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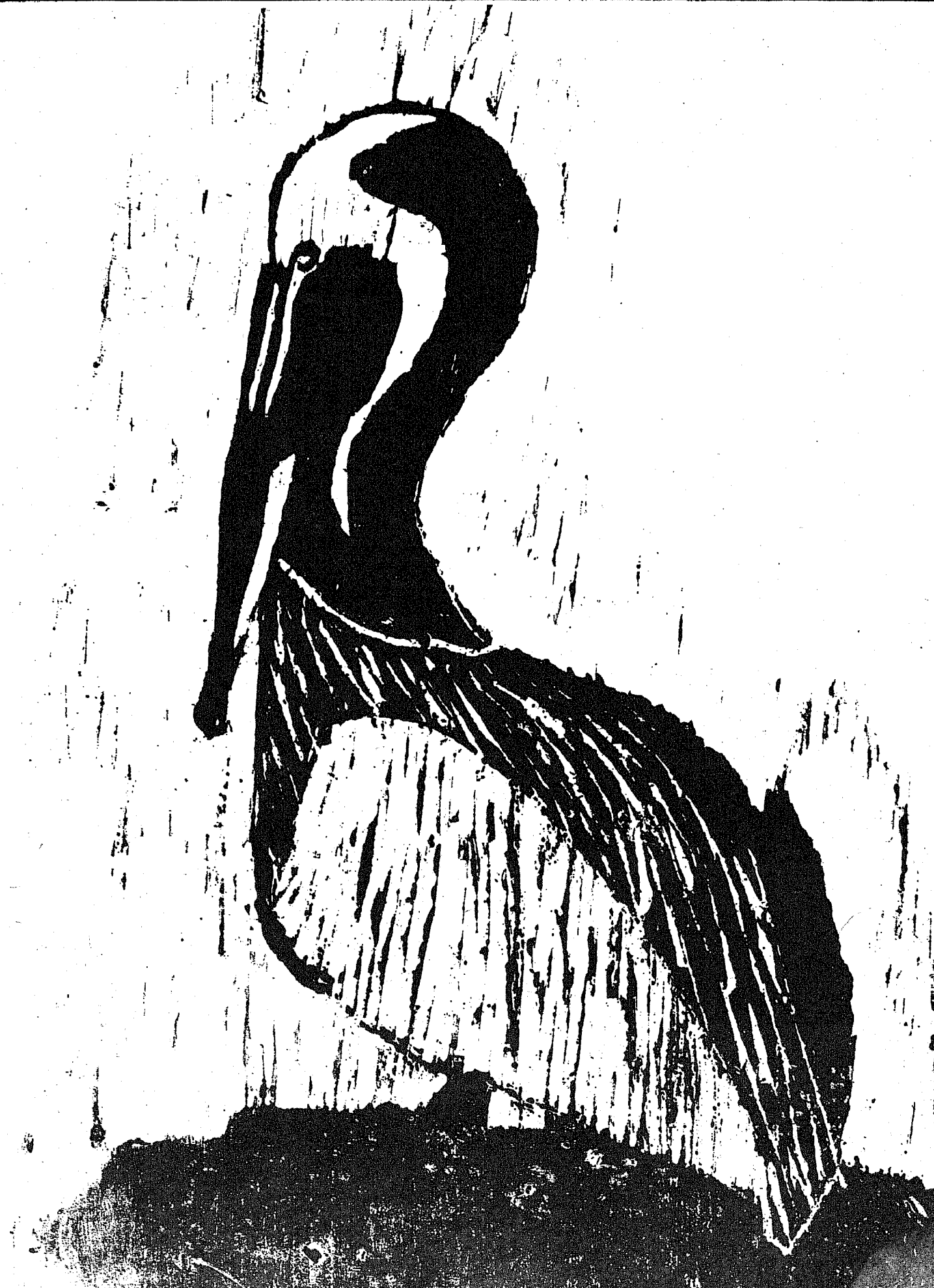
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Key West, Florida

November, 1978





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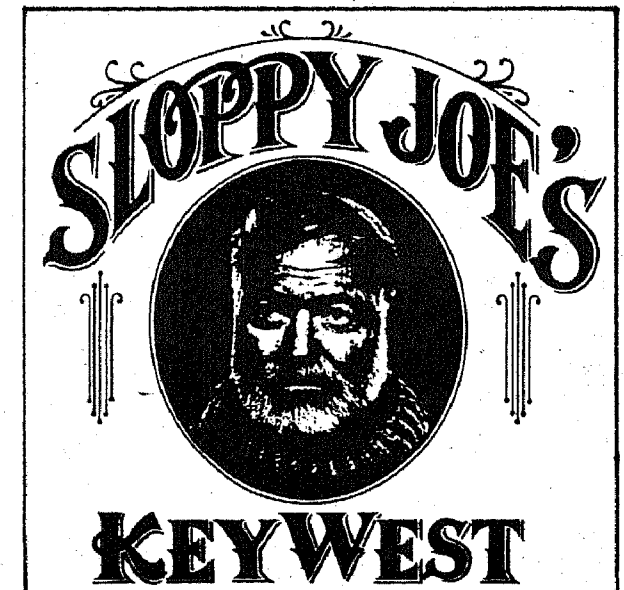
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From the Editor

Hallo --

I WENT TO the N.A.A.C.P. Awards night banquet a few nights ago to see Bill West-ray receive an award for his service to the community. This gave me great personal pleasure, since I have been involved with Bill for a number of years now and feel that he is the most outstanding citizen in Key West. He has given freely of his time, energy, talent, and, when necessary, his pocketbook to forward those causes that he believes in. Other than the thanks that he has received verbally over the years, this is the first formal expression of the community's thanks that he has received. I congratulate the N.A.A.C.P. for their excellence of choice in giving Bill this award and, also, for their presentation of awards to Ann Barnes, Glenwood Lopez, Chester Connors, and Roy Grant -- a first-rate cast of hard-working and concerned citizens.

WHILE I'M GIVING the nod to some people, I would like to mention the name of a man I think is due praise who rarely receives it from this newspaper. I was very pleased to hear that the \$3,000,000 grant for the improvement of some of the housing projects had come through, and, to a great extent, credit must go to Charles "Sonny" McCoy, Mayor of Key West. He has spearheaded many of the grants that we have gotten, and I say, "Good work, Sonny."

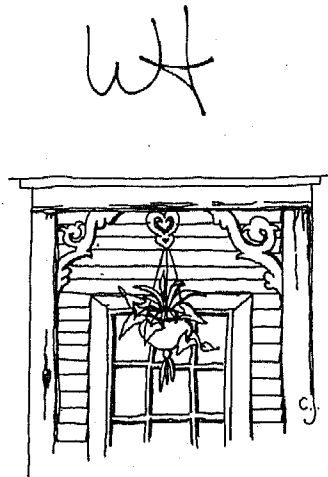
WHILE I WAS bicycling by the Bull recently, someone yelled from the inside, "Print more John Hellen," and I couldn't agree more. He has done a piece for us on jogging, and I expect that it will be in next month's issue.

SHERIFF BILLY FREEMAN has been making the headlines of late. He won his court case to permit him to give psychological and polygraph tests to his deputies. Billy

went out on a limb to try to do this, and he has received a lot of grumbling from some of his men about it. It may be an unpopular act for some, but I think that the Sheriff is acting in what he feels is the public interest in doing this and is not worried by whatever unpopularity may occur. Also, he has sounded the call for consolidation of the local police force into the County force. This is an excellent idea, we feel, and we are glad that he has brought forth the proposal.

SPLendid NEWS that the Island Roots Festival will take place here again this year. This was an outstanding success last year.

SEE YOU in December.



Cover artist this time is Gay Dalton, who is a teacher in the program for exceptional children at May Sands School.

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CESAR'S 77th

by Malcolm Ross

photos by Richard Marsh

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22nd, marked the 77th birthday of one of Key West's most familiar and popular figures, Cesar Catala. The Catala residence on Catholic Lane was the scene of the congenial open house which attracted about thirty friends and well-wishers. It was hosted by Cesar and Zelda, his wife and companion for thirty-odd years. The eyes of visitors were

active one, but parallels closely the mainstream of Key West history from cigar-making to house carpentry and restoration. Cesar's paternal grandfather was a Spanish diplomat sent to this hemisphere by the Court of Madrid as a mediator at the time of the Spanish American War, and his great-grandmother on his mother's side came to these shores as the victim

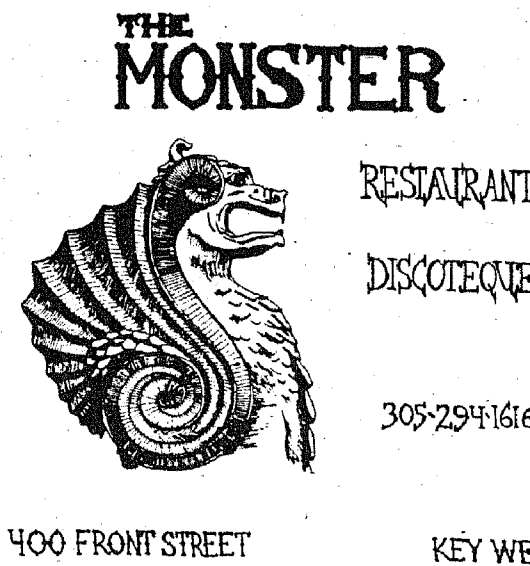
In a few years (1911 to be exact) a railroad was destined to extend a tenuous arm out into the Gulf of Mexico only to have it wrenched off violently about twenty years later by a savage hurricane that would make the island an island again. Within a few years mankind would again succeed in creating a connection with the mainland -- this time a highway that would bring tourists flocking with bulging pockets and give a shot in the arm to the economy of the sleepy island community. Many changes were to occur in these 77 years, some of which Cesar and other old-timers lament.

IN THE DAYS when Key West was as well known for its cigars as it now is for its warm winter climate, Cesar began work (he was 14 at the time) in the cigar factories, which were the mainstay of the Key West economy. Key West at one time boasted of sixty or more large factories and countless small ones during its prime years of cigarmaking, and Cesar worked a number of years in five of them. Most of the original buildings which housed the cigar factories have since been razed, but two of those in which he worked still stand, although they are no longer connected with cigar production. One factory, the former Santaella plant on Staples Avenue, is now the location of the Suddath Storage Company, and the former Gato factory on Simonton Street, one of the largest if not the largest cigar factory of the time, is now the navy commissary.

CESAR SPENT HIS TIME mainly in two closely related aspects of the intricate cigar-making industry -- namely as "picker" and "packer." The two jobs were so closely tied together that there was even a "Cigar Pickers and Packers Union." As "picker" he was required to "pick" from the finished cigars and separate them into colors. This was no mean feat, as it required a sharp eye and a good north light to memorize the over 150 colors in which tobacco leaves choose to come. His job as "packer" required the proper "packing" and arrangement of the cigars (which had already been "picked") in the box, particularly the top layer.

The Victorian Age was slow to die (some authorities maintain that despite the demise of its monarch and namesake it remained in full swing until the end of World War I!), and society's finely honed sensibilities dictated that a box of cigars be properly shaded and packed in a fine wooden box. Wooden cigar boxes were indeed the style at that time (no one would think of buying a cigar that came out of a cardboard box!), and they were generally made out of an aromatic cedar whose fragrance was totally compatible with the taste of the tobacco.

WORK IN A CIGAR FACTORY could be



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Cesar

treated to the charming Catala environment of early Key West memorabilia, and their palates were treated to such delicacies as stuffed mushroom caps and tressie pie. One of the highlights of the evening, however, the showing of a Key West documentary in which Cesar had played a small part, somehow failed to transpire.

CESAR (make sure you don't spell it "Caesar" -- although the pronunciation is the same) has an interesting history and will readily relate bits and pieces of his memoirs to the interested listener. His 77 year lifespan has not been an in-

of a shipwreck. This makes Cesar a Conch four times over!

HE WAS BORN in the dawning years of this century, growing up on a tiny, time-forgotten island, a paradise of exotic tropical fruits and plants, filled with birdsong: a dot of land frequented by sailing ships, totally unaware that somewhere out there the twentieth century lurked, threatening to taint this other Eden. Cesar is, incidentally, an expert on birdcalls and can faithfully reproduce the calls of virtually all the birds of the Florida Keys.

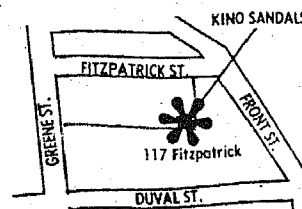
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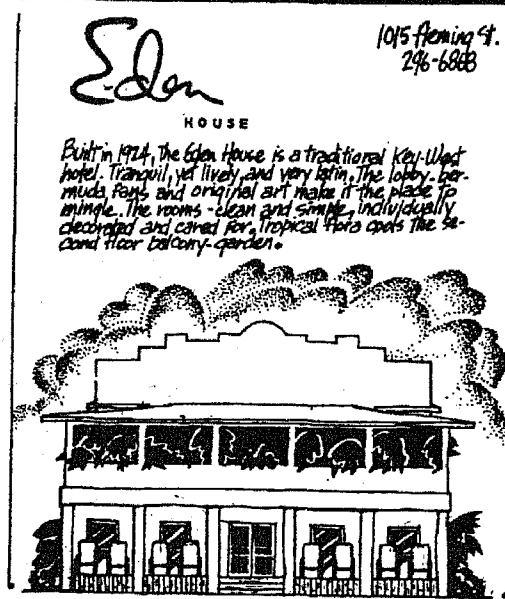
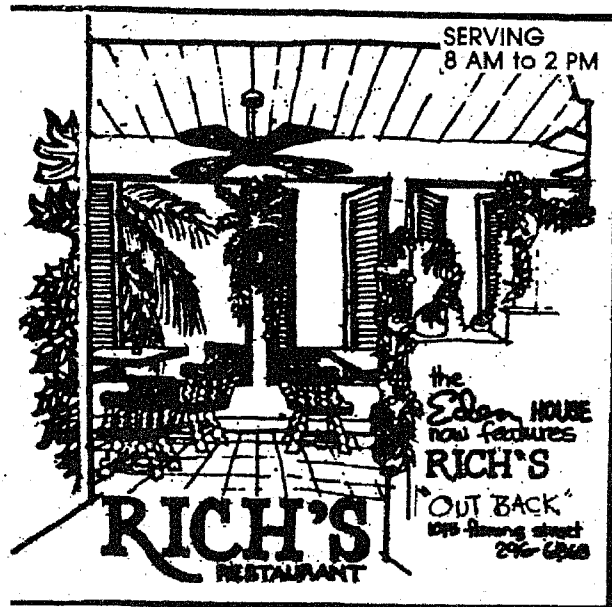
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educational as well as lucrative. One interesting aspect of the factory life was the employment of "readers" by the factory to read aloud to the employees, thereby making their work more pleasant and time pass more quickly. Radio was in its infancy, and "piped in" music

in the classroom! Today his pleasures center on a good cigar (preferably Arturo Fuente), and the gift of a box of cigars (albeit in cardboard) will amuse him for hours as his knowledgeable hands skillfully arrange and rearrange its contents.



Zelda at the party table

(which requires little mental involvement anyway) had not been thought of, so it was the "reader's" job to respond to requests and to present a varied program of "readings" ranging from "great books" to current editions of newspapers.

At the time of their marriage, his wife, Zelda, was astounded at Cesar's vast knowledge of the classics of world literature, but he assured her that this information was attained while he was in the cigar factories' employ rather than

CIGARMAKING IN KEY WEST today is at best a token effort, but Cesar still has a personal collection of artifacts related to cigarmaking ranging from the handsome leather-slung cigarmaker's chairs to cigar molds and the crocks used to keep tobacco leaves moist to a cumbersome cast iron press for forcing the cigars into their cedarwood boxes.

The days when cigarmaking was king came to an abrupt end when labor disputes

caused most of Key West's cigar factories to close and move to Tampa. Other forms of employment found Cesar as a chauffeur behind the wheel of the first automobile to be seen in Key West, as a plumber (he even co-authored the original plumbing code of the City of Key West), general handyman, and even as a professional rhumba dancer!

