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FROM THE Editor

HELLO --

HEY, WASN'T the Fantasy Fest parade great? Surely it was the most incredible parade seen here in my time. The whole weekend was a great plus for business and a great plus for local people watchers. Special praise should go to Chris Stone and Armando Lodigiani of Lodestone Enterprises, who were the Festival coordinators, Joe Liska, President of the Tourist Development Corporation and who along with the Association got behind and pushed the idea, Doug Clark for continually serving the cause and many, many others. Hats off to these folks. Next issue we will have a write-up on the event with photos.

THE PRISONERS at the County Jail had to riot recently to draw attention to the continuing horrible conditions there. Thankfully, it looks as though there will be some action on getting their recreation area ready. Ed Stickney, Public Works Director, told me that completion of this was a top priority and that the contractor for the job, Odes McMillan, feels he should complete the work by the end of the month. The County Commission seems to remain surprised that anyone is unhappy over there. Hopefully we won't need a series of riots to make them aware that we are keeping those people in sub-human surroundings and that promised improvements should be completed.

SPEAKING OF the County Commission, I was disappointed to read of Commissioner Dolezal's lobbying for a constituent's appointment to the Civil Defense Director's job. This man was not among the four names approved as qualified by senior Civil Defense officials. Dolezal's pushing this man for the job is old-fashioned cronyism or, as we know it locally, "Bubbaism."

TIME TO KNOCK myself now. Several months ago, I praised the City police for "capturing the murderer of Frank

Fontis." I should have said "alleged" murderer since the person hadn't been judged and I understand has since been released for lack of evidence. Stupid mistake on my part and I apologize.

STATE OFFICIALS rightly criticized City Planner Keith Golan's attempts at pushing for the adoption of a below par Land Use Plan that did not adequately protect environmentally sensitive land. Golan has shown a great enthusiasm for filling the protected Salt Ponds out by the airport and making them developable, but hopefully State officials will not permit this.

C.E.T.A. IS alive and well. There are plenty of job opportunities for those unemployed for 15 weeks or more. Paid training is available and jobs open include secretarial, clerical, clean-up programs and security guards. For information, apply at Florida State Employment Service, 3100 Flagler Avenue.

THE JAYCEES put on a fine "Meet the Candidates" night at City Hall, Monday, October 29. It was informative and well attended. This is a good public service they do and I hope they continue with it.

THE SECOND PART of Kathleen Hargreaves' article on Plea Bargaining will appear in our December issue.

SEE YOU NEXT MONTH.

W

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JANICE WHITE AND THE COMMUNITY CONCERTS

BY MALCOLM ROSS

AS THE HOUSE LIGHTS DIM, a hush comes over the assembled audience and the latecomers who are straggling to their seats. Only the stage curtain is dimly lighted, as a follow spot lights up the area downstage right. A smiling gowned figure enters and glides to center stage. At first one has the pleasant recollection of Loretta Young's entrances on the old TV series, but this blond lady is not Loretta Young, and we are not looking at TV. "Good evening, ladies and gentlemen... Tonight the Community Concert Association is pleased to present..." The words fade

of three daughters born to Dr. John Bartlum Maloney, a local physician who maintained a practice as well as a hospital on the island until his death in 1916. (The only one of her surviving sisters, Florence Spottswood, is the mother of the late Senator John Spottswood.)

MOST OF JANICE'S LIFE has been centered on the 500 block of Simonton Street, where she was born and grew up and where she lives today. She still owns the building which was once her father's

artists-writers colony -- hence a tourist attraction.

Hemingway was of course already here when George came to town as one of the professional singers for a local WPA sponsored production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance." Where possible, local talent had been recruited, and community response was enthusiastic. (In the pit of the Depression, Key West was very, very quiet, and this production was the most important thing going on in town.)

JANICE, WHO HAD MADE her debut in Key West at the age of ten in the choir at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, had studied voice at Sullens College in Bristol, Virginia, as well as New York, and was cast as Mabel across from George White, who sang the tenor lead of Fred-e-ric. "Pirates" was a success both artistically and otherwise and was even destined to undergo a later revival under the Federal Music Project.

Next, Janice and George went to work on another production, that of "H.M.S. Pinafore," also by Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan and this time directed by George. The quality of this production had not been seen south of Atlanta, and after its Key West run, the city of Miami, just barely removed from its primordial swamps, was chosen to play host to an embellished version of this already lavish production. By this time the Key West cast had been supplemented by a chorus from all over the state of Florida as well as the Florida State Symphony. A marriage of course lay waiting in the wings, and Janice and George soon began to weave themselves into the diverse fabric of Key West.

ALTHOUGH SHE SOMEHOW found time to raise a son, Clayton Bartlum White, Janice has over the years given a great deal of time and energy to the Southernmost Humane Society, mostly as its president, and to the Key West Players, where she has appeared in many productions and where she also served for many years as president. She is probably best known for her portrayal of Tennessee Williams' heroines, and her theatrical plaudits have run the gamut from Big Mama in "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" to Amanda in "Glass Menagerie." Most recently she performed at the Greene Street Theatre in a highly acclaimed production of Williams' "Suddenly Last Summer." Williams himself autographed a souvenir poster for Janice, referring to her as "a great actress anywhere."

Janice's interest in music was probably most due to the fact that she grew up in a home where music was often present and greatly appreciated. Although her mother had a modest affinity for the piano and her father was an avid music



Joe Lowe, Mary Anne Matchett, Lillian Kilgareff (New York Representative), Ned Parker, Janice, and Florence Rabon at a recent membership "kickoff" dinner.

away and the audience realizes that this lovely lady in the beautiful gown will conduct them to another world for the next few hours, a world of music or the dance. She is indeed a portent of something special to come.

The calm and freshness which this lady purveys belie the fact that this moment is the result of many months of planning and hard work and that she has been doing this same thing for Key West audiences every winter for the past twenty-eight years. Janice White, as most Key Westers know, is no stranger to the stage or the realm of music. A fourth generation Conch, Janice was one

hospital at 532 Fleming Street next to Fausto's Food Palace (it has now been converted into apartments) and resides in the two storey Conch house on Simonton, which still bears a window with "Dr. Maloney" executed in stained glass over the main entrance. The book shop next door to the former hospital and around the corner on Fleming Street was also once a part of her territory, and she managed it for twenty-seven years, many of them with her late husband, George White. George came to Key West from Boston during the 1930's as part of the WPA Key West project, which was designed primarily to convert the island into an

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lover, it may have been an older sister, Otilie, who most inspired Janice to pursue a career in music. Otilie had a lovely singing voice, and Janice frequently accompanied her on the piano.

LIFE IS MUCH HAPPIER for the sharing, and Janice has put much of her time and energy over the years into sharing with the people of Key West her love of music. Twenty-eight of those years have been spent as president of the Key West Community Concert Association. On the current anniversary of its thirtieth season she was presented with a plaque for her service to the organization. She admits, however, that those years would have been impossible without the help of hardworking and harmonious teammates.

The Association was originally an offshoot of the Key West Women's Club. The history of this august organization reads like a Who's Who of the music world. Such noteworthy attractions as the Boston Pops Orchestra, the Roger Wagner Chorale,

the National Ballet, Ferrante and Teicher, William Warfield, the Norman Luboff Choir, Jose Greco, Rise Stevens, the Obernkirchen Children's Choir, Lucia Albanese, and the Trapp Family Singers have graced Key West stages since its inception.



Joe Burkel and Janice in a scene from "Lion In Winter."

THERE HAVE BEEN such moments of the joy which one can only experience in witnessing the live performance by a gifted artist. There have also been times hairy enough to try the patience of a saint, such as a piano arriving but minutes before curtain time or the time when a dance troupe arrived on the afternoon of a performance with mountains of dirty costumes from a previous evening's engagement expecting laundry service.

This was in the days before drip-dry fabrics, so every available washing machine was commandeered and every able-bodied iron was pressed into service, so that the dancers could go on stage unruffled and unsoiled.

There have been times when cancellations have threatened to upset the schedule of events for the organization. Sometimes these have come with adequate notice, but there was one afternoon when the charming Japanese soprano Shigemi Matsumoto realized to her alarm that the change of climate from subzero Arizona to tropical Key West had wreaked havoc with her vocal chords! There was no time to publicize a change in plans other than by word of mouth, and many disappointed concertgoers had to be turned away at the door.

NATURAL PHENOMENA HAVE also played a part in changing the best laid plans of mice and community concerts. On the evening of Soprano Betty Allen's concert, a torrential downpour caused such flooding and confusion that only about fifteen people showed up. Then of course there was the classic of all classics, the time during the 1971-72 season when the incoming tide flooded the high school orchestra pit during a performance of "Orpheus in the Underworld" by a Canadian opera company. The ensemble took the rising waters and dampened instruments in stride and incorporated a few bits of pertinent dialogue into the performance such as "I just came in with the tide."

Most of the problems which develop in presenting concerts are not as obvious to the public as weather phenomena or the high tide in the high school, and there have been many occasions when some acting ability has been necessary to project to an expectant audience the fact that God is truly ensconced in his heaven and all is right with the world.

FOR ITS THIRTY-THIRD year the Community Concert Association has planned a season of at least three exciting con-

certs: On Tuesday evening December 4, 1979, the excellent Murray Louis Dance Company will present an evening of ballet ranging from classic to modern interpretations. Saturday, February 9, 1980, the Association will present the Orpheus Trio, three outstanding soloists who perform on flute, viola and harp. Probably the highlight of the season will be the appearance of Metropolitan Opera baritone, Robert Merrill, who will sing for Key West audiences on Friday, March 28, 1980. The drive for memberships for these concerts is due to begin during the month of November.

Janice White is no longer at the helm of the organization, however, having been elevated to the status of president emerita, but her friends and admirers hope that her successors may be able to carry on with half the style and aplomb with which she has led the organization these many years.

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some remarks

AS A PART of a state-wide effort to locate and maintain a file of all former U.S. Navy Construction Battalion personnel, popularly known as "SEABEES," we are requesting they contact Kenneth D. Gammon, State Commander, 1720 Dana Place, Lakeland, FL 33801, or James F. Sullivan, State Secretary, 3801 18th Way East, Seven Springs, FL 33552.

We receive many enquiries from Seabees endeavoring to locate former friends, and such a file as that planned would enable us to assist not only former Seabees but also their widows.

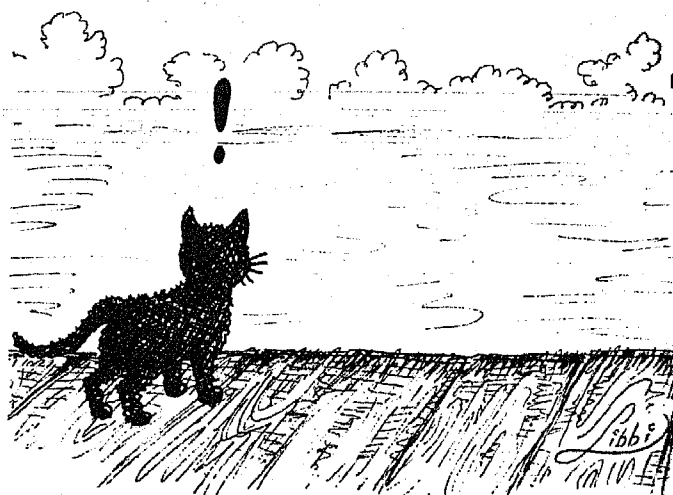
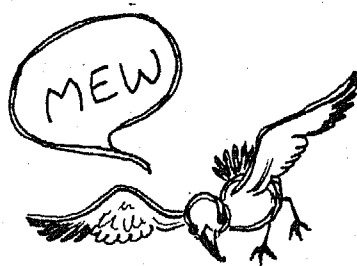
We also plan a Florida reunion of all Seabees, regardless of the battalion they were with while in service, and these names and addresses will enable us to advise them as to the time and place of the proposed "get-together" as a 37th, or 38th reunion, celebrating their formal organization as U.S. Navy Construction Battalions.

EMOTIONAL HEALTH ANONYMOUS meets at the First Congregational Church (in the Fellowship Hall), 523 William Street, Thursdays at 8:00 p.m.

The group is a non-profit spiritual group (but is not affiliated with any denomination or religion) and adheres to the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous, as adapted for emotional problems. There are no professionals (psychiatrists, psychologists, mental health workers) involved in leading the group, although such may become members.

The E.H.A. Program is designed for persons having severe or minor emotional problems. Members have applied the program successfully, to problems ranging from chronic schizophrenia and suicidal tendencies and manic depression to mild depression and minor worries. There are no membership fees or dues, although there is a free will collection to pay for literature, etc.

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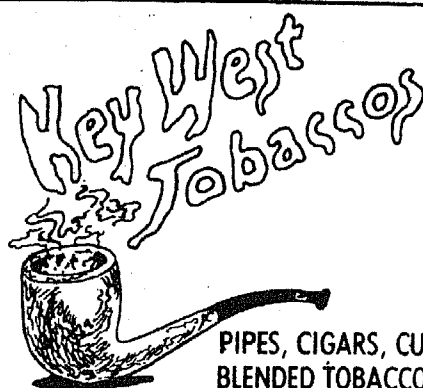
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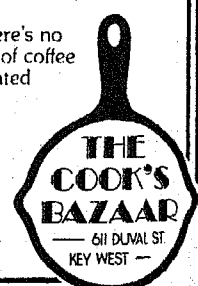
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notes & antic - dotes

BY DOROTHY RAYMER

CATTLE ARRIVING NEXT January at the Harry S. Truman Animal Import Center will not be the first livestock to be shipped to Fleming Key, where the Center is located. Back in May 1953, when the U.S. Navy occupied the Key where fuel tanks were buried (some said there were ammunition storage mounds), a small flock of goats was brought to Key West and established on the isolated Key.

The activity was known as "Operation Goat" and was based on an old Navy custom, that of keeping goats to eat grass and weeds which could not be cut down with a regular motor mower.

FLEMING KEY WAS in line for Operation Goat due to the steep inclines of the dump sites, which looked like miniature mountains.

The Navy news coverage was part of my assignment schedule for *The Key West Citizen* that spring of 1953. I was delighted to be informed that Cmdr. W.H. Clark, Jr., CO of the Navy Supply Department, had "a story which had to do with goats and official red tape. It will get your goat, no kidding," I was told.

FOUR NANNY GOATS were ordered sent to Key West from Norfolk, Virginia, to help in grass-weed control on Fleming Key. Cmdr. Clark said that four "lady" goats and one billygoat had been requested from the goat pool in Norfolk. But the goat supplier in Virginia replied that cross-breeding of goats produced better kids, and that since no "gentleman goat" of suitable "remote ancestry" was available at the moment, four female goats would be forwarded to Key West.

The quartet of four nannies was crated and sent via Railway Express. They came by railway as far as Miami, then were transferred from train to truck and brought to Key West through Overseas Transportation, which delivered for American Express.

EARLY ON MONDAY, May 4, officials took a look at the crates of goats which had arrived and discovered a miscount in the number of goats shipped. There were five instead of four.

Well, four will get you five, as they say in betting circles. Examination showed that one of the four nanny goats had given birth to a kid. The delivery (of the kid, that is,) was unattended as well as unexpected. But mother and offspring were apparently doing fine.

The adult goats and the baby were taken to the Navy Annex to be put on Fleming Key. Goats are used to leaping from crag to crag, so it was with ease that they were sprung from crate to Craig Dock, and hence to happy grazing grounds on Fleming Key.

Now for the complication of red tape.

THE QUESTION AROSE as to whether or not the Supply Department of the Navy in Key West would have to pay the Norfolk goat supply source for the kid on a basis of "two for one." Although a male goat had been requested, the order was for a full-grown "billy," not a newly born kid.

Cmdr. Clark revealed that it would take at least two years for a kid to become a "performing" billygoat, and besides, no one had been able to get near enough to the little herd to inspect the young addition to determine its sex.

He added that a "functioning" billygoat would have to be obtained.

I was another buttinsky. The Navy was inclined to purchase

a pedigreed sire and ignored my suggestions for getting somebody's goat right here. There were several goat groups in the area, including one collection in Aronovitz Lane between Whitehead and Duval streets with its deadend just at the rear of 616 Duval Street. I knew about this personally, since the neighbor's goats raided the garbage at the back of the Southernmost Flowers and Gifts shop, which I then once owned. I lived on the second floor over the shop and was regularly forced to shoo the goats away from the back entrance. That was in the early 1950's before there was a city ordinance forbidding keeping of barnyard denizens in town limits.

