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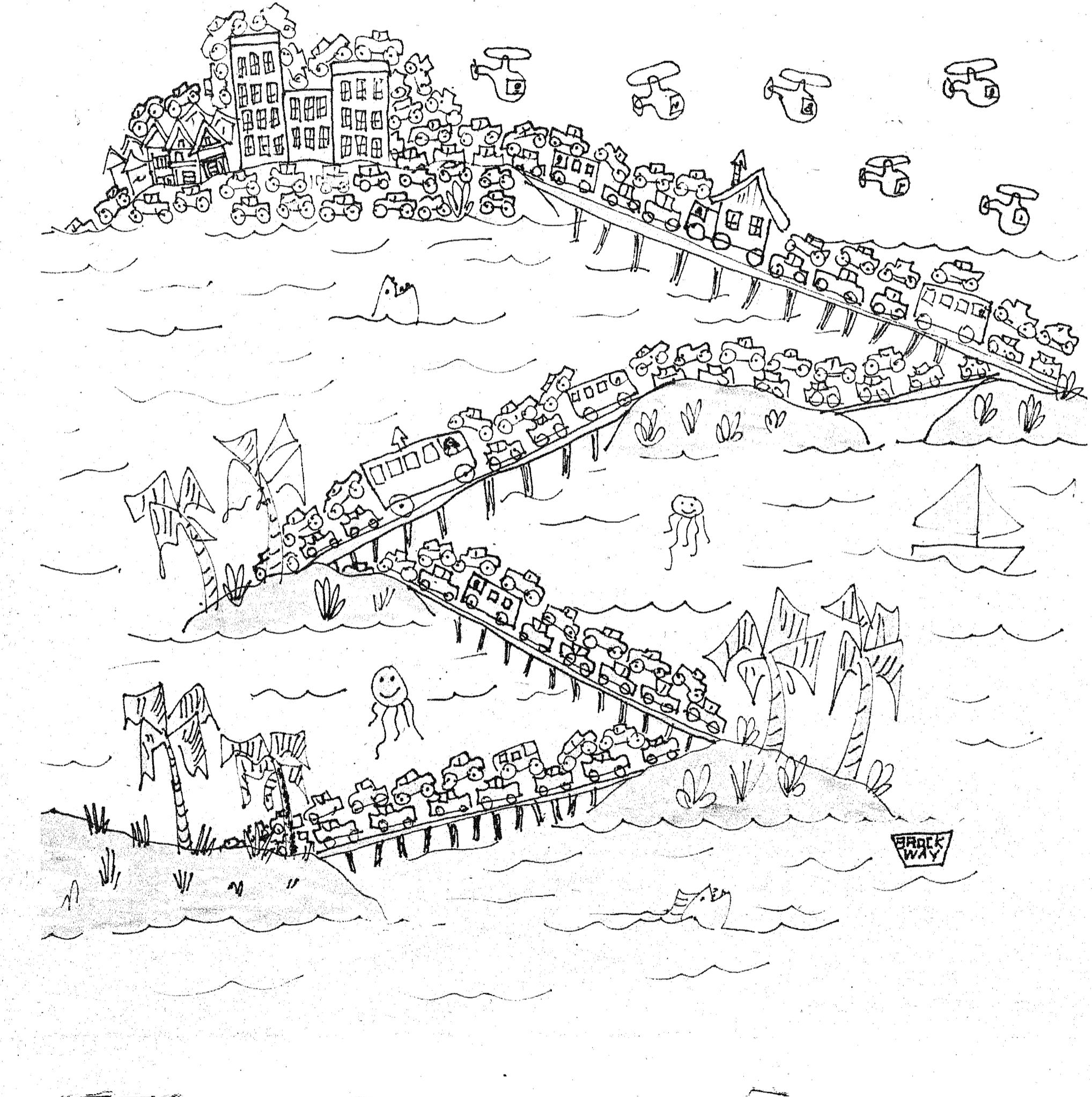
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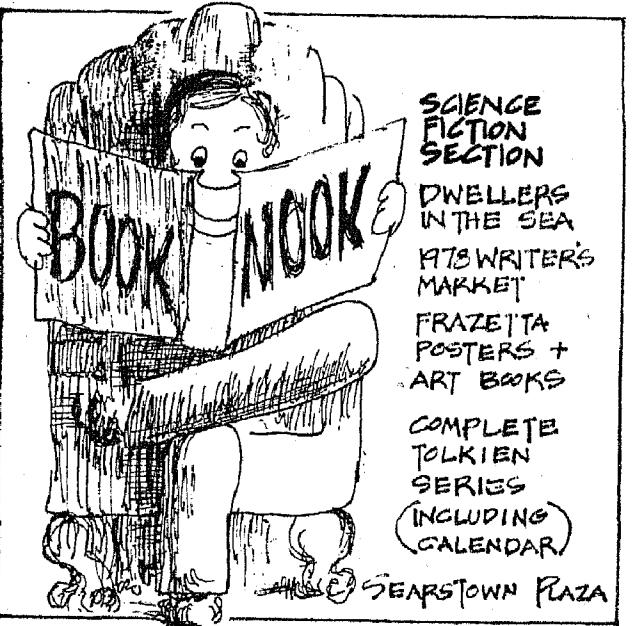
FREE

Vol. III, No. 4

Key West, Florida

April 1978





From the Editor

Hello-

I went to the First Invitational Key West Art Show at Mallory Square the other night. This was an exhibition of the work of artists from Key West who would not ordinarily show their work at a gallery. It was well run, well attended, and hopefully will become an annual event. The police officer at the door was Frank Hatt, who as usual did a first-rate job.

I'm worried about what this new property re-assessment may do to the tax bills of the elderly and those with fixed incomes. As everyone knows, the real estate market has gone crazy in Key West, and old houses are selling at enormous prices. This new level of value will result in higher taxes, undoubtedly. What worries me is that person who lives here and has no intention of selling his place, but due to new and higher taxes might be forced to relocate. I hope that there can be some thought about these people when the new tax rolls are prepared in Tallahassee.

Hey, ladies! Women volleyball players are needed to make up a team or teams to play in Key West. At present they play at the Mary Immaculate gym Wednesday nights from 7:00 to 10:00. Those who have volleyballs are asked to bring them.

I'm sorry to report that Sam of bicycle fame has died up North. I wrote about this fine gentleman in our April 1976 issue. Sam, as you probably well recall, rode a bike that was wildly festooned with flags, decals, mirrors, antlers, and horns. People would hear Sam coming by the tooting of his horn, and they would receive a wave of the hand and a big grin as he went past. A good man and one who will be missed.

City Commissioner Weekly had the idea of building a new jail facility on top of the parking garage. Wonder how that would work.

It's nice to see those C.E.T.A. street cleaners at work downtown. Makes everything look a lot better.

I was delighted with the Key West Players' production of The Boy Friend. Everything was so zippy and happy and well done. Congratulations to Bill Summer for his directing and to Edward Lee for his wonderful sets and to the inspired cast for their performances. I understand that there are plans to repeat this show at other times this year -- I hope so!

Speaking of repeating wonderful shows, wouldn't it be nice if Jimmy Russell's Cayo Hueso '76 were to be repeated also? That was another super delight that would be great to see again.

See you next month.



Cover artist this time is Bill Brockway.

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SKINNER

"I've been most of my life on the water or around the docks," says Robert "Nassau" Skinner, "I don't have too much close ties on the land."

He is the son of Alfred "Sealo" Skinner, who came here from Macon and was close friends with Hemingway, and Georgianna, who came from Nassau. Skinner, a Conch, has been around the docks since the age of seven, when he used to come swimming. He was born in 1916, and now at the age of 62 has snow-capped hair and does the work of a 22-year-old, according to his boss at Singleton Enterprises at the foot of William Street, where he does general maintenance and handyman work.

lots. Otherwise, he's pretty much a man of few words. His co-workers at Singleton's say he's a card...works slow and easy, but gets the job done.

IT WAS ONE of those summertime/spring March days that I waited around the trailer maintenance office to speak with him. It was a very hot day, and the children and I were on the way to Simonton Beach. They were having a ball playing on a sand pile in the yard.

ON SUCH A DAY I waited, wondering what to ask the busy maintenance man of his life. Across from us was Caroline Street and the 800 building where the



lost souls could be seen in front nursing beers and wine as usual.

I got to speak to Ted Zakia, a co-worker who is fully versed on Skinner and had many thoughtful observations to share. It was he who had let the word out (after reading last month's article on Bow Red) that a story ought to be done on Skinner.

"NOBODY can cover a bottle with rope like Skinner can," said Ted. He does a half-hitch knot, learned from years of working on the riggings of

boats. He picks up rope and works on it, fashioning wall hangings, belts, and other doo-dads, when he has nothing to do. The man is a true "handyman."

He's been building a boat, the pieces and parts of which he picks up here and there a piece of wood at a time. "Unbelievable parts," says Ted, "and he'll tell you that he doesn't care how it's cut, just that it would make a good rib or something."

"He works slow, messing around it seems; but still it would take me all week to accomplish what he does in one day."

"My boss would take trucks and machines to do a job that Skinner could do without using power tools," Ted says. He agrees that you could liken Skinner to the tortoise in the old fable who wins the race with the hare. "He keeps right at it," he says.

"Sometimes, he goes out around the harbor on his little boat with his nephew," says Ted.

"He's been building this boat that he keeps forgetting about for the past 2 years. He's got a motor for it. Bit by bit, he'll have another boat."