Cesar is also a barometer buff (he owns several) and a hurricane watcher and predictor. At the slightest report of a tropical disturbance he can be found with a magnetic hurricane tracking chart plotting the course of the stormy lady. His predictions of the storms' paths generally come true with startling accuracy.

COOKING IS ALSO a Catala specialty, particularly of the Spanish variety, and both he and Zelda have been well known



Guests in the Catalas' living room over the years as creators of appetizing cuisine. For many years the couple catered for large parties, particularly Navy functions. Their seasonal feast during the Christmas season has become legendary in Key West.

THE PASSION FOR restoration of Conch houses so currently in vogue (not to be confused with "renovation") has found a

protagonist in Cesar, who is as skilled at replacing the traditional tongue and groove boards of a Conch house porch as rebuilding the old window and door shutters that are so much a part of the tropical motif.

No Johnny-Come-Lately to the field, Cesar would not be so quick to attach the word "restoration" as to refer to it simply as "necessary maintenance!" It has always been less expensive and wasteful to repair than to rebuild or replace, and Cesar's penchant for restoration also extends to furniture. He has revived many a tired and worn piece of wicker or replaced a termite-eaten section of an old pie safe. Many of the antique treasures with which Zelda and he surround themselves were originally castoffs -- destined for the dump or elsewhere -- when Cesar's sensitive eye rested on them and recognized the silk purses in sow's ear disguises.

ANY FORM of restoration requires infinite patience, but Cesar's patience is probably nowhere more eloquently demonstrated than in the pieces of wicker which fill the house on Catholic Lane. Although the purist may cry "foul" at the thought, Cesar has replaced some of the strands of damaged wicker with lengths of insulated electrical wire, which when painted would fool the eye of an expert. This simple deception has in the process made the pieces stronger and longer-lasting than they originally were. Some may say it demonstrates the soul of the antiquarian or it is merely a good example of the scavenger's art, but whatever it is called it is shared equally by both Cesar and Zelda, and the results as demonstrated by their attractive home are stunning.

IT IS HOPED that Cesar will have many more years as active and productive as the past 77, and the couple will continue to share the interesting experiences that make them so sought after as story-tellers and relators of anecdotes of by-gone Key West.

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SOUTH BEACH AGAIN

by Mack Dryden

THE LONG and muddled controversy surrounding the South Beach concession isn't over yet, but it looks like the public might win a round this season.

At this point it appears that the squabbling is among present, former, and alleged stockholders of Island Renovations, Inc., the corporation that holds the lease on the city-owned property at the Atlantic end of Duval Street. From the point of view of those who want to see South Beach restored to at least some of its former glory, that's good news and bad news. The bad news is that the internal conflicts have already bogged down progress on the property. The good news is that from evidence we've seen South Beach could be a nice place to hang out this season regardless of the outcome of the internal scrapping.

WHEN WE WERE THERE October 17 and 20, the interior of the restaurant was clean and in good repair, the restrooms were working, a nice pool table was ready to be played on, the beach was immaculate, newly planted crotons were flourishing, and the outside of the place was weedy but not seedy. In addition, a cable marked with buoys had been strung about 100 yards offshore to keep out the powerboats that currently plague the Sands beach. The one "improvement" we questioned was the fence the management wants to put up.

"If we're going to maintain a decent place for people to come, we're simply going to have to control the flow of traffic onto the beach," said Tom Baker, the property manager who is sprucing the place up. "We want as many people as possible to come in here, so we don't want vagrants and bums running them off asking for handouts. The purpose of the fence is to cull out the undesirables so the people who come can feel comfortable."

He said a quarter or 50-cent fee would be charged at the gate if the fence is erected, and that the fence would be a permanent, chest-high, see-through picket fence. "It wouldn't be an eyesore the neighbors will complain about," he said.

CITY MANAGER Ron Stack told us the corporation will have to come to the city commission and ask specifically that they be allowed to (a) erect a fence around city property and (b) charge admission to the beach. Considering the furor that was raised the last time a fence was built there, it appears that the corporation will have to come up with some very convincing arguments to get the city's nod. As for getting approval to charge admission to a public beach, the corporation will no doubt have an uphill battle there, too.

THE FIRST DAY we were there, the city fire marshal and building inspector were there, too. Someone had protested when Baker started erecting a temporary bamboo fence to cordon off the property, and the building inspector stopped its construction. Someone had also complained about a small powerboat that was sitting on a trailer next to the building (Baker said it was new and had never been in the water), and the fire marshal ordered it moved. Baker had to send his fence builders home and arrange for the boat to be towed off.

"This is the kind of nit-picking crap we've been having to put up with," he said. "Every day it's something else. Any time we cough too loud somebody calls the city on us."

THE SECOND DAY we were there, loud coughing was hardly the problem. Disco music was blaring from outside speakers,

and the din could easily be heard all the way to South Street. Apparently the neighbors complained, and we think they were entirely justified in doing so.

If most of what is planned for this season isn't accomplished, the city has promised to evict Island Renovations once and for all for non-compliance with the lease (the corporation has held the lease for almost four years and has hung onto it by the skin of its teeth a couple of times).

THE RESTAURANT will be the hub of activity, but full meals probably won't be served this season ("The kitchen equipment in here is basically junk," said Baker. "We'll need \$25,000 worth of stuff before we can really get started serving meals."). The emphasis this season will be on ice cream, with a full line-up from splits to sundaes planned, Baker said. Soft drinks and sandwiches are already being sold, but alcohol will neither be served nor allowed on the beach.

In addition to the pool table, Baker said he wants to make backgammon and other table games available. Outside, he plans to put up a volleyball net, a tetherball game, a shuffleboard court, and "the southernmost hopscotch course in the U.S.A."

THE LEASE REQUIRES that a lifeguard be on duty from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., and Baker said he has three persons studying for certification (we saw a Red Cross lifesaving book on the sandwich counter on our visit). The lease also requires that a bathhouse with showers, toilets and lockers be kept open eight hours daily six days a week. At this writing there is one working shower outside, restrooms for both sexes, but no lockers in evidence.

HAVING LOOKED the place over up close, our conclusion is that with the recent improvements, South Beach is al-

ready a nice place to hang out. If the additional improvements are finished by Thanksgiving, the beach could again become a busy, family-oriented oasis close to downtown.

The internal warring is as complicated as it is bitter, with the opposing factions charging each other with criminal acts and fraud.

THE MAN who is madder than anyone else is Bill Doorley, who with a couple of other stockholders in Island Renovations held the lease from early 1975 until this past summer. Doorley claims that stop-work orders, harassment from neighbors, and foot-dragging by city officials were the obstacles that prevented him from putting the concession in full operation for the three and a half years he held the lease.

"It's been a nightmare," said Doorley, "a complete mad hornet's nest. If the city handles the Navy property the way they did this they'll never get anything from it."

Doorley claims that controlling interest in Island Renovations was criminally wrested from him. At this writing he is officially barred from setting foot on the property.

DOORLEY'S STORY is that he held 60 per cent of the shares in the corporation, with the rest divided among Eben Davis, Walter Krayner and five lesser shareholders. Unknown to Doorley, a wealthy corporate lawyer from Ohio named Craig Patton bought Davis' and Krayner's shares, which Krayner said amounted to 50 per cent of the corporation. Then Patton bought 10 per cent from Doorley to complete the coup and claimed the controlling interest was his. This summer Circuit Judge Ignatius Lester named Patton the receiver of the property until the question can be resolved in court.

continued on page 10



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notes and antic-dotes

by Dorothy Raymer

KEY WEST enjoys an enduring reputation of being "a party town," although the extreme liveliness has abated somewhat since the departure from the island of various military contingents. However, the town still exhibits animated festivities, especially in the winter season on weekends.

THERE WAS A TIME when even middle of the week nights were given over to what was known as "wingdings," "bashies," "whoop-dedo" -- and the party line was a-tingle, almost continuously, with costume parties.

The Navy, markedly the submarine divisions, went in for elaborate events and extravaganzas, with participants dressed up according to designated themes.

Local naval retirees, like Roy and Barbara Anderson and Marge and Bill Westray, were always active in the party-show events at Fort Taylor.

I REMEMBER one such celebration in which a bevy of submariners arrived in regalia appropriate to the theme, "Neptune's Court," with even a mermaid in a portable bathtub luring land-lubbers.

Largely a civilian affair, although hosted by the Navy's Barbara and Walter Schlech, it was a "Come As Your Favorite Song" occasion. The winner was a daring interpretation of a prevalent jukebox tune, "The Half-Fast Waltz." One of the Royal Air Force officers, stationed here with Helicopter Squadron One, swaggered boldly around with one half of his trousers hacked off in the rear, permitting a southern exposure in keeping with the song title when pronounced on the double. Try it verbally.

A RECENT ISSUE of *Time Magazine* contained a box feature concerning the revival in "toga parties" that have been sweeping campuses across the country ever since the movie *Animal House* was released to delight audiences.

While I was viewing the cinema version of this fraternity house toga party, the vivid recollection of a Roman Holiday Rites of Spring fete, celebrated in May of 1952, surged back in memory.

The "when-in-Rome" festival was held in honor of a young couple from New York City, house guests of Jeane Porter Kirk, who is now Mrs. Art Poirier of San Francisco. She is the daughter of "Miss Jessie," who is Mrs. E.L. Newton of Key West.

THE FANCIFUL EVENT took place in my apartment at 616 Duval Street, upstairs over what was then the Southernmost Flower and Gift Shop. There was a spacious former dance studio in the second story that accommodated partygoers, as well as space downstairs. The entire area was arranged in a Roman style scene with household gods of Lares and Penates, a temple altar, and a pool with a phallic symbol of Pompeian design.

All illumination was by votive candlelight inside and torchlight outside. There were no couches on which to loll, but pallets and cushions lined the walls, and a couple of noble Roman thrones were set up. Modern note was carried out in the bar and a buffet. Decorations of flowers, palm fronds, leafy bowers prevailed throughout the setting.

GUESTS ARRIVED in costumes of considerably more variety and ingenuity than just draped bedsheets, although those, too, were converted into Roman garments. Nobles and royalty wore a touch of purple. Laurel wreaths (sapidilla and oleander were reasonable substitutes) adorned the males. Scantly clad handmaidens and slaves, a fugitive from a Roman galley ship, a brace of

gladiators in foil armor, and a chariot driver with a whip were represented.

Joe Hurka, a Key West teacher posed as Marc Antony, came to praise Caesar, and found half a dozen of them! Exotic priestesses, a Phoenician trader, a Roman Athlete Afoot, were part of the throng, plus Nero, who had no violin, but played a flute.

Costume prize was awarded the most unique pair. Visiting Visigoths, barbarians who invaded Rome, clad in animal skins, mostly fake, but with a couple of motheaten racoon pelts in their ensemble. The lady barbarian, Deedee Agricola, was arrayed in sack cloth with a real hambone twisted through her primitive topknot. One rugged individual guest was disguised as a Roman candle.

AS FOR ME, I was draped in flowing seven veils as Herod's infamous daughter, and bore a platter with two miniature chamber pots on it. The Navy expression "the head" was utilized, and my placard proclaimed "Two Heads Are Better Than One."

After a midnight curfew, the Romans went aroamin' in the gloamin', scattering to the traditional Seven Hills of the city -- well, in this case beyond Solares Hill -- with a Roman bathos finale.

One group decided to go swimming at the Sun and Sands Beach Club, even though it was closed at that late hour and did not permit swimming after dark.

The cavorters in the water abandoned suits after submerging and tossed swim gear up along the shore.

But somebody notified the police, and a patrol car approached the site, sirens going fullblast. This, of course, alerted the swimmers.

ONE OF THEM who was still clad rushed to the edge of the beach and tossed bathing suits willy-nilly into the water. When the cops summoned the culprits ashore, every one of them had managed to put on haphazard covering, ill-assorted though it was. The police, unusually tolerant, simply warned the chastened swimmers to disperse.

The second unit of aftermath celebrants, of which I was one, piled into a car -- eight of us -- and drove to a deserted stretch of Boca Chica beach. There we entered the shallow water, splashed about, disporting with abandon, and finally abandoned our swimsuits, throwing them up on the sand.

All went swimmingly, so to speak, until an automobile loaded with sailors pulled up and focussed headlights on the water-shore line, pinning our party in the glare.

We all crouched in the water until acute mosquito hordes attacked. So all skinny-dippers decided to risk a dash for our car, pausing only to scoop up swim attire, and drove off. There was a mad scramble as the passengers got into suits as we departed.

Now for the denouement.

AS A RESULT of the Roman rites of spring and fertility, the visitors from New York married upon return to the big city, and nine months to the day after the festivity, twins were born to them. I understood later that the babies were girls, and so were not named Romulus and Remus.

Another party idea of yesteryear was based on a Bridey Murphy motif of reincarnation. All the guests devoted their costumes to what they thought they might have been in past centuries.

Favorite characters of novels, historical figures throughout the ages, subjects related to famous artists and paintings inspired merrymaking.

One artists' gathering brought out Richard Brooks as "Self Portrait." He simply hung a picture frame around his head and face.

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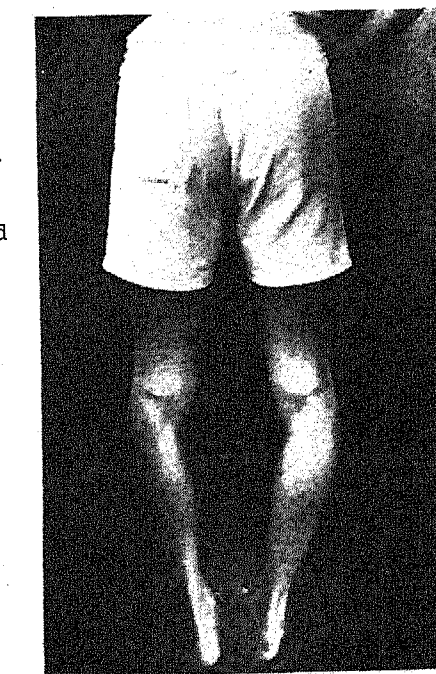
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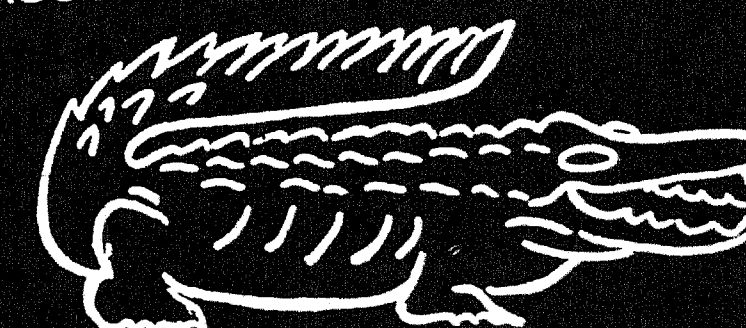
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And his little rump is fat

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And asking "What be that?"

by Jody Adams

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ADELINE ROSS suspended a bottle of flavoring from her neck, interpreting "Vanilla abstract."

Lee Albert, local painter, appeared as Van Gogh with a bandaged head, portraying the artist just after he had chopped off an ear and sent it to a scornful lady of the evening.

PERHAPS THE MOST bizarre costume party of all was hosted by the late Earle Johnson at the Oldest House. Guests were requested to show up wearing something black in recognition of a macabre theme -- a funeral.

The central character was Rex Brumgart, who used to drive a Conch Tour Train. He was arrayed in white veiling and was ensconced in a real coffin as the "bride" of the notorious necrophile, Count von Cosel, who kept a corpse at his hideaway for eight years after removing the body from the Key West cemetery.

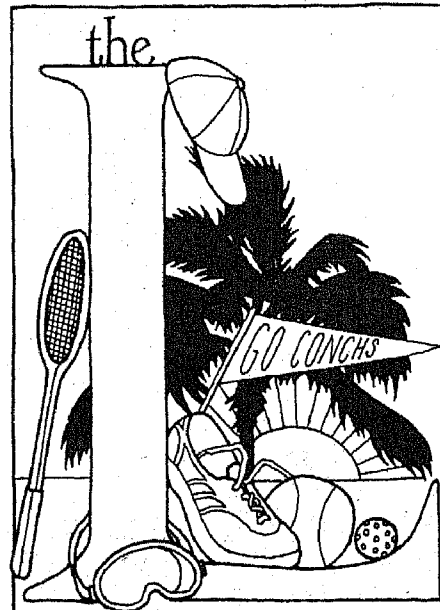
Rex had a wreath of tiny flashing lights encircling his head. The lights flashed off and on, powered by a battery which was concealed in his robe.