THE MILK FROM the Fleming Key nanny goats was assigned to the U.S. Naval Hospital. I tried to locate the goatherd and milker, but was unsuccessful. In fact, accompanied by a naval officer driving a jeep, I couldn't even locate the Norfolk imports. We drove over the bridge to Fleming Key and explored the grazing grounds in vain. Either the goats had reverted to the wild and were hiding, or they had been moved to another assignment.

A visiting British officer laughed over the "Operation Goat" tale. He said it was probably fortunate that the Navy had not ordered guinea pigs, since they multiply more rapidly than goats. He recalled his sojourn in Gibraltar, noting that goats were almost as rampant as the apes and he even compared Key West and Gibraltar as a potential for an increase in goat population.

I NEVER KNEW the final chapter of "Operation Goat," for I left Key West the summer of 1953 for a stab at free lancing in New York City, and a sojourn in Wilmington, N.C., on the *Star News*. When I returned to Key West in the spring of 1953, the goat saga was forgotten.

A backward trek in memory to that May month in 1953 does bring up another animal episode.

THE "SINGING MAILMAN," as he was known, Charlie Mendoza, promoted the idea of exhibiting a cow for the benefit of Key West youngsters who had never seen a live one. This was before TV programs here.

Oldsters in Key West remembered the years when cows were driven through the streets and milked right at the doorstep, and when cattle were herded across the island from the docks to a slaughter house pen near what is now Rest Beach. But it was true that there were no bovines in the city in 1953.

Mendoza acquired the loan of Betty, a beautiful heifer from Big Pine Key, to be exhibited in Key West. I hear the slogan was "Have You Heifer Seen a Cowboy's Dream Mooing?"

ANYWAY, BETTY WAS transported in a horse trailer to Key West and shown to the public in a one-day tour of the island. The trailer was towed by a Little White House type of limousine. Betty was on exhibit for an entranced younger generation, as well as for the nostalgic pleasure of older residents. Later, she appeared in the Armed Forces Day parade.

Betty did not appreciate all the attention. Before being secured, after her release from the trailer, she chased Mendoza up a tree.

AN ANNOUNCEMENT WAS made by Mendoza that the prize bovine beauty was "engaged" to a young Miami bull named "Lord Nelson." Mendoza added, "I don't know whether or not he is coming down for the weekend."

Uncowed, Mendoza eventually moved to Denver, Colorado, and no further bulletins were issued on Betty and her affianced bull.

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editorial

BY BILL WESTRAY

A PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE WATER SHORTAGE

WITH WATER CONSUMPTION up an average of over 700,000 gallons per day this year over last year, and with system losses still running about one and one-half million gallons per day (MGD), Executive Director Dennis Wardlow sounded a note of alarm to the Aqueduct Board early in October and requested an emergency meeting to declare a water emergency for the upcoming winter season.

The apparent intention was to decide upon and negotiate a contract with one of the temporary desalination plant builder/operators from whom the Authority has been receiving proposals the past several months. One of the problems that has faced the Board in pursuing this avenue of relief is the high unit cost of temporary desal water, and the demand by the suppliers that the Authority agree to buy the entire daily production capacity of up to 3 MGD, 365 days per year, for periods of three to five years. This would amount to a commitment of many millions of dollars which could only be recovered through increased water rates.

THE BOARD, and particularly its chairman, Dr. Delio Cobo, decided against a special meeting and emergency action, and then declined to even put the potential emergency question on the agenda for its regular meeting in Marathon on October 25.

We are inclined to share the belief, along with Director Wardlow, that a potential water shortage emergency may develop during the coming season and that it is too late to secure any additional water by any desalination process this year. As an alternative, we pro-

pose that the emergency measures under consideration during the Stock Island Desal Plant shutdown this past summer be more actively explored and even tested.

DURING THAT EMERGENCY, Governor Graham's staff located three large water barges of about one-half million gallons capacity each in Port Everglades, Port of Miami, and New Orleans. These were kept on standby to carry water to Key West if needed. We think these sources should be investigated to secure specific terms of sale and transport, lead time factors, and transit times, and that if possible one bargeload of water should be purchased, transported to Key West, and pumped into our system just to make sure that it can be done.

It would seem that a potential of one to two MGD could be secured this way, which could alleviate any developing shortage. However, the big advantage is that we would only have to buy water when we needed it. Even if the cost were high, it would represent only a small percentage of our total production costs, and we would only have to pay for what we need, not be bound to a three to five year contract.

HOW ABOUT IT, AQUEDUCT AUTHORITY? HOW ABOUT BUYING ONE HALF-MILLION GALLON BARGELOAD OF FRESH WATER FROM MIAMI, TRANSPORTING IT DOWN HERE, PUMPING IT INTO OUR TANKS AND DISTRIBUTING IT TO FKAAs CONSUMERS, SO THAT WE KNOW THAT WE CAN DO IT IF WE HAVE TO? WHAT-EVER THE COST, IT WOULD BE CHEAP INSURANCE!

What's In A Number

BY HELEN CHAPMAN

I WENT THROUGH grammar school with a girl, named Ann, who had a strange way with numbers. Actually, she had a strange way with everything and was known as a "brain," which is, as we know, much worse than buck teeth and pimples. When giving a guess of the amount of items in a given group, she used odd numbers. Where we say "eight or ten," Ann said "seven or nine." Interesting girl. I pushed her into an ice-covered puddle one day.

We are all vague about numerical amounts. "How many people were at the cocktail party?" Who counts people? No one even counts cocktails. And of course, the wider the spread, the more vague we become: five or six; twenty-five or thirty; one or two hundred. Over a million, who cares?

FOR EXAMPLE (and this is an invented example, not a quote), our careless author has a character go out into the garden to pick roses, the beautiful Corrinne, let's say. There is a reason for her doing this. Maybe it's her relationship to flowers that the writer wants to bring out poetically. Or maybe it's just a piece of business; he wants her out of the house at that moment, or specifically in the garden to meet someone. In any case, the number of roses she picks is of no consequence.

But many times I find the writer saying, "Corrinne went out into the garden and picked five or six roses." Does it matter? It sure does if it's a mystery novel, where every detail counts. If she picks six, and five of them are in a vase in the hallway, and the sixth is in the dead man's room, it matters very much.

"They met again after eight or ten years." Well, now! Two years in some people's lives can cover a lot of ground. Would these two people react to each other the same way after eight years as

they would after ten? Or are they such dull characters that two years are negligible? We all know that type: Studs Terkel material maybe, but not very interesting as main characters in fiction.

OR HOW ABOUT "There were four or five ships in the harbor." If it was Key West, that fifth ship would sure be noticeable. But even if it was San Francisco, one doesn't have to take off one's socks to count five ships precisely.

"She'd been to Rome once or twice before." If she'd been there fourteen or fifteen times, I could understand this lapse of memory, but, honey, let me tell you, the second time 'round in Rome beats the first all hollow; she'd be bound to remember. And now this is apparently her third trip, but it may be her second -- the author doesn't really know. Neither do we, the readers.

WRITERS HAVE FUN with money. "He arrived in New York City with five or six dollars to his name." Now, anyone who arrives in New York City with less than \$500.00 better know the penny how much he's got. If he arrived with \$5.32, we begin to worry with the poor guy. He spends five dollars for a sleazy room, buys a cup of coffee for twenty-five cents (and scoffs a doughnut off someone else's plate), and is wandering aimlessly with seven cents left. He can't even take a bus. And that's when he meets the rich woman, or the famous Broadway producer, or whoever saves his life. A pox on "five or six dollars!"

It's interesting to conjecture what would happen if journalists tended to the same vagueness: "1 OR 2 KIDS DROWN IN POOL" and "SEVERAL PLANES COLLIDE."

I wonder whatever became of Ann. She's probably a computer programmer somewhere.

Orchid Tree
This month we shall devote this space to a discussion of America's great Presidents. When first embarking upon this task I felt as if the limited space available would make such discussion impossible. However, once I'd begun, it became obvious there was no problem, for discussing America's great Presidents is something like discussing Nigeria's great ice skaters. In fact, there's hardly a President that's come down the pike that hasn't been accused of a "lack of leadership," though I think that's not quite correct. I would say that there is a "lack of followship" in this country, and truly, this is our greatest strength. Whenever there is a certain segment of sheep out there dancing to their own tunes, off from the herd, there's always a chance for something new and fresh to happen. Visit the Orchid Tree and experience just such a happening. The Orchid Tree—*natural foods*, a new way of eating.

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GREAT SHAKES

IN THE IDLE summer hours, a child's mind has the opportunity to wander towards many great things -- princes in foreign lands, mysterious castles in the sky, underground caves of darkness and horror and sumptuous banquets meant only for the fairy elite. In the stark stillness of a Key West summer, reverie and retrospect can be the only productive thing a body could do without moving too much and ending up with heat stroke.

There are just so many days one can spend at the beach without getting sick of the taste of salt water and disgusted with the glaring whiteness of the tropical sun. My sisters and I found ourselves sitting and dreaming of life elsewhere perhaps more frequently than children do in other places, because our lives revolved around our house and the surrounding area of a six-block radius.

ONCE THE FIRST MONTH of a summer vacation had been filled up with all the things we had been so desperate to do when we had to go to school, that left two very long and very hot months stretching out before us as a sort of blessing and a curse all at once. While it was much more preferable to be free from the duties of learning, filling the empty space that school had done became quite a chore.

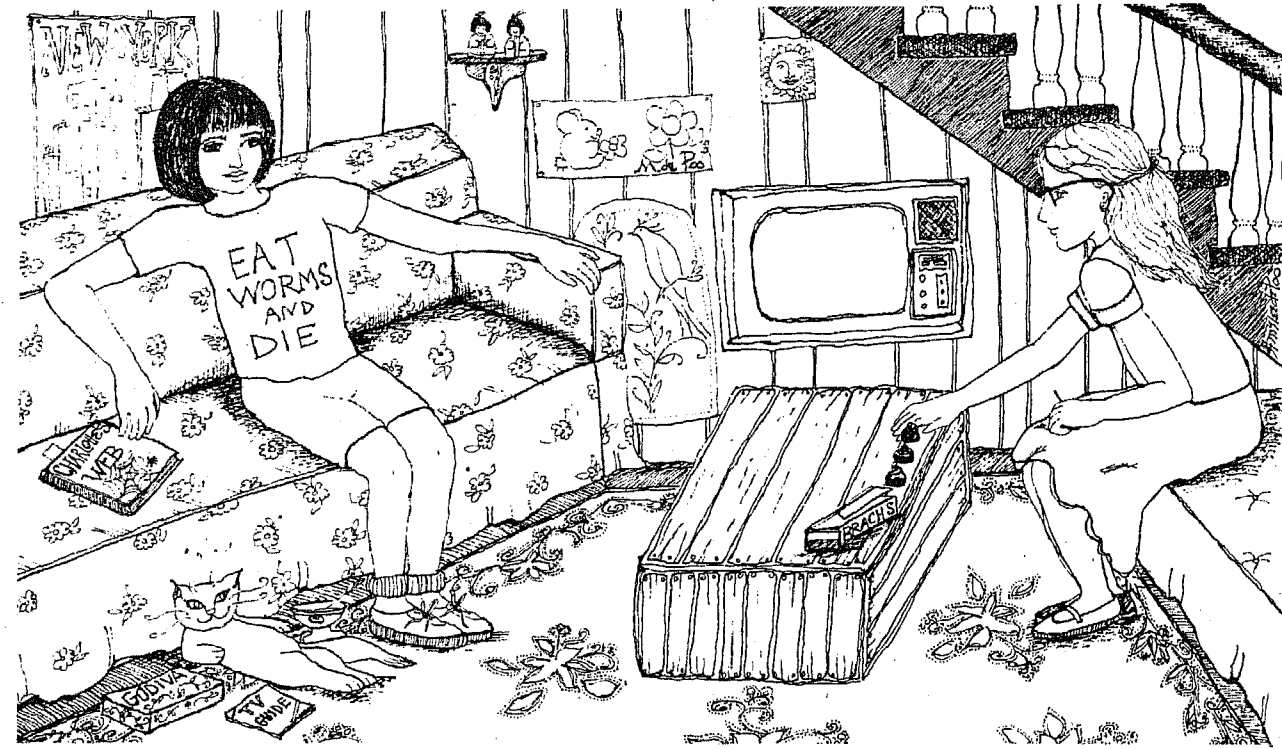
My sister Kathryn handled her chore of being happy in the most trying of circumstances by creating an intricate and complex method of eating chocolate covered cherries, and Martha and I found tremendous visual enjoyment in studying her as she sat glazed-faced in front of the television doing so.

First she would arrange six in a row on the table in front of her. Then

she would ponder them for awhile and finally choose one she thought was the smallest, working the theory that it is always best to save the best for last. Then she would take a wooden toothpick

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY AMY LEE DE POO

THEN she would take the flat end of the toothpick and slowly and painstakingly shovel out all the white creamy stuff around the cherry and eat it from the toothpick, which she imagined to be an



with both a pointed and a flat end and proceed to perforate a small circle in the bottom of the cherry by DRILLING (and that is no exaggeration, either) little holes with the pointed end of the toothpick. Then she would carefully lift off the small hatch and eat that.

elf's fork, I suppose. Then she would delicately lift out the cherry and lean back, every single time, I swear, and pop it into her mouth and say how delicious it was. All this being done, she would be the proud owner of a miniature chocolate cup, which she would hold up

to the light and examine very carefully for all its virtuous qualities of symmetry and swirl, make a few comments on that and maybe pick at it a few more times with her blasted little wooden shovel, and then, at long last, eat it. This was only the first cherry, mind you, and she still had five more to go.

IN THIS FASHION Kathryn could go on for hours, entranced with her self-imposed ritualistic preoccupation with food and totally unaware that she was slowly driving Martha and me crazy.

I had no such patience with cherry cordials and if one was in front of me I ate it and grabbed another and ate that one and continued to do so until somebody ran and told my mother I was a pig, and then we all had to suffer the strain of equal division rights. So Kathryn became our entertainment for a short spell, but how long can a person endure the lip-smacking relish of another individual when they themselves have gobbled up their entire allotment and there before them sits a whole row of untouchedables remaining to torture the soul?

MARTHA AND I decided to find our own entertainment out in the yard. We could always call the monkey and give him grasshoppers to eat, every crunch making us squirm. Or sometimes we would do worse things.

We found out that Trinket, our squirrel monkey, would roll hard, un-ripened Barbados cherries that grew in our yard to soften them up before she ate them. Being possessed of an unusual sense of humor, Martha and I would round up all our red marbles and hand them to the poor monkey and watch fascinated as the poor deceived creature rubbed them around and around on the porch railing with a look of total disbelieving disgust and failure at not being able to conquer the shiny glass fruit. This, too, had its drawbacks, as the monkey also threw away things she did not like

and our marble collections diminished with each costly feeding session.

THERE HAD TO BE something else to do. Down on Front Street they were building a new tourist area to be called Pirate's Alley. Part of it was already finished, and a few businesses had taken root, one being an ice cream parlor at the end, behind the La Brisa Restaurant. Martha and I remembered that we had enjoyed the most delicious and creamy chocolate milkshakes there a couple of times when we had accompanied my mother to the Art Center, where she frequently went on the weekends to hang shows or drop off her paintings.

We decided that a cool and refreshing milkshake would certainly hit the spot and most definitely far surpass the delight a much-fiddled-with cherry cordial might have to offer. Getting funds for this undertaking proved to be the gap in our plan to enter cafe society and take our rightful place at a wrought-iron table to talk ethics, analyze humanity, and really do little more than share gossip and eat. I usually had several resourceful tactics that I could employ to obtain money for something I wanted. One was to collect coke bottles and cash them in, and the other was to go to my sister Kathryn's dime collection and remove the most current dimes (why she saved dimes from the same year we were living in was beyond me), always being careful to replace them a few days later in the same spot.

UNFORTUNATELY, KATHRYN had discovered this little trick of mine as of late and always put her blue book of dimes where she could have frequent eye contact with it. Unless it was near a pile of magazines that I could walk over to and pretend to be engrossed in the doings of Hubert Humphrey, I could not get even CLOSE to it without her screaming at me and issuing vile epithets on the condition of my moral character, or lack of

it, as she saw it.

Martha and I still hadn't gotten any closer to our little piece of heaven waiting for us in Pirate's Alley. Then I remembered that I had buried an Eisenhower silver dollar out by the date tree in the yard during one of my frequent spells of misplaced identity, this particular one having come on after a bout with Long John Silver on the afternoon television matinee.

"Martha, I think we've been saved. I have a silver dollar buried out in the yard. Come on and let's go dig it up." "Silver dollar? Buried in that yard? Let's go dig it up nothing. YOU go dig it up. I'm not putting my hands in dirt for that."