HE GOT an orange refrigerator which he is converting into a push cart. It's on its side now on wheels, and has a new wooden tray for making change. He forgot to mention it to me at first 'til Ted reminded him of it. "That's future plans," says Skinner, as he rounds a corner, thinking of his upcoming retirement.

I had also been talking with Ted about how hard it is to get fresh fish reasonably. A pushcart like Skinner's thinking of for fresh fish fillets could be a knockout, I thought.

"He's a smart man," says Ted. People ask for him with warmth. Everyone around the docks seems to have a great deal of respect for him. It's like "hats off" to Skinner around there. He says he gets along with everyone and just tries to avoid hassles. I had everyone's cooperation in getting the story.

THOUGH HE'S SPENT a great deal of time on the docks, Skinner says that, of course, being out on a boat is the most wonderful place to be. After he broke a leg seven or eight years ago, he doesn't go out on the sea much. Lost his sea legs, he says, although he's not lame or limping or anything like that. He does have a problem with shortness of breath, however, and carries an inhaler, although he seldom needs to use it.

IN 1926, he went to Nassau with his

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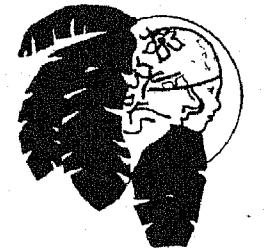
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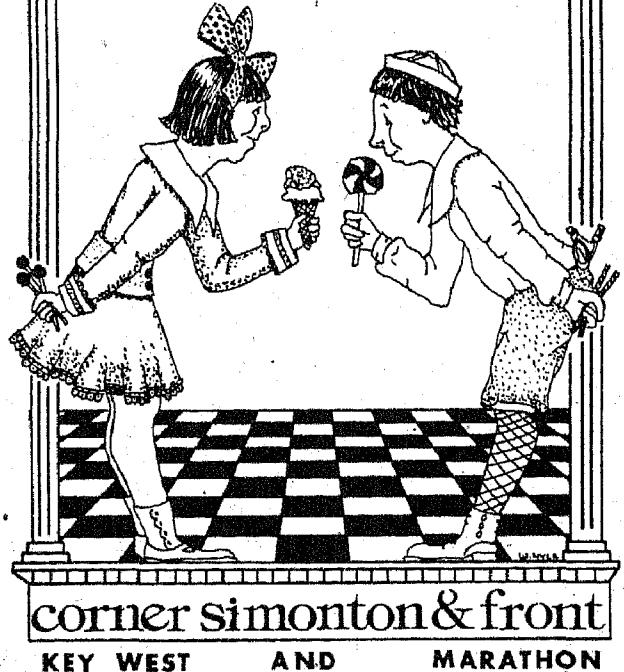
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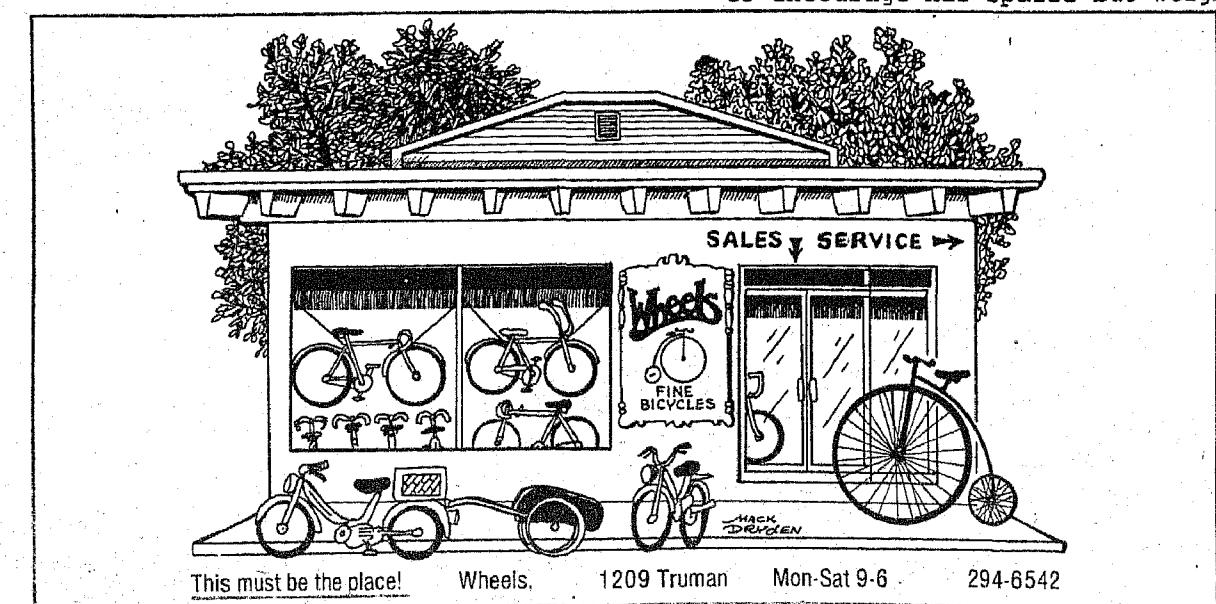
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Mom for five years. At that time there were only three hotels. He lived at Government Hall and did some coin diving. He found the people to be much like they are here and says he got along by just staying away from trouble.

In '32 he went to sea on the Western Union ship; but between times he'd be on Petronia or around the docks. He also dived for coins off Mallory and Trumbo, and was out to sea at different times on three or four different boats that he had through the years. He says he's just getting old now and has really enjoyed being on boats. "If I was able to, I'd like to be out there now."

HIS WIFE died about eight years ago. They had a girl, Juanita, who lives elsewhere.

Basically he says he likes the sea a lot better than land. He spoke of fisherman's intuition...says it's part of telling a few tall tales too. We talked about fabrications.

HE IS A man of few words, much wisdom, and I had to do some digging to get the gold out.

"Key West is 2,000 times different than in years past. I like the changes."

He knew Bow Red when he was a kid... sees him around a lot.

He says that life on the sea is wonderful. Some folks seem to develop two different personalities from sea to land, but he says he remains the same working here or working out there.

THOUGH HE enjoys making shelves and chairs and other things of wood, he says he hopes that he won't be doing too much more carpentry when he does retire.

Ted says that Skinner tries to cut out the drinking and, one time, constructed a special device to assist him in this. It was a cigarbox mounted on polished purple heart wood with mahogany cups glued to it...and a full liquor



bottle behind it. Thereafter, everytime Skinner would reach for a drink, he made himself put money in the box, and would make himself drink from one of the cups. The difficulty of drinking from cups attached to the wooden stand helped keep the bottle on the full side.

I HAD TO throw out a lot of slack to encourage his sparse but weighted

comments.

"Too much yabbety yabbety in the world today," he says.

"I don't read the Bible, but I know there's a God, and I know He's on my side."

"I love to eat fish."

"I don't know anything that really bothers me, yet."

"I'm a peculiar person, I don't go for that okey dokey stuff."

"I try to be myself at all times."

"I don't bother much with other people. I just don't want any kind of confusion. And I don't like violence."

"I get along with everybody...try to treat them all the same way."

"A lot of my homeboys are still here (the guys he grew up with)."

"I'd rather be here than anywhere in the whole world. I love Key West, 'cause it's my birthplace. No use to travel now."

SKINNER COMMENTS on kids today: "Scared to say about the kids. They're something else."

And again, about the sea: "There's another world out there. It's nice to be there. You feel better, too. You breathe purer air, and you have more time to concentrate -- there's no upsets or noise."

I SAW HIM in action in his green work clothes and colorful cap, filling up the back of the work truck with bottles and debris. He called to me in greeting, "Hey baby!"

Except for some soft drink cans, I'd say the area from Burbank's Net Shop on Elizabeth to the pathway along the water up around Williams, was amazingly clean. This is his biggest job, as Singleton's, which took over Sea Farms and the old Thompson holdings, now encompasses an area from Grinnell to Greene Street.

WALT MOUNT, his boss and chief of maintenance (a former employee of Sea Farms), says Skinner is a pack rat. Some of the stuff, he passes on, sells, or uses, and some of it sometimes comes in handy. I noticed he fiddled a lot with rusted pieces of metal while we talked as if wondering what he might use them for.

"I'm very pleased with his work," says his boss. "I just wish he had 20 more years to give. He's a good down-to-earth person and doesn't have a crooked bone in him."

"He gets a job done. When others are saying it can't be done, he'll find a way."

TED, who'll be leaving maintenance work also soon to fish his 35-foot boat, claims he's picked up a wealth of knowledge of boats from "Nassau."

He says, "He's the one who can fix up a dock back like it was without a bunch of power tools or fancy equipment."

We hope that with the fish cart rolling, Skinner will get his land legs going. We look forward to seeing him on the streets.

CHILDREN ARE taught about the

THE CENTER'S FUNCTION is to bring in students of kindergarten to the seventh grade level from schools throughout Monroe County. Classes start at 9 a.m. every school day and are broken into two units.

While one unit watches films and slides of poisonous plants of the Florida Keys and the coral reef, the other group studies live species in the laboratory.

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Environmental Educational Center

by Sheldon Ramsdell

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different kinds of plants, the feeding and nesting habits of birds, the importance of the mangrove community and how important it is in our environment, and the coral reef community.

"We teach the children to protect, respect, and enjoy the Keys for now and the future," says Mrs. Hilda Doody, an instructor from Harris School. "We have adapted to a classroom written program everything from the Keys environment to a project about the Indian River up on the West Coast of Florida. We want these children to be acquainted with the island and the county where they live."

FIELD TRIPS are taken to the seashore to see where animals live, and then the students study the species close-up in the lab.

Twice a week instructors Vicki



Children at work on a project

photo by Sheldon Ramsdell

proposal for a grant from the state asking for an annual funding of \$10,000. It was turned down.

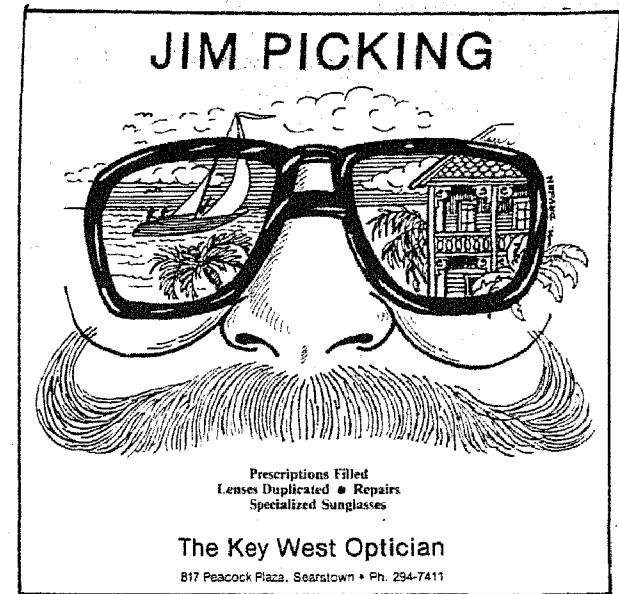
"Each school is paying a small amount toward the center, but it's not enough. We don't know if we can survive," said Mrs. Cox.

Impallomini and Matt Clemons go out and collect new live animals for the lab studies and take the old ones back to their natural habitat.

BY THE WAY, for those of us not lucky enough to have had this important and relevant instruction, a bivalve is a "mollusk having two valves or shells hinged together, as a clam," and a univalve is a "mollusk having a one-piece shell, as a snail."

IT SEEMS timely and a good idea to expand the program to include adults in these environmentally aware times. In the meantime, however, this very worthwhile program is not going to continue unless county or state funds are forthcoming.

JIM PICKING

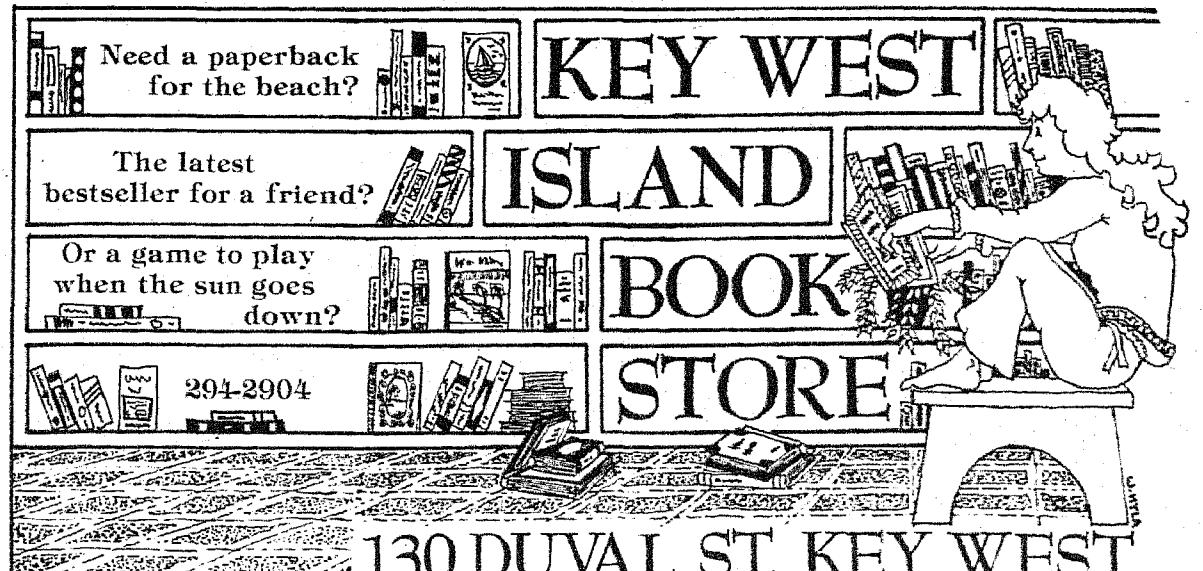


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notes and antic-dotes

by Dorothy Raymer

THE REDCOATS are at it again!

There is an established and growing colony of English people in Key West. The invasion is welcome and adds to community cultural interest.

WHEN I first arrived on the island for permanent residence (except for a short lapse on a northward trek), one of the first Britishers I met was the late Commander Hugh Bredin, retired from the Royal Navy, who with his Boston-born wife, Alice, operated a bookshop located where the City Electric parking is at present.

Alice was a superb watercolorist. Commander Bredin had a military moustache and demeanor to match, plus a bluff, hearty charm. He had been liaison officer between the Royal Navy and the United States Navy all through World War II, engaged in coordinating convoys which passed through the Panama Canal.

WHEN A contingent of Royal Navy and Royal Air Force officers arrived in Key West to promote the use of British-made helicopters (double rotor type), Bredin was right back in his element of liaison work without portfolio, so to speak, but with great goodwill. He and Alice gave introductory teas and cocktail parties to get the British officers acquainted with townspeople.

It was an easy accomplishment. The visitors from Great Britain came, saw, and conquered Key West with their rollicking pranks, offbeat humor, odd games, and friendliness in general. The group of RAF and Royal Navy was attached to the United States via VX-1 and HS-1 divisions, with the Naval Air Station, for well over a year in the early 1950's.

THE TRAINING here led to the formation of the first helicopter squadron in the United States -- HS-1. The English had been flying "copters" for a number of years, incorporating helicopter mail service between London and Manchester, but our nation had never gone into the field seriously until around 1950-51. The English undertook to interest the U.S. in their type of helicopter, which had two rotor engines, one fore and one aft, with accompanying two sets of rotor blades. The open-work frame earned the aircraft the name of "The Bird Cage." Competition from the closed in Sikorsky helicopter eventually won, but initial helicopter flight here was the open kind of "whirley-bird." You could plainly see the crew, the pilot, co-pilot, navigator and radio man as the odd looking aircraft buzzed around over the area.

THE FLYERS soon discovered the delights of the beach at the Sands, and they established the spot as their off-duty recreational headquarters for swimming and mingling with "the natives." After several weeks, the 'copter airmen managed a spectacular connection with the bar at the Sands.

IN LATE AFTERNOON, when daily maneuvers had been completed, but before taking the aircraft back to the seaplane base, one of the helicopters, manned by the most experienced crew, would come clattering along the shoreline at the Sands and hover. The radio technician, or perhaps the navigator, was dispatched to descend a swaying ladder lowered to almost land level.

Pre-arranged time had been set, and as soon as the bartender heard the whirring clack of the hovering aircraft, he would dash out with a big thermos jug of chilled martinis, wade into the surf, and hand up the container to the man clinging to the swaying ladder. This demonstration of precision and skill was dramatic, but not approved by local or Navy officials. It eventually was abandoned, but not before it caught the attention

of local belles who lounged on the beach.

THIS DIVERSION also encouraged the adaptation of new words into the vocabulary of fascinated women of all ages in the "date system." Time was when "les femmes" thrilled to a male voice over the telephone which announced "Hi, Babe! Howz about a date tonight? I'm hanging out at the Bamboo. Come on over, Sugar. and snap into it, huh?"

BUT WHEN all those polite Englishmen appeared the format changed. It went something like this: "Hello, pretty gal. I know I'm dreadfully out of place calling on short notice, but I thought we'd have a bit of grog together. Are you engaged this evening? I'll come by for you about ninish, my sweet. We'll press on to anywhere you choose. Delighted to be so honored, my deah."

The ladies responded to this gallant approach, needless to say, and began to suspect that Paul Revere, instead of shouting, "The British are coming," yelled, "The lovers are on the way."

AT ANY RATE, there was a new trade deal of slang phrases. The British expressions infiltrated into local conversations. Even the cocktail lounges and bars got in fresh supplies of White Rock quinine water and Rose's Lime Juice, the former to make gin and tonic and the latter to create gimlets.

THE FLIGHT-ALL-WEATHER Training Unit at the Seaplane Base began saying, "Time to hit the rack," instead of the American Version of "Hit the sack," when it was bed time. Vocabularies were enriched with such phrases as "smashing blonde -- biff," and "The going was a bit rough, but we carry on, wot say, old boy." And a much relished, "I haven't a clue, but I'll have a go at it, chum," when asked certain questions.

One of the most amusing contributions to the Key West scene by these "jolly good fellows" was initiating a new sport, playing "Moriarity." It became a party special and spread in popularity.

THE GAME was first witnessed here on the beach at the Sands, later known as The Sun and Sand Beach Club and Restaurant, now simply referred to as the Sands. Onlookers were treated to a madcap caper involving a pair of blindfolded opponents who lay face down, head to head, clasping left hands. Each player was then given a club-like weapon made of hardrolled newspapers or magazines, to be grasped in right hands.

A referee tapped number one contestant (chosen by coin flip) on the shoulder, and number one asked, "Are you there, Moriarity?" The other participant replied, "Here I am." Then there was a ten-second pause. In this brief time limit, the second player would endeavor to shift position, still hand locked, and still holding his club, so that any portion of his anatomy except his head would be presented as the target for the first blow.

ONLY HEAD HITS counted in the score. As a result, the contortions of the players, who took turns in hitting each other, were almost unbelievable in the effort to evade a head clout.

The entire exchange procedure was hilarious to watch. Best two out of three whopping whacks, with three tries per man in alternating sequence, decided the match.

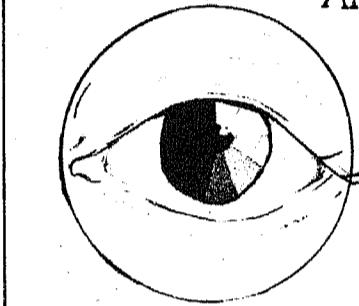
Forfeits were usually buying of drinks for winners by the losers. Bars encouraged the Moriarity bouts since it upped the beverage business.

THE NAME of the game derives from one of the Conan Doyle stories in which Sherlock Holmes and the arch-villain, Moriarity, play hide and creep and hit or miss in the Tower of London, where Moriarity is bent on stealing the crown jewels.



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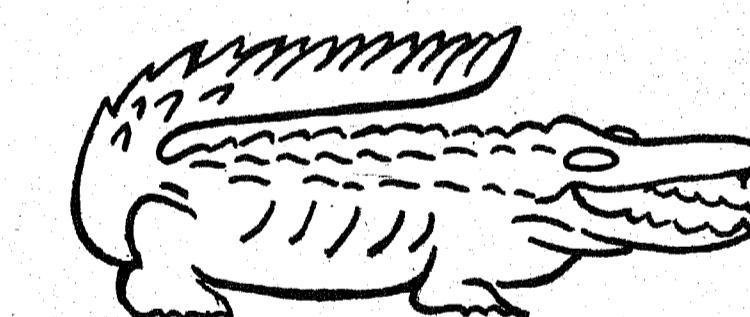
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WHILE AMERICANS absorbed many of the British ways, the English in turn took on a great number of our customs. In one instance, the striv- ing to imitate, or rather emulate, a strictly American tradition ended in a humorous disaster.

One of the "Redcoats" was Lt. Commander Richard Routley of the British Royal Navy. In civilian life, before World War II, he had been a sedate London banker. He arrived at Boca Chica with the title of "Cactus Jack," the brand he had earned while stationed at the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station. Upon his departure from the Texas assignment to come to Key West, he was feted with a wild and wooly ceremony at the flight school and given his Cactus Jack title. He was also presented with an authentic outfit of cowboy regalia complete with cowboy boots, Levis, range style shirt, red bandana neckerchief, ten gallon sombrero type hat, and low slung gun belt with a realistic-looking six- gun in a holster.

HE WAS AN all-weather instru- ment pilot and did some of his own sky trail riding as a fighter pilot for Great Britain during World War II. A veteran of the North African campaign, he won a batch of medals. After the main event, he was assigned to the Royal Australian Navy to de- velop and train the first carrier based Australian Air Arm. Then came the sojourn in the United States.

CAME A spring night in Key West April, 1951, and Routley ventured out for a night on the town in his all-not-so-quiet on the Western front outfit, swaggering along Duval Street, stopping in at various pubs. His cohorts here had added spurs to his getup.

I suspect he had seen too many John Wayne movies. Anyway, Cactus Jack, as he preferred to be called, entered the lower Duval Street "chap joint" known as the Mardi Gras, a hangout for the more adventurous tourists, the military, town char- acters, B-girls, and strippers. The huge bar had a ramp which served as the runway for the stripteasers, who paraded down it and even stepped off onto the bar itself for impromptu side forays.

I HAPPENED to be there that balmy night, accompanied by one of the RAF officers who was endeavoring to entertain a full wing commander visiting from Washington, D.C. When Cactus Jack sauntered in and took a place at the bar opposite us, my escort tensed. "I better keep an eye on him," he said *sotto voce*. He walked over to his colleague and later reported what had happened to set off the explosive chain of re- action.

SEEMS THAT Cactus Jack, main- taining his own caricature inter- pretation of a Wild West portrait, set a boot on the brass rail and with a bravado gesture ordered a beer. From where the wing commander and I perched on bar stools, we could see what went on but could not hear the conversation. We were told about it later — at the old City Hall police station.

Lonesome ranger Cactus Jack sipped his beer and eyed two comely girls standing next to him. They were being attentive to a big rugged type of fellow in a plaid shirt and jeans, ignoring the picturesquely garb of Cactus Jack. This blow to his ego was evidently too much. Just as my friend reached Cactus Jack, but too late to stop him, Routley

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tapped the big guy on his back and in a heroic attempt to disguise his clipped London accent, tried for a Texas drawl. Said he, "Where I come from we share our women."

THE HUSKY roisterer looked down astounded and asked, "And where is that?" Dauntless Cactus Jack re- plied, "Why, Texas, old chap."

The tough-looking hombre con- sidered this for a second or two, then said, "I'm from Laredo, and I'm the genuine article. You don't sound like any Texan I ever knew. More like one of them Limeys."

IN THE SCUFFLE that ensued bouncers ejected the protagonists to outside settlement. My escort, loyal to his compatriot, didn't falter. He also went out on the pavement and tried to intervene.

Meantime, the bartender called the cops, who arrived with the Black Maria and started hustling the quarreliers off to the hoosegow. The wing commander and I stepped outside to see what was going on and were just in time to observe the end of the fracas... and also hear my escort shout as he was shoved into the police wagon, "See you in jail!"

AND HE DID. But not for long. The officer from Washington inter- ceded, and Flight Lieutenant Ian (Jim) Read was released in the custody of the "WinCo" with the understanding that he return to quarters at once. "Don't worry, I've had it for this evening," he said.

But with Cactus Jack there was a slight problem there for awhile. He sat in his cell, booted feet braced against the wall, and set up a clamor insisting that the British Consul be notified, even though that personage was located

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"I'll make an international incident of this," he declaimed. "It's not only an insult to me, a British subject, but a stain on the honor of Texas." He refused to leave his cell and assumed a martyr's attitude. Well...at least for half an hour.

THE EXASPERATED wing commander and my friend "Jim" finally talked Cactus Jack into leaving. That's the first and only time I've known anyone to resist being thrown out of jail!

A final "wingding" was tossed by the Fleet Aviation group here, and honor plaques were presented to all the British "invaders," along with comments on appreciation of the good will exchange from one "right little, tight little isle to another."

THAT WAS in the summer of 1952, a long time ago to be sure, but the hands-across-the-sea clasp has remained as firm as that Moriarity game grip.

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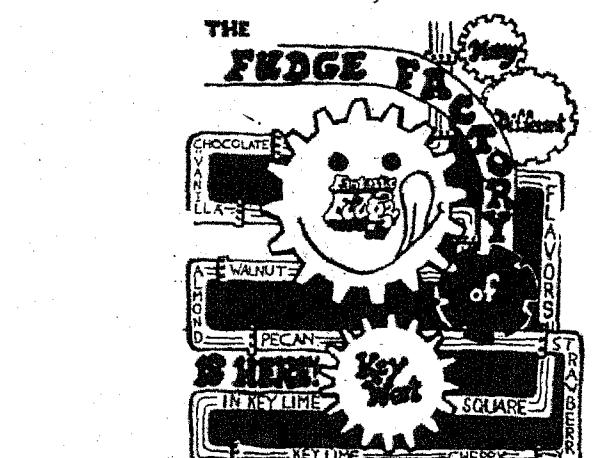
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Martello Under Siege

by Malcolm Ross

AT THE TIME of its construction prior to the American Civil War, the East Martello Tower -- one of a series of local fortifications designed to protect the entrance to the Gulf of Mexico (including also the West Martello Tower, Fort Zachary Taylor, and Fort Jefferson in the Dry Tortugas) -- was considered one of the most modern and impregnable of military fortifications. The origin of the name "Martello" (which means "hammer" in Italian) and the style of construction are obscure, but the fort's thick brick walls and towering citadel surrounded by large areas of water were considered more than adequate to frustrate any invader who should decide to attack. Advances in military technology, however, soon made the fortification obsolete, and it became destined for early retirement with no record of active duty.

FORT TAYLOR, although not completely relegated to mothballs, was doomed to suffer the pains of renovation during the Spanish-American War (largely as a result of its more strategic location in Key West), but the East Martello Tower and its sister tower, the West Martello, were deserted and soon fell into disrepair. Hurricanes and the ravages of a climate which is harsh on masonry as well as humankind extracted their toll, and only the occasional birdwatcher or picnicker sought out the quaint mouldering ruins as quiet respites from bustling late nineteenth and early twentieth century city life.

TIME WAS less kind to the West Martello Tower, however, and because of its proximity to the populated areas of early Key West its masonry was quicker to break down and its

bricks to find their way into the driveways and gardens of many local homes. The East Martello crumbled away in its isolation, and its casemates slowly filled up with sand and other debris. During the 1940's -- largely as a result of the vision and energy of one person, Jean Taylor, who tackled the situation as a 24 hour job and even camped out in the ruins -- the East Martello was excavated and became the headquarters of the newly formed Key West Art and Historical Society.

IT QUICKLY became a symbol of the cultural life of Key West, hosting many exhibitions of local artwork and becoming a repository for various and sundry artifacts relating to the history of Key West and the Florida Keys. Tourists flocked to the museum in great numbers to view what must be one of the most extensive and interesting local historical museums in the country. Here one can view such oddities as a Cuban refugee boat, a child's playhouse from around the turn of the century, and extensive artifacts relating to cigarmaking, spongefishing, and other industries which were important in the development of Key West.

MUCH TIME has elapsed since the first brick was laid in a mangrove swamp. The East Martello has seen much history, and, although the fort has never been involved in any military skirmishes, a quiet battle is presently being fought within its walls...a battle within the Key West Art and Historical Society's membership and sometimes between its membership and administration.

THE MAJOR SKIRMISH in the ongoing battle seems to be centered on the present board of directors and the power which has been delegated to this body. Is it, as stated by some, elected merely to

"run the business" of the organization with absolute authority, or is it elected to serve the interests of the membership?

AT a recent meeting, newspaper-woman Florence Rabon, a member of long standing and a former board member, cited several instances in which the board has overstepped its authority by disregarding various bylaws of the organization: to wit, the hiring and firing of personnel. During the last two years it has been observed that approximately eight persons were fired who were in the employ of the organization, running the gamut from landscapers and receptionists to publicity director to directors of both the Lighthouse and the Martello Museums. These matters, of course, require clarification.

THERE IS A strong feeling currently among members that the board of directors has turned its back on the interests of the membership. Many local artists feel that the current trend to bring shows from elsewhere is giving them short shrift. It is always beneficial -- particularly on a one by three island that can easily be labeled provincial, or perhaps more aptly, "insular," in its negative sense -- to see what is going on elsewhere in the art world. An interesting example is the Haitian exhibit of last season organized by a commercial gallery in Port au Prince, which walked away with \$12,000 of local money. This money is, of course, only a minor shot in the arm of the Haitian economy, but money spent on such a scale to support local art would be most gratifying. The unfortunate aftereffect was felt by the Martello's next presentation, a showing of works by five local artists, which was less enthusiastically received and languished for lack of overtones.

THE DECISION to replace Mrs. White with someone more experienced in the art field seems to be a bit incongruous, as the Martello has virtually no permanent art collection. Unlike most fine arts museums, its permanent collections are primarily of a historical nature. At any rate, the loss of livelihood at Mrs. White's time of life and the abruptness of her dismissal have tragic overtones.

THERE IS ALSO some concern about the direction which the museum is taking. The recent decision of the board to renovate and air condition a section of the fort which was formerly the curator's office to house a private collection of clocks and guns has also come under fire. Num-

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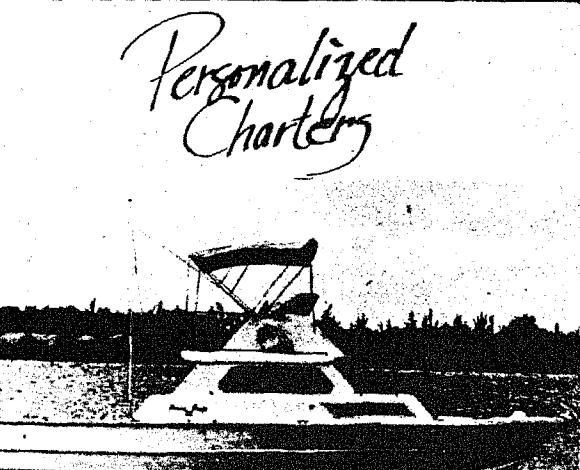
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THE MATTER which has probably caused the greatest outcry from the membership and tended to bring matters to a head is the recent dismissal of Louise White, who was curator of the museum for 21 years. The reason for the dismissal from her post of this dedicated human being, whom many artists regarded as a friend and confidante, appears to be unclear. Although it was stated that "she had performed her duties satisfactorily," it was the board of directors' decision to replace her with someone "more qualified in the art field in order to further the aims of the museum."

MANY MEMBERS of the Art and Historical Society are of the opinion that Mrs. White had been doing an outstanding job in the difficult combined roles of museum director and gallery curator, but that perhaps two persons should be employed to fill the two positions. Certainly the dual nature of the East Martello Art and Historical Museum -- and the two separate directorial functions -- should be taken into consideration in plotting the leadership of the museum.

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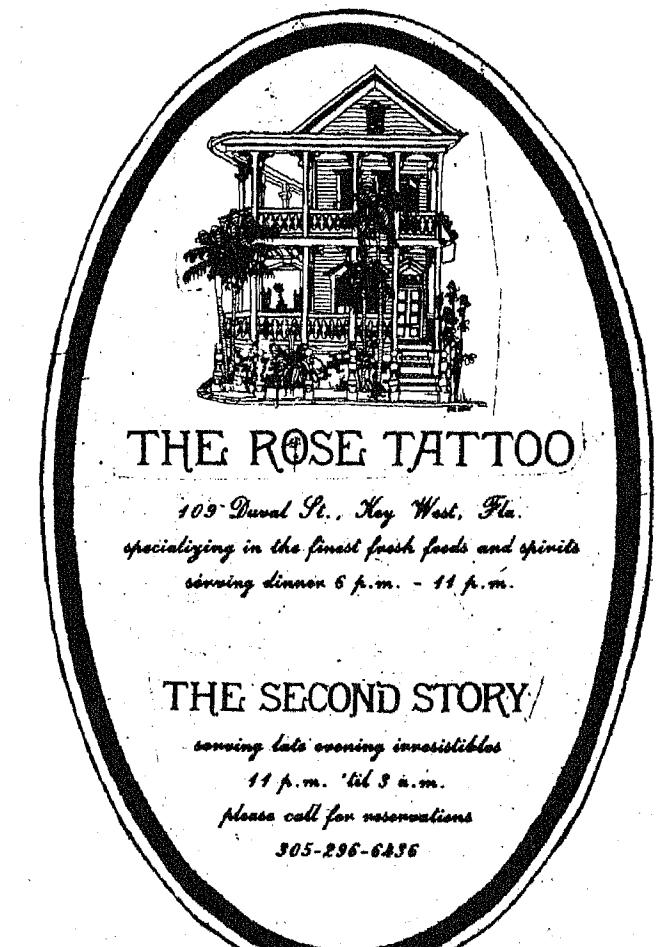
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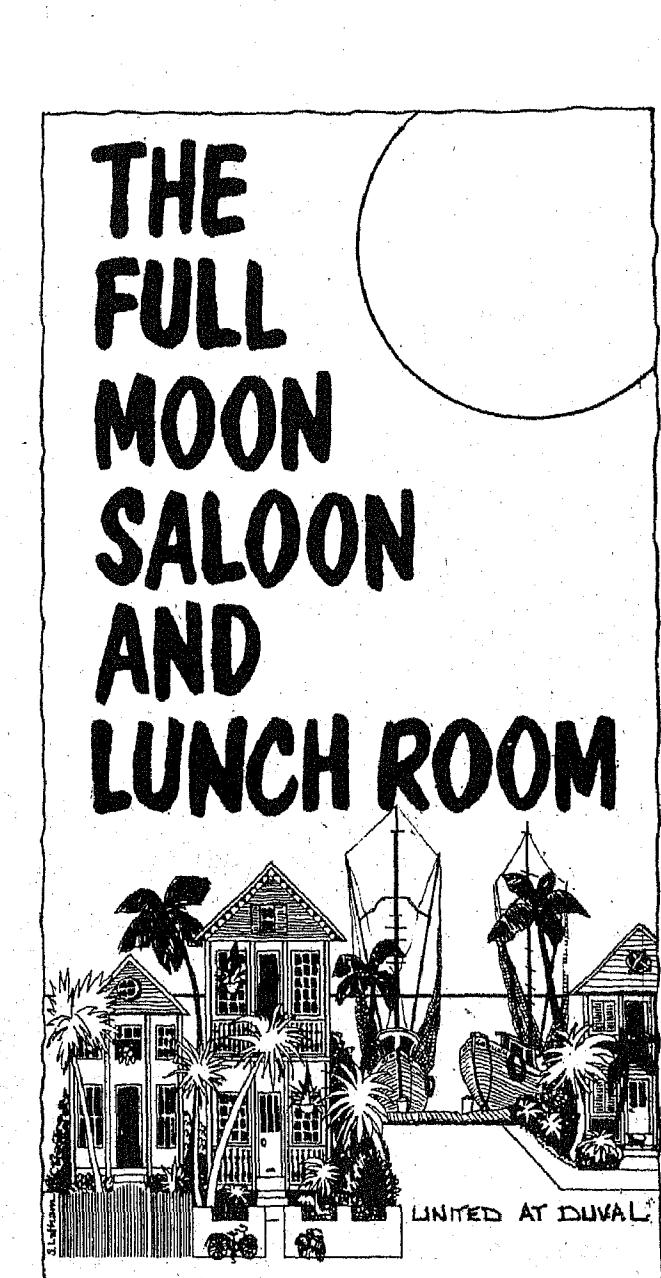


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erous questions have arisen pertaining to this collection, which has been looking for a home for a number of years, and its appropriateness in a museum devoted to art and local history. The fact that the collection is due to be broken up in a few years and distributed among heirs and the fact that the exhibit may stay in the museum for only about five years have also caused some discussion in regard to this expenditure of the society's funds.

THE CURRENT renovation program at the Martello has had some other effects which have created controversy. Many of the displays and exhibits of the museum have not been disturbed since their original installation and most are in desperate need of a refurbishing. One such exhibit which was in need of attention was the allegedly popular pirate exhibit, one of the oldest and certainly one of the most appropriate exhibits for the museum. During the renovation program this exhibit was removed in toto, its artifacts returned to State Representative Joe Allen, and the area glassed in to contain the office of the new museum director. The appropriateness of such a glassed-in area and the interest which the clutter of museum management would hold for the average museum goer is also open to question. Such a "goldfish bowl" museum curator's office may well be a first in this country if not the whole world.

IT IS AN indisputable fact that the times have changed and that the sleepy little town where people didn't lock their doors and everyone knew and trusted everyone else, no longer exists. It is also an incontrovertible fact that one must change with the times or be prepared to founder in the mainstream of life. The aims and bylaws of the tiny or-

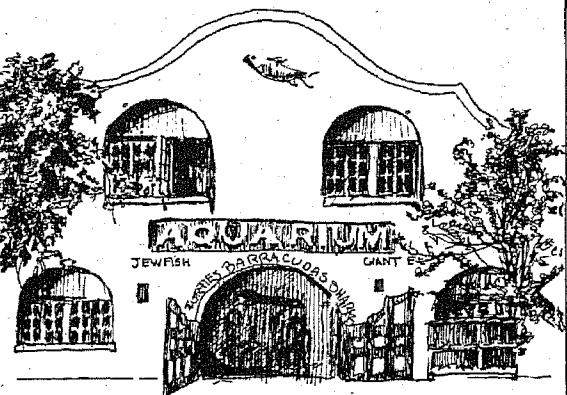
ganization of the 1940's and its tradition of one annual meeting in April of each year are likely over-due for re-examination. The mere fact that the organization now numbers more than 900 members seems to indicate that the concept of one "Annual April Meeting" is no longer appropriate.

IN ORDER for members to take a more active role in the organization, it would seem necessary for them to be heard more often and for meetings for the total membership to be held more frequently. The fact that artist members are now a minority on the board of directors is also a symptom of the times. Those of the membership who wish to express themselves, who feel that bylaws should be altered or other changes made, should express themselves at this year's annual meeting, which is due to take place at the museum at 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 5th.

THOSE WHO remain silent should be prepared to tolerate the consequences. Those who wish to sit on their hands and allow someone else to take the initiative and assume the responsibility to run the society's business and effect necessary changes have little recourse other than complaining.

HOPEFULLY, the differences that divide the membership of the society can be reconciled and the wishes of all members can be considered. It would be a tragedy if the traditionally fine organization and all that it has stood for should degenerate into an effete mass of mediocrity. Hopefully the opinions of all are not expressed by the member who recently remarked, "I couldn't care less what happens out there as long as they continue to have good cocktail parties!"

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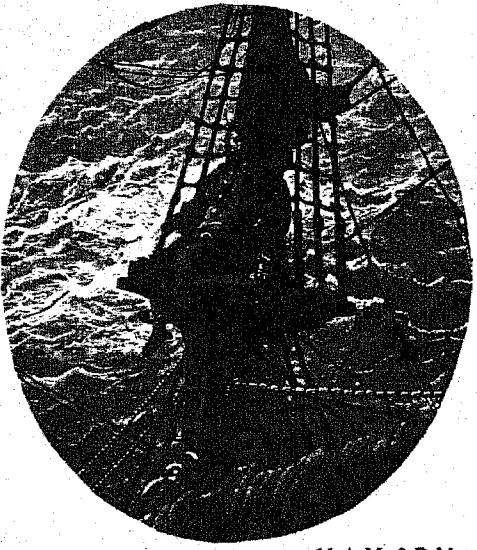
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some remarks

Photos by Richard Marsh, except as noted.

SAN CARLOS INSTITUTE IS REVIVED

IN 1871, following one of the first Cuban influxes from that country to Key West due to Spanish harassment, the group of emigres, wishing to keep their culture alive in this country, formed the San Carlos Institute. It was named for Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, a wealthy Cuban plantation owner and patriot, who was stripped of all his material possessions for his constant plots against the Spanish. The cry of "Cuba libre!" is credited to him.

THE GROUP first met in a small rented building located on Ann Street, where classes were held for the children, and adults met for news and for social events. The first Cubans were mostly made up of cigar makers, and, with the coming of some of the wealthier Cuban cigar manufacturers, one of Key West's most profitable industries got underway.

In 1883, land was purchased at 516 Duval Street, and a three storied wooden building was constructed there. A large auditorium took up the first floor, classrooms the second, and the third was used for meetings and social gatherings.

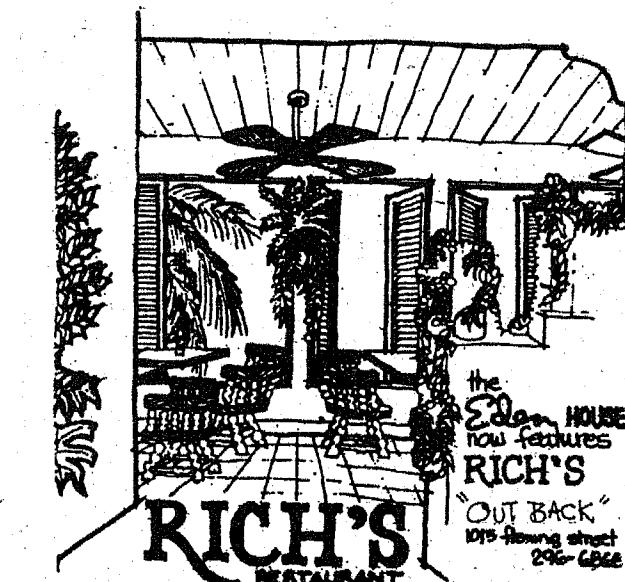
A FIRE, it is said, began in the building in 1886, and, since fire equipment was almost nil and a stiff breeze was blowing, it caused most of the Key West business district to be destroyed. Key West was a little slow in recovering from the utter devastation, but with the fierce in-

dependence of all islanders the townspeople began picking up the pieces.

ANOTHER THREE STORY San Carlos was begun and upon completion began to attract some fine entertainers to its stage. Pavlova, the famous ballerina, played there. It is also said that Caruso sang there, and repertory companies, arriving by steamer, found their way to the island. In addition, Sunday afternoons were sometimes taken up at San Carlos with local groups of entertainers, plays, and children's groups. Graduation exercises and speeches took place there. It was indeed the cultural center for the entire city.

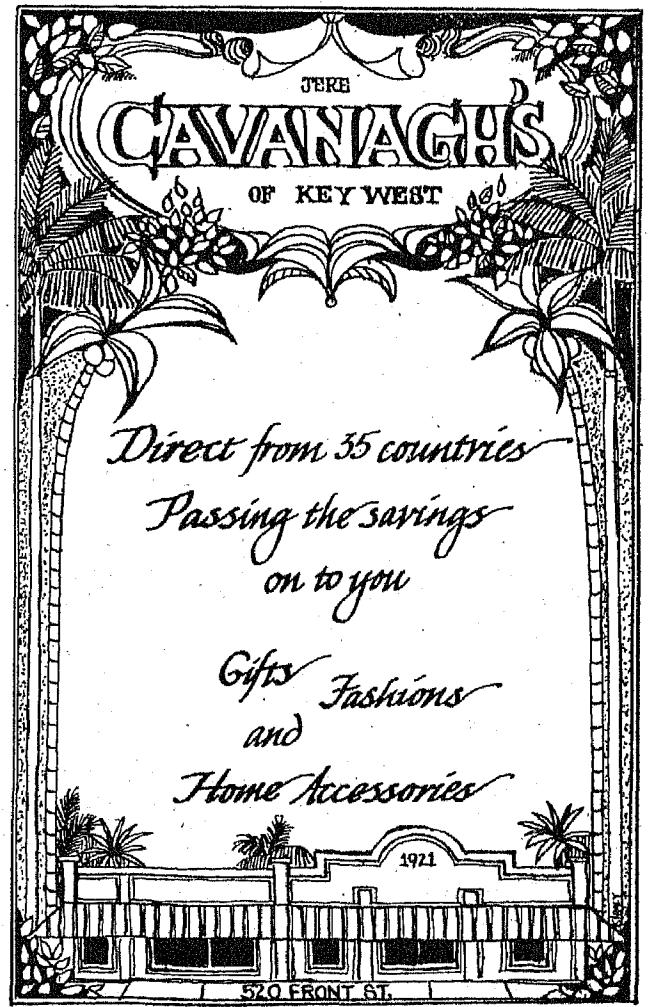
THE SCHOOL on the second floor prospered and was financed by a combination of donations from local citizens, the Cuban government, and the Monroe County School System. Later, in the 1930's, classes were opened to those who wished to learn the Spanish language.

THE SECOND BUILDING, known now as the San Carlos Opera House, was damaged in the 1919 hurricane, one of Key West's worst, but was quickly repaired and survived until the mid 1920's, when it was torn down deliberately so that the present handsome building could be erected. This was completed in 1924 and dedicated with a five day celebration and international visiting, speechmaking, parades, and partying,



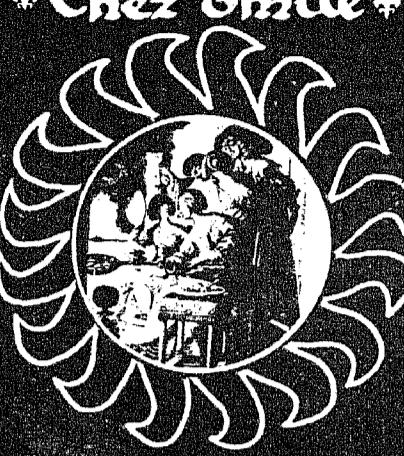
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FOR A WHILE, following the Depression, things almost came to a stop. Then a group of business men

A RENEWED INTEREST in the historic building took place in 1976, when, as a part of the Bicentennial celebration, the official committee made its office there. Since the Centennial was celebrated at San

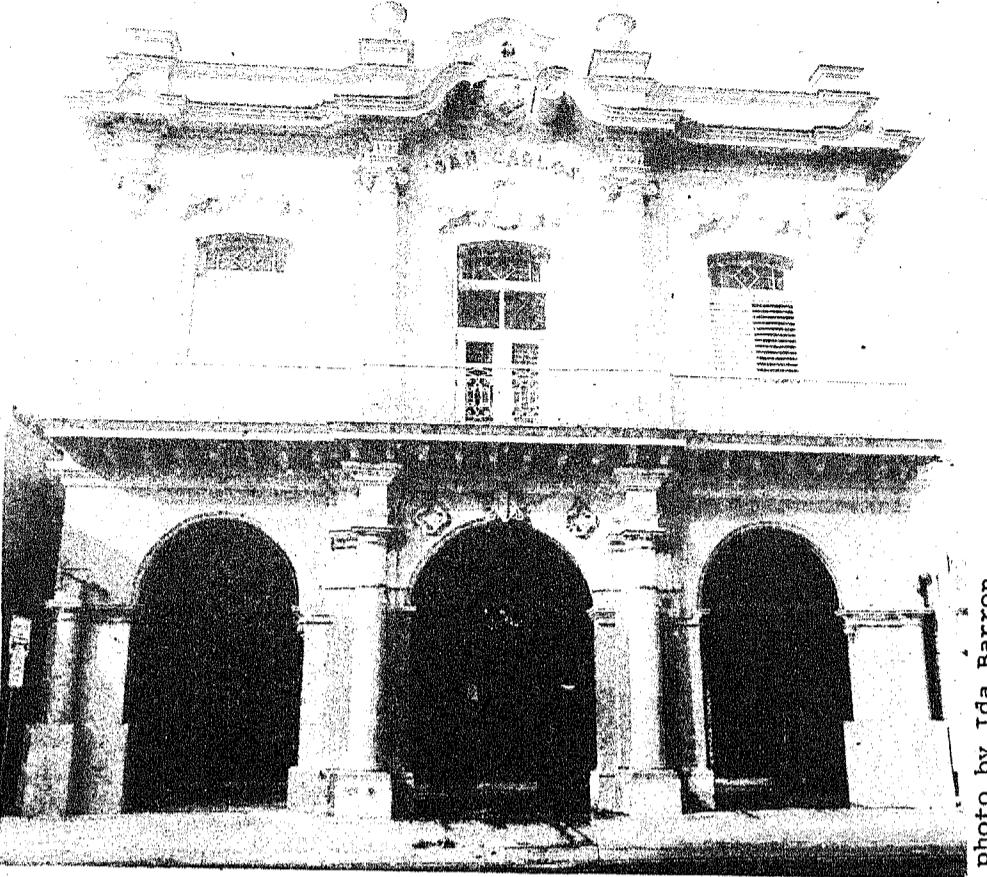


Photo by Ida Barron

leased the building to use the downstairs as a movie theater. This continued until the 1970's, when it was closed. School continued on the second floor.

Carlos, it was thought that perhaps the historic musical, *Cayo Hueso '76*, should be played there.

Because of the enormous amount of work needed to ready the stage,

however, the idea was discarded as impractical. But the building itself had left an indelible impression on those connected with the Bicentennial celebration. A group of them, beginning with State Representative Joe Allen, and later, as duties became too heavy for him, Peggy Murphree, the late Dr. Julio DePoo, former Director John Higgins of the Historic Key West Preservation Board, Ed Swift, Evelio Cabot, Jack Church, Peter Sanchez (now president of the Institute), and others became the nucleus of the now growing and revived San Carlos Institute.

MONEY IS EARNED the hard way. Interested friends of the group plus the group itself are raising funds slowly but steadily, and restoration on the beautiful building is moving forward. When completely restored it will be a Theater of Performing Arts and hopefully once again will take on the same duty that it formerly had as Key West's foremost cultural center.

by Ida Barron

FEDERAL AGENTS CONFISCATE LOCAL WHALE SKULL

SPECIAL AGENT Samuel G. Whitman of the National Marine Fisheries Service and five other federal officers arrived in three vehicles early Friday afternoon, March 17, at the Fleming Street residence of Ephraim Marks and David Rice to confiscate the skull of a young sperm whale. Whitman explained that a private citizen is not permitted to own a live specimen or any portion of a dead carcass of an endangered species, according to the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Rice and his next door neighbor,

Assistant City Attorney Paul Sawyer, refused to release the skull without a court order or a written agreement that the skull would remain on public display in Key West.

THE FEDERAL OFFICERS spent the rest of the afternoon arguing,



Special Agent Whitman (left, behind truck) directs removal of the whale skull.

calling headquarters for guidance, and waiting around for an answer. They left emptyhanded, saying they would be back Monday. Tuesday they obtained a court order and carried it off, aided by the Key West Police Department.

The agents said they learned about the skull through an article in last month's *Solares Hill*, which described the finding of the skull off Boca Grande in February. Special Agent Scott Hanley of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service admitted that they had known about the skull since the whale died last summer, but he could not explain why none

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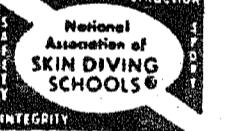
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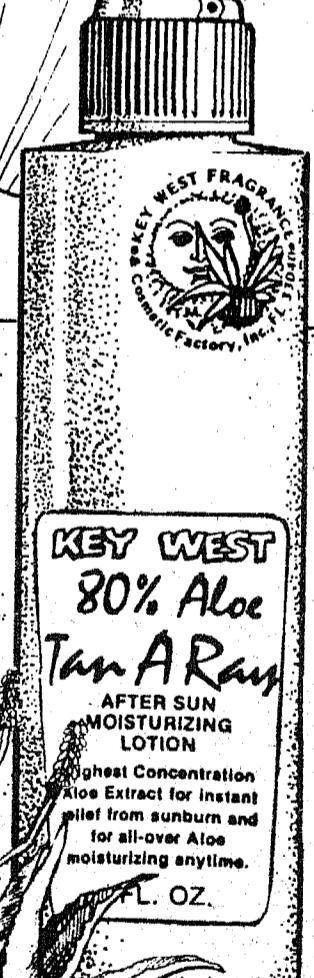
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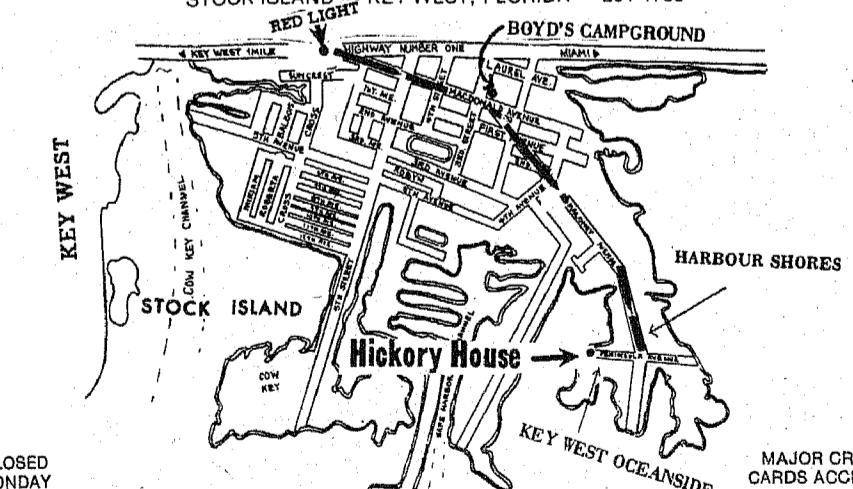
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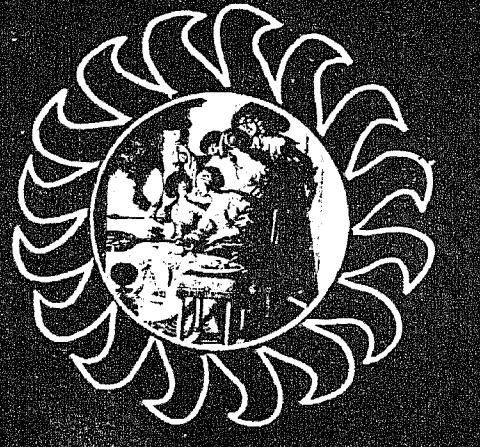
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FOR A WHILE, following the Depression, things almost came to a stop. Then a group of business men

A RENEWED INTEREST in the historic building took place in 1976, when, as a part of the Bicentennial celebration, the official committee made its office there. Since the Centennial was celebrated at San



Photo by Ida Barron

leased the building to use the downstairs as a movie theater. This continued until the 1970's, when it was closed. School continued on the second floor.

Carlos, it was thought that perhaps the historic musical, *Cayo Hueso '76*, should be played there.

Because of the enormous amount of work needed to ready the stage,

however, the idea was discarded as impractical. But the building itself had left an indelible impression on those connected with the Bicentennial celebration. A group of them, beginning with State Representative Joe Allen, and later, as duties became too heavy for him, Peggy Murphree, the late Dr. Julio DePoo, former Director John Higgins of the Historic Key West Preservation Board, Ed Swift, Evelio Cabot, Jack Church, Peter Sanchez (now president of the Institute), and others became the nucleus of the now growing and revived San Carlos Institute.

MONEY IS EARNED the hard way. Interested friends of the group plus the group itself are raising funds slowly but steadily, and restoration on the beautiful building is moving forward. When completely restored it will be a Theater of Performing Arts and hopefully once again will take on the same duty that it formerly had as Key West's foremost cultural center.

by Ida Barron

FEDERAL AGENTS CONFISCATE LOCAL WHALE SKULL

SPECIAL AGENT Samuel G. Whitman of the National Marine Fisheries Service and five other federal officers arrived in three vehicles early Friday afternoon, March 17, at the Fleming Street residence of Ephraim Marks and David Rice to confiscate the skull of a young sperm whale. Whitman explained that private citizen is not permitted to own a live specimen or any portion of a dead carcass of an endangered species, according to the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Rice and his next door neighbor,

Assistant City Attorney Paul Sawyer, refused to release the skull without a court order or a written agreement that the skull would remain on public display in Key West.

THE FEDERAL OFFICERS spent the rest of the afternoon arguing,



Special Agent Whitman (left, behind truck) directs removal of the whale skull.

calling headquarters for guidance, and waiting around for an answer. They left emptyhanded, saying they would be back Monday. Tuesday they obtained a court order and carried it off, aided by the Key West Police Department.

The agents said they learned about the skull through an article in last month's *Solares Hill*, which described the finding of the skull off Boca Grande in February. Special Agent Scott Hanley of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service admitted that they had known about the skull since the whale died last summer, but he could not explain why none

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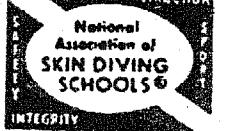
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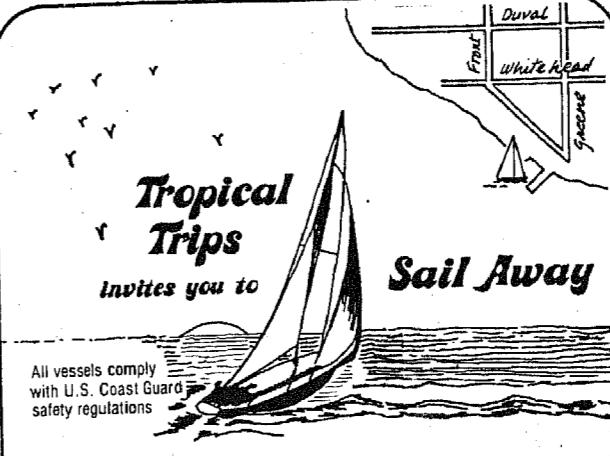
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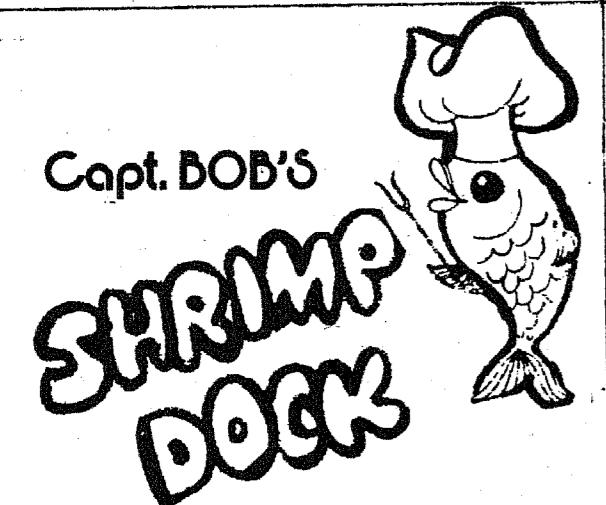
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The Herb Garden Natural Foods Key West is having a fund raising for an environmental campground with rentable cabins, study groups and projects — for retreat and natural refreshment, for the benefit of each other and those to come, for the good of the Keys and to maintain its natural life style. The "rich" in both natural and human resources are needed. If you are interested in seeing or being a part of a program which includes social ecology, alternate energy, aqua and agriculture, please contact the Herb Garden. Special aspects include soil science, food preservation, composting, low energy construction, wind pumps, the design and construction of experimental models of solar and wind power energy production, arts community outdoor education, and revival of native American arts and crafts, with residency alternative. Please give what you can. Land and structures are needed for which certificates can be given and donations returned from profits. Guidance of program to be maintained by the now existing Herb Garden Natural Foods. For further information, call 294-9103 or visit the Herb Garden, 900 Southard Street.

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of the federal agencies took an active interest in the skull's welfare until Marks and Rice brought it ashore and displayed it conveniently in their front yard, where it could be seen easily by passers-by.

FESTIVAL AT HOB

HORACE O'BRYANT Junior High School is planning a May Festival. May 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 the school will be engaged in varied activities promoting total involvement of students and faculty. Community help would be appreciated also, and parents of children attending Horace O'Bryant will be contacted and asked to assist in some of the different activities.

REGULAR ELECTIONS will be run the preceding week using county voting machines. The students will be instructed in the proper use of these machines, and qualified people will monitor the elections. There will be campaigns, posters, and electioneering. This is an invaluable learning experience. From this will come dignitaries of the May Festival.

The week will begin with the Coronation of the King and Queen, who will reign the entire week. These two students, elected by their peers, are 8th grade students. The 6th and 7th grade will also present their top choices, and one boy and one girl from each grade will become attendants to their Royal Majesties. The Coronation Ceremony will precede the Coronation Ball, which will conclude the opening day's schedule.

DURING THIS WEEK, displays prepared by the students on three grade levels and in different areas of

education will be on display in the Library. On Tuesday and Wednesday of that week, prospective 1978-79 6th graders from the 5th grade at Truman, Harris, and Poinciana will be guests of the school, having orientation, a tour of the school and demonstrations by the athletic department and music department.

THURSDAY EVENING, Horace O'Bryant students, parents, and friends and the prospective 6th graders and parents are invited to a spaghetti supper and Open House, featuring the exhibits of the students' projects in the Library. There will also be student entertainment.

Friday will be Field Day, the most popular day of the week. All morning, students will compete in games and activities from softball to Balloon Toss. Everyone signs up for his favorite activity, and faculty members and helpful parents oversee the entire playground.

AWARDS ASSEMBLIES will wind up this full week of activities. On this afternoon, Principal Harry Sandifer and General Chairman Marion Marzyc will present the awards to those students who have earned extra recognition for the Field Day Activities and for the projects displayed in the Library.

SALT POND FILL PROJECT

AS REPORTED in our November 1977 issue and updated last month, Monroe County has applied to the Department of Environmental Regulation and the Army Corps of Engineers for a permit to fill part of a salt pond near the airport and build a weather station.

We planned a comprehensive study of the salt ponds, Rest Beach, and other local disappearing wildlife



A Louisiana Tricolor Heron, a permanent resident of the Florida Keys, found abundantly in the Key West salt ponds and at Rest Beach.

habitats for this issue, but we were

not able to gather all the information in time. We will run the article next month, possibly continuing in a second part the following issue.

A SPOKESMAN for the Corps of Engineers told us that a large amount of mixed reaction came from Key West and elsewhere, with the majority opposed to the granting of the permit.

A public hearing requested by many of those opposed to the project may or may not be held, and it would be possible for the permit to be granted without a public hearing, but not likely. The permit could also be denied without a public hearing.

ALL THOSE who wrote to the Corps of Engineers requesting a public hearing will be notified of the Corps' plans to hold or not hold a hearing. If the Corps decides not to hold a hearing, adverse public reaction to that decision could possibly cause the Corps to change its mind and hold a hearing. In any case, it is not likely that a hearing could be held before July.

ALTHOUGH the official deadline of March 13 for public response to the permit application is past, we assume that a late response would still be added to the file. But those who oppose this planned incursion into one of the few remaining natural wildlife habitats in the city might also make their opinions known to both the City Commission and the County Commission.

THE COUNTY owns the property that it wants to fill, but the city must give its approval before the DER can issue the fill permit, since the property lies within city limits.

by Richard Marsh

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WHO IS ROBERT WATSON?

written and illustrated by Malcolm Ross

Last month Malcolm Ross presented evidence to support his theory that the Robert Watson who wrote the journal was the same person who built a house on Stmonton Street shortly after the end of the Civil War. While tracing the ownership of the house through local historical records for a friend who now lives in the house, Malcolm learned that a copy of the journal is owned by the Cornell University Library.

THE JOURNAL OF ROBERT WATSON

KINFOLKS, that compendium of who's who and who was who in Key West, compares the diary of Robert Watson with the memoirs of such notables as Rousseau, Samuel Pepys, and Benvenuto Cellini. Such an analogy may remain to be qualified.

According to *Kinfolks* also, Watson's journal begins in Key West on September 27th of 1861 and describes the local conditions which prompted the man to leave his island home and join the Confederate forces: "...the Federal troops having possession of this place and as it is rather unsafe for a Southern man to live here, I have determined to leave in disgust, consequently I left today in the schooner *Lady Bannerman* for the Bahama Islands."

Kinfolks summarizes the events of the next few months as Watson proceeds via Green Turtle Cay and Nassau, running the blockade around Florida to Jacksonville. On November 12 his entry reads: "All hands were joking about the blockade, but we soon changed our tune for on looking to leeward we saw a large steamship coming for us with all steam on, then we saw that our only hope was to run her through the breakers which was done and I really thought the old schooner was going to pieces. While she was thumping, the steamer was firing at us but luckily her shots fell short. The nearest one fell about 250 yards astern of us. The steamer knocked off her false keel and then went over into deep water leaking very bad..."

AFTER THIS SHATTERING arrival in Florida he proceeds to Cedar Keys to join the Coast Guard. On December 13th he is sworn "into the service of the State of Florida and of the Confederate States of America." His career in the Coast Guard is to be short-lived, as in four months time his Coast Guard company is destined to be mustered into service as Company K, 7th Florida Infantry.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY'S type-written copy of Robert Watson's diary begins in Tampa, Florida, on March 14, 1863. Watson is now 26 years of age, and the War Between the States is well under way, Fort Sumter having touched it off in the early morning hours of April 12th two years earlier. The battles of Bull Run, Fredericksburg, and