At intervals, he sat up in the coffin and murmured, "I need another martini. I'm just dead tonight!"

SOUTH BEACH continued from page 7

"Patton drew up illegal stock certificates to get control," said Doorley. "I absolutely have documentation showing that other stockholders and myself own the corporation. I put three and a half years and \$100,000 in that property, and if I lose it some other heads are going to roll. That was the whole ball of wax, my whole inheritance. What have I got to lose?"

BAKER, PATTON'S PROPERTY manager, said Doorley "sold the same shares several times," ran up debts he couldn't pay off, and had "twelve or fifteen unemployed people" living on the property while he was in charge. Baker showed us a shabby, litter-strewn room above the restaurant where he said Doorley lived



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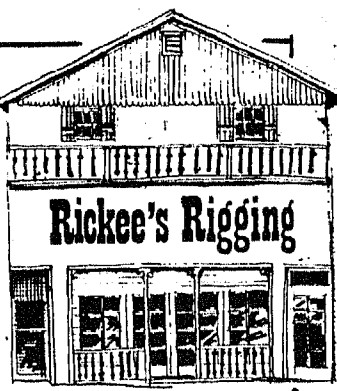
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with these people for two years. "And I'd like somebody to show me where he put \$100,000 into this place," he said. (Doorley had nothing good to say about Baker, either.)

Walter Krayer said he was surprised Doorley is still in Key West. "Nobody would loan him any money because he was irresponsible," said Krayer. "He has a terrible credit rating, and he never could have done anything with the place by himself."

AS FOR THE OWNERSHIP of the corporation, Krayer said, "I've got documents proving I had 25 per cent, I know Eben (Davis) had 25 per cent, and I personally saw Doorley sell 10 per cent to Patton. As far as I can see Patton's got clear-cut control of it now."

Another person who figures in the muddled scenario is well-known Key Wester Charlie Ramos, whose house is adjacent to the beach property and whose father's mansion, the Southernmost House, is just across the street. Doorley said Ramos was a thorn in his side the whole time he was trying to develop the property, and that he had just built a working relationship with Ramos when he (Doorley) was ousted from the property.

Baker said he has inherited the problem, and that Ramos continues to harass him and the project. "It's all political," said Baker. "Whenever he wants something done, he just calls the city and uses his power to get it."

DOORLEY, who is now on a friendly basis with Ramos, has no doubt painted the same unattractive picture for Ramos that he did for Solares Hill concerning Patton's plans for the place. Doorley said Patton wants to build a "swinging disco joint" with music blaring all night on the beach. He also said Patton, who owns the Blue Lagoon Marina and Quarterdeck on North Roosevelt Boulevard, wants to bring powerboats into the swimming area and rent spearguns and other dangerous equipment on the beach.

Needless to say, Baker denied all of it.



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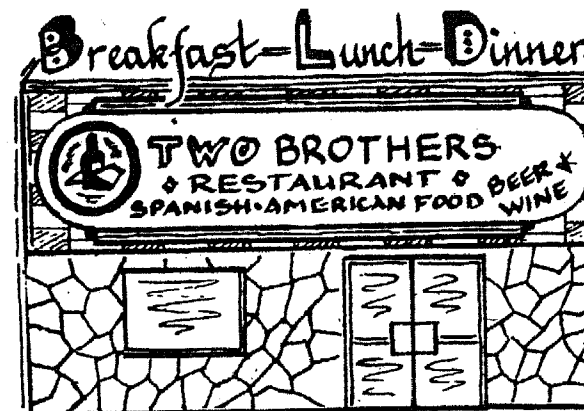
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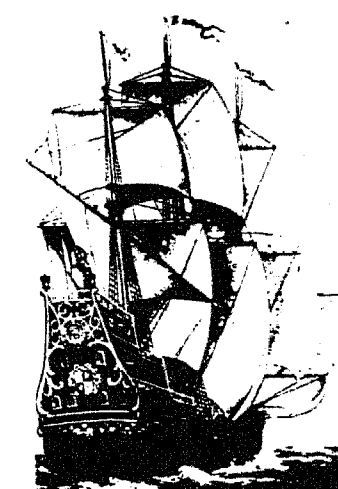
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some remarks

We asked the candidates running for the County Board of Commissioners District 4 to answer the following questions:

1. What is your position on a resort tax?
2. Are you in favor of adopting the proposed Monroe County Master Land Use Plan in its present form?
3. Are you in favor of a separate Personnel Director for Monroe County? If so, why?
4. Do you favor the adoption of qualification standards for important County positions?
5. Would you be in favor of the County continuing its efforts to secure Federal Grant Funds for the purchase of the Rest Beach tract for recreational purposes?
6. What is your reaction to the large cutbacks on Health Service funding for Monroe County in the forthcoming budget?
7. What else do you think is an important issue (issues) in this election?

Name: George E. Dolezal

1. Opposed
2. I am in favor of a Master Land Use Plan.
3. I favor a non partisan Personnel Director for Monroe County to take Personnel out of politics.
4. Yes

5. No

6. Yes. Most of the money used was to service indigents, especially in Key West.
7. Efficient, non partisan, professional enforcement of all zoning laws. Equal services for all the Keys, in Monroe County.

Name: Ellie Cameron

Did not respond.

WE HAVE NOT BEEN impressed with the candidacy of Ellie Cameron. She never showed up at candidate's forums while running against Jerry Shipley, has had nothing particular to say in her political ads, and seems to us to be totally aligned with the pro-development interests in Monroe County. Furthermore, she did not return the questionnaire we sent to all candidates. She does favor a non-political personnel director for Monroe County (which is good), but she is against passage of the Monroe County Land-Use Plan as it stands (which is not good). What we really fear is that she is going to be dominated by Key West Commissioners Jerry Hernandez and Richard Kerr, and we have not been at all impressed with their stands on most County issues.

GEORGE DOLEZAL answered our questionnaire. We're sorry that he doesn't favor the County trying to save the Rest Beach area, sorry that he appears to have approved the funding cut-back that threatened the County health program, and sorry that he is against E.R.A. We are pleased

continued on page 24

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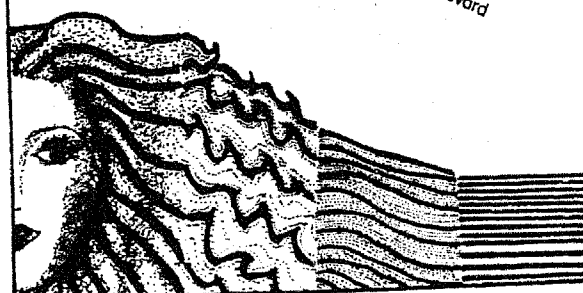
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SHOES AND ACCESSORIES FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Havana Revisited

by Sheldon Ramsdell

"THE ARRIVAL at Jose Marti airport was as though I had been reincarnated; everything was the same except the people. In moving around the city it seemed physically the same as when I last visited 19 years ago in 1960."

These are the words of a Key Wester of Cuban descent who has just returned from a four day visit to his homeland. He requests that his name not be used.

He remembered the grocery store, the trees and the pathways. "I used to say hello to every house, and now I know maybe two families in my old block. It is though a neutron bomb had hit. I saw the buildings, but the people I knew were gone."

He recalled the Hilton hotel which is now the Havana Libre (Free Havana). "I remember seeing the actor George Raft dining at the then mafia-owned Capri hotel, and at that time you would see policemen everywhere, but today you only see them directing traffic."

THE PASEO DEL PRADO, the main promenade, is full of people and many cars, old Chevis and Dodges of 1947-51 vintage. "After years of such bad impressions of Havana I find this a surprise."

There were Russian cars and 1975 Ford Falcons brought in from Argentina. The Pegaso bus built in Spain makes our Greyhound bus look like an ant. The El Giron buses, named after the Bay of Pigs, which are now the city buses, were loaded with passengers hanging from windows for 20¢ a ride. But with such a crowd many ride for free.

THE CITY IS extremely clean but badly in need of a coat of paint. The American dollar devaluation has hit Cuba with it worth only 74¢ or \$740 on \$1000. However, a tourist may buy Heineken beer in a can for 50¢, cigarettes for 40¢ and American brands for 50¢.

"Everyone goes everywhere. Humble people are not stopped in hotel lobbies or kept from fine restaurants, but let's face it, there are classes in Cuba. Some people are eating filet mignon."

A billboard reads, "You Have Your Opportunity. It's Up To You To Be A Successful Person."

An eight year old's vocabulary amazes him -- he speaks fluent English. School hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and a child is required to drink at least three glasses of milk during school lunch. If he doesn't like it, a little sugar is

added to make it more palatable.

EVEN THOUGH there is rationing of food and clothing, you will see the government franchise for fried chicken called Pío-Pío, which is much like our Kentucky Fried Chicken, and ice cream palaces called Copella, like our Howard Johnsons. It is not unusual to see customers wearing blue jeans.

"Havana used to be the most cosmopolitan city in the world, but today it is Cuban, and if there are Russians and Chinese there, I didn't see them."

THE OPEN AIR CAFES are crowded, and, by the way, there is only one brand of rum, which is called Havana Club. American music has great influence. You can listen to radio and CBS Television from Miami. A discotheque near the Capri is crowded with long lines of casually dressed youths waiting to dance to Barry Manilow's *Copacabana* and the Bee Gees' *Saturday Night Fever*.

Even though gambling is prohibited, numbers are played from racing results from Venezuela. However, if you are caught it's an automatic 5 year prison sentence. One thing you do not see is crime reports in the free daily, *Granma* newspaper.

Churches are open even though some have been turned into factories. Others are loaded with worshippers of over 36 years of age. You can still see saints in many homes.


ANOTHER KEY WESTER and former citizen of Havana who last visited 18 years ago confirms much of what our first visitor has said, wishing also not to be identified because, "if you use my name I will be inundated by everyone who wants to visit family, and it would be more than I could handle." He also says that it is easier to visit Cuba if you left before the 1959 revolution. If you left after, you are suspect.

He reports that he saw a 1958 Pontiac with a Buick engine! "People build their own refrigerators made up of 2 x 4 boards, styrofoam, and an old compressor and coil. They build their own electric water heaters with a coil of wire and pipe. A door bell is made from a truck starter to make a buzzzz sound." Most houses have their own water tanks which are filled by night from the Almendares river.

ORGANIZED MEETINGS ARE HELD in the streets much like our block or neighborhood association meetings to see if citizens can improve their living conditions. No political dissent was noticed, but one must be careful about such matters.

There seems to be a school on every block with each age group of students wearing a different colored banner representing the class they are in. Senior class members are privileged not to wear banners.

continued on page 34



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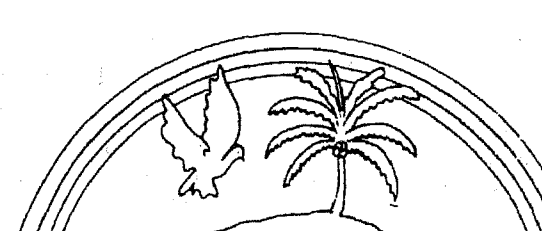
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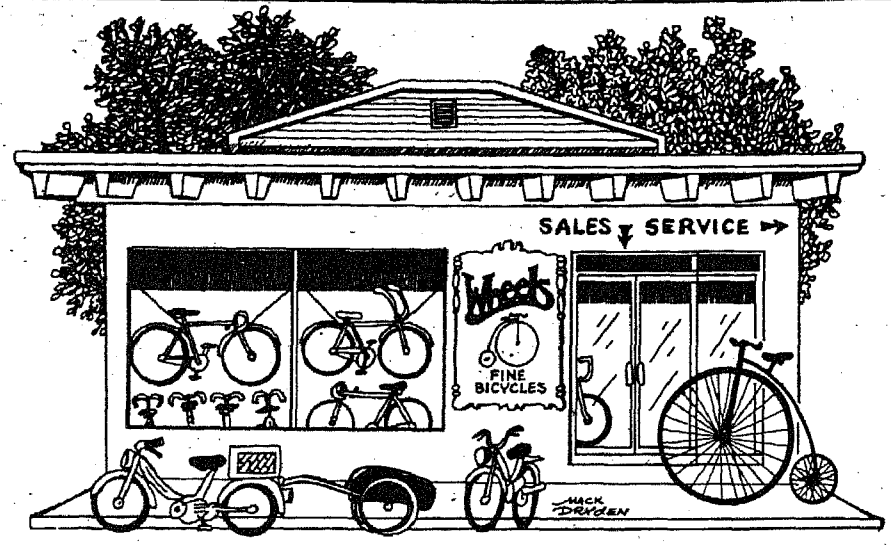
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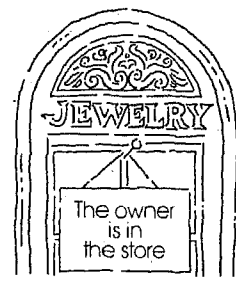
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by Bill Westray

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editorial

THE COST TO LIVE

HEADLINES THIS MONTH declared that the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority (FKAA) had received approval for a \$53,225,000 loan at 5 percent from the Farmer's Home Administration, with which to build a larger, replacement pipeline to supply water to the entire Florida Keys. Acceptance of the loan is still subject to a county-wide referendum.

Another headline announced that the City Electric System (CES) would seek approval from the City Commission for \$33 million in new revenue bonds to buy new generators, relocate emergency generators, overhaul existing generators, and build a tie-line to the Florida Power and Light Company system on the mainland.

THE MOST NOTORIOUS headlines declared that the new property appraisals in Monroe County this year would be an average of 37 percent greater than last year. Individual properties, particularly the older frame Conch houses, were in many cases reappraised at two and three times their prior valuation. Tax bills, incorporating the new appraisals, were yet to be mailed at this writing, and the real impact of the new assessments will not be known until the tax bills are in hand.

IN OUR OPINION, the costs of the repayment of the FKAA loan and the CES bond issues would result in sharp increases in water and electric rates. These costs, coupled with the increased tax burden, are likely to have a devastating effect on many people, especially the older retired residents living on fixed or nearly fixed incomes.

In the next couple months, *Solares Hill* will attempt to delve at some depth

into the bond and loan needs and costs. We are not satisfied that FKAA needs \$53 million; the FKAA statement, "We anticipate the availability of water will be a catalyst to growth for 1978-1988," frightens us. We are certainly not convinced that a new pipeline would reduce water rates as FKAA maintains, when the debt service on the \$53 million exceeds the most optimistic projected savings.

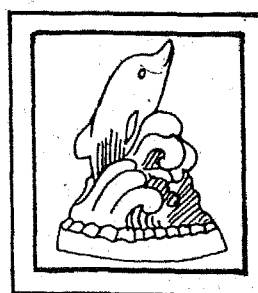
WE COULD UNDERSTAND CES needing \$4.5 million for a new generator and \$16 million for a tie-line, but somehow another \$10 million got mixed into the pie for things that seem to be normal system maintenance and operations costs.

In comparing some of the tax appraisals, we found lots along Whitehead Street with tiny cottages being appraised at \$1.50 per square foot. By comparison, we found beachfront property zoned for large hotels and condominiums on Rest Beach appraised at \$1.40 when the most recent land sales there priced the land at about \$6.50 per square foot.

WE FEEL that there is a shortage of candor in some of these local operations. We are tired of being told by local politicians that more growth increases the tax base and therefore reduces everybody's taxes. The opposite is true. New development increases the costs to everyone by its increased demand for more services of all kinds, and by its explosive escalation of appraisals to keep pace with "true market value."

We are going to undertake to secure the truth and print it on these and other matters. We hope that knowledge of all the facts will make for better decisions. We believe that sound decisions may help slow the soaring cost of life in our fabulous Keys.

ICE
ART



FROM THE
COOKS' BAZAAR

611 DUVAL ST.

FABRIC WORLD



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COUNTRY CLUB AGAIN

by Richard Marsh

KEY WEST CITY OFFICIALS have been looking for a way to remove the golf course and surrounding land from public control and place this valuable and relatively unspoiled 168 acres into the waiting hands of private developers. An expensive and disastrous lease agreement with a private corporation composed of many of the town's leading citizens -- who got off scot-free, with the taxpayers footing the bill for 14 years of fun and games -- ended last year with the dissolving of the corporation and plunked the golf course back into the reluctant hands of the City.

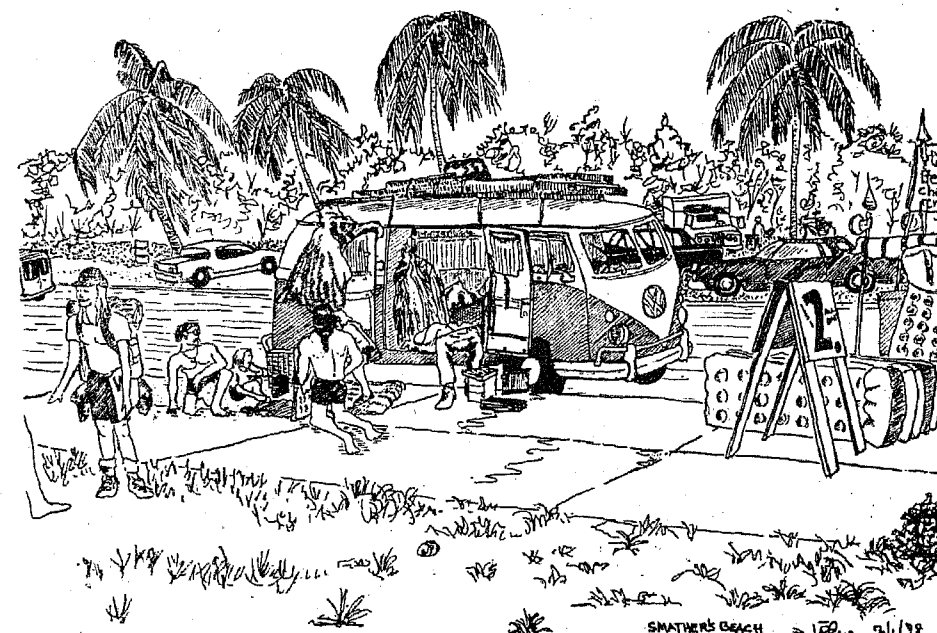
The City has operated the golf course for the past year, allowing the clubhouse, tennis courts, and swimming pool on the property to fall into disrepair. Perhaps

hoping that the public furor over their negligent handling of the previous lease has died down, City officials are gearing up for another attempt to whisk public lands into the eager maws of the developers.

THE CITY ATTORNEY was directed by the City Commission to investigate the status of the golf course and perimeter lands with a view toward leasing the property to a private corporation that would manage the golf course and build on the perimeter land. He thinks he has found ways to do this by circumventing some of the safeguards that protect the property in the public trust.

First, some background.

IN THE 1920's, the City of Key West



SPRATERS BEACH 1920's, 5/17

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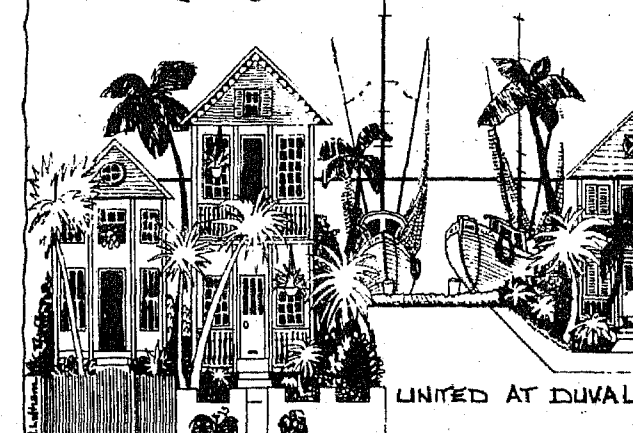
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SHADES of Key West
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acquired an expanse of rock on Stock Island, poured dirt over it, sprinkled grass seed on it, and called it a golf course. An Inverary or a Hilton Head it was not, but the local avid golfer could aim between the loose stones and play a game of golf without having to pack a suitcase, and the Northern tourist could keep in practice while his course at home was snow-covered and the wife and kids soaked up the sun at the beach. Over the years it was improved within the financial limitations of a small island city that had not yet been discovered by the masses.

IN 1962, the City decided to get out of the golf course business, and in 1963 a private corporation called the Key West Country Club (KWCC) leased the property from the City. The KWCC proceeded to run bills up and the property down, until the City last year had to pay \$90,000 to First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Key West to get the property back. The KWCC had mortgaged the property with the City's permission, and the City had to redeem it or lose it.

LAST YEAR the City asked for proposals by inserting an ad in the Legal Notices column of the *Key West Citizen*. Local developer Carl Rongo submitted the only proposal, which would have guaranteed him prime property at bargain prices with no risk to himself and much risk to the taxpayers.

The City wisely turned down the Rongo proposal, having learned a second-hand lesson from the previous experience, but was strongly attracted to the essence of Rongo's idea to surround the golf course with residential buildings.

This idea was nothing new. A 1962 proposal from persons later associated with the KWCC also envisioned the condominium-country club type of development that is popular along Florida's Gold Coast and elsewhere. Key Westers apparently preferred their rocky links to an imitation of Pompano Beach, and the idea was rejected. The 1963 proposal of

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a country club without the residences, which turned into a nightmare for the City, seemed like a good idea at the time.

(We went into the KWCC episode in some detail in the March and May 1977 issues of *Solares Hill*.)

THE CITY STILL wants to get rid of the golf course. Instead of operating and improving it for the benefit of local sportsmen and to give tourists a reason to stay in Key West a few days longer, the City looks upon the property as a white elephant, to be disposed of as readily as possible.

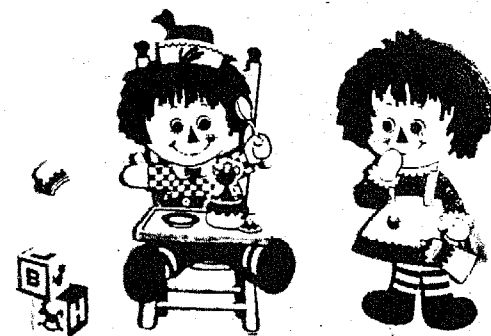
Lame excuses are given. The City has claimed that the golf course operates at a great loss, when we have shown that by the City's own figures there is actually a small profit. The City has tried to use the threadbare but still seductive argument that residential development around the golf course will increase the tax rolls and save us all money, when it is the proven experience of other cities that adding development costs more because of the increased demand for services.

We do not understand why the City is so strangely anxious to take this property out of the hands of the public and thrust it into the grasp of private developers. Reaction to our previous articles has shown that the people of Key West are puzzled and angry over the direction the City is taking with regard to the golf course property.

IN A CONVERSATION with State Representative Joseph B. Allen, Jr., last year, Allen said that it was his opinion that the City could not legally divest itself of lands acquired for public recreation and sell or lease them for private development.

Now City Attorney Joseph B. Allen III, the son of the State Representative, has submitted a five-page report to the City Commission entitled "History, Title Status and Recommendation of Golf Course

TOYS and THINGS



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JIMMY CLIFF
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STEELY DAN
Greatest Hits

Property, Stock Island," in which he reaches this conclusion:

"Hence, the City of Key West has the authority by virtue of the *Gate City Garage* case and Article VIII of the 1968 Constitution to dispose of property acquired for a public purpose, whether through condemnation or purchase and neither the purpose nor the means of acquisition creates a restriction on said property."

ALLEN'S ARGUMENTS ARE stretched thin in places. The *Gates City Garage* case refers to property no longer needed for a public purpose, and if the City means to classify the golf course and surrounding lands as useless and unneeded there will be a cry of public outrage.

The term "to dispose of property" is ambiguous. If Allen means the outright sale of the property with the proceeds going to the general fund, he may be on firm legal ground, but public opinion will probably not stand for it.

OF COURSE, WHAT Allen is driving at in his report to the City Commission is just what the Commission wants to hear: that the City can get the golf course off its hands and put new buildings on the tax rolls -- and do it all legally this time.

THE CITY ATTORNEY and the City Commissioners are ignoring two very important considerations in their headlong rush to "upgrade" the city:

1) It is illegal for the City to engage in a non-governmental function or in activities that are not for a public purpose. The Florida Supreme Court has held that a city does not have the power "to lease its lands to a private individual to be used for construction of a hotel for private profit." If the City leases land to a developer to build private residences, then the City is setting itself

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up in first the building, then the landlord business, in competition with private enterprise.

2) The citizens of Key West have repeatedly expressed their desire that the City continue to operate the golf course for the public benefit. While the City may not be required to submit a lease of the golf course property to the approval of the voters at a referendum, it would indicate the intention of the City Commissioners to follow the will of the people if they did so.

HOWEVER, IF THE CITY continues to ignore the will of its citizens and enters into a lease agreement that the people feel is not in their best interest, there are still two forms of recourse:

1) a petition drive to gather the signatures of 10% of the voters to place the matter on the ballot in a referendum, which could rescind the ordinance by which the City Commission enters into the lease;

2) challenge the lease in court, asking to have it ruled invalid because the City does not have the authority to lease public property for non-public uses.

THE CITY ATTORNEY'S report to the Commission is merely the first indication of the City's latest attempt to get rid of the golf course and develop the surrounding lands. Next, proposals will be sought by advertising in golfing magazines and elsewhere. The proposals will be evaluated and bid specifications drawn up, then bids will be asked for. Now is a good time for the people to let the City Commission know what they want done with their property, before more drastic measures are necessary.

Solares Hill will continue to monitor the situation and report to its readers.

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TOBY BRUCE

TOBY BRUCE just might have the largest unorganized fan club in this hemisphere. Its members include famous writers and movie stars, fishermen and bar flies, old folks who live in the past and young ones who want to hear about it. And those who are intimate with Key West's modern history know that Toby Bruce is as much a part of the island's tradition as his most famous friend and confidant, Ernest Hemingway.

Telly Otto "Toby" Bruce ("I'm the only Telly who has any hair") wound up in Key West because Pauline Pfeiffer, Hemingway's second wife, was born and raised in Piggott, Arkansas. Toby was born in Piggott in 1910, and he grew up knowing the Pfeiffers and hung around with Pauline's brother Max and her sister Virginia.

"Virginia got me in trouble a few times," Toby recalled. "In 1937 she cabled me from Cuba to bring her car down to Mexico City. When I crossed the border, I got a stamp saying I was in a car. When I got down to Mexico City, Virginia and her friends wanted to go to Acapulco and I didn't, so I started back on the train. When I got back to the border they took me off and locked me up because I didn't have the car. I slept on gunracks in



Betty and Toby

the guardhouse for five days. I finally got a wire to her father, and he sent the money to get me out."

ALTHOUGH TOBY met Hemingway in 1928, he didn't really get to know him until 1933, when he came through Piggott at Christmas. "I knew how to throw a trap for clay pigeons," he said. "I'd give him the business. A low one, then a high one, then a skimmer. I'd sneak a meanie in on him without warning. He was the most alert shooter I've ever seen. His reflexes were awful fast. He hit doubles (two pigeons thrown at once) all the time."

That he knew how to work a clay pigeon contraption wasn't surprising. Toby was always good with his hands and with mechanical things. In Piggott during the Depression he made furniture, jerked sodas, clerked motels, drove two doctors around when rains made the roads bad, and fixed just about anything that was brought to him ("I made more money in my four or five jobs than the high school principal did.") He and Hemingway became good friends, and in 1935 when the author wanted somebody to make his Key West home

liveable, Toby was the natural choice.

Asked if he supervised the work on the Whitehead Street house that's now a landmark, Toby laughed. "Supervise? Hell, I was *it*." He painted the house, fixed the hinges on all the doors and windows, replaced rotted planks, and generally fixed the place up.

"Gregory, Ernest's son, was about six at that time," he remembered. "When I finished fixing all the hinges on all the doors and got them working smoothly, Gregory got into my carpenter's glue and painted them all for me. A while after that some friends gave Ernest a pair of beautiful Persian cats. Gregory painted them green." The little hellion went on to become a doctor.

SPEAKING OF CATS, Toby remembered where the famous six- and seven-toed specimens that are among the forty-odd felines that now live on the grounds came from. "Marie Cappick, the lady that wrote those histories of Key West, lived nearby in a little shanty. She had a couple of six-toed cats, and after she died they found their way over to the Hemingway house."

WE ASKED FOR a Hemingway fishing tale and Toby didn't hesitate: "The wildest one was when we were fishing out of Bimini. We hooked a big tuna, about a 500-pounder, I guess. A shark started hitting it, and Ernest got real mad. He broke out the Thompson submachine gun and started in on the shark. He bloodied him up pretty bad and that attracted a couple more. They got into a fight, and the water was covered with blood. We forgot about the tuna and watched the fight. It was vicious. The water away from the blood was so clear we watched them fight all the way to the bottom, and it was pretty deep."

Submachine gun? "Oh, yeah, well we had to keep that thing hidden in Bimini. I'd put about three cases of shells on board -- about 1,500 rounds -- and we kept it for sharks only. And for our own protection in case anything ever happened."

ASKED IF HE and Ernest had ever done any rum-running, Toby said, "No, we never did any of that." He paused, then added, "We'd bring four or five cases in for our own use, of course."

When Hemingway left for Cuba in 1938, Toby and his future wife Betty Moreno helped pack up the author's books and things, and they stored a lot of it down at Ernest's favorite hangout, Sloppy Joe's Bar (the memorabilia was rediscovered when Hemingway died in 1961.)

TOBY LOADED UP the Pilar with boxes of stuff. "I got the boat loaded and ready," he said, "and we took off about seven that night. We expected to pick up the lights of Havana by about 10:30 that night, but it didn't quite happen that way. About ten o'clock we got into one helluva storm. It was a triple bell-ringer. That means the bell rang at the bottom of a wave, again at the top, and again coming down. We got our bearing by using a portable radio. I'd turn it around until we picked up Miami real good, then I'd turn it and pick up Havana, and we'd know about where we were. It was a helluva storm. We were wringing wet. I went down and got a bowl of chili, and I brought Ernest a bowl. Before he could get a mouthful a gust of wind cleaned out the bowl."

THEY FINALLY pulled into port at five p.m. the next day, about 16 hours behind schedule. "We signaled for Customs to meet us, and when we got there it rained hard for two hours. So we and the Customs officers sat on the boat and got drunk. I went to a hotel for the night, and the ground swayed for two days."

That was when Toby moved into Hemingway's Cuban villa, Finca Viga, in the village of San Francisco de Paula. The next three years are shrouded in mystery. Toby won't talk about that period for fear of betraying confidences Ernest wouldn't want him to. He said he was a "carpenter, driver, telephone-answerer, whatever needed doing. We used to go hunting a lot. Martha Gellhorn lived there then, of course. We had a lot of fun."

DURING THE CUBA DAYS, Toby's buddy Steve Boyden -- who is now the curator of the Audubon House on Whitehead Street -- was purser aboard the SS Cuba, a passenger ship that stopped in Havana twice a week. "Steve would bring me cigarettes," said Toby. "He could get Chesterfields at 20 cents a pack, and they cost 60 cents in Cuba. I always had a car down there, so when he'd come in I'd meet him at the dock and we'd do the town. One night we were out and we met a gal we knew in a swank club. We spent all our money, and on the way out I put my last peseta in a

slot machine. It paid off, and pesetas went everywhere.

"We must have had \$100 worth of coins, and the only way we could carry them was to fill the gal's skirt up. So we got in the car with her between us holding about ten pounds of coins. She was plastered, and when we got to her

terrific noise at intervals all night long. It was annoying them and they asked if it could be stopped. The people in charge said no, so Toby climbed up in the tower one night and cut the bell loose."

Steve said he has tried to get Toby to write his memoirs and Toby has stead-



Toby as a rum-runner

house she dropped her skirt and they went everywhere. Hundreds of coins were rolling around, and a lot of them rolled down the hill we were standing on. It was about 3 a.m. and Steve and I were about two-thirds fried. We scrounged around until we found enough to buy breakfast." He smiled and shook his head. "There were some happy kids in that neighborhood the next morning, you can bet on that."

BOYDEN THINKS Toby is a rare individual because "he goes out of his way to help people. He just enjoys doing things for people because he likes them, and people respond to that. He makes people feel good. Every time Toby's around there's a party."

Boyden said Toby amazes him. "He can do just about everything. He's a terrific dancer, and he always danced with girls taller than him. He's a wonderful woodworker, a great fisherman, and he can repair almost anything. I thought he was great in the movie (details below). And you should see some of the drawings he did in the Twenties. Fantastic. He's very adept with his hands. And he's fearless. One time he was out on the Pilar when the rudder broke off, so Toby went overboard and was the rudder from Sand Key on in."

BOYDEN TOLD THE STORY of the time about 20 years ago when Toby was in the Bahamas on Webb Robinson's sailing yacht Caribe. "They were docked right next to a bell tower of some kind that made a

fastly refused. "He won't write a book himself. I've tried to get him to do tapes and he won't do it. He doesn't want to reveal anything that Hemingway's children would read. He doesn't want to violate any of Ernest's confidences, and I respect him for that. But it's still a shame, because it seems to me he could produce the best story of all."

DEAN FONS HELLER, a travel writer with 18 books to her credit, met the Bruces in 1949 while doing a story for the *Chicago Tribune*. She visited Key West often, became one of the Bruce's closest friends, and moved here permanently 11 years ago after her first husband died. "I simply never would have made it without Toby," she said. "You know he's your friend and that he'll do anything he can for you. If he can't do it himself, he knows somebody who can. He is real. He's honest, sincere, and I don't ever remember seeing Toby sad or angry. And he's had some burdens to carry, God knows."

Toby was who Ms. Heller leaned on when her husband David died, but she remembers the good times best. "He's got dozens of girlfriends. He's a bon vivant. He considers us all cute young things, and that makes women of any age feel great. He makes you feel attractive and that he's proud to be with you. One night about five of us were at a restaurant and the waiter asked if we wanted separate checks. Toby said, 'Hell no. This is my wife and these are my girlfriends.' And you know he meant it, too."

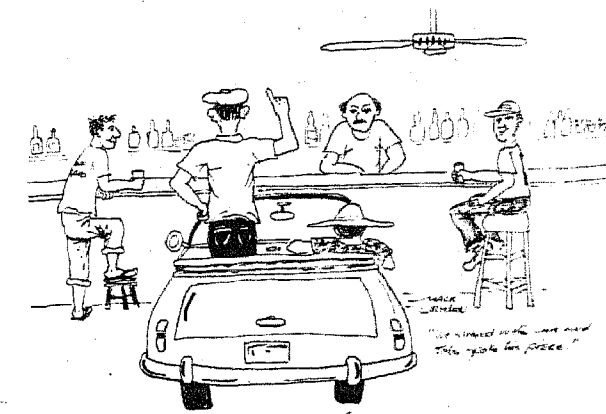
ONCE DEAN MENTIONED that although she knew there were scorpions in Key West, she'd never seen one and would like to sometime. "Toby found one, painted it gold, mounted it and gave it to me," she said. "I was entranced."

WELL-KNOWN WRITER Budd Schulberg was a friend of Toby's back in the 1950's when he wrote a screenplay, *Wind Across the Everglades*. He asked Toby if he wanted to be in it. "He asked me what part I wanted to play, and I said the bootlegger. So he wrote that part for me."

The movie wasn't a blockbuster, but it did feature some people whose names are now household words. The 1957 film was Peter Falk's first, and Sammy Renick was in it. The famous clown Emmett Kelly had a part, and Toby said he and Kelly "used to sneak off and eat soft-shelled crabs." Possibly the most colorful character on the set, however, was Gypsy Rose Lee, the world's most famous stripper. "She was playing the madam of a cat-house," said Toby. "Something happened to the costume girl, and Gypsy said she'd do the job of keeping everybody's clothes mended. Well, she had some trouble with her sewing machines and I offered to do a little fixing on them. She asked me what I knew about sewing machines. I said, 'Honey, I was teetotal on a singer,' and she got a charge out of that. From then on we were buddies. I used to eat lunch with her all the time."

TOBY'S WIFE BETTY is as well-known and loved in Key West as her husband. Being originally from Key West and the historian at the county library, Betty probably knows more about this town and the people who have lived in it than any one. And she, too, has lots of stories.

"Toby and I were at the old Samoa Bar at the P & O dock, where the railroad depot used to be," said Betty. "Toby was driving an Austin Bantam, the first small English-American car that was built. It belonged to Pauline Hemingway. We were in the bar and the owner made a disparaging remark about my cousin, and Toby got upset. We walked out and got in the car and started to drive away when Toby said, 'I'm not going to let him get away with that.' He drove up the ramp, through the swinging doors and on into the bar. We stayed in the car and Toby spoke his piece, and Mother Murphy behind the bar set us up with a couple of drinks."



NOW TOBY AND BETTY live quietly at their Southard Street home, and Toby stays busy with various handyman projects and entertaining friends. When we were there, our interview was interrupted twice by friends who dropped in just to say hello. A young couple in their twenties came in and Toby greeted them warmly. "Well, where in the world have you been, darlin'?" he said, hugging the girl. "If you don't come by more often, well, I'm just going to have to ask you for a divorce." He winked at her husband and added, "Now, what can I get you two to drink?"

BUGGED

by Timothy "Buzz" Hoskins

BUGS. Not the bunny or the kind made famous by Watergate. Real ones. Beetles, too. And not Volkswagens or John, Paul, George and Ringo. Bugs and beetles. Flying, crawling, jumping, stinging, pinching, biting bugs. And Key West has got 'em! Lots of 'em.

It's not all palm trees and sunsets, folks. Take a look under that pretty croton there in your front yard. Or look inside that conch shell that's been lying on your porch for a while. While you're at it, peek under the sink or way back into that closet that you don't use much. You'll see!

THERE ARE millions of little creatures around. And they multiply. Fast. (Insects. Taken phonetically, it implies breeding. Say it a couple of times.) What's more, they are even more varied than their two-legged neighbors on the island. (That's us.) Tougher, too. And smarter. You don't think so? Let's look at a few examples.

TAKE MOSQUITOES. (Please.) Just try to get rid of them. You can't. You've got something they want. Your blood. It's probably not red enough for Uncle Sam or blue enough for the upper class; and it might be too cold for your enemies, or too hot for your fiancée. But, to a female mosquito, it's the tastiest stuff that ever coursed through a vein.

They, on the other hand, have absolutely nothing you want. Unless you're into malaria or yellow fever or something called dengue.

MOSQUITOES ARE FOUND throughout the globe, but the Key West variety has got to be the meanest around! Ever notice

how they always seem to attack the ankles, fingers, eyebrows or any place that really hurts? You probably thought they did it because the veins are easier to get at in those places. Wrong. They know it hurts more.

You swear there's not a skeeter within forty miles when you go to bed, only to awaken half an hour later looking like an acupuncture patient. They planned it that way. They even play chamber music on their wings to help you into dream land.

FORGET ABOUT repellent, because you can't smear the stuff everywhere. You can bet your sweet aedes they'll find a weak spot. Like under your toenails or behind your eyelids. In fact, they enjoy defensive attempts on your part: you know, the thrill of the hunt.

Health officials say the best way to control mosquitoes is to get rid of their breeding grounds. This, of course, is just about impossible, since home for a mosquito is any bit of fresh water. Spit and you've got a four-bedroom house. Throw out the dishwasher and you've built a condominium complex.

EVERYTHING WE TRY is futile. Monroe County even goes as far as loading up a DC-3 airplane with insecticide and battling the bugs in their own element: the wild blue yonder. The result is more poetic than effective.

ANOTHER BUG, less annoying perhaps than the mosquito, but infinitely more terrifying, is the cockroach. Specifically, the big brother of the bunch, the water bug, a.k.a. croton or palmetto bug. A more fearsome insect never walked, crawled, jumped or flew the face of the

earth. Its most heinous quality, along with appalling ugliness, is its size, which ranges from monstrous to colossal. It is definitely the stuff of science fiction ideology. They're lightning quick, practically indestructible and, according to horror stories from ghettos throughout the South, they bite.

AND, as if that's not enough, they can fly, too. Boy, do they fly! They crash out of nowhere like B-17 bombers in an ear-shattering display of insect aerobatics. This is actually their worst characteristic; they're so noisy. Unlike most crawly things that go about their bug business quietly, cockroaches have to make themselves heard. Whether they are flying around in that deafening drone or rooting through the wastebasket, you know they are around.

THEN THERE ARE termites. The so-called "carpenters" of the insect world. That title is unfair. Jesus was a carpenter. Carpenters build things. The only things termites build are exterminators' bank accounts. And they're so sneaky. Just because you can't see them, don't make the mistake of thinking they are not around. Knock on any Key West door and it knocks back.

Harmless, you say? Just a few piles of sawdust here and there and those cute little transparent wings that the ants seem to like, right? See if you can find those nice wooden chopsticks you haven't used in a while. Or wait until your ceiling fan takes off like a helicopter and decapitates your friends.

SO THERE you have it. Mosquitoes make you miserable, cockroaches ruin your food, and termites take care of your shelter. What's left? Well, there are always whiteflies for your houseplants, ticks for your pets, blackflies for your mangos, booklice for your libraries, carpet beetles for your furniture, and

clothes moths for your wardrobe.

Clearly, it is the lowly insect that really runs this island and we are obviously powerless to do anything to change it. They are here; we can't get rid of them. There is, however, one course of action that may provide some solace.

LIKE NEARLY everything else in Key West, most of the bugs are not indigenous to the island. Since it's somewhat difficult to imagine a couple of carpet-bagging cockroaches boarding ol' Henry Flagler's railway, it's safe to assume that the excess insects here now were introduced by man. It couldn't have happened any other way. The bugs were brought, maybe even knowingly, by certain people visiting or living in Key West. Find out who they are.

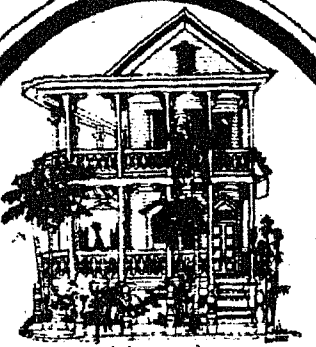
STRUGGLE

A seagull sailed above a boat
The rain beat on his feathers
A boat sliced through the waves below
Her bow into the weather.

Ah, seabird sailing in the air
You know that God has blessed you
You need no banks nor grocery store
No churches to confess you.

You did not have to buy your beak
They can't repossess your feathers
How different from our boat below
Struggling through the weather.

by Jody Adams



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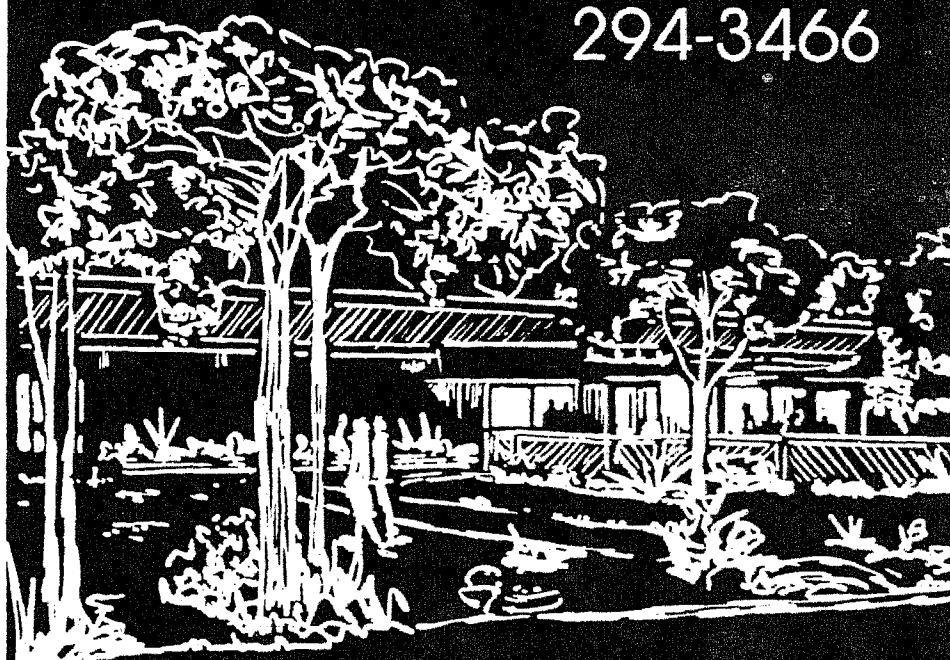
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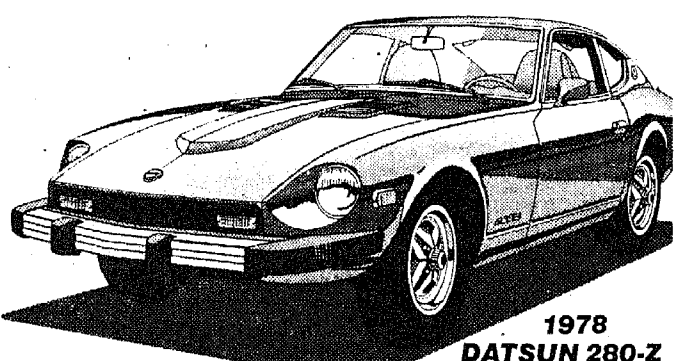
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DATSUN

AUDI

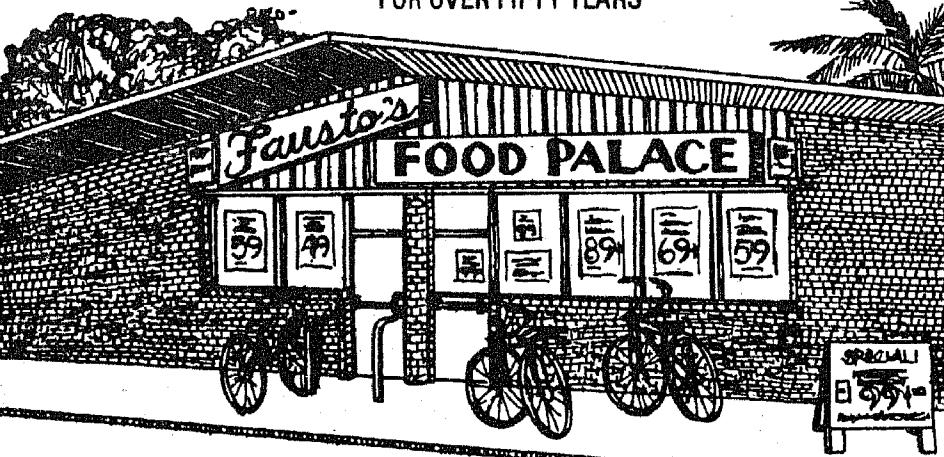
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1978
DATSUN 280-Z

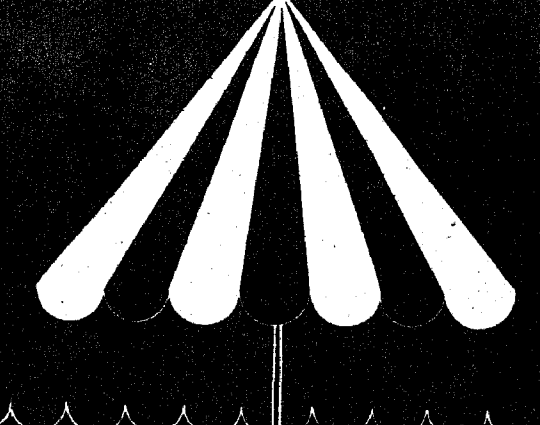
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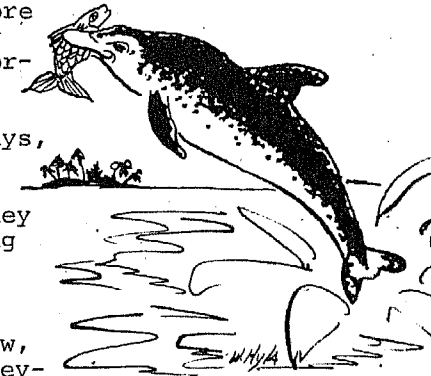
TWO FABLES

by Viola Veidt

PETER, THE PURPOSELESS PURPLE PORPOISE
(WHO FOUND HIS PURPOSE)

IN THE great blue gulfs of the Southern Atlantic live some very fine porpoises, also called dolphins, except that porpoises are very big dolphins and have long snouty noses. They like people -- they will even push a drowning man ashore and save his life. This has been going on for a long time in the history of porpoises, I am told.

Well, Peter Porpoise was going to school with all the other purposeful guys, because porpoise parents know what is good for their kids. Most of all most porpoises like to go to school where they learn how to dive and jump and get along with other people -- porpoises, if you like. Pete liked it really well for awhile, he romped and leaped over the waves, and caught great fat fish -- whew, what a dinner that makes! His mother never even had to cook it. He got along with his friends, and his lovely smile was even sweeter than that of the other porpoises. And a good smile is a must, when you are a purposeful porpoise.



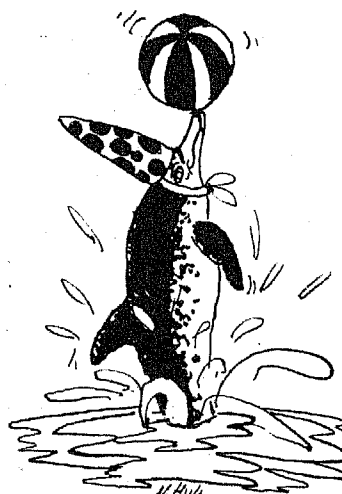
ONE BEAUTIFUL NIGHT with the moon shining and only the Octopi blowing the sad tunes of their bagpipes, the porpoises went for a night fun run and Pete, always wanting to show off, jumped out of the water into the moonlight. He jumped so high that his back fin dropped

moon drops down his skin that looked like amethysts. All the others were stunned by his beauty, and best of all, his favorite girl friend, who had never really paid any attention to him, did a porpoise flip and exclaimed "EKEE!" -- and that was quite a lot for her to say.

PETE WAS so full of himself that he jumped more and more, and higher and higher -- the Moon smiled and lit him up each time, and the "EKEE!" became louder and louder.

Pete didn't sleep at all the following day. He was "it" -- and he was going to leave school; he was going to be a star. He had heard of the places where they had porpoises that people came miles and miles to see. So he went closer and closer to shore, hoping to be caught, against the warning of his loving parents and the school he travelled with.

So, he was caught, and his captors made him live in a tank, wear silly hats and do tricks four times a day. The



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EXCUSE ME FOR STARING, BUT HAVEN'T WE MET BEFORE? NO? WELL THEN, IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT WE DID...



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food was not -- even good, being of some frozen variety. How he missed the great blue gulf, his parents, and his girl friend, Patricia Porpoise. Oh! Oh! He thought constantly now of how to get out of captivity.

FIRST HE refused to wear the silly hats, then he wouldn't eat, and he wouldn't play. He just played sick. The people he worked for became very worried and called the vet, who said simply that Peter was so homesick he would die, if they did not take him back to his home. What was to be done? It was decided he should be wrapped in wet sheets and taken on a fast plane to the warm and lovely place where he had been caught.

When they let him free, Peter plunged into the blue-green waves, and swam speedily toward the deep sea that was his home, making squeaky radio noises to let his family know he had come back. They all came to meet him, and nuzzled him with long snouts, all his school friends and even Patricia "EKEE"-ed at him and flipped her tail. She wasn't so shy, anymore, she had missed him so badly.

THAT NIGHT, the moon came out, bright and shiny, and Peter smiled his best and biggest grin. The moon sent out one of his loveliest rays that bathed Pete in purple crystal drops, and that happy little porpoise jumped with joy, because he was home. But not quite so high, anymore. He now realized that the water isn't always bluer on the other side!



THE WASP THAT WANTED TO BE A WITCH

WANDA THE WASP got up every morning, polished her stinger and put on her yellow and black striped jumpsuit. How tired she was of wearing the same old dress all the time! On top of it all she had read in her favorite magazine, *Wasp Wear Daily*, that yellow and black was not an elegant combination this season -- green was definitely "in" this spring. Why couldn't she change colors like her good friend Christopher Chameleon? He usually wore a brown business suit, but when he sat on a bright green leaf, he turned just that color! Some good witch must be doing that for him, she thought -- why can't I be one? Wanda mused that she could then turn all kinds of her friends into something they would like to be, but mostly just change their clothes. She figured they must be tired just like she was of still wearing last year's dull garments. You see, Wanda was very fashion-conscious, and as we know, green was the color that season.

WANDA MADE HERSELF a little pointed hat out of a rose thorn, and tucked a

continued on page 29



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Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum

A Registered National
Historic Landmark
This Site Possesses Exceptional Value
In Commemorating or Illustrating
The History of The United States

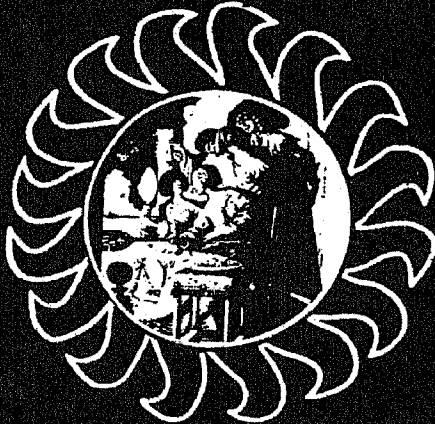


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* Chez Emile *

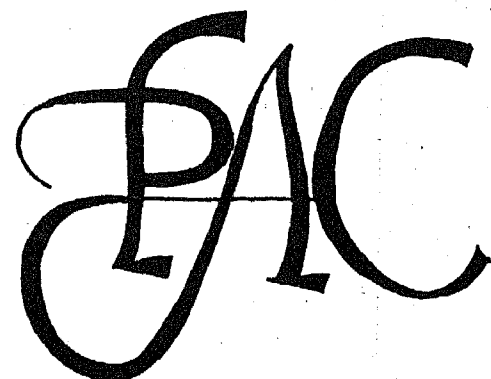


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SOME REMARKS continued from page 11
with his present stand on the Master Land-Use Plan for Monroe County, and we are pleased with his advocacy of a non-political personnel director for Monroe County, and we are pleased with his strong statements against corruption in local government. We suspect that there will be a strong cross-over vote from Shipley supporters to Dolezal. We will join them.

BOB MCKNIGHT was our endorsed candidate for State Senate - District 38 and he still is.

IN THE District 40 Senate seat race, the Republican candidate, Larry Wicks, has emerged as a strong environmentalist, and we are going to go with him.

LOCAL CITIZEN-ACTIVIST Larry Gomez is circulating petition forms calling for the abolishment of the City of Key West. He feels that we are paying double taxes

PETITION TO THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO ABOLISH THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA

Whereas, the people of Key West, Florida are burdened with both city and county taxes, and the citizens of Key West, Florida are at the present time paying double taxation without receiving any additional benefits from the additional taxes paid to the city of Key West, Florida;

We, the undersigned electors of the city of Key West, Florida, hereby petition the Legislature of the State of Florida, pursuant to art. VIII, Sec. (2) (b) of the Constitution of the State of Florida, for the passage of a Special Act of the Legislature of the State of Florida at the regular session in April of 1979, abolishing the City of Key West, Florida;

PETICION A LA LEGISLATURA DEL ESTADO DE FLORIDA PARA ABOLIR LA CIUDAD DE KEY WEST, FLORIDA

Por cuanto, la ciudadanía de Key West, Florida esta recargada con el pago de impuestos, tanto de la ciudad como del condado de Monroe y los ciudadanos de Key West, Florida estan actualmente pagando doble cantidad de impuestos sin recibir ningun beneficio adicional de los impuestos pagados a la ciudad de Key West, Florida;

Nosotros, los electores de la ciudad de Key West, Florida abajo firmamos, por este medio, solicitamos de la legislatura de el estado de Florida, segund el art. VIII, Seccion (2) (b) de la constitucion de el estado de Florida la aprobacion de un Acto Especial de la legislatura de el estado de Florida en su sesion regular de Abril de 1979, abolando la ciudad de Key West, Florida;

DATE NAME (Sign & Print) Address Precinct

-- city and county -- and are receiving no particular benefit from it, since the county should provide us with all the services we need. Anyone who wants to can clip and send this form to Larry at 1205 Truman Avenue.

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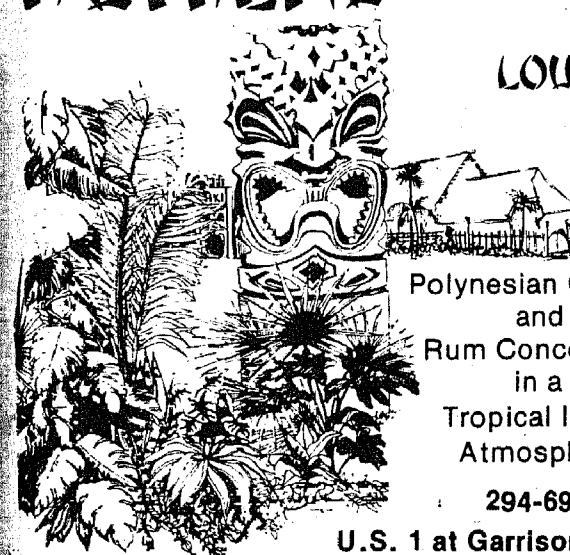
WE REPORTED last month that the Key West Board of Adjustment had denied the administrative appeal by Bill Westray against the Caselles building permit for 20 multiple family dwelling units on the ocean at Rest Beach. Westray has 30 days to file a court appeal if he chooses, but the time limit starts when the Board of Adjustment files its decision with the City Clerk, which it still has not done as of this writing. Accordingly, Westray's decision to appeal to the circuit remains open.

THE GREENE STREET THEATRE MOVES ON

WITHOUT EVER breaking stride, the Greene Street Theatre has moved its location from Greene Street to Southard Street, and is planning for its most ambitious season ever. What was once the Navy C.P.O. Club has become the site of the new Greene Street Theatre. Located at the end of Southard Street, this new space is bigger and more comfortable than the former Greene Street location. There will be room for up to 200 seats, a more spacious stage area and better acoustics, dressing rooms with showers for the actors, an adjoining room to the theatre for snacks and refreshments for the theatergoer, a dependable air-conditioning system, and a readily accessible parking lot. Everyone connected with the Greene Street Theatre is tremendously excited about these changes, and plans are under way for the most wide-ranging season yet for the theatre, its fourth season in existence.

ACTING WORKSHOPS will once again be offered to the community. These workshops, which were begun in conjunction with Greene Street's successful Summer Festival '78 program, provided the theatre with six Key West residents who had never been on stage before, including the two leads of its one-act production of William Saroyan's *Hello Out There*, Mack Dryden and Diana Bellar. Both Mack and

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Diana will be back for the upcoming winter season, as well as all the other summer discoveries. These acting workshops are led by Joe Ross, a familiar face on the Greene Street Stage. During the summer season, Joe was seen as the fanatic Teddy in *When You Comin Back, Red Ryder?* and the mama's boy Albert in *Pinter's A Night Out*.

There will be three workshops offered at the new theatre: basics of acting for the beginner, advanced scene study for the more experienced, and theatre for the non-performer for those who would rather be more well-informed theatergoers, as opposed to being active performers.

ONE OF THE most important commitments the Greene Street Theatre has to the Key West community is first of all to provide first-rate professional theatre and also to provide jobs for the community. It is hoped with the continuance of the workshop program all shows can be produced with local people who have reached professional standards. Later on this season, in addition to the acting workshops, there will be workshops in set design and set building, lighting, costumes and make-up, movement, and pantomime. Everybody is invited to join Greene Street's workshop program. Anyone who is interested can call the theatre box office at 294-5001 for information. As Kirk Brown, managing director of the theatre, says, "The success of the Greene Street Theatre depends upon the interest and involvement of the community. We welcome everyone to join us."

BESIDES PRESENTING a full course of dramas, comedies and musicals this season, the theatre for the first time will also have a children's theatre division which will travel throughout the Lower Keys school system. The projected opening of the new Greene Street Theatre's first major production is December 15. The

IN THE HEART OF OLD TOWN

Gazebo Flowers

DESIGNS BY BOB STORY

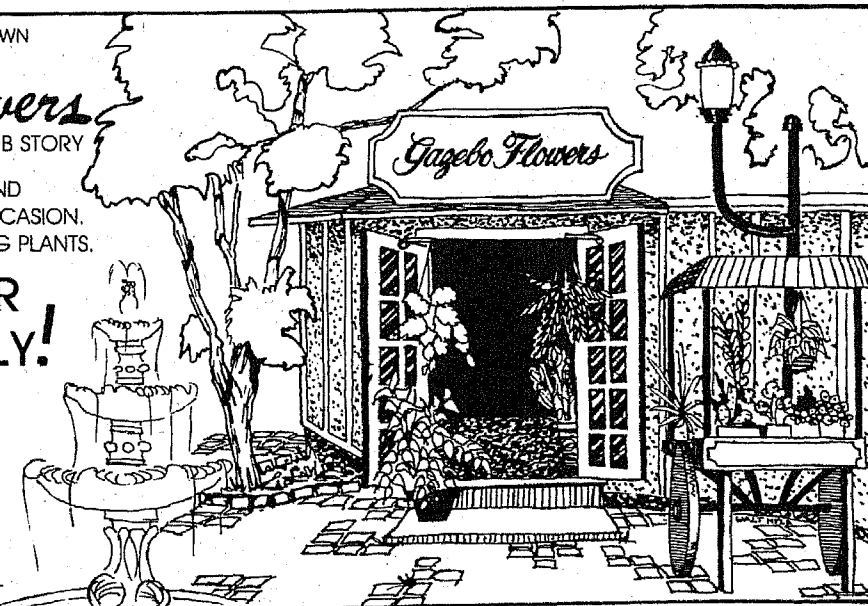
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production will be Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. A very, very, Merry Christmas is anticipated.
by Joe Ross

To the editor:

VOTE "NO" to Florida's "LITTLE ERA" - known as Revision 2, second listing on Ballot, November 7.

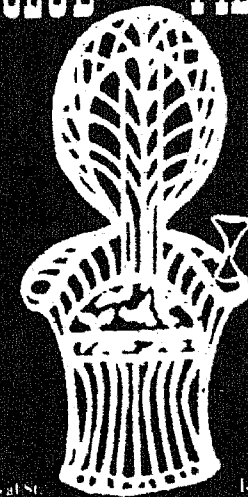
Former Congressman Emanuel Celler sums up in a nutshell, the current ERA (also LITTLE ERA) in a statement made as follows: "In all the swirling arguments and differing interpretations of the language of the proposal (ERA), there has been very little thought given to the triple role most women play in life, namely, that of wife, mother and worker. This is a heavy role indeed, and to wipe away the sustaining laws which help tip the scales in favor of women is to do injustice to millions of women who have chosen to marry, to make a home, to bear children, and to engage in gainful employment as well... I refuse to allow the glad-sounding ring of an easy slogan (ERA-Equal Rights Amendment or the LITTLE ERA) to victimize millions of women and children." Like the "No-Fault Divorce Law," ERA would leave women without any legal protection. Correct inequities through additional legislation, not by Constitutional amendment.

NOW (NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN), which is pushing ERA (Equal Rights Amendment) is again talking out of both sides of its mouth in its brochure of "19 Goals," aiming at wiping out the traditional way of life since time immemorial -- belittling men, marriage and children. Should a well-organized group ask men to leave their employment posts because they were sex-stereotyped thereby, the industrial wheels of our nation would come to a grinding halt. The thinking that created ERA, NOW, LITTLE ERA, is doing that very thing to women in their homes. Three times as many women work today as did ten years

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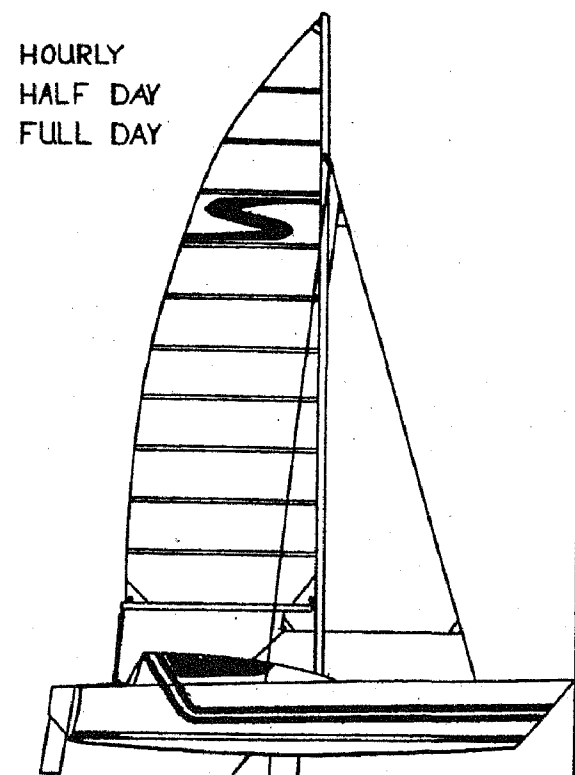


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SAIL THE BEAUTIFUL WATERS OF THE KEYS BEYOND U.S. 1

HOURLY
HALF DAY
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Afternoon
SAIL CHARTERS KEY WEST FL
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ago. ERA and NOW urge women to take their place in the sun -- enter the employment market! Meanwhile, back at the ranch, teenage crime, minus a hand to direct at home, especially after school, is raging. And with a brand new waiver exercised in the courts our neglected teen "criminals" can be tried in adult courts, that is, from 14 to 17. America the beautiful -- the cultural scars fostered by ERA through NOW for the past six years on male-female relationships, and family relationships, go beyond the imagination. On November 7, vote "no" to Florida's LITTLE ERA.

Sincerely,

Marie T. Carney
1421 Grinnell Apt. B
Key West, FL 33040

WERE YOU INVITED TO JACQUES COUSTEAU'S PARTY?

THIS KEY WEST story is true and has elements to make it told and retold at various bars and gain in the repeating: famous scientist, inventor, adventurer Jacques Cousteau, a fabulous bash, and a surprise ending.

The names have been changed to protect the guilty.

AS MY WIFE AND I bumped across the pot holes in the parking lot at the north end of Simonton, we noticed an unprecedented flurry of wild activity on the cement pier. It was crowded with young people in various stages of undress, hilariously throwing each other into the water, singing disjointed songs, but mostly just yelping like excited puppy-dogs. Large and unfamiliar bottles were being passed around, and it was obvious that everyone there was getting happily looped on some sort of liquor amid the festivities.

When a pack of the merry-makers began staggering like a pack of crippled hounds in our direction, we took off to escape them and thought no more about

the incident except a mild curiosity, until a good friend, looking rather worn out and complaining of a hangover, dropped in to see us and mentioned that he had seen us from where he was on the pier, and that the large bottles were expensive French wine furnished by Jacques Cousteau.

"WASN'T THAT rather a strange place for Jacques Cousteau to give a party?" we asked him. "And didn't you wonder why he should give a party for strangers and not show up himself?"

"Yeah, we sort of wondered about it, but we didn't worry much. If he wanted to throw a party there, why should we object?"

HE WENT ON to say that they'd quickly disposed of the two or three cases of wine, and then the man who'd brought it suggested that they follow him to the main party, taking place at a house in town. Everyone jammed into two or three conveyances and followed his bulging car to the main party. Our friend, who had his bicycle there and found no room to ride in a car, wobbled after them and managed to follow close enough to get to the house after all the cars had stopped.

He heard an irate voice in heavily French-accented English scream maledictions at the lead car, "WHAT IN HELL HAVE YOU DONE WITH THE WINE FOR THE PARTY, YOU (obscenities deleted)."

OUR FRIEND had the presence of mind to simply ride by casually and go home.

We wonder if the main party was as much fun as the small one at the end of the pier.

Good Health to You, Jacques Cousteau!
by Ed Bixby

THE FLORIDA KEYS Audubon Society has planned another year of spectacular field trips for the upcoming winter season. Last year's program of outings was enthusiastically received by the public, and this year's program will include repeats

of some of the more popular trips such as the Indian Key and Lignum Vitae Key double bill, as well as a few new ones. A kick-off party to introduce the public to this year's program and register subscribers will be held at the Audubon House on Sunday, November 12, at 4:00 p.m. The season rate is \$15 per person or \$28 per family; the charge is usually \$2 per trip for non-subscribers. Hors d'oeuvres and punch will be supplied, and membership in the Audubon Society is not necessary to attend.

The first tour this season will be on Saturday, November 25 -- Geology, Tide Pools, Sand Dunes & Mangrove Ecology -- at Bahia Honda State Recreation Area. For further information call 294-1301.

THE JET AGE REVISITS KEY WEST

THE SALE OF Air Sunshine to Air Florida is still in the process of negotiation, but the prospect of Air Florida's commercial jet aircraft roaring into the Key West International Airport has already brought cries of protest from some local residents.

Some of the objections raised to the use of jets here are based on a lack of information, and some seem valid. Not all of the reaction is negative, however. Some advantage is seen in better and faster service and more inter-flight connections.

The objections fall into three categories: safety, convenience, and noise and air pollution.

THOSE WHO FEAR for the safety factor of the larger, faster, heavier jets remember National's three-engine 727's that served Key West for a few years in the late 1960's and early 1970's. "You could almost reach up and touch them when they made a low approach over the downtown area," said one resident who lives in the flight path. Jets land faster, are less maneuverable, and need a longer

runway, that objector said, remembering a National jet that ran off the east end of the runway once. Also, bad weather would make the nearness to the runway of the high school and the Key West by the Sea condominium even more hazardous. The question arose whether the City Commission had the authority to prohibit jets over a certain size to land in Key West.

ANOTHER OBJECTION is the presumed reduction in flights, since the new jets would be larger and could carry the same number of passengers that Air Sunshine does, with fewer flights. Considering the short distances most passengers out of Key West travel, the shorter flight time would not compensate for the inconvenience of fewer flights.

One resident who has both a personal and a professional interest in keeping Key West "Key Westy" objects to the jets on an esthetic basis, including the noise and air pollution.

"Jets are out of keeping with the size and image of Key West, just like the hi-rise condominiums," he says. Admitting to a contemporary nostalgia and fondness common to Key Westers, he adds, "Besides, flying Air Sunshine is an adventure."

THIS RAISES the thought that local entertainers will be deprived of some of their favorite routines about "Air Sometimes," and the familiar camaraderie among strangers buckling into their seats aboard the old DC-3 classics will disappear. "Did you bring your water wings with you? ... Is that Miami or Havana up ahead? ... If the weather's bad we'll probably taxi all the way to Key West ... In a strong head wind, those in the back have to get out and push."

Suggestions have been made that Air Florida consider using prop-jet Electras, which are quieter and more manageable in small quarters than the jets. Also, if jets are used, restrict them to the Naval

continued on page 32

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Reading Room
in Church Building
Daily except Sunday and Holidays
12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

All are welcome



WHEN I VISIT my friend, Mrs. Ikie Parks on Stock Island, I never feel the closeness of the ocean as in Key West. Go anywhere in Key West, penetrate any lane, and one's nose sniffs a saltiness. You realize that we never are more than a few paces from crusty coral sand, from the rinsing sound of the waves bringing in laundered bits. The sea hourly surrounds us, cuddles, and nestles next to us with a real mateyness.

Stock Island might be the outskirts of any unidentified small, summertime city, say in Nebraska. Even though you know that a few short yards away, the sea, too, sucks at the perimeters of Stock Island, which is a member attached to Key West's body, like an elbow or an ear.

MY FRIEND, Helen Parks, possesses pong (vitality). Pong from her father, Henry Horlerich, who created Horlerich subdivision on Stock Island. We are standing around in the Parks' garden, where he once planted a stand of 500 Key lime trees when the family shipped here in the '20's.

Henry Horlerich, (nicknamed "The German") had owned the Luxemburg Cafe and Saloon, across from Gimbel's in downtown Pittsburgh. Arriving here, he helped dredge the submarine base with Pete Des Jardins, the famous French demolition expert, who with his guys dived down with sticks of dynamite in their teeth.

Helen's papa, no slouch at spotting opportunity, went in for bootlegging, the favorite outdoor sport here then, during the Noble Experiment (Prohibition). Helen, her mom and sister were pressed into active service, running to the rescue, out

in the pickup to a secluded inlet where he waded waist deep, the sacks of contraband slung over his shoulder with Customs men hot on his trail.

HELEN, A SPIRIT who extracts vitality from her difficulties, snaps her eyes when she recalls the thought of that good, negotiable Scotch run in from Bimini, lying in the hall. And a few years later there was President Franklin Roosevelt waving from an open car at her and sister Anna selling tomatoes out front. Mom's Tea Room (a recreational spot) was the sole Stock Island neighbor then, except for the train rattling past where U.S. One now runs. Helen, a tease, won the school prize for her essay on temperance.

And so Key West always has been a smugglers' paradise. The Big Ones, the big smugglers, always have written our laws, put up our buildings and forged our roads. Through the deeps they slide like leviathans, untouchable. And on land, silently, wisely they reign.

THEY ARE NOT like the small gobblers, the gobblers who are little and who, sometimes, talk and who are picked up now and then in the net. Our little persons, cut off from the Mainland and sophisticated incomes by a thread of a highway and fathoms of ocean, turn to smuggling. They are so sorely tempted. The Conch mind, the old line Island mind, is not narrow-gauged about rock bottom human needs and hopes. The Conch mind understands this business of smuggling. Deeply perceives it.

THE FED fixed up like a long-hair, lying about on Louie's Back Yard deck, or the Fed hanging around with his dog at the Bull and Whistle, do not take it all in in this way.

Of course the Fed operates from the mighty bastions of justice. Give me mercy anytime, not justice, says the Conch. The Fed does not perceive it this way; it is just too scrubby, too

near, for the Fed to grasp.

I MUST HEREWITH ASSERT that, according to my personal lights, drug smuggling is as lawless as car stealing. But, for sure, in my thoughts there flowers more compassion than there does outrage.

Such considerations come to mind as the car passes back over the Stock Island bridge after a visit with my friend Helen and the Horlerich memories.

FABLES continued from page 23

dandelion onto her stinger. She looked witchy, alright -- and off she flew to Chris Chameleon's house and buzzed his door twice.

Chris opened the door to his tree-house right away -- he knew Wanda's signal. And then he laughed and laughed when he saw how she was dressed -- dandelion and a hat, yet.

"What is this?" he asked. "You look like a 'Mod Moth,' instead of what you really are."

"But I wanted to be a witch," cried Wanda. "I wanted to change things." Chris, in his brown suit, sat on his green leafy couch and promptly turned the same color -- a beautiful emerald. Wanda started crying, pulled the dandelion off her stinger and tossed her hat on the floor. "I thought you would help me, Chris -- you who can change clothes whenever you wish."

"I haven't any defenses, Wanda," Chris replied gently. "You see, you have your dagger -- so Mother Nature gave me this power. At least this way cats and my other enemies can't find me so easily. You can't be a witch, not even a good witch. We are what we are, and you are the nicest wasp I have ever known."

ROOTS

by Richard Marsh

LIFE UNDER KING GEORGE became intolerable for them, so a group of dissidents left England and came to North America to colonize the New World. But a vestige of loyalty to their king made living with the rag-tag band of rebels later known as the Founding Fathers equally intolerable.

They would rather "eat conch and live free" of royalty and revolution, these ruggedly individual idealists said, so they joined a band of English colonists known as the Eleutherian Adventurers (*eleutheria* is the Greek word for "freedom") in the Bahamas and called themselves "Conchs" after the hardy shellfish that thrives in those waters.

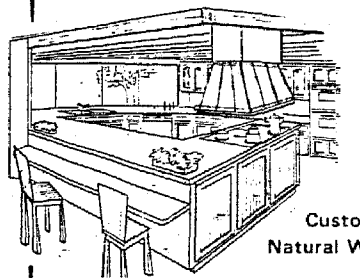
THEY BECAME PLANTERS, and, as shipping increased and ships came to grief on the treacherous and poorly mapped reefs in the Bahamas and off the East Coast of America, they went into the business of salvaging shipwrecks, or wrecking.

Because a ship southbound along the East Coast can lose 75 miles a day if it bucks the north-flowing three-knot Gulf Stream, the old sailing vessels had to thread the shifting, narrow path between the Gulf Stream and the reefs. A small mistake in navigation or a sudden squall or hurricane could mean disaster. As many as 150 ships per day passed near Key West during the 19th century, and 500 wrecks in a year was not unusual.

BAHAMIAN CONCH wreckers operated in the Florida Keys until an 1825 law prohibited non-Americans from wrecking in American waters, so some of the Bahamian Conchs became Americans and settled in Key West, which had been founded in 1822.

They continued to call themselves Conchs, and anyone who is born in Key West can lay claim to being a Conch also, although one whose descent can be traced back to the Bahamas is more of a Conch

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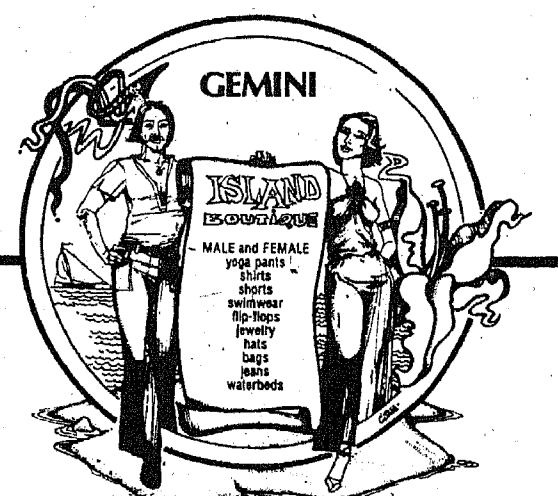
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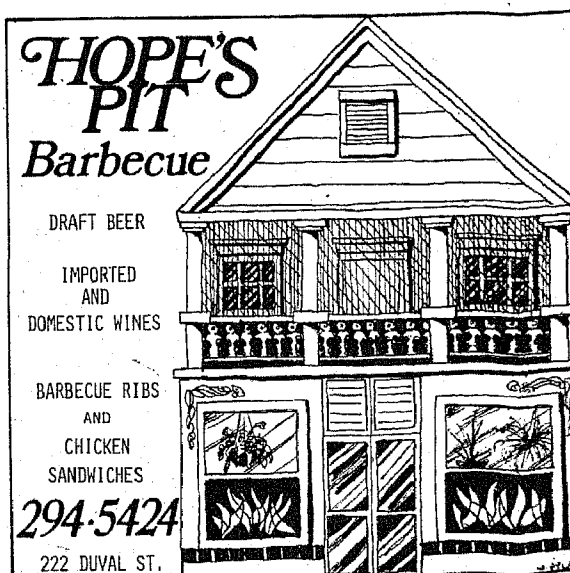
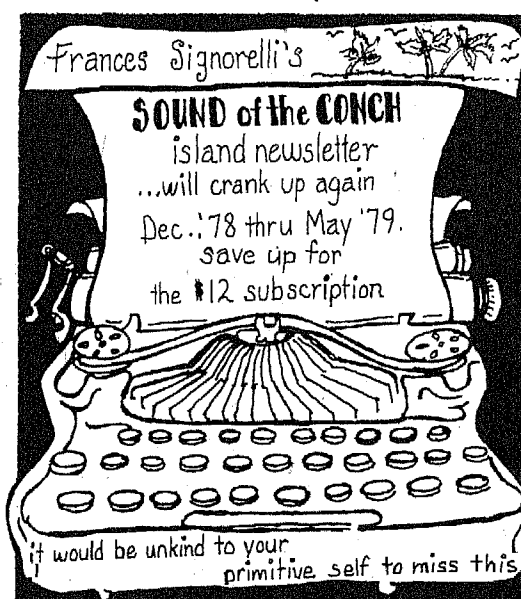
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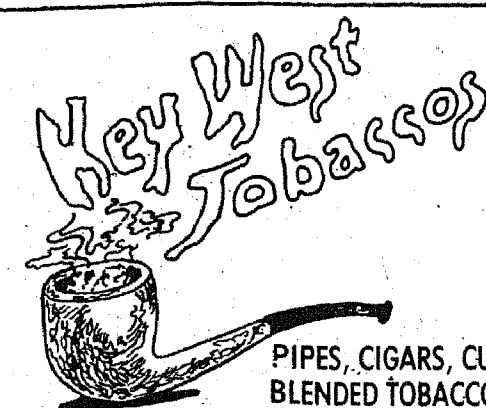


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We're back, and we're looking for local talent to fill dozens of roles in the seven major productions we've scheduled for the season. We welcome experienced performers and interested beginners to our new building on the Naval Base at the west end of Southard Street. Auditions will be from noon 'til 4 and from 8 pm 'til 10 on Saturday, November 4. If you've always intended to, here's your chance to be a part of the most exciting theatre happening in Key West.

Secondly, you're ALL invited to the OPEN HOUSE celebrating our fantastic new space the evening of Saturday, November 18. Some of the rough edges will still be showing (you know how moving is in Key West), but we want you to see what your new theatre will look like and meet the people who'll make it work. Actors, directors, costume designers, and the behind-the-scenes wizards will be there to talk to you about what's going on. There'll be snacks, bubbly and live music, too, so don't miss it.

Third but not least, Just Plain Bo is going to treat us to a warmup variety show on Sunday, November 26 to show he still loves ya. It's going to be nuts, as usual, so come prepared.

Finally, we're going to open the best season in Greene Street's history with a musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" on Friday, December 15. Our Grand Opening show will be directed by Richard (Red Ryder, Hello Out There, A Night Out) Magesis. Thanks for your support during our move, by the way. It's good to be back.

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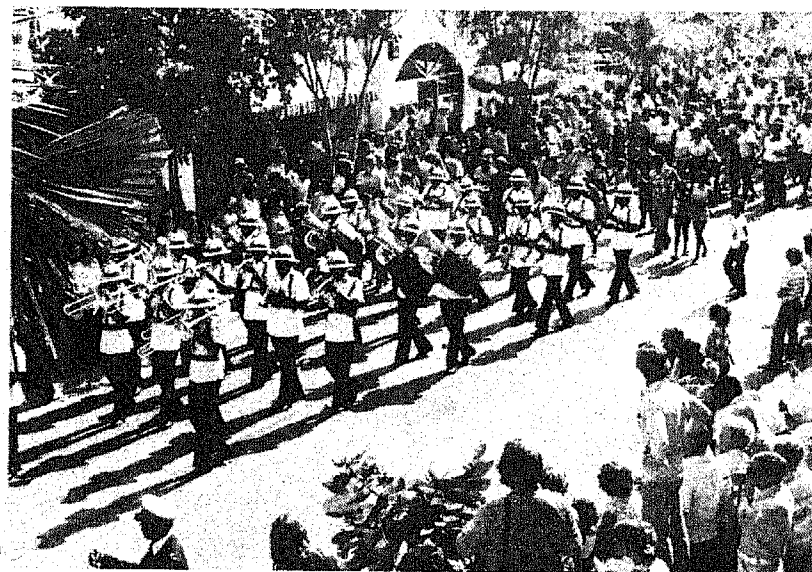
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than one whose parents came from, say, Detroit.

The Key West Conchs never forgot their Bahamian heritage -- you can hear it in the Conch accent and see it in the Conch houses --, but recognition of the kinship between Bahamians and Key Westers was never made the occasion of celebration and festivity until last year.

ALTON LOWE, a native artist and



The Royal Police Band, Duval Street, 1977

museum owner of New Plymouth, Green Turtle Cay, came to Key West in search of kinfolk. He and Betty Bruce of the Florida Room of the Monroe County Public Library got together with Ida Barron and others, and the result was the widely popular first Island Roots Festival, which was celebrated in the sister cities of New Plymouth and Key West.

The festival will be celebrated this year in New Plymouth November 11 and 12, and in Key West November 17 and 18.

ISLAND ROOTS FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Friday, November 17

The Top Florist Shop
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San Carlos Theater

Saturday, November 18

Continuing entertainment and activities
all day in the 500, 600, and 700 blocks

of Duval, including band concerts public sharing of a six-foot Key lime pie, continuous running of a movie about Key West called *The Key West Picture Show*, art exhibit.

10 a.m. Opening Ceremonies, 600 block of Duval Street
3 p.m. Parade starts at Clinton Place and proceeds down Front Street to Duval to Petronia to Whitehead
4 p.m. Royal Police Band concert
8 p.m. Public showing of Eleuthera Island paintings at Artists Unlimited
8 p.m. Bahamas Folklorica Dancers and Singers -- San Carlos Theater

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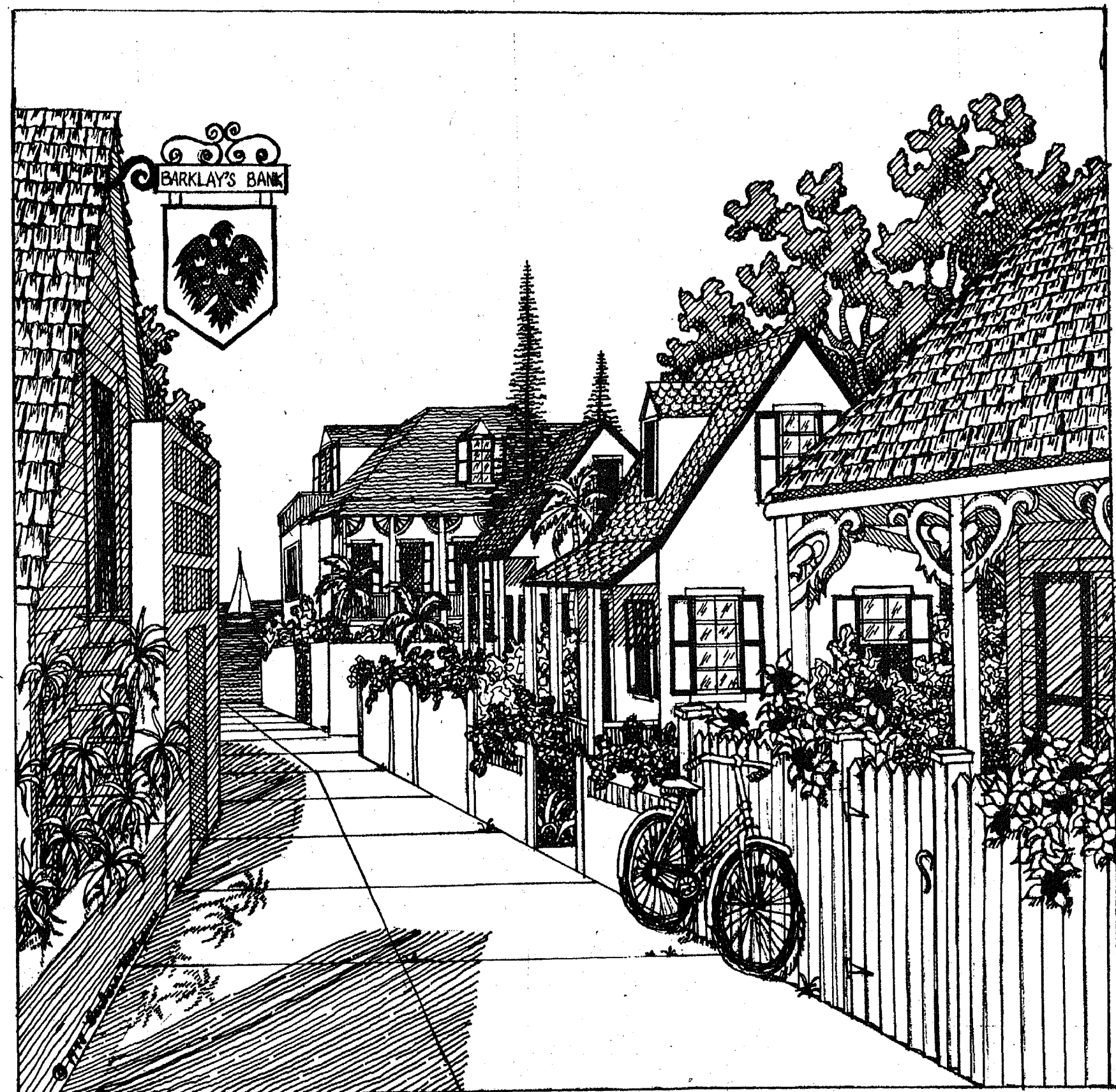
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NO COVER CHARGE IN LOUNGE

New Plymouth

poem and drawing by Barbara Hodgins



(New Plymouth is located on Green Turtle Cay, Abaco, Bahamas. As the origin of many of Key West's early settlers, it has been proclaimed Key West's Sister City. Barbara Hodgins, along with four other local artists, will have a special showing of paintings of New Plymouth in conjunction with the second annual local Island Roots celebration. The show will open with a public-is-welcome reception on Thursday, November 18, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Guild Hall, 814 Duval Street. Other artists participating will be Walter Ashe, Irma Quigley, Maxine McMullen and Fran Kobschull.)

junction with the second annual local Island Roots celebration. The show will open with a public-is-welcome reception on Thursday, November 18, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Guild Hall, 814 Duval Street. Other artists participating will be Walter Ashe, Irma Quigley, Maxine McMullen and Fran Kobschull.)

Just everywhere you look you see
A broad expanse of sky above,
A little slip of sea beyond,
A burst of brilliant bloom behind.

There's one post office and one inn,
Three grocery stores and two saloons,
A bank that opens once per week,
Six churches, one museum, too.

The storybook-style houses are
A sun-bright patchwork of pastels
With gingerbread and dormer roofs,
Deep cisterns, shutters color-rimmed.

The narrow, winding sidewalk-streets
Are rarely marred by any cars.
The jail, unneeded, lost its doors.
Goats mow the cemetery's grass.

One boat, at least, for every house,
Moored at a dock outside the door
On diamond sparkle sprinkled sea
Of emerald, aquamarine.

Just two phones link the outside world,
While news of local import goes
The rounds by neighbors' word of mouth
Or bills tacked up on street lamp posts.

On weekdays people of the town
Go harvest from the ocean's store.
The children grow up early here,
Since schooling ends with the ninth grade.

On weekends movies show at school,
The churches hold their morning meet
And friends go strolling out to dine --
A band plays dancing music, too.

Just everywhere you look you see
A broad expanse of sky above,
A little slip of sea beyond,
A burst of brilliant bloom behind.

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SOME REMARKS continued from page 27

Air Station at Boca Chica; civilian commercial and military aircraft share facilities elsewhere.

WE SPOKE WITH Jim Curasi, General Counsel for Air Florida, and posed some of these opinions and objections.

He said that Air Florida plans to use 737's instead of the previously considered DC-9's because of several advantages. Because of the design of the wing, in which the leading edge is adjustable, the 737 is more maneuverable, lands in a shorter distance, has a higher landing approach with a steeper angle of descent (that is, it will pass higher over downtown). It also has a slower landing speed, so it will stop in a shorter distance than the DC-9 and the 727. It needs a slightly longer runway than the DC-3. With only two engines, it is quieter than the 727.

AIR FLORIDA plans to maintain the same frequency of flights because of the expected growth in traffic, according to Curasi, using the 737's during the middle of the day and Air Sunshine's Convairs for the morning and evening flights. The DC-3 will probably be phased out.

When asked about locally expressed doubts about the safety of jets in Key West, Curasi assured us that the Federal Aviation Authority and Air Florida would not allow the jets to operate here if they felt they were unsafe.

ASIDE FROM considerations of safety, esthetics, and convenience, there is the matter of whether the people of Key West want even the quietest and safest of jets flying over the city, and if they do not want the jets, what do they do about it? The people were not consulted about the jets, and the only recourse we can see is to ask the City Commission to either pass an ordinance prohibiting the offending jets, or at least pass a resolution

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expressing the City's displeasure with the jets.

We will probably not see commercial jets here before the end of the year. Curasi could not predict an exact date due to variables in the progress of sale negotiations and the delivery of the jets.

R.M.

GOOD NEWS! There will be a benefit showing at the San Carlos Theater of that fantastic Key West movie/documentary *The Key West Picture Show* on November 5 at 6:00. Proceeds will go to the San Carlos Theater and the Tennessee Williams Repertory Company. Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at Fast Buck Freddie's, Bahama Mama's, The Picture Show, Foxy Lady, or at the San Carlos the night of the performance.

OVER 250 PRIZES worth over \$4,500 have been donated for the raffle on November 18 to benefit the Stock Island Volunteer Fire Department. From 9-5 there will be a public drawing for prizes a flea market, food, games, etc., at the Islander Drive-In on that date. Prizes are on display in the windows of 500 Simonton Street, corner of Fleming.



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KEY WEST'S HOROSCOPE

BY EMMA CATES

Sun in Scorpio, after 22nd in Sagittarius
Venus in Scorpio, retrograde
Mercury in Sagittarius
Saturn in Virgo
Jupiter in Leo
Mars in Sagittarius
Uranus in Scorpio
Neptune in Sagittarius
Pluto in Libra
North Node in Virgo

tarius will make way for expansive optimism for the city. Areas that seemed problematic will develop into some harmonious decisions that will bring relief, especially in the money department.

The stellium of planets in Scorpio during October, culminating with the New Moon in Scorpio on October 31 will be alleviated by the planets progressing into the sign of Sagittarius.* Only the planets Venus and Uranus will remain in Scorpio for the duration of 1978.

Saturn, the ruler of the chart of Key West, will be crossing the nadir of the chart of Key West during November, bringing stability and continuing security to the City of Key West.

*This stellium in Scorpio transiting our Mars brought a rash of crime and violence to the city.

THE FULL MOON on November 14 will be aspecting the houses of health and hospitals in the chart of Key West. This may bring to a conclusion the problems with ambulance service and also the other areas of medical care for the aged and transportation for mental patients that has been plaguing the city of late.

The New Moon on November 30 in Sagit-

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Feb. 2 - March 5

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HAVANA continued from page 13

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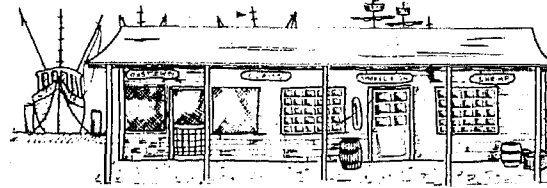
Sylvia Chivas, a 20 year old Olympic runner and student, for example, is of importance to the government and therefore has been given a washing machine, TV and shopping privileges. The government would like everyone to have such privileges, but because of the American economic blockade there are not enough appliances, goods and medicine to go around.

AMUSEMENT PARKS are popular, with one in Havana called Coney Island. It has a roller coaster and pin ball machines. Rides for kids are 10¢, adults 20¢. The Lenin Park, which is a 45 minute bus ride out of Havana, is approximately 10 miles in circumference and offers many rides, including a ferris wheel and a log ride down a chute of water. All rides are made in Japan! A specialty of the park is the Midnight sandwich made of cheese, ham and pork sold one each to a customer for \$1.25.

The big sport with kids is kite flying with a not very sporting factor in this pastime. It seems children like to tie razor blades on the tails of the kites in order to cut the lines of others.

A POPULAR BELIEF among many Key West Cubans is that political differences should be set aside and no longer be allowed to permit division of families. "We have served a long sentence," said one. "We should not be penalized over ideology." Despite governmental squabbles, many feel reunification of families is overdue.

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in upward burst,
And that slight tug of a
got fish;
The sound of an arrow,
Meeting its mark,
The checking even of
uneven things.....
These are the things,
THESE are the things
that make me try to
be more alive.

The first green sprouts of a
thumping seed,
Or a poem's meter
matching mine;
The first breath of sea
after Winter's spree.....
These are the things.

by Phoebe Coan

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