"What's so precious about your hands? You want a milkshake don't you? It's not that hard to find, and with two people looking it'll be easier, and I think I know just where it is and..."

"Forget it."

ONCE MARTHA HAD made up her mind that was it. For a moment I thought about just forgetting the whole thing, but then I decided that I may as well do it myself, since she wasn't too bright anyway. I went out to the tree and began searching in the area for my dollar, and about all I could find was what the cat left, what the dog left, and more than a few disturbed worms. Martha was brighter than I thought.

I went back inside and told Martha unhappily about my fruitless search and dejectedly decided that we probably weren't meant to have the milkshakes anyway. This was too much for her to bear. After a few conspiratorial ideas had been tossed back and forth, we had come up with the solution to our problem: a small unannounced loan from our mother's purse, which was sitting on the kitchen table. We borrowed a dollar and four cents, just enough for two fifty-cent milkshakes and the tax.

Of course, we had every intention of

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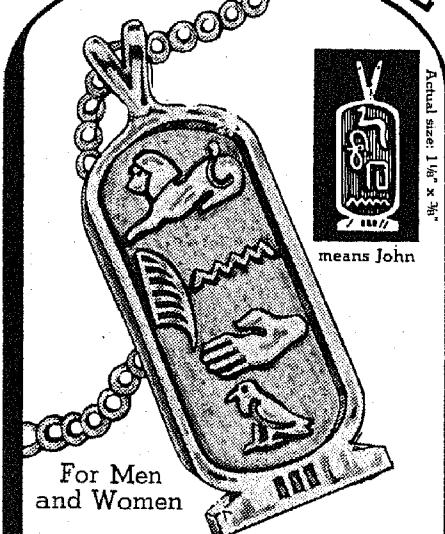
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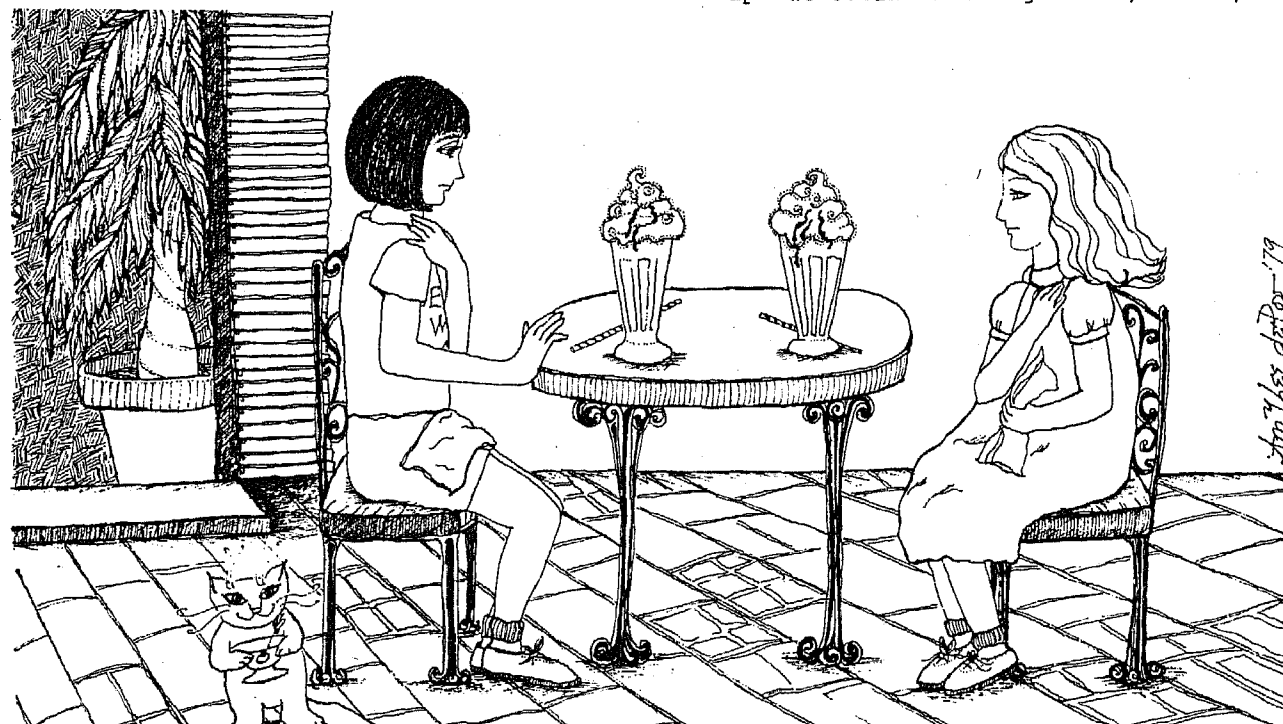
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paying it back, with generous interest rates to compensate for the slight deviation in our methods of handling a financial matter of this sort. I know I must have felt at least slight pangs of guilt for doing this, but somehow the whole pursuit of these glorious milkshakes had over-shadowed all else, and I couldn't help myself. Martha was beyond being held responsible for ANYTHING when it came to matters concerning food. So off we went to Pirate's Alley to collect the rewards of our ill-gotten gains.

FOR ALL THE HEAT it was a beautiful day, and we exulted in our new-found wealth, however devious it was. The whole way there we avoided speaking of the origins of our capital gains, instead preferring to dwell on the illustrious image of those frosty chocolate treats. We spoke of how attractive the glasses were that they served them in and how much more appealing they were than a paper cup. Large, old-fashioned heavy glassware seemed to provide that aesthetic touch that bespoke our re-



fined tastes.

I conjured up the image of a tall, cool glass, daintily flecked with glistening pearls of condensation that encircled the vessel holding that icy, silken confection of sheer chocolate delight. Martha commented on the high quality of straws used in the establishment, rigid wax-coated affairs that perfectly adorned the color and texture of the milkshake with their bold, barber pole red striping. And to top it off, huge swirls of whipped cream crowned the whole thing. Ah, we were fortunate mortals. We hurried on to the ice cream parlor.

ONCE THERE, we took seats at a little wrought-iron table with two matching chairs. The table was right outside the door, as they were seeking to emulate the open cafes of Paris, I assume. A

fountain had just been added recently, because the cement looked very new, but they had water in it anyway, and there was one big goldfish swimming around. We decided this was the perfect spot in Key West to come to for milkshakes and decided to cross Dairy Queen off our list forever.

The ice cream parlor was owned and run by two men, apparently very close. One wore an apron and stood around a lot with arms akimbo, always fussing and gesturing about the layout of the counter or the position of the postcard rack or incomplete sets of sugar bowls and salt and pepper shakers. He did the cooking, so to speak. The other man wore glasses and seemed to take care of the business end of the parlor and sat by the cash register with a pack of cigarettes and a glass that was always half-full and tinkling with ice. He rubbed his temples a lot.

THAT DAY THEY seemed to be in a continuous argument, because we couldn't help but overhear things like, "Well,

where WERE you last night," and "Don't hand me that, I wasn't born yesterday," and "They don't stay OPEN until five in the morning." Anyway, it meant nothing to us except the fact that our order was a little late in being placed, and we were, after all, in a high state of anticipation for our milkshakes.

The man with the apron finally came over and took our order. Seconds seemed like hours as we perked up and got ready to receive the most gratifying taste sensation this side of heaven and France, too. The grinding whirr of the blender machine assured us that even between barbed interrogation of his business associate the man could still produce our much awaited fine, frothy concoctions. I looked up and I saw him hurrying over with the tray and two glasses, but he had a frightful look of pain on his face

and he was again deep in the midst of an argument with his partner. We sat back as he set the tray down, removed the glasses, snatched the tray up again and was off towards the cash register to waggle his finger at his partner, who was draining his glass in an obvious beleaguered fashion.

AT LAST the battle was over. Victory was imminent. But something was wrong. Martha wasn't attacking her milkshake as I had expected her to do. I looked at her as I unwrapped my straw. She looked green in the face.

"Amy. There's something wrong with this milkshake. Look at it." I looked at her milkshake and turned her glass around, and, sure enough, there was something very wrong with it. I was horrified. Martha spoke again in a quiet voice.

"That's BLOOD on my whipped cream!" "Good God, that IS blood on your whipped cream!"

I grabbed my own milkshake and turned it around and almost fainted when I saw the other side of my beautiful mountain of snowy-white whipped cream defiled with three big drops of blood.

"I'm going to be sick!" I can't eat this!" I said as I leaned way over sideways in my chair to avoid looking at my ruined treasure. We were beside ourselves with anguish and disbelief. I thought it was a sure sign of heavenly intervention to teach us a lesson about borrowing money from our mother on such short notice, but Martha in her pragmatic wisdom had figured out what had happened. In the course of the argument with his partner, the man in the apron had cut himself on the finger on the blades of the blender, or maybe the lime knife for his gin and tonic, who knows, but he was totally unaware of his injury. In the process of making our milkshakes he had failed to realize that he was bleeding profusely from a surface wound and was mostly looking at his partner at the cash register the whole time he was putting on the whipped cream. Consequently we were served a little extra on the side.

I DIDN'T KNOW what to do. Every time I looked at the milkshake I wanted to throw up. My dreams were shattered. I was on the verge of a terminal case of dry heaves. Martha took it much better than I did, and I thought she would make a very skilled nurse one day if she didn't become fry cook at Shorty's instead (She also made excellent scrambled eggs.) She put her fingertips together and held them to her chin. I thought she was going to break out in a chant. She raised one eyebrow and got a transfixed glint in her eye. She spoke in a flat, decisive, and militaristic hushed tone. "There's only one thing to do."

"What's that? Get our money back?" I asked, hopeful of salvaging something from the whole bloody mess.

"No. Eat them anyway." And we did. Martha figured there was so much alcohol in his blood anyway, no germ could survive, so we picked off all the bloody parts, wiped the glasses, and were none the worse for it.

Reviewing Stand

BY DOROTHY RAYMER

"NICKNAMES AND CONCH TALES," by Walter H. Norman, is a collection of true happenings, characterizations, and anecdotes by a real Conch who was born on the Rock in 1916 at 727 Eaton Street.

Since 1971, Norman has lived on Key Largo. His book is self-distributed at Tavernier and is available in local book stores and newsstands, as well as at strategic sites such as museums.

The recollections are, for the most part, personal, and are recalled from the writer's early years and from his companionship with the late "Billy" Warren, who was William Richard Warren, Jr., son of the late Dr. William Warren, Sr., and his wife, known as "Miss Gen."

THE INCIDENTS RELATED in Norman's book are fascinating and amusing and border on the burlesque.

A scattering of excellent photographs accompanies the text, along with a few illustrative drawings.

A new explanation of why Key Westers are called Conchs is included in the list of incidents. According to Norman's version, a man named Julius Weatherford (1849-1933), said the reason for the term was due to a lack of communications. There were no phones, and when a new baby was born, the father of the infant stuck a conch shell on a stick and displayed it in the front yard. People riding by in buggies, or walking, noted the signal. Observing the shell on the stick, they knew that another child, "A true Conch," had arrived.

THE BOOK IS a treasure find of all sorts of legends and happenings, old and oft-repeated and herein verified. There are also tales never revealed before, all basically factual.

If you are a long-time resident or native born, you will delight in Norman's nostalgic yarns. If you are a newcomer, you will be intrigued and amazed by his candid revelations.

The collection is randomly told, but that adds to the mood of authenticity. Norman is a born storyteller.

MANY OF THE STORIES are bizarre, others vulgar, crude and shocking; but most are of exceptional interest and contribute to the overall and complex picture of old Key West. The incidents are "conversation pieces and are certainly realistic glimpses of the island's related history and its characters.

The list of nicknames in itself reveals the trend of lore of Cayo Hueso as it was -- and in some instances still is!

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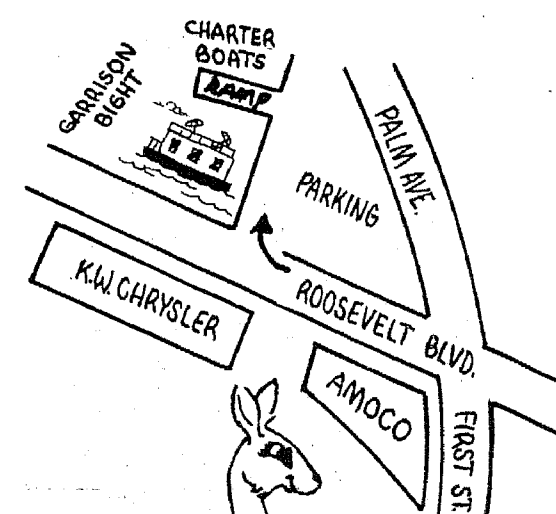
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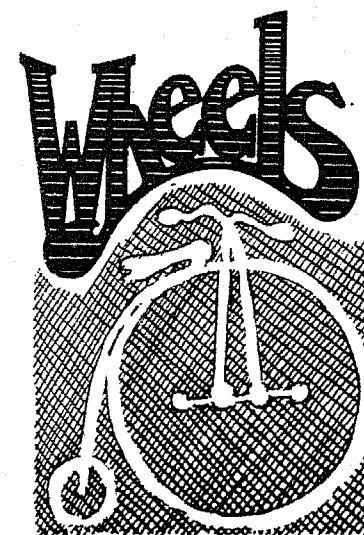
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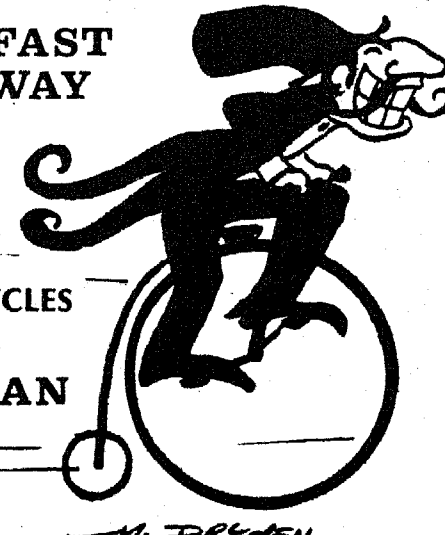


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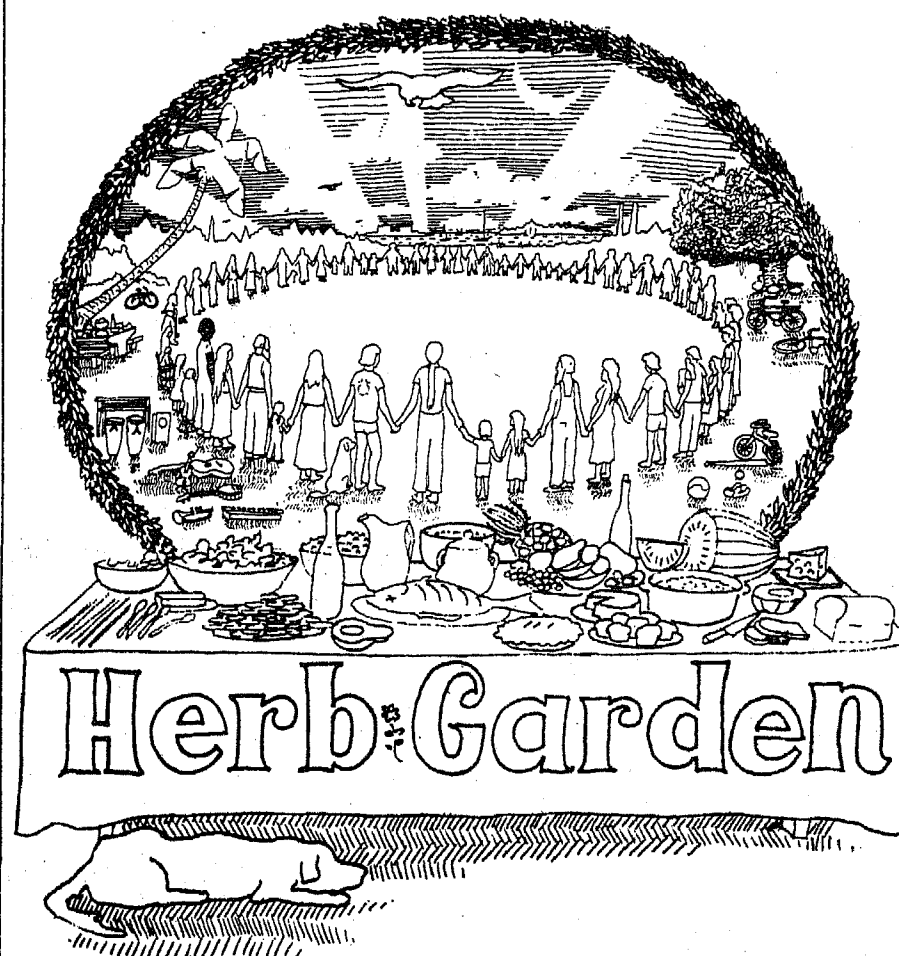
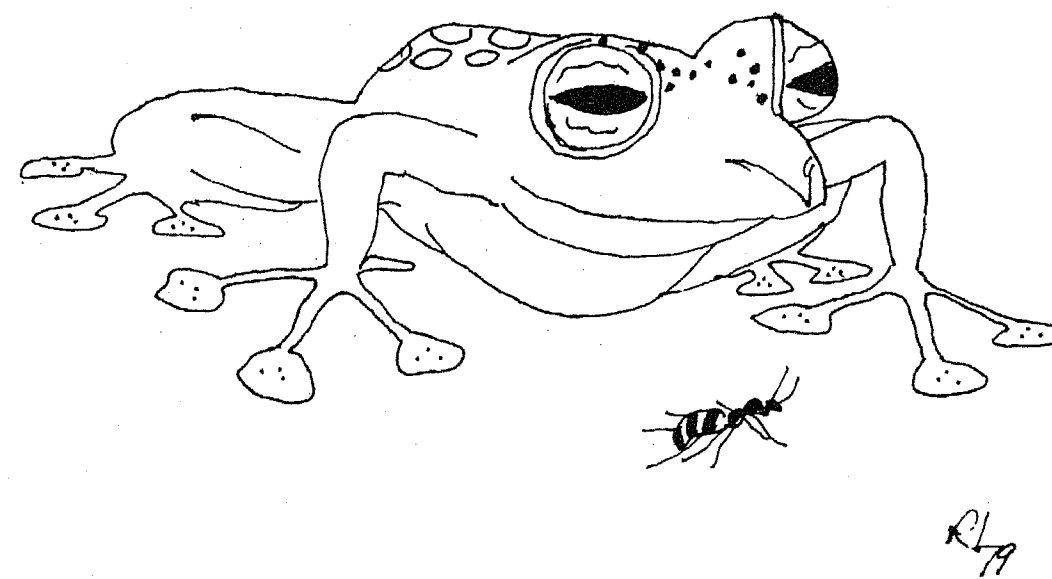
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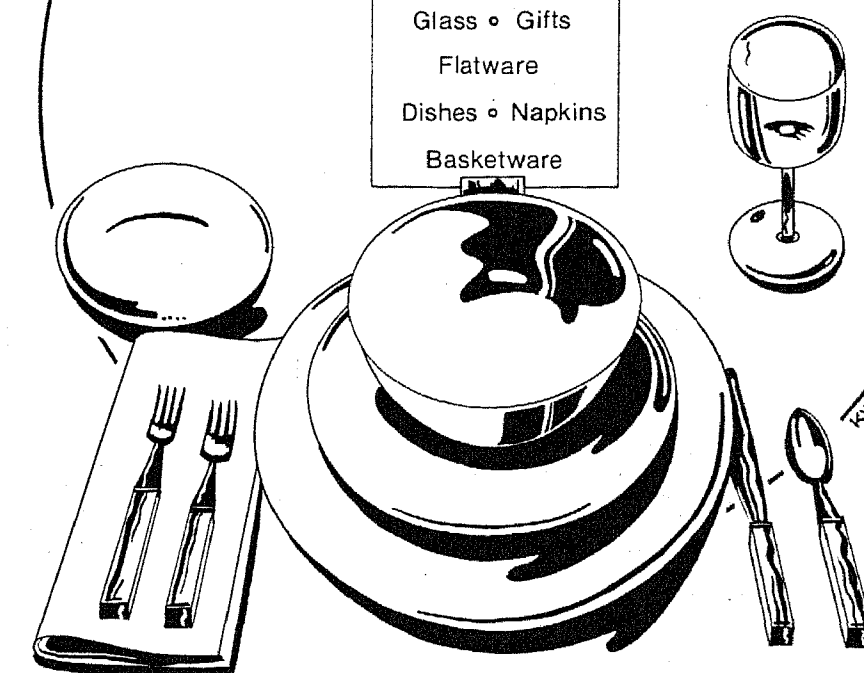
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A Fan's View of October's Classic Fan

BY JOHN HELLEN

OCTOBER. THE TENTH MONTH, is a month re-establishing normalcy. Gone is the hotness of summer, the vacations; gone, too, are the elastic days wrapping themselves around the northern globe with only a scrap of night connecting them. October is a very regular month; no big holidays, no announcements of unlimited tomorrows. Its grandest event -- the turning of the leaves -- is but a flamboyant wake, a warning of the nudity of winter. By Halloween all foliage stands dormant and braced for inescapable winter gusts.

In October children have accepted that they are really back in school. Mothers, the special few who today seem an anachronism, use their child-free time for canning or shopping for heavier garments. Fathers, due to the fact that so many of them still do as their fathers did, are not so anachronistic in their pre-winter habits, for in October comes the Classic.

THE OCTOBER CLASSIC adds the element of pageantry to the already soundly established protocol of baseball. Perhaps because it has a uniquely American heritage and an eighty-year tradition of surprises, personalities and almost superhuman efforts, baseball's October Classic is a ten-day drama pitting the good against the good. Presented in from four to seven segments in two cities, this drama has the strictest attention of an entire nation (if not the whole world, as its namers would have us believe). Naturally, the attentions of season-long baseball fans are at their sharpest.

The greatest phenomenon, though, is the sudden transformation in those persons who couldn't give a hoot about base-

ball in May, who are angered that the All-Star game in July has pre-empted a soap opera, or who experience a burning frustration when in September they discover football has overlapped the six-month baseball season to "clog up" another television network. These people, as many men as women, become suddenly transfixed by the October Classic, as if the event was about to shape their future lives. Regardless of which two teams lock horns, these ten-day-a-year fans are held mesmerized during each of the encounters. Unlike the pro fan, the October fan is unlikely to have a solid favorite.

THE PRO FAN bases his choice of a favorite team upon a logical series of eliminative steps. Every pro fan has "his" team by birthright. If he is a Red Sox fan he has been raised in New England. If a Cardinal fan, chances are he grew up in Missouri. Now on the unhappy but likely chance a pro fan's team does not make it to the Classic, his allegiance does not wane for the team given him at birth -- there is always next year. But for the purpose of finishing the viewing season like a pro, his choice of who he will support is open to a number of options.

If the American League team making it to the Classic has done so by clawing, scratching and spiking his regional baby, you know he'll root for the Nationals. But if his team has had a "rebuilding" year and has played well but finished down in the standings, chances are his allegiance will remain with the home team's league. Allegiance usually stays with the league in which the fan's home team plays, as in war where two neighbor-

ing countries will forget their petty squabbles to resist an obstreperous third.

However, and this is the irony in the spell-bound loyalty fans feel towards a home team, one player coming from a fan's home region who plays for a team far distant from the region may determine a fan's choice of who he wishes to win a game or even the Classic. Pro fans want to be regionally loyal, but, in effect, both leagues are totally composed of mercenaries. "Yeah, I remember Kenny Reynolds in High School," muses the fan. "He had a chance to get on with the Red Sox in double A, but the Padres' bonus was much better so he went out there." Because of personally knowing Kenny Reynolds the fan becomes, however subliminally, a Padres fan when the home team is not involved.

OTHER FACTORS VYING for the temporary fidelity of the pro fan at large (those many whose home babies are not in the Classic) are the genuine appreciation of well-played ball and the satisfaction of knowing there are heroes and seeing these superior beings statistically enhance their niches in history. Pro fans have followed the newspapers for seven months. They know who other teams and players are, even though they might seldom see them on television. They are aware of individual as well as team batting averages. They know how many double plays and how few errors great shortstops and second basemen produce. They know that an ERA is more than just a statistic.

When a player not on the home club is advancing toward a hallowed plateau of accomplishment, pro fans know it and tacitly, at least, wish him well. What is baseball if not for all-time greats? Men head and shoulders above the crowd

whose development of hand-eye coordination can launch, with a thirty ounce piece of wood, a baseball far enough to disappear -- no matter who in the world pitches it at him! Men fortunate enough to prolong the pleasure of boyhood twenty more years because of an uncanny ability to chase down towering rocket shots, or stand firmly their ground and snag confidently line drive blurs!

IN PREVIEWING THE starting pitchers for the Classic, the pro fan, cast into a limbo of neutrality by his home team's elimination, may actually root for both teams. The play is the thing, although it would be nice, thinks the fan to himself, if Cincinnati won in seven because of the memorable seven-part drama they had with my Sox in '75.

As stated, pro fans have definable reasons for who they wish to win the Classic. Out of a sense of fealty to either the senior or junior circuit, out of a sense of retribution for wrongs done the favorite, out of a personal acquaintance with a local player gone national, or out of a true appreciation of well played sport and pressure situation greatness, the pro fan knows why he is rooting for a team.

THE OCTOBER FAN, on the other hand, is more caught up in the pageantry of the two-week event than in the why and how of the two contestants getting there. The unstoppable din of standing-room-only stadiums, as projected over television, the many camera angles of the crowd -- all standing, frenzied, seventy thousand primal screams, flying arms like clubs, exhortative gestures, jumping up and down as if having to pee -- the three colored half circles of patriotism loudly decorating the stadium's balconies, parading excitement in the voices of the announcers gurgling out facts, lineups and predictions, the obvious tensions on the young faces of players who have just completed playing almost two hundred games since March -- this is the aura magnetizing the October fan.

The October fan really doesn't have a favorite, but he at least realizes the nature of sport well enough to know one team will win and the other lose. So he or she can choose a favorite for reasons as diverse as having a son in little league who is a pro fan and likes one of the teams, or having once gone to a convention in Baltimore and had a good time, or thinking so and so looks "cute" in his uniform.

ONE OF THE PLEASURES pro fans enjoy during the Classic is each others' company. After a long season of taking themselves out to the ball game and being harangued over the tube by Joe Garagiola, it is pleasant to retire to a favorite tavern with other pros and be harangued by Howard Cosell. Often, among pros who know the game well, each others' comments are more readily appreciable than Howard's, so the TV volume is lowered to a whisper. Taverns and public rooms have no screening test of trivia for anyone entering at any time, even during broadcasts of the Classic.

So inevitably among the pros is interspersed a smattering of October fans whose amateur status becomes apparent the moment they walk in. "What's the score?" Silent groans among the pros, but a sense of civility must reign in public taverns. In mumbled unison the pros reply, "Game ain't started yet." "Paper said three o'clock," counters the neo-fan. "Introducin' the lineups," grunt the pros. "Oh. I'm for Pittsburgh," offers the irritant. "Brother-in-law owns a cat food factory there." No comment, but thoughts of "big deal."

WHEN THE GAME DOES BEGIN, after much ado and a rendering of the Anthem by Anita Somebodyorother, and a throwing out of a baseball by a famous astronaut, the stage is set for multiple queries by the irritant which would easily be answered by Cosell's babbling dialogue, were the sound not lowered.

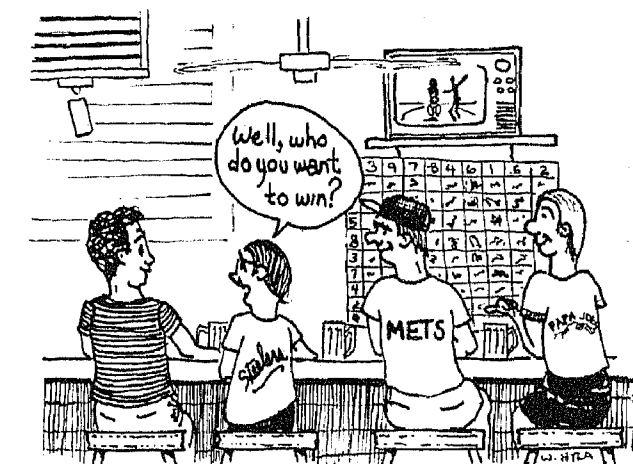
"How'd Cincinnati do against the Eagles in the league playoffs?" asks the October

zealot. Eyebrows raised in unison, the pros correct him by saying, "They played Pittsburgh," and by thinking, "They lost, dummy, otherwise they would be here. Eagles? Geez!"

The first man up has his statistics for the year flashed across the screen: avg 283 rbi 75 hr 3. The October fan says, "Wow, he doesn't look like he weighs that much." Pro heads glance at each other. Civility has its limits.

"Who you like?" asks the nonfan to the pro on his left.

"Well, I gotta go with the Orioles. They're out and out better'n Boston this year. At least the Sox finished higher than the Yanks, so I'm with the birds. But I'd like to see the family make it go seven, cause they scrapped all the way as a team. Kinda proves one guy ain't the whole team. Besides, I've always liked Stargell. He's got real style."



"Well, who do you want to win?" persists the October fan. "I just tell ya," responds the pro with mild astonishment.

As if keyed in chorus, the pros ask Joe, the bartender, to turn up the sound -- loud. At least Howard knows what he's talking about, even if he does say it funny.

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We asked all the candidates running for City Commission seats to answer the following questions:

1. What is your position on the surplus Navy Land? How do you feel about putting affordable housing on the base? What do you feel is the best use for the excess Navy Base waterfront? What kind of business or industry would be appropriate to go into the commercial area?
2. What steps would you recommend taking in reducing crime in Key West?
3. What steps would you take to improve the standards of equipment for the Fire Department?
4. Do you think that the City Commission should take a stronger part in City Electric affairs and, if so, in what respect?
5. With reference to present F.K.A.A. restrictions on water hook-ups, do you think that the City should declare a moratorium on multi-unit development until an assured additional supply of water is in sight?
6. Should there be a moratorium on new sewer hook-ups until the new sewer facility is functioning adequately?
7. Do you feel that there is any way in which the City Commission can help ease the tax burden on Key West residents?
8. What do you think are the most important issues facing the City Commission during the next four years?

CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR-COMMISSIONER -- GROUP 1

Name: RICHARD MARSH

1. The next two years are crucial to the development of the Navy Base. It is estimated that electricity, water, and sewer capabilities will be adequate or nearly adequate for large scale development by 1982. If the Navy Base is to be developed for the highest benefit for all Key Westers, it is imperative that the voices of all segments of the Key West community be heard immediately, since planning is now going on for developments that will take place two and three years from now. (An amendment to the 1979 Key West Land Use Plan that will include a Truman Annex proposal is expected to be adopted by July 1980.) The Land Use Plan wisely calls for adequate housing for working people, but the most scarce housing now is affordable middle-income housing, so that is the type that should receive priority consideration on the Navy Base. The Navy Base waterfront is ideally suited for tourist-related and other light industries that require access to dockage and/or deep water: yacht dockage, water sports and cruise and sight-seeing vessels, ship repair, boat and small ship building, etc. Revenue-producing operations and publicly-available recreation facilities should receive priority for waterfront space. Elsewhere on the Base, light industries like Hand Print Fabrics and the Fragrance and Cosmetics Factory would be ideally suited for the commercial area.
2. Crime prevention education and strong moral leadership on the part of parents, teachers, and religious persons could be coordinated by local law enforcement agencies. The Neighborhood Crime Watch program, which has proven successful in other communities, should be encouraged in Key West. The Mayor and other City Commissioners should take an active

interest in seeing that these and similar programs are established at little or nominal cost to the public.

It is essential that the Police Department be brought up to its budgeted strength of 40 sworn officers and patrolmen, plus the chief, deputy chief, and captain. The taxpayers are paying for 40 policemen to provide what is considered to be minimum protection, but currently we are receiving the services of 24 policemen, including eight rookies still in training. Foot patrols on Duval Street are needed, especially after dark and during periods of increased activity.

3. There is no question that the Fire Department's equipment needs to be improved to deal with an expanding population and new demands like jet planes operating within city limits. If I am elected Mayor, I would engage in dialog with the County to stop the petty bickering between City and County that does no one any good and helps deprive Key Westers of efficient delivery of government services. An important matter for discussion is a method of trading fire-fighting services to the County for money or equipment. The City currently provides primary response or backup for such County properties and areas as schools, airport, hospital, courthouse, Stock Island, and Key Haven without payment. An alternative arrangement could be the establishment of a fire protection tax district for Stock Island and other areas in the County, with the taxes paid to Key West for up-grading of equipment.

4. The City Commission should look more closely over the shoulder of the City Electric System to ensure that Key Westers are being adequately served by CES. When there is a shortage of power, the City Commission should not hesitate to take whatever measures are necessary for the health and safety of Key Westers. CES engineer James Massey said that if all the air conditioners in the city had been turned off, everyone would have had enough power during the month of outages in the summer of 1978. Prompt action by the City Commission could have averted much needless economic loss and inconvenience. (See also below.)

- 4,5,6. If I am elected, one of the first things I would do as Mayor would be to initiate action on a moratorium on all electric, water, and sewer hookups, except for single family homes and duplexes, until the City Electric System can guarantee enough electricity to meet the present needs of those who live here now (as well as tourists), until the new water pipeline reaches Key West, and until the new sewer system is installed and working properly.

7. The Mayor and other City Commissioners can bring the plight of heavily-taxed Key Westers to the attention of the State Legislature and suggest means of easing the burden. Establishment of appropriate light industries can shift the load off residents, and the Mayor and Commissioners can do much to encourage companies to make their headquarters here.

8. As I said in the answer to #1, many crucial steps in the development of the Navy Base will take place in the next two years. It is essential that this development be planned for the greatest benefit of all Key Westers. If the policies established by City officials over the past few years are followed for the next four years, Key West may be utterly changed from the Key West that the natives have grown up with and newcomers have

Election

Editorial

SOLARES HILL is again recommending candidates in the up-coming election.

A group of us who are involved with the paper put our heads together and came up with those candidates we feel are best able to serve the needs of Key West and Monroe County. As our readers know, we have a strong environmental bias, and those candidates who have shown most concern for our natural surroundings have an edge over those who have been less committed to preserving our environmental heritage. In the case of an unknown, much scrutiny is given his or her answers to our questionnaire. In the case of an incumbent, we have the person's record to refer to to help us make a judgement.

THIS HAS BEEN a remarkably low-key political season thus far. There have been no exciting encounters between the candidates, very few political ads in the papers, and only one "Meet the Candidates" night at this writing.

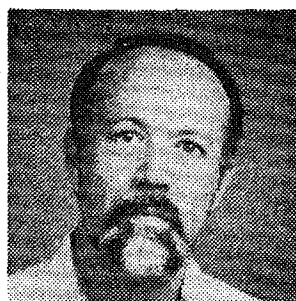
When we endorse, it means that we all generally agree that this person is the best one for the job. When we indicate a preference, it means that we all do not agree on this person, or that we feel some restraint on an all-out endorsement, but that he or she is the more favored by our group.



RICHARD MARSH - ENDORSED

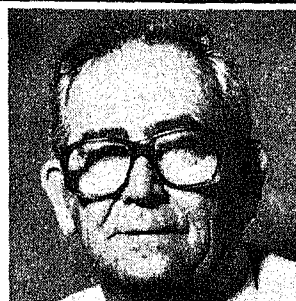
FOR MAYOR, we endorse Richard Marsh. We had no problems arriving at our decision. As the City Hall correspondent for Solares Hill, Richard has gleaned a first-rate awareness of local problems which he has often written up for our readers. The intelligence, lucidity, honor, and research which have gone into his articles will serve us, the people of Key West, if he is elected Mayor.

FOR CITY COMMISSIONER, Group 4, we prefer Lang Milian. At this crucial time in Key West history with development attitudes toward the Navy Base threatening our special way of living, it is wise to have on the Commission a man from the neighborhood most immediately affected by what happens there and who would, therefore, be expected to fight them.



RICHARD HEYMAN - ENDORSED

FOR CITY COMMISSIONER, Group 5, we endorse Richard Heyman. He shows an articulate and intelligent awareness of the present and coming problems facing Key West, and, as his answers to the questionnaire show, has thought of ways of dealing with them.



WILLIAM CATES - ENDORSED

FOR THE CHAIRMAN of the Utility Board we endorse William "Bill" Cates. We are very impressed with his vast technical experience in City Electric. He is obviously abreast of the times and has definite ideas where to go in the future. The lack of leadership during the 1978 brownout suggests strongly a change is needed, and we feel Bill Cates could be the man to make that change.



OTHA COX - ENDORSED

FOR UTILITY BOARD, Group 4, we endorse Otha Cox. We expect he will bring to the Board a good balance of educational qualifications, administrative experience, awareness and objectivity. At the Jaycees' Candidates' Night at City Hall, he was particularly impressive at answering questions about how he would react to situations at City Electric.

FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE BOARD, on the basis of the Candidates' Night at City Hall, we feel that Key West will be well served by Frank "Big Frank" Doolittle and Robert Redfern. Both men evidenced a strong desire to serve the City (Doolittle, the incumbent, already has), and both men appear to have an objective basis for serving.

THE TWO PROPOSALS facing the voter on November 6 ask that the voters vote to drop the present requirement of three names on a list certified by the Civil Service Board and the Fire Chief (or the Police Chief) for appointments to these departments. The idea of Civil Service is to provide protection for the job applicant and so that the best person is selected. To waive this requirement does not appeal to us. We suggest a NO vote to these two proposals.

ON NOVEMBER 20th there will be two referendums for the voters. One will be for a raise in our millage rate so that the police and fire department personnel can receive a much needed raise. We are in favor of this referendum and hope that its passage will clear the way to bringing both of these departments up to full strength. We support a YES vote on this referendum.

THE SECOND REFERENDUM asks for a tax increase to raise the salaries at City Hall. We are not so in favor of this. There is too much evidence of "feather-bedding" (for example, a paid botanist for the Indigenous Park), and we feel that raises for deserving employees can come about from cutting back on unnecessary jobs and job appointments.

been attracted by.

The single most important issue is the maintaining of the Conch lifestyle that is Key West's greatest attraction. Newcomers should be welcomed, but it should be understood that Key Westers will not tolerate the making over of their city to resemble Miami Beach.

A strong hand directing City government that is responsive to the needs and feelings of the citizens of Key West is absolutely necessary if Key West is to remain attractive and livable for Key Westers.

Name: JOSE MENENDEZ

1. When the surplus Navy Land was granted to the City of Key West three years ago, the city commissioners appointed individuals to the Key West Development Commission with the responsibility to devise plans for the development of this choice property. The people of Key West have waited patiently but have yet to see any positive results emerge from the Commission's work. In the meantime, we have not had access to this beautiful area and the City has been deprived of a significant source of income from its use.

Planning will be of critical importance in the redevelopment of the Navy land. The area is adaptable to widely varying uses and in order to set up the best plan, we will have to eliminate the continuous haggling of individuals whose prime motivation is primarily based on their own self-interest.

I would consider many kinds of business or industry as being appropriate for the commercial area as long as they would not detract from the appearance of or be detrimental to the ecology of Key West.

2. I think that the key to reducing crime in Key West lies in the strengthening and supporting of our Police Department. Our Police play a critical role in combatting crime and the portion of our taxes allotted to their salaries should better reflect their grave importance in our community.
3. With the proper management of city revenue, there will be adequate funds to provide the necessary equipment and personnel to fulfill the needs of our community with respect to fire protection.

4. City Electric has expanded far beyond the limits of use for which it was originally founded. We citizens of Key West established City Electric to supply our own energy demands. Since that time, we have paid for its operation but it has been using that revenue to expand its facilities to supply customers not only here but also up the Keys. We've built up the operation over the years and are now being penalized while other Keys customers reap the benefits.

I am in favor of charging lower electric rates for Key West customers whose investments have made this expansion possible.

City Electric affairs should be handled by City Electric personnel but the mayor should keep abreast of its operation since it is a city entity.

I am very concerned with the huge indebtedness that has been incurred by our Electric Company in past years. The Company has always operated in the red and by continually channeling profits from our investments into the expansion of facilities to supply the needs of non-Key West customers, the indebtedness is prolonged.

5. Without knowing approximately when

the additional water supply will be made available to customers in Key West, I do not feel that one can adequately answer this question.

6. If construction on the new sewer facility begins in January as scheduled, it will probably be completed within 2 or 3 years. Until then, I would approve new sewer hook-ups provided that the buildings in question complied with the existing building codes of Key West.

7. There are many avenues which the City Commission can explore in its effort to ease the tax burden on its residents. One of my first tasks, if elected Mayor, would be to take a critical look at the manner in which our tax revenues are being spent. By re-channeling funds from non-productive projects into those that would be of greater utility to our citizens, we would receive much more value for our hard-earned tax dollars.

One major expenditure that I'd be most anxious to eliminate or at least minimize would be the thousands of dollars currently being paid by our city to expensive consulting firms who charge exorbitant fees to tell us how to run our business. These agencies are usually from out of town and therefore have little interest in the welfare of our community. The solutions they provide could be supplied just as easily and at a far more reasonable cost by people within our community and our taxes would then be funneled back into our own economy.

This would be just one of the many ways we could achieve a significant cut in our budget without decreasing the quality of our services.

8. The next four years will be of crucial importance to those concerned with the future of our city. We will face numerous problems and few of them will prove easy to resolve. Our City is on the verge of bankruptcy. The public debt continues to increase while the payments on current loans cannot be met. This creates an undesirable situation from the standpoint of those who might otherwise be eager to invest in our future. Efforts must be made immediately to improve our financial condition.

Because our economy depends so heavily on revenues generated by the flow of tourists to our area, we must assure the continued popularity of Key West as a vacation spot. The energy crisis will present one of the greatest challenges to our success in reaching this goal. With rising fuel prices, fewer tourists can afford to drive the long distances they once would to enjoy a week or two of our sunshine. Faced with the probability of a smaller tourist market in America, we must attract visitors on an international scale. To do so will require expanded facilities for handling air travel. The development of such an operation might be considered at the existing Boca Chica airport. We will have to work much harder in the future to promote the tourism that seemed to flow so freely to our area in the past. This will necessitate the improvement of our existing tourist facilities as well as the development of new ones.

The problem of rising crime must be alleviated. Neither tourist nor investor will flock to an island where the safety of their person or property cannot be assured. Life-long residents of Key West who have always taken these things for granted are incensed by the mounting rates of robberies and acts of violence taking place on their streets which were once so peaceful. By providing adequate police protection, we can

reduce these needless assaults on our citizens and greatly improve the quality of life here in Key West.

Name: DEXTER SPRINGSTEAD

- The Navy Base lands must be used to benefit all the community with equality. I am not particularly in favor of rental units that are operated by the City or private individuals. I would suggest outright purchase of homes with subsidized mortgages earmarked for low-income families who have shown stability in the community.

In 1974-74, friends of mine proposed and supported a proposal by Jacques Cousteau to develop part of the Base into COUSTEAU WORLD. This would have comprised an educational-commercial-light industry. Now that the opportunity for that proposal is gone, I would look at projects like cruise ships, and a new City Marina with facilities for small vessel emergency repairs, light commercial industry.

- Reducing crime must take two directions:
 - Higher visibility of law enforcement

- more patrolmen
- foot patrols backed by motorcycles or perhaps a tourist-oriented idea of horse-mount police officers

- Education of business and home owners in how to deal effectively in crime prevention

- Determine what equipment is needed to bring the Department up to strength (at least to the 1973 level)

- Open up the Navy Station Fire Department as soon as possible.
- Establish salt-water wells (hydrants) in the New Town section where fresh-water hydrants are nearly non-existent, as well as several such salt-water hydrants for emergencies in the Old Town section.

- I believe the City Commission has given away too much of its authority over CES and PATA. As the City Commission is the parent body of these two agencies, it must exercise control in ensuring that the prime directive of serving the public need is being carried out.

- I am not against growth in our community; however, the safety of the citizens on our island comes first and until guaranteed additional water supplies are evident, all multi-unit development must stop.

- There is already a moratorium on additional sewer hook-ups by the State of Florida.

- Yes! The City Commission must:
 - Ensure a higher degree of productivity in City Hall
 - Establish priorities within City Government
 - Pay for Public Safety first and take care of other services with what is left. If there is not enough funds to run the less-essential service, then let the tax-payers decide whether they want the service and are willing to pay for it. There is far too much wasted effort in City Hall and not enough effective management. The City Manager must be allowed to do his job according to the City Charter.

- Bonded Indebtedness: must only be used when there are absolutely no alternatives. The City cannot survive a projected bond debt exceeding \$370,000,000. The economy is too shaky. As the ultimate re-

sponsibility to pay these bonds is up to the City Taxpayer, all bonds must be voted on by the electorate.

- The "Peaceful Island" image: of Key West keeps taking a beating in the national press because of violence and crime, and then these reports are blown out of proportion. This is a serious problem, and steps must be taken to reduce this violence and crime as quickly as possible. This will be done by making the police force more visible.

Mayor Charles "Sonny" McCoy did not respond.

Mayoral Candidate Bob Flick did not respond.

CANDIDATES FOR CITY COMMISSION -- GROUP 4

Name: LANG MILIAN

- The area for housing should be completely restricted to one- and two-family houses, and it should be developed under a HUD program so that our working people can afford to buy the homes.

Best use for the waterfront is a badly needed City Marina for local residents at reasonable rentals.

Businesses should be restricted to those locally owned and operated, including a market selling local products.

Any industry should be light, clean, quiet and small.

- Bring the Police Department up to full strength; have pay scale equal to Sheriff's deputies; have heavier patrol in all areas and more foot patrol downtown.

- Bring all equipment up to standard; have firemen paid same as police, and work toward a Fire Tax District, including Stock Island and Key Haven.

- Yes. Make recommendations to improve the plant and assure adequate power at all times. It is a responsibility of the City Commission to stay on top of sub-agencies of the City.

- Yes -- an unqualified yes.

- Yes -- also unqualified.

- Yes. The City should work on the Legislature either to eliminate one- and two-family homes from ad valorem taxes or increase Homestead Exemption to \$25,000. We should try to inspire the County and other cities and counties to work toward the same end.

- Reducing or eliminating City debt, repairing sidewalks, eliminating fat from the budget, holding the line on taxes.
 - Illegal drug problem and attendant crime and violence.
 - Sewer, electric and water problems.
 - Inadequate swimming beaches.
 - Preserving Key West as it is -- not as developers and their friends would like to see it.

Commissioner Mary Graham did not respond.

CANDIDATES FOR CITY COMMISSION -- GROUP 5

Name: RALPH ARNOLD INCUMBENT

- The surplus Navy land is the single most important event or proposition to confront Key West in fifty years. The use of the Navy base for housing

is but one part of the total plan and must be viewed as integral and important to the overall success of the project.

Projections:

The overall success of the project, looking at Key West as a whole and remembering that we must have human support for our endeavors large or small, I would say to ignore adequate housing for our people is absolutely unthinkable. I would like to point out two things in my answer to your question. First, the word affordable varies with each person's point of view. If it is your intent to see a housing mix on the base for varied income brackets, then I agree. If it is your intent to have housing only for the very wealthy then I disagree. Point two is that we are faced with the Federal Government and they hold title to this property. If we must conform to their standards to get our land back then I would conform rather than to take them on in a battle that could and would go on for years. To summarize, Key West is an Island City that comes from the sea. Yet through no fault of our own, we have the heart, the very guts of our City, the Harbor and waterfront, being held by our own United States Government. We need that land and mostly we need that waterfront to move ahead. We must not fail to obtain this goal or our children will ask us what happened to our rightful heritage and where were you when we had the chance to get it back.

Point three. The base is Key West's heart. If the base is Key West's heart then the waterfront is the blood supply. I would allow the waterfront to develop to the natural levels of each type of endeavor connected with the sea. #1. Dockage for pleasure crafts, so important for tourist trade.

#2. Hotel Marina. #3. Ship repair and fitting. #4. Boat manufacturing. #5. Cruise ships. #6. Fishing industry. #7. Offshore racing destination. To choose one or all of these or perhaps a use I haven't listed would be premature. The great thing about a free economic system is that the demand will tell us the proper course for the future. Once again the waterfront will make Key West an important boating destination and that's what we are all about.

Point four. I feel that the business on the base today represents an underlying strength of our economics "today." In other words, these businesses and their combined production, employment and the buying power they represent are very important to our well being "NOW." The point is we must somehow not lose sight that these people's needs must not be trampled in the stampede once we have the land. Whenever possible, we must try to accommodate those businesses (which for the most part participate locally) first. Once again I would like to say that the type of business pattern would depend on demand. Any business that would scar the environment or the Old Town feeling would of course not be acceptable.

- The formula for reducing crime, to me, has two basic and obvious solutions. Number one, more and better paid policemen. And heavily increased foot patrol in the main tourist areas would be a definite boom to the business in Old Town. The money to put these men to work must come from an increased tax base. The Navy base property and golf course development would be a step in the right direction. I have worked for, during the last four years, the increased productivity of all City properties. I

feel we have moved towards that goal.

- The money for this equipment must come from #1 grants #2 an expanded City budget. The only way to expand the City budget without increasing taxes is to expand the tax on the base. We are moving towards that goal now.

- This is a question for the City electric board and they are responsible to the people of Key West just as with me, as a City Commissioner. The people have the option to remove us if they feel we are not responsive to the community. I think when the City electric operation was structured the idea was to keep the City Commission from intervening with the running of the electric system. Perhaps this concept is correct. However, this is for the citizens of Key West to decide.

- This year when my water pressure was so low that I couldn't bathe I was so mad that I might have voted for a moratorium. But being an optimist I want to believe a moratorium will not be necessary and the FKAA plans to increase supply will go smoothly. Multi-unit development in accordance with the present guidelines and density requirements is an important part of our controlled growth. However, if we were faced with the prospect of a permanent or long duration pressure drop I am sure that moratorium would be forthcoming from FKAA.

- The sewer problem is only months away from the beginning of the actual work schedule. This happening is because of a tremendous amount of hard work and perseverance by our local officials, including myself. It has been a number one priority to this commission. With

the number of new hook-ups in Key West actually very small, a moratorium is not needed and the areas with the greatest problems are almost to total density now. Believe it or not help "IS" on the way.

- Spread the tax base and continue to make for sound business use of all City land.

- #1. The Navy Base (I have covered this before).
- #2. Expanding our advertising and promotion for tourism, as it is our number one growth industry.

A. To insure tourism in the future I would consider the following:

- Expanded International advertising, for this is the greatest market of the future.
- Opening the dock space of the Naval Base to bring in the many yachts.
- Giving more attention to each visitor while they're here. The best advertising is a satisfied customer.
- Continue to crack down on transients and bums.
- More police patrolling the tourist areas.
- More trash cans and pick-ups in the heavily travelled areas.
- A welcoming station at the entrance to the City.
- Possibility of a tourist tax to support many of the above.
- Expanded Holidays such as Roots, Boat Races, Parades, Garden Shows, and Old Island Days.

- #3. The Golf Course. A championship course will be a terrific boom for us all and the at-

tractiveness of our community for visitors and those who stay here.

- Adequate supplies of water, electric, low cost housing, and a first class sewer system and a fully manned police and fire department and higher salaries for City workers.

In closing I would like to point out that these same concerns are shared by many thousands of small towns throughout the nation. Many of them have a bleak outlook for their survival. With us here in Key West this is not the case for the future and tomorrow for our children looks brighter than ever before.

Name: ANNE P. BARNES

- Surplus navy land should be used in a diversified manner to provide affordable housing, human services, tourist attractions and light industry which can be adapted to tourism. An example would be Key West Hand Prints where people can observe the screening process. It is of the utmost importance that polluting industries be eliminated entirely. The waterfront could be split into three sections utilizing part for a major marine biology display similar to the Miami Seaquarium. Other sections should be reserved for boating activities including a school to teach both safe power and sail boating. I would like to see an area set aside for building and repair of small boats which could be tourist oriented.

- In order to reduce crime more activities need to be created, to absorb the time of teens and young adults. A really active Police Athletic League which included something similar to the Golden Gloves program would assist in bridging the communication gap and

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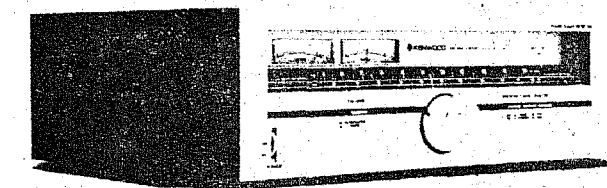
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also provide an arena in which to vent hostilities. A major drug control program also needs to be established. The provision of adequate police protection and a good communication project which would include seminars between police and the people would promote rapport and cooperation within the community.

3. I would attempt to procure standard parts so that they are in supply to make immediate repairs when replacement is necessary. I would budget in advance for new equipment. I would investigate grant money to improve the status of the fire department.
4. Monitoring of the fuel adjustment should be assumed by the City Commission.
5. Absolutely.
6. A moratorium on new sewer hook-ups should be declared on multi-unit developments.
7. I would have to investigate the financial structure of the City before I could give an intelligent answer.
8. The land use plan for the entire city including the Navy surplus land. Establishing criteria for electric,

water and sewer hook-ups after the "Area of Critical Concern" designation is lifted.

Insuring environmental standards are maintained.

Providing low and moderate income housing for our working force and persons on fixed incomes.

Finding permanent solutions for Public Safety and Public Service employee salaries and equipment.

Budgeting to insure absolute productivity of the City finances.

Name: RAFAEL "TONY" GONZALEZ

1. The surplus Navy land should be commercialized and industrialized with small businesses and shops and tourist attractions and with small, environmentally clean industries; a marina for large yachts should be provided; adequate dockage for Caribbean area cruise ships should be provided; the possibility of setting-up a rapid water transit hydrofoil ship run between Key West and Miami should be investigated. The afore-going if realized should provide the local Key West area with a maximum number of newly created job opportunities and much needed new tax revenue. The tax revenue could serve as an important source of funds for beefing-

up the Key West Police Department. I would question the need to convert any of the surplus Navy land into low rental housing. The City of Key West presently has access to and use of the Navy property at Peary Court. The present Key West City Commission apparently would rather think in terms of using this property for recreational purposes; rather should it think in terms of using it for affordable, low-rent housing for working-class people who can't afford to pay Key West's sky-high, well-to-do tourist oriented rents for the decent housing that they deserve and desperately need.

2. I would work to beef-up the local Key West Police Department quantity and quality-wise by hiring additional, well-qualified recruits through funds derived from the source suggested in Question 1, above, and/or the imposition of a resort tax.
3. By purchasing whatever might be needed from the same fund(s) and source(s) mentioned in questions 1 and 2, above.
4. Yes. The City Commission should more closely monitor and supervise the management personnel of CES.
5. Yes.

6. Yes.

7. Yes. Consolidate, where feasible and practicable, duplicating city/county services and departments.

8. Crime, inadequate water supply, inadequate electricity generating capacity at CES, inadequate sewage disposal facilities, and inadequate funding for necessary city services (not necessarily in the order given).

Name: RICHARD HEYMAN

1. The Truman Navy Annex must be developed in a fashion that benefits all of the residents of Key West. It is a very valuable resource and there will be an expanded tax base to improve city services overall. It also should provide increased jobs and revenues in the private sector. The Navy base must be developed in a methodical fashion. The first step should be to build the marina and marine-related facilities. There is an urgent need for additional boat slips for tourists and residents alike. We have the skilled workmen and expertise available in Key West to provide marine repair facilities as an adjunct to the marina.

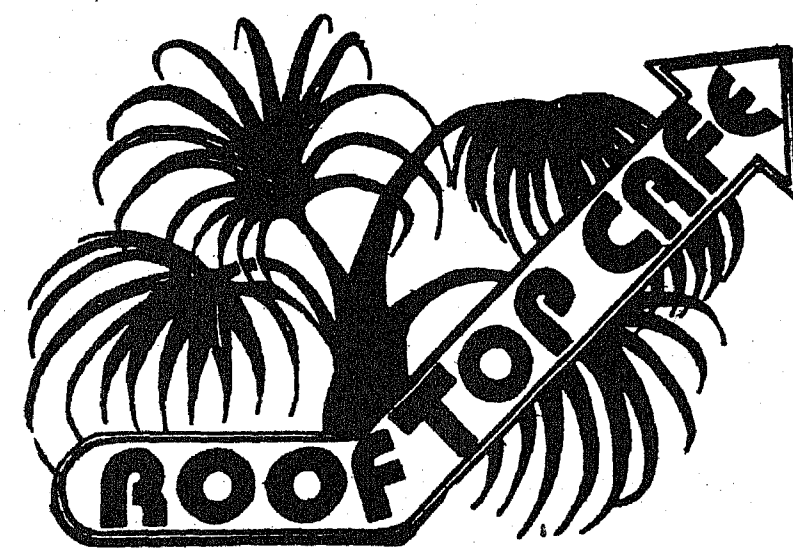
As we develop the basin area, we must be certain that the "mole" and other waterfront areas are open and accessible to the public.

With respect to prospective industry for the base and Key West in general, I have proposed that we establish a Business-Industry Search Group to first identify what types of industry are compatible with the Key West environment and the existing tourist business and which are economically feasible here. Then the Group also can provide input to the Governor's efforts to seek industry for the state by making known to him the benefits of certain types of industry locating in our City.

The housing problem is the most difficult to deal with. It is inappropriate to say at this time that there will be "x" units of this type of housing and "x" units of that type. We have not had a housing study done in Key West in ten years. One is now in progress. We need to know exactly what the demand for housing is and how that need can be met with respect to all of Key West, including the Navy Base. We know, for example, there is a need for low income housing, but how many units is not known. We also know there is a need for high income housing. Demand in that sector is so great it is bidding up the

prices of middle income housing to the point where no one without a great deal of money can buy a house in Key West. Therefore, once it is determined what the demand for housing is and how it can be met throughout Key West as a whole, we can begin building units at the Naval Base. I will support construction of housing on the Naval Base in any price level to fill our housing shortages, but only as a part of the total housing plan for Key West.

2. The job of a Police Department is crime prevention. The proven way to reduce the assaults, robberies, break-ins and muggings that have plagued Key West residents and visitors is to increase street patrols. Police officers on foot in downtown areas and on motor scooters in residential areas will prevent crime in the first place. Further, enforcement of City ordinances, as opposed to state statutes, for a particular crime will reduce the time a police officer must spend involved in the court system, make justice more swift and sure and provide revenues to the City instead of the County coffers. Of course, we must increase police officers' pay to attract and retain trained, qualified and experienced men and women on the police force.

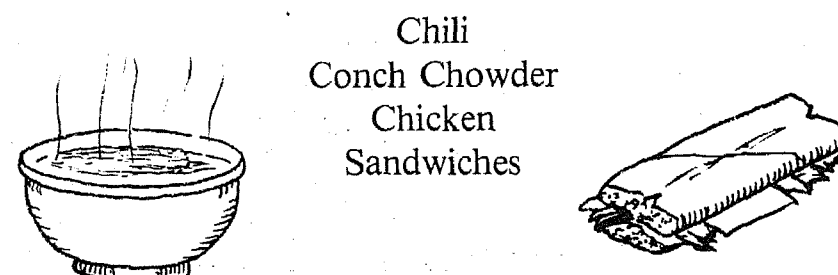


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3. In addition to the need to increase the firefighter's pay, we must replace the existing, generally antiquated equipment with three new pumps. The existing equipment can then be used as back-up units. This will have to be done over the next three to five years.
4. The City Commission definitely should take a stronger role in the City Electric System. At the very least, they are the representatives of the people who "own" the system and who use it. Further, the City is a major consumer of electricity and has an obligation to its constituency to make certain the City is not being overcharged for electricity. Since the City created the CES, it can change the basis of the relationship. The City Commission should conduct an annual review of CES operations and financing to assure the public that this valuable City asset is being properly managed and operated at optimum efficiency.
5. I generally do not favor moratoriums on water or sewer hook-ups. Such moratoriums restrict home construction and could sour builders on Key West at a time when we know we need to construct additional housing units at all price levels. On top of our natural restrictions, artificial restrictions on housing construction can only dampen such construction and further escalate home property values. However, I am disturbed by the recent announcement that there will be a water shortage this year. If a water shortage is imminent, then a moratorium on hook-ups or a ban on new construction will be absolutely essential. No water in Key West will do more damage to the local economy than a moratorium. We must get reliable information on what the water situation will be like in the peak months, both in 1980 and in 1981, and then decide what actions the City can take to prevent shortages. By 1982, the initial stages of pipeline

construction can provide added water supplies to meet our needs at that time.

6. Again, the points I initially raised against water hook-up moratoriums apply to sewer hook-ups. Similarly, a critical situation has been allowed to develop. If we cannot control the dumping of raw sewage into the oceans and canals by temporary measures, then a moratorium on sewer hook-ups may be the only answer to stop this unconscionable pollution of our waters.
7. The City Commission can ease the tax burden on Key West residents by managing more efficiently the resources it has at its disposal. Let's get rid of anybody who is not providing the essential services the people need and want. Let's not let old equipment rust away at the City Garage. At least it can be sold for junk. Let's implement a preventive maintenance program to assure that City equipment will operate more efficiently and reliably. I doubt seriously whether any of the City vehicles could pass state motor vehicle inspection. The addition of the resort tax will help put some of the burden of maintaining tourist-oriented activities on the tourist instead of the local resident. Efforts should be made to seek expanded authority from the State to use the resort tax revenues for other uses, such as police and fire protection, which must be increased to serve the needs of the additional tourists on the island.
8. The first and foremost task for the Commission in the next four years is to put the City on a sound financial basis so that first class police and fire protection, continuously cleaned and repaired streets and sewer and electric systems that work can be considered normal and expected in this City. That can and must be done without further increases in the tax rates. By providing these ser-

vices that people have a right to expect, confidence in local government will be restored. Second, the Commission will have the grave responsibility of overseeing the development of the Naval Annex to be certain it fulfills the hopes of all the citizens that it will be an asset to the community and not a point of divisiveness. Third, the Commission must move to improve and expand our tourism industry into a year-round business and seek other compatible industry to broaden our economic base. I hope to contribute toward meeting these goals during my tenure on the Commission, if I am elected by the people. As I have said so often during this campaign, I expect to be watching the performance of all City employees toward meeting these goals. I hope the citizens who elect me will do the same with me. I will be asking them frequently during the next four years for an assessment of my efforts toward meeting the goals and objectives I have outlined here. The City Government and the people can and must work together to make our community a better and safer place in which to live, work and enjoy the beauty that is our Island Paradise.

Name: JAMES (JIMMY) MIRA

1. The Key West Redevelopment Commission has done a reasonably professional analysis of the potential for the Navy Land. With some amendments as to certain parcels of this land, I would be in general support. While the primary utilization of the land should be in support of marine activity, both commercial and pleasure, some serious consideration must be given to the desires of those who wish this area to reflect optimum enjoyment and usage for the majority of the people. As stated above it seems most appropriate to point to-

ward marine support activities.

2. While it would seem logical to deter crime through the hiring of more law enforcement personnel -- the more critical consideration is the appointment of highly skilled and able personnel. This means more stringent qualifications for applicants -- which, in turn, would be more attractive incentives in the form of pay and benefits.
3. Better fire equipment is readily available for purchase. The better question is where would the money come from for purchase of same.
4. One of my campaign proposals would be to appoint at least one city commissioner to sit, ex-officio, on the city electric board of directors and make periodic reports to the city commissioners and the people.
5. Yes.
6. Yes. However, in fairness to those seeking hook-ups now and in the near future I would suggest that a priority list be instituted and maintained toward that day when the new sewer facility is functioning.
7. The intelligent utilization of the two great remaining assets of the city:
 - (1) the golf course and the peripheral areas;
 - (2) the surplus Navy Land presents the best opportunity for increasing the tax rolls and ultimately reducing taxes. The other possibility is a more equitable balance by the County in rendering services to the incorporated city.
8. Finances, astute utilization of saleable (real) assets and crime prevention, among others of probable lesser import.

Commission Candidate Justo Maquiera did not respond.

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both parties.

We must obtain firm commitments for power from power companies in the Florida Grid System. When we tie into the Grid we can wheel power from any section of Florida, so we are not restricted to buying from Florida Power and Light. Additionally, we could join with other Municipalities and build a Coal fired plant in up-state Florida. The State Legislature has authorized such a cooperative venture.

Yes, I feel the Florida Grid is a reliable source of power for the 50 megawatt capability we will have on the line through the Keys Cooperative once the last phase is completed. Remember, any system tied to the Florida Grid is happy to sell its excess generation.

2. O.T.E.C.:

Hawaii got the first one!

I got a call from Senator Chiles' office, about two weeks ago, and the Senator has introduced a bill to create funding for three more experimental units. I was told that Key West, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Hawaii are on the list of probable sites if the funds are approved. His call was in response to a letter the Utility Board wrote to all our legislators inquiring about the O.T.E.C. program. Naturally we pointed out the strong currents of the Gulfstream.

3. Alternate sources of energy:

I think we have to look to Coal and Nuclear power purchase through the tie-line as our most immediate alternative. Oil prices are going up at an alarming rate. Eventually I think this Country will develop Solar energy. Unfortunately our technology is limited in this area due to the government's lack of interest in its development. There can be no better place for Solar energy than Florida, most especially Key West.

4. Failure of the Stock Island Steam

We asked all the candidates running for the Utility Board the following questions:

1. Do you feel that there are potential problems in the proposed tie-line to Florida Power and Light (Southeast grid)? Do you feel that the S.E. grid is a reliable source of power?
2. What is your opinion of the ocean energy generator that might be made available to the citizens of Key West by the U.S. government? (Ocean Thermal Energy Program is a government program to place demonstration plants in certain areas using ocean energy generators.)
3. What alternate sources of energy would you consider for CES to help remove our dependence on oil?
4. In retrospect, how might you have reacted differently to the 1978 power crisis occasioned by the failure of the Stock Island steam turbine plant during the overhaul of the next largest generator?

CANDIDATES FOR UTILITY BOARD -- CHAIRMAN

Name: GAYLE SWOFFORD

1. Tie-Line Project:

Yes, there are problems in the proposed tie-line to the mainland that need to be worked out, but the project is extremely promising in that it is our only method of receiving Nuclear and Coal fired power for our C.E.S. customers. We desperately need to reduce our reliance on oil which continues to escalate in price.

We must finalize a contract with the Florida Keys Electric Cooperative. We are currently negotiating with Keys Cooperative and should work this out soon to the satisfaction of

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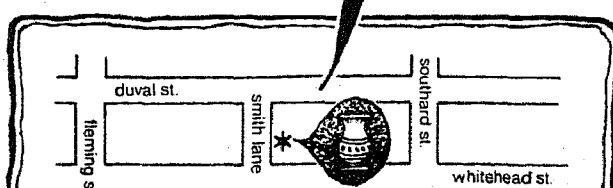
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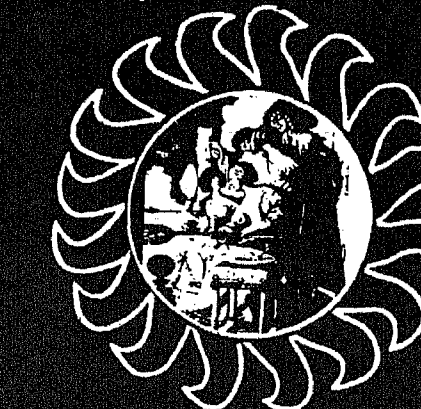
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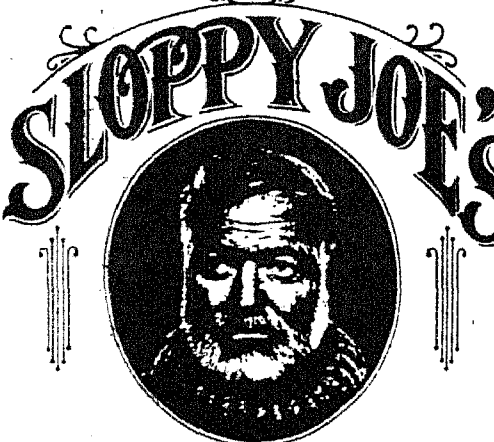
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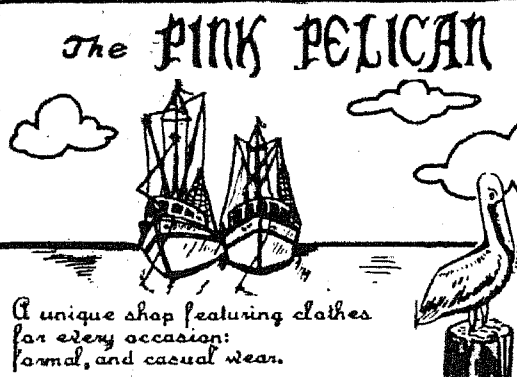
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Plant:

Naturally I have spent many hours thinking about this subject and I honestly believe the Utility Board acted in the best interests of its customers. The decisions were sound for short and long range planning. The Board met constantly. We were in touch with State and Federal agencies, other Municipal Utilities, Florida Power and Light officials and our own engineers for advice and help.

As you know, in the past, the Stock Island plant had experience of being off line some 32 times and was only about 7 years old at that time.

The Utility Board carefully considered the alternatives and acted on the purchase of a 22 megawatt combustion turbine, not only because this was the most immediate method of solving our problem, it also provides our system with a double contingency factor against failures (such as occurred in summer '78). This unit can be converted for base-loading usage utilizing the excess steam to power units number 1 & 2 which are the oldest units in the system. That's why the combustion turbine was located at the Key West Plant.

Keep in mind that major repairs were being made at the Key West Plant when we lost the Stock Island unit that summer, due to neglect in 1974 and 1975, as mentioned in the System Study FYE March 31, 1975, "quote": The most serious problem that was noted is the lack of maintenance in the Key West Plant. The present rundown condition of this plant would indicate a much older plant, or the absence of effective preventative maintenance. We are quite concerned about this lack of maintenance..." end quote"...

With unit number three (one of our large units) undergoing major repairs there was not enough available electricity when Stock Island was

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off line.

We have utilized the combustion turbine this past spring and summer as back-up until the major repairs were completed at the Stock Island Plant and it was placed back on-line.

In retrospect, I think the Utility Board had its FINEST HOUR during the summer of '78. As the C.E.S. records prove we were playing "catch up" on system maintenance as all units needed attention. We reestablished a maintenance program in 1976 providing the dollars necessary. The engineers said it would take five years to get the system back to normal operating condition as major repairs were needed on all units and we would have to allow for considerable off-line time for each unit to receive those repairs.

Name: BILL CATES

1. I don't see any potential problems to the proposed tie-in line to FP&L or to the SE grid. The SE grid is a reliable source of power and there are many well-known, large power companies connected through the southeast states.

2. The ocean-energy generator is a viable alternate source of energy among others which include the possibilities of solar, water and wind. These should all be investigated and the progress now being made in these areas should be closely monitored by the utility board of the CES.

That, however, is not our problem, at this time; ours is that we should start immediate work on plans for the future generating capacity of the CES for its customers in this community.

I believe that the CES could have been part of the work now being done by the REA from the mainland to Marathon. Those lines are now being built by the REA and we could have been tied in.

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3. I would consider the use of coal as an alternate to oil for the CES.

The use of coal for the CES was actually considered for the unit on Stock Island, some years ago, and the conversion cost then was estimated at \$1 million; it probably is much higher now. At that time, as I recall, we were reluctant to give adjacent property to the FKA desal plant on Stock Island because it would have been used for coal handling and storage purposes. I think it should be considered again.

Eventually, with the increase in demand for power you're going to have another generating plant on Stock Island. That second unit would be a cost-saving coal-burning unit. That would be good, sensible power planning for the future.

4. I firmly believe the failure of the Stock Island unit would not have occurred if I had been there. At the time I was there, I had the daily power plant reports and could analyse them on the spot and I would have seen the trouble coming in advance.

The powers-that-be at the time of the blackouts in the summer of 1978, however, were not able to understand the scope of the impending trouble and, thus, the blackouts surprised everyone. I would have been able, through my education and experience in electric power utilities, to see the trend and head it off.

As far as the overhaul of the next largest generator is concerned, due to the fact that there was no planned maintenance program in effect, then, the so-called overhaul was proceeding on a catch-as-catch-can basis. The men were working on that generator as a sparetime project.

Furthermore, all the time they were working on the turbine, the condenser and boiler in that generator (two integral parts) were not being brought up to operating standards.



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When the generator was put back on-the-line, it could only run at half-capacity as a result of the lack of suitable work on the condenser and boiler. If I had been there then I would have seen this happening and I could have prevented the consequences.

CANDIDATES FOR UTILITY BOARD -- GROUP 4

Name: JOSE CABALEARO

1. I most certainly am in favor of the proposed tie-in to Florida Power and Light's lines which will make us a part of the Southeast Power grid. This is the only way to assure the Lower Keys and Key West a reliable source of power. There just isn't any other alternative available except for a tremendous investment in a "back-up" system in our area. This is totally unfeasible since we are the end of the line. And, if for some inconceivable reason anyone would propose such an investment, we would still need to "tie-in" to Florida Power and Light in order to sell our excess standby capacity. The cost of such generating capacity would be prohibitive.

2. Ocean energy generator is an interesting, however, experimental concept that I would actively explore and try to attain for our area. Its reliability is highly questionable and we should enter into it with the knowledge that much is yet to be learned.

3. The City of Key West Municipal Electric System began as a coal-burning facility and as federal pressure was applied in the late 1950's the direction was changed to low-sulphur petroleum particularly from Venezuela.

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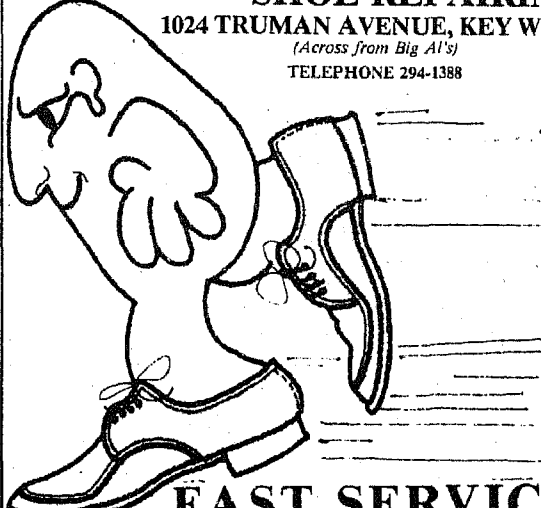
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Naturally, this was done for environmental factors. Venezuela is still the major source of the utility's oil, which is supplied by the Belcher Oil Company. We all are aware of the gouging tactics employed by Venezuela to soak the American consumer. Just recently they stepped out of the O.P.E.C. agreement and arbitrarily and unilaterally raised oil prices to an all time high of some \$24.00 per barrel.

America is abundant in coal. Estimates run to as high as 700 years of supply based on current consumption. New ways have been devised to clean the pollution caused by coal-burning. It is imperative not only for Key West, but all of America to move in this direction. Other sources such as nuclear are too risky, and solar too experimental.

4. Hindsight is cheap and there are many circumstances which occurred and I do not have available, however, the solution is a constant vigilance on management to assure proper maintenance of plant and facilities. Honesty with the consumer that putting off up-keep to hold down rates can be expensive in the long run and disastrous as we learned first hand.

Name: OTHA P. COX

1. I have researched the subject of interconnections and like most technology there are potential technical problems. The tie-line system is subject to power flow problems which may result from connecting points in the system and from voltage regulation. Technical problems as I have described can be minimized with the use of computers. There is always a possibility of power failure. Weather disturbances could also break-

down transmission lines. These potential perils are offset by the fuel costs savings available through the southeast grid. The grid would also enable City Electric to purchase or sell power as needed. The reliability of the S.E. grid is not perfect, but does yield a high enough reliability to be considered a viable and feasible way to provide electricity.

2. The Ocean Thermal Energy program holds promise for Key West should Key West become designated as an experimental station. Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands have already been designated as experimental stations. If the physical characteristics of the ocean which lies in the proximity of Key West are conducive to this concept, then full speed ahead.
3. Solar energy would be my choice as an alternate source of energy for C.E.S. to reduce its dependence on oil. The development of solar technology is slow, therefore, the tie-line seems feasible since it depends on nuclear energy and coal. The elevation of Key West prohibits the use of hydro-power. Coal is not conducive to the environment.
4. In retrospect, I would have instituted additional measures for minimizing the duration of the brown outs. Such measures would have included disconnecting a greater amount of load very early during the crises in order to have sped up generating capacity. Secondly, I would have sought more outside help sooner. Thirdly, I would have recommended the installation of more auxiliary power sources in public facilities.

Name: WALDO VELIZ

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2. The ocean thermal energy program that is presently being studied by the U.S. Government is relatively new and much information has not been made available. However, I feel from what I have been able to determine the OTEP Program offers a significant improvement in energy producing capabilities. In fact, if this system is operated using ocean water at various temperatures which we have an unlimited supply of then we should seriously investigate and pursue this program. Also, the fact that the U.S. Government is underwriting most, if not all, of the cost of this experimental plant, then we would be foolish in not seeking full support from our government representative to have such a plant tested in Key West.
3. This is a question that everybody in the world is trying to find an answer for. Our entire system in Key West operates on fuel oil. To try and convert this system to another type of fuel like coal, for example, is very expensive. From studies that I have seen, the initial cost of converting our plants to coal would be approximately 30 million dollars. You also have the cost of trans-

porting the coal to Key West, which would be the same as transporting fuel oil. Most importantly you have the problem of disposing of the ash that takes place after the coal is used. This indeed would increase the operational cost. For these reasons and because of the complexity of this question all I can say would be that when elected I would continuously make myself aware of this problem and explore any new or better methods of generating power.

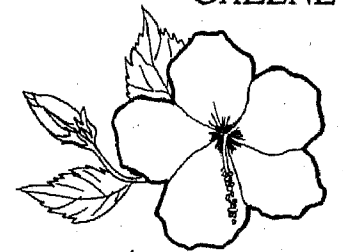
4. Everyone does a certain amount of Monday morning quarterbacking. I will not attempt to pass judgment on something that happened in 1978. The Board at that time had to make immediate decisions on an emergency basis to restore electricity to the community. I'm not saying that now with over a year of time to think about it that I couldn't come up with a better solution but I'm sure if the Board would have had a year to contemplate the pros and cons that maybe their course of action would have been different. I don't think it is fair for me to pass judgment on their actions at this time. Let's not dwell on the past. When elected I want to go in with a fresh and positive outlook and assist management in analyzing any problem that we might have and work with them to reach efficient and positive solutions.



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poetry

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To drift with the breeze, no matter how high,

To search on the sea shore for shells in the sand,
To watch for a sunrise with one there close at hand,

To put words together to show how I feel,
So all that will read them know they are real,

To feel things inside you that tear down your mind,
To know with all this, you're made to be kind,

The heart that you carry, no matter how hurt,
Will just keep on beating, there under your shirt,
For as long as it has to,
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We'll watch it, Jessie,
Keep an eye on your little island,
See to it that the enemy does not thrive,
The despoiler does not spoil,
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Do not break down the walls.

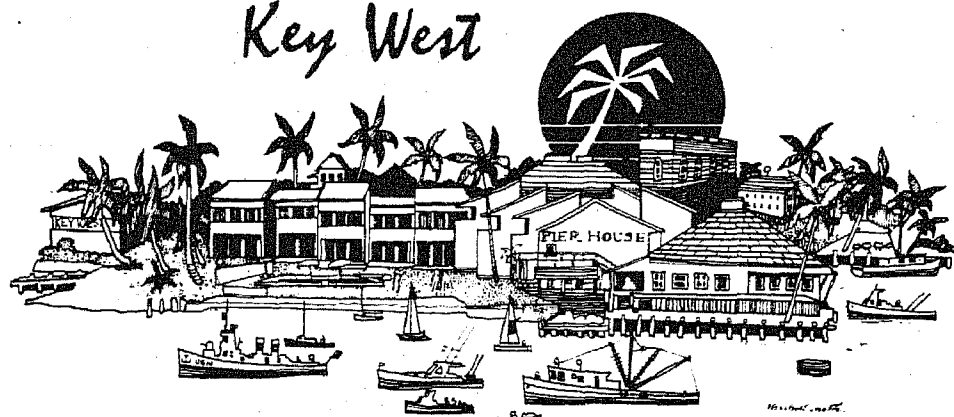
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Sit on a bench in Mallory Square,
Try the locks of Audubon House,
Now and then watch a sunset from the pier.
We'll walk along the shores on the Atlantic side
And throw a crust to the wheeling terns.

We'll love it for you, Jessie,
All that you loved all life long.
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We'll cherish it like a dear old face.
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by Arthur Phillips

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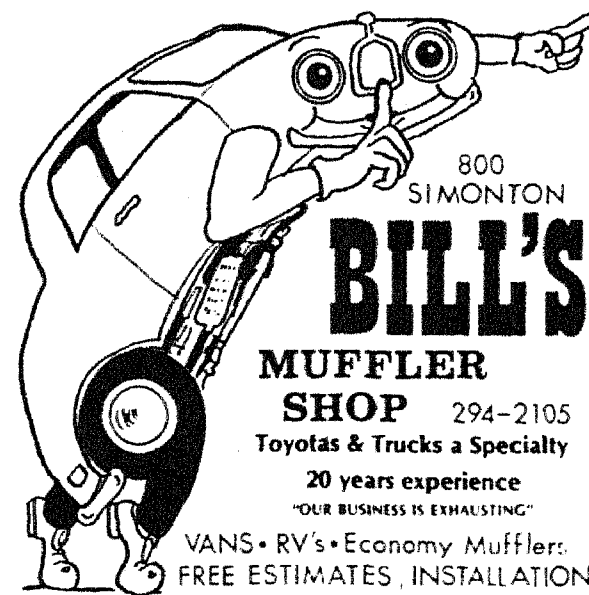
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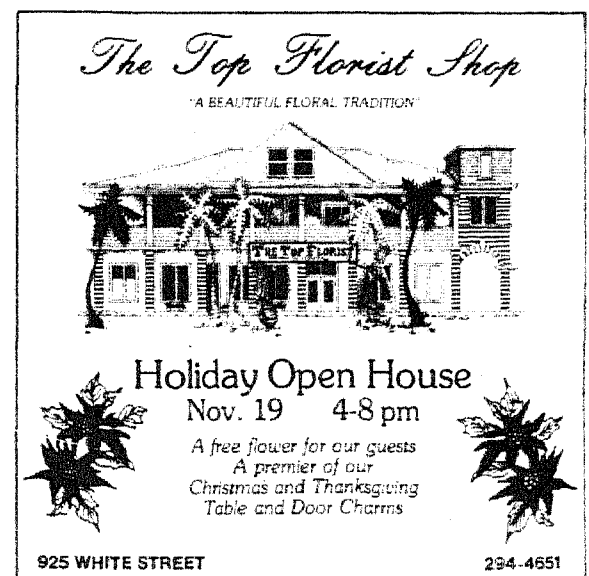
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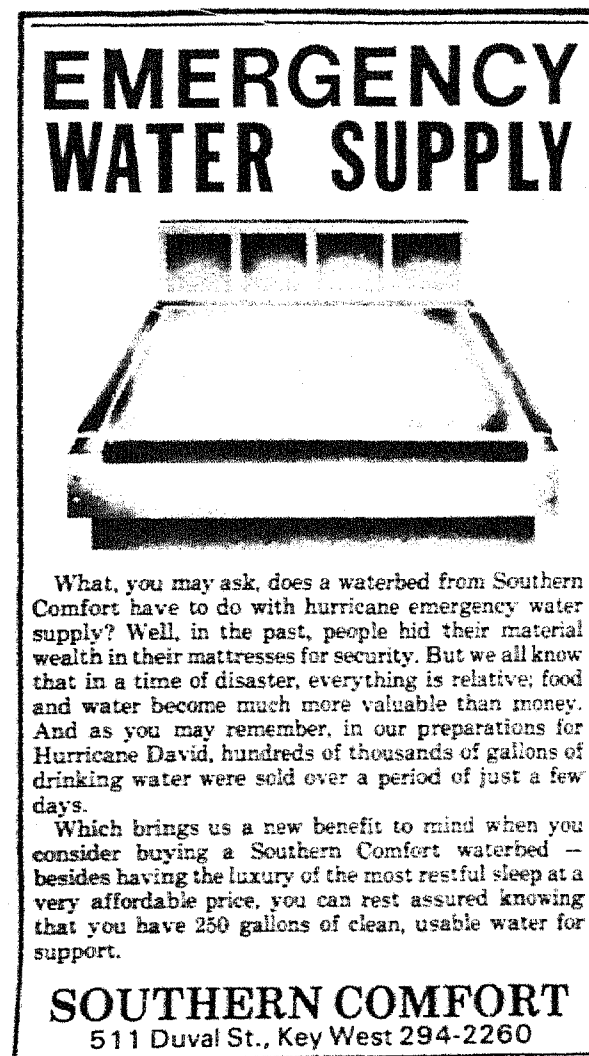
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Problems with CAR TOWING in Key West: Rip-offs AT Alex's

COMPILED BY BILL HUCKEL AND STAFF

A NUMBER OF STORIES and accounts relating to the dealings and, perhaps, misdealings of Alex's Used Auto Parts Service, (owned by Alexander Rodriguez and located on Stock Island across from the Key West Kennel Club), have come to the attention of *Solares Hill* recently via angry and disturbing letters received from several residents who have had their vehicles impounded by the Key West Police Department.

Based upon the suggestion of these letters, and several verbal conversations staff members of *Solares Hill* have had with other citizens of Key West who have had their vehicles towed away by Alex's, there may be enough evidence of wrongdoing at Alex's to merit further investigations by some governing agency. Basically the accounts related have all had the same methods of operation involved: parked vehicles (usually with something of a material value in them) have been taken off the streets of Key West, sometimes right in front of the vehicle owner's house, towed to Alex's Used Auto Parts Service, and then found later by the owner to be vandalized with all or most of the possessions missing and shrugs from Alex Rodriguez as to how such a thing could have happened.

ONE LETTER RECEIVED from a local store owner recounted the events leading up to the discovery that this person's van had not only been towed away for no apparent reason, but that the contents of the van had been taken in a very obvious way. "I ride my bike constantly in Key West," the letter began. "But I have had my van towed away on two previous occasions, so when I noticed one morning in late September that my vehicle was missing I knew to go to the police to find out what they did with it this

time."

The writer continued, "It was towed from the front of my house on the opposite side of the street. A place it had been parked many times before. It was not blocking any driveway, entranceway or in violation of any other law."

AFTER THE WRITER of the letter got in touch with the police and found out that the van had been ticketed by the police and taken to Alex's, he called Alex up and was told that he could come and get his van if he'd obtain a release form from the police department. Alex told him, according to the letter, that the cost would be \$30, plus a storage cost.

"When I got there in the afternoon to pick up my van I was told that someone had broken into the compound during the weekend and had vandalized some of the cars, trucks and vans there," the writer continued. "I was told that the people there weren't sure if my vehicle had been vandalized or not, but that we could check on it before settling the bill. I was somewhat less than surprised to find out that, sure enough, my vehicle had been broken into and everything of value was gone."

Although the letter writer got in touch with the police again, this time to report the theft, he has yet to hear anything relating to a follow-up investigation and is presently out over a thousand dollars for the missing goods, not to mention the cost of the towing.

AT LEAST TWO PERSONS who signed letters to *Solares Hill* concerning the activities of Alex's have indicated that they have hired local attorneys to file suit against Rodriguez and/or his used parts service for similar incidents.

One of these persons was told quite frankly by a Monroe County sheriff's deputy, "It'll never hold up in court."

One of these two letter writers has sent a formal complaint to Key West Police Chief Jimmy James and to Rodriguez. Both of these letter writers relate basically the same story. One of them begins: "In mid-July my van was parked in front of my house on Frances Street after a period of several days in which

BUT THE PENALTY that actually ended up taking place was, by any means, a bit on the severe side: "The van was ticketed about 8 a.m. I removed the ticket and the towing slip and on my lunch hour called the police department to see what could be done to avoid the towing. The lady dispatcher could only insist that any vehicle left on a city street for more than 24 hours could be towed away legally. The dispatcher was very curt



I was waiting for a part from Bevis-Lewis Chevrolet. While waiting for the part to arrive I had no choice but to keep my van in the same place as the missing part made it unsafe to drive. It was a minor mistake of mine, to leave the van with only three wheels on and a block under the position of the fourth wheel waiting for these parts."

with me. She did not do anything to refer me to the proper department that might have been able to instruct me as to what to do to avoid the towing. I went back to work and returned home at about 4:30 p.m. for around 15 minutes and removed the sails from my boat that were in the rear of the van. At this time I noticed that my tool box was

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still in the van."

Within the next 15 minutes, after the owner of the van went back to work, an employee of Alex's arrived on the scene and towed the van away to the Stock Island compound. "My neighbors told me that no one had entered the van between the time I left it, and Alex's arrived," the letter writer continued. "To make a long story short, while my van was at Alex's, my tool box and all of its contents, along with a radio and a gallon of anti-freeze were among the items removed from the van. The total loss being somewhere around \$415.00. Although at today's inflated prices, the replacement of these tools will be much higher."

IN ADDITION TO what seems like extreme insensitivity on the part of the KWPd and Alex's on this issue, there is the apparent clumsy operation of those who are connected with Alex's and suspected of being involved in these rip-offs. That same letter writer also stated, "While at Alex's, a friend and I observed a man, who identified himself as the night watchman, removing articles and items off of vehicles in the city impound lot and placing them in his own personal car. He even went as far as to verbally admit that he was using these items for his own personal use."

Because of the impending legal status of some of these accounts, *Solares Hill* has agreed not to publish the names of the authors of these letters, but has agreed that by airing some of the stated complaints there may be a hope for finding a solution to some of the problems and questions. Questions should be asked concerning the method employed by the Key West Police Department for towing away parked vehicles and the law that governs this situation.

CHIEF JAMES commented that with the possible exception of a vehicle blocking a driveway, or being obviously abandoned, patrolmen never ticket a car, "unless we have a complaint from a property owner that a car is and has been parked in front of their property for a long period of time."

James emphasized that even then, "any owner would be given at least a 24-hour

notice that his or her car will be impounded if it isn't moved." When asked why it was that many residents have apparently never seen any such notice on their cars, and, in fact, discover that they have been in violation of a city ordinance only after their car has been towed away, James replied, "I don't know. All of the men are instructed to put notices on the windshields. In fact every vehicle, unless it must be immediately removed, is given a 24-hour notice."

James also stated flatly (and was later backed up by City Clerk Josephine Parker) that there is "absolutely no law or ordinance in Key West that says a vehicle must be moved every 24 hours." This, along with James' claim that every vehicle is given a full day's notice, seems to be at variance with other related accounts from residents who have had their cars impounded.

THE ORDINANCE that is supposed to cover all situations concerning parked cars, trucks, vans or any other vehicles in the city of Key West is numbered 79-1, which has been in effect since its adoption in February of this year. Passed by a majority of the City Commission and signed by Mayor Charles "Sonny" McCoy, the ordinance covers such situations as parking in loading zones, parking in metered spaces, tampering with parking meters and "parking for certain purposes prohibited."

But perhaps the most important part of the ordinance (which is added to Article 3 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Key West) is listed under Section 32-32 and entitled "the authority of police to move vehicles." That section states quite simply, "Whenever any police officer finds a vehicle standing upon a street or alley in violation of any of the provisions of this code or other applicable traffic ordinances, such officer is hereby authorized to move such vehicle, or require the driver or person in charge of the vehicle to move the same to a po-

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ALEX continued from page 36

sition off the paved, improved or main-travelled part of such street or alley."

A SIMILAR ORDINANCE (76-15), passed by the City Commission in 1976, states that "enforcement personnel are authorized to impound a motor vehicle under the following circumstances," and then goes on to list if a given vehicle is blocking traffic, if a person driving a vehicle is injured and so incapacitated that he or she cannot provide for the removal of the vehicle, if a vehicle is not in operating order, if the removal of the vehicle is necessary in the interest of public safety because of fire, flood, storm or other emergency reason, and if a vehicle is left in front of a private property without the consent of the person in charge of that property.

While the two ordinances appear to be quite safety-minded in their proclaimed intentions, the written contract between the City of Key West and Alex's isn't quite as judicial. Agreed upon and officially signed in October of 1977, the contract states: "The city is desirous of having all of the stolen, wrecked, disassembled, inoperable, and junked motor vehicles from the open streets, spaces and private property within the City of Key West, Florida, towed and stored in a fenced security area on a regular basis."

That same contract also specifically spells out that Alex's is responsible for the movement, storage and towing of such vehicles, upon the request of the City, its employees and agents.

CHIEF JAMES, when asked about the accusations made against Alex's, said he was "surprised." James also went on to state, "As far as I know, there have never been any complaints made to this department about Alex's, nor have there ever been any suits filed."

The question, then, would seem to be whether Alex is not only responsible to the City, but also for the liability for theft and vandalism to the impounded vehicles that he or his employees tow away.

Rodriguez, by his own definition, is a "busy man who never makes a buck on anything anymore." When confronted with some of the previously mentioned accounts, he claimed surprise. "I don't feel good about this kind of thing. Who's saying these things against me? That's what I want to know. I don't know anything about the charges," he replied.

ASKED IF THE stories concerning the vandalism might be true, Rodriguez was quick to point out, "Sure they might be true. Anything can happen in this business. But I personally don't know anything about it. I was in Miami during the weekend that some of these things were supposed to have happened. Maybe my employees are involved, I don't know. But I'll get to the bottom of this. You know, we have had kids break into the lot before."

Despite the fairly involved wording of Alex's three-page contract with the city, Rodriguez maintains that he's not sure who's responsible for the safety of impounded vehicles. "I really don't know, right off, if I am responsible for this or not. It's probably somewhere in the contract. If I'm not, then it's the City. Let's face it, all kinds of things can happen. If you're out of town for the weekend, someone you don't even know can break into your house. Does that mean it's your fault?"

Solares Hill asked Rodriguez about the type of security measures he maintains. He replied, "I have a night watchman, there is no 24-hour protection here. I can't afford it. Everything is fenced in, like the city wants. But, no, I don't have a guard with a gun or a mean dog or anything like that. What do you want me to do? Shoot someone?"

DO ALEX OR HIS employees ever act independently of the police department

in spotting vehicles that fit the city ordinance's description of a car illegally parked? "No, never. We would never tow a car away unless the police have ticketed it and called us. Now, of course we'll tow a car away if you, the owner, wants us to. But we never do anything on our own."

Rodriguez emphasized several times that he has never been complained about to the City and has never had a lawsuit against him. "Whenever there's been trouble in the past, I'd meet with the person and we'd fix things up," he explained. "I just want these people to come out in the open and say these things against me. All I'm hearing right now is a bunch of stories. I don't know who's saying what, and it gets me very upset."

RODRIGUEZ ALSO pointed out that his towing service with the city isn't all it's cracked up to be. "I'm losing money on this stuff. Expenses are high. We don't need to have stories like these on top of everything else," he said.

He also said after hearing reports that he has been personally involved in some of the vandalism, "That's not even true. Now, I don't know what my employees are doing. But if it's one of them, I'll take care of that. That's a promise."

There are, however, readily apparent answers to some of the confusion concerning the subject of towed cars that can be resolved without the labor, time and effort of a court suit. One of those solutions would be a total clarification as to the real time limit involved between the time of the ticketing of a vehicle and the actual towing away. Probably the biggest area of agreement in all of the previously mentioned accounts was that vehicles have indeed been ticketed and towed away all in the same day.

IN FAIRNESS, Rodriguez should always be notified any time there is any question about missing possessions in a just-towed vehicle. On occasion, Rodriguez has admittedly taken out valuable items from different cars for the reasons of

safekeeping. When asked about some of these possessions he has been known to return them. On the other hand, if any person feels that somewhere along the line he or she has been in any way "ripped-off," then the Monroe County Sheriff's Department should be notified and a complete list of the missing goods should be made.

As to the question of adequate security at Alex's, this is somewhat of a gray area. Rodriguez does not, even by his own admission, keep a very tight ship in the security department. But then again, his contract with the city does not specifically state that he must. The closest thing to a solution here (at least as of this writing) would be for the City to contract with a towing outfit that can provide proper security. Alex was quoted as saying, "I'm losing money on the stuff." Apparently so are other people. A review of the City's relationship with Alex's is in order.

WHILE IT MAY SEEM simplistic, one sure way to cut down on some of these reported thefts and vandalisms would be to try to keep any vehicle parked in the city clean of valuable items such as tools, tape players and such. Not only would this prevent any questions about who took what once a car or van has been impounded, but it might, if some of our more cynical observers are correct, cut down on the impounding itself.

There are obviously many other areas of concern that have yet to be answered. There are too many charges left hanging in the air and too many stories left incomplete. Perhaps the only solid answers to the accusations made against Alex's and the KWPD will come through a lengthy class action suit, that would, no doubt, be time-consuming and emotional to all involved.

But whatever the price involved, a fair and impartial investigation should be made into what is very obviously a situation that raises more questions than answers.



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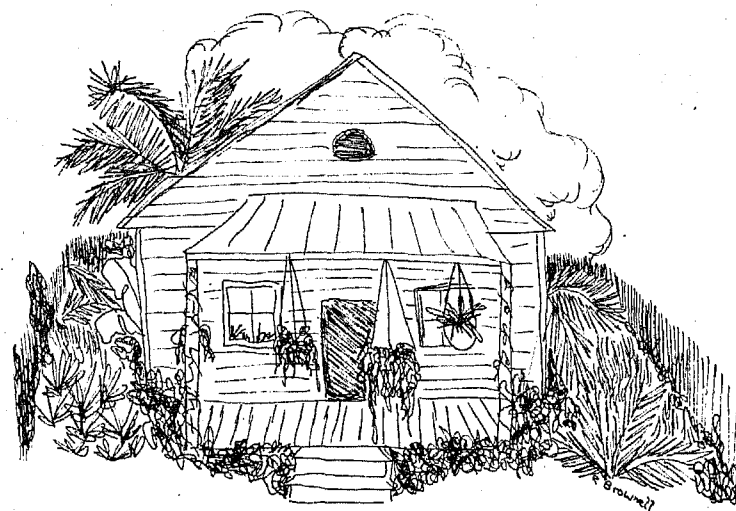
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