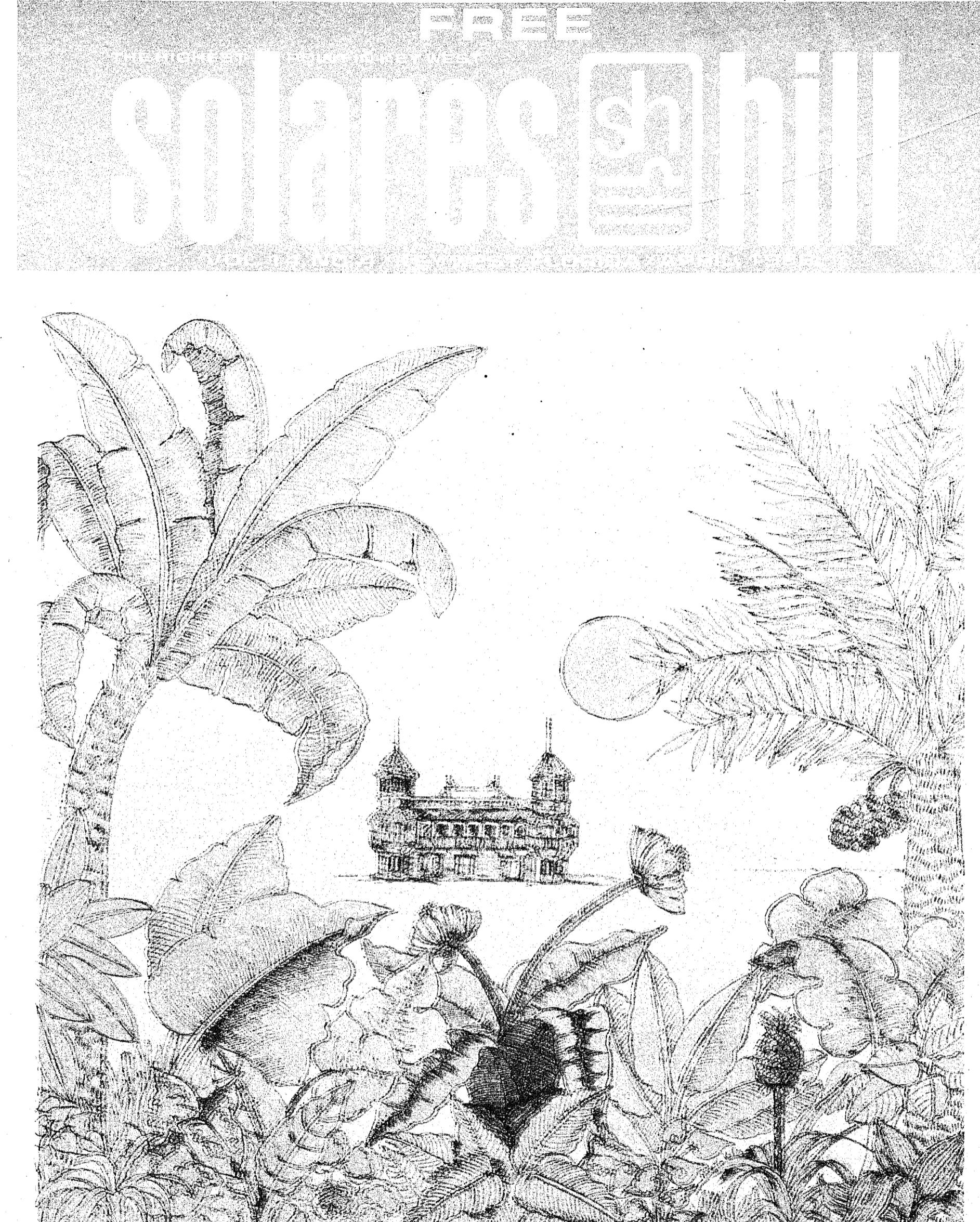
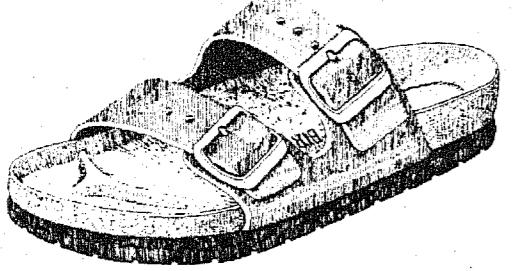


10th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE
GUEST WRITER: SHEL SILVERSTEIN/RDA PART VI, P. 42



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FRONT
D.D.

FROM THE EDITOR

HELLO

It's our tenth anniversary! *Solares Hill* started in April 1976, as a regularly published monthly newspaper. The first *Solares Hill*, started in 1971, wended its way through 15 issues and ended publication in 1973. Michael Prewitt, Stan Becker, "Dink" Bruce, Gil Ryder, Bill Westray, Malcolm Ross and I were all involved in the earlier paper but it did not have, unfortunately, the financial support necessary to maintain it.

For this anniversary we've resurrected two of the legendary Amy de Poo's wild articles about growing up in Key West with her sisters. Also our late, great columnist Dorothy Raymer is represented here with one of her wonderful columns which appeared under the title *Notes and Antic-Dotes* for many years. Famed cartoonist, poet and children's book author Shel Silverstein has graciously given us permission to reproduce some as yet unpublished poetry of his—thank you, Shel! George Murphy continues his series on the RDA. It's a good issue and I welcome all our readers to it.

At the ceremony at The Reach hotel in the middle of March the hatchet was buried in the long-standing dispute between Reach developer Austin Laber and adversaries City Commissioner George Halloran and local activists Gordon and Marge Smith and Pat Green. A long and honorable battle was waged by these people (along with this newspaper) against this development and ultimately the battle was lost. The hotel is now in place. It is an employer of over 200 local people and its success is good for the people of Key West. I'm pleased that the lawsuits have been dropped and I wish Austin Laber good luck.

The two members of the RDA board, John Magliola and Dr. Philip Dobert, who apparently did not meet residency requirements and resigned recently, were lauded by RDA Chairman Paul

Sher for their long and distinguished service on the board. This is standard stuff but when Paul said that the people of Key West should be grateful to Dr. Dobert for flying into town at his expense to attend meetings, that was too much to swallow. The very fact that he's living out of town makes him ineligible for membership on the board and he was missing a number of meetings recently as well. I wish all good luck to the new board members, Bob Kruse and Lou Hernandez.

During the heat of the recent mayoral campaign between Tom Sawyer and Capt. Tony Taracino I accused Tom Sawyer of stating that building moratoria were illegal and then changing his position and embracing the need for a 90-day moratorium. My facts weren't right. Tom had stated that the type of an open-ended moratorium as first proposed by Capt. Tony was illegal and *not* a building moratorium for a certain period and a certain purpose. I thought I was right when I attacked Tom on this issue but I haven't found any substantiation for my remark and I apologize to Tom for it.

The Chamber of Commerce Cruise Ship Committee is in need of volunteers to assist in the greeting of cruise ship passengers Sundays from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. to say farewell to them. Similarly on Mondays from 8 a.m. to 9:30—10:00 a.m. and 3:30-4:00, help is needed. For information call 294-2587. Halley's Comet viewers: free charts & calendars with best April viewing are available at Graphics, 1010 Truman Avenue.

See you next month.

W.H.

Our cover this month is the cover that artist Martha de Poo did for our first issue 10 years ago.

Solares Hill is a community newspaper published every month on the slopes of Solares Hill, Key West's highest point, by *Solares Hill* Company, 513 Fleming Street Room 4, Key West, Florida 33040

Editor Bill Huckel
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FRANCES—ELIZABETH SIGNORELLI

and Her Garden of Words
by Colin G. Jameson

Crusty old Roy Bean was once 'the Law west of the Pecos.' Thus the river is usually associated with West Texas, whose fields it irrigates as it dwindles its way to the wizened watercourse we strangely call the Rio Grande. In its youth, however, the Pecos is something quite else. It is a stream of fresh mountain beauty that washes by the upland wonders of New Mexico, finally skirting the Carlsbad Caverns as it drops from the Sante Fe high country to the flats of the south.

Not far from the Caverns is a hamlet named Loving, perhaps for people, better for an idea. In the mid-twenties, civil engineer Lindley Hoag and his wife Elizabeth retired to their home-stead farm near Loving. Their granddaughter, Frances-Elizabeth Jones, lived with them. Her mother was state director of education and could not often come home to the adjoining spread of Francis-E.'s father, William Cullen Jones. "Cullen" as in "William Cullen Bryant," great-grandfather and famous poet. "Frances-Elizabeth" was a hyphenated tribute to both grandmothers.

Every weekday the little girl, not yet ten, rides her Shetland pony two miles to school, fording the Pecos. She loves the pony, the ride, the land, the water. Looking back, she now says, "I have a lifelong reverence for nature."

Being an energetic and only child, surrounded

by strait-laced and not notably exuberant older people, she early learns to be self-sufficient, to add her own color to life and create for herself an imaginary world. Once, fascinated by the story of Jezebel in the Bible, she rolls off the porch, pretending to be thrown to the dogs, like Jezebel. Another time she plays an angel gazing down with golden eyes from the heavenly heights of a swing hung by her grandfather from the gray-green cottonwoods.



Frances Elizabeth.

The old man knows how to erect a swing, but his eyesight is no longer golden. Frayed rope gives way and dumps the small "angel" into a muddy irrigation canal.

Grandpa's age spawns other frailties that have other consequences. He owns the first Model T Ford in the Pecos Valley. Little Frances-E. is

often his companion in this classic vehicle. When they set forth, party-line phones crank into alert.

"Mr. Hoag is on the road!" comes the warning cry. Other drivers stay home.

The problem is not that the old man is a "speed demon," as the going expression is. Often he will drive with two wheels in the ditch. On the other hand, he may grab the whole road. You can't predict Mr. Hoag.

The grandparents' old-fashioned manner of speaking opens the book on Frances-E.'s forebears; these two survivors still thee-and-thou each other. The little girl takes pride in the devout ancestor on the frontier who cautioned a would-be wrongdoer with, "Of course I would not harm thee, but thee are standing where I plan to shoot this gun."

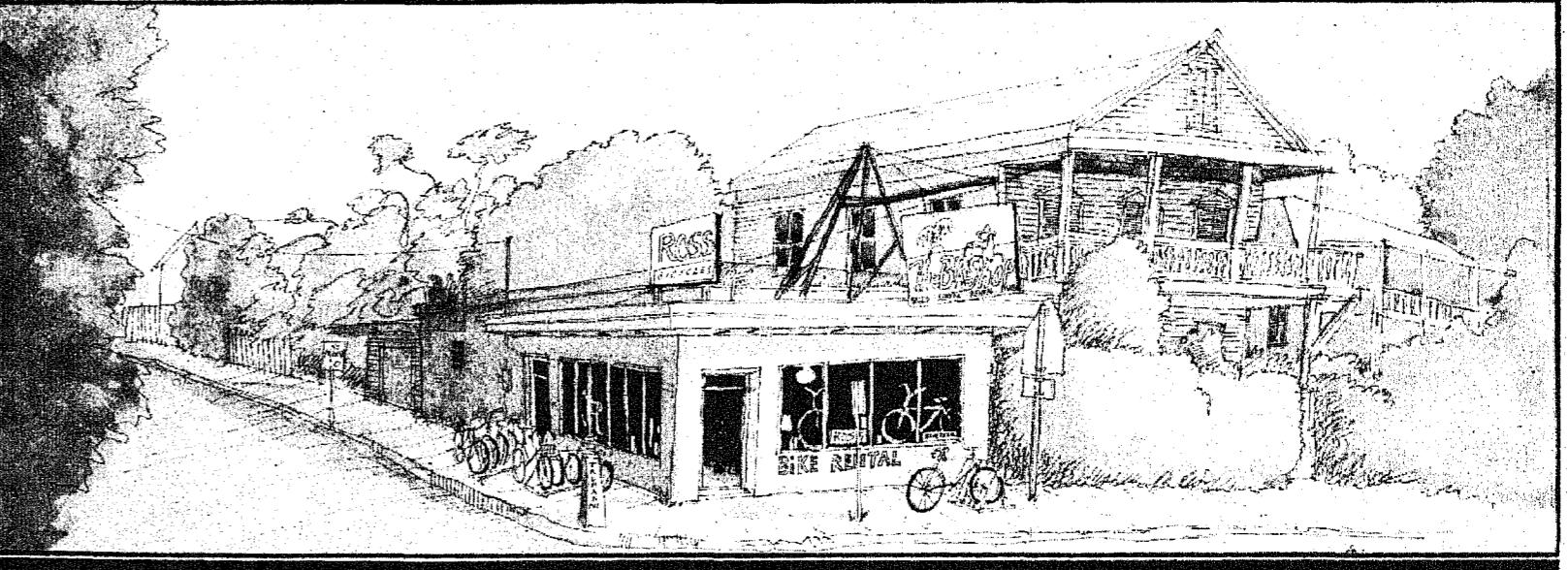
Also there are tales about the illustrious great-great-grandfather, Brinton Darlington. Out of the past rides this legendary Federal Indian agent who was much beloved of the Cheyenne and Arapaho at a time when confrontations with the government tended to be resolved by the carbines of the Seventh Cavalry.

When Frances-E. is ten, her father dies. In due course she has a stepfather, Cyrus Landrum. He is a Texas rancher, raiser of cotton, trader in horses and Herefords. This is still the heyday of that range-tough breed of cattle, before the Angus, the Brahma, the Charollais, and the hybrids.

Frances-E. learns to drive a pickup and discovers that you don't have to keep two wheels in the ditch or "hoag" the road. At 11 she is regularly sent off in the truck to round up ranch provisions.

The Landrum spread is 80 miles south of Lubbock, near a town called Fluvanna. Frances-

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E. later describes Fluvanna as a "farming/ranching community with about 12 buildings, six of them churches, and a brush arbor where a continuous revival meeting continued as the social vortex all summer."

Now we were not even from a place; we were from near a place.

But Fluvanna is not too far from Snyder, the county seat, where the girl is soon seen riding horses in barrel races and in the annual rodeo parades. Nor too small for a high school, which she attends when the time comes.

"Here was a great deal of space for me to indulge fanciful thoughts and begin tilting a little toward being a loner." Jezebel and the angels might think this tendency set in sooner.

It is as hard for her "to think like the other ranch kids as it is for a cat to bark." The ranch provides her with plenty of me-space. But any space must encompass other values. In the Fluvanna area the dust always lies in wait.

That's right, dust. When the wind blows, you often have to shovel out the ranch house. New Mexico was never this demanding and somehow seems more friendly.

In high school Frances-E., probably without realizing it at the time, finds her lower-type psyche gives her a vantage point from which to observe her fellow men and women. She becomes the principal (and sometimes only) writer for the school paper.

I can't recall a time when I didn't want to transcribe happenings into written words. Words are my garden, and I'm happiest when I'm working there.

At least she is actually writing. She is writing on the threshold of the newsroom reportage that is never to be her preferred metier. Nevertheless,

she is encouraged to go on exploring writing as an art.

The next educational step is to attend Texas Women's College, in Denton, noted for its journalism department. While at TWC, Frances-E.'s garden of words begins to green a little. She starts composing features for the Fort Worth *Star-Telegram* (and earning first paychecks.)

On water witches. On Comanche arrowheads. On buffalo chips. On the unique daily train puffing over the 50-mile route of the Roscoe, Snyder & Pacific Railway which, for reasons privy to management, continues on into a Fluvanna field to turn around. Reaching for the Pacific?

In summer there are other pieces for the Abilene *Reporter-News*, and, significantly, on women's colleges for the *Christian Science Monitor*. Significant not only for the attendant prestige but because today Frances-E. is not a Quaker but a practicing Christian Scientist.

In arriving at the family decision as to where to go to college, one's mother has announced that one "doesn't have sense enough to go to a college with men." (Query as to whether Mother means with men or because of men—Ed. note.)

About face. Mother later on decides that daughter should take another 27 hours of work so that she can hang a B.S. degree on the wall alongside the planned B.A. Frances-E. cheerfully obliges, earns two degrees instead of one.

Today I'm still pleased with that. I decided that I was a narcissist. Narcissists can care for others because they are so content with themselves.

On graduation morning she packs the twin diplomas in her traveling bag; on graduation afternoon she boards the train to a job as assist-



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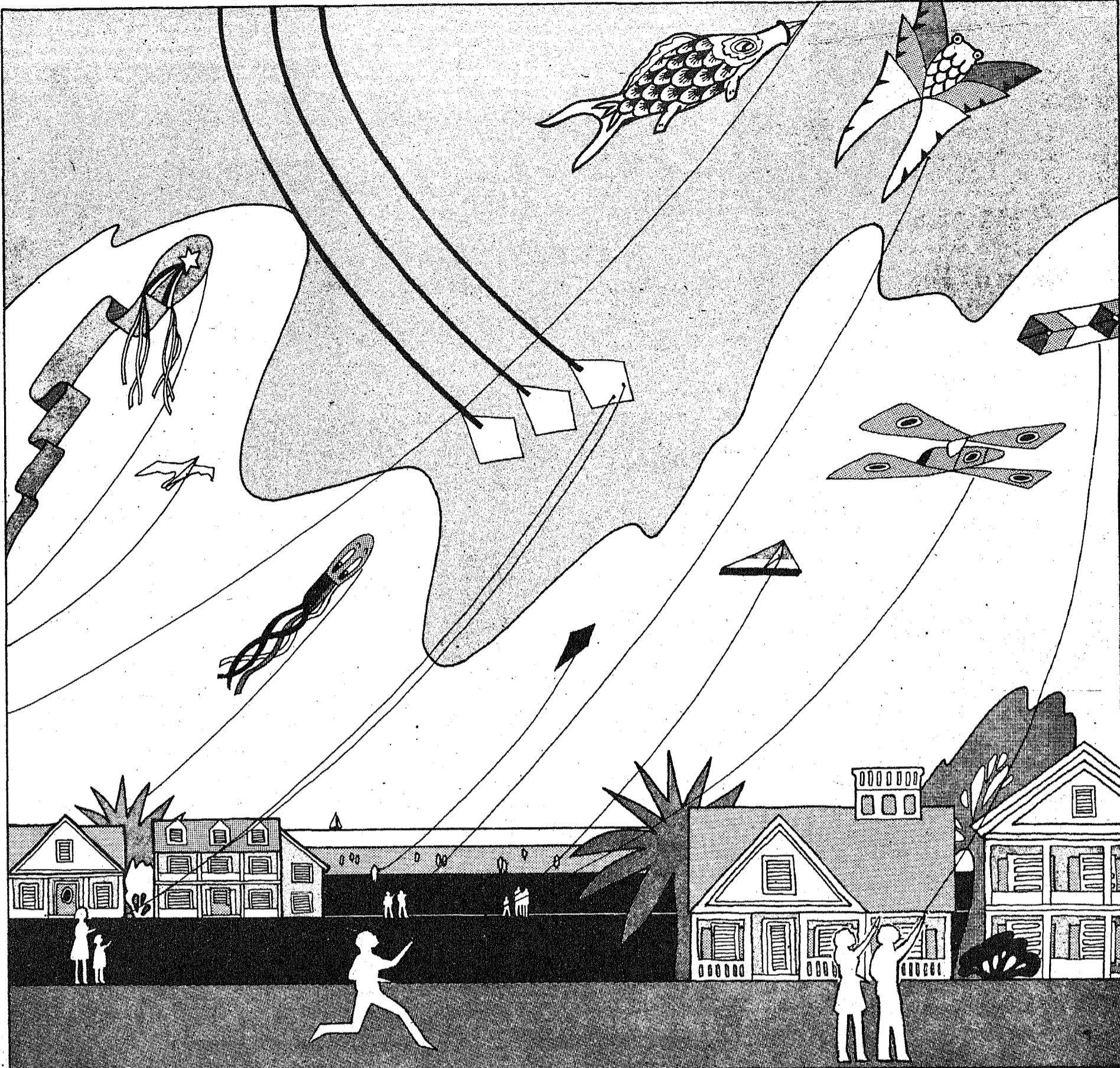
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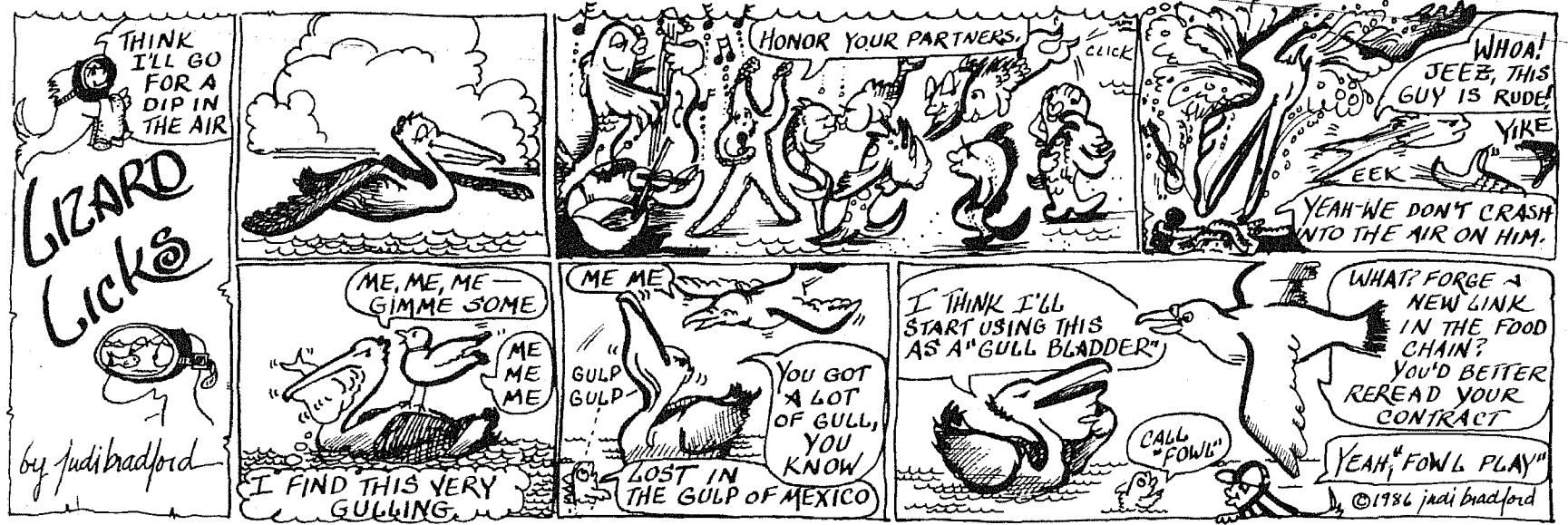
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ant editor of the *Liberty Vindicator*. *Liberty* is a town in southeastern Texas halfway between Beaumont and Houston, in the steamy rice-growing region. Don't talk to Frances-E. about humidity in Key West. She will tell you that the atmosphere in *Liberty* was so humid that overnight a woman's house would turn green if not stored in a capped Mason jar. A style note of historical interest to bareshanked young ladies in damp climates.

Creative tension can build and become uncomfortable if I don't head for the typewriter.

Write, that's what she wants to do; that's what she does. But first jobs are for first-jobholders. Suddenly Frances-E. is summoned to be society editor of a newspaper in Carlsbad, New Mexico, close to home.

Perhaps too close. Wanderlust fires up due to wartime conditions. Off to Washington, D.C., apparent hub of the universe, at least in its own eyes. Doctrine in the capital proclaims that since Russia is presently occupying Nazi attention, we must help U.S.S.R. while we prepare to join in the slaughter.

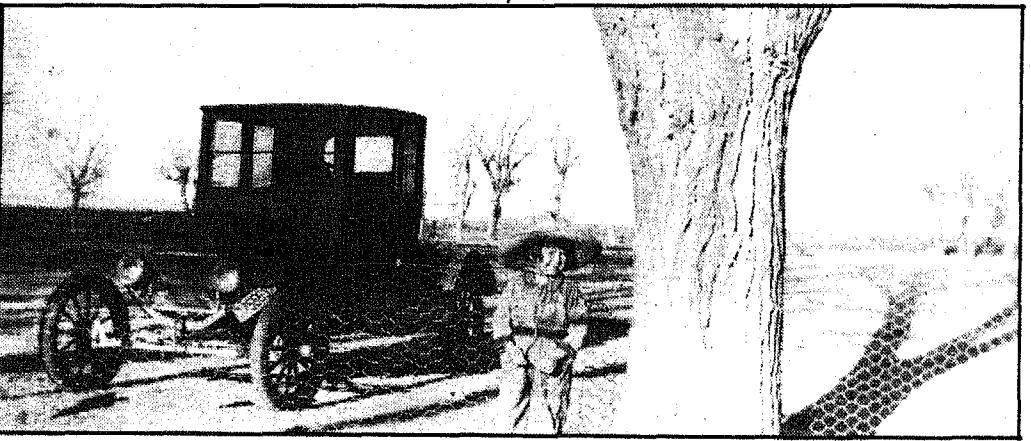
Frances-E. works as "expeditor" at the Soviet Purchasing Commission. She later rates the job as "something like a glorified receptionist."

"Purchasing Commission," is it? U.S.S.R. purchases; U.S.A. pays for purchases. Frances-E. sorts out American businessmen, matches them with corresponding Moscow technocrats. Makes friends with one of the latter, Comrade Adrienko. Also becomes acquainted with his col-

league, "Connie" Cherenko, who at the time demonstrates command of English language. Some years later, loses same when he serves as top boss of Mother Russia and fraternal peace-loving peoples. Lightweight performance of Connie as modern czar comes as no surprise to Frances-E., who has found "simple Siberian

completion of her thesis.

The marriage is no longer working. She bails out and carries the two boys back to Snyder, Texas, scene of childhood and teenage parades and rodeos. Who can recognize the place that was a place to escape to when one lived in a place that was just near a place?"



A tree, the car, and a little girl.

peasant" also simple in the head.

Meanwhile, love. Four years of courtship lead to marriage to Roland Blow, Pentagon supplier, a "sweet and swift-witted man." Two sons result.

Between expediting Russians and romance, Frances-E. finds time to cultivate writing and especially reading, in which she might call herself a "selective eclectic." She even goes for an M.A. in English lit at George Washington University. But private matters intervene to prevent

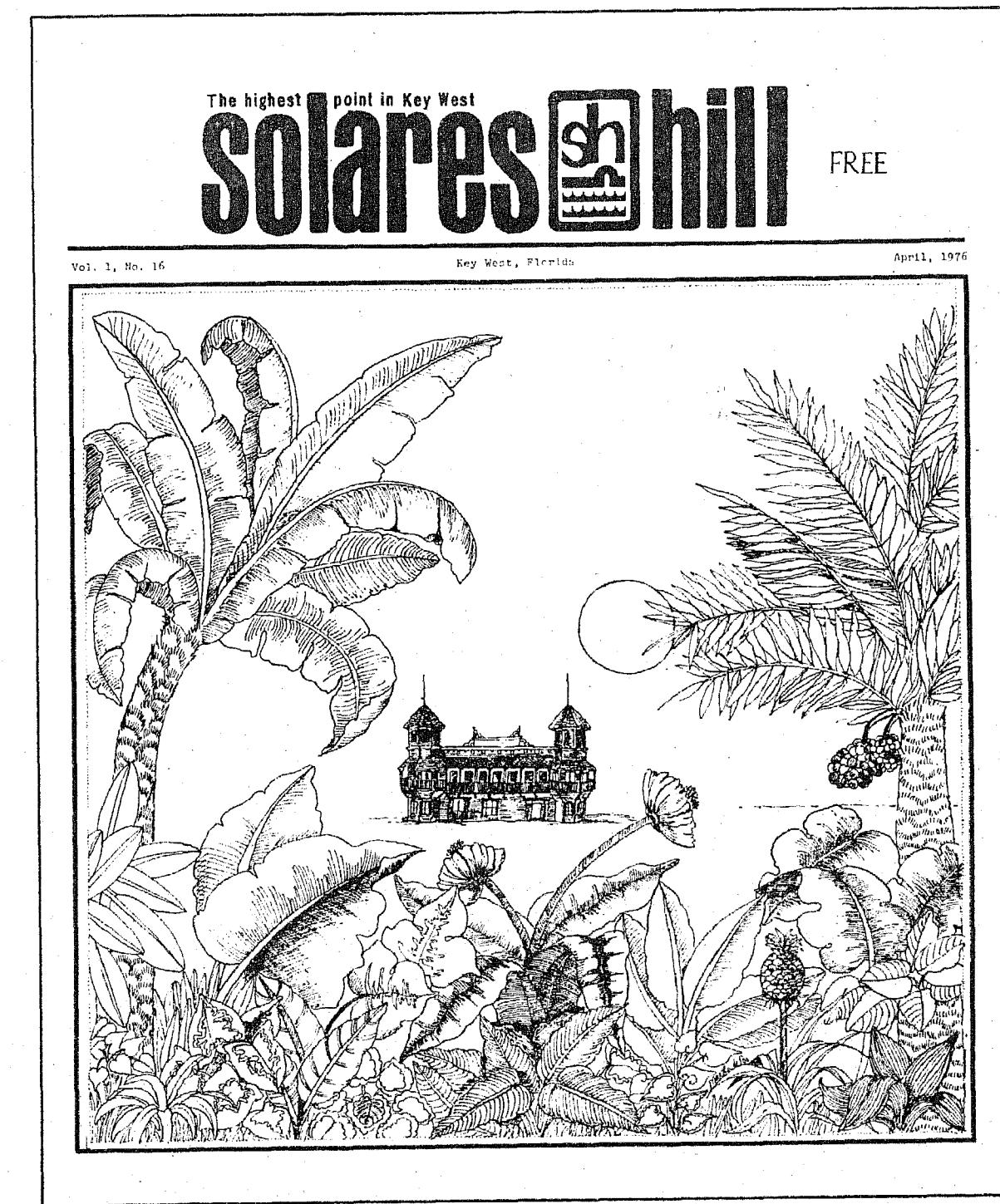
The small county seat where I had ridden my horse around the square had blossomed into a wild-fevered boom town.

The population has almost tripled overnight. Flares of gas being burned off are visible for miles. The northern section of the vast Permian Basin—so-called, though this part of it is actually a plateau—has come roaring in. Living is so

tight that Frances-E. meets a trained nurse who rents the back seat of a car to sleep in. Because of the steering wheel, the front seat would be



April 1, 1976



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cheaper, but what is life without minor amenities.

Frances-E. has kept spading her word garden while in Washington (example: "Saddle Soap and Shalimar," column in Arlington, Virginia newspaper.) She now becomes full-fledged compulsive writer. In Snyder she is society editor of the local *Daily News*, also authors column, "Sandscripts." Does title subliminally derive from memories of shoveling dust in Fluvanna? Oil booms do not lower themselves on rom-



The child is mother of the woman.

ance; they encourage it. Frances-E. meets owner of Brooks Oilwell Service Company, who purveys iron anteaters to pump wells dry, also provides crews to "scrub" them out. She becomes Mrs. Ernest Brooks. Two more children, a girl and a boy. At age 30, while six months pregnant with son Buddy, Frances-E. contracts cerebrospinal meningitis. The doctor's cheerful ongoing directive: "If patient expires, take the fetus."

Patient does not expire, she is not the type. But she spends two immobile years, finally progressing to wheelchair, to crutches, to cane.

She recalls that she was slowed down some by the dread affliction, but nobody else seems to have noticed this, and it appears scarcely credible today.

Buddy, now a small boy, develops asthmatic symptoms. The Brooks family is advised to leave Texas. Perhaps dust and the stench of crude oil abetted the responsible allergies. Ernest and Frances-E. sell business, sell house, sell everything except station wagon till it is parked at Miami airport and four children have been extracted therefrom.

Pause for identification. The oldest child is Sam Brooks, who takes his stepfather's name. Today Sam is a lieutenant colonel in the DMZ in Korea, long after having been the first West Point candidate ever accepted from Key West. His association with the military, however, goes even farther back, to World War II when he was a baby returning with his mother from Texas to Washington. Everybody else on the plane is Army, Navy, or Marines. The aircraft, suffering engine trouble, makes an emergency landing in a Virginia cornfield. Baby's formula sours. Until rescue next morning, assorted warriors take turns marching up and down the canted aisle, tiny tot in arms, thus keeping him from crying.

Burke Biow, his mother says, is her "most agreeable offspring." Perhaps the second son pays for it by being the focus of dicey luck, including the loss of his second wife and two children in a car accident.

He regards the world with curiosity and love, and all misadventures seem to wash over him and crash against a distant shore.

Burke, after a stint with Howard Hughes International, runs the Airline Vacuum Cleaner Company, in Houston.

Annabel Brooks-Clark graduated from Miss Harris' School and the University of West Flor-

RICH'S CAFE

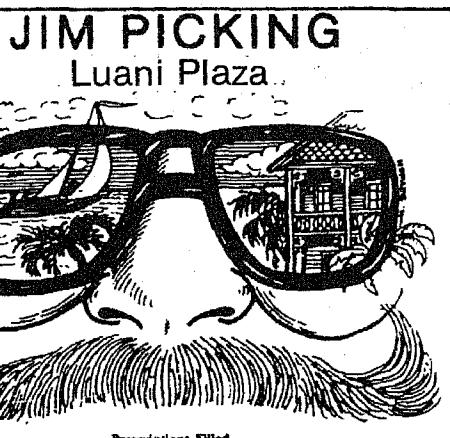
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years bobbing about in the ocean in the back-yard of your now-former home on Waddell Avenue, the spectacular two-phase sale of which has been locally compared to bringing in a couple of Permian Basin gushers in the cellar.

—

—

—

We keep straying from Puerto Rico. Swimming is wonderful there, too, "in the dreamy blue waters of Mono Channel [between the island and Hispaniola] with octopi snuggling up to you." Swimming helps pass the days of exile. Observe that non-career swimmers are usually smiling. Impossible to swim and not relax the face muscles.

Back to Texas, but not to stay. An ad in a Miami paper catches Frances-E.'s eye. A query elicits the plain truth: "There has never been a frost in Key West."

I believe, tersely stated, listed without embroidery, the straight answer is the bottom line.

In 1960 this straight answer brings the Brooks to Key West, closely pursued by Hurricane Donna. In retrospect Frances-E.'s appearance on The Rock should have been recognized as arrival of permanent pilot hurricane. She has been blowing up a small storm in Key West ever since, mostly in print.

For ten years Ernest Brooks and wife also operate the city bus line. Frances-E. teaches school on occasion (though in English) and in 1970 is appointed by the governor to fill out a school board term. She decides not to run for reelection.

Meanwhile she writes—what else? Much, much for the Key West *Citizen*, where she is christened "Fannie-Bessie" by fellow-workers Janet Padron and Margaret Foresman. Work includes heads and copyreading—not her cups of tea. But for four years she solaces herself by turning out her own column, in which she can

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exhibit whatever fruits have ripened in the word-garden.

After the *Citizen* she launches her own private personal newsletter, drawing acute angles to the forward progress of events and rumors. Today, as we all know, she writes "Palms and Pelicans" here in *Solares Hill*.

Summers, in North Carolina, she writes for *The Highlander* column entitled "Go Tell It on a Mountain." She is no flatland furriner; Texas has mountains, and they occur even more frequently in the part of the Texas Republic that was "shamefully" (Texas talk) incorporated into New Mexico, still regarded as a sort of Lone Star colony.

On divorce from Ernest Brooks, Frances-E. marries Louis Signorelli, restaurateur, state legislative expert. Fifteen years have slipped by, so let her tell of it: "I married him because we would be riding around and I would remark, 'I wonder where that goes.' And he would reply, 'Let's find out.'"

On vacation they once travel to Orvieto, Italy, one of the 12 cities of ancient Etruria. Purpose: To view frescoes at the magnificent rose-quartz cathedral, works created by Louis's ancestor, Luca Signorelli. It is said that Leonardo da Vinci used one of Signorelli's paintings as a model for a figure in Da Vinci's masterpiece, The Last Supper. Luca Signorelli's fame lingers, also. His descendant is asked for his autograph.

He has the ability to turn on the day forme, to make the mountains loom larger, the flowers put out prettier. He's brilliant, devoted, original, difficult, and at times as tranquil as a blazing house—a satisfactory traveling companion for me through life.

Writing? What's in a word? Time now for a brief look at the style of one's writing, the fruits of one's garden. Frances-Elizabeth Signorelli is what you might call a language-expander. She shines lights on the flow of words, making you stop, look and listen. The colors of realism are there, but they don't have to harmonize, and an honest discord will not derail the melody.

Best of all, it works.

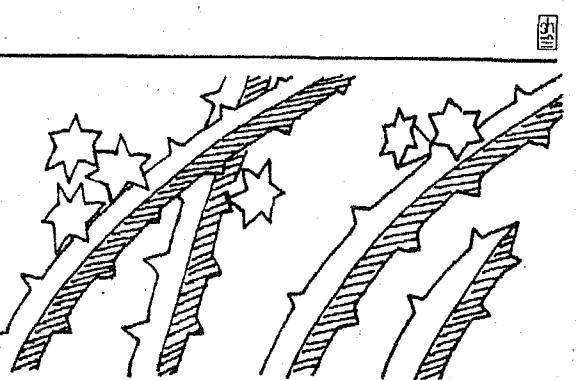
I've got the sort of mind that can accept anything artful . . . people dancing on clouds, trees growing there, too, upside down.

Vivid metaphors lie in wait. Some people don't like to be jarred awake. But most of us prefer our reading to needle us when we need it. Frances-E. knows how to do this. And as compulsion cools, her prose sometimes slides into personal poetry without immediate recognition by the reader—perhaps by the author.

Maybe one of these days I'll be a good enough writer to risk a book.

No risk, no risk at all. The book's out there in the garden.

The small county seat where I had ridden my horse around the square had blossomed into a wild-fevered boom town.



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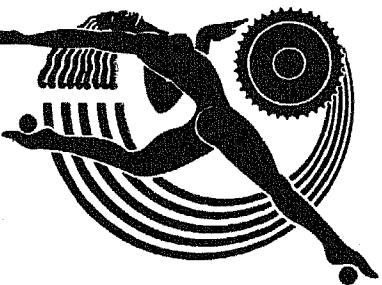
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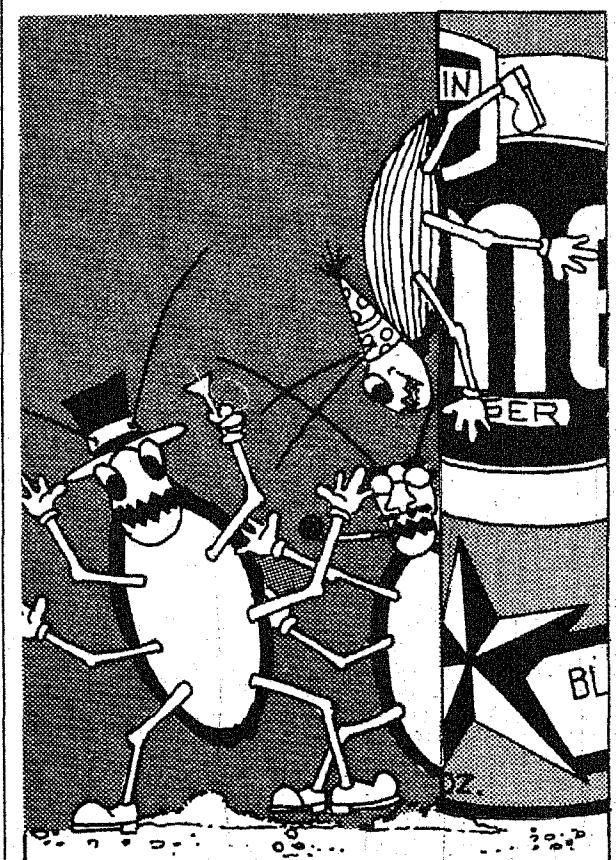
What is it about this bug that is so, dare I say, gross?

My biggest question, beside the ultimate one of why, in His infinite wisdom, did the Almighty create this little bugger, is why do they always attack at night? Why is it when you are down-

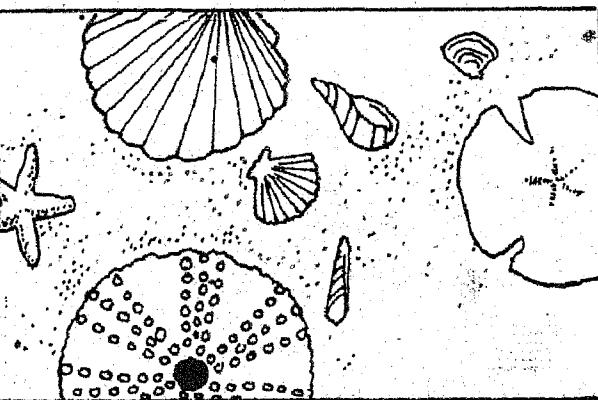
is warm and inviting and you step in and pull shut the shower curtain, there is always revealed an exceptionally large (aren't they always) member of the Roach family leering at you, daring you to turn your back on him!

Now, all of this bug talk makes me sound like I despise house cleaning as much as I do cockroaches. You ask yourself: If this woman keeps her house clean, how can she co-habitate with so many mini monsters? The answer is, I DO house clean, fervently, but I have actually witnessed a roach party after one of my cleaning sessions using grits of Comet as party snacks. Need I say more?

If there is any person who doesn't have an advanced case of heebie-jeebies after stepping on a roach barefoot in the dark, please call me. I need your help. You see, I am the person you saw leaving during the infamous bug scene in *Indiana Jones: The Temple of Doom*. Just the sight of hundreds of those critters crawling on human appendages sent me flying straight to the popcorn barrel. I need to learn to cope.



stairs in the basement with only the single light bulb on and your arms filled with laundry, does Mr. Cockroach decide to test its wings near your head? Or, why is it that when your shower



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LeRoy Collins

by Gary Boulard

In February of 1960, Florida Governor LeRoy Collins arrived in Key West for an afternoon luncheon at the home of Monroe County Sheriff John Spottswood. Collins, 51, was a handsome, personable man with national ambitions. His six years as Florida's governor had been marked by remarkable economic growth and a "moderate" approach to the then-volatile issue of integration and civil rights in the Sunshine State. National journals such as *Newsweek* were promoting the governor as a possible presidential candidate, and the consensus among political observers was that Collins would probably get the vice-presidential slot on a ticket headed by John F. Kennedy.

Reporters wondered what the Key West lunch was all about. Spottswood had invited another powerhouse Democrat—former President Harry Truman—and much speculation was made during the day over Collins' likely role in the summer's Democratic Convention. "The press speculated variously that Truman and Collins discussed a convention office, the vice-presidential nomination, or a diplomatic post," writes Tom Wagy in his recently published book *Governor LeRoy Collins of Florida—Spokesman of the New South* (The University of Alabama Press). "Collins later explained that they spent most of the day talking about Truman's presidential experiences . . ."

While newspapers, such as the *Miami Herald*,

trumpeted the Truman-Collins meeting as another indication of the governor's emerging status, it was, in fact, a sign of just the opposite. As Collins became more and more of a national star, his stock sunk deeper in Florida. A man with a distinct visionary appeal, Collins had won the enmity of the state's conservative and segregationist Democrats in the late 1950s and by the time of the 1960 presidential campaign had no reliable base from which to operate.

Even the friendship and support of men like Truman and Adlai Stevenson couldn't help Collins' cause; the more he became the darling of the national media, the less liked he was in Florida. Collins precarious political condition was dramatically highlighted during the Democratic convention that he chaired in Los Angeles some five months after his Key West visit.

Author Wagy tells us that he was given serious consideration by JFK, but lost the second slot on the ticket to Lyndon Johnson when it became apparent that Collins could not control the Florida delegation. "He realized the problem," Wagy writes. "If he could have obtained the cooperation of the state's Democrats, he later revealed, he would have encouraged a move for the vice-presidency. Speaking to Collins after the convention, Robert Kennedy expressed his preference for him over Johnson. However, Kennedy explained, Collins' lack of influence in his own delegation constituted an insurmountable problem."

In this 264-page book, Wagy, a professor of history at East Texas State University and a graduate of Florida State University, clearly traces Collins' path from his boyhood roots in the 1920s in Tallahassee to his impressively productive long tenure in the state senate, 1932 to

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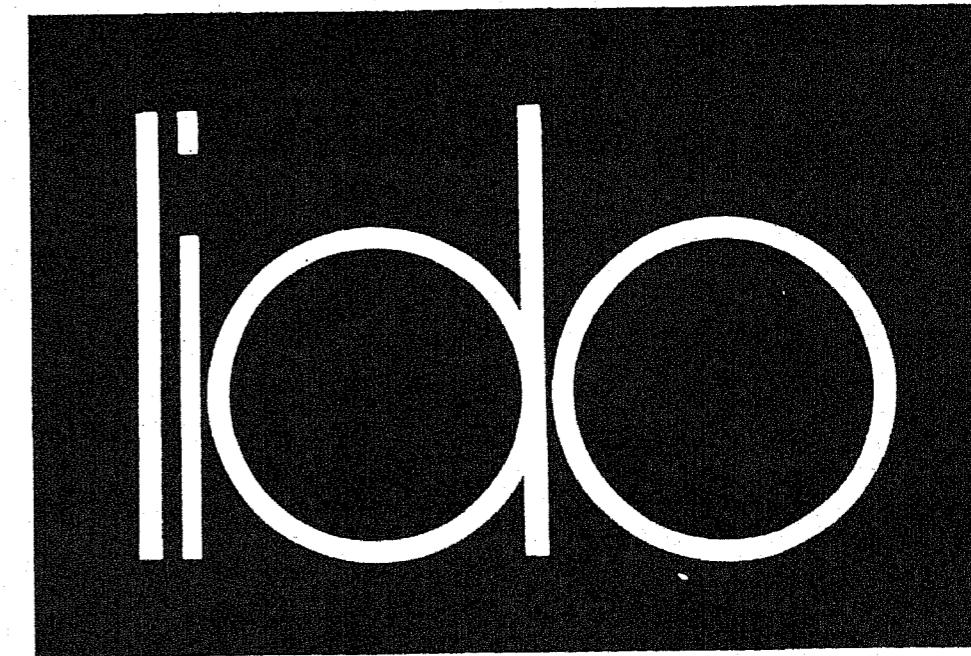
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1953, through his years as governor, 1954 to 1961, and as a failed and frustrated liberal Democrat in Florida during the late 1960s and 1970s.

Throughout Collins' career, it seems, the likable, quiet Democrat frequently found himself at odds with the majority of his political peers and constituents. As governor, Collins tried for many years to walk the tightrope between the growing civil rights interests and the recalcitrant segregationist block that both dominated the state legislature and most of the popular rhetoric heard throughout the state. Collins' patient path produced mixed results: For the most part, Florida avoided the emotional and bloody civil rights confrontations that wracked states like Alabama and Georgia, but Collins' professional manner gave many people the impression that he was a supporter of federal intervention—certainly a death knell for any ambitious candidate during a time when the state Democratic party was largely comprised of a populist and sometimes racist membership.

Perhaps sensing the political currents, Collins moved to Washington in 1961 and eventually became director of the Community Relations Service and undersecretary of commerce, both positions under Lyndon Johnson.

In 1965, Collins travelled to Selma, Alabama, where he attempted to negotiate a peaceful resolution to a brewing civil rights dilemma: demonstrators led by the Reverend Martin Luther King were planning a long, dangerous march to

the state capital. The Alabama power structure sent out a series of not-very-subtle messages suggesting that King and his followers might be seriously hurt if they carried out their plans. Collins talked King and company into simply walking across Edmund Pettus Bridge outside Selma, conducting a peaceful prayer meeting, and then returning to the city. The region's segregationists, meanwhile, promised Collins to let the bridge-crossing go without incident.

By any measure, Collins should have emerged as a hero from the Selma incident. He defused a potentially violent powderkeg without robbing King and his people of a symbolic victory. But in a manner that seems to sadly represent Collins' entire political fortunes after his successful tenure as governor, the Selma meetings came back to haunt him. While trying to talk King and his people into a smaller march, a photographer from the Associated Press snapped a shot of Collins walking with King, Andrew Young, King's wife Coretta, and the Reverend Ralph Abernathy. Three years later when Collins attempted a political comeback in Florida by running for the U.S. Senate, state conservatives produced the photo as evidence that Collins was an activist civil rights participant—still an indictment in Florida. "A Tampa voter wrote, 'I can't help but observe how hard LeRoy Collins is trying to shake off the ultra-liberal label he sought and earned when he joined Lyndon Johnson's race-mixing campaign,'" Wagy says one constituent complained. "This included

his famous picture marching on Selma with Martin Luther King at Lyndon's command."

In the 1968 elections, Collins was soundly defeated, failing to carry even his home district Leon County in northern Florida.

Despite his defeat, though, it could be argued that Collins made it easier for other more successful racial progressives to succeed in both Florida and the South, men like Florida Governors Reubin Askew and Robert Graham, as well as Arkansas Senator Dale Bumbers and one-time Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter.

"Moving 'beyond the horizon' of most Floridians," Wagy concludes, "Collins outdistanced the constituency that sustained his political career. His early years were steeped in Tallahassee's Deep South racial traditions. His rejection of that heritage came not in a vision, but as a gradual transformation. As he questioned ideas that other southerners considered sacrosanct, his insight and empathy grew . . ."

Wagy's book is fairly devoid of personal information, with the exception of Collins' formative years in Tallahassee. But it is a very good examination of a public man's public life and an essential reading for anyone attempting to understand the modern struggle for civil rights and the people's hearts and minds in Florida.

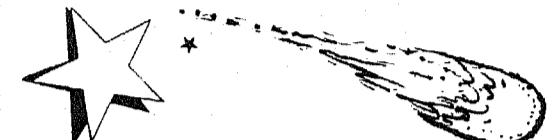
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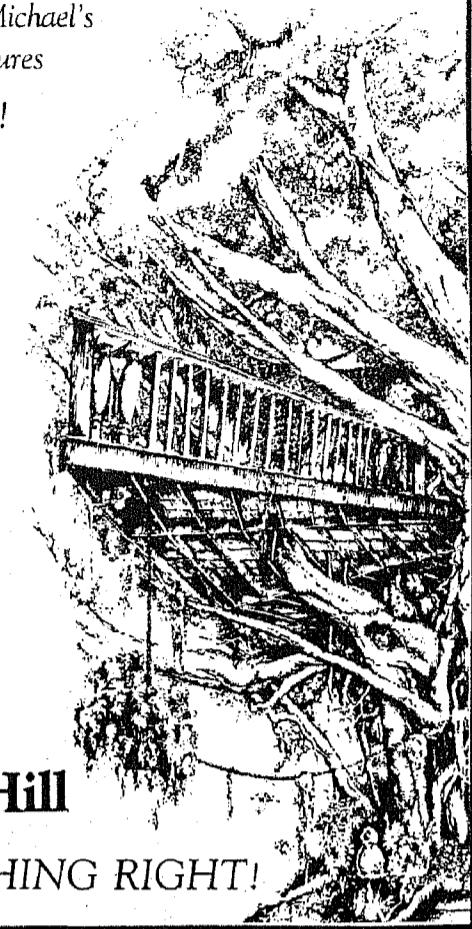


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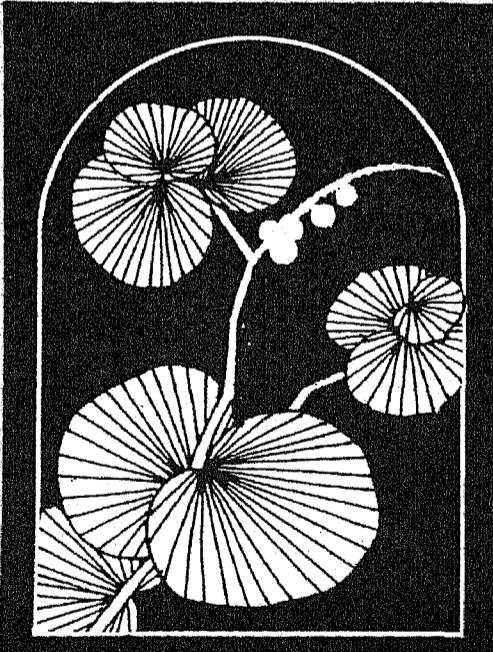
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by Helen R. Chapman

Vince slammed four more burgers on the grill and grabbed a rag to wipe the sweat off his face. It was 12:30 p.m. and the place was packed. One of the waitresses, Diane, was out sick and the other, Marcy, was being run ragged.

"Pick up," Vince sang out as he banged down a plate with a burger and french fries. Marcy came behind the counter with four more orders. She examined the burger.

"Vince, this is supposed to be medium rare."

"It is," he snapped, dumping the deep-fryer basket of fries on the griddle.

"No, it's not. I can see that." She accepted it anyway, hoping it wouldn't be sent back.

"Miss, may I have another glass of milk, please?" asked a mild-mannered man who was sitting near the cooking area. Marcy didn't hear him as she rushed past to pour two cokes.

"Hey, Marcy, what's this? Tuna sandwich? I don't make the sandwiches. You do." Vince thrust the ticket at her.

"Not today I don't. No time."

She dashed away with the cokes, then came running back to make the sandwich. She knew better than to argue with Vince.

"Miss, may I have another glass of milk, please?" the man repeated. Marcy glanced at him as she went past.

"Be with you in a minute."

When she returned, she was carrying a plate with a burger on it.

"Vince, I told you this guy wanted medium rare. This is well done."

Vince snatched the plate from her. "These damn fussy people," he mumbled as he took another burger from the grill and fixed it up on a clean plate. He looked at the next order and then slapped a piece of fish on the grill. The dishwasher came in from the back room with a load of clean dishes and a piece of paper between his teeth. He set the tray down and handed the paper to Vince.

"A load of tomatoes. Sign for it?"

Vince grabbed the paper and scribbled his signature on it.

"When are these people going to learn not to deliver at lunchtime!" he bellowed. He swung back to the grill to turn some pork chops. One slipped off the spatula and fell to the floor.

"Oh, jeez, what next?" Vince growled, stooping quickly and wiping it with a clean towel. He glanced nervously over his shoulder and saw the dishwasher grinning. Vince threw the chop back on the grill.

"Coming through," Marcy sang out, pushing her way past the dishwasher with a load of dirty dishes. "What are you grinning at? We're running out of coffee cups." The dishwasher, still laughing, moved quickly back to his area.

A good-looking young blonde woman came in the front door and paused, looking for a place to sit. The man who never got his second glass of milk was just getting up from his stool. The woman went over and sat down.

"Vince!" she called out in a strong firm voice. Vince turned from the grill.

"Donna, what are you doin' here?"

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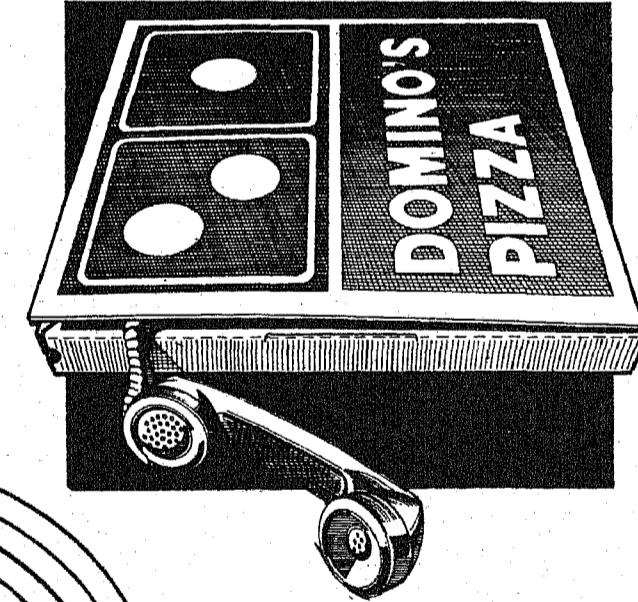
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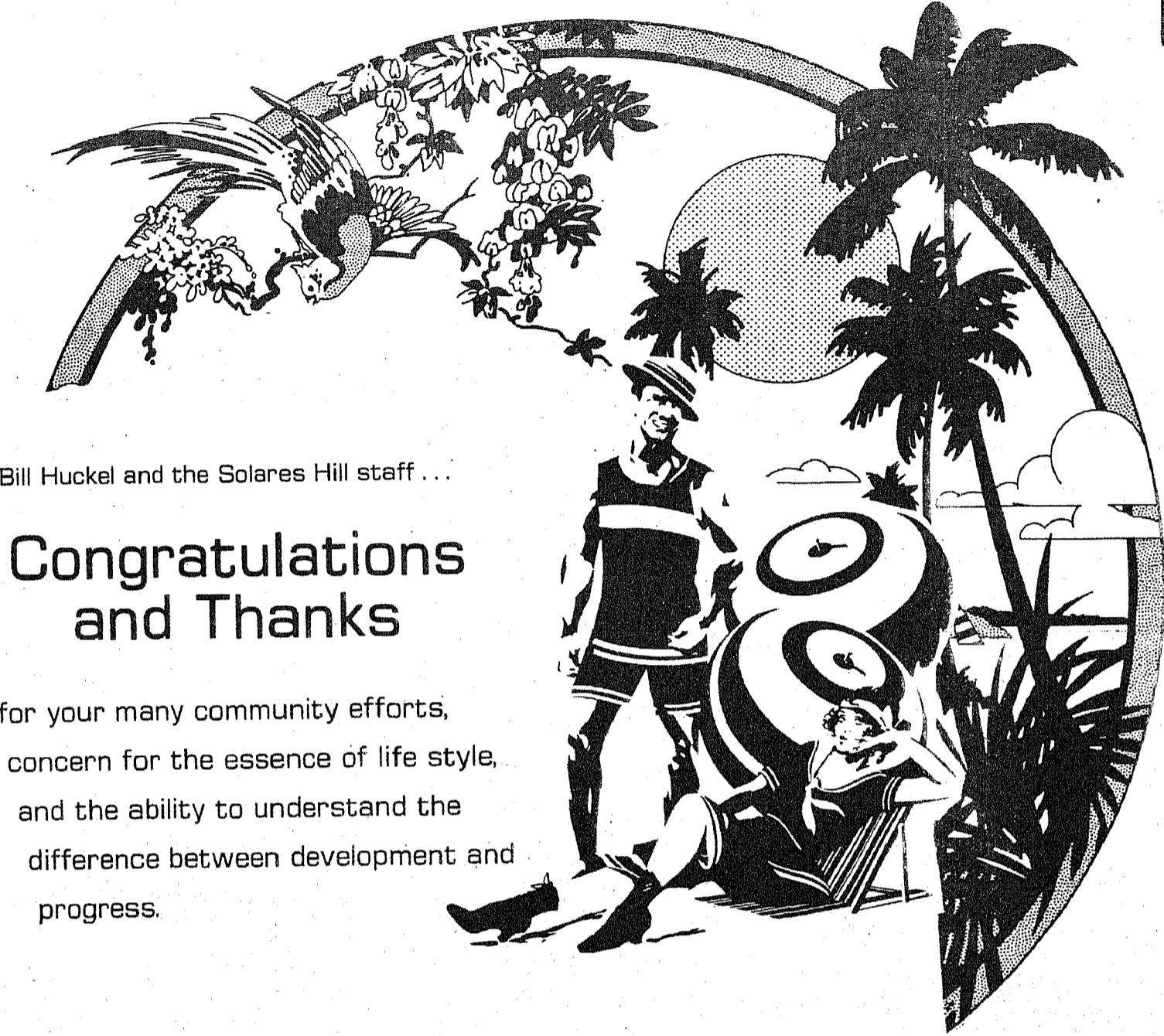
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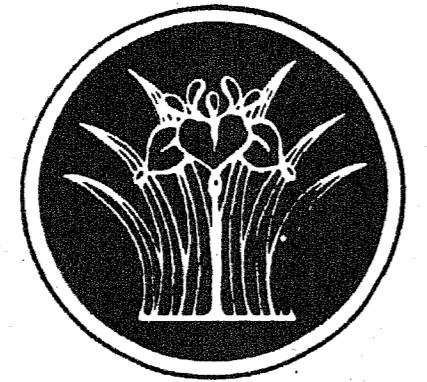
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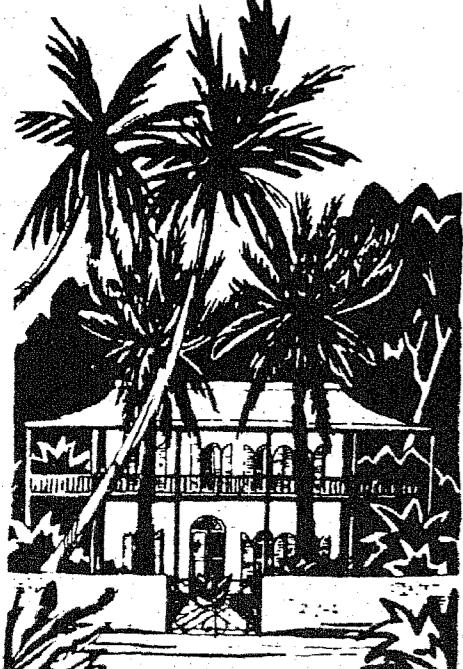
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"I have to talk to you," she said, urgency in her tone.

"Well, not now, for God's sake. Hey, Marcy, pick up. Your fish is gettin' cold."

"Well, when else?" Donna said. "You're never home any more."

Marcy came flying behind the counter with two more orders. She picked up the fish dinner and rushed away to make a salad.

"Hey, Marcy," Vince called. "What the hell is this? I can't read your writing."

"Vince, this is serious." Donna pursued. "I want a divorce."

Marcy came over to Vince. "Now what's the matter?"

Vince held out a ticket. "I can't read this. It looks like ptui mitt. That's not on the menu."

Marcy grimaced. "That's a patty melt, you idiot." She flew off again. Vince threw more fried on the griddle and began to prepare some onion rings.

"Vince," Donna said.

"Listen, Donna, whatever it is, we'll talk about it tonight."

A man came in and stood looking for a place to sit.

"Donna," Vince said sternly, "if you're not gonna order, we need that seat."

"Let me have an egg salad sandwich and a coke."

"Tell Marcy." Vince turned his back to her and continued his work.

"You've been seeing Diane, haven't you?" Donna asked.

A couple entered, looking around.

"I told you I didn't want to eat here," the woman whined. "There's no place to sit."

"Well, I don't have time for a restaurant," the man replied. "I have to be back at the office by one-fifteen."

Two people rose from their seats at the counter.

"There," the man said. "Grab those." They moved over to the counter and sat down. Marcy came back behind the counter.

"Be right with you," she told them.

"Marcy," Vince called out. "Take Donna's order."

"You've been seeing Diane, haven't you?" Donna repeated. Marcy stopped dead and looked at Vince. He kept his back turned and said nothing.

"Donna, what're you having?" Marcy asked, her voice a bit shaky.

"Egg salad sandwich and a coke."

Marcy took the couple's order, two cheeseburgers, and then went to make Donna's sandwich. Vince threw two more burgers on the grill and set up two plates with chips and pickles.

"Vince, you're not listening to me," Donna persisted.

Without turning, Vince said, "I told you, I can't talk now. Too busy."

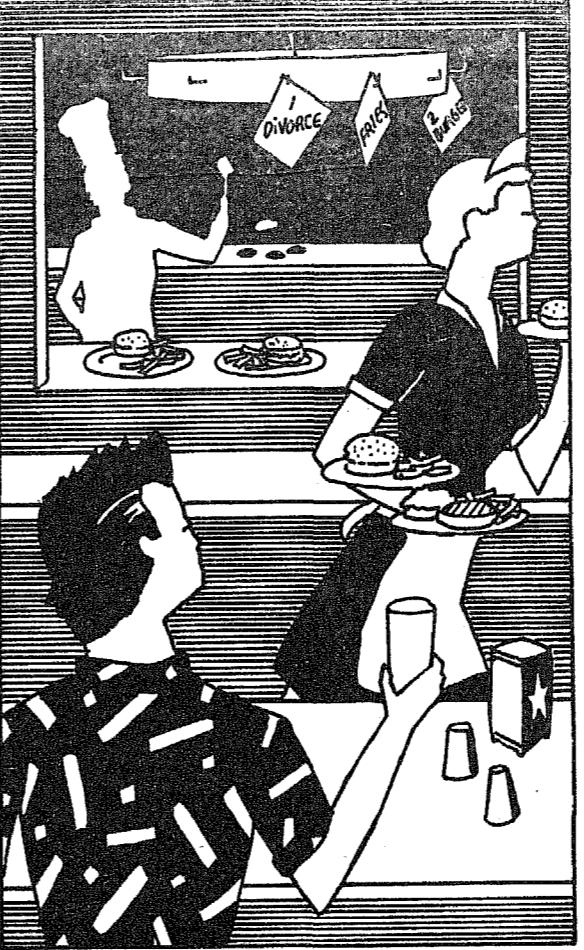
"You're always too busy. That's the trouble. We never get to talk any more."

Marcy came over with Donna's sandwich and coke, then moved away quickly to go about her business. Donna silently began to eat.

"Marcy, your cheeseburgers are up," Vince called. Marcy came back from the tables with another tray of dirty dishes. The coffee shop was beginning to thin out; she could slow down a little. She delivered the two burgers and took some time to clean up her own area.

"You came home drunk last night," Donna stated flatly. "And I see that Diane's not in today. Did you wear her out?" The sarcasm in her voice cut through Marcy, but Vince took no notice.

Suddenly Donna exploded. She hurled her half-finished coke at Vince—it crashed on the grill with a sizzle. Then she sent her plate careering down the counter to her right, slam-



ming it into the two cheeseburger plates which crashed to the floor. The couple, mouths open, stared down at their unfinished lunches. The woman, still whining, said, "See? I told you this was a dump."

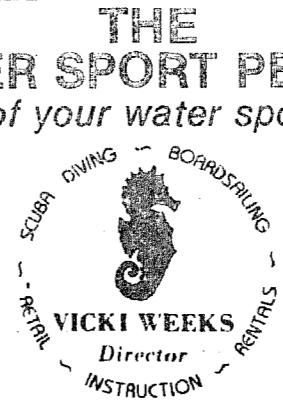
"I want a divorce," Donna screamed, getting up from her chair. "I'll prove that you've been seeing Diane. I'm going to see a lawyer right now."

With everyone in the restaurant staring at her, she ran out the door.

Vince scooped two burgers off the grill onto plates and closely inspected them for broken glass. Satisfied that they were safe, he piled some bacon on top.

"Marcy, pick up your bacon burgers."

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It was I who possessed the necessary cosmetic skills to make John into some semblance of the female gender, and I mustered all the knowledge I had at that time to make this man into what I could call a reasonably attractive woman.

After twenty minutes of picking, fixing and



fussing we all stood back to examine our beautiful specimen of womanhood. He was still gagged out and oblivious to the ensuing miracle of cosmetic metamorphosis, but my mother was becoming quickly aware that the husband who had dozed off only a short time before was no longer, and a strange old woman had taken his place. She was delighted at how absolutely cute

he looked.

"You girls have certainly made an improvement on your father, I'll say. Maybe a scarf tied like a babushka would help." She showed us how to fold the scarf into a little triangle and we tied it around his chin. Boy! Was this ever the finishing touch we had all been waiting for!

Giddy and exhilarated with our tremendous achievement, we rousted poor old John from his fishy dreams and presented him with a hand mirror so he could become acquainted with his new self. I half-expected to be beaten and sent to bed right away, knowing his limitations for taking a joke, but evidently the coldness of the evening had numbed his better judgment. He held the mirror up to his face, and a strange twinkle appeared in his eyes. He obviously liked what he saw.

There was much laughter and wise remarks and even a few suggestions on how we could all capitalize on his new get-up. My father has always been the adventurous sort, but what he proposed next was so outrageous that even my mother began shrieking protests and begged him not to do it. That's right—he wanted to put his costume to the *ultimate* test: visit our neighbors, Jim and Martha Nell, and impersonate a fictional friend of Miss Grace Kemp, a lovely, sweet and gentle old woman of Conch society, who happened also to have just sold them their home.

His devilish little plot was to call up Jim and say that he was Miss Lilly from Homestead and

had just gotten off the Greyhound Bus and was coming over for a visit (not knowing, of course, that Miss Grace had sold her home and was not living there at all).

The air was electric with the prospect of abusing the phone like that, since we were never allowed to commit such acts of foolishness with the "vital instrument of necessity," as he called it. John did so, and got such a tender and understanding reaction and explicit instructions from Jim on how to get to Miss Grace's new residence that he was bordering on absolute euphoria with the success of his impersonation.

They say that a little success is a dangerous thing, and in John's case it was explosive. There was no stopping him now. He had to push his theatrical charade to the limit of credibility. It was decided that, in spite of the bitter cold and freezing wind, we would all be witness to the powers he possessed to behave like a forgetful old woman and further fool the unsuspecting Jim.

We all bundled up and followed John, who had by now rolled up his pants under a long skirt and donned a blouse and a woolen shawl. The skirt was long enough, but I thought it was risky of him to leave on his steel-toed work shoes and not wear a pair of my mother's shoes, for the sake of authenticity. No matter. He led us around the corner in single file to the home of Jim and Martha Nell.

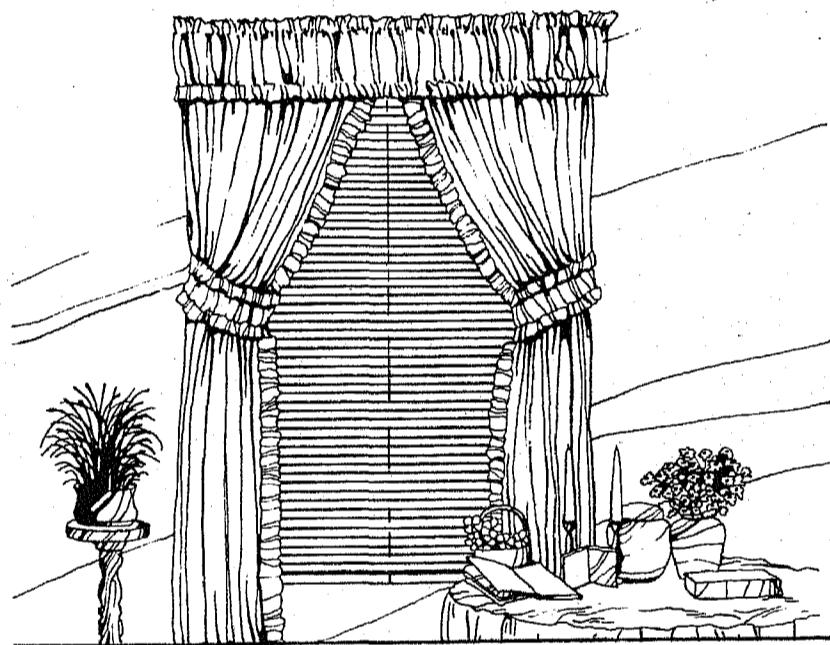
Delirious and wanting to scream out loud in laughter but struck with fear of being noisy and

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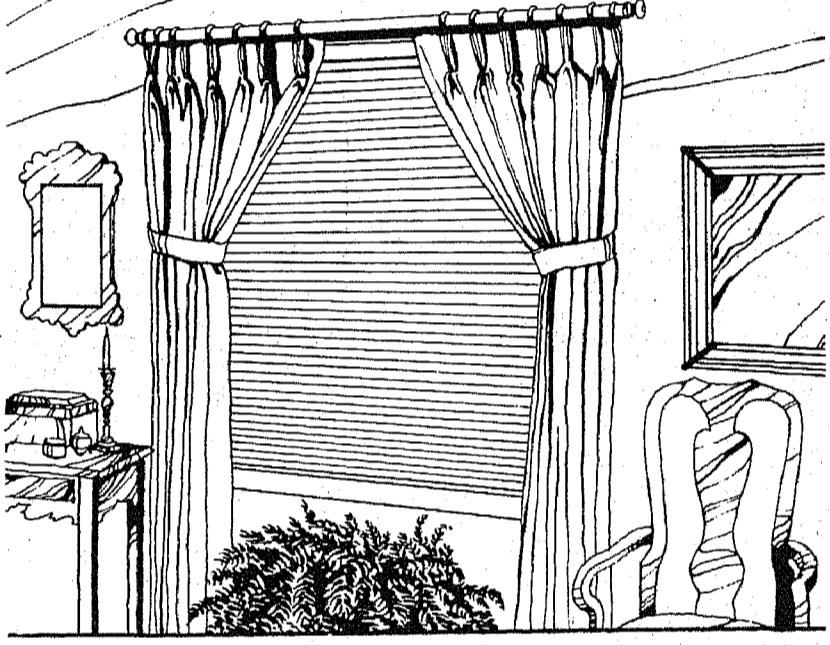


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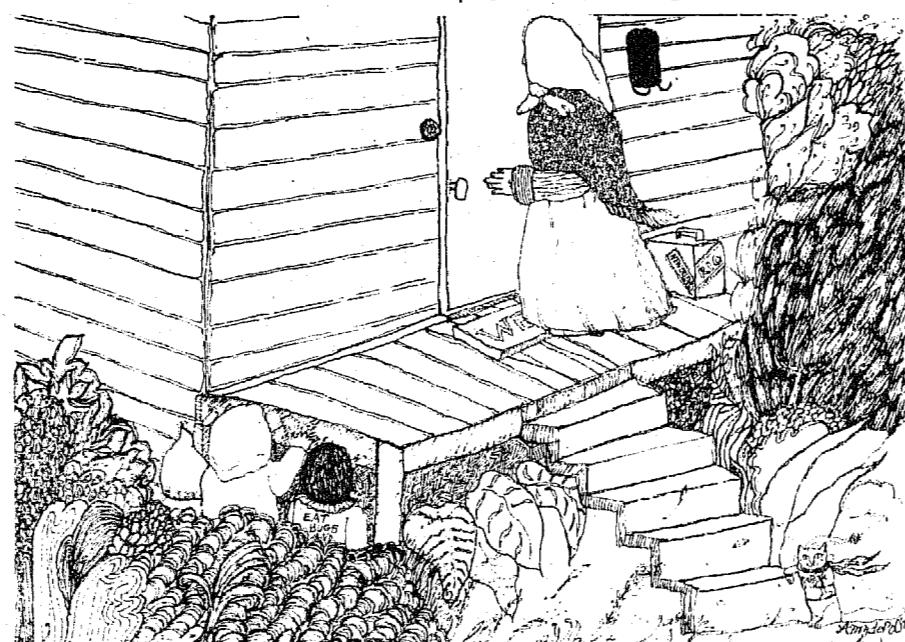
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After several detailed explanations, Jim was getting visibly irritated at the inability of this partially senile old woman to retain information. And the fact that he was not dressed warmly enough to engage in prolonged conversations in the middle of a record-breaking cold spell made Jim more than a little impatient. In exasperation he went inside to draw a large map to assist Miss Lilly in finding her destination.

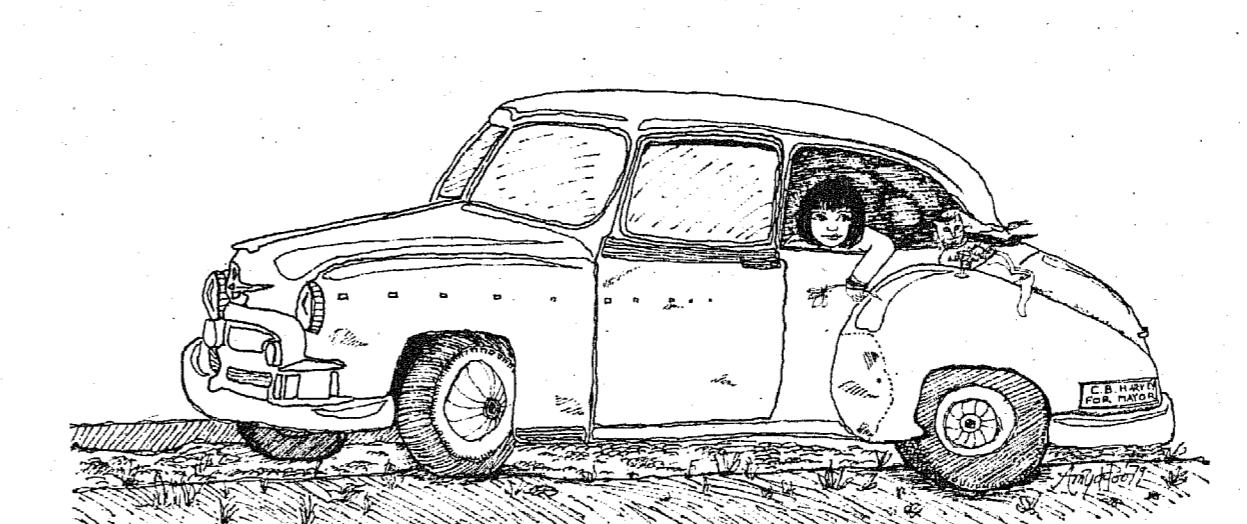
When he went inside, John turned to us with

John to milk a small bit for all it is worth). He then hobbled convincingly back down the wooden steps with the expression of a sinner who had just been saved in a tent revival.

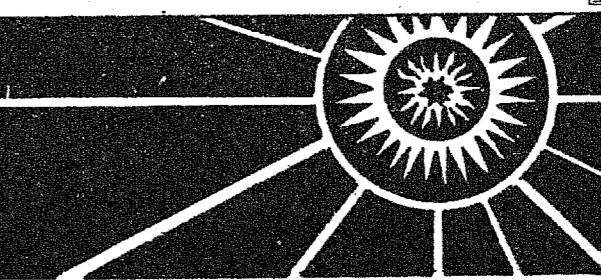
Back home, we were allowed full rein to whoop and holler at how marvelously he had pulled off the scam of the century, and one more success went to John's head. He had to try it one more time on Harriet Porter, wife of the illustrious lawyer and pillar of the community, J. Y.

Porter, both friends of his since he was a small boy growing up between Havana and Key West. We all piled into the car and made a beeline for her house on the other side of the island.

caught so quickly at something you had figured to be getting away with. Which only goes to unequivocally prove, you can fool some of the people some of the time, and even fool all of the



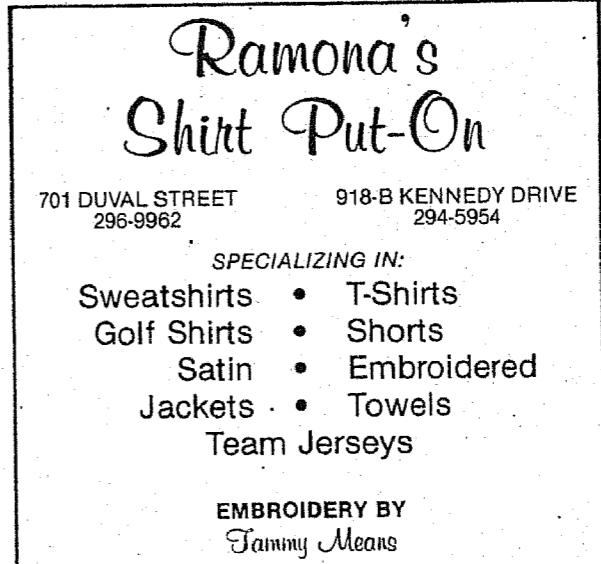
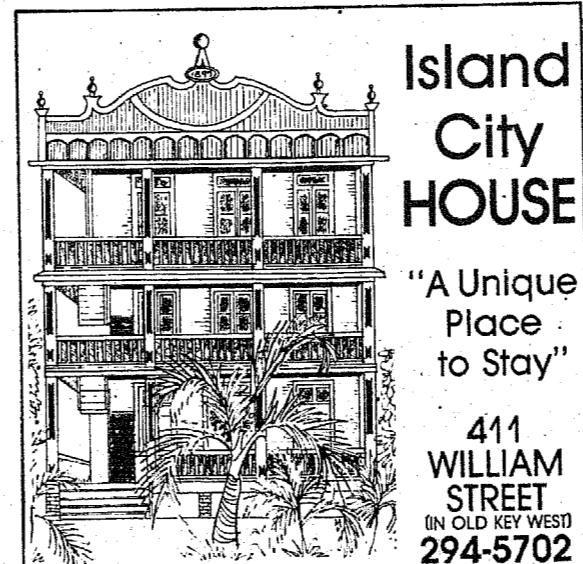
people all of the time, but you can never, ever, fool an old Conch.



Once again we were sworn to silence and threatened a great deal if we proved unable to control the tickle of laughter in our throats.

Hiding at the side of her house and fully expecting the sweet smell of success to be ours once more, we watched as John rang the bell. The door opened, and this I swear to you, as God is my witness, the instant that door opened we heard the familiar voice of Harriet say, "Why Johnny de Poo, you old son of a bitch, what are you doing dressed up as an old woman?"

Needless to say, it was no fun at all to be



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KEY WEST'S
"MR. TENNIS"
Iggy Carbonell
by Bud Jacobson

There remains, in the midst of all today's craziness, puffed egos, nutty adoration of alleged celebrities, a quietly spoken, witty and sophisticated gentleman of the old school in Key West—Ignacio Domingo Carbonell, descendant of one of the town's most respected Spanish families.

Iggy Carbonell, in his day, had to have been one of the most handsome and dashing of the "young men around town," back in the 1930s when he was in his 20s. Well over six-feet tall, slim because of his devotion to tennis and the outdoor life, Ignacio (as his friends liked to call him) was the picture of a Hollywood star—most likely, a Valentino, but without that slick gooey appearance. Take a squint at the photos and you'll see for yourself.

His longtime pals (and he has hundreds) say that Iggy's real charm was in the fact that he had a great masculine sense of humor, a sense of perspective that never allowed him to become an ego-freak. A dazzling smile and an old style of Spanish courtesy marked Iggy as one of Key West's most popular community leaders for years.

He was the youngest of seven sons of Fernanda and Juan Carbonell who had settled in Key West, from Spain, in the late 1800s. Their

eighth child was their only daughter, Martha Carbonell Mesa. The family home was in a large house on Southard in the early 1900s, a center for years of social and family events all of which revolved around the parents.

"Early in the morning, every day, I remember, my father would march all us boys down Duval to what is now South Beach for our daily swim

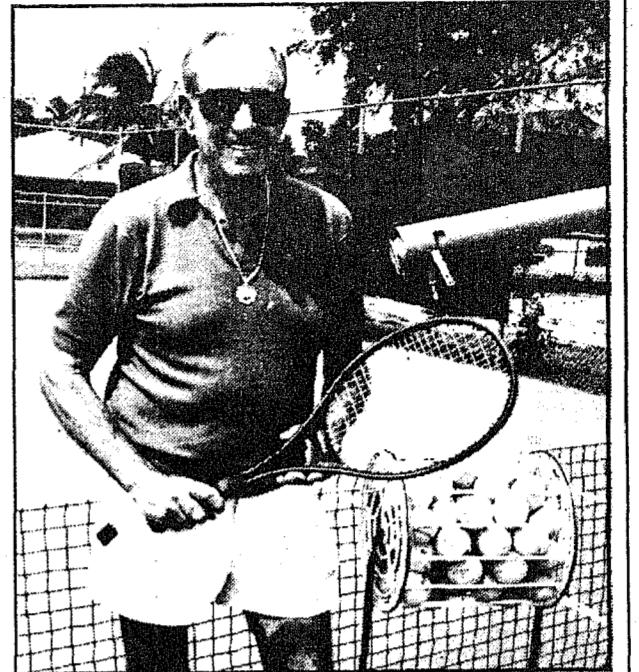


photo by Sharon Wells

Iggy on the court and exercise. He was a great believer in tradition and passed it on to us." The boys included, besides Iggy, Joseph, Frank, John (known as "Big John," when he was in city politics), Pubio and Freddy, now Dr. Freddy Carbonell, a dentist.

After the morning splash in the ocean, the kids would all troop back home for mama's

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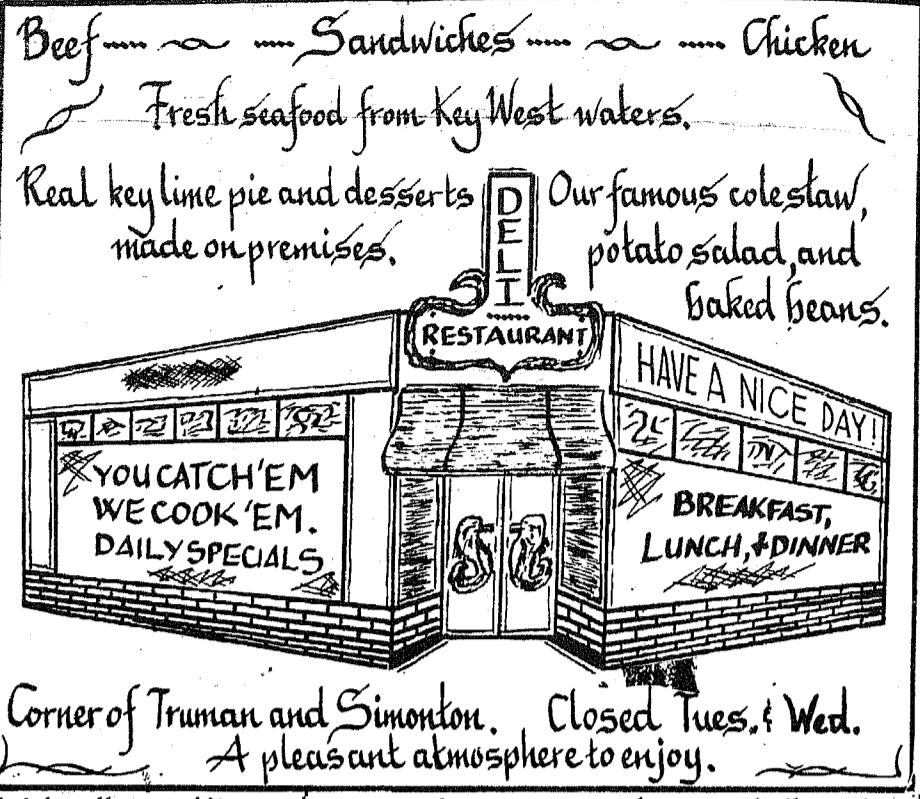
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breakfast and then off to school where Iggy was a bright and quick learner, especially in math and design that would lead, eventually, to a creditable career in cartography and engineering. This was also a fine backup for his many years in business as the owner-operator of the handsomely restored Strand Theater.

Aside from the business end of his life, though, Ignacio (not to dwell on the beautiful ladies in his life) had a first love—tennis.

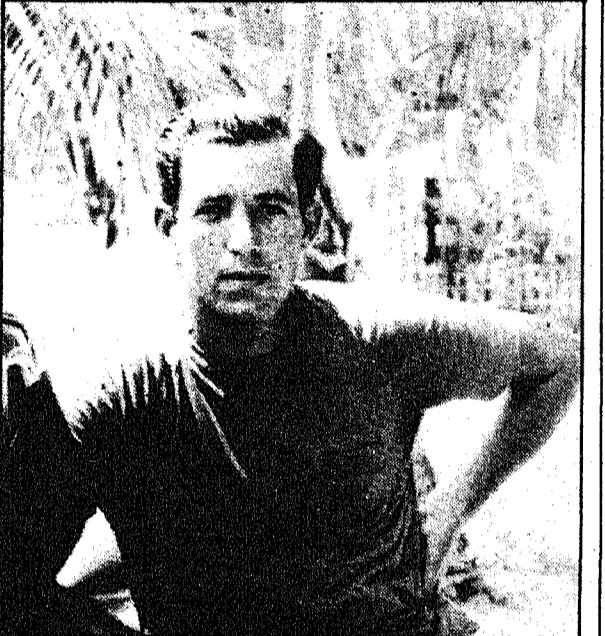
From his early teen years, this rangy, tall, athletic kid was a fierce competitor on the city's courts, playing effortlessly he racked up junior titles, then senior championships, city and county cups, and because of the easy way he handled people, he moved naturally into the position of a teaching professional.

Where did all this devotion to tennis begin?

"When I was young," says Iggy, "my brother Frankie got me interested in the game." The first court was located behind the lighthouse, in 1927, where Iggy played his first set. Across Whitehead Street was the home of one of his best friends, the late Coast Guard Commander Arthur (Billy) Shepard; the home was later bought by an up-and-coming novelist named

Ernest Hemingway; the brick wall around it was built by Hemingway.

Soon, because of the year-round outdoor cli-



"Mr. Tennis" himself
mate in Key West, tennis enthusiasts demanded

more and more courts—they were built at the Marine Hospital, the Casa Marina Hotel, on county beach and at Bayview Park. Carbonell was a strong force behind that expansion.

In 1935, at the behest of a northern visitor, "tennis teas" were started at the Casa Marina and singles and doubles matches were avidly watched and attended by the guests as well as some of Key West's society families.

"There were celebs in those days, too, you know," Iggy smiles, "I played a few sets with Gabriel Heater, the famous radio reporter, and poet Robert Frost took up a racket, now and then."

Iggy, however, was the outstanding local guy, standing taller than all the rest, easy to pick out in his spanking white ducks as he moved across the court. The newspaper photos and sports stories about tennis doings are legion—Iggy just happens to have an album full.

The toughest tournament he remembers happened in the crushing mid-summer heat of July, 1934, when he won the city tennis championship over Peter Varela.

"We played at the old Athletic Club, on what is now South Beach.

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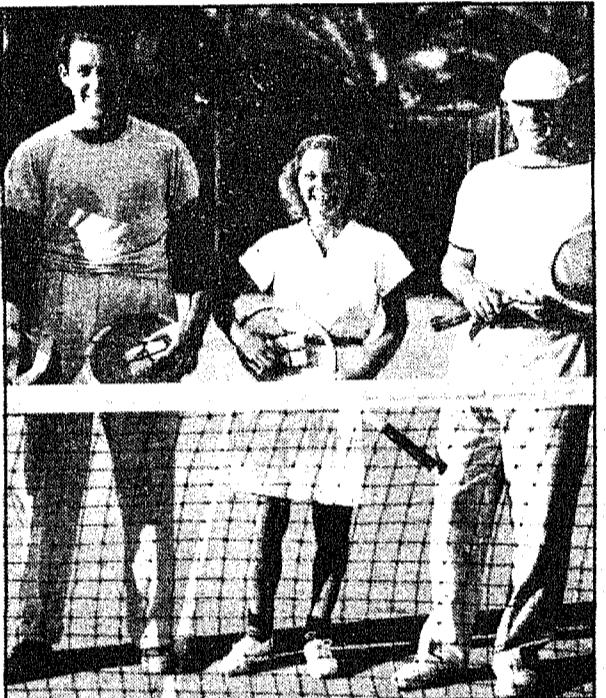
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Iggy with Casa Marina students, 1934

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Paul E. Sawyer, Billy Warren, Jeff Knight, Norman Artman and many more.

Came World War II, he signed up with the Army and was shipped to Guam and a few Pacific islands where he did map-making and engineering tasks. After the war, he spent some time in Tokyo and then came home.

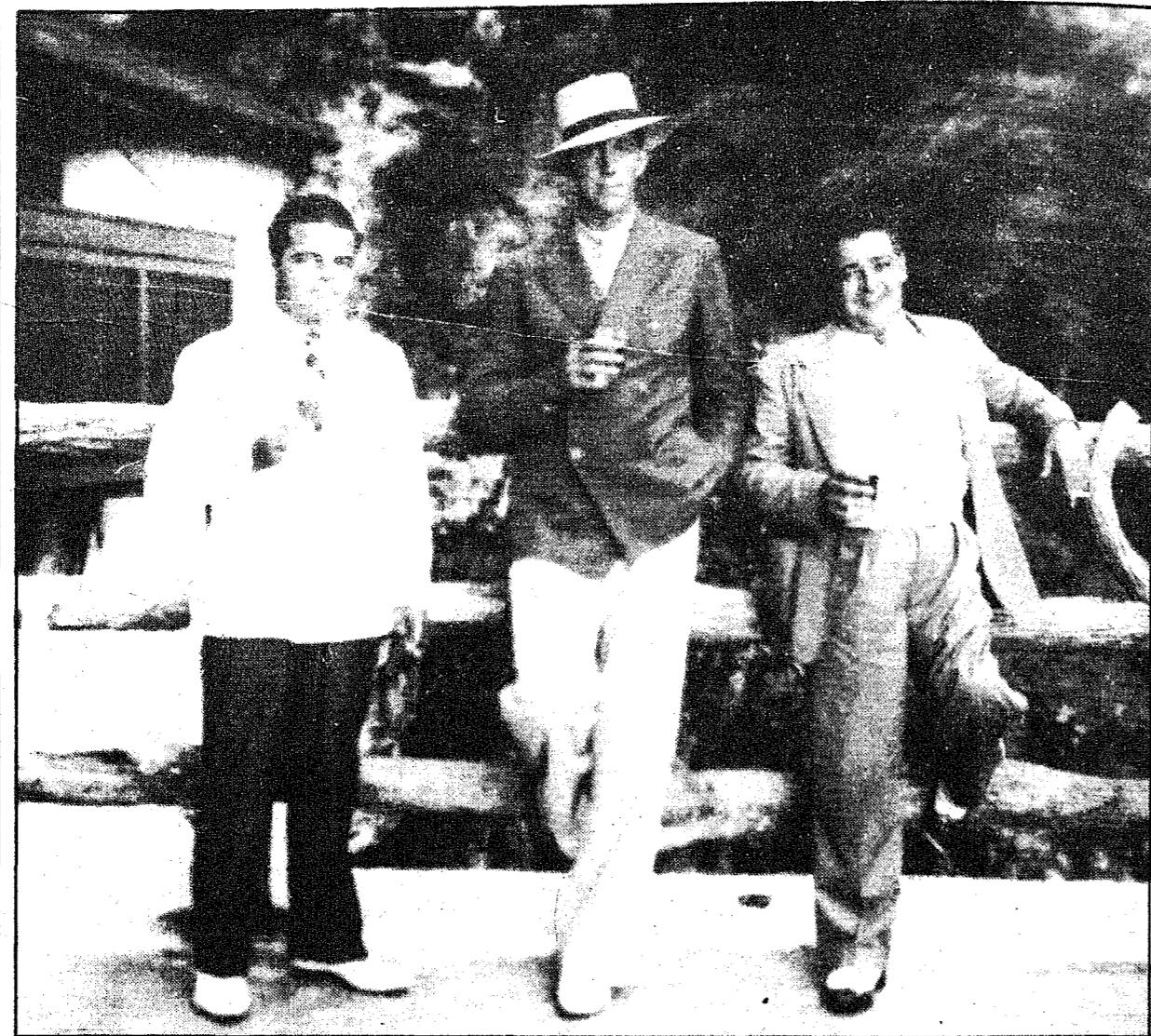
In the late 1940s and early 1950s, Iggy continued to operate the Strand and Monroe (now the Copa) theaters which were a family concern. Tennis stayed his number one love and in addition to that, there was the love for his new family and children. His sense of community involvement carried him into the city and county political sessions where he pleaded for, and won approval for more tennis courts.

But now the county politicians were turning to Iggy for even more public service.

He and Billy Shepard were tapped to head up the Florida Keys Boating Association and with their friend, Albert Greene (he owned the best men's store in Key West, located next door to the Strand) they figured out sites for the public boat ramps on the Lower Keys which are still in heavy use by locals and tourists. This work led to an expanded study and survey of the Intercoastal Waterway as it runs down the Keys from Miami, on the Bay side, then crosses the ocean at Bahia Honda, and into Garrison Bight.

Due to the efforts of these few men, joined by the late Admiral E. R. McCarthy, and then-county commissioner, Billy Freeman, the government relinquished millions for deepening and widening the waterway and money for the building of the causeway over the Bight.

All through this, Iggy carried on his tennis lessons, using care and close attention, patience and plenty of humor, with the young learners



3 men on a Cuba Libre; Iggy (center) and 2 friends in Havana, 1935.

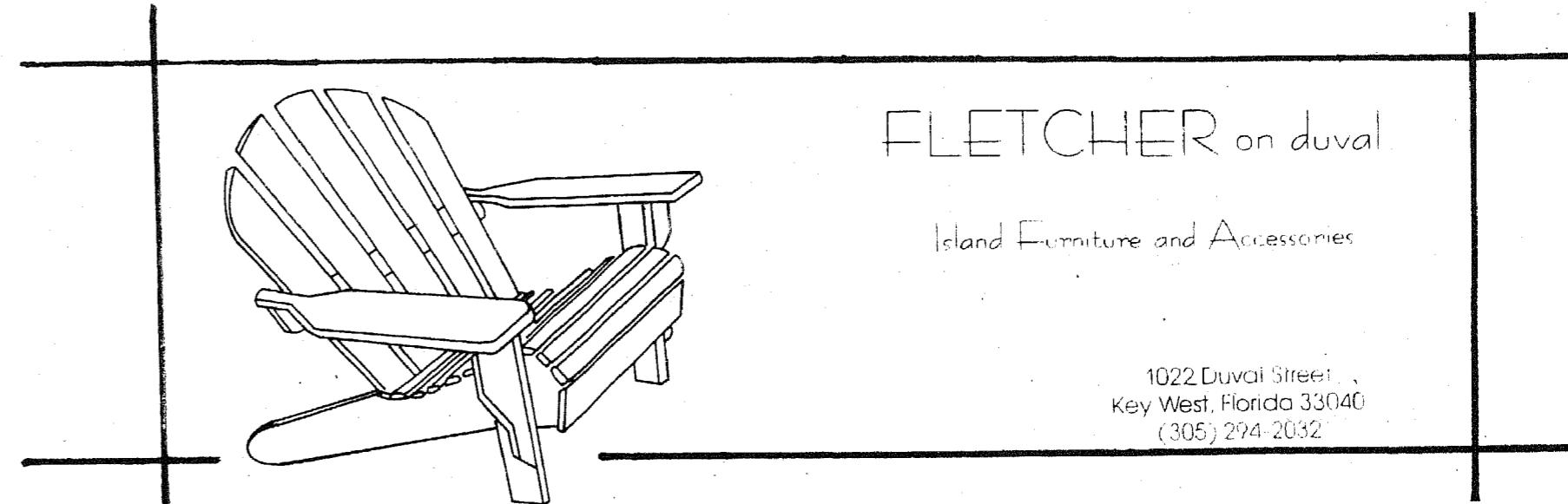
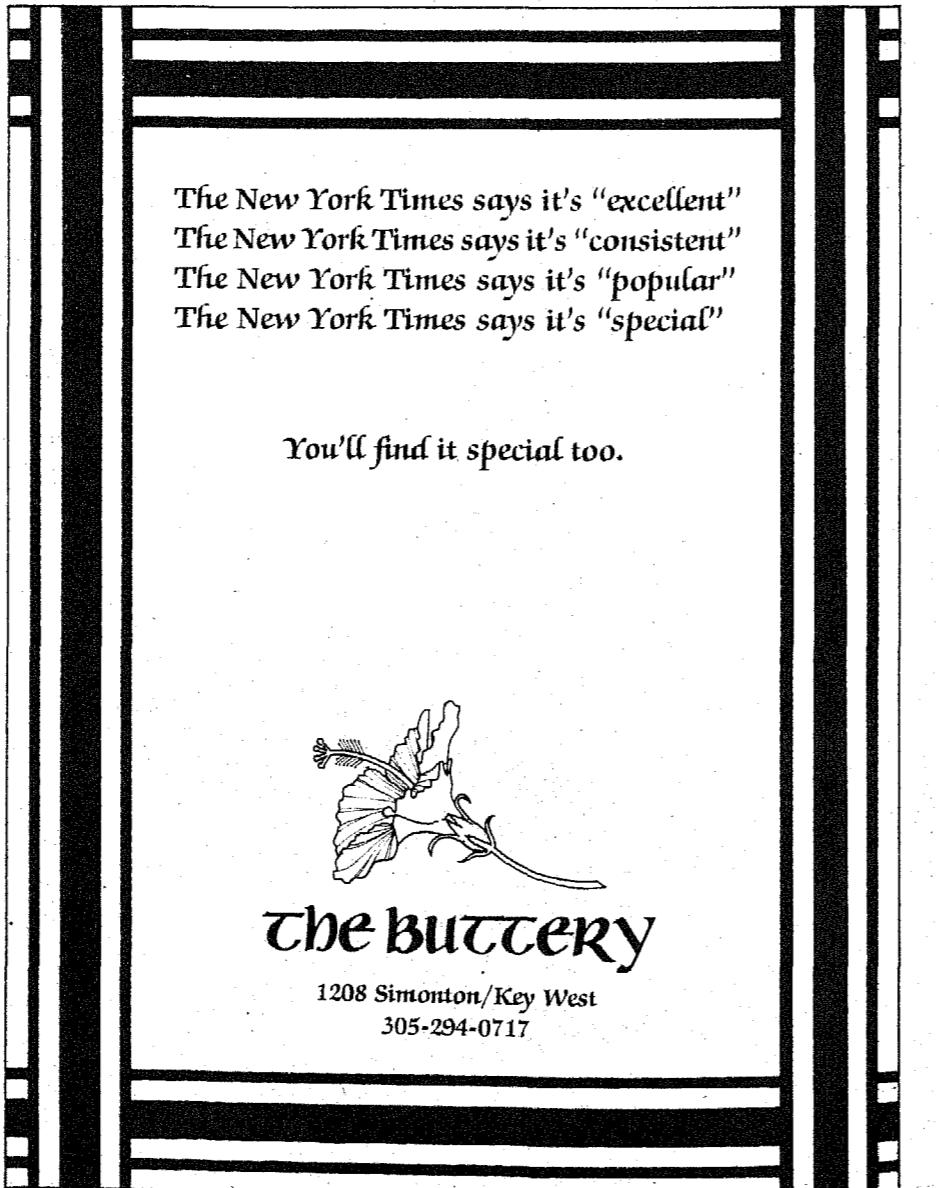


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who call him "Mr. Iggy," and with the older players who take lessons, too.

He's the only \$1 a year man on the Monroe County payroll, teaching lessons at the county's courts.

"It runs in the family—maybe there's such a thing as a 'tennis gene,'" Iggy laughs. His daughter Paula has numerous tennis championships racked up in Key West, and his other daughter, Ygnacia Conchita "Coni" Loftus, of Shreveport, Louisiana, plays the game but has no titles, yet. His grandson, Darren DeYoung, of Boca Raton, won his first tennis championship last year in Key West.

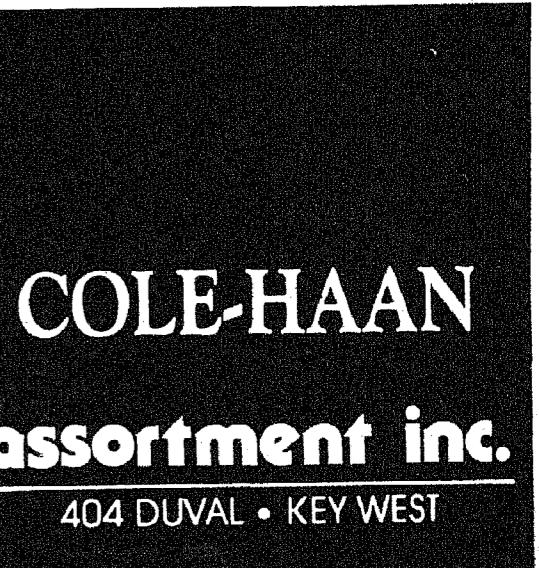
All work and no play? Not for Iggy.

He was one of the best-liked of the nighttime wanderers in the 1950s when the Sun And Sand Club (at the ocean end of Simonton) attracted the navy officers and the town's racier set, at the

Birdcage Lounge in the Casa Marina, Pena's Garden of Roses, and he took a leading role in the high-life activities of the Cuan Club, on Duval, during their costume balls and fancy events.

"It's a wonderful life in Key West and I've enjoyed it all. It's my hometown and I'm not leaving."

He winks, smiles and walks toward the tennis courts—Iggy Carbonell, in his element.

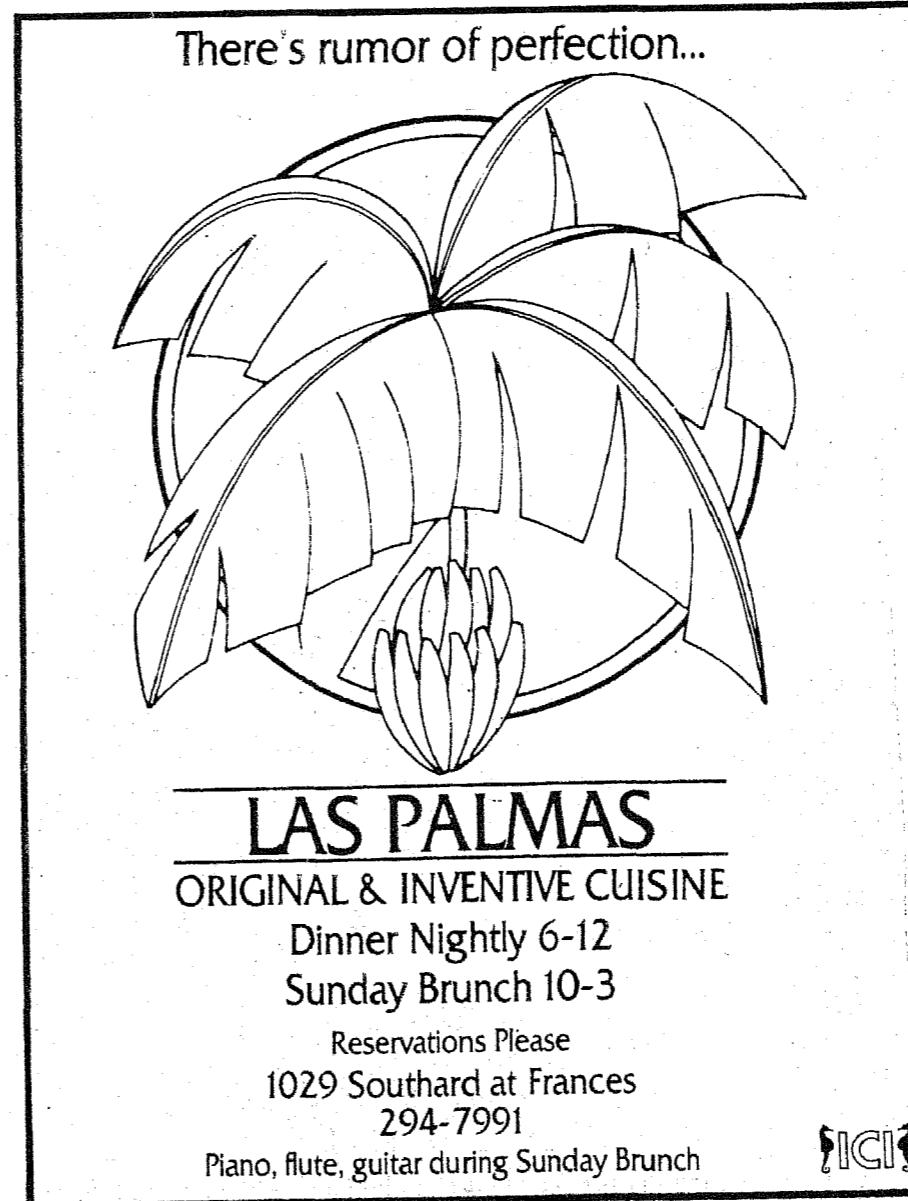


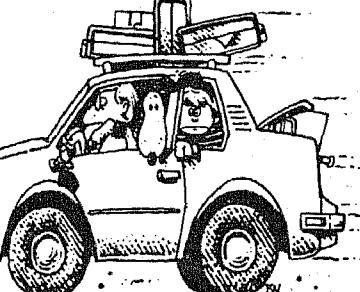
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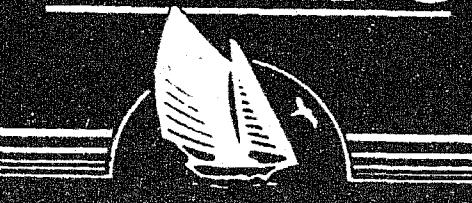


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GALLERY HOPPING

by Gordon Lacy

Bad, sad news this month: Fred Gros will close his gallery the 1st of May. His Roberta Marks show, to illustrate a point, was very fine, her constructions reflecting her personal sense of history arranged with humour, or we can cite the cool repose of Beth Nablo's latest works. Fred found and encouraged Stuart Vaughan whose drawing and visions have matured and solidified under Fred's patronage. He has always striven for the best and it was under his gentle aegis that Jordon Meinster gained the confidence to show what is certainly the most exciting painting we know of. He had much to do with Ron Van Balen's imaginative and perfect works of sculpture. Through the 11th of April he will be showing Richard Clark's abstract paintings after which he will have a clearance of his own paintings and things from his attic collected over the years. His last words are "I am not a businessman." As far as I am concerned, businessman and gallery-owner is a contradiction of terms.

Lucky Street Gallery will show John Rankine's large canvas wall-hangings, dyed and painted in conjunction with John Martini's cut steel sculptures through the 7th of this month after which they will feature their stable of artists.

Ned at Farrington's has been giving symposiums for artists and students on the newest techniques and materials and their uses, most recently for the Key West Art Center. The gallery is showing new oils by Michael Shannon of Lexington, an ex-student of Henry Faulkner

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and whose work has a 19th century quality about it. Very soft focus.

Burgess-Meinster recently sold their Matisse



to some out-of-towners at a third of the price that many of our local painters are asking for stuff not known beyond Marathon. John Burgess is having some success with his witty collages, which can be seen at Jordon's Cafe next door.

Before you all get at me about pushing food, etc., when giving your next party you might try Croissants de France's mille feuilles for dessert. It gives the guests the impression they have just been proposed marriage.

Karen at Artist Warehouse is still griping about too much framing, but she's getting up to the season's end and will be able to get back to painting soon.

Soft Sculpture

It's the zaniest craft studio on the sunny isle of Key West. Soft sculpture lizards, geckos, alligators and their tropical friends cling to windows and lounge on the work tables. A "soft porn" lizard sunbathes topless in a swaying hammock (don't tell the city fathers) while the Lizard Lady works. While you're in Key West, stop and see the Lizard Licks studio in Guild Hall Gallery, 614 Duval Street.

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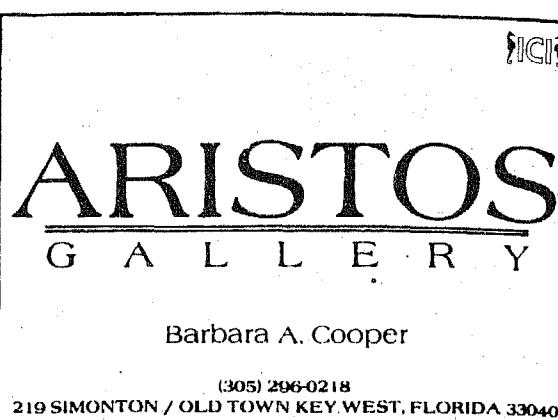
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On the 14th Gingerbread will launch its end of season group show with Turner, Clemons, Biondi, Van Eno, Salinero, Hoppick, Wagner, Salem and John Kiraly. Richard Heyman will be auctioning off (something he does very well) paintings for the benefit of Marc House, so it behooves all of us to get there on the evening of the 18th, checkbooks in hand.

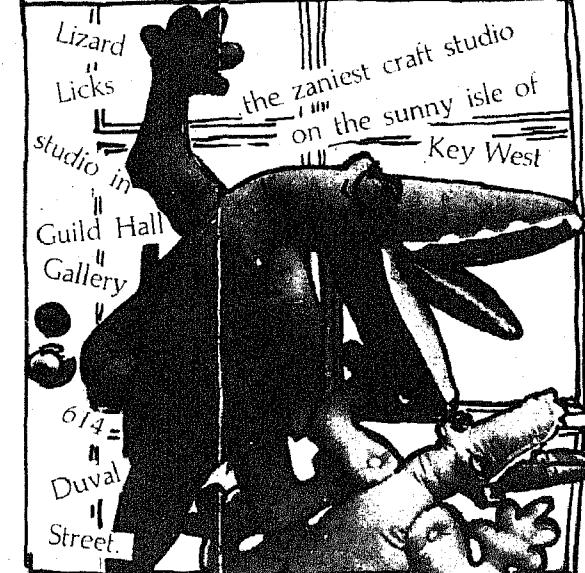
Jack Baron's "A Wedding" at East Martello was an elegant affair and I am happy to state that out of 34 pieces offered, 27 were sold right off the bat. Jack put in a year's work on this theme. He is hard at work on next year's, but not talking about it, yet.

Aristos will celebrate Spring as of the 2nd of April in a Flowers-and-Gardens show with water colors by New York's Susanna Brown and our Helen Bertles. Speaking of novelties (no one would call this art) vis-a-vis the comet show, we can all be grateful that it will not come again for 76 years. Sorry Barbara. After the 16th the stable of painters plus Trog and Nancy St. Lawrence.

I went to the Haitian Art Company and was impressed by the order and tidiness of such a large stock of merchandise under one roof. There is something for everyone, man, woman and child, of us, and for every pocketbook.

Alice Terry's show at Gallery 24 in Miami is doing very well and she is busy packing for her summer show in Ogunquit at PS Gallery.

When I said last month to get there early to buy, I found I was not kidding in the case of



Craig Biondi at Gingerbread. By 7:00 pm it was practically too late. This month Craig's one-man show is at East Martello on the 8th, and will feature his latest oils. I presume they will be not very dry. No title. Craig says "Mostly Mangoes."

Judi Bradford at the Guild Gallery will be showing life-sized soft-sculptures of Love 22 and Hemingway. Ask to see their built-in features. Sonia Robinson has a for-Spring line of bags, and new for her, many in canvas. Gary Zimmerman is showing his painted mirrors, and under Poochie's pushing, Ann Irvine and Caroline "Cappy" Seiler have taken to the fields and are producing freewheeling untypical acrylics and Loys Locklear has gone into ceramic jewelry, an innovation for her.

Sanford's great bags can be found at Spirit on Duval Street. The magazine Southern Accent has been down to SoMo to photograph her chairs, fabrics, et al., for their next issue.



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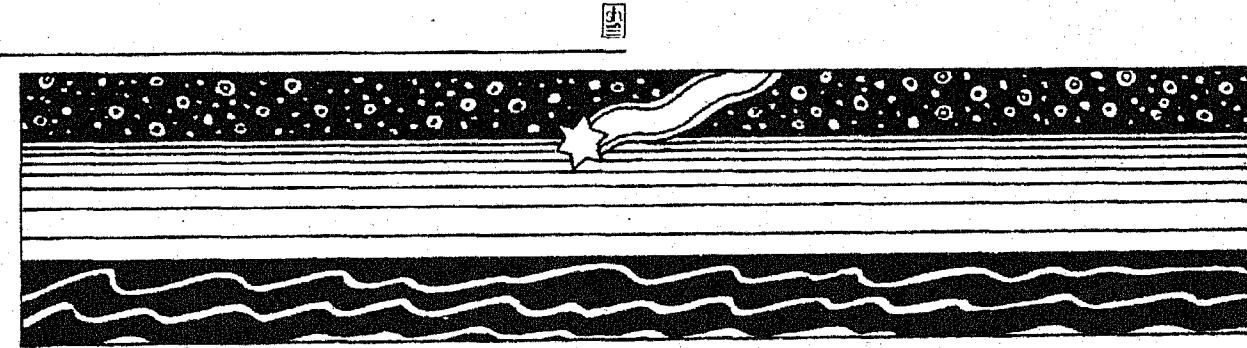
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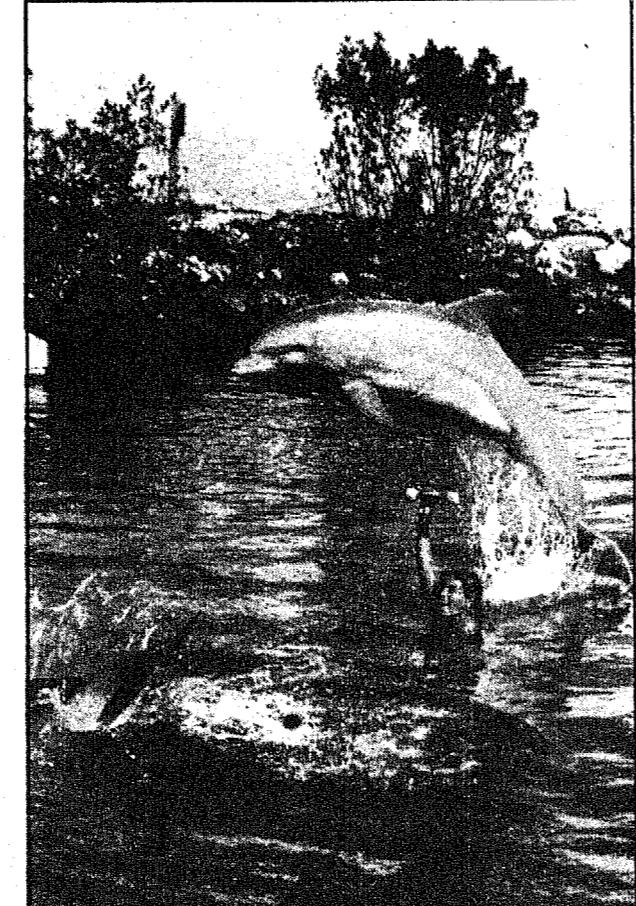
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DOLPHIN ENCOUNTER

by Linda Erb

"Dolphin Encounter" is a complete dolphin experience brought to you by people who love them and know them. The Dolphin Research Center, located at milemarker 59 on Grassy Key, is a not-for-profit educational and research venture dedicated to learning more about Earth's most fascinating and beloved aquatic creature . . . the dolphin. They are also eager to share their knowledge with those of you willing to learn; and for the more adventuresome of you, to share the experience of these magnificent mammals one on one.



Your encounter begins when you meet your trainer/tour guide. The trainers at D.R.C. have anywhere from 6 to 16 years of experience training dolphins and they still love it! Their excitement and love for their friends, the dolphins and sea lions, is contagious! During the narrated tour you are introduced to one of the only natural-environment breeding colonies of bott-

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ilenosed dolphins in captivity. Don't miss their 8 month old baby sea lion, Lincoln (say "hello" by blowing in his nose!). Listen to the trainer as she tells you anecdotes and facts (like the story of the dolphin who was "rescued at sea" by 2 other dolphins . . . and the fact that dolphin babies nurse from Mom for up to 2 years). In your private group tour questions are welcomed and encouraged!

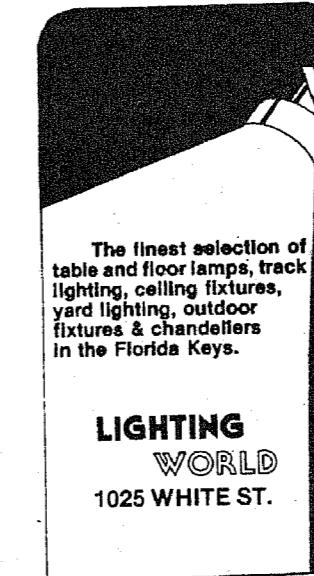
Then . . . after you've become acquainted with their dolphin family above the water, you are invited to slip into the dolphin's world. Imagine watching minnows swirl around you like confetti. Suddenly you hear, almost feel, a presence. Turning you see a large, silky sleek body swimming toward you . . . your eyes meet and you see a twinkle of excitement, inquisitiveness, and . . . intelligence? You will have to be there to decide that long debated question for yourself.

As you dive down to the bottom, a curious companion is at your side. Listen for the "clicks" of their echolocation, and the high whistles of communication and excitement. Your free time with your new friends is followed by some choreographed behavior. The dolphins will offer their dorsal fins and give you a wild ride! A great thrill (and spectacular picture!) is to feel and see them leap right over you!



By getting involved in a Dolphin Encounter you enrich far more than yourself. You enable the Dolphin Research Center to continue with the work they've been at since the late 1950s. The \$20.00 tax deductible donation goes directly to the dolphins, the love and thanks go directly to you. D.R.C. asks that you call for a reservation in advance. Dolphin Encounters are offered Monday through Friday. The phone numbers are 289-1121 or 289-0002.

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CONVERSATION: Mrs. Dorothy Castillo

by Carol Shaughnessy

Some days in Key West are cold. Gloomy days, overcast, with the wind a live taunting thing that sneaks through the cracks under doors and settles in. Beaches are populated only by those tourists who are paying several dollars a minute for their time here.

Under such circumstances, the best thing to do is hole up inside, with plenty of hot tea to drink and a good friend to talk to. Days like that bring on, between friends, an almost tidelike ebb and flow of talk and gentle reminiscence.

It was on such a day that I first spoke with Dorothy Castillo. She is a small woman, with a laugh that seems too big for her frame, but is always reflected in her merry eyes. She seems to possess a hard-won serenity, to be a person who can enjoy the past while accepting a very different present.

Her past is shared by many women who came to Key West as military wives. "Well, when I came to Key West it was in... I think... 1954... I was married. He was on the U.S.S. Bushnell. At that time... they had something like little Quonset huts... out here in Fort Taylor, and that's where all the black people used to live that were in the service. It's only in recent years that people have realized that the beach property is important, you know, and very valuable."

"The town was very open, the people were very

friendly—I grant you there was a lot of vice and sin going on... still is, but under a little different umbrella now... even with the military in and out, about the only time you'd hear of fights and such would be when the fellows would be fighting... over the girls. Once in a while you would have some type of thing that would go on with gambling... but by and far it was just a very



Dorothy Castillo.

friendly town."

Dorothy Castillo remembers the military presence in Key West as a very strong one. "President Truman used to come down for his vacations to the Little White House. The base was open at that time, you know... we had the Bushnell, the U.S.S. Gilmore, and then you

would have the subs... and practically everybody worked on the base in some capacity or other. Civil service... or the ladies, if they did any type of domestic work they would work for the Captains... the base was the backbone of the city."

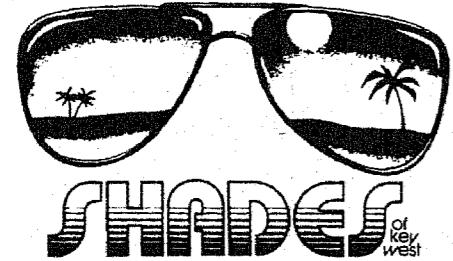
She remembers vividly the town's physical makeup when she first came here. "Old Town was as you see it... over by the High School, that was marsh ponds, salt ponds. They were just beginning to build out that way, out Flagler Avenue. I have seen quite a lot of building... quite a lot of growing. When I first came here it was nothing but mangroves and things out Flagler way."

"Fast Buck Freddie's used to be S.S. Kress... it was a variety store and that's where you'd go buy all your little knick-knacks. That corner," Dorothy says, "still is the windiest spot in town, right across from the La Concha. The La Concha was in full swing—John Spottswood was the Senator—I mean he did become Senator, he wasn't Senator at that time in the fifties... he was a political figure in the island for quite a while... that's during Bernie C. Pappy's time."

Dorothy and her first husband parted ways not too long after her arrival in Key West, and shortly she began spending her time with Francisco Pedro Castillo, whom everyone called Pan.

"We did a lot of things together... I had a good time. I loved going to dances and parties, and I liked giving parties at the house... and Pan was, and still is, a comical fellow. He just loves to get up on stage. He's always on stage, acting and telling jokes, and he could sing... dance... we used to do a lot of programs and things over here to the VFW on Emma Street... well, that's a landmark in this neighborhood. That was where all of the black activity was... that was THE

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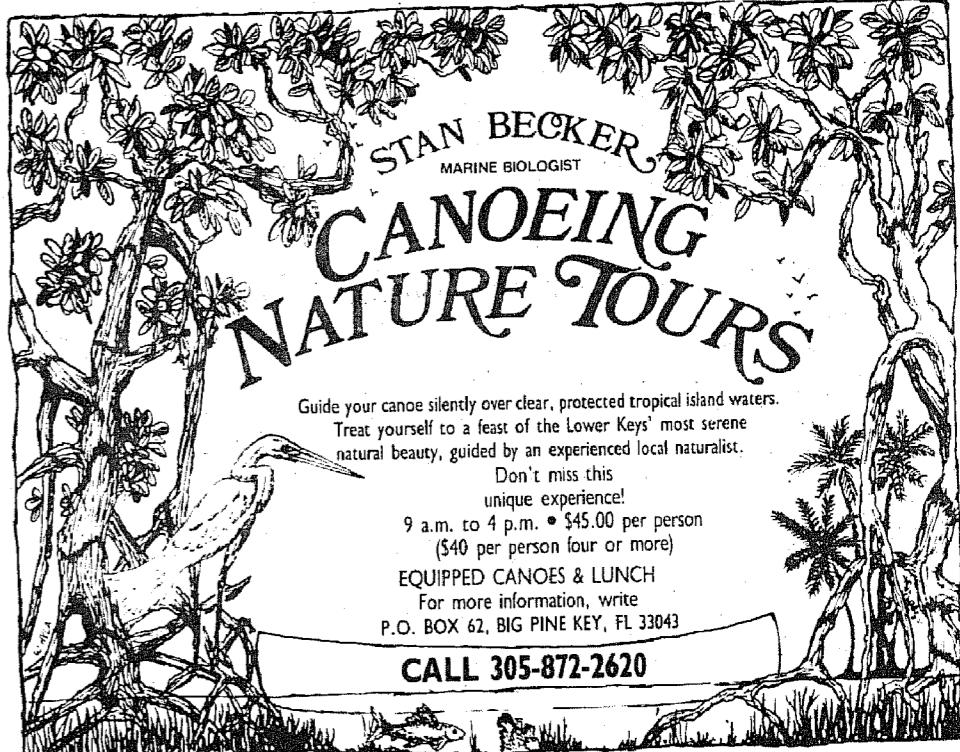
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place to go, to the VFW. We had all the dances and the shows, they would get people from Miami or wherever . . . to come down and put on shows. It was nice—you'd dress up, and you'd go out for an evening of fun. Pan would always be on the shows, and I would be with him, so it used to be a lot of fun. Living with him was... was..." She lets her big laugh out, at a loss for words to describe this time of her life, "...was a joke... he was always on stage, Pan was," she winds up fondly.

After their marriage, they proceeded to have a family of five boys. Dorothy's sons still live here, and she speaks of them with pride. Their framed photographs, with those of their various wives and children, adorn the walls of her living room.

"The oldest boy is Vincent—I almost said Alfred—he hates to be called Alfred; his name is Alfred Vincent Coleman, Jr.—he's the son of the husband that I had when I came to Key West... and I had five sons for Mr. Castillo of which Randall is the oldest, and he was born in '58. I think. Now I'm not very good on the years of my children's ages because... I just never think about it. I have to ask them, 'How old are you? How old are you?'" She laughs. "But Randall was born in '58."

"Randall works for the Pro Dive Shop on Truman Avenue and he's a diver. Vincent... the oldest boy, he sells cars for Bob Chango. Michael, my third oldest, is in Germany, and in fact they had a write-up about him in the paper this week. He's in the Army. Warren... lives here also... he works for Suddath Moving and Furniture out on Fogerty. Grenville works for Duncan Ford... he works in the rental section over there

cleaning the cars and what have you and also he's the guard at night. All of my sons are very good looking. Joseph, that's my baby."

"I am a very stern parent... I was quite like a mother hen. I kept my children underneath my wing till it was time to pitch them out," Dorothy says, chuckling. She recalls, however, one instance when one of her children outsmarted the mother hen.

"Grenville... he was a very obedient child. He didn't like to get spanked. We had this little bar on the corner at that time, his dad and I. His daddy had retired and got the bar so that he'd have something to do... The Silver Slipper Club... Pan's first cousin Buck owned the place... he still does. We ran it for several years... round about '73 to about '75 or '76... it was in that time frame."

"But anyway we were running the bar and Grenville had done something... sufficient enough for me to want to chastise him... I was at the bar and I told him to go home. We lived at 1127 Thomas Street then, down there right across from the pool, that big house there... I went home and then I was gonna give him a spanking. And when I went to get my belt, honey, he took off—and he ran out the door and I said, 'Don't you come back. I'm gonna get the police for you, running away from home!'" She laughs long at the memory now.

"Well, honey, he ran to the police station! He... told them that his mama told him not to come back home and she was gonna beat him. And the policeman, I think it was Richard Howard, came by the bar and said what did you do to Grenville? Grenville was down to the police sta-

tion and his daddy had to go get him! And he was just sitting there saying he was not going back home because his mother was going to beat him. He ran to the police station," she repeats, shaking her head—and then, with fond pride, "He was something!" During this story Dorothy laughs so that the words are hardly clear. She obviously enjoys this tale of the naughtiness of her usually good son.

One of Dorothy's clearest memories from her sons' childhood is that of Hurricane Donna. "When Donna came through my children were small... my husband was gone because he worked in the Navy, and he was out... up on the highway driving buses and things back and forth to Marathon. I just walked up and down the hallway with the radio on, looking in on my babies... and I'd look out the window, look out the door at the winds..."

"God was good to Key West, because the eye of the storm was supposed to pass directly over Key West and it veered. Did quite a bit of damage in Marathon. In fact, one of the people I knew was drowned up there. We housed quite a few of the people from Marathon after the storm was over. It was quite a storm. By and far Key West was... not lucky, but blessed, and escaped with just minimal damage."

Donna is only one of the storms Dorothy Castillo has weathered during her 31 years in Key West. She recalls another storm that virtually walked down U.S. 1. And on some occasions, "...we used to have hurricane parties—play cards, and drink. I used to drink then—I used to drink Scotch. With milk. Love that Scotch and milk—not just Scotch, Johnny Walker Red." Her rich chuckle rolls out. "We used to have fun—not knowing we could have gotten wiped off the face of this earth."

She is earnestly serious, however, when speaking of the reason she believes Key West has escaped being hit by a major hurricane. "Of course we have a lot of people who think that the reefs have something to do with it, but I'm here to tell you, that reef has nothing to do with it. It's God's doing, all of it. For God's reasons... He chooses to bless Key West. It is His grace that we haven't had a severe storm."

Not long ago Dorothy became a fervent Christian, and her church is now an integral part of her daily life. Among her other church duties, she is the Superintendant of the Sunday School. "I belong to St. James Missionary Baptist Church... it is the oldest black Baptist church in South Florida. We are 110 years old, and we're a very small church, but this year we'll celebrate our 111th anniversary."

It is to the church that Dorothy goes every evening after her work day at the post office is over. Now the Window Technician at the post office, concerned with the day to day supervision of the window clerks, Dorothy likes the work she has done for the past 19 years.

"It's important that you like to deal with the public when you're working on that window... lots of times people get into Key West and the first place they stop may be the post office, so it's important how we greet them. Sometimes it gets to be too much." Dorothy clears her throat and grins confidentially. "Sometimes we get a little cranky. All in all, though, it's a very rewarding job."

She credits her religion with helping her to deal with this often stressful job, as she credits it

continued on page 71

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Commentary

The Key West RDA, Part VI: The Emperor's New 'Close'

by George Murphy

Further Fear and Loathing on the Harry S. Truman Annex: deceit, coercion, stonewalling, threats, curious business deals, surprise contracts' conflicts-of-interest, buck-passing, stalling, and misinformation in what may be one of the greatest real-estate rip-offs in Florida history.

"DEJA VU"

In researching the history of the RDA, a number of uncanny similarities between current situations and previous events have been found. Throughout his article, where appropriate, they have been inserted. Draw your own conclusions.

We Told You So!

Six months ago, we reported our suspicion that Key West Harbour Development had no intention of developing the Truman Annex at all and that the "secret plan" was to flip-flop the entire project and sub-lease all of the development. We were right!

Key West Harbor Development is not a development corporation in the true sense of the word at all. It is a front for a number of lawyers and architects who have been planning to make the down payment on the purchase of the property and then sell off rights to develop portions of the Annex to other actual/development companies.

THE BOTTOM LINE

KWHD has been intending to purchase the development rights to the Truman Annex for a \$500,000/year lease payment to the city of Key West. They were then planning to sell the development rights to numerous other companies. Based on financial statements left at city hall by Sam Brown of Centennial Partners, Ltd., they would sell those rights for \$37 Million—an instant profit of \$33 million+ over their down payment.

In addition, they will receive approximately \$4.6 Million annually in assorted fees:

Items	Annual Estimate
• \$4/head cruiseport disembarkation fee	\$543,660.00
• Marina dockage fees	\$574,875.00
• Marina commercial fees	\$410,000.00
• Commercial maintenance fees	\$630,000.00
• Residential maintenance fees (90¢/sq ft)	\$873,000.00
• Tank Island annual maintenance fees	\$924,000.00
• Hotel (2% of gross + 8% of food/beverage revenues)	\$700,000.00
TOTAL:	\$4,615,535.00

Is there any truly legitimate reason the city shouldn't float a bond and make that profit for the benefit of taxpayers?

★ **Solares Hill Exclusive:** In a conversation last Friday, Earl Jones, Commissioner for Federal Property Resource Management at the GSA office in Washington D.C., was informed of the GSA-Atlanta claim that it will begin auction plans on April 4th unless the city and the RDA can show that the sale will be completed by the end of the month. Jones said this matter could be easily superceded. He said that the April 30 deadline will stand prior to any auction plans as long as there are some assurances by April 4 that the city is making progress toward the purchase of the Truman Annex.

If the KWHD deal falls through—which at this juncture seems likely—the GSA plans to go to open market. Thirty days later (in early June), the GSA would begin advertising for bids for a 60-day period.

However, Jones said further that if, during "anytime up until 30 days before the opening of bids" (early Aug.), they would "surely listen to any proposal by the city."

This means that if, by early July, the city were to make an offer on the property, the GSA would be receptive. Beyond that, if they went to bid and none were to bid as high as \$13.8 Million, they would be willing to reassess the situation and be willing to come back and negotiate with the city for the purchase.

This new development means that the city has 90 days from April 4 to either float a bond and come up with cash to close the deal or find a new developer. ★

The Would-Be Developers

According to a prospectus delivered by KWHD to the Key West RDA in 1981, the corporation is composed of the following investors:

John C. Dent, Jr.—

A lawyer who has been partners with Ralph Haben, Jeffrey Pflugner and Hugh Culverhouse.

Ralph Haben—

A law partner with Dent and Pflugner and a former Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives who was instrumental in the creation of the RDA as an autonomous agency (which later selected *his own company* as developer). Haben is also a Director of the Southeast Regional Bank Board.

Jeffrey Pflugner—

A law partner with Dent and Haben who specializes in "legal and governmental requirements for large developments projects." Pflugner is the primary author of the lease which was lambasted by the Peat Marwick, Mitchell Report.

Harold Holder—

Chairman of the Board and chief stockholder for American Agronomics holding the "largest orange grove in the world," who is "representative of the financial character and stature of the firm." Holder is presently purchasing radio station FM 107 from former RDA board member John Magliola. (See "New News . . ." below.)

Robert F. Bluck—

A development and investment consultant, experienced in "syndication, marketing and operation of resort and commercial properties."

David A. Wolfburg, AIA— Treasurer of Wolfburg/Alvarez/Taracido & Associates, a Miami-based Architectural, Engineering and Planning Firm.

Walter Revell— President of Post, Buckley Schuh & Jernigan, Inc., Engineers, Architects, and Planners.

Frederick Lloyd— President of Bay Capital Corporation of Tampa, a venture capital and equity holding Company.

In addition, since that prospectus was issued, another board member, corporate secretary George Perrin, also of Post, Buckley, Schuh & Jernigan, Inc., has been representing the corporation at numerous city commission and RDA meetings.

In brief, it appears that the city is facing a group of moneyed investors who are planning to turn-over a quick multi-million deal and leave town.

You Scratch My Back, I'll Scratch Mine Too

At last Monday's City Hall workshop, George Perrin of KWHD was informed of the likelihood that KWHD would be limited to a maximum of 600 units (see "Buying Time" below). Perrin said that an estimate he'd recently made of 700 units would cost \$200/square foot. He claimed that, if limited to 600 units, it would be too costly for them to pursue their plans.

Two days later, he made a proposal to sell-off a portion of the land—acreage south of Southard Street—to the city for \$300,000/acre in exchange for a variance which would allow KWHD to go forth with their plans for a 250+ room hotel on Front Street. Such a deal . . . except that KWHD will be purchasing the land for less than \$200,000/acre!

Perrin claimed that unless KWHD could proceed with the planned hotel and have a total of 1300 units approved, it couldn't afford to go ahead with the deal.

If it is true that KWHD cannot build without a 200%+ imposition on the city's new density plans, c'est la vie. They should go elsewhere. Taxpayers in this city have made their wishes known.

But there's more than zoning problems to our general resistance to KWHD.

The corporation has been scratching its own back for years.

Numerous studies have been commissioned by KWHD to determine, among other things, the condition and status of the infrastructure of facilities on the Truman Annex and the condition of historical structures—looking toward recommendations as to whether they should be restored or demolished. Their recommendations for demolition would cost them less than restoration as well as allow them more room for new construction.

In 6 instances, KWHD hired "itself," (investors' firms/investors names italicized) rather than independent sources for such services:

1. Jeffrey Pflugner (an investor) was the primary author of the lease which the independent accounting firm of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell said was very detrimental to the city's interests. Having a lessor write his own lease is, to say the least, highly irregular.

2. In 2/81, Andy Carlin of Post, Buckley, Schuh & Jernigan "determined" that the sewerage system was "beyond repair," and that a new

Alphabet Soup

KWHD - Key West Harbour Development Corporation of Sarasota

RDA - The Key West Redevelopment Agency

FCC - The Federal Communications Commission

FBI - The Federal Bureau of Investigation

PMM - Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. - a national accounting firm

PBSJ - Post, Buckley, Schuh & Jernigan - a Miami Engineering and Architectural firm whose owners are also KWHD investors.

3. In 2/81, a statement by Anthony Jachim of Morton, Wolfburg Associates indicated that "most" of the historical structures were "in terrible disrepair."

In April, 1981 a study called "Predevelopment Studies Bolume II" was released by KWHD:

4. Post, Buckley, Schuh & Jernigan were party with . . .

5. Wolfburg/Alvarez/Taracido and Associates in an "Analysis of Historically Significant Structures."

6. In October, 1985 Lawrence Essman of Post, Buckley, Schuh & Jernigan released to George Perrin also of Post, Buckley, Schuh & Jernigan a study of two buildings (Quarters F' and Building 39) recommending that they be "demolished." Contrary to the recommendation regarding Quarters F, an independent Miami historian, Arva Moore Parks, did not recommend destruction. Sharon Wells of the Historic

Preservation Board also expressed the opinion that "the building is in much better condition than many," and that, in her opinion, "it could be restored."

What does this mean?

It does mean that the studies have a built-in bias.

It could mean *deceit*. The recommendations of these studies may have been written with an intent of increasing financial benefits to the development corporation.

Draw your own conclusions.

Atlanta 1, Washington 0, Key West?

The GSA in Atlanta has refused a request by the city of Key West for a 6-month extension to the present April 30 deadline for the transfer of the Truman Annex. In a letter received on Wednesday of last week (as usual, it was received minutes prior to the meeting), Patricia Bailey of the Atlanta GSA office said that they will give

THE EMPEROR'S OLD CLOTHES

A Brief History of the Key West RDA

7/8/77 - GSA declares 92 acres of the Truman Annex as surplus.

4/17/79 - City Commission formally declares the Annex "blighted area in need of rehabilitation and redevelopment." A 5-member RDA is created by the city commission.

6/7/79 - From three alternatives of conceptual plans for re-use of the Truman Annex the preferred plan provides for 26.4 acres of luxury (\$400,000+) condominiums.

7/19/79 - Lawsuit filed by local businessmen to abolish the RDA.

7/24/79 - Conceptual Plan approved by commission is withheld due to citizen opposition.

9/25/79 - David Paul Horan contracted as RDA attorney for \$250/month plus \$45/hour.

11/30/79 - Conceptual Plan approved over citizen opposition.

12/19/79 - County Planner charges that the RDA has "detrimental" and "destructive" ideas about tourist-oriented uses of the Annex which ignore local impact and affordable housing.

1/22/80 - Commissioner Richard Heyman calls for the dismissal of the RDA Board for failure to gain public confidence. RDA fails a "vote of confidence" at City Commission meeting. Paul Sher promises to resign "in a spirit of cooperation with the city" then refuses.

5/7/80 - City votes to enter into agreement with Monroe County and gives them 2 seats on the RDA Board.

5/9/80 - GSA deadline for city-county disposal of Annex.

2/12/81 - PBSJ study declares sewer system "beyond repair." Morton, Wolfburg study declares structures in "terrible disrepair."

4/19/81 - Bill to redesignate the RDA as a state agency with autonomous power to handle its own bonding procedures passed by the Senate.

5/27/81 - 24 prospective developers of the Annex come forth.

7/8/82 - Former Financial Director of RDA Michael Lowe arrested at the US border in Buffalo on charges of grand theft and forgery.

11/18/82 - Commissioner Heyman calls for RDA board to resign, then withdraws demand.

3/1/83 - Navy audit declares a "complete breakdown in accounting and reporting, general mismanagement of inventories and subleases, separate and undisclosed bank accounts, false financial statements, even \$2,000 in improper Christmas bonuses." As a result, \$423,104.64 is owed to the Navy and to other government agencies. As well, 63 pieces of furniture are missing from the Little White House and \$41,000 in unpaid social security taxes are uncovered.

A sworn statement from June Fasio, an RDA bookkeeper, asserts that the RDA kept 2 lists of subleases, one reported to the Navy, the second kept secret.

3/4/83 - Louis Signorelli files suit against the RDA for failure to release public records.

3/7/83 - RDA Director Deborah Antonucci resigns over issue of her ownership of a confiscated Mariel-lift boat, the Holiday II, sold to dockmaster Joe Farrel (aka Tony Fazio in possession of 2 social security numbers) for \$10 though the receipt says \$2,592. Boat seized by Customs officials at Monroe Marina. Anna Stack appointed as new RDA Director.

7/19/84 - GSA sale price increased to \$15.5 million for 71 acres.

7/22/83 - Steve McDaniel appointed new RDA Director saying that, though he resides outside the county, he had read all of the information published about the RDA activities over the years and considered the project "one of the finest and most ambitious projects" he has seen in a long time.

4/11/85 - RDA Board member Gus Mirzaoff submits a list of 24 criticisms of the lease agreement.

9/85 - RDA attorney Robert Feldman resigns.

continued on page 82

Emma's

From 7 A.M. 'til 10:30 P.M.

The mood is azure blue and sunny yellow reflecting the sun and the sea. The fare is tropical, spicy and exotic.

The new power breakfast spot from 7 to noon. Breakfast at Emma's has more gusto weekdays than any Sunday brunch in town.

A languorous luncheon outdoors on the sunshiny deck or view the Atlantic from the coolness of the room itself. Dinner by flickering candlelight inside or out.

Romy's Wonderful Fish Muddle, Black Bean Cakes with Green Salsa and Spicy Chicken over Deep-fried Noodles.

From 10:30 P.M. 'til . . .

The mysterious mood after dark on the terrace at Emma's flows from the relentless motion and vastness of the sea.

Inside there's live music from 10:30 'til after 2 every night but Monday.

Back from their European tour, it's Leisuremania, Key West's most popular group playing their own brand of jazz fusion—through April.

The late night supper menu only begins with burgers. How about Walnut Chicken Fingers with Szechuan Sauce or Sweet and Spicy Chicken Salad with Fresh Pineapple at the bar at a quarter to two.

THE REACH

The most splendidly luxurious and stunningly beautiful beach resort south of Hudson Bay on the smoothest, whitest and only natural beach on Key West.

White on peach, Victorian gingerbread, its own library, a health club, afternoon tea in the lobby lounge . . . French tile floors, Indian dhurrie rugs, Japanese kimonos . . .

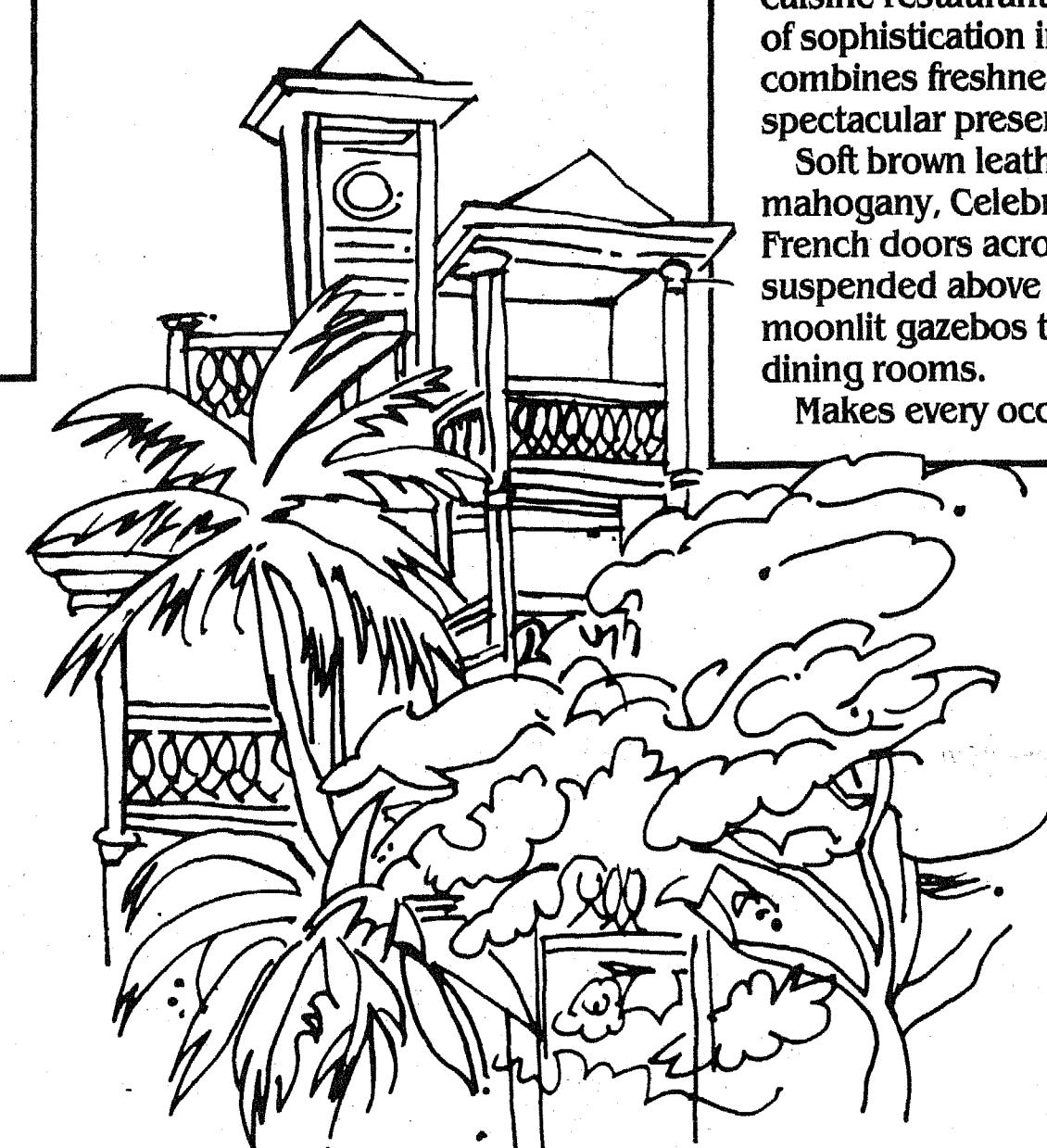
An orchestration of the sounds, images, tastes and textures of Key West. To indulge your senses.

CELEBRATION

The serenely elegant New American cuisine restaurant that sets a new mood of sophistication in Key West. Fare that combines freshness, creativity and spectacular presentation.

Soft brown leather, white marble and mahogany, Celebration looks out through French doors across a broad terrace suspended above the sea. With lacy, moonlit gazebos that are intimate private dining rooms.

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Simonton at the Ocean Key West, Florida
296-5000, for reservations



Sit at the edge of the Atlantic on a pier stretching toward Havana. Unwind with the tradewinds at your back and the dazzling Key West sunset over the bartender's shoulder. Frozen Margaritas with fresh lime and Rum Runners, a Keys concoction, keep you company. This may not be the end of the world, but you sure can see it from here. Open from 10 a.m. until sunset.

NIGHTFALL

What would you call an island bar on a fourth floor terrace with a 180° panorama of the ocean, the city and the bay? The breeziest, highest and most romantic place to watch the sun disappear. How about "Nightfall"? Secluded and remote, but under a canopy as high and wide as the heavens. NIGHTFALL is the sunset bar overlooking the world from The Reach.

There's live music and dancing by starlight after nightfall. Special Reach food too!



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DINNER NIGHTLY 6-1 A.M.



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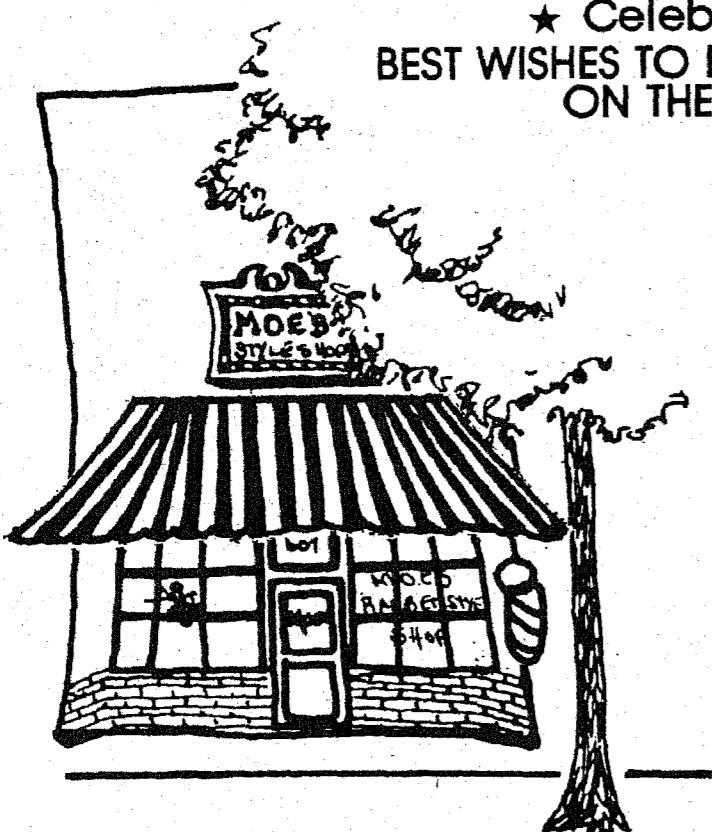
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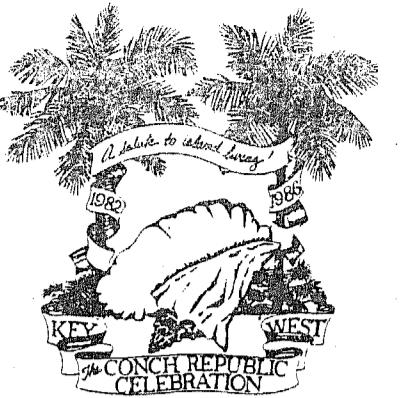
The Key West Tourist Development Association, in an effort to expand and develop tourism in Key West, has entered into a contract with Michael Whalton to coordinate three major Key West festivals during the current year. Whalton, former general manager of Sloppy Joe's Bar and co-director (with Perri Halevy) of the past three Fantasy Fests, will be overseeing the Conch Republic Celebration (April 25-27), the Hemingway Days Festival (July 14-20), and Fantasy Fest '86 (October 21-26).

The Conch Republic Celebration honors the anniversary of the Island's "secession from the Union" which was prompted by a U.S. Border Patrol set up in Key Largo during April 1982. Events include "Basic Training" for the Conch Republic Army, the 10th Annual Kite Flying Exhibition and Competition, Windsurfing and Sailing Regattas and a Wrecker's Ball.

Whalton brings with him the week-long Hemingway Days Festival which has grown into a city-wide celebration honoring one of Key West's favorite adopted sons. Although only six years old, Hemingway Days, with its Short Story Competition, Look-Alike Contest, and Billfish Tournament, has become a major factor in attracting visitors to the Island during the month of April.

Fantasy Fest is the brainchild of the Tourist Development Association and was conceived in 1979. It has been called the "greatest Halloween party ever" and attendance at the six-day festival has grown substantially each year. Activities include Costume Competitions, Concerts, Food Fest, Streetfair, and a Fantasy in Space Nighttime Grand Parade which is expected to attract thousands of "visitors from other planets."

KEY WEST T.D.A. TO OVERSEE THREE MAJOR FESTIVALS



CONCH REPUBLIC CELEBRATION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY APRIL 25TH

8:30AM KEY WEST FISHING TOURNAMENT CONCH REPUBLIC KICK-OFF
6PM BATTLE OF THE TALL SHIPS & ARRIVAL OF DIGNITARIES
6PM MARATHON TO KEY WEST REGATTA - SKIPPERS MEETING
6:45PM TRIBUTE TO THE CONCH REPUBLIC "FOUNDING FATHERS"
7PM PIER HOUSE WRECKERS PARTY

SATURDAY APRIL 26TH

7:30AM SEVEN-MILE BRIDGE RUN
8AM MARATHON TO KEY WEST SAILBOAT RACE
8:30AM SECOND DAY OF CONCH REPUBLIC FISHING TOURNAMENT
10AM FM 107 CONCH REPUBLIC BED RACE AND PARADE
1PM BASIC TRAINING FOR THE CONCH REPUBLIC ARMY
(CASA MARINA, LOUIE'S BACKYARD, & THE REACH)
1PM 3PM BOARDSAIL AND HOBBIE CAT REGATTA IN MARATHON
6PM FIRST SAILBOATS ARRIVE FROM MARATHON
7PM PARTY FOR MARATHON TO KEY WEST RACERS - PIER HOUSE
9PM AWARDS PARTY FOR KEY WEST-CONCH REPUBLIC TOURNAMENT
"FORT REACH" MILITARY BALL

SUNDAY APRIL 27TH

11AM HOBIE-CAT REGATTA IN MARATHON
NOON HEAVENLY BODY KITES 10TH ANNUAL KITE FESTIVAL
NOON LATITUDE 24 CONCH REPUBLIC CROSSING
2PM BLESSING OF THE BICYCLE FLEET

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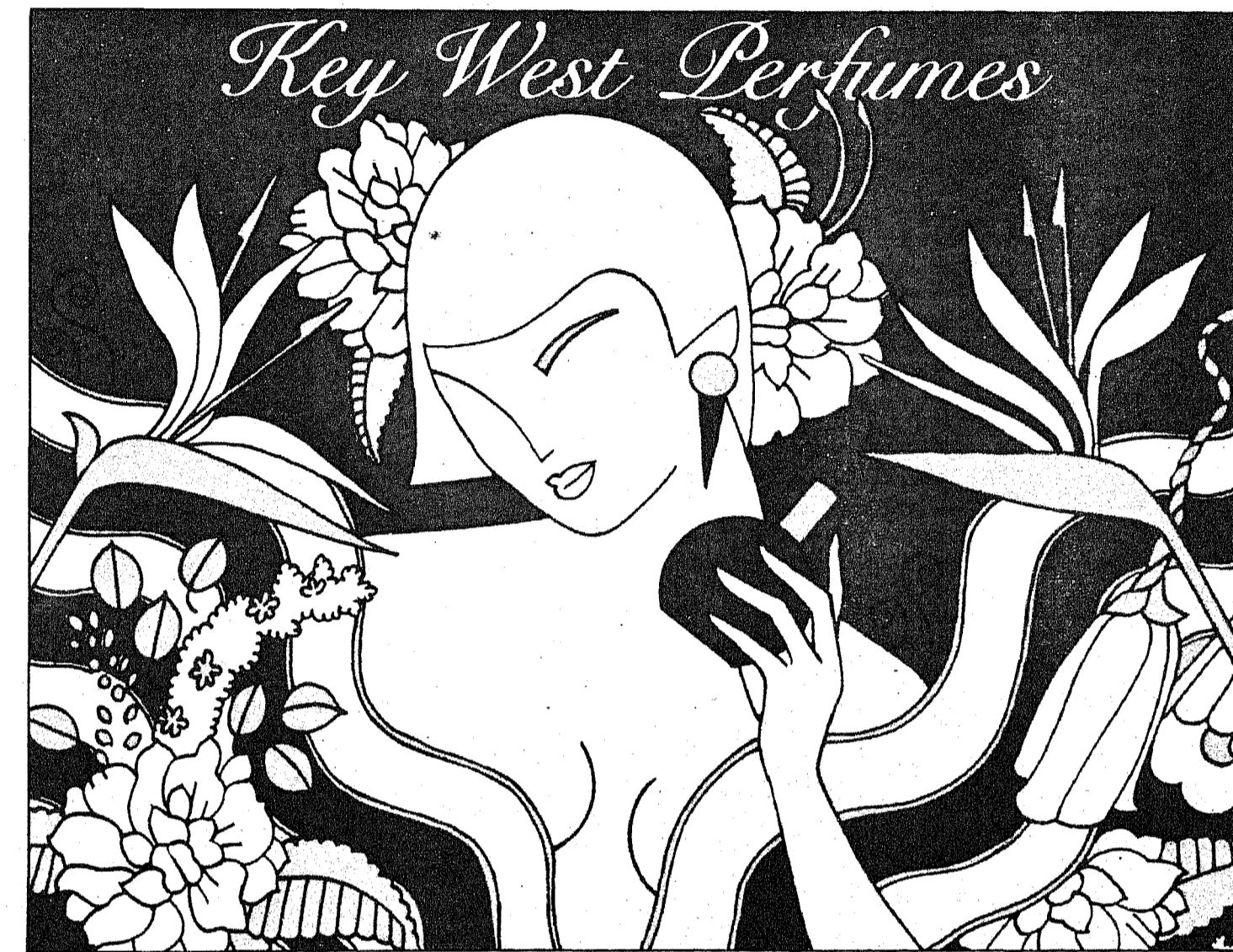
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Fourteen years later, in 1940, he earned a law degree there after three years of study, according to a top echelon writer, the late Richard Rovere, who produced an article of Key West and Stone appeared in *The New Yorker* magazine, December 15, 1951. Stone had been a millionaire back in the Coolidge era when he ventured into the stock market. Came the crash of 1929, and he had lost his first fortune. But he was not at a loss for a job. He became a talented administrator in New York State, doing social welfare work under Harry Hopkins. This link ultimately forged Stone's career in Key West, since Hopkins became one of President Franklin Roosevelt's chiefs. Eleanor Roosevelt, also a friend of Hopkins and of Stone through her profound interest in social welfare, very likely had great influence in Stone's appointment, via Hopkins, as director of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (F.E.R.A.) for all of the Southeastern United States, including

The tremendously important assignment was made in 1933, and in 1934 Stone came to Key West to survey his territory and decide what could be done for the island, which was virtually bankrupt as far as the city government was concerned. Nearly everyone was on relief, with only a few wealthier citizens free of debt, if not of worry.

A staff of 11 FERA workers was established in Key West. Although Stone spent much of his time and effort here he also had duties elsewhere in the vast project, and assistance was needed.

He applied his energy and expertise through 1934 and 1935, and achieved a general cleanup of the town, which had streets piled high with uncollected garbage. He established a WPA division, bringing artists to the island, among them Bill Hoffman, who still lives here. He got people to paint their homes and fix up property, with the

aim of making Key West a resort town that could cash in on its natural attraction as a tourist mecca.

One of the amusing sides of Stone's efforts was his attempted introduction of wearing shorts, as was done in the Bahamas and the Bermudas. He set a personal example of donning the abbreviated sportswear, but as far as Conchs were concerned, the innovation was laughable. For example, as told by Walter Norman in his book *Nicknames and Conch Tales* (reviewed in the November issue of *Solares Hill*), one of the Volunteer Work Corps laborers appeared on the job in his underdrawers.

Declared he, "If Julius Stone can come to work in his underwear, so can I!"

The local nickname for Stone, by the way, was "Kingfish," after the enterprising character on the popular radio show of the times, "Amos and Andy."

Bold methods furthered the administrator's success in putting Key West back on its financial feet. He declared the island was "in the existence of a state of emergency." He ignored standard procedures for a system that was at least on the fringe of being illegal. He confessed to writer Rovere that he used FERA funds to subsidize air service to Key West and to get the Casa Marina Hotel back in operation.

This, and the fact that he risked government

funds, should have been clear indication of Stone's later ruthless methods in manipulating other peoples' money. But at the moment there was only a brightening on the horizon of Key West's future. Stone seemed to be a modern knight in impregnable armor.

The front cover of *Florida Motorist* for October 1934 features Stone's photo along with that of President Roosevelt and Dave Sholtz, Governor of Florida. That year he was approaching middle age. He appears as a handsome sophisticate, with black mustache, slightly receding hairline over a deep and broad forehead. He looks alert and confident and is posed with significance, holding a pen over a sheet of paper. Indeed, his most quoted saying was, "With a stroke of the pen I can give it to you—and with the stroke of a pen, I can take it away."

In following decades, he was to do just that!

The motorist magazine complimented Stone and his staff on rehabilitation of Key West and Monroe County. The editorial page carried a drawing of a rainbow arched over the letters "F.E.R.A." and Governor Sholtz's comment, "The Dawn of a New Era."

A declaration by Stone stated visitors to the island were welcome, but that the FERA would prefer that they would not come at all, unless prepared to spend at least three full days. "A shorter trip would be unfair to the visitor and to Key West," he emphasized.

Endorsements of the plan were made by prominent citizens and businessmen, including William A. Freeman, Allan B. Cleare, A. Villate, Paul Lumley, and Porter-Allen Insurance Company. This was a challenging policy, but one which was successful. The parade of tourists began to increase.

Good publicity lifted the gloom which had beset the Keys in general, and by the time Stone departed in 1935 to engage in WPA "troubleshooting" elsewhere, realization of his vision was shaping into reality.

After two years more in government service, Stone enrolled in Harvard Law School in 1937. He was graduated in 1940 and returned to the scene of his FERA triumphs. He set up his law

practice here and became a real estate dealer and an investment expert, and in a short period he was a leading citizen.

During one period, after becoming a member of the Florida Bar, Stone was in partnership with attorney W. Curry Harris. When World War II came along, Harris joined the military service. After the war was over, he returned only to discover that his former law practice was nonexistent. It had been absorbed by his erstwhile partner.

There was, of course, estrangement and a bitter residue for some time. Harris, however, reestablished himself and became a prominent attorney all over again, with a specialty in town property and deeds. He retired to Sarasota just recently.

Skipping back to the early days of the "Stone Age," as it might be dubbed, Stone formed an association with a lawyer from Jacksonville, Dine Beakes. They purchased part of Boca Chica Beach from Luther Pinder and planned a home division. The pair managed to get an okay from Stone's friend, Governor Sholtz, permitting the tearing down of the old Boca Chica bridge.

This happened in 1947, and there was a protest by local people. The beach homes hope did not materialize, but Stone did organize another housing development off Rest Beach, and with reputable backing and solid partners the subdivision prospered.

Loans were easily obtainable through Stone's office at an exorbitant rate of interest—12 percent. A banker explained that, since this was outside the recognized limit, a way around the difficulty was devised. The trick was to borrow say \$10,000. But the borrower actually received only \$8,800.

A clever attorney, as well as a sharp businessman, Stone's status in the community was increased by his legal prowess. He was the defense counsel, for instance, in the sensational 1949 Weaver murder case, wherein a woman shot her husband 11 times and went free on a verdict of "justifiable homicide."

He was attorney for Aerovias Q, the Cuban airline that operated between here and Havana, and he sold stock in it, as well. He represented a gas company and a grocery market, among other businesses. He doubled in these through investment guidance. This meant extra legal fees for advice and for legal services rendered, not to mention the investment procedure itself.

The list of clients in intermeshing interests is too long to report in full, but here is one personal example:

In 1949, I bought the gift section of Southernmost Flowers and Gifts, then at 616 Duval Street. The shop owner was Norval Reed, and Stone was his lawyer as well as becoming mine.

Eventually, when Reed left Key West for Miami, he sold the flower shop department to my mother, Lila (Mrs. Earle) Raymer, a widow, and Stone handled that transaction, too! We all paid fat fees for Stone's multi-faceted work.

In 1951, circumstances beyond control (too complicated to go into here, including a death in the family and my mother's return to Pennsylvania), cropped up. At that point, the financial drain for extra help, building repairs, a rebuilt refrigerator for the florist trade, and so on, was too much to sustain without going into debt.

A new potential client with money to spend wanted to buy the business. Stone put on pressure, and we had to cut our losses and sell at a

NOTES & ANTIC-DOTES

by Dorothy Raymer

The legend of Prince Charming—in reverse—is the story of Julius F. Stone Jr., a brilliant man whose luster became tarnished as he progressed toward a career of power and acquisition of money.

He was a native of Ohio, where his father was a wealthy man and a director of the Ohio State University at Columbus, Ohio. In fact, my Master's Degree diploma from Ohio State was signed by Julius F. Stone, Sr.

Young Stone left his home state and furthered his education at Harvard University, where he received a doctorate in organic chemistry in 1926.

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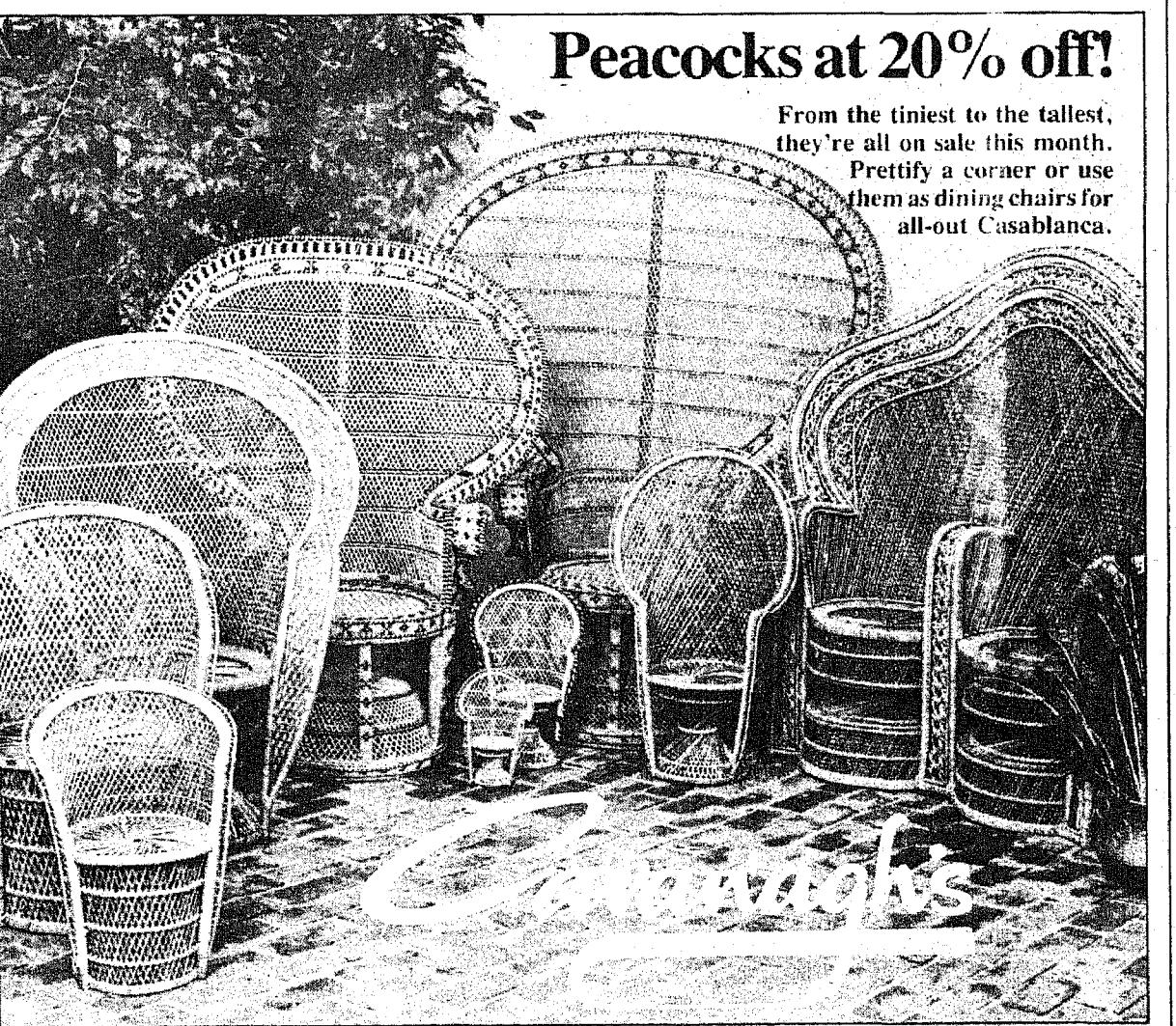
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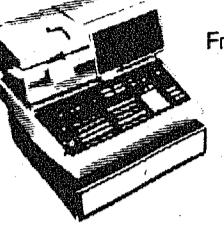
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A banking official informed me later that it was Stone's habit to take advantage of demand notes and to bring about foreclosure on very short notice, not giving a chance for time adjustment.

And so it was with many other persons and businesses. Administration of estates was another field which led to Stone's benefit. In one case, the young man who inherited his father's estate found out that it "had been administered out of existence," as his uncle told me.

A curious case came to light in August 1955, when the Public Gas Company was sued by the Keys Bottled Gas Company, doing business as the Keys Propane Gas and Marathon Gas concern. A bill of complaint was filed by Julius Stone, as attorney for the latter. He was also a promoter and had gotten various people to invest in the gas corporation.

In the complaint, Stone alleged that former employees of the People's Gas firm had taken records and documents when they shifted companies. He claimed the Public Gas concern refused to return the documents and asked Circuit Court to enjoin the Public Gas Company from "tampering with tanks and damaging bottled gas installations."

But Judge Pat Cannon of Miami denied the injunction and pronounced that the suit failed to prove all the charges. The resulting "scandal" was a discredit to Stone, and more than one person lost invested money.

When the Stones bought the former dwelling of novelist Thelma Strabel, who wrote *Reap the Wild Wind*, claim was made that the residence was the true Southernmost House, and that geographically, the mansion now owned by Hilario Ramos, Sr., was the "Southernmost" in name only.

Ramos Jr., known as "Charlie," hinted the actual survey was never made. He also said that Stone admitted he designated his abode on South Street, near the corner of Whitehead, as the genuine Southernmost house simply for "commercial enhancement." The hassle disrupted a friendship between the Ramos family and Stone for a while.

Stone and his attractive wife, Lee, whose first name was actually Lucille, had become part of the upper social structure of the town, and they acquired many friends, which of course aided Stone in his monetary ventures.

He was president of the Key West Art and Historical Society along about 1953-1954, and he became a director of the Florida First National Bank.

Stone juggled all of his diversified financial schemes with a wily skill for more than a decade. reputable bank official noted that Julius Stone kept his various investments extremely secret, and no one but he knew exactly what was being transacted.

Ultimately, his wizardly juggling of a wide range of business interests and investments became too complicated. He began to lose control of the precarious balance system. In short, money acquired for one thing was put into something entirely different, and some investors sustained losses. In a number of cases invested funds disappeared entirely.

Lillian Lopez, widow of the late Judge Aquilino Lopez, who was so closely associated with Stone for a long period in early years, said that her husband's law practice was separate from Stone's, and that although they were together for sometime in real estate, Stone and Lopez broke off business relations and severed even friendship when it was revealed that Stone was engaged in suspicious financial activity.

"My husband was upset and decided that Julius was too much of a dealer," Lillian Lopez said. "He became a judge and was a dedicated man in judiciary matters, while Stone continued to mix law and investment involvements."

The roster of "victims" lengthened. Among the losers were Frances Edwards, who operated the Banana Tree Grill; Ruth Alfeld, who owned a trailer park and bought the Flame Restaurant; Gertrude Ricketts, who operated a private school (she later married Cmdr. Ray Byrns); Ethel Decker, a crippled florist who got caught up through mortgaged property in Mexico; and Dr. Aubrey Hamilton and his wife, Belle. Stone was

godfather to the Hamilton's children, but even this togetherness was violated when Stone demanded several thousand dollars more than Hamilton had put into the building of a supermarket.

Sometime, somewhere, along in this mid-1950s chronicle of wheeler-dealer expansiveness, two widows fell prey to the complicated designs of Stone's financial intrigue, and the attention of federal authorities was brought to bear on the situation.

As far back as 1955, the Stones erected a new home at Trinidad, Cuba, and numerous friends from Key West were invited to inspect it, including Adeline and P. J. Ross, Lillian and Aquilino Lopez, and Burt and Betty Garnett, to name a few. So it was no secret that the Stones intended to establish another residence out of the country.

Despite the revolution in Cuba, the Stones went ahead with plans to leave the United States. They liquidated holdings here and began moving possessions to Trinidad.

Fidel Castro took over Cuba on January 1, 1959, marching into Havana, and at first his triumph was met with approval by sympathizers here.

In the summer of 1959, Stone was still a director at Florida First National. His picture was published in *The Key West Citizen* on July 1, 1959, as a member of the Grievance Committee. Ironically this group was set up by the Florida Bar to watch over the legal ethics of lawyers in the organization.

Meantime, bank officials began to ease Stone out of his bank directorship, and, although it can't be verified, due to a governmental policy Stone's business adventures, or rather misadventures, continued to be probed. I spoke with

least 20 Key West people, and all of them agreed that he was on a "wanted" list and seriously in debt.

Charlie Ramos had a note from Stone, dated September 12, 1959, in which Stone wrote that he and his wife were busy packing in preparation for the move to Cuba.

Lee Stone went back and forth, supposedly on Aerovias Q missions and once to pick up valuables which belonged to Oscar Morales, Cuban Consul in Key West. But Lee was also transferring personal property, documents and funds.

Now for the final severance move, and Julius Stone's method of evasion by making restitution of any debts or taxes.

He arranged secret contact with Old Island Realty Company for transfer of the deed to his home on South Street. His wife went to the consulate's office in Havana, where Consul Wayne Gilchrist executed the deed for the property for which Lucille (Lee) Stone signed January 19, 1960.

The stamp value was duly registered later and was recorded as \$45,000. The house was purchased from the Stones by Granville and Evelyn Smith, of 1120 Von Phister Street. The warranty deed was signed "Julius F. Stone, Jr.," but no address was given for him.

Shortly after the official registration of the sale in the Monroe County Courthouse, Stone flew to Key West in a small plane and landed at the Key West International Airport.

The popular version is that he did not leave the plane at all, and that the exchange of the deed for a prescribed sum of money took place aboard the plane. The late Aileen Williams of Old Island Realty was the courier.

However, Stone DID leave the plane, and DID

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set foot in Key West. First of all, he was seen off the plane and at the airport here by Anne (Mrs. Guy) Carleton. She says he did not speak to her but turned around and vanished in the terminal.

Secondly, Mrs. Aquilino Lopez asserts that the plane sustained mechanical trouble, and Stone was obliged to stop overnight at a motel. He did notify the judge and his wife of the sale of the house on South Street. He took off the next day as soon as possible, flying out of Key West for the last time. He was in possession of the purchase

The plane may have been the one he owned privately, which was flown by a special pilot. During a summer vacation in the very early 1960s, Chief Photographer of *The Key West Citizen*, Don Pinder, went to Nassau in the Bahamas. It was known then that Stone, if not an actual fugitive, was being investigated for his fast

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"deals." Pinder met Stone on Bay Street, Nassau, and they had a drink together in a bar. Stone said then he was temporarily living on one of the out islands of the Bahamas. He did not disclose the exact location.

The relationship between the Castro government and the United States became more troubled, and, as 1960 advanced, Americans were in disfavor in Havana. Trinidad, as an outskirt locality, was considered dangerous, so the Stones left for the comparative safety of the capital.

There they operated an antique furniture store on the famed Prado of Havana, but only for a short time. They retreated to Jamaica, where Lee died in 1963.

She had been a beautiful woman, noted for her charm. The day I met her, she was wearing brightly colored ribbons braided into her hair,

Mexican style, and impressed me with her genuine warmth of personality.

There is a gap in the history of the Stones following Lee's demise in 1963. Little or nothing is known of his maneuvers between then and May 1965. It was then that Anne Carleton once more, unexpectedly, encountered the ex-patriate.

She was getting ready for a coach tour to Scotland and was standing in line at the American Express in London, England, when she saw Stone. They renewed acquaintances, and he told her that he had been married just the day before to Christine Beakes.

The very attractive Christine, widow of Dine Beakes, former law partner of Stone's in years past, was known as the Hibiscus lady, because of the blossoms she wore in her hair. She lived in a house on the waterfront during World War II and

was at one time suspected of being an enemy spy. This rumor was unconfirmed and was denied by people who knew her well. But, as usual, this island was a hotbed of gossip, and Christine never did live down the suspicion.

The newly marrieds were staying with an aristocratic English friend, and they were leaving the next day for Spain. Anne told Julius she wanted to speak with her old friend, Christine, and he gave her the telephone number. After a conversation with the bride, Anne went on her tour and the Stones to their new destination.

There the communication ceased.

Hilarios Ramos, Sr., said that the Stones lived in Spain proper for a time, then took up residence on Majorca, a resort island off the Spanish coast.

Within the next two years, wanderlust, perhaps compulsory, took over again, and Stone, presumably accompanied by his second wife, travelled on toward the East. The aimed-for destination is not known, for in 1967 Julius F. Stone, Jr., died in Australia.

Details of Stone's death are vague. It was said that he died of a heart attack. The news did not reach Key West until he had been dead for a long time.

His only child, a daughter named Julia, who was graduated from Bennington, married twice, and her whereabouts at present are unknown.

And so ends the Prince Charming saga, on the other side of the world, far from Stone's homeland, like the central character in the story, *Man Without A Country*.

Reprint

Solares Hill, December 1979

THE OUTSIDER DECADE

by V. K. Gibson

I.

It occurs to me that Key West is now well into another major period in its history. We are living through what may be called the "Affluent Outsider Decade." But, before I talk about that, please bear with me as I take a stroll down memory lane.

What is the landmark decade of your life? At what time did you feel that all the world was young—or should be? Where were you then? The journey forward and away from such a time usually seems downhill, unless you are one of



those very rare individuals who live mostly in the present.

Recently I picked up a copy of Jack Kerouac's testament of the "Beat Generation" of the 1950s, *On The Road*. On page twenty-two was an account of six or seven young men riding in the back of a pickup truck, eagerly moving across America and toward their destinies. At that point I had to put the book down, for I was overwhelmed by a painful sense of nostalgia.

I examined these feelings and concluded that what I suffered was an acute sense of the naivete which saturated the young in *On The Road*. The young, it seems to me, always feel that they have the answers (or are the answers?) to age-old problems. They behave and talk as if they are the first generation to discover sex, social consciousness, idealism, and honesty.

Now, I was six when Mr. Kerouac's book came out and the Beat Generation meant nothing to me. Why do I feel nostalgic about it? And the 1960s, which I did pass through as a teenager, meant even less to me than the previous decade.

Yet, I find myself looking back on the 1960s with fondness. It now seems to be "my" decade. To my amazement I even suffer a mounting affection for rock music, which I disdained in its golden years, Bob Dylan seems very important to me, now, in ways which would have been laughable (were laughable) twenty years ago.

It disturbs me to think that I came of age during one of the most important decades of this century and that I passed through that time totally indifferent to the human quakes which rocked the world. True, I watched the evening news each night. The bloody pageant of Viet Nam slid past at suppertime and, later in the decade, college kids threw their bodies in front of the great machinery of government which was, the young knew, run by a bunch of old fossils who had lost contact with life itself.

I watched it all, very aware of the dynamics, but was engrossed in other matters. Perhaps I was never really young.

That period of American history is far enough distanced that I can filter out the nasty little details which, at that time, caused me to turn away. History is not so much an act of record as a process of editing.

It's fun to watch an academic leap from the top ropes of the historical arena, onto the face of an opponent. It's all done with words, terribly boring words for the most part, but the effect is the same.

But academe does not control all the slices of the historical pie. We all edit the past. It is with considerable effort that I recall that the "flower children" of the 1960s were a mixed blessing. They were, many of them, dirty, scatter-brained leaners sponging off a society which they scorned.

Yet, I feel a great psychic pressure which compels me to regard them as noble savages who rebelled against many sicknesses prevalent in society. I do not enjoy realizing that these people are now well into middle age, and prefer not to think of the compromises they have inev-

itably made.

All of us lay claim to various domains of the past. They are histories which span individual lifetimes, memories both accurate and expedient. The backward visions of the old sometimes mesh with the forward rush of young adults, and sometimes the young infect their elders with their own sweet conceits. This happens most often in the tightly knitted webs of families, and in isolated and compressed communities like Key West.

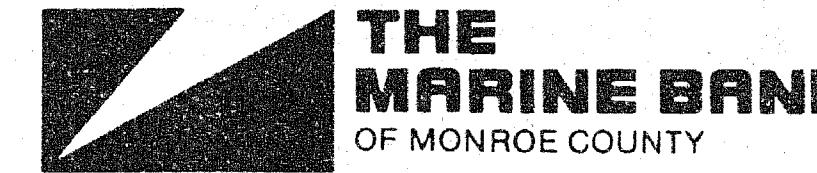
II.

I like to call Key West a "terrarium society." People are effectively contained, and thrive and perish in the moist environment of the subtropics. All of us sail to the future in the same leaky jar.

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This island's history had an abrupt beginning. Its past is like the mouldering layers of the terrarium, and its roots do not merely wind down into receding time but sometimes curl up from the hard bottom of the Key West beginning and emerge into the present.

Our local history, as with the greater world, seems to be conveniently segmented into decades. Each ten-year period can more or less be defined by a major event or shift in regional conditions. It's easy to spotlight some of the plateaus:

The gay influx which sparked much of the revitalization and face-lifting ongoing today; the period of depression following the pull-out of the Navy; the massive Navy presence during the war; the Great Depression of the 30s; the brief boom after the Overseas Highway was built; the destruction of the Overseas Railroad and the subsequent local slump . . . on and on.

As we go back in time, however, decades seem to begin to melt together. I suspect that this is the myopic effect of hindsight, and that the decade format holds true throughout the history of Key West.

III.

But back to the Affluent Outsiders. Being a relative newcomer myself, it behooves me to say that some are a positive force. I am not so much concerned with the fairly young (or young thinking) individuals who continue to arrive, as with the middle-aged, retired upper-middle-class and rich who come here to finish their lives in balmy comfort.

It's fascinating to observe the effects of wealth flowing briskly into a closed-end community. It's rather like a physical obstruction where diamonds take the place of kidney stones. The inflation of real-estate prices is the most

glaring effect, but there are others which are far more important.

When the affluent class, tourist and resident, take over a place they set powerful forces into motion. Today, with the process far along here, a hurricane would slow it down but it would take another Great Depression to stop and reverse it. One of the symptoms is always "Historical Preservation," which means nothing more, in this context, that the pickling of history and the ascendancy of pastry chef esthetics.

It would be interesting to ask some of the oldest residents of Key West, who recall when most of the houses were unpainted, what they think of the present vogue for beige and pastel colors. So much for "history."

Is this so bad? Change is inevitable, and Key West has weathered much of it. It's hard to imagine what may come after the Outsider Decade. It may very well last longer than ten years. Twenty? A lifetime? that these birds must eventually dirty the nest enough that they'll sniff and fly off to other roosts, leaving behind *pate de foie gras* as the official local food.

And there is another factor which may prolong the metamorphosis for many years to come. If the new Executive Director of the Monroe County Fine Arts Council succeeds in establishing a major international arts festival here in Key West, then the fat lady will not only sing—she'll probably live in the cottage down the lane.

The flood of the affluent will have the same eventual effect of driving out the home-bred young, and the old-timers, who will not be able to afford the country-club version of paradise.

Impotent but well-meaning gestures such as the fairy tale of "low cost housing" will doubtless be attempted for low income citizens. I predict that any such housing will end up in the

hands of the middle class, and not the poor. The only exception, a major one, will be shabby rental units, probably built on Stock Island (real-estate speculators take note), for many waiters, maids, and other service personnel which will be considered essential to the good life.

Only those Conchs who prove clever and enterprising will continue to live in dignity and comfort. But most of the Conchs who have become rich have done so by being of service to the very elements which will, within the decade, transform this town from a place where the young get aboard life, to one in which the Affluent Outsiders ride comfortably to the end of life and get off.

They will make merry in their gussied-up houses and the social page will become the most important section of the newspaper. These people bring their own histories with them, golden decades which have nothing to do with Key West. And as they die their remains will be shipped back to where they came from.

Hycon to all extents and purposes buried White Street Gallery the second week of Vaughan Gibson's show. We became not only inaccessible but also unbreathable to the point that we were forced to go the by-appointment-only route for a week. Luckily the show was a confirmed success before this interruption. On the 10th of this month there will be the usual bash for our French painter Gregogna, a lyric-abstractionist (my term) including his Mediterranean graffiti series. On the invitation he is painting a half-mile of rock jetty, an act which put him in jail and for which he has only recently been pardoned and commissioned by the Ministry of Culture to continue.



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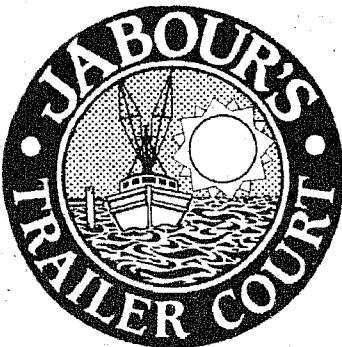
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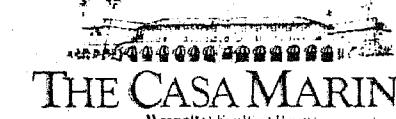


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Reprint

Solares Hill, January 1979

SNOW JOKE

by Amy Lee de Poo

There is something very appealing about the cool side of a house. Growing up in Key West is quite unique, if not for the location, then for the way houses must be built so close together because of the lack of space and for protection against hurricanes. The cool side of our house on Dey Street was always my favorite spot to play when I was six years old.

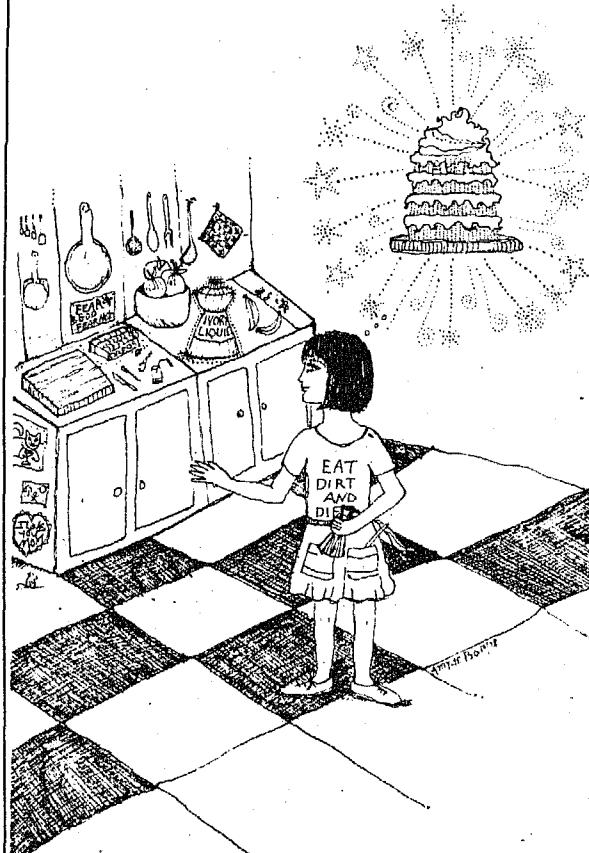
If one faced the house from the street, then the small path on the left was the side that received only the morning sunshine, and for the rest of the day it would remain forever shaded, damp and mystically alluring. There were few large snow-on-the-mountain bushes growing there, the ones with the oval-shaped leaves with pure white blotches that looked exactly like real snow had fallen on them.

For some strange reason, a particular kind of caterpillar—the inch worm—seemed to prefer these bushes and never set foot on the neighboring arielias, hibiscus or Turk's caps, a fact that always puzzled me as a child. I would capture these innocuous worms and make them start at the bottom of the snow-on-the-mountain bush and pretend they were climbing expeditions making their way up the Matterhorn or some other steep climb like Solares Hill or the Court-house steps.

Along towards the back of the house there was a small spigot and table where my mother washed out the kitchen mop. It was here that I had the most fun pretending to cook and play house as most little girls do. I was quite the serious cook and very well behaved for such an energetic six year old!

One Saturday morning in late spring I was, as usual, setting up my mock kitchen on the rickety little table, assembling whatever cast off pans and utensils my mother would give me and deciding what delicacy I could conjure up with the vegetation at hand. Having tired of the same old palm-frond salad and mari soup with papaya blossoms, I decided to scout around the kitchen and see if there might be something lying around that would lend a little authenticity to my scheduled grand dessert.

My mother was always busy painting in the morning, so I had a pretty easy time of taking what I wanted without having to explain to her my needs or intentions. As it happened, there was no cornmeal or sugar lying about, which



would have pretty well sufficed as an exotic addition to any recipe. But there on the counter was a large, brand new bottle of Ivory Liquid Dishwashing Soap. Knowing how much lather could be worked up from just a plain old bar of Ivory, I immediately deduced that a frothy substitute for whipped cream could be made with the help of an eggbeater.

How luscious that would look on a pine cone cake!

First making sure my mother was hard at work with at least two paint brushes in her mouth and a few in her hand (being the considerate child that I was) I grabbed the bottle of Ivory, the egg beater and a small, deep bowl and returned to my kitchen, wild with anticipation of the incipient culinary glory.

I squeezed about a quarter of a cup into the bowl and looked at it for a moment. Oh heck, I thought, just a dab more, and with that, gave a good long healthy squeeze. I began to vigorously beat the contents of the bowl and to my unmitigated ecstasy the Ivory Liquid began to transform into the purest, creamiest, whitest, fluffiest concoction this side of Howard John-

son's. It was more than my frail heart could stand!

While I was standing in deep rapture at the sight of this marvelous creation I noticed a pounding noise coming from the bricks in front of the house. That could only mean one thing—my younger sister Martha was driving nails again. Imagine, occupying yourself for hours with just a hammer and a box of penny nails. Well, being a most charitable person at heart, and wanting to share my new discovery with her, I walked out to the front bricks to invite her to my kitchen.

"Say, Martha, how would you like to see what I just made?"

"Nope."

"Listen, you won't believe it. Come quick."

"Nope." (She never was big on conversation.)

I continued, "Come on girl, this is your chance in a lifetime. Put down that hammer and come with me. I've got to show you something."

"No, I'm busy."

Well, at this moment, I just can't say what possessed me to do this, but, as I recall, the frustration of such a blanket rejection must have gotten the better of my Christian soul.

"Martha, you'll never guess what Belle just brought over! (Belle is our grandmother.) A whole bowl of whipped cream!"

Martha stopped hammering and looked up. Her dirty chin was set, but I could see a glimmer of interest in her eyes, food being her other preoccupation. I began to get into the spirit of it now.

"That's right, she made strawberry shortcake last night and had all this whipped cream left over and decided to give it to us. Isn't that great?"

Martha put the hammer down and started to

get up. I helped her, since her grimy underwear were always loose and falling down, which made moving with any swiftness out of the question.

"Well," she said, "let me see it."

This is when I led my dear gullible little sister down the garden path, so to speak. I hurried in front of her, the bushes hitting me in the face as

my mind; much less did I have the actual gall to do something reproachable.

I spooned up a dollop and swirled it attractively to make it as appealing as the picture on a box of Dream Whip. I held it up for one tantalizing second, just out of her range of smell. (Her nose was always stuffed up, anyway, now that I



I rushed to pick up the bowl before she could inspect it too carefully or get an identifying whiff off the contents. Ah, my first taste test, I gleefully thought.

As I think back, I could only have gotten carried away by my own feverish sales pitch to have gone through with what I was about to do. You see, a naughty thought hardly ever crossed

think of it.) Craftily I held back.

"Are you sure that you want some?"

Her eyes opened wide at the sight of all that whipped cream and her mouth began to twitch.

"You really want to taste it?"

By now the gaping motions of her mouth assured me that she did. I dutifully fed my sister what she was so obviously hungry for, but I was

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not prepared for the ensuing spray I got right in the face when the ninety-nine-and-forty-four-one-hundredths percent pure soap reacted with the highly sensitive palate of a five year old pablum gourmet. Then the screaming started and was it ever bloodcurdling!



Martha took off in the direction of my mother's studio, and I was reasonably astute in the assumption that I had only seconds to wash away the evidence of my sin. What I failed to take into account was the fact that my mother has an unusually over-developed maternal in-

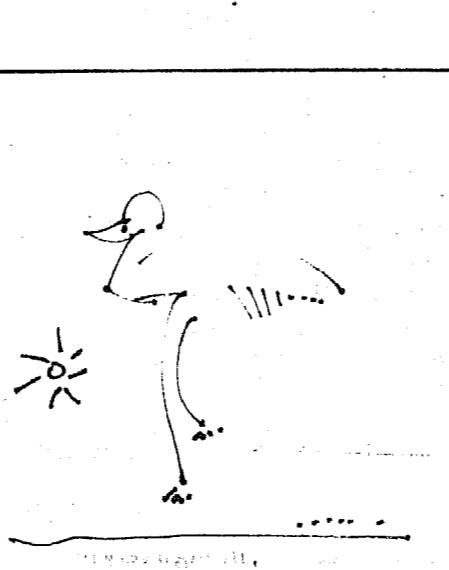
stinct, and at the first shriek out of Martha's mouth she was already on her way towards the origin of her distressed cries.

"Amy! What have you done to your sister? Why is she drooling like that?"

I looked, and Martha indeed was not a pretty sight. Her face was all red and swollen from crying all over the place due to the unsavory properties of Ivory Soap. There was no point in denying it. I confessed.

I got two good whacks and was made to stand in the corner with my nose in the crack for one whole hour.

However, it was not all that bad. I could still sneak looks out the window and see the inchworms making their way delicately through the leaves of the beautiful snow-on-the-mountains bushes, close my eyes, and dream of the Himalayas... or the Matterhorn... or... Solares Hill.



BOOK REVIEW

LIKE A SERIES OF WELL MADE BOXES

by David A. Kaufelt

Volume II of George Murphy's *The Best Short Fiction for 1985, THE EDITORS' CHOICE*, is every bit as satisfying as the universally praised Volume I, and in some instances, more so.

When I was a boy sloughing my way through the wastelands of Elizabeth, N. J., I used to haunt the Morrison Avenue Used Book Store for the paperback sized faded blue and sometimes green volumes belonging to a collection modestly entitled, *The One Hundred Greatest Short Stories*. (There were spin offs as well: *The One Hundred Greatest Mystery Stories*, *The One Hundred Greatest Humorous Stories*, etc.) The mildevel irredent pages contained the nicely turned ironies of de Maupassant, Maugham, Poe and Mrs. Wharton.

I miss those little books and as I'm one of those Philistines who only reads reputedly non-fiction magazines ("Girl, 9, Survives Locked Fridge by Eating Brother's Toes") and then only while waiting on Fausto's check-out line, I've also missed, to a large extent, The Great American Short Story Revival. But here's our George, publishing and anthologizing his heart out on Houseboat Row, filling a very real need, putting together in one large edition (\$16.95 clothbound; \$8.95 paperbound; A Bantam Windstone Book)

nineteen superb short stories nominated by the magazine fiction editors who published them in the first place.

The range is extraordinary. I had expected a great many fashionable, heavily female experience stories about traumatic summer vacations told in first person current (there are a couple of those, notably Ilene Raymond's *Taking A Chance On Jack* which is not first person but very current and tense, none the less.) But for the most part George and the editors of America's most important magazines (from *Ms.* to *Shenandoah*, from *Playboy* to *Tendril*) have surprised me and there are few predictable stories (Trevalian's *The Sacking of Miss Plimsoll* is an exception) in the book.

There are, of course, star turns. The late John Gardner's last published short story is here,

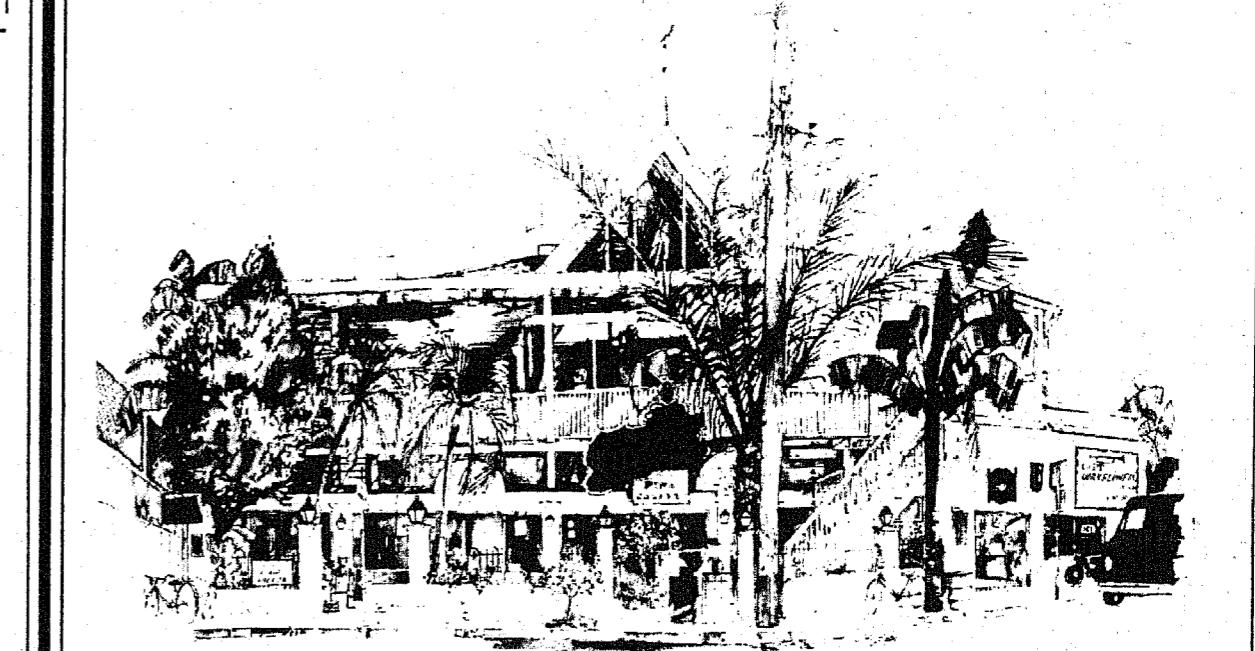
deceptively simple—a bit reminiscent of the above mentioned (and now in disfavor) W. Somerset Maugham—called *Julius Caesar and the Werewolf*. It has withstood several readings and still hasn't revealed (to me) all of its mysteries.

Monologue of the Movie Mogul by Michael Covino (from *The Paris Review*) is so wonderfully mean-spirited and so brilliantly executed, it alone is worth the price of admission. The range is extraordinary. Kurt Ducker's *Saving The Dead* is as relentlessly somber as its title, but it is so economically written, so innocently deadly in its stark portrayals, it's a story I haven't been able to forget. It's difficult to believe it's Ducker's first.

Martha Bayles' *The 'New Yorker' Story* (from *Harper's*) is the sort of satire that isn't mere

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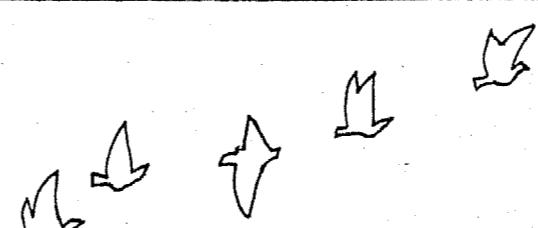
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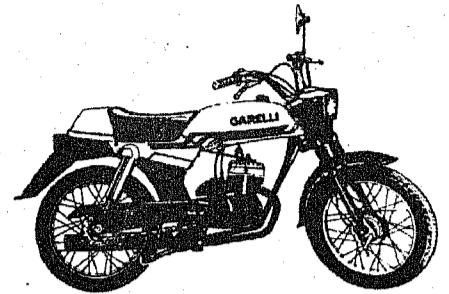
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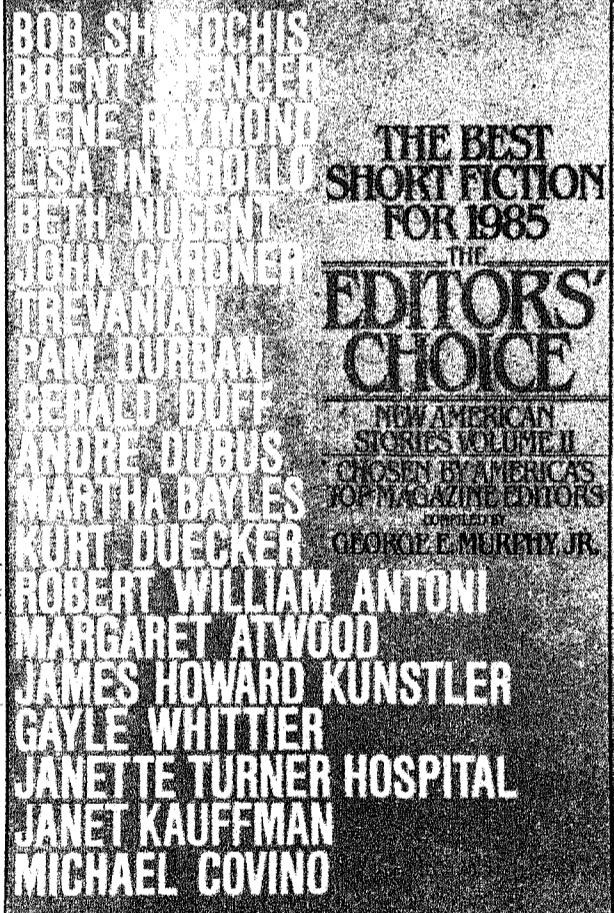


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whimsey; you can get your teeth into it. Beth Nugent's haunting *City of Boys* seemed on first reading to be surreal and then I wasn't certain.



It's a graphic urban story and I keep wanting to say it's not true (to reality) . . . but it clearly is. I was prepared to dislike James Howard Kunstler's *The Rise, Fall, and Redemption of Moose Toffski Offski*, on title alone. When I began reading and discovered it was told by a

Holden Caulfieldish West Side Manhattan kid, I had trouble getting through the first paragraph. But it's genuine humor and fine craftsmanship won me over in the end. It's a good story.

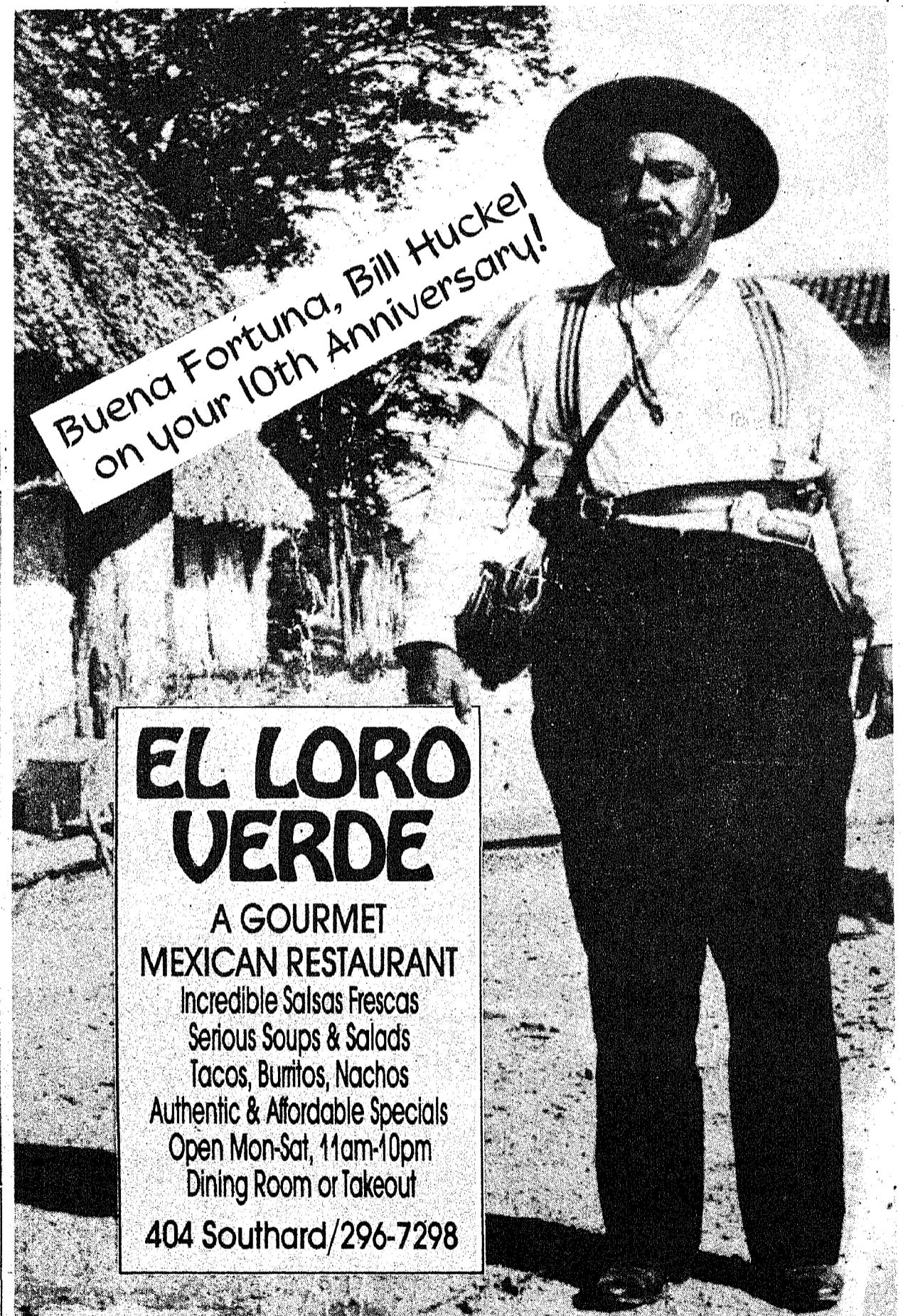
Well, they're all good stories and some are great. I found Brent Spenser's *The Small Things That Save Us*, incredibly enough another first short story, beautiful in its somber celebration of a contemporary Job's rural life: "Easy would let the small things save him. Days of sun and sweet breezes. Late afternoons full of birds streaming into the trees. And other shadows on other nights, as deer climb down from the high ground to the stream in moonlight."

Having only lately learned about James Crumley— inheritor of the Raymond Chandler mantle, writer of mysteries with heart and guts—I was excited to discover Andre Dubus in

his *Land Where My Fathers Died*. The story is dedicated to Crumley but rises above and beyond derivation, flying off on its own perfectly crafted line of murder and betrayal in a New England town's Greek community.

One, of course, isn't going to swoon over every story. I am not yet a Margaret Atwood lover ("it may come; it may come," my literary guru half promises, half threatens) and I leave *The Salt Garden* to those who are. I have a history of long bad trouble reading island dialect stories, probably stemming from a youthful trauma over Uncle Remus. Therefore the charms of Robert William Antoni's *Two-Head Fred and Tree-Foot Frieda* eluded me.

Quibbles and personal ones at that. To quote George in his preface: ". . . it is the well-made short story we are all hoping to find, the story



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which, to paraphrase W. H. Auden, 'closes like the click of a well-made box.' The clicks in this collection come fast and furious.

Volume II of *THE EDITORS' CHOICE* is the best proof I know of that the short story is an important and enriching literary form, fully in flower. If you are at all interested in contemporary reading/writing, you must read this book.

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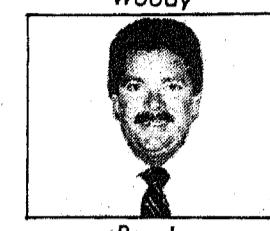
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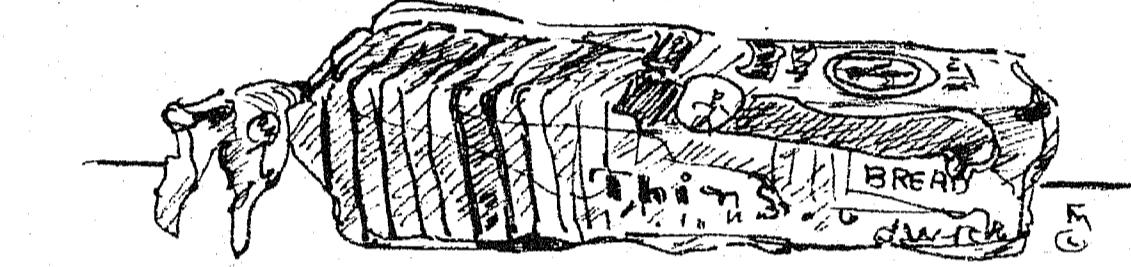
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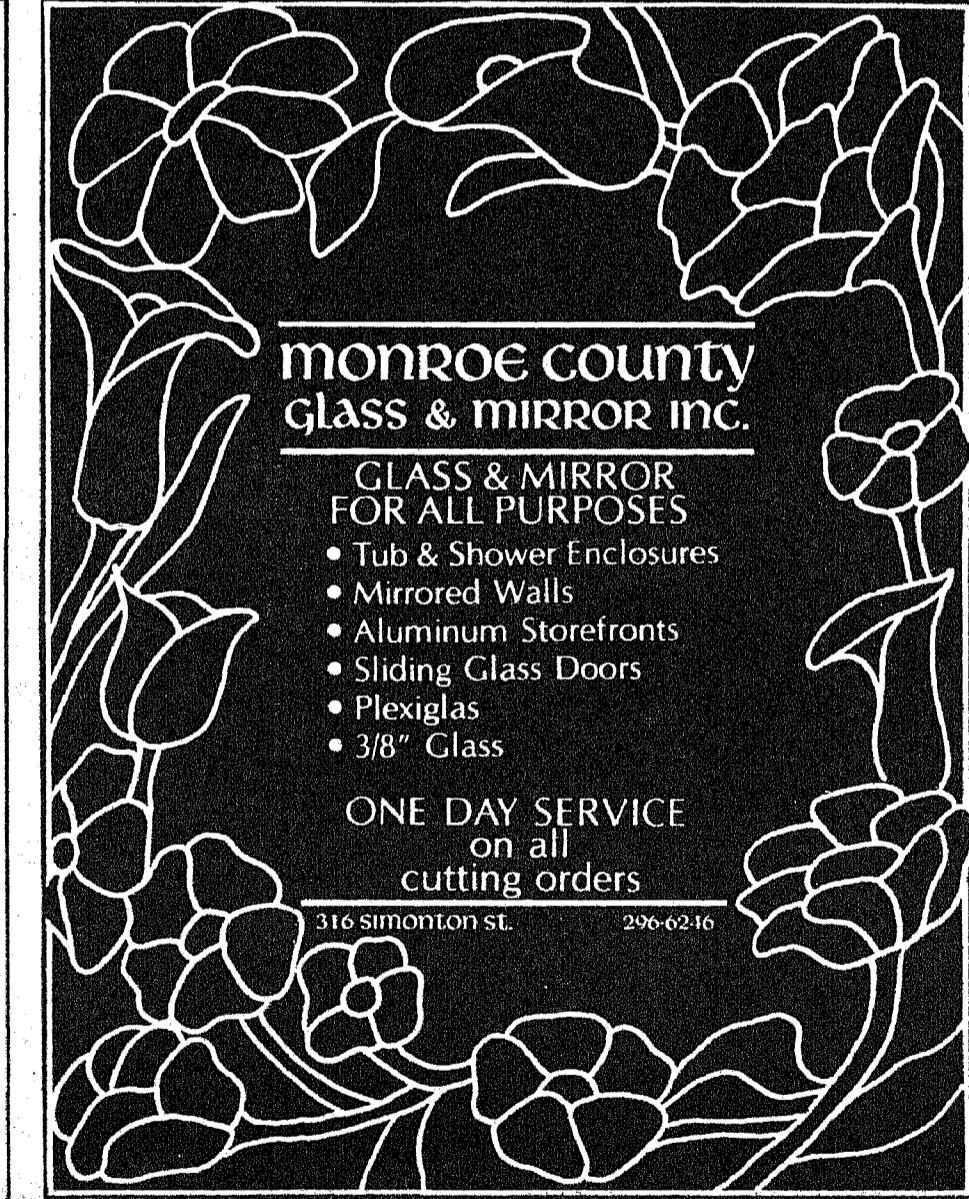
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TEN YEARS OF FLYING THE FRIENDLY SKIES OF KEY WEST

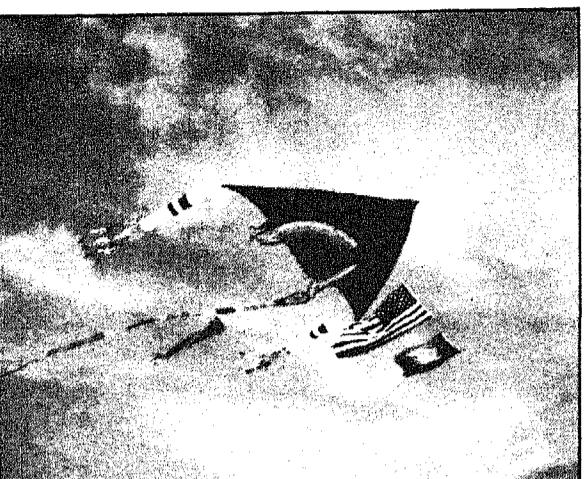
Over the years, Heavenly Body Kites has become a traditional landmark in Old Town Key West. It is the oldest Kite Shop in Florida and one of the first in the United States. Heavenly Body Kites was established in 1976 and is celebrating its 10 year anniversary by sponsoring the 10th Annual Key West Kite Festival.

Both the long distance traveler and the local folks have come to know the people at Heavenly Body Kites as dedicated kite flyers, always willing to share their knowledge and personal experiences of the joys of kite flying.

Recreation, relaxation—words that can be used to describe the sport of kite flying. It helps increase sight ability and makes one aware of wind force and direction. Kite flying is a healthy outdoor activity which can be enjoyed by male, female, young or old.

This April, the public is invited to participate in the 10th Annual Key West Kite Festival. This free, healthy, outdoor event is sponsored by Heavenly Body Kites in connection with the Conch Republic Festival '86. The Kite Festival will be held Sunday, April 27th at Smathers Beach. The sky will be filled with magnificent kites of all sizes and color at noon. At this time, the Key West Kiteman, Greg Lavelle, will be

giving free kites to the first 100 children that attend. There will also be over \$1,000.00 worth of gifts and prizes for those kite flyers that



A soaring of kites

attend and participate in the Kite Festival. There will be a \$100.00 cash prize for the Best Photo of the kites flying. There will also be \$50.00 gift certificates from Heavenly Body Kites for the following categories: The Youngest Kite Flyer, The Oldest Kite Flyer, The Person from the Farthest Point from Key West, Best Handmade Kite, Best Kite Performance, and Best Handmade Conch Republic Kite.

Professional kite flyers from around the world will be in Key West to show off their latest designs. Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and Brownies will participate, trying to win prizes for their organizations. Navy families will also be flying the friendly skies of Key West.

The 10th Annual Kite Festival will be the largest flying exhibition Key West has ever seen! Stunt kites will be zooming through the sky performing circles, figure eights, loops, dives, and astonishing aerobatic stunts. Shark Kites will be swimming through the sky, 150-foot Dragon Kites dancing on the clouds, and 20-foot deltas trimmed with Conch Republic Flags will be joyously celebrating the Conch Republic Festival '86.

For a delightful and exciting afternoon at Smathers Beach, plan on attending this free, healthy outdoor event. Sunday, April 27th, noon. Put your head on a cloud—Go Fly A Kite!

CONGRESSMAN FRANK TO ADDRESS HRCF EVENT IN KEY WEST

Congressman Barney Frank, a Massachusetts liberal Democrat and strong human rights advocate, will be the featured speaker at the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) dinner in Key West on April 12, 1986 at the Casa Marina Resort. The one-hundred dollar a plate dinner is being hosted by the Key West Human Rights Committee. All funds raised at the dinner will go to HRCF, a national political action committee that supports candidates who favor equal treatment of all citizens. HRCF has been a successful national voice for gay men and women as well as others interested in human rights. For information, contact Human Rights Campaign Fund, Key West Committee, 331 Simonton Street, Key West.

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RACING AROUND THE ROCK

by Howard Crane

On Saturday, April 5, at noon the year's most exciting Key West sailing event, the 10th Annual Around The Island Sunfish or Windsurfer Race will begin and everyone with a spirit of fun and competition is invited to give it a try. A test of concentration, sailing skill and planning, this annual Key West Sailing Club race drew forty-four contestants last year and more are expected this year.

Registration and launching will take place at the north end of Simonton Street between 10:30 and 11:30 that morning. The combination start-finish line will be between a race committee flag on the Havana Docks at the Pier House and a government mark on the main ship channel.

It makes no difference to the race committee which direction a contestant chooses to sail around the island, clockwise or counterclockwise, but a serious sailor will have checked wind speed and direction, current flow and wave height before making his decision. This basic choice not only creates an exciting start, with two opposing fleets of boats clashing head on, but there's only one correct way to go and choosing the wrong way can make one late for the after race party.

This is a long race, especially for windsurfers who stand on their boards the whole way, because Sigsbee and Fleming Keys must be rounded. Anyone caught attempting a short cut will be hung from the nearest yardarm.

There are no hard and fast rules; in fact a sailor may get out and walk, pulling his boat after him. If the tide and wind conditions are against him when rounding Fleming Key perhaps the best and only way to advance will be to get into the shallow water and drag the boat behind while slogging through the soggy silt.

When reaching the Cow Key Channel Bridge(s) the Sunfish sailors must lower their sails and remove the masts in order to get through. Windsurfers get a break here because they're used to letting the rigging fall. The next choice to be made is whether to drag your vessel through or paddle it like a surfboard. Whichever method one chooses it will be an awkward process, usually results in an unplanned bath and the spectators who line the shores seem to enjoy it immensely.

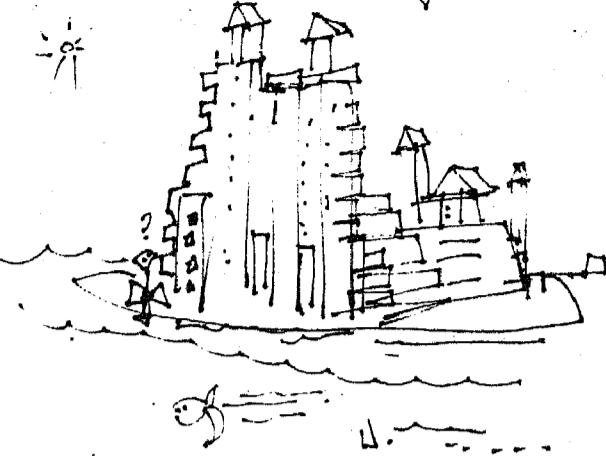
Speaking of spectators, they can have a good time too, especially if they are the traveling kind. Many come to watch the prerace activities at the end of Simonton Street and then stroll over to the Pier House to watch the start from Havana Docks. Then they jump in their vehicles and follow their favorites around the island. Last year two retired navy officers tried to get out to the end of Fleming Key but were stopped abruptly by armed guards—so we don't recommend that. Binoculars will have to suffice.

The more serious sailors will be out practicing days before the actual event but some of the novices will enter just to see what it's like to make it all the way around. To allow for these differences in skill and concentration and to make it fun for all there will be a variety of prizes for both Sunfish sailors and windsurfers. These include the usual prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd to finish, plus a prize for first to finish going the

wrong way around. There is also a prize for being the last and one each for the oldest and youngest sailor to finish. The most unusual award is for the "halfast" sailor who finishes exactly on the middle of the fleet.

After the race, at 6 P.M., all (exhausted) sailors descend upon the Key West Sailing Club for an awards party. Beer and submarine sandwiches are free for all contestants. At this party the "whys" and "lies" are told with equal fervor and everyone begins to look forward to the 11th Annual Around The Island Sunfish or Windsurfer Race next year.

For further details on the race contact Howard Crane at 296-4522 or any member of the Key West Sailing Club.



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REMEMBERING

by Gil Ryder

In April 1976, Solares Hill rose, like the fabled Phoenix, from the ashes of its former existence. Unlike the Phoenix, Solares Hill did have a real previous existence, neither was Solares Hill destroyed by fire—it just sort of died.

Solares Hill was reborn during a time of controversy concerning the projected Cattle Quarantine Station on Fleming Key. The Cattle Quarantine Station was built (over much public objection) and endures only as a useless monu-

ment to government stupidity—as predicted by lay citizens at public hearings on the subject.

Another article in the April 1976 issue concerned itself with the building of townhouses on Rest Beach. Once again, the public outcry was ignored and the townhouses were built. Unlike the Cattle Quarantine Station, the townhouses all became occupied as intended. It would, of course, have been much better to have the City acquire the land and preserve it as a public park.

The same April '76 issue contained an article indicating the enormous value of senior citizens to the community. No nebulous thing about how nice it is to have the old folks around, but rather the cash value—the vast amount of money going into the local economy from the retirees. Just the Social Security payments to those over 65, residing in the area from Key

West to Saddle Bunch, amounted to well over \$4,000,000 a year, a sizeable payroll in those days, or even in these.

It was also pointed out that the four million plus did not include those who were drawing Social Security from age 62–64, nor did it include military or private pensions or other retirement income.

Why repeat all this old stuff from ten years ago? Not for the sake of nostalgic yearnings, but rather because it isn't really old stuff at all.

Government waste of your tax dollars did not end with the completion of the Quarantine Station, inappropriate development didn't stop with the Rest Beach townhouses, and far too many people still believe that the elderly are a burden on the community.

Solares Hill has been on the side of the angels for the last ten years, but the angels have not been winning, at least not so you could notice it. Some of the angels have lost their halos, thrown them away, or even sold them. Perhaps this means that the good guys should give it all up and devil take the hindmost—then again, maybe not.

Maybe the good guys, who are the vast majority anywhere, will bestir themselves and take a more active part in protecting the keys from destructive development and inept politicians.

No matter what is written and published in Solares Hill, such writings cannot in themselves solve the problems or protect the Keys. All that can be hoped for is that a reasonable percentage of readers will take enough interest in the problems and possible solutions presented to do something themselves to help correct the various bad situations.

The more people occupying any given area, the more problems arise. Surely the increased population should provide an increase in the number of persons who are ready, able and willing to provide some solutions.

How can they do that? First by taking an interest in the community, then by recognizing the problems and deciding which problems they would be able to help solve.

The word "environment" is an umbrella that covers all the problems: cats, dogs, people, trees, garbage, sewage, roads, utilities, housing costs, etc.—almost anything you can think of.

In any community there is at least one problem that you as an individual can help solve. The young, the old, the ugly, the beautiful, the healthy and the physically impaired can each and everyone contribute in some way to the improvement and protection of the community.

Any citizen over the age of 18 has the right to vote and should use that right judiciously, first carefully studying candidates, issues and propositions.

Every community has unwanted kittens and puppies which may grow into stray cats and dogs and, through no fault of their own become community nuisances. Anyone may involve himself or herself with "Friends of Animals" or "United Humanitarians" and help end that problem. You can help troubled children through the Florida Sheriffs' Youth Fund. You can help in many ways by joining a local Civic Association.

Very few residents of the Keys want stray animals using their front lawn for a toilet, or running the local deer to death. Even fewer want a glue factory built next door or across the road but, unless you get involved, your yard will remain a toilet and you just may get a glue factory under your nose. Sure, there are laws on

the books to protect you from these horrors, but laws are only words on paper if no one is demanding enforcement.

The County Land Use Plan has been plucked and singed and gutted and stuffed and finally forwarded to the State. The Plan will hang there until it ripens, after which it will be brought before the public for further public input. Why not spend a few hours at the Public Library making notes on the subject and then, when the time comes, speak your piece or write a letter conveying your opinion? It may prove a waste of time and energy—or—you may just deliver the right words to sway the powers that be and make them realize that a Land Use Plan centered on Cluster Housing and large-scale Resort Destinations is bound to create chaos.

This may strike you as spitting in the ocean to raise the tide, but maybe you'll miss and spit in the right eye, thus getting enough attention to have the Plan altered in a manner that will benefit the average citizen rather than speculators and developers.

Try it—it might just work!

From the Key West Garden Club



The Naturalist in Key West

It seems to happen so suddenly. One day the Keys are full of birds, birds everywhere—warblers, thrushes, catbirds, martins, swallows, breeding plumage emerges on resident birds and mating songs suffuse the early dawn air.

In the mangrove the rising, buzzy notes of the prairie warbler are heard while the white-eyed vireo stakes out nesting sites and seeks a mate with his loud, run-on song punctuated with sharp "chips." Warblers and other migratory birds passing through the area tend to travel in large groups to confuse the hawks, which prey

on stragglers, given the chance.

A friend on Big Pine Key saw indigo buntings in full breeding plumage: a striking, vivid, solid, bright blue. He also reported seeing one male and two female painted buntings. Females are a brilliant yellow-green, almost the color of a parakeet, while the males show off bright red underparts, blue heads and yellow-green backs: the tropical palette on a native North American bird.

The legs and long curving bill of the chicken-sized white ibis turn an intense orange-red during breeding season. Its bright blue eyes contrast sharply with the scarlet extension of bill around them. Young, brown ibises can be seen with the white adults in small groups pecking away at the ground in search of tidbits washed loose after a spring rainstorm.

When the yellow legs of the great blue heron turn red, the color change lasts for only a week. A fine, long crest on its head and a sweep of plumes at the breast also signal readiness to breed. The so-called "great white heron" is really a white form of the blue heron and is found only in south Florida and the Florida Keys. White herons and blue herons are the same species of bird, existing in the two different colors. They are not hybrids and each remains the same color throughout its life. This phenomenon, called "dimorphism," means "two forms." The reddish egret is another bird that exists in a white morph.

Pelicans coming into breeding plumage display a white head with a dark brown stripe down the back of the neck. Its winter plumage, now beginning to molt, is the yellow head and completely white neck. Young pelicans up to a year old have very white bellies, brownish wings and

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brownish necks. Second year pelicans are more grayish with the neck feathers beginning to lighten and some dark feathers beginning to appear on the belly. Adult pelicans have dark bellies.

The common cattle egret is displaying a rusty colored crest and a rusty smudge on the breast and on the shoulders now during its breeding season.

Some ospreys have already fledged their young while others are still sitting on their eggs. When a young osprey recently fell out of its nest high on a construction crane on Big Pine Key, observers took it to the Key Deer Refuge headquarters where a member of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service banded the apparently unhurt bird. Then, with the bird and two pieces of fish in hand to sustain it until the parents returned,

he scaled the crane to restore it to its nest. Unfortunately, mother and father osprey showed up in the middle of the rescue operation, feinting "dive bomb" attacks on the hapless rescuer. With heroic effort, however, the mission of mercy was successfully executed.

The elusive Boca Chica anhinga was sighted recently flying across the highway. Anhingas, frequently mistaken for cormorants, are very rarely seen in the keys. They usually stay up around the Everglades. Anhingas have pointed beaks, longer, more slender necks and longer tail feathers than cormorants. Cormorants have hooked beaks.

Trees of the bombax family are coming into bloom this month. The most striking specimen in the large red silk cotton tree on Simonton Street near the corner of Angela Street. Its name

is derived from the silky floss, similar to kapok, found in the plants woody fruit. The leafless, barren-looking branches bear enormous, fleshy bright red flowers with long, black stamens in the centers. The five, thick petals form a blossom up to seven inches across.

The shaving brush tree, also a bombax, has pink or white flowers that come out in a puff the size of a large fist. Both bombax tree species will leaf out later in the spring.

Another tropical tree found here that loses its leaves during the winter dry season is the frangipani. Thick, naked, stubby branches are a stark contrast to the surrounding Key West subtropical greenery. It's hard to believe that this dead-looking thing will burst forth in handsome, green, eighteen-inch leaves and flowers famous for their fragrance and beauty. Hawaiian leis are made usually from stringing frangipani blossoms.

Nearly bare branches of the thorny Indian coral tree also bear bright red flowers shortly after the leaves drop in late winter. Small specimens are located near the fire station on Simonton Street and at the corner of Flagler Avenue and Tropical Street.

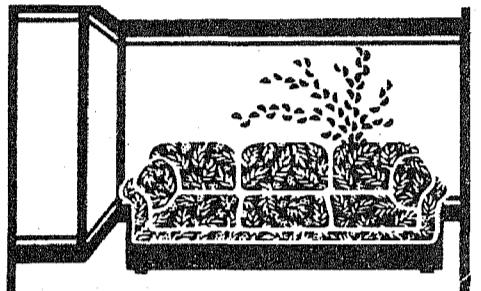
Spring in the keys is a subtle thing in many ways too. Fewer and fewer hawks are seen each day and the cold fronts come farther and farther apart. Heat rises off our spots of land in the sea. The clouds look taller and fuller, losing that wintry flatness and streakiness—more moisture is on the way. The ocean is beginning to glow in bluer tones as the sun climbs higher and higher each day. Shadows shorten and days lengthen.

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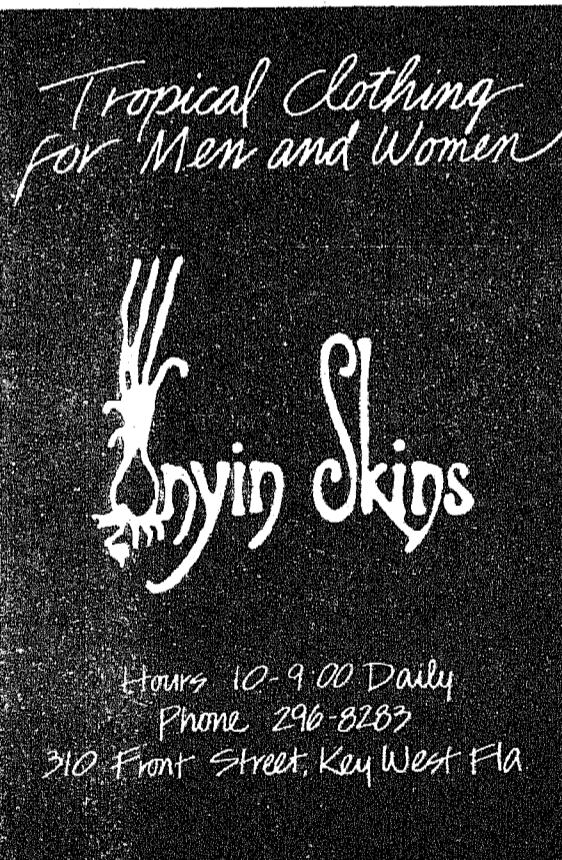


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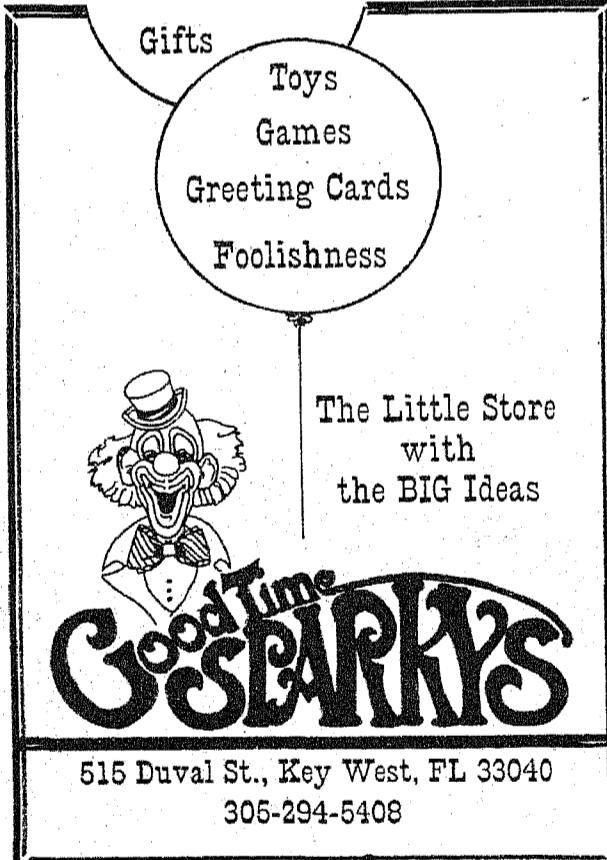
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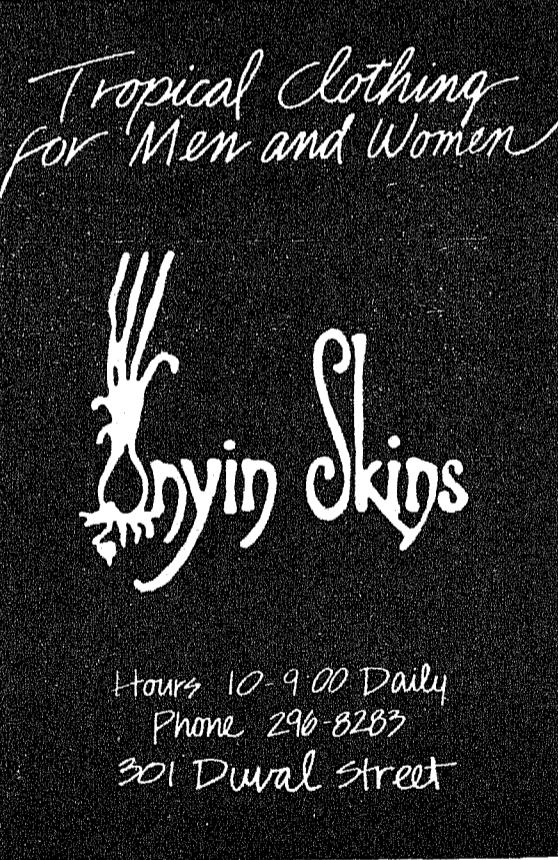
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continued from page 40

for other improvements in her outlook and lifestyle. Now divorced, she had recently moved into a new house, and is living alone for the first time. "It has been a very quiet time, and I needed that time for meditations and such and growing closer to God."

God may, Dorothy feels, be calling her to evangelism—and it may lead Dorothy Castillo away from Key West. "It's kind of limited in what you can do spiritually in Key West... I'm looking around and thinking about getting a transfer, maybe going further into Florida, maybe around the Tampa area... working for God. I might not be in Key West much longer."

Although her past as a military wife, bar-keeper, post office worker, mother, and devoted church member, lies here in Key West, she does not feel unduly upset that her future may not. "I love Key West... but right now I'm beginning to chomp at the bit—I'm getting ready to... to move on—it seems as if I'm being led to do something different now. You have to do and be what you believe. There's just no other way."



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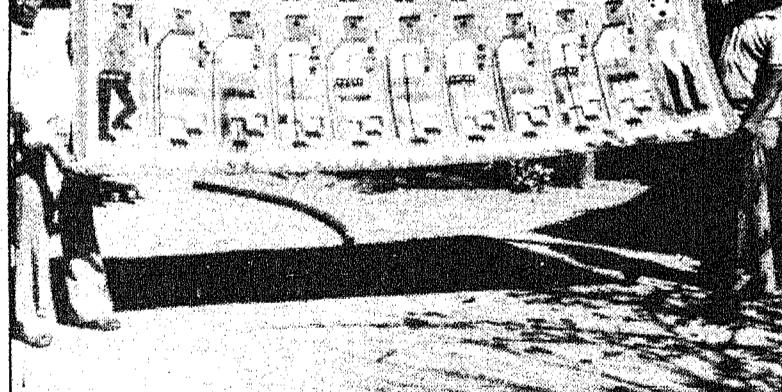
An extensive collection of works by ISAAC VASQUEZ, the ZAPOTEC INDIAN master weaver who is profiled in "NATURAL HISTORY" MAGAZINE's March issue, is now on display at Hats & Hammocks of Key West.

Isaac Vasquez was nurtured in a single-child pure Zapotec Indian family and learned the art of weaving at a very early age from his father who was also a master weaver in his own time.

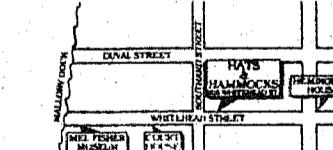
The 100 percent virgin wool in Vasquez's tapestries has been completely hand prepared, i.e., sheared from the sheep, washed, picked, carded and then spun into thread.

Whenever colors other than the natural wool hues are desired, the skeins of thread are dyed with "natural" dyes made from a variety of plants — indigo (blues & greens), lichens (yellows & tans), dodder (yellows), nuts (browns & lavenders), acacias (black) and from a tiny insect called the Cochineal Scale Insect which is raised on the Nopal Cactus and which produces a variety of reds, pinks, oranges, and maroon.

The Zapotecs held a virtual monopoly as suppliers of high-quality clothing in pre-Columbian Mexico, and Isaac Vasquez is the most prestigious master weaver and dyer in the contemporary Zapotec culture.



ISAAC VASQUEZ with large tapestry of Navajo design that required seventy working days to complete.



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**"MISS" ELLEN AND
"COFFEE"**
by Elizabeth Kinnell

"God gives people gifts, and if you use them, He gives you more . . ."

Two examples of this statement are island natives "Miss" Ellen Welters Sanchez and Lofton "Coffee" Butler . . . prominent, respected and loved members of the Key West community. When you mention their names, people think of music, and no wonder.

Music has always been an important part of the life of "Miss" Sanchez. She was born shortly after the turn of the century into a musical family. Her father originated the famous Welters Marching Band, which set the standard for local bands for years. "My daddy gave me my ele-



photo by Wendy Tucker

"Miss" Ellen and "Coffee"

ments," she says, "and Sister Mary Elizabeth at The Convent gave me my manipulation."

She has written and composed music; she has been organist at the Newman A.M.E. Zion and Trinity churches here; she has been accompanist for operettas at the old Convent; she has taught music since 1919, including a stint at the Douglass School under the WPA program during the Depression; she had a group that sang over WKWF Radio on Sundays.

"Miss" Sanchez is especially well-known in the Black community for her kindergarten, which she directed.

From 1949 to 1969 (when she retired), and where her classes would put on yearly pageants for which she would train the pupils, decorate the hall, design and sew all the costumes and play the music. For example, for the performance of "Sleeping Beauty And The Prince" in 1960, she made 20 costumes—"A lot of work, but I really enjoyed it. I really loved it."

She has been the teacher to local church organists, and to such well-known Key West music figures as Mercedes Wildgoose, Bill Austin . . . and Lofton "Coffee" Butler.

One incident she recalls fondly was the time the Coral City Elks gave her a surprise tribute in 1969, awarding her a plaque; "and even though 'Coffee's' daddy had died that night, he still came to sing my 'Isle of Key West' for me."

"Miss" Sanchez: "I wish to say that all of my life I've dealt with the public, and I must say they've never given me any unnecessary trouble."

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Life and music are synonymous with "Coffee" Butler, from mellow grown-up entertainer back to early childhood, when he was a small, bright-eyed boy who could just reach the keys on the family piano. "I still remember having to reach up."

Teenage years found him "hanging around with the boys on the corner" after classes at the former Douglass High School. "We decided we weren't doing anything and we wanted to do something. So we decided to form a musical group. We went to Claude Lang for help, and he taught us to read music—with a cigar every now and then for payment." The name of the group was Duke and His Royal Aces . . . with "Coffee" the leader as "Duke" on the piano." The Imperial Cafe was one of the places we'd play and the old Cuban Club and a lot of military things.

World War II brought a break-up of the band, and thus was formed "Coffee And His Cups," which became a familiar part of island social life throughout the decades. They played at the Downtowner and The Starlight Club on Duval, the Sunset Royal's Club, the old Brown Derby, the American Legion on Stock Island, and a long stretch at the old Bamboo Room.

Another Key West institution is "The Junkanoo," also formed by "Coffee," whose specialties are Latin and Bahamian rhythms, and who perform at dockside weekends for the cruise ships as well as for many community benefit events, business engagements and private parties.

Several years ago, "Coffee" decided to go solo, and made his debut at the re-opening of the Casa Marina. Since that lengthy engagement, he has become the musical "fixture" at Allen Merrill's Hukilau Fridays and Saturdays—a must-do on the calendar of both local and visiting music buffs.

"Coffee" Butler: "When I perform, it seems . . . let's see what these people are thinking about, let's bring it all together. I think music should, does bring people closer together, brings

understanding. Everybody's really looking for the same thing. Music is a mediator where there is no discrimination."

Now for the happy ending. The rich musical traditions of cousins "Miss" Ellen Sanchez and "Coffee" Butler have come together to make a very special Key West record, which will be available for sale this month in clubs, restaurants, music stores and resorts throughout the Key West area. Produced by Solares Hill and recorded at Simpson Sound, the recording is aptly entitled "Key West Memories," and features "The Beautiful Isle of Key West," a warm and lilting waltz about you-know-where, backed by "I'm Yours Truly," a tender ballad about loving. It combines her words and music with his voice and piano. Look for the bright yellow jacket.

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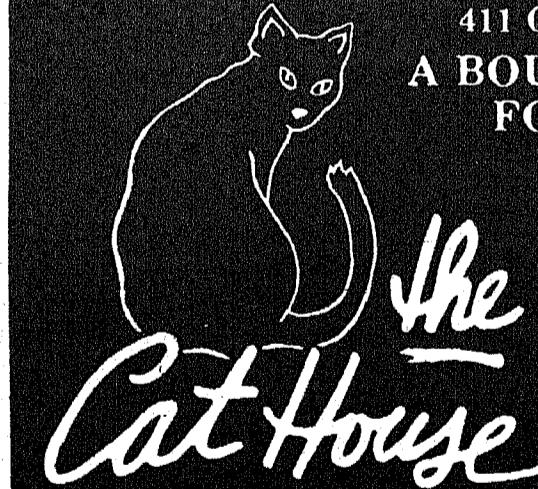
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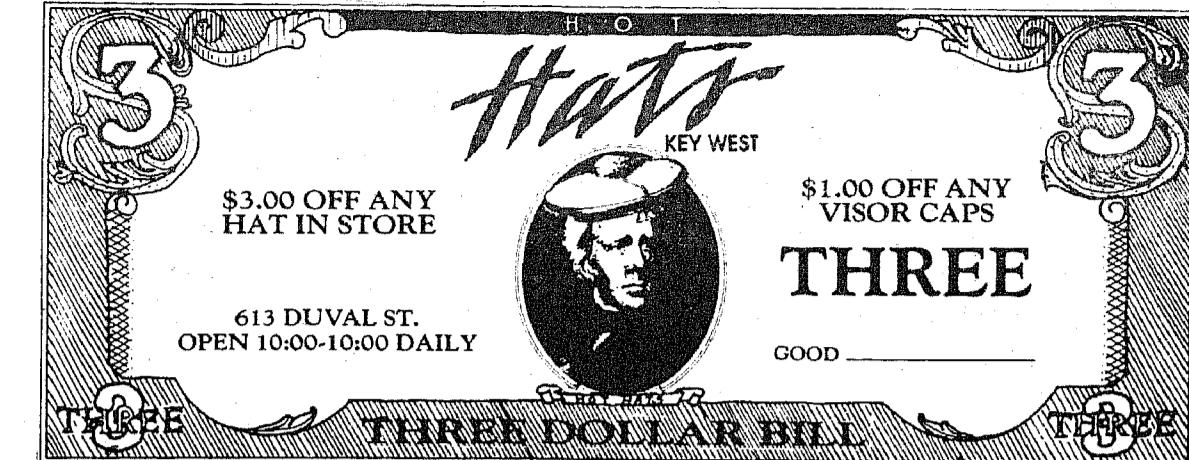
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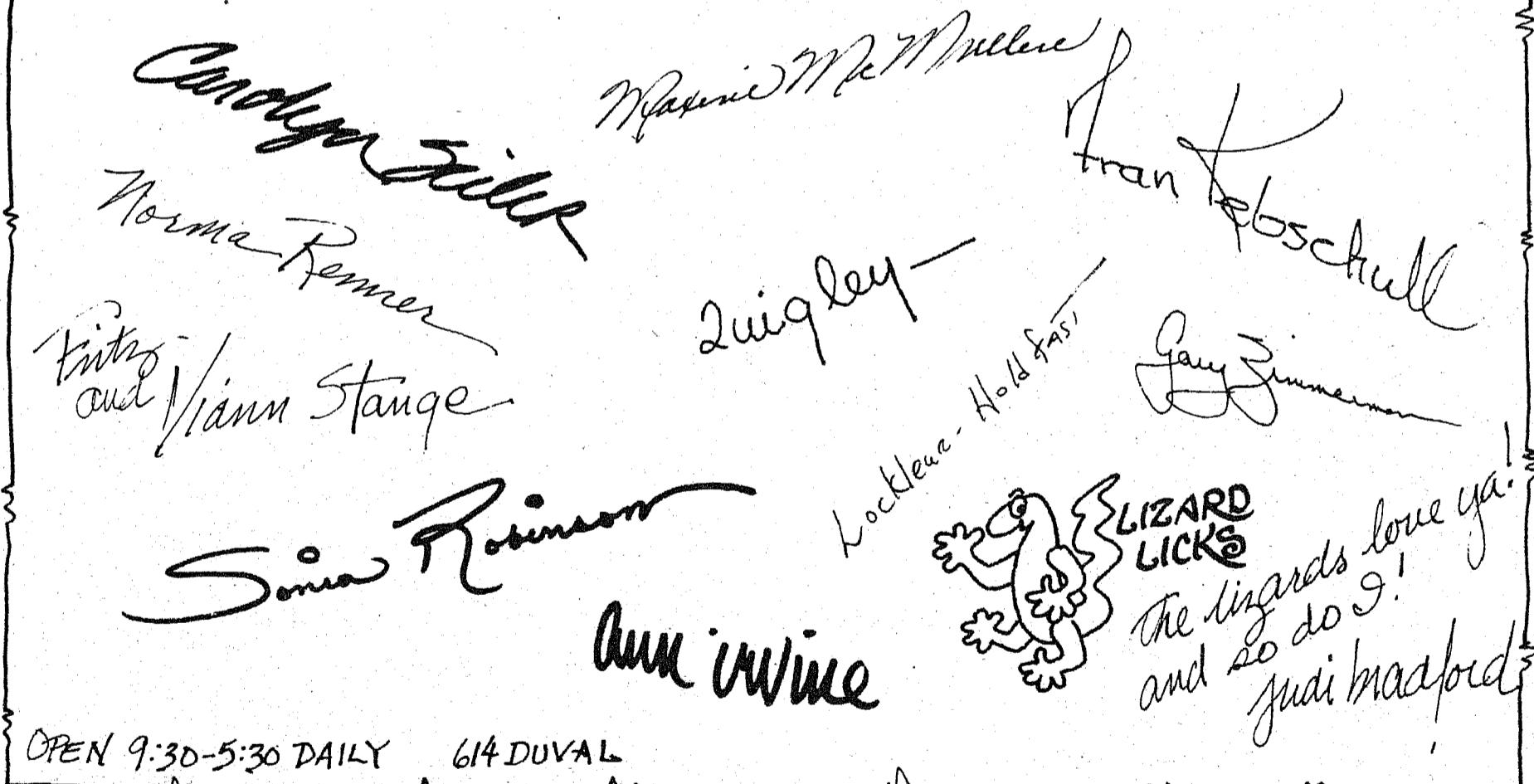
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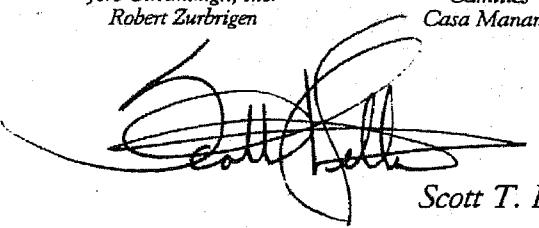
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The Carnival Cayo Hueso Benefit Party held at Lighthouse Court was a tremendous success. Over 900 people gathered to show their support for the Key West AIDS Screenings, and to help People With AIDS in our community. \$28,000 was raised. The support and donations received were overwhelming. My heartfelt thanks to all, with special thanks to the following:

Albert Osterman
Scott Robbie
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Gail Brookway
Ken Mallon
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THE EDITOR AND THE POINCIANA TREE

The flowers start like butterflies out
of their skins,
five petals out of a pod, loose-winged orchids;
the wind bounces the flowers and light
onto the flowers.

The sun glares through green become tenuous
as grey as spider or fossil leaves;
lacelike ferns; the tree
spins on a hood of fern out of its winter.

The flower starts out of the chrysalis.
The underbelly of the sky is jewelled.
Under his feet as he steps along to the office
in the spring month, the sidewalk shines
red with the first dying of skins.

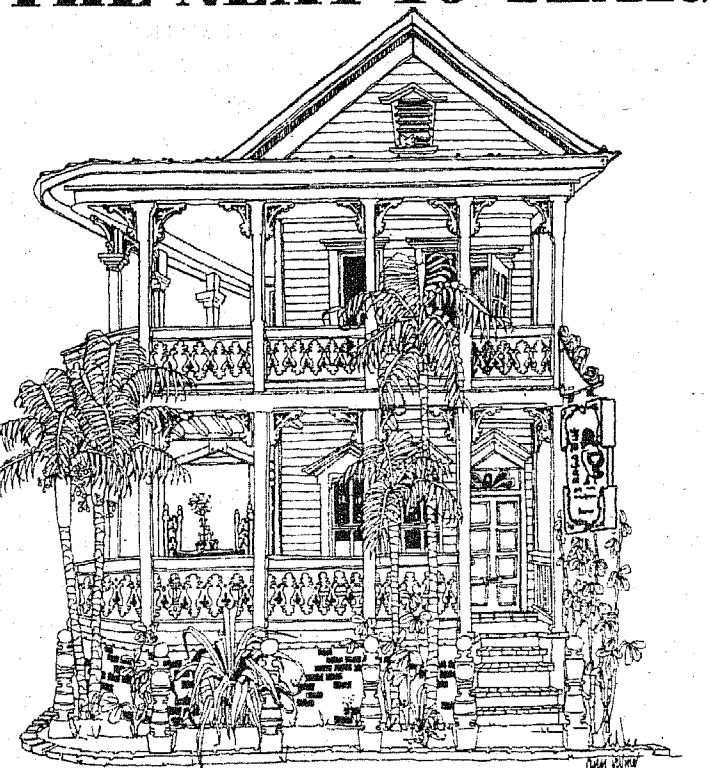
All over town the trees carry enormous flowers
or enormous rafts of flowers, orangy scarlet,
fat strawberry scarlet, the long petal of each five
agile, dark red and bee yellow,
the stamens rust brown red,
tipped gold in places
to take up this vamp petal
against the main trumpet and trombone of scarlet.

The flowers rest like galleons on the light lake
of the ferns—ruffles—Leaves
more suited to a damp wood
than to such big town branches
or to bearing such draughts of flowers.
He's not the oldest Key Wester by many a chalk,
quite a newcomer: an old hand
and a spring lamb; so he looks up and down
when he steps along outside for a breath
of windy air,
still surprised, half a grin at the treasures
the deep tree
has stealthily and then blazed forth in May
and the May issue on the porch for going out
and June coming together under the fans
and the methodic whirr and assembly of the paper.

Judith Kazantzis



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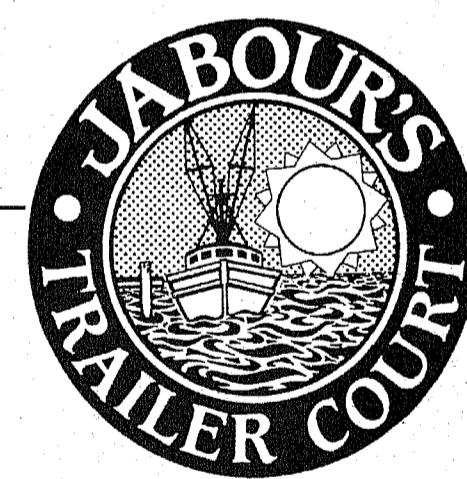
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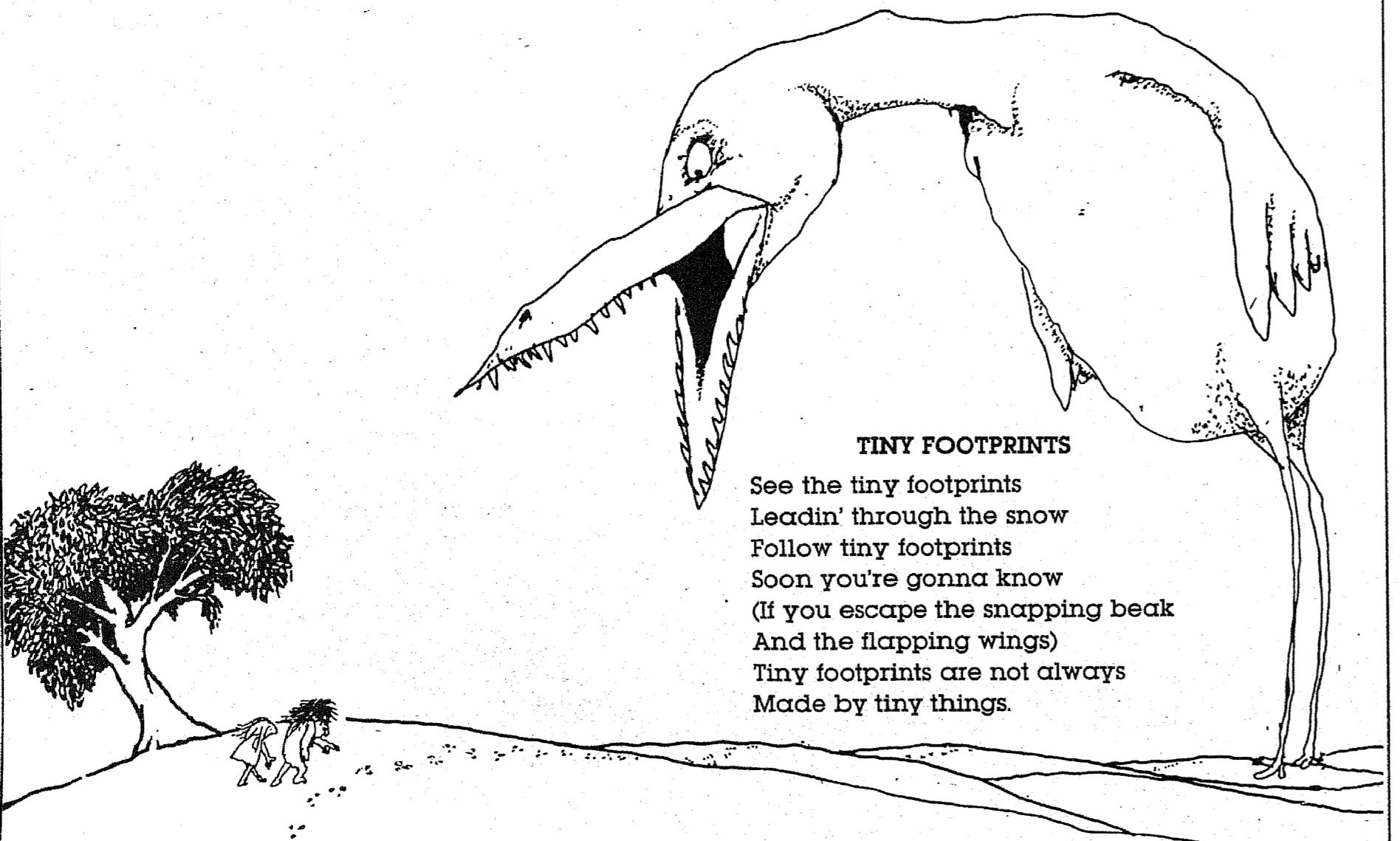
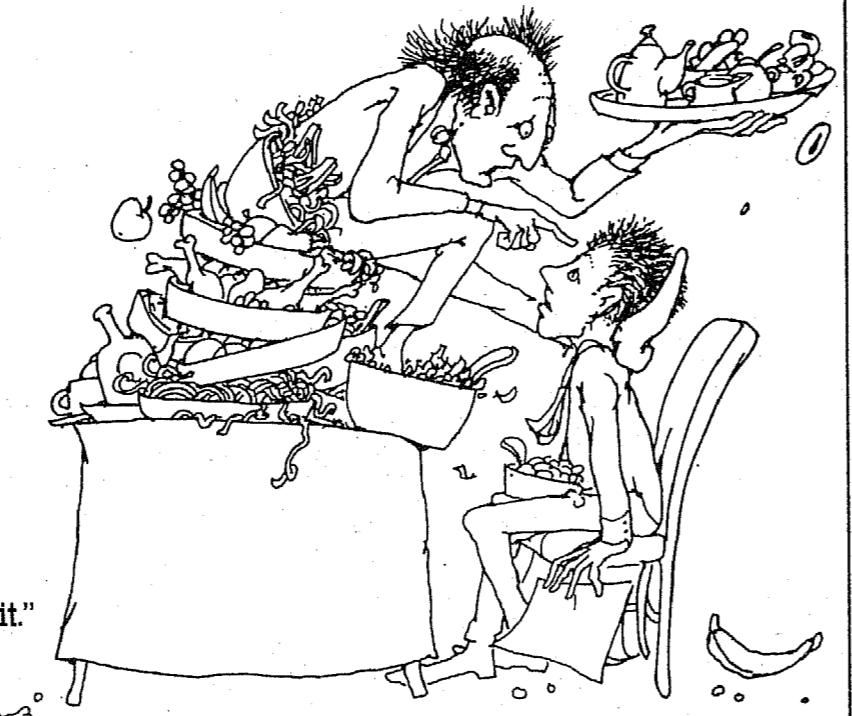
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FOOD?

I was settin' in this restaurant
 When the waiter came up and said, "What do you want?"
 I looked at the menu—it looked so nice
 Till he said, "Let me give you a little advice."
 He said, "Spaghetti and potatoes got too much starch,
 Pork chops and sausage are bad for the heart.
 There's hormones in chicken and beef and veal,
 Bowl of ravioli is a dead man's meal.
 Bread got preservatives, there's nitrites in ham,
 Artificial coloring in jellies and jam.
 Stay away from donuts, run away from pie,
 Pepperoni pizza is a sure way to die.
 Sugar's gonna rot your teeth and make you put on weight,
 artificial sweetener's got cyclamates.
 Eggs are high cholesterol, too much fat in cheese,
 Coffee ruins your kidneys, and so do teas.
 Fish got too much mercury, red meat is poison,
 Salt's gonna send your blood pressure risin'.
 Hot dogs and bologna got deadly red dyes,
 Vegetables and fruits are sprayed with pesticides."
 So I said, "What can I eat that's gonna make me last?"
 He said, "A small drink of water in a sterilized glass."
 And then he stopped and he thought for a minute,
 And said, "Never mind the water—there's carcinogens in it."
 So I got up from the table and walked out in the street
 Realizin' there was nothing I could eat.
 So I haven't eaten for a month and I don't feel too fine,
 But I know that I'll be healthy for a long long time.

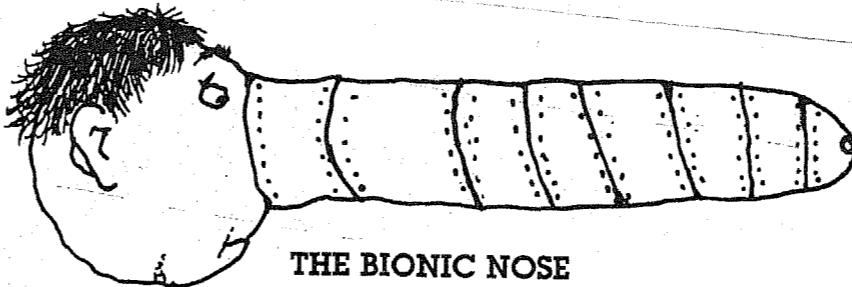
POEMS

BY SHEL SILVERSTEIN



TINY FOOTPRINTS

See the tiny footprints
 Leadin' through the snow
 Follow tiny footprints
 Soon you're gonna know
 (If you escape the snapping beak
 And the flapping wings)
 Tiny footprints are not always
 Made by tiny things.



THE BIONIC NOSE

It was down round the Pole where the icicles grows
 Where the temperature gets in the 60s belows
 An Eskimo boy named Last of the Joes
 Went out in the wind and froze his nose.
 They picked him up from the cold cold snows
 They wrapped him in sealskins from head to toes
 They thawed out his fingers, they warmed up his toes
 But woe of woes they couldn't save his nose.
 Yes they had to amputate his nose
 But luckily passing was Dr. Mose
 Who was out fishing from one of the floes.
 And he took some wire and rubber hose
 And built Last of the Joes a bionic nose.
 It can break down walls, it can conquer foes
 From a mile awaay it can smell a rose
 It can tie itself in knots and bows
 And open any door you close.
 It looks quite normal in repose
 But in the dark oh how it glows.
 It can get into places a nose never goes
 It can get in for free at the circus or shows

It can swing like a lasso or stretch like a hose
 And if you'd like a picture he gladly will pose
 And autograph it the way you'd suppose.
 It can scare people drowning or scare away crows
 It's good catching baseballs but bad making throws.
 It has its own hat and it wears its own clothes
 And a T-shirt that says "Bionic Nose."
 It combats crime—why just suppose
 The nose lay down to take a doze
 And you saw someone breaking those
 Fishing rods of Dr. Mose
 Or maybe stealing those
 Books of poetry or prose.
 Why you just yell, "Bionic Nose!"
 And it will wake from its repose
 And stretch out like a rubber hose
 And wind around, entrapping those
 Thieves who stole those things they chose.
 If a girl's on the train track
 Tied up in the throes
 Of danger by one of her rejected beaus
 And the train's getting closer—the headlight glows
 Why you should hear the ahs and ohs
 When the nose reaches out and the freight train slows
 And the poor girl is saved from the villains like those
 Oh everyone loves it but everyone knows
 Don't let it catch cold—for if it ever blows
 Beware of the boy with the bionic nose.

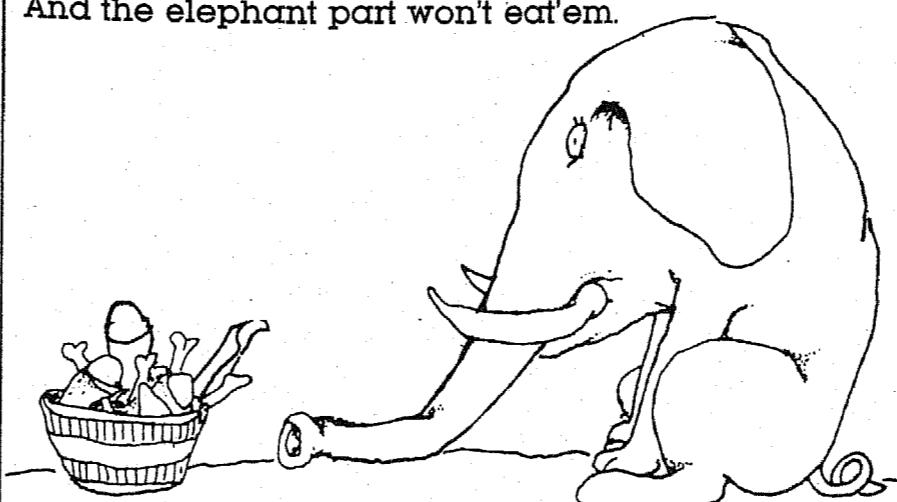
PARROT

On my head there is a parrot
 Living with me in my garret,
 And I feed him bits of carrot,
 And he drinks my finest claret,
 And every candy bar I buy,
 He's always there to share it,
 And every suit that I put on,
 He says, "I wouldn't wear it,"
 And everything I say he says
 Just hasn't any merit,
 And every magazine I read
 He reaches down to tear it.
 And I can no longer bear it,
 I'm moving out, I swear it.
 Can I do it? Do I dare it?
 Yes, I'll leave this silly parrot
 in this garret with the claret.
 So good-bye, you noisy parrot.
 "Good-bye, where are you going?"
 "Away." "Well I'll come with you."
 "No you won't I'm going away from you!"
 "Well then I'll come away from me with you."
 "But then I'd have to go away from you going away from you."
 "But then I'd have to go away from ... oh, forget it, I'll stay."
 "Fine ... got any claret?"

ELEPHOG

I'm worried about my elephog
 (He's half elephant and half dog)
 And he just sits around like a bump on a log,
 And I don't know what to feed him.

All day long he howls and moans
 For the elephant part wants ice-cream cones,
 But the part that's dog wants only bones,
 And the elephant part won't eat'em.



82 *continued from page 43*

the city until this Friday, April 4, to indicate a willingness to go forth with the transfer—or the GSA will prepare to go to public auction with the property.

Earlier this month, Barney Maltby, chief of property transfers for the region sent a letter to Steve McDaniel in which he said that, if the RDA and the city did not proceed with KWHD deal, the GSA itself might enter into a partnership with KWHD so that the proposed development could go forth. He noted that, if that were to happen, it would override any city zoning codes since the U.S. Government is exempt from them. In simple terms, it would allow KWHD to build high-rise buildings—or anything else they wanted—on the property.

This threat was highly unusual. As well, a number of people found it curious that Dent sat at a city commission meeting last month with his arm around Maltby, whispering in his ear.

DEJA VU #1

"We might throw the whole damn thing out the window and do it our own way. We'll give the city until Friday. If they don't do anything by then we'll take action on our own—we're going to tell them what the property will be used for. We'll just go ahead with our own little plan. We can't wait any longer."—Barney Maltby, GSA (5/9/80)

However, this may not be the last word on the matter. Bob Fisher of the national property disbursement division of the GSA in Washington D.C. said that his office can supersede decisions made in Atlanta "if it has reason to do so."

In a telephone interview last Thursday, he expressed some confusion over the current status of the sale and indicated that, the Washington office was unaware that there were any problems with or controversy surrounding the property transfer and that, according to his records, the transfer has already been completed.

He also knew nothing about Maltby's letter to the RDA last month threatening that the GSA itself might enter into a deal with the developer and proceed with the plans outside of the city's coding and zoning regulations.

When asked about that threat, he admitted that it sounded "irregular," and promised to look into the matter.

DEJA VU #2

"This marks the final hurdle in the city's efforts to purchase the prime property and plan long-term development in cooperation with the development Corporation."—KW Citizen (7/77)

The New News about the Forthcoming New Radio News and The New Newspaper

The purchase of John Magliola's controlling interest (55%) of radio station FM 107 is presently being negotiated with Holder Communications.

Harold Holder, the Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, and principal stockholder of American Agronomics, Inc., a vertically-integrated citrus organization which includes the largest orange grove in the world, is also on

the board of directors of KWHD and is rumored to be the man in the wings with the money.

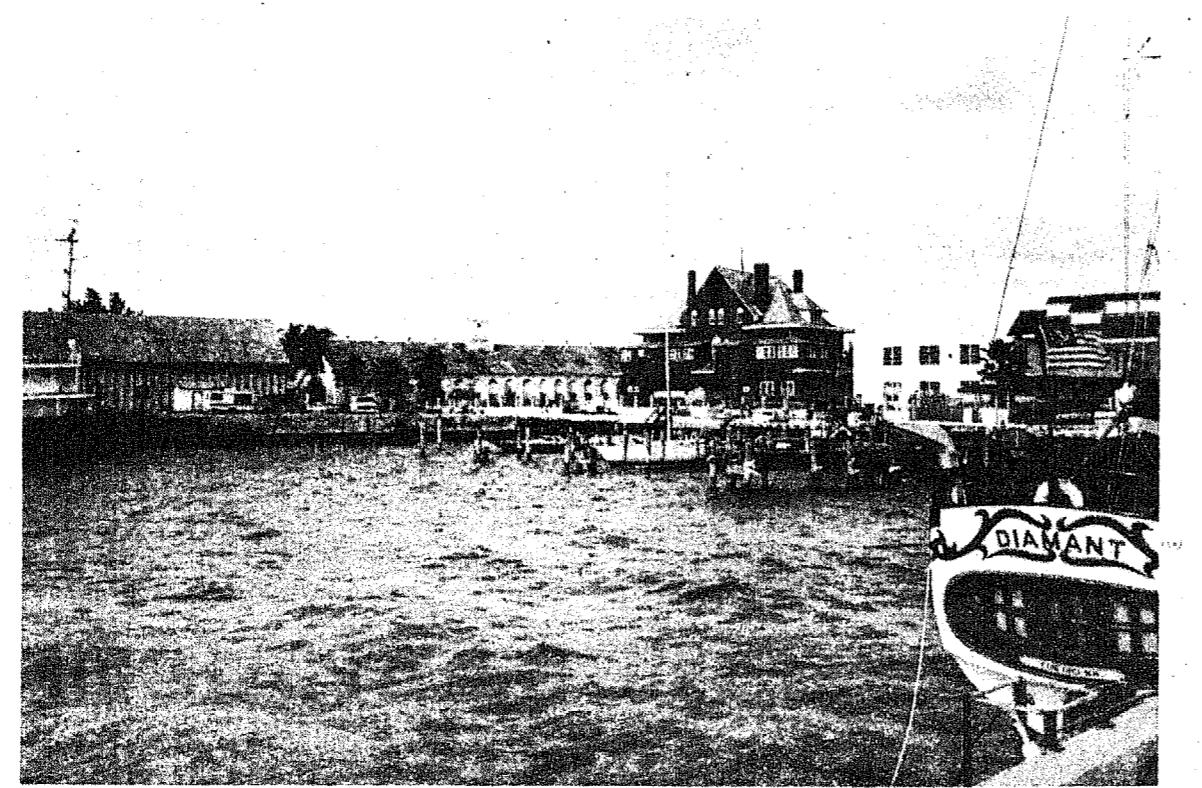
Holder is also Director, Chairman of the Executive Committee, and principal shareholder of Coastland Corporation, a Florida-based community development company which, in 1981, developed the 3,000 acre San Carlos Park in Lee County. He is also a principal shareholder of Cutler-Federal, Inc., the Director of Sun City Industries, President of Golden Harvest, Inc., and the owner of five other private companies. It is commonly rumored that Holder is the real money behind KWHD which, given his holdings, would not be hard to believe.

Holder, presumably aware of the potential to influence public opinion through local media, is not only hoping to take control of the most-listened-to-local radio station. He is also planning

the Truman Annex so that it will both conform to the directives for affordable housing and light industry which had not been addressed in the current plans, as well as reflect the new Rate-Of-Growth (ROG) Ordinance currently being written by the Zoning Board with city planner Art Mosley.

At a City Hall workshop last Monday, Mosley outlined the impact that the new Community Redevelopment Plan will have on the proposed development.

He estimated that, according to present zoning plans and the physical limitations of the island, approximately 5,000 units remain to be built in Key West. Of those, 1,400 (mostly small projects) have already been approved or are "automatic," or not controlled by Commission action. Thus, there remain 3,600 possible units to be constructed in the city. Of those, the



The Custom House as seen from across the harbor
photo by Sharon Wells

to launch a weekly Key West newspaper with a reported press run (the number of copies printed) of 26,000—at least one copy for every citizen over 15.

If a newspaper does appear and Holder does take over the radio station (and its news), will the quality and depth of local news improve or deteriorate even further? (See "Magnum Force" below.)

Let's hope for the best, wish him well, and wait and see.

Resignations and Buying Time

On March 25, RDA board members Dr. Philip Dobert and FM 107 radio station owner John Magliola—who were serving as board members in apparent violation of State Law—tendered their resignations from that agency. They were replaced by Robert Kruse, a charter pilot and contractor, and Lou Hernandez, a former General Services Administration (GSA) employee. The GSA is the governmental agency charged with transferring the property from the U.S. Navy to the City of Key West. It is hoped that Hernandez's experience may be helpful in securing an additional six-month extension on the present April 30 deadline set by the GSA.

The city is requesting a six-month delay so that the newly-reconstituted RDA can revise the Conceptual Redevelopment Plan for land-use of

"share" available to the Truman Annex property (based on linear footage) is only 600 units—less than 1/3 the number of units proposed by Key West Harbour Development Corporation (KWHD) of Sarasota, the RDA's selected developer.

The "mix" of residential units vs. transient units (hotels, motels, guest houses, etc.) is 5 to 1, or 20%. This 20% transient quota would allow the developer to build a maximum total of only 120 such units—less than half the number of units presently planned for a new hotel on Front Street alone. Mosley added that he would further recommend that a new hotel not be included in the development plans saying that it would clearly be better if they were not included in "one monolithic structure."

Of the remaining 480 possible residential units, the city would recommend that 1/2 of them—or 240—be dedicated to low-to-moderate income housing. Given that the median income in Key West is presently \$20,000/year, Mosley defined affordable housing (in terms of one-bedroom units) as follows:

Rental units should be priced at 30% of the median income, or \$500/month.

Purchased units should be priced at 3-times the median income, or \$60,000.

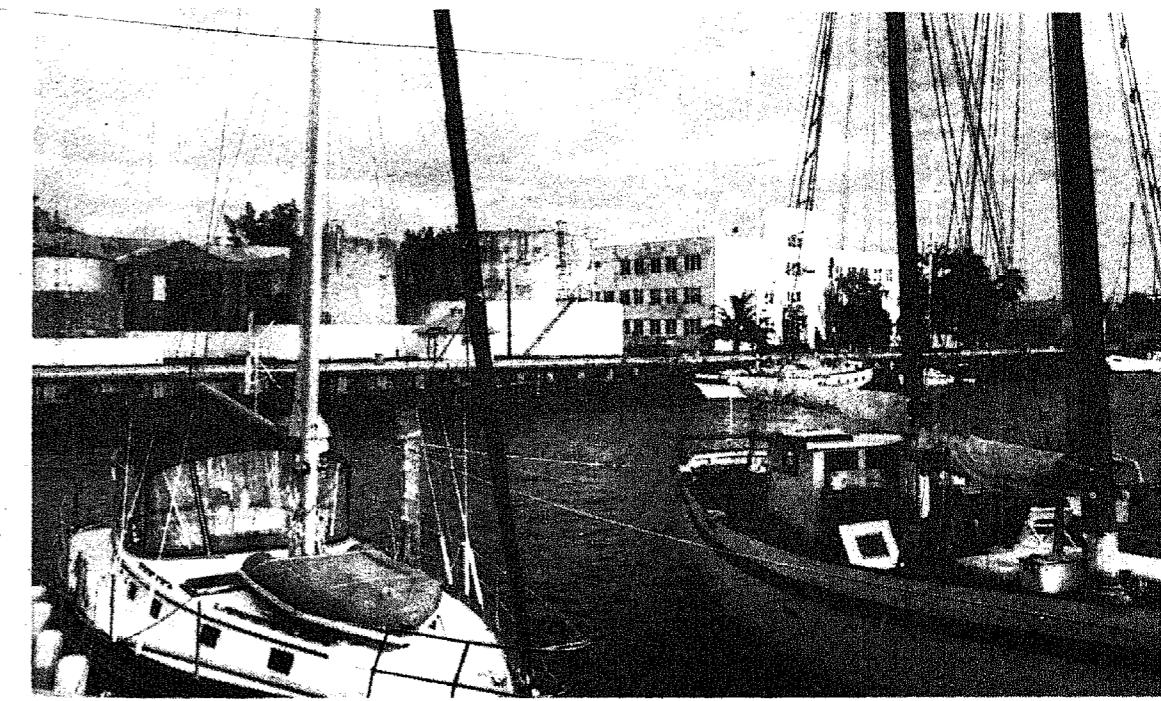
This too is a far cry from the \$400,000-\$500,000 price tag for condo units announced by former RDA Director Dennis Anderson as long ago as 1979.

Deja Vu #3

Board member Philip Dolbert compares the development of the Truman Annex (which he calls the "most valuable piece of property in the State of Florida") to the oil fields of Saudi Arabia. Further, he claims that it is "bad citizenship" to propose affordable housing at the Truman Annex and says, "Only a fool would put a public park or public housing on the Truman Annex." (12/79)

Deja Vu #4

Former RDA Director Dennis Anderson says that the Navy land is being targeted for the wealthy market because "there are no accommodations for the rich in Key West." (5/79)



RDA headquarters
photo by Sharon Wells

Another Questionable Contract

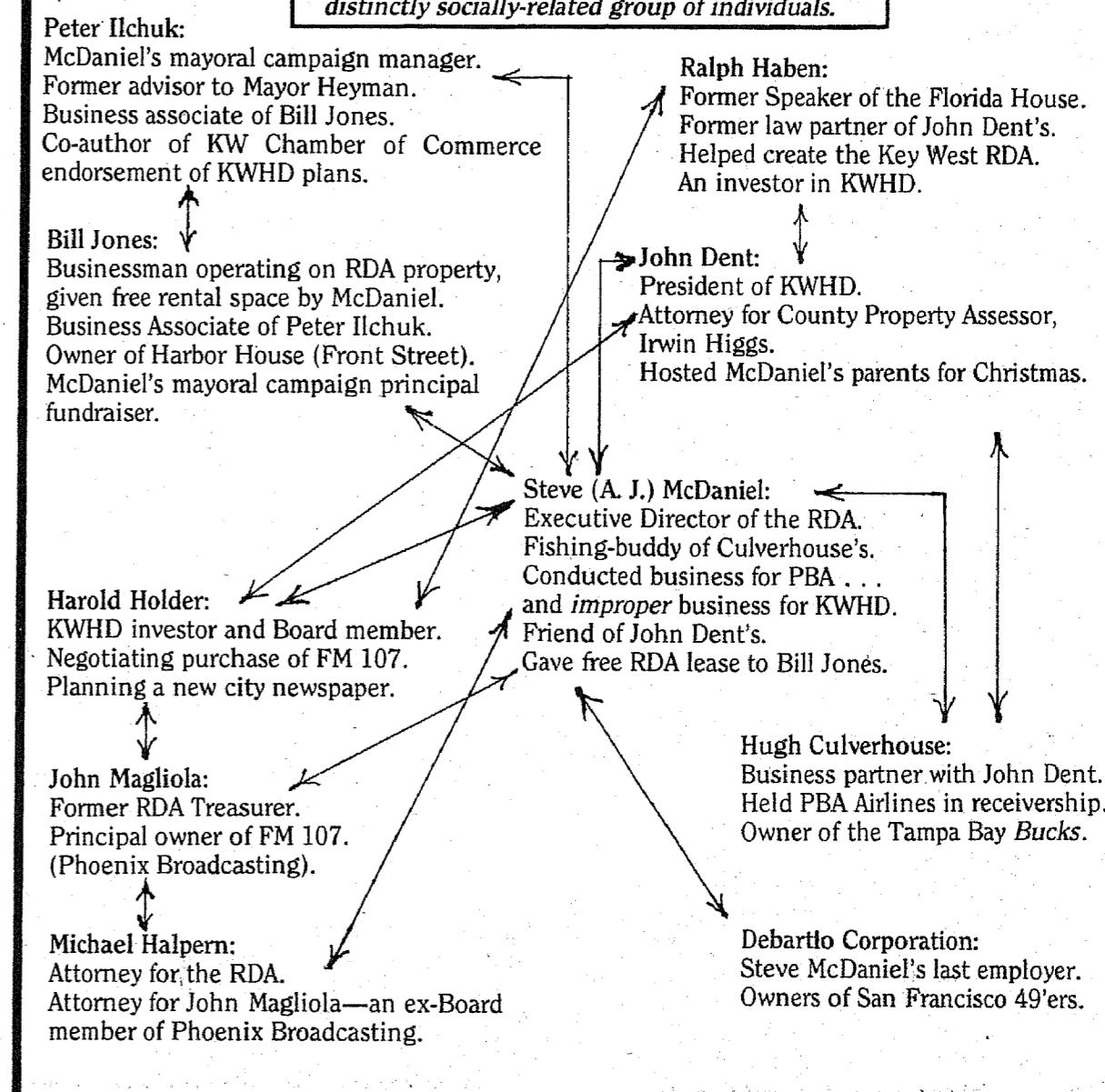
There are a number of questions in regard to Michael Halpern's "contract" to serve as the RDA's attorney:

1. There has never been any discussion whatsoever of a fee structure or of any contract between the RDA and Michael Halpern at any meeting of the RDA—which would seem to indicate that, even if there were a valid

contract, it was not passed at a public meeting.

2. The only mention of hiring Halpern was a motion passed at the RDA's October 2, 1985 meeting which was attended by only three board members and one of them—John Magliola—seems to have been serving on the board at that time in violation of State Law 81-405, which may mean, that even that motion, made by Magliola, was improper.

SOCIOGRAM: A chart giving a graphically representative view of relationships between a distinctly socially-related group of individuals.



3. The bill that Halpern presented two weeks ago at an RDA meeting was questionable in that he demanded and collected payment for \$2,175 for one 24 hour period during which he claimed to have worked 43.5 hours.

4. The contract is undated.

5. It is signed by Board Chairman Paul Sher over a space marked "Director," which is Mr. McDaniel's title.

6. The contract contains a clause which is different from any previous lawyers' contract though the board has never discussed nor approved such a change.

7. The contract may on its face contain a conflict of interest in that Halpern has indicated that part of his fee is a portion (.5%) of the selling price. As such, Halpern has, without board approval, included a closing payment from the firm he is negotiating against.

8. The .5% payment would constitute an interest on the part of Halpern which could prevent him from pursuing the possibility of a reduced selling price from the government.

9. Both Executive Director McDaniel and the RDA's financial director said that there was no contract.

One cannot help but wonder when and where the terms of the RDA contract were determined. The U.S. Justice Department, the Florida Bar Association, and the U.S. Attorney's Office Fraud Division in Miami have all been notified about these matters and an investigation seems likely to follow.

Halpern's "hiring," incidentally, came on the heels of Attorney Robert Feldman's resignation over such issues as the reduction of the re-hire clause of Mr. McDaniel's contract with the RDA and unaddressed problems in the lease agreement—problems which ultimately were revealed in the city-funded \$10,000 Peat, Marwick, Mitchell Report which was highly critical of the terms of the lease, written—not by the city nor the RDA—but by a lawyer who is an investor in the development corporation.

Among the criticisms of the RDA was that they failed on repeated occasions to provide both the city and Peat, Marwick, Mitchell with all documents pertinent to the study.

Deja Vu #5

"Louis Signorelli has filed suit against both the City of Key West and the Key West RDA charging them both with failure to provide public records relating to a recent Navy audit of the RDA. The suit contends that Signorelli was denied permission to reproduce the documents 'contrary to law.'" KW Citizen (3/4/83)

After the release of the highly-critical Peat, Marwick, Mitchell report, the RDA began referring to it as only a "proposed lease."

Deja Vu #6

RDA Board member Gus Mirzaoff, on April 11, 1985 submits a 24-item criticism of the lease agreement between the RDA and KWHD to Steve McDaniel, the RDA Board,

and to then-RDA attorney Robert Feldman. No action is taken by the board. Five months later, Feldman resigns.

Magnum Force

Last week, John Magliola's resignation came after it had been determined that, under oath, he had claimed that his primary place of residence was Charleston, South Carolina. Chapter 81-405 of the Florida Statutes requires that Magliola be a resident of Monroe County to serve on the RDA board.

Ironically, three years ago, at the time Steve McDaniel was being considered for the position of RDA Executive Director, Magliola had been nominated to the RDA board and his right to sit was then being challenged on the same basis. Magliola had reportedly claimed on a radio broadcast that he was a resident and a registered voter who had voted in a previous city election. Supervisor of Elections William "Billy" Freeman however denied that Magliola was in the files. At the time, Magliola was also serving with the Tourist Development Council (TDC), dual positions that RDA attorney Feldman considered to be in conflict with the Florida statutes.

Years ago, John Magliola was known, in South Carolina, as radio announcer "John Magnum." Most Key Westers are familiar with Magliola's distinctive radio voice. What most listeners are not familiar with are his attitudes regarding FCC programming regulations which govern the operation of his station.

Last month, immediately following the city commission meeting at which his right to serve on the RDA board had been challenged by Jimmy Weekley, Magliola approached his chief news reporter, Ray Pace, outside the radio station. There, in a loud voice, ordered Pace to never again interview Commissioners Halloran, Lewis or Weekley, or allow their opinions to be heard over his station. This sort of intentionally directed bias is an absolute violation of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations regarding "fair play" and the public service laws. Further, Magliola left a written note in Pace's typewriter ordering him not to broadcast his own comments (recorded by Pace after the meeting) the following day, despite the fact that he was, as is called in the trade, a "newsmaker."

Deja Vu #7

"What's good for Key West is good for FM 107 and we will never do anything to harm the city."

—John Magliola (1983)

Pace was fired last week from FM 107. The details of his firing are very interesting.

"I was told at a meeting that the station was being purchased but that there'd be no substantive changes in its operation. Thirty-five minutes later, I was told—in a private meeting with General Manager Joe Russo—that I had a choice to leave at that moment or to work one more week. I was being fired. No reason was given except that the new owner was planning to install satellite-fed news. Nonetheless, in the interim, Tom Netting (who SH has learned is an old close friend of Magliola's) would step in for \$175/week."

Let's hope that the new RDA board will truly cooperate with the city government and act in the best interests of the city.

When asked if this represented a danger to fair

news coverage in Key West, Pace said, "Yes. Key West is in very bad shape. Last year we lost Eileen Hammel's local news from TCI. Five months ago we lost Steve Cason, a very fair-minded City Hall reporter, from the *Citizen*. And we lost an excellent reporter, Patty Shillington, from the *Miami Herald*."

"What the city is being fed is controlled news. On a day-to-day basis, Key West is not only uninformed, it is being *misinformed*—and whoever controls the news media can—to a great extent—control public opinion. A recent Birch (broadcasting) survey attributes a whopping 44% of adult listenership to FM 107—an unheard-of market in a field of 7 stations."

As to Pace's credibility and reputation, Monroe County Mayor Wilhelmina Harvey says, "Ray Pace is one of the most professional reporters with whom I have ever been in contact. I've seen him give the opposite views the same amount of attention as my own. He is always fair . . . and that is a rare quality in a reporter. He is to be admired."

Short Circuit

Among the most contradictory and bewildering aspects of recent reports coming from the RDA concerns the threat of a power shut-off to the Truman Annex.

In January, Steve McDaniel announced that the Navy would be cutting off power to the Annex on March 31, the date coinciding with the most recent former closing date for the sale to KWHD.

Within a few days, it was announced that, if the sale went forward KWHD would be so generous as to bring in \$30,000 worth of equipment to solve the problem.

A few days later the news improved further when it was announced that the tab would be closer to \$3,000-\$4,000.

Soon after, McDaniel announced that the cut-off would take place the following April 1st and that the Navy would not guarantee any power or switchover after that date. He added that the Post, Buckley, Schulte & Jernigan engineering study would cost up to \$5,000 and that the total work would take at least three weeks to complete.

At a later city commission meeting, Paul Sher, responding to a question posed by Bleth McHailey of Treasure Salvors, claimed that a solution had been found and that the power would stay on.

Days later, Bobby Padron of City Electric said that his boys were waiting in the wings to do the work and that it would take roughly three days to complete.

Several days later, McDaniel made another statement; the cut-off fears were over. The Navy, City Electric, Post, Buckley, and others had agreed to cooperate.

It is interesting to note that while McDaniel and Sher were running around claiming that the sky was falling, both Padron and Captain Ray Sullivan were doing everything they could to assure City Manager Joel Koford that they were doing everything in their powers to keep the power on.

If this sequence of events and contradictory information is typical of the RDA's new claim of "working in cooperation with the city," we're all in trouble.

Let's hope that the new RDA board will truly cooperate with the city government and act in the best interests of the city.

Family and Health Services

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance	296-2401 or 911
Fire	296-2828 or 911
HELPLINE/Latch Key Program	296-HELP, 294-LINE
Missing Children	1-800-342-0821
Poison Control (24 hours)	1-800-282-3171
Police	911 or 294-2511
Rape Victim Advocacy Program	294-5531 x4766
Sheriff	296-2424

EDUCATION

Adult Education	294-5212
Child Find (FDLRS)	296-7541
Downtown Center, FKCC	294-8481
Exceptional Student Education	296-7541
Florida Keys Community College	296-9081
Monroe County Schools	296-6523
Parenting Skills Classes	296-5911

RECREATION

Armed Services YMCA	296-6616
Boy Scouts	745-3987
City of Key West Recreation Dept.	294-3721
Girl Scouts	745-3737
Monroe County Public Library	294-8488

CHILD ABUSE

Child Abuse Office, FKMH	294-5531
Child Protective Services, HRS	294-9513
Child Protection Team, FKMH	294-5531
Coalition Against Child Abuse	294-5531
Guardian Ad-Litem	296-7518
Parenting Classes, FKMH	294-5531
Parents Anonymous	296-HELP, 294-LINE
Puppet Show	294-5531
Reporting, HRS	1-800-342-9152, 294-1050
Volunteer Child Advocacy Team	294-5531

HEALTH

Al-Anon	296-6616, 294-5531
Ala-Teen	296-6616
Alcoholics Anonymous	296-8654
Blind Services	1-800-342-1828
Chemical Dependency (Unit, Delphos)	294-5531
Childbirth Education	294-3490, 294-4536
Easter Seal	294-1089
Family Planning	294-1021
Hello Baby	294-5531
Helping Hand Stroke Club	294-5531
Hospice	294-8812

Robert W. Douville, M.D., P.A.	296-6616, 294-5531
ROBERT W. DOUVILLE, M.D.	296-6616
Eye Physician and Surgeon	296-6616
1111 12th Street, Suite 107	Key West, Florida 33040
(305) 294-8494	

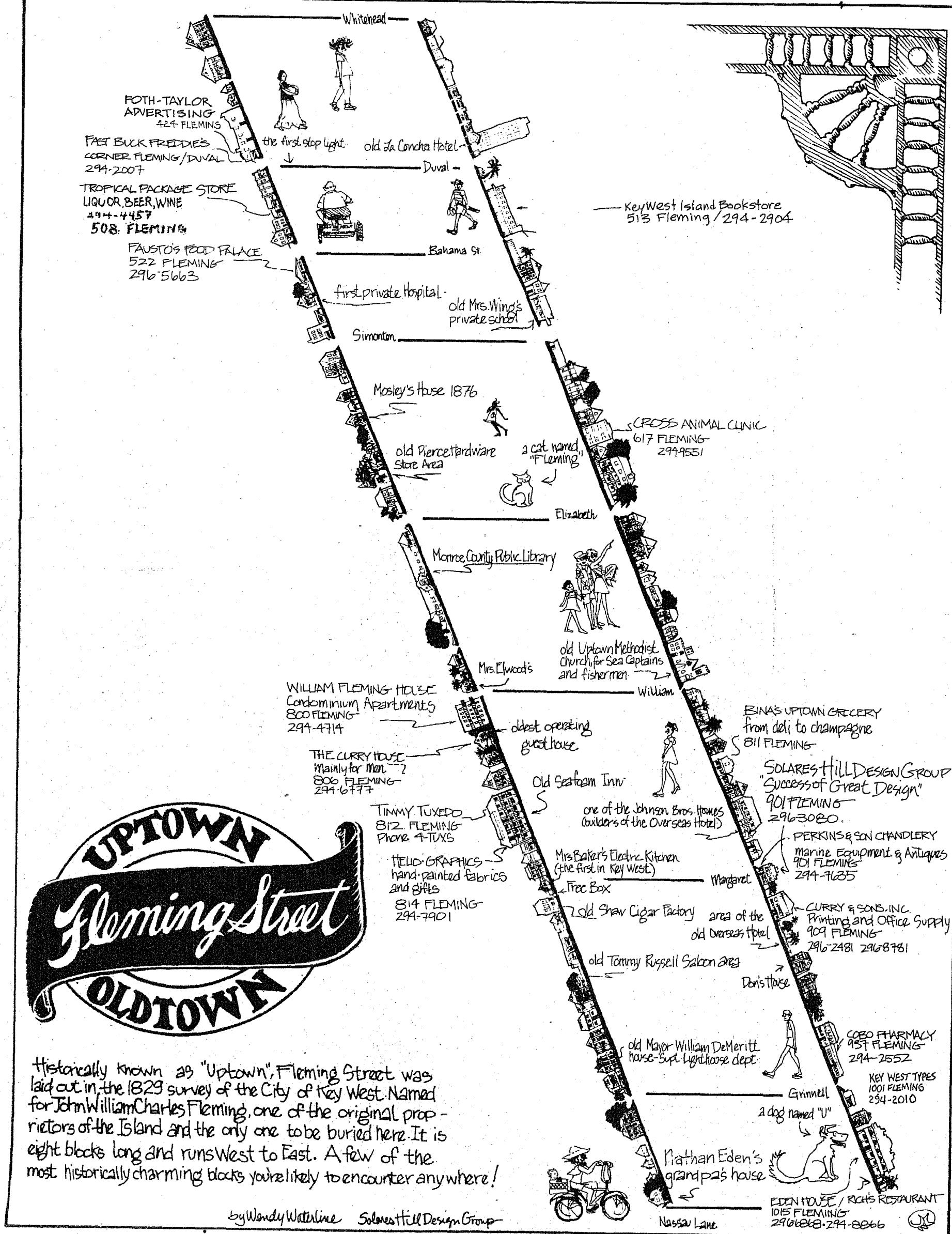
John's Office Equipment	296-6616, 294-5531
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depot	296-6616, 294-5531
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KEY WEST SCHOOL OF REBIRTHING	296-6616, 294-5531

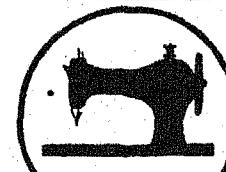
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March Social Events

APRIL 1-30 Jan McArt's Cabaret Theatre.	APRIL 1-2 Free telescope viewing of Halley's Comet, predawn on the beach near FHP station.	APRIL 1 Comet Watch Cruise, midnight to 7 a.m.; Yankee Freedom Fleet.	APRIL 3-16 Flowers & Gardens, a display of photos and paintings: Aristos Gallery.	APRIL 4-5 Comet Watch Cruise to Dry Tortugas; Yankee Freedom Fleet.	APRIL 5 Sweet Mama Stringbean: Tennessee Wms. Fine Arts Center. Outdoor Book Sale: Public Library. Tenth Annual Around The Island Sunfish or Sailboat Race and Awards Party: Key West Sailing Club.	APRIL 5-6 A Souvenir: Red Barn Theatre, "The Sully" Golf Tournament: Key West Golf Course.	APRIL 8 Comet Watch Cruise, midnight to 7 a.m.; Yankee Freedom Fleet.
		April Fool Banquet, Benefit Key West Cultural Preservation Society: at Oldest House. Jail & Bail American Cancer Society Benefit.					
	APRIL 9-30 Paintings by Craig Biondi: West Martello. Irma La Douce: Red Barn thru May 4.	APRIL 12 Outdoor Book Sale: Public Library.	APRIL 12-13 A Souvenir: Red Barn Theatre.	APRIL 13-14 Comet Watch Cruise to Dry Tortugas; Yankee Freedom Fleet.	APRIL 13 2nd Annual Bridal Shower: Casa Marina.	APRIL 16-30 Nite Club Confidential: Jan McArt Cabaret Theatre.	APRIL 18-19-20 Best Little Whorehouse in Texas: Tennessee Wms. Fine Arts Center.
							APRIL 19 Outdoor Book Sale: Public Library.
APRIL 19-20 A Souvenir: Red Barn Theatre.	APRIL 21-30 Torch Song Trilogy: Waterfront Playhouse.	APRIL 25-26-27 Conch Republic Days. Best Little Whorehouse in Texas: Tennessee Wms. Fine Arts Center.	APRIL 25 Conch Republic Days Events: Key West Fishing Tournament Conch Republic Kickoff. Battle of the Tall Ships and Arrival of the Dignitaries: Key West Harbour & Mallory Square. Marathon to Key West Sailing Regatta: Sombrero Marina & Dockside Lounge (Marathon). Pier House Wrecker's Party: on the beach.	APRIL 26 Outdoor Book Sale: Public Library. Conch Republic Days Events: Seven-Mile Bridge Run: north end of bridge. Bed Race and Parade: Duval Street. Basic Training for the Conch Republic Army: Casa Marina Resort & Louie's Backyard. Second Annual Boardsail and	APRIL 26-27 Hobie Cat Regatta: Buccaneer Lodge (Marathon). Fort Reach Military Ball: at The Reach. A Souvenir: Tennessee Wms. Fine Arts Center.	APRIL 27 Annual Plant Ramble: West Martello Tower. Conch Republic Days Events: Hobie Cat Races: The Buccaneer (Marathon) Tenth Annual Kite Festival: Smathers Beach. The Conch Republic Crossing (windsurfing race): Latitude 24. Decorating of the "Conch Cruiser" Bicycle Fleet: Smathers Beach.	APRIL 30 Key West to Marathon Offshore Power Boat Race

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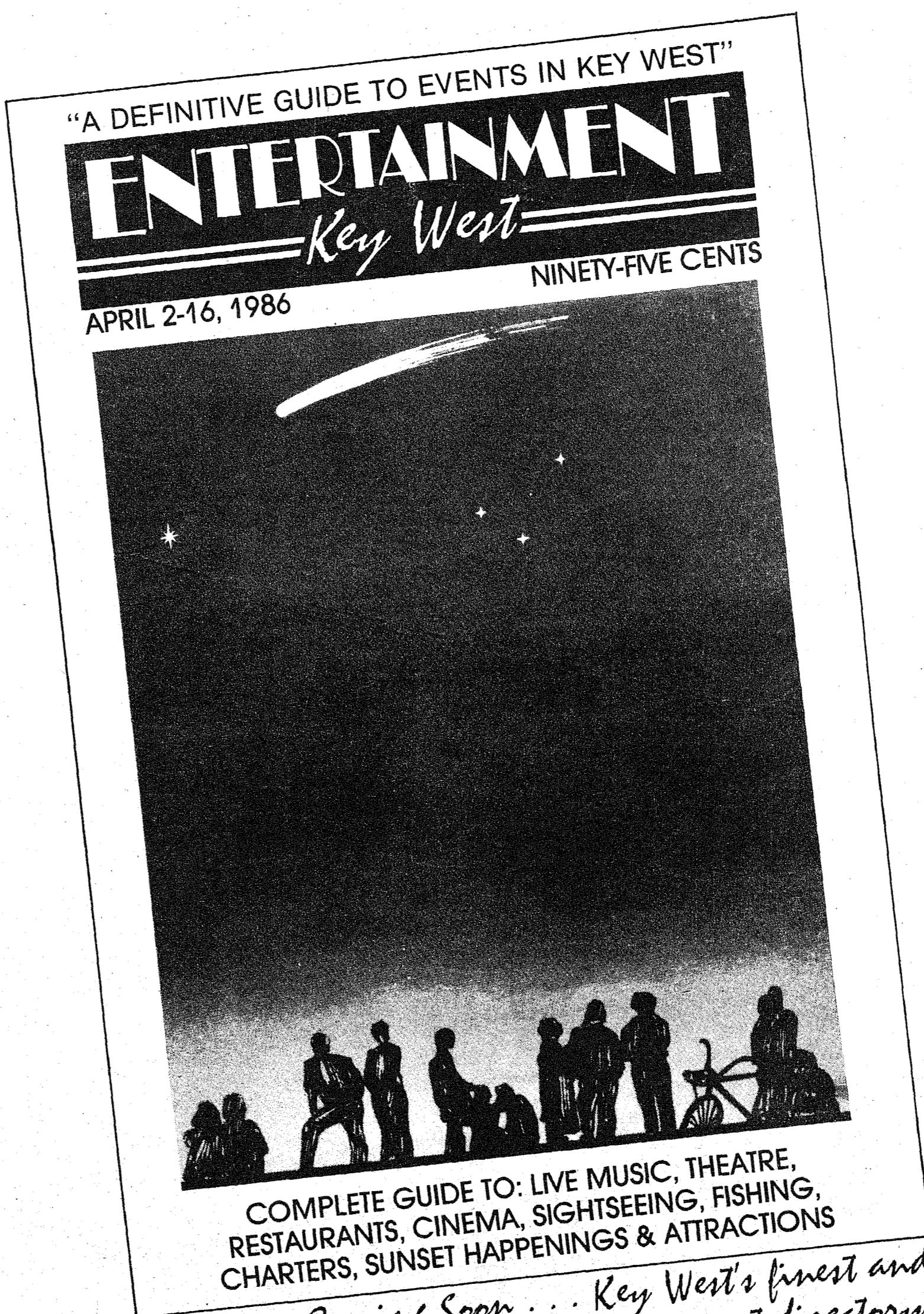
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