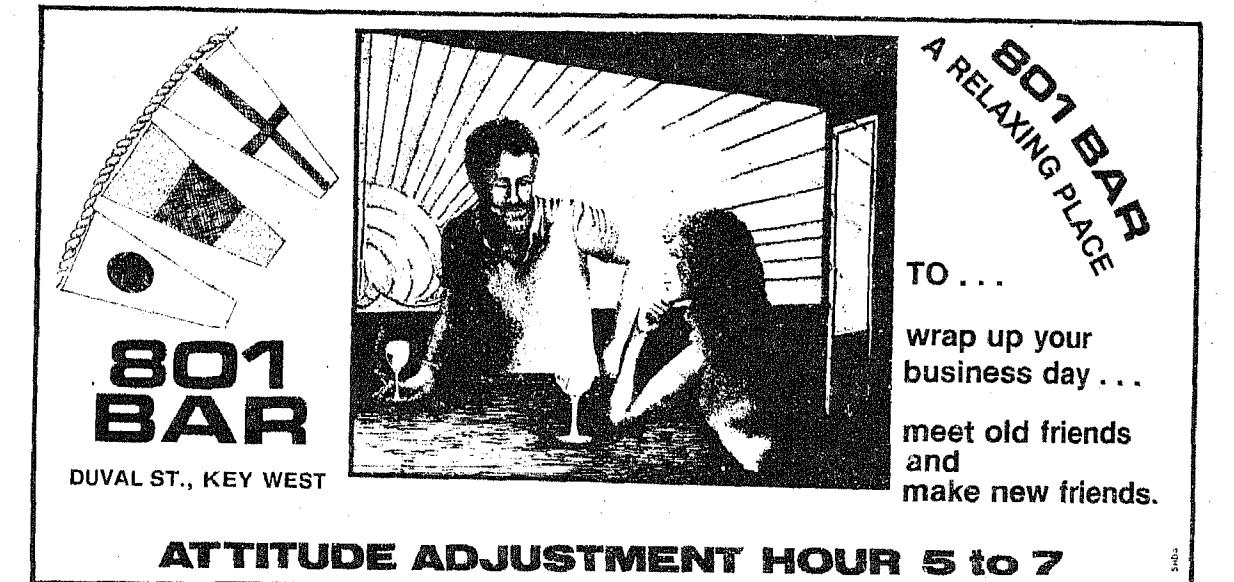
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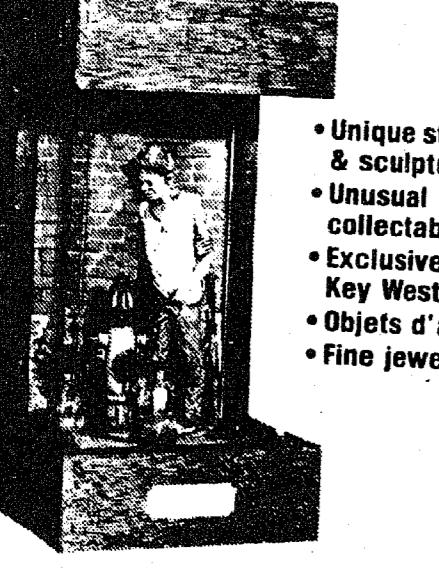
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### TIP OF THE ICEBERG

BY GIL RYDER

THE CITY ELECTRIC System (CES), over the past seven or eight years, has been steadily losing ground in the affections of its customers who, in most cases, are at least nominally also its owners.

This disaffection has been gradual; the causes cumulative. Let's see how this cumulative thing adds up and brings us to present-day dissatisfaction of the customer-owners.

AWAY BACK, ABOUT February 1974, two employees were fired by the CES manager because they were allegedly in a Stock Island bar when they were supposed to be working.

The two fired men went before the Career Service Council and, after the hearing, the Council voted to have the two men reinstated with back pay and a two-week suspension without pay for time they were off the job in January.

This may well have been a fair and just decision—but the two fired men were represented by an attorney and CES was not; neither did the Council have an advisor attorney.

IN APRIL 1974, the Key West Country Club paid its current bill of \$907.00 and promised to pay off the long-overdue bill of \$10,190 in a series of future payments.

Many who were resident CES customers at that time will remember attending the meeting at the Grinnell Street plant in late March or early April 1974 when literally hundreds of people (more than the meeting room could hold) were shouting demands that the Country Club be forced to pay its light bill. It was an exciting evening and it was shortly

after that uproar that the Country Club made its \$907 payment and the promise to pay off the delinquent balance of \$10,190 (it is unknown to the writer if this balance was ever paid).

IN A PAID ad, published August 15, 1974, CES stated that it had reduced its employees from 234 in July 1973 to 207 employees. Many of the customer-owners wondered why on earth those extra 27 had been hired in the first place, and what did they do.

JUMPING ALONG TO 1978, most customer-owners can well remember the brown-outs and black-outs, and that no one was found to be at fault. And we don't have to work too hard to remember all the failures of the Stock Island plant practically from the day it went on the line, and all those big concrete utility poles that fell down shortly after they were put up—and the installing contractor did not have to make good on the job.

THESE AND OTHER past mechanical failures all took time and money to correct, and the customer-owner is beginning to realize that he's the one who has to pay for the mistakes, that it's not just the high cost of fuel that makes the electric bill so high. Most people queried on the subject agree that anyone can suffer mistakes and failures, but that CES does seem to have overdone it over the years.

ALL THESE MISADVENTURES of CES brought about the organization of aroused citizens this past summer. A group of citizens, organized under the name of "CUTBACK," headed by Neal Chancellor, have taken the bull by the horns and now seem ready to fight the inadequacies and inefficiency of our publicly-owned utilities.

It is to be hoped that they will recognize the cumulative effect over a

period of years and not blame the entire mess on present officials.

ONE OF THE flaws in our democratic system is that too few properly-qualified people offer themselves for election to office, either in government itself or in subsidiary areas such as CES and FKAA.

One of the reasons for their reluctance is their awareness of past errors that will cause future problems for which they, if elected, will have to answer to the voters, even though they did not cause the problems and cannot quickly correct them.

THE LEADERS OF CUTBACK have a golden opportunity, not only to demand lower utility rates, but to educate the public on the subject of politics.

It is hoped that the leaders of CUTBACK will not let personal pride stand in the way of getting assistance from other active groups such as, but not limited to, the League of Women Voters.

IN ORDER TO CORRECT THE EVILS that beset us, the goal should not be limited to changes in CES and FKAA, but should spread out to include the City and County Commissions, the State Legislature and the Congress of the United States.

FKAA AND CES do not stand alone. Whether acknowledged or not, there are always bound to be, to one degree or another, political relationships between the elected officials of the various political entities. (You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours.) Once CUTBACK has won their battle for lower utility bills, they should not give up and disband, but should continue the good work. When the pressure is off, the serpent returns to the Garden of Eden.

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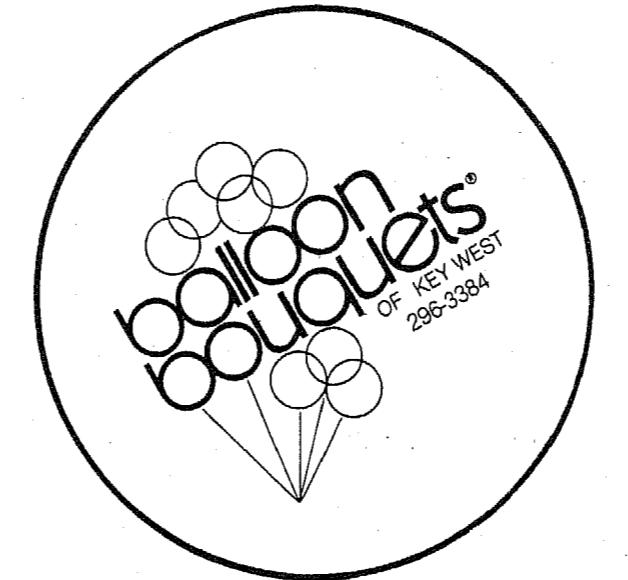
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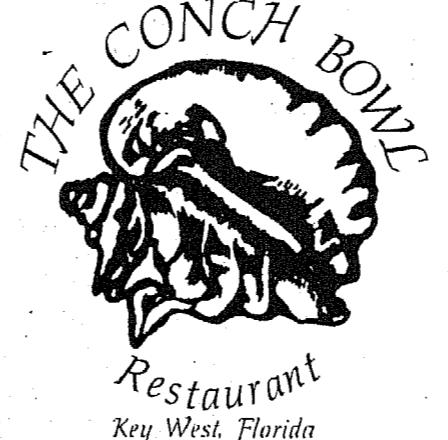
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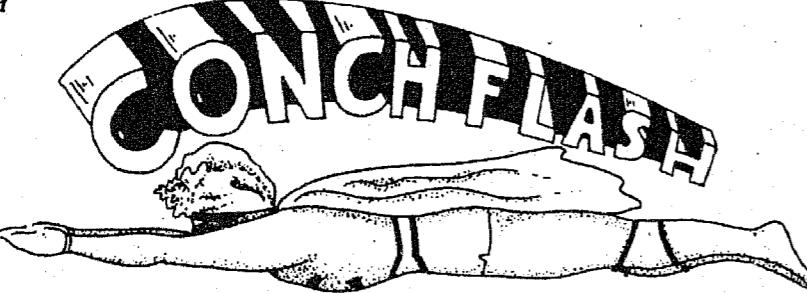


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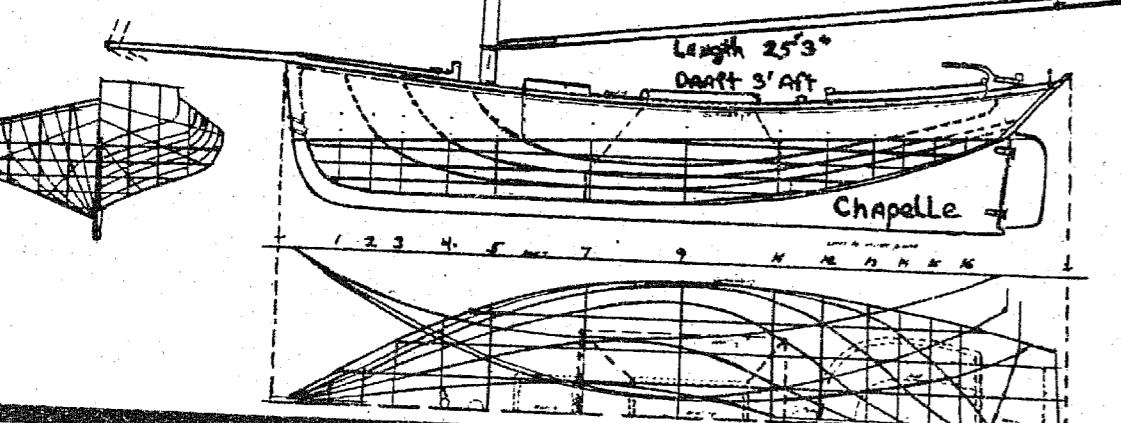
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reduced permission to use his name. And that is why he chose to refinance the bonds, and the tieline will not be built until the government will actually cost us money and the interest that will be paid will not be paid by the government is not being paid by the utility plant for the power.

Mr. CARBONELL, for the CES problems, said he would be referring this fall to the Board of Directors of the opportunity to have the City of Key West to sell the power plant and continue electric power to the public. The plant is now owned by the utility.

Mr. CARBONELL, a CAA member, said he has been in contact with the utility to see if the utility will do more to help him to sell the plant. He said he has been in contact with the utility and the utility has been helpful.

will run all the way to Key West. (There are some contending that it will end eleven miles short of Key West.) Carbonell says the tieline should be complete in 18 months, and beneficial effects should be noticeable shortly thereafter. He adds that once the tieline is in operation, CES will be able to put the Grinnell Street plant back in good shape so that it will be ready to serve as a standby.

ASKED IF HE thought there would be surplus CES employees once the tieline was in operation, he said that he believed so, and that there might be a lay-off of those surplus employees. He added that TBA (an analyst group) is now under contract to CES, studying the situation, and that there might be some lay-offs even before the tieline is completed.

WHEN ASKED IF he thought the various consulting engineers always gave good advice, Carbonell said he did not think so, that their recommendations might well be made for the benefit of the advisors.

Carbonell went on to say that, once the tieline is complete, CES will not be restricted to FPL as a source, but will be able to shop among other power suppliers for lowest rates.

HE ALSO BROUGHT out that in the last two years personnel has been reduced from 242 employees to 200.

Carbonell reminds us that he is not now running for office. He still has two years to go in his present term.

MR. CARBONELL'S STATEMENT on the reduction in personnel might well give us something to think about. Go back a few paragraphs and you will see that

employees were reduced from 234 in July 1973 to 207 in August 1974. How and why did this employee explosion, from 207 in 1974 to 242 approximately two years ago, occur? Those salaries and wages are an important part of your electric bill. Makes you ask who's minding the store, doesn't it?

STATE REP. JOE Allen, when asked about the CES problems, said that the faults in CES are very real but that they have not been caused solely by the present Board, but rather are a cumulative effect over the years from previous Boards, and that it will probably take some years and several successive Boards to correct the situation.

POINTING A FINGER at a particular politician and saying, "He did it!" will not correct the problem. Even scolding all the politicians would not help be-

cause the real fault does not lie with our elected officials; it definitely does lie with the citizens who elect the officials.

The registered voters have the power and the authority to control the destiny of the community--and they do so control it.

When registered voters take a proper interest in their community, they will learn that they must also take a deep interest in those seeking political office. They will also learn to seek out the most qualified men and women in the community, and try to convince them to run for office.

THE REGISTERED VOTERS must also assure the persons they're trying to convince that they will work in his or her campaign, that they will provide whatever sum of money they can afford, and that they will try to raise money

from others for the campaign.

UNFORTUNATELY THAT ISN'T the way things work. About half the registered voters stay home on election day. Of the ones who do go to the polls, far too many are woefully ignorant of the issues and have little or no knowledge of the candidates and/or the candidates' positions on the various issues of great public concern. Many have not even read the candidates' advertising.

NEWSPAPERS SHOULD ALSO play more active part in establishing and maintaining an effective and honest government by holding a constant vigil and forthrightly criticizing untoward behavior, not only on the part of elected officials but of all those who are employed in any capacity on the public payroll.

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## KEY WEST - FANTASY ISLAND

BY RICHARD MARSH

TO BORROW AN expression, the reports of the death of Key West are greatly exaggerated. I have heard conflicting opinions on the state of the health of the Old Island in the six weeks I have been here since late July. "It's worse than ever."

"Things are looking up." "If the Navy takes back the old submarine base, it will be just like old times."

"The Navy ruined Key West. The worst thing that could happen would be for them to take back the base."

"More local people are moving out than are moving in."

WHEN I LEFT Key West in April 1980, I wrote a farewell article for *Solares Hill*. Having covered negative aspects of the city's growth for the previous four years as an investigative reporter specializing in the mid-deeds of City Hall, I wondered if Key West would "have its character radically changed to suit the selfish dreams of the select few." The article ended wistfully with "I hope that I will recognize it when I come back."

NOT ONLY DO I recognize it, but something of the island's spirit has come into sharper focus since my return --something I had seen from the beginning, but never before so clearly. Living for the past year at a "New Age" center in rural Ireland has both provided a contrast and enhanced the focus.

This year's farewell article brings to a conclusion a six-year scavenger hunt for the will-o-the-wisp that is the spirit of Key West, identifies that spirit for me and for others who are like-minded, and explains why my Key West is alive and well.

I INTERVIEWED JOHN Knowles in November 1973 on the day he finished his novel *Spreading Fires* at the Pier House. I was here to write an article on the arts scene for *Directions*, a Miami magazine, and I quoted his observations.

"A person can't go through Key West," said Knowles. "It is a terminus, not a transit. It is the end of the line. ... You have to sit down and take stock."

I HAD MADE that knowledge my own by the time I expanded the image in my novella, *The Shore of Two Worlds*, a fantasy-romance set in Key West:

"... and you find your origin and what you have become so far staring you in the face. And since you cannot return to the past, you turn again to face in the direction you were heading, and you step off. Some ascend to a higher place of enlightenment and self-realization; some merely fall over the edge."

USING THE COOKIE-CUTTER method, I compared the outline of an unknown something missing inside me and found that it corresponded exactly to the shape of Key West. So with a handful of poems, scraps of a novel, a couple of cameras, and my two-year-old daughter, Christine, I moved to the end of the line in 1974.

I HAD MET Roger Vail, painter of psychic portraits who died a few years ago in Nepal, on a previous visit. He had a studio/gallery/bedroom/kitchen at the San Carlos Theater in early 1973. The local art world knew he was here, but no one quite knew what to make of his work. Rob Yard, the candlemaker, told me, "What I did understand was really deep."

AFTER I MOVED here, I visited Roger frequently, with and without Christine, impelled by the writer's instinct to capture in words what I could sense, even if I had to use the words of others.

Roger was an embodiment of the spirit of Key West as described in Wallace Stevens' poem, "The Idea of Order at Key West."

"SHE SANG BEYOND the genius of the sea ... what she sang was what she heard ... she was the maker of the song



PHOTO BY RICHARD MARSH

Roger Vail in his Elizabeth Street apartment, July 1974

she sang ... there never was a world for her / Except the one she sang and, singing, made."

ROGER TASTED MARROW without touching flesh, to borrow an image from another poet, and painted his subjects as he saw them--from the center out.

"In this picture you can see her past, present, and future. If she didn't have a future, I couldn't do the picture."

"There's something wrong with my vision, but as I lose that, I gain the other. I can see almost as well with my back as with my eyes."

HE WAS COMPLETELY divorced from the ordinary life some call "reality."

"I don't know what anybody thinks anymore. I have to get myself some childhood books to learn my culture ... I can communicate with small children on an idea level. They can be utilized as conceptual tools."

An example of the child as conceptual tool was Christine at the Christmas party where Dancing Sister showed up wearing a lace table cloth and a seraphic smile. Adults looked out of the corners of their eyes and tried to pretend Sister wasn't there. The kid looked up awestruck and said, "Hi, angel."

ROGER, THE ARTIST as conceptual tool, explained that the earth is a grid or matrix located at an intersection of lines on the matrix that is the universe. Key West is at an intersection of lines on the earth-matrix. Within the matrix of Key West are intersections of lines that generate positive or negative energy.

IN 1974, ROGER was established in an apartment/studio on Elizabeth Street

which held strong positive energy. He channeled that energy by arranging furniture, plants ("The fern is the most easily trainable. It grows toward me. It's like a dog."), a globe, wires, a chessboard with ceramic pieces, and completed paintings of the current cycle to form another matrix. He would hold a brandy glass half filled with water between his eye and a canvas. The water in the glass compressed and inverted the black-lined skeleton of the painting-to-be ("This is a printed circuit.") as Roger added lines until it was ready for color.

HE EXPLAINED: "A painting is a series of matrixes. Everything in the room is lined up to the painting. Now the thing to do is to reduce all this--the glass of water and the light reflections--into a painting. Anything that interrupts my thought has to be integrated into the painting."

Or perhaps substituted. As I write this, I have in front of me a ceramic pawn from Roger's chess set, which he gave to Christine: a trade of a pawn for a concept?

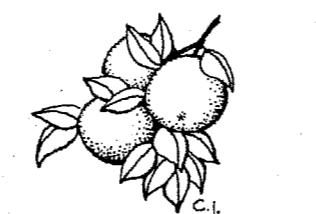
CAREFUL SELECTION AND manipulation resulted in a many-times intensified and magnified image of a world Roger found and made, compressed, and then projected through the final lens of his talent onto canvas.

It is worth noting that Roger searched for a place with which he was in tune. Then, without changing the environment outside his own private living/working space, he tuned his immediate surroundings to himself and adapted to whatever accidental influences he could not control, like rain or a visitor.

A GREAT SOUL like Roger does not pass unnoticed, but the only visible trace of his presence here is the few square feet of wall at Captain Tony's Saloon covered by one of his paintings.

MY KEY WEST thrives like the weeds in the cracks in the streets and sidewalks in spite of the onslaught of false progress and civilization. It is made up of Roger, Thurlow Weed, Zelda Catala, Glenn Walker, Stan Windhorn, and others who will not be returning this way again, who created, and those who are still here creating, and by creating, giving life to the spirit of Key West.

Like the "Fantasy Island" of the TV series, Key West is whatever you make it. My Key West is alive and well. How is yours?



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## BAHAMA VILLAGE

INTERVIEW BY JOHN LESLIE

AS PRESIDENT OF the Neighborhood Improvement Association (NIA), Roy Grant has spearheaded the drive to revitalize and re-name a section of Blacktown "Bahama Village." The official dedication will take place October 28 during Fantasy Fest week. *Solares Hill* recently spoke with Grant and NIA committee members Alexis Rivera and Vincent Coleman about the Bahama Village concept.

SH: Roy, could you give us some background to the conception of Bahama Village?

GRANT: The NIA originally organized in August 1975. Our main purpose was to rehabilitate the poverty area of the city and to tie into the mainstream of business. Until now we've been at a point where we do not have anything that would actually attract a tourist in this area. We need an attraction. So now we're thinking of something that would revitalize our area. For about two years I've been kicking over in my mind something that would really have impact on the community and the people that are coming into the area.

Many people do not know that 80% of the black community are descendants of Bahamians, and so in thinking of this I came up with the idea for Bahama Village. The next thing was to think in terms of a complete economic community development plan. With the Bahama concept we want to get the business people on these streets involved and so we decided we would change the name of a part of Petronia Street and dedicate it on the 28th of October.

SH: Will this affect an entire area?

GRANT: Right now we're looking from Petronia moving out from the target area perhaps over to Angela or Southard. And then going to the Atlantic side, we may go down to Catherine Street and that would include most of the black community.

SH: Would you describe now in some detail the concept of Bahama Village?

GRANT: The concept right now is to put in the type of stores that would lend itself to the Bahama flavor, say for instance a Bahama restaurant or a Bahama nightclub. Air Florida is looking at the possibility of putting a ticket office in this area. The only ones we have now are on Roosevelt Boulevard.

Another aspect is a straw market. We have made contact with the Minister of Tourism for the Bahamas and he will be here a couple of weeks before the dedication to tie this in with business people in the Bahamas to see what type of merchandise they could export. We're thinking of a plaza, maybe consisting of a straw market, an old-fashioned ice cream parlor, exotic Bahamian drinks, sweets. We have to motivate the business people to get involved here and I'm thinking in terms of linking this to a corporation for our business people along these streets.

SH: What will be the meaning to the black community of this project?

COLEMAN: The entire concept is to stimulate interest in the black community and to tie in with the mainstream of the entire island. We're losing our young people because we don't have any type of industry. Our ancestors came from the Bahamas; if we can incorporate that style it would give the kids a place to work and also encourage them to think of businesses of their own.



Looking at plans for Bahama Village are, from left, Vincent Coleman, Alexis Rivera and Roy Grant.

SH: So we're not just looking at something for one week of Fantasy Fest. We're looking at something that's going to go on for a long time, right?

COLEMAN: Fantasy Fest is just giving us a vehicle to announce this. It's going to be just the beginning. We would be the only Bahama Village in the states and it will be a benefit to the entire community. The people here are ready to work, too.

SH: People are cooperating, then?

RIVERA: People WANT to get involved. It's just that right now they have to be educated to what we're doing. And that's one of the things I think the Fantasy Fest is going to help do.

SH: Is there anything that people could do if they wanted to help?

GRANT: We need people with their ideas to come out and work with us. We're trying to bring about a viable economic asset to this whole city. This is not just something that's a one-night stand with Fantasy Fest. We want it to be something to stay here--always--that is going to generate pride and motivation in our community. We're not asking for handouts. We're only trying to find our place in the sun and the only thing we're asking is for assistance and cooperation from the whole city to help us find that place.

RIVERA: You know, the way I hear my grandparents talking, Petronia Street was not always as it is now, that is, stereotyped as a slum area.

Years ago there were thriving businesses there and it was open to whites. We have to get that image back. We don't want whites to be afraid to come on the new street.

COLEMAN: The history of the black businessman hasn't been one of long-term business ventures. When Alexis's grandparents were young they had thriving businesses but they weren't handed down. That's the thing that we want to encourage now because we want to keep it an ongoing thing.

SH: In conclusion is there anything else that you want to add?

GRANT: I just want to say that we're looking forward to as many people as possible coming out to join us on the 28th. At 4:00 p.m. we're going to block off the streets--one block of Petronia from Whitehead to Duval and down Duval to Truman Avenue. We'll have a band from the Bahamas to entertain as well as local talent--Coffee Butler, the Junkanoo, the Islanders and many others.

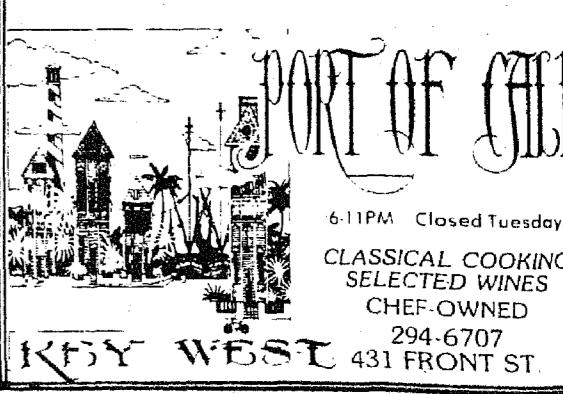
We've planned a delightful summer for you...

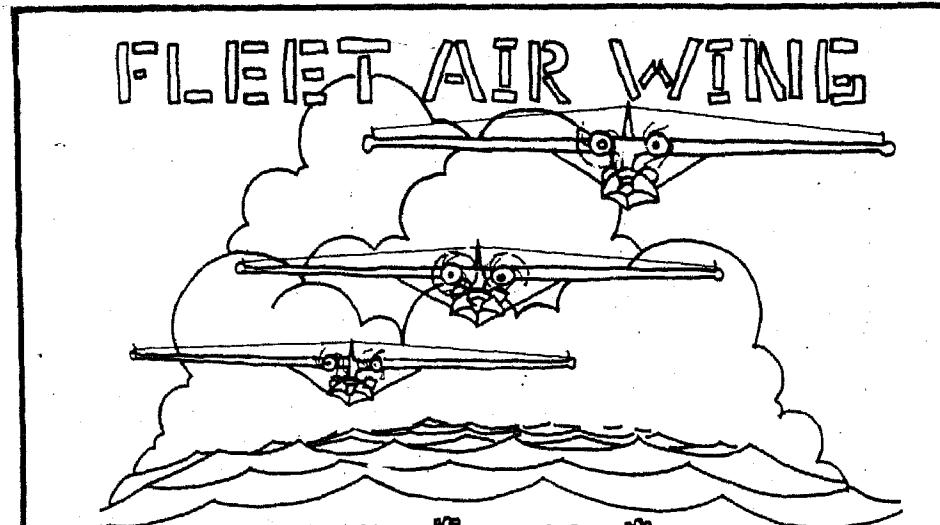
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(continued from page 7)  
a local bank to collect a monthly stipend by which he lived adequately, eating fast food and sipping soft drinks.

THE RUMOR WAS that he had reached his mental torpor and state of withdrawal from life around him, through a tragedy that sent him into permanent shock. It was supposedly caused by a fire that destroyed his wife, children, and his former home. That's why he never touched a light to the cigarette that drooped from his lips.

After a final winter of discontent, or at least of detachment, isolated in his silent and solitary world, he faded out of the local scene. Presumably relatives had him taken away to a mental hospital, but that, too, is only surmise. Others said he went to Hawaii. Quien sabe?

DERELICTS AND WINOS held little get-togethers on the street-side porch of the old Carpenter's Hall, corner of Elizabeth and Caroline streets, every day. There they drank Thunderbird wine and sometimes a rare pint of hard liquor. One of the group was a slightly-built man with snow-white hair. He had rather aristocratic and handsome features. His name was Roy Passwater. He had courtly manners--for instance, opening Carlos Market doors for neighborhood girls and women. He accompanied this gesture with old-fashioned bows and offers to carry grocery bags for the ladies.

Yet for all the gentleman's manners, Passwater lived up to his name. He was arrested for urinating in public at the Greyhound Bus Station, adjacent to the police station on Angela Street. He died recently. I wonder who inherited his old raccoon-skin coat which he wore even in hot weather?

A PROMINENT BUSINESSMAN, a friend of mine, told me that humorous happenings had always been part of the pattern of life on "The Old Rock" as far back as he could remember even in his boyhood. To illustrate the point, he told me that his mother had come under severe criticism from the PTA when he was in grade school at what is now known as junior high school level.

He sold magazine subscriptions around town and one of the best sources for sales was at a house of ill repute. His mother was not aware that the house was on the list of her son's customers. Nor was she aware that her husband, who was a wholesale beer distributor, also sold the bottled beverage to the same bawdy house. She was a devoted mother and wife concentrating on her household duties and had no interest in anything to do with business.

BUT THE YOUNG BOY, and also his father, were observed entering and departing from the premises of the notorious location and the sightings were reported to members of the respectable PTA, who in turn repeated the observation to the fellow member of the group, the lady whose spouse and offspring were seen at "a den of iniquity."

The distressed matron was horrified, although of course the suspected culprits were only on innocent missions.

I DON'T KNOW how the father solved his problem. After all, the beer he sold was bought in great quantities by all the "houses." But the lad who sold the magazines had to drop particular locations on his route.

Ironically, the best-selling subscription at the bordello was *The Literary Digest*, a now-defunct publication favored by intelligentsia.

AND NOW FOR a look at the Key West City Ordinance which is enforced in shops, restaurants and public buildings, and

certainly by the more staid business institutions, such as banks. There are notices in windows and on doors of all these enterprises proclaiming "Shirts and Shoes Required."

Most sign readers get the message clearly and recognize that what is meant is that customers have to wear proper covering and footgear. However, the British interpretation differs. In the first place, despite all those trend movements and riots in England, people of the United Kingdom remain pretty staid, and would never think of being caught in public sans appropriate body and foot covering.

I stood in front of the Key West Island Bookstore with a visitor from England one day and registered her reaction as she read the proclamation "Shirts and Shoes Required." She studied it a moment and then asked, "Whatever for?"

THE SAME ORDINANCE promoted an "Only In Key West" interlude at the new Pepe's Cafe on Caroline Street. Gloria Bolles, who was at that time proprietor of a gift shop of imported items called The Hand Of Oman, liked to eat a robust breakfast at the re-located Pepe's. She was savoring a third cup of Cuban coffee at the counter when she heard an alien sound, a rustling, crackling, swishing noise. She swerved around on her counter stool and saw two street loafers (that's a polite term) shuffling into the restaurant, their feet and legs encased in big, brown paper bags.

One of the toothless breakasters pointed to the city ordinance sign and croaked, "We gotta obey regulations, lady. And Carlos Market helped us out for covering our feet."

THE FINAL PHASE connected with the enforced ordinance for shirts and shoes cropped up in the Christmas season of 1979. It was about 10 minutes to the 2 p.m. closing time for Florida First National Bank. The guard was screening would-be entrants to the bank, when a frantic young man pushed open the entrance door, waving a fistful of money. He was evidently trying to deposit it on time.

He got inside the sacred portals but no further. He was halted by the security guard just over the threshold. The guard indicated the shirtless state and barred his way.

THE YOUNG MAN-IN-A-HURRY was garbed only in swimming trunks. He bolted out to a parked car and got its inmate to lend the shirt right off his back.

A dash back to the barriers! But to no avail. This time the uniformed watchman pointed out the second "no-no"--bare feet.

There were only two minutes left before closure of the bank. Distraught, the young man stood on the pavement again, thwarted and dejected.

SUDDENLY HE HAD an inspiration and held hurried consultation with a Salvation Army representative, another youthful man, who was in charge of a big collection kettle on the sidewalk. The kettle man snatched off his shoes and handed them to the guy in distress. Never was a Salvation Army rescue act more appreciated!

The nervous would-be customer slipped into the borrowed brogans and made it safely inside the bank right in the nick of time. Even the guard laughed and spectators cheered. I'm sure contributions dropped into the collection kettle were rewardingly increased by the giving gesture of the Salvation Army guy who stood there in his stocking feet on one of the coldest days Florida had experienced that winter of 1979.

CONCLUDING CHORTLE FOR "Only In Key West" is contributed by Richard Marsh, editor of my *Key West Collection*. He noted that officials in Key West keep a wary eye on travellers with meagre visible means of support, and who are likely prospects for becoming panhandlers. So a prominent City Hall representative, observing passengers deboard from a Greyhound bus one day, watched with interest as three "hippy types" got off the bus. One disheveled fellow knelt down and kissed the gritty concrete and murmured, "Thank God, I'm in the Promised Land at last!"

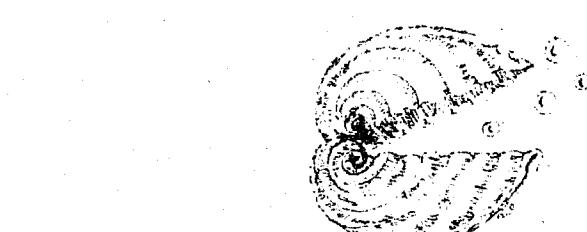
"Excuse me," said the official, touching one of the ground-kisser's companions on the shoulder. "Could you tell me what your friend means by 'The Promised Land'?"

"YEAH, MAN, WE got run out of Atlanta, Georgia," explained the new arrival.

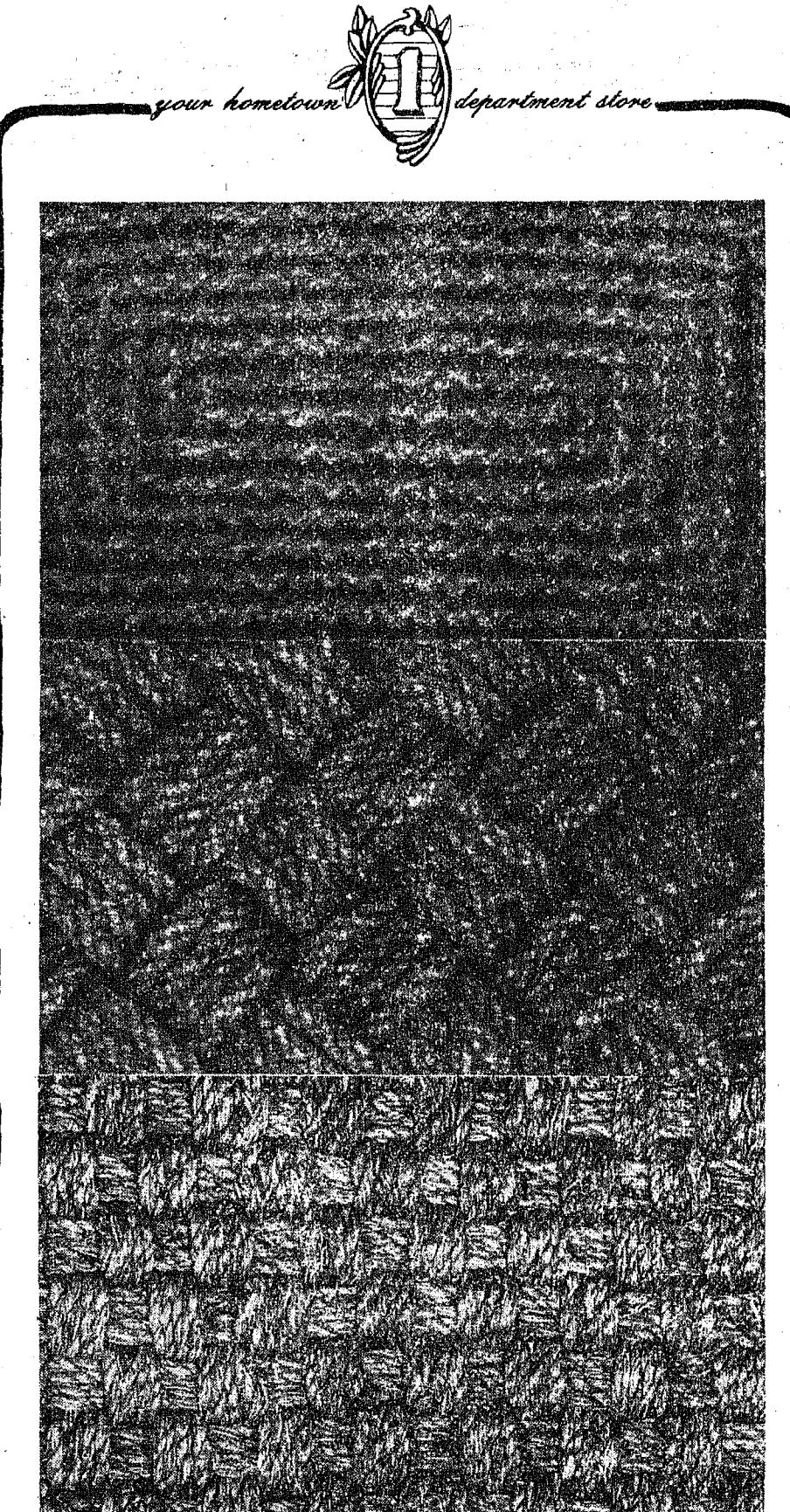
"We went to Jacksonville, Florida. When we got the bum's rush there we tried West Palm Beach, then Fort Lauderdale and finally Miami. The cop who ran us out of Miami gave us advice. 'Why don't you just go to Key West? I promise you, you can get away with anything there.' And so here we are, man, in The Promised Land!"

The city official added, "They didn't stay here long, either."

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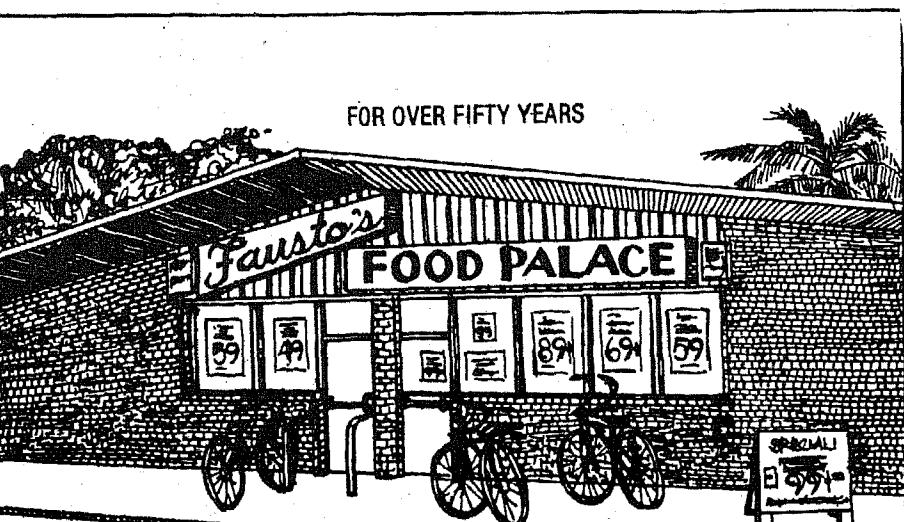


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### AMUSEMENTS

BY ROBIN KAPLAN

THE WATERFRONT PLAYHOUSE is gearing up for an ambitious season and has just released its roster of theatrical undertakings for the '81-'82 winter. Launching the season on November 9 is the Shakespearean farce, *Taming of the Shrew*. This will be followed by the George Kaufman/Moss Hart high-spirited collaboration, winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 1936, *You Can't Take It With You*. A drama of jurists, *Twelve Angry Men*, follows; then the musical, *Carousel*; and the season will close with an updated version of the 30's comedy, *When Ladies Meet*. Individual tickets run \$4.00 and \$4.50, with season tickets available at \$16.00 and \$18.00, at the Mallory Square box office.

AND ANOTHER MATTER of the proscenium: The Key West Business Guild is presenting *Bent* as a benefit for their Crime Prevention Fund. Performed at Red Barn Theatre, the show is opening October 9, with performances running the 10th and 11th, Oct. 16-18, and a third weekend, Oct. 23-25. It's directed and produced by June Hunzinger. Curtain time is 8:30 and tickets cost \$7.00, with all proceeds benefiting the fund and consequently all citizens of Key West. The cast (George Gulette, Tom Schmitt, Oscar Richards, John Herb, Gentry Johnson, Sydney Arnold, Gary Norris, Tom George and Michael DeMoldau) have been working on this serious production with fervor and intensity; my expectations are high. Try to make it on the 9th and enjoy an opening night party with the cast.

THE PAPILLON TEA-BY-THE-SEA gathering was such a success that, word has it, they will occur with more frequency than the third Sunday of each month, as originally designated and advertised.

IF AN INTRODUCTORY French class is something you've been thinking about, now is the time to register at The Artists' Warehouse. Located where the old Sponge Factory was on Charles Street, the class starts October 5; interested students should stop by or call 294-2443 or 296-5211, for details.

A NUMBER OF Key West residents have formed a coalition to organize an "Ocean Awareness Days Festival," to be held in December. The purpose of the festival is to "raise consciousness and funds that will generate action for the preservation of sea life." They intend to have speakers, films and workshops. In addition, an arts and crafts fair, music, and booths of refreshments will be organized, the partial proceeds of which will benefit this cause. In the interim, T-shirts ("From the Tropics to the Arctic") are available through the following stores: Art Attack, Bay Trading Co., Conch Flash, and Herb Garden Health Foods; sales benefit the festival and the whale float for Fantasy Fest, October 31. Those interested in assisting with either the float or the festival should contact Pam (294-7131) or Irene (294-8107), or, at Art Attack, 425 Southard Street, there is a bulletin board with more information and a sign-up sheet.

BEAUTIFUL PHANTOMS is a collection of poems by Barry Gifford, to be released this month. Barry, an avid fisherman who spends time each winter in Key West, sent me a pre-publication copy which I enjoyed and enjoyed again. He has distinguished himself in the literary field with *Heartbeat*, the Cassidy/Kerouac biography which has made its way to celluloid, and with *Landscape With Traveller*, a perfect novel, released about 18 months ago. Prolific, his output is extensive; a poet, biographer and novelist, Barry, who's been

making national television appearances this summer, puts so much love and energy into his work. I highly recommend reading all the above-mentioned books. He has, perhaps, another 10 books in print—all this, and he's only in his 30s!

AND ANOTHER "LITERARY" note: After nearly a decade of bookselling in three cities, I am removing my retailing cap and placing my thinking cap in its place. The Bookshop on Fleming Street is closed. It is with appreciation that I thank the community for your support of my business. I have been grateful for every day of patronage, every friend and customer who has patiently waited for special orders to edge down the Keys, every browser and avid reader, every "Thanks for turning me on to..." this author or that book, and every good conversation. It has been fulfilling and I do thank you.

UNDERRAETH THE THINKING cap are several books I have been working on. It is time to devote myself fully to these projects, now. And yes, I will remain in Key West to follow this calling. This Christmas, the first comprehensive biography of May Sarton will be published. I have been requested to release my (elsewhere-published) interview with the author at the Algonquin. And so it's done, and I hope this small beginning will find its way to you and that I might, in the future, provide you with reading material from another vantage point.

THE LAST DETAIL: The Picture Show schedule is as follows: October 4-10, *Breaker Morant*; October 11-17, *Steppenwolf*; October 18-24, *Return of the Se-  
caucus 7*; October 25-31 at midnight  
only, *Rocky Horror Picture Show*; and a  
Halloween Special at 9 p.m., *Night of the Living Dead*.



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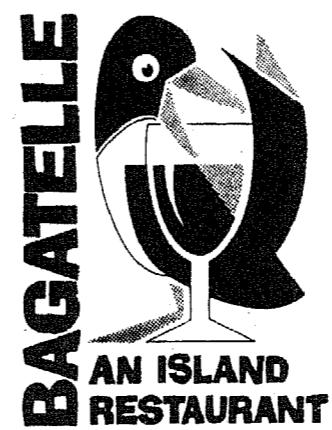
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Street, Key West, requesting to get on the catalogue list. Direct your inquiries to the Mail-A-Book Program, Lisa Thompson, Director.

THE 1982 CATALOGUE, listing 800 new titles, is being printed and will be mailed out shortly. So call or write soon.

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## UNITED WAY

THE DIRECTOR OF Monroe County United Way, Sam Lancaster, is now interviewing volunteer assistants to help in the Annual United Way Campaign Fund Drive beginning October 15, 1981.

Preparations have already begun to launch this year's drive in a grand manner and to give the United Way Campaign increased visibility throughout the entire county, Lancaster said.

Anyone who wishes to volunteer their services, please call United Way at 296-3464.

bits and pieces of rhubarb and shredded broccoli.

## QUALITIES MY FRIENDS

## ALWAYS SEEM TO POSSESS:

1. Read a lot;
2. Despise golf;
3. Have tatty oriental rugs;
4. Bedrock pushy;
5. Can't make good tea; and
6. Have secretive natures.

## ODD THINGS YOU CAN

## SPRINKLE WITH SUGAR AND EAT:

1. Clabber;
2. Canned tomatoes;
3. Hot buttered toast (in a spurt of real dietary defiance).

## TO AVOID PARTICIPATION IN FUN FEST:

1. Submerge in a diving bell;
2. Lay out somewhere on Stock Island;
3. Splint your arms and legs; and
4. Hang out a sign "Medfly Hatchery."



BY FRANCES ELIZABETH SIGNORELLI

THERE IS THIS wonderful, old pecan wood desk, left me by my father. It came through his mother, Frances Bryant, whose great-grandfather, William Cullen Bryant, sat at it to write "Thanatopsis." It's now rather pocked, chipped and distempered and it exudes a nourishing, desk smell. A lovely station to sit and have a good think.

ON A RATHER sour morning, with a hurricane slopping about irresponsibly out there, I draw from one of this desk's pigeon holes a few notes, having run my hand in there out of sheer, witless boredom. Even with my filing methods, which are in no way systematic, the List Notebook is recognizable. There is a little secret drawer, and you have got to know where to find it and how to pull it out. This adds a satisfactory climate of mystery. From time to time I have placed fragments in the drawer.

I HAVE BEEN addicted to lists-- lists set down during sermons in church, in waiting rooms of doctors who are trying to make me thin, and after dinner parties while affected by that fearful drink, the gin and tonic. Lists appear to be some kind of dross or overflow of "a writer." For serious consideration in writing, they are like the odd, strange, nasty packages of frozen food an Early Husband would bring in. I, at home with nursing-sized babies to tend, would inspect them and groan, "They just see you coming and clean out their freezer departments on you" ... cold boxes containing comestibles such as

CATS WHO HAVE MEANT EVERYTHING TO ME:

1. Radar (a cat having a justified disdain for people);
2. Bella Abzug (ran off at Larry and Penny Thompson Campground; said to be living in a thicket with a raccoon);
3. Margaret Sanger (spayed and shipped as a gift by Mary Brown; only cat ever to have attended sessions of the Florida Senate in the gallery, in my shoulder bag);
4. Cowboy (celebrated life with rooftop romances and fell to his demise down an outdoor plumbing pipe).

## WHY CAN'T ADULTS PLAY THESE GAMES:

1. Jacks. Could be played at Shorty's counter or Sloppy's bar. For "Around the World," requiring wrist twists, careful not to poke your elbow in another's Chianti;
2. Mumbletypeg. A knife and a grass patch. Sand would do;
3. Paper Dolls. Sears has excellent men. But with lady dolls, Sears has a penchant for slashing across the knees a flash "Loden green, fox rust and periwinkle blue." Cuts into your fun--you must play with your lady dolls in seated position, bent at the hips.
4. Paper doll stables can be secreted in a kleenex box and whipped out most anywhere to ward off tedium.

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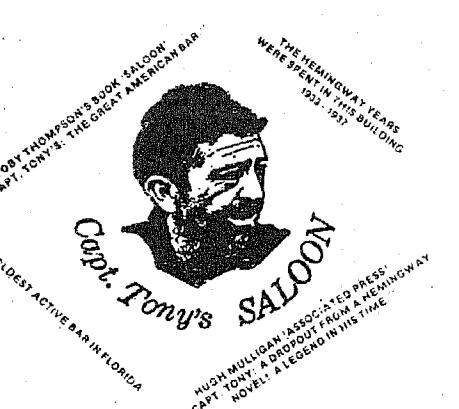
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## THE ICONOCLAST

BY JIM KOGAN

DOES KEY WEST need a Mayor? Not for managing—we pay a city manager. And we don't have that many ribbon-cuttings, though it was said of another small-town mayor that he'd go to any opening even if it's only a can of beer. However, there is a function for a Mayor—a function now neglected. And some qualifications for the office.

FIRST, THE JOB should be no-pay. This goes back to Thomas Jefferson and his friends. They said public work should be something a successful man does as an obligation—we'd call it paying dues. They said that if government or government staff ever got to be an interest of its own—someone's profit or livelihood—it would end up badly; at the least staffed by the failures and the rejects. So, a non-paid Mayor. (Admittedly there is little difference between sl and the few thousand the K.W. Mayor gets, but we seek a philosophy of public service.)

THAT MEANS HE has to be a successful man in some business so he can afford to be Mayor for few terms. Already we have upgraded the quality of applicants—successful people proven successful, only. And he has to be in a business where there is no opportunity for conflicts or exploitation of the office. If his business calls for dealing with City agencies, he's clearly unacceptable. It's not enough to be "honest" or "not provably dishonest"—he must be seen to be honest and that means no potential interest conflicts where his business deals with City agencies for contracts, permits or anything else.

DOES KEY WEST need a Mayor? Not for managing—we pay a city manager. And we don't have that many ribbon-cuttings, though it was said of another small-town mayor that he'd go to any opening even if it's only a can of beer. However, there is a function for a Mayor—a function now neglected. And some qualifications for the office.

OK, SO NOW what is it that a Mayor could do that is not being done? Start with an observation about this (or almost any other) local government. It has come into the hands of an arrogant, unresponsible bureaucracy that the citizen finds virtually impossible to cope with. Shades of Jefferson! This is just about what those guys said those couple of centuries ago.

MOST CIVIL SERVICE-RIDDEN governments, beginning with the ones closest to the people, start acting as if the City were here for their own convenience. And they tend to be staffed with people having unusual concentrations of "frustrations" that they "work off" in arrogance to their employers. I quote one (not in this town, but they're pretty similar): "Look, Kogan, we don't run this town just for the people that live in it. We have our rules and you gotta go by them and what the people want is nothing. Besides, you got a lot o' nerve saying I did not add this up right." (He had not added it up right.)

SO THE NEGLECTED function for a useful Mayor is being the citizen's advocate, representative, gladiator, battler in coping with the arrogant bureaucracy. In some places in the world this functionary uses the title of Ombudsman.

Revised basic legislation must give him clout and power—power to fire the bum who hassles a citizen and power to over-ride the civil service "protections" that enable the arrogant bureaucrat to hassle the citizen. He cannot

have any stake of his own in the bureaucracy—if it can retaliate by denying him something he needs in his business, he cannot function, for a bureaucracy's capacity for vindictiveness is comparable only to that of the traditional "woman scorned."

HE ALSO HAS to be a forceful man—one who makes it a point to be right most of the time by doing the "homework" assiduously—and a type who could not care less about being a "nice guy." The harassed citizen has little use for a reluctant gladiator or a guy who figures "I gotta be around these civil servants a long time so don't make waves." That's just the point—he doesn't "gotta be around" them. He'd be the only guy in the place working for the citizen—and someone should before we get a real revolution.

ADMITTEDLY THIS PROBLEM is not unique to KW. It occurs at state and national levels, too, and since the bigger bureaucracies have more power they can do more damage.

But we might as well start where we live, right here. Then, maybe, some people elsewhere will get the idea and if they don't maybe we can then go tell a few. After we square up our corner.

This is a rare opportunity to make a step forward—as the saying goes, light a candle instead of cursing the darkness.

NOW, HOW DO we sort out the mechanics of assigning this duty and the authority and making the job non-paid or maybe \$1 a year if it has to have a "salary"? And find the man for the job. It's not going to be easy but few worthwhile things are.

(The views expressed by Mr. Kogan are not necessarily those of SOLARES HILL, its publisher or its staff.)

## POEM ON MICHAEL'S HIPNESS

Should you speak  
twinkling  
on little pig's feet  
picked with prunes,  
and dig the warbled beauty  
of catatonic fears;  
Then, die man,  
Come lay by the side of this wizard  
who tells the stories of June while  
he looks through the floor  
to the other side of the world;  
And we can laugh  
Buddha-bugged  
together.

by Phoebe Coan

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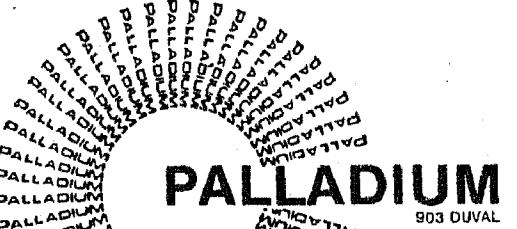
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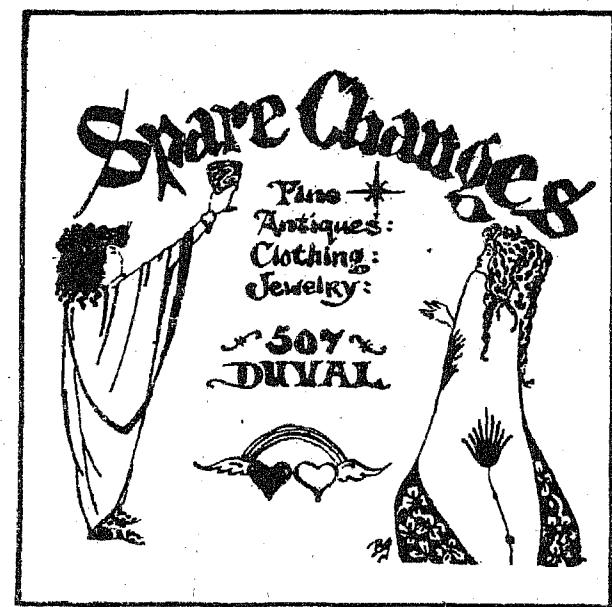
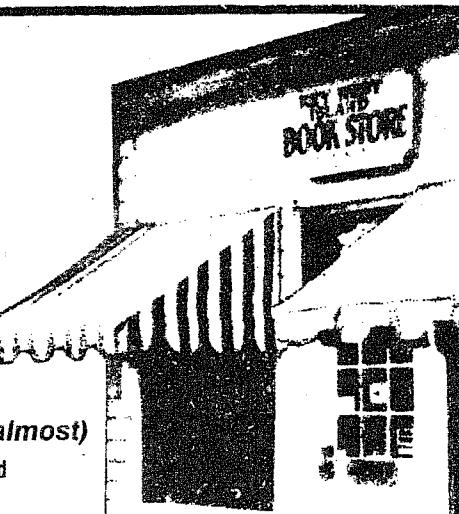
## KEY WEST'S HOROSCOPE

BY EMMA CATES

SUN IN LIBRA, after 23 in Scorpio.  
Venus in Scorpio, after 8 in Sa-  
gittarius.  
Mercury in Scorpio, retrograding  
into Libra on Oct. 14.  
Saturn in Libra.

THE FULL MOON in 20° of Aries as-  
pects the 5th & 11th houses of the chart  
of Key West. Our progressed moon is  
also in the 5th house sector of crea-  
tivity, children, talents. These areas  
of activity will be focused upon by the  
city during this forecast period. The  
children of our city will be getting  
their share of attention, and the great  
amount of local talent in Key West will  
be tapped. Our ruler, Saturn, is also  
in this sector of the chart making it a  
very strong aspect this month. Fantasy  
fest is definitely occurring during a  
time of good vibrations.

THE NEW MOON on October 27 in 4° of  
Scorpio is the same degree of Jupiter,  
the great Benefic, in the chart of Key  
West. Jupiter rules money, so expect  
new starts in financial areas this  
month. Money should be flowing more  
easily in the city. Travel is also as-  
pected, and many visitors will be coming  
to our city. Our co-ruler, Mercury, will  
be in retrograde motion most of Octo-  
ber, turning direct on October 27. A  
retrograde Mercury causes communication



## KEY WEST'S HOROSCOPE

BY EMMA CATES

Jupiter in Libra.  
Mars in Leo, after 21 in Virgo.  
Cranus in Scorpio.  
Neptune in Sagittarius.  
Pluto in Libra.  
North Node in 28° Cancer.

failures, delays, confusion. This is a  
negative aspect working in the Libra  
sector of the chart of Key West this  
month.

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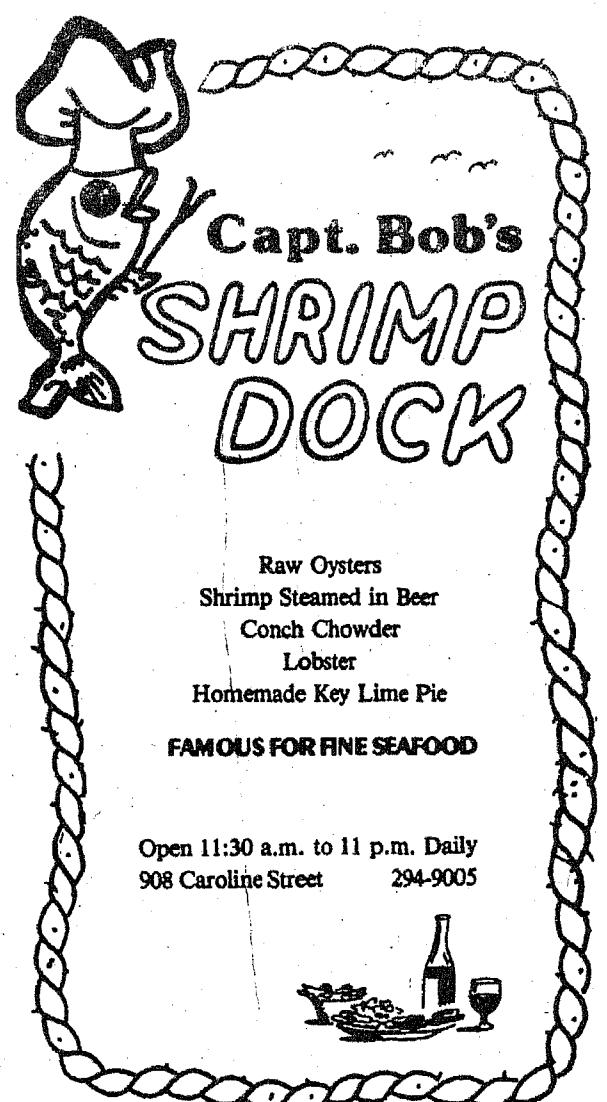
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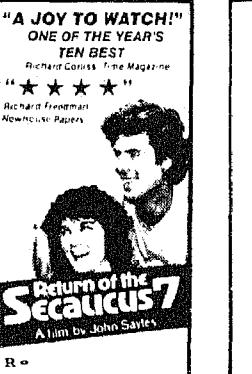
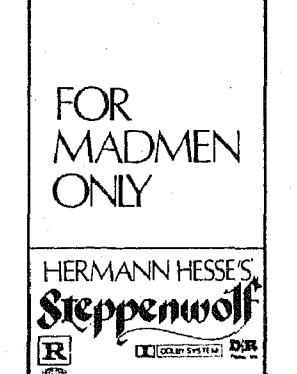
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OCTOBER

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## THE TEMPLE OF THE LIGHTBEARERS

BY PHOEBE COAN

KEY WEST NOW has a new spiritual center: The Temple of the Lightbearers of the Aquarian Age. "We don't feel driven to save the world," says its leader Sri Ajemar ji, a new resident (seven months) of Key West. "Only those who come for help."

AJEMAR, A YOUNG man with an East/West outlook, considers himself to be a guide and prophet and a lover of the divine. He does not claim to be any guru. He is a certified naturopathic physician and has been working in herbal cures and with natural diet for nine years now. He is also a world traveler, astrologer, mystic, iridologist (iridology is that application of the spiritual diagnostic skill that reads internal conditions of the body through the eye's pigmentation), teacher, and reader of the ancient tarot cards--as well as an ordained minister.

LOCATED AT 828 and 830 Fleming St. and the corner of Margaret, the new Temple of the Lightbearers is a place where "one can go to find a quiet moment," one brother explained. In this time of great stress and confusion, this fulfills a need in the community.

According to Sri Ajemar: "Our work is to assist in ushering in the next spiritual evolutionary stage. One of the ways we are attempting to do this is by providing a Temple in the community where individuals can seek the divine! We are non-sectarian, embrace/accept all paths, and wish to unite all, and to worship the one God. This is a place where a seeker can learn to better know himself/herself."

"RECENTLY," AJEMAR SAYS, "We have had the good fortune to combine forces with another cosmic light bearer: Jeanette Bottoms." Jeanette, who is a newcomer to Key West, authors the daily column in *The Key West Citizen*: "Your Psychic World." She recently moved here from Little Rock, Arkansas. Age 55, with four grown children and two grandchildren, she has led a widely varied career as circumstances and locations led her into a wide spectrum of jobs.

dust in the windows, and years of rubble and old karma to clean out, we didn't know if we'd ever have the energy to do it all." But the spirited workers are now transforming the derelict-looking old structure, and they welcome your help (time, energy, furniture, lights, money) to help the work proceed.

One sister said, "We could spearhead a nucleus of spiritual-mindedness in this drying, materialistic time; but to make it successful, we need the help of many interested people. We need you!"

WITH A MASTER of science in social work from Vanderbilt University, she has worked as a probation officer, social worker and newspaper columnist as well as waitress, librarian, and sales clerk. She is now, along with her husband, Roger, the business manager of the sailing cruise ship, schooner *Western Union*.

In her human relationship counseling services (as a social worker and ordained minister), Jeanette found herself with rapidly awakening psychic power and intuition. Soon, she says, this grew into an ability to contact the spiritual realm and several "spirit guides."

SPEAKING FOR THE many persons who are working with and for the Temple, Ajemar says, "We are lovingly establishing our Temple and Ashram in hopes of providing a network of communication, a podium for teachers, a classroom for students, in order to help bring awareness of the new age, in peace, love, yoga, meditation, prayer, natural health and healing practices, metaphysics, and a realization of the gifts of the divine.

"All we are asking from you is understanding, love, cooperation, and above all your prayers that we succeed."

SAYS ONE BROTHER of the building itself: "We started out with so much

(continued to page 32)

IT WAS A VISION of white light which brought Sri Ajemar here from India. There, after a long fast and during deep meditation, the message from above came to him, telling him to organize a spiritual center in Key West. Now, with the help of many, he is establishing such a center.

The building in which it is housed was first the Crystal Springs Bottling Company and was once a restaurant (another Hemingway handout). It was also an old feed and hardware store. Later on it became a pet shop and is now the enfolded Temple of the Lightbearers.

THERE ARE TWO large pleasant rooms and two small ones. Here one can feel a soothing vibration. You can get away from all the disturbing aspects of everyday life. Plants hang, rooting in many jars. Many mystical works and volumes on religion as well as various tapes are there to be shared with the seeker.

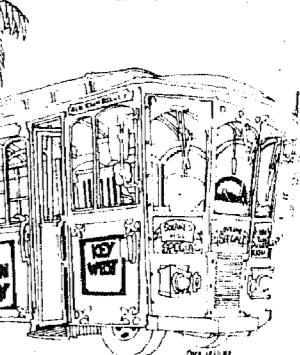
THE SRI HAS spent much time traveling in India and Tibet, and his small room looks much like a gypsy's roost, colorful and with its own kind of order and mental activity apparent.

The Sri has been on the spiritual path for 15 years at least. He chuckles

## Good News



John De Mott, general manager of the Casa Marina Resort, is shown with Orla Rodriguez, member of the donor service staff of the John Elliott Community Blood Center of Miami. De Mott was the first donor in Key West's recordsetting blood drive held at the resort recently. Congratulations, Key West, and may our next drive be as successful.



# OLD TOWN TROLLEY CONTEST!!!

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6. Must be able to be spoken in 2 minutes or less.
7. Stories may be funny, factual, recent or historical, but MUST BE TRUE.
8. You may enter more than once and re-enter the same story in a different month.

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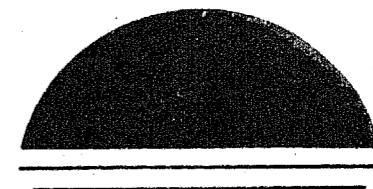
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32 (continued from page 30)

inwardly, sharing a bemused air with those who hope to know him. There is a manner of detachment and waiting about him, as if he has all the time in the world.

"THE MEDITATION FOR Western man involves the intellect," he says. "Some Western men cannot still themselves enough for formal meditation. But there are other ways to guide him--through the intellect." Ajemar is in tune with all the paths, he says: Christ, Buddha, Krishna, Kirpal Singh, Yogananda, Sri Aurobindo, Rajneesh, and the Divine Mother. He feels all of them beam energy.

AT THE TEMPLE of the Lightbearers, he presently practices and teaches yoga, relaxation, spiritual astrology, Kum Nye (a relaxation preparation for yoga),

and iridology; he gives spiritual counsel through spiritual astrology and tarot/Eastern card readings. He also lectures at Russell House.

JEANETTE IS NOW conducting classes on reincarnation, healing and psychic development, with the Temple as well as channeling messages from the spirit teacher, Ramsingh. She also has a busy schedule of private counseling with individuals concerning their past lives and guides them in developing their own psychic nature and in understanding the biorhythm and numerology charts. She has done much public speaking, and both she and Ajemar will be happy to discuss any of their specialties with you, your group, or civic meeting programs.

THE LIGHTBEARERS of the Temple would like to invite all individuals

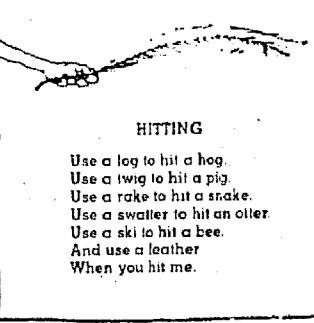
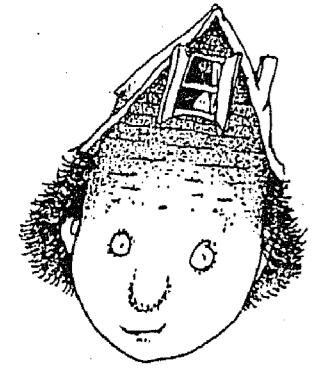
wishing counseling as well as the less esoteric methods of the social worker and/or minister, to visit with them at 830 Fleming or call 234-1898 to schedule an appointment. The Temple is also open from 10 to 10 every day, and you are welcome to use the spiritual/meta-physical and New Age library and reading room. You are invited to come and read a book, light a candle and meditate, or just come to relax.



### A Light in the Attic

BY SHEL SILVERSTEIN • PICTURES BY THE AUTHOR

Here, in the dusty attic of Shel Silverstein, guitars play themselves, polar bears live in Frigidaires, dreams can be frozen and camels wear brassieres. Readers will meet Backward Bill, the Meehoo with an Exactlywatt, Almost Perfect Mary Hume, the Twisted Tumble Man, and Pamela Purse, who yelled, "Ladies First." From the creator of the classic *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, here is a wondrous new collection of poems and drawings to enchant readers of all ages.



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at Sands Beach Club, 10 p.m.

FANTASY  
COSTUME DAY  
at the College (PKC)

SAT. GINGERBREAD  
SQUARE STREET  
31 FAIR Duval at Angela to Truman  
Noon to 6 p.m.

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Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center  
8 p.m. - admission free



### News Update

BY CHRISTOPHER LANE

THE RINGLEADER of a youthful gang that terrorized Key West residents and visitors in a series of brutal, unprovoked attacks five months ago has been sentenced to a juvenile detention facility.

The boy, one of five involved in the early May assaults on seven unsuspecting pedestrians and bicyclists, will be incarcerated for a period to be determined by the Florida Division of Youth Services. Two other youths officially charged in the attacks were placed on stiff probation by Monroe County Court Judge Helio Gomez.

"I HOPE THE word gets back to the students of Key West High School," said prosecutor Reagan Ptomey, assistant state attorney for Monroe County. "'I

understand this kind of violence is an annual thing down here. The relatively harsh sentences imposed should discourage this kind of activity in the future."

The five youths, including two 18-year-old high school dropouts, prowled Old Town in a car on May 3, selecting victims at random. The senseless assaults weren't aimed at any specific island population either.

"It was just one stranger against another for no reason at all," Ptomey said.

ONE VICTIM, JOHN McARTHUR, a former employee at Fast Buck Freddie's, was beaten off his bicycle at the corner of Elizabeth and Southard streets. McArthur, who has since moved to Tucson, Arizona, suffered a broken nose, black eyes and a minor concussion in the assault.

ONE OF THE youths placed on probation withdrew after the initial attack. The other had his driver's license suspended for one year, in addition to a

five-year maximum probation with 16

conditions.

"Probation was really stringent as far as terms are concerned," Ptomey said.

"I was glad to see the judge take a hard nose in dealing with the boy who actually did the beatings," said Ed Zagorda, chairman of the Community Action Committee. "It was stiff, but this was finally a statement that says: 'Let's stop it!'"

BOB BECKWITH, a personal friend of McArthur's, says he was "glad to see it happen. But I do feel the one boy owes John something monetarily."

"The children have to make restitution," said Ptomey, who cited a state civil statute that holds parents responsible for up to \$2,500 in malicious damage inflicted by their youngsters.

McARTHUR, WHO IS seeking medical assistance from the state's Crime Compensation Fund, contemplated a civil lawsuit to recover additional damages from his attacker. "But it's not very attractive to begin a lawsuit over such a long distance," McArthur said from Tucson, where he's attending the University of Arizona.

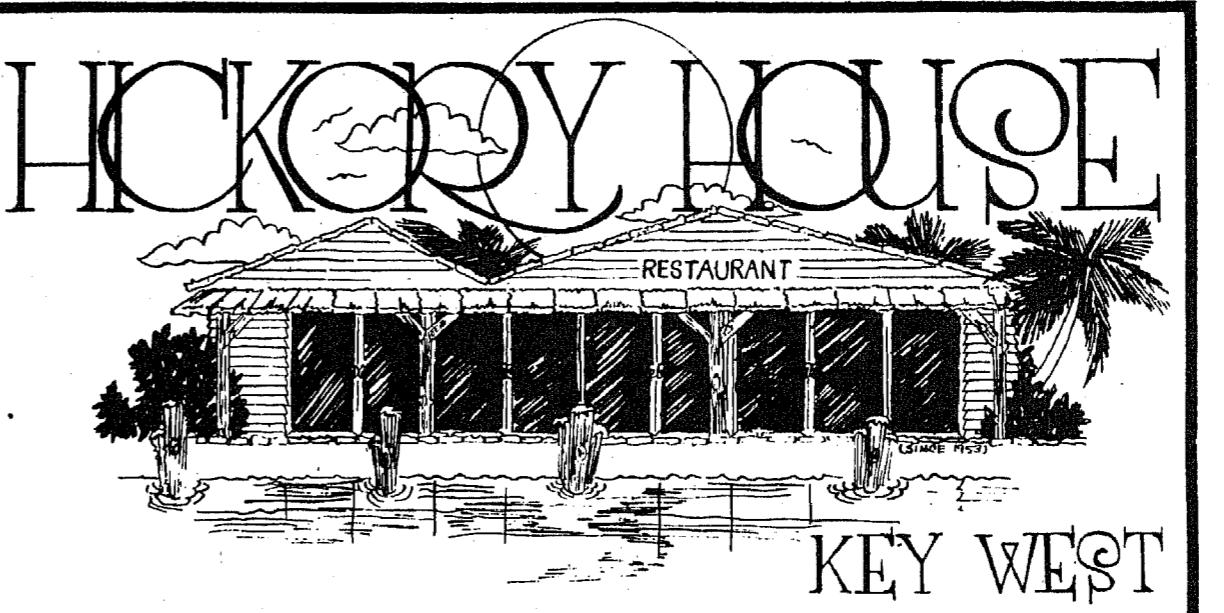
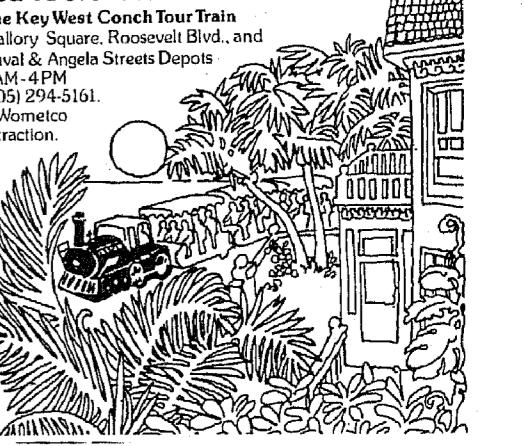
McArthur says his nightmarish attack hasn't soured him on Key West, an island where compactness normally breeds tolerance. He plans to revisit in December.

"The beating will never change my feelings for Key West," McArthur says. "I love Key West. It's a beautiful place. But I'll think twice before walking on the streets there at night again."

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500 DUVAL



(continued from page 2)  
dramatically. Hopefully we can pass this necessary referendum this time.

I'm been told by a married mother that some holes have been created at Mallory Square large enough for a small child to fall in and seriously harm himself. I didn't have time to check this out personally but I'll report back on it in the November issue.

The November issue will be out one week early this time. Look for it Oct. 24. It will be our annual election issue in which we endorse various candidates and by coming out just prior to Fantasy Fest we can include any late-breaking information.

It's nice to have Palms & Pelicans writer Frances-Elizabeth Signorelli back with us again.

Hats off to Michael Boller-he is doing an incredible job masterminding Fantasy Fest '81.

See you next month.

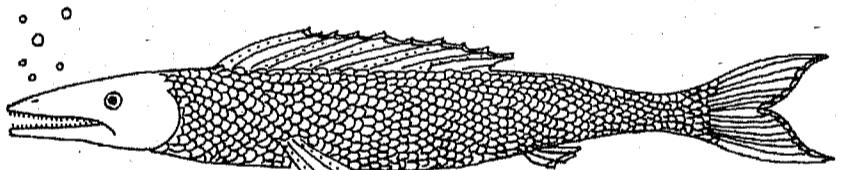
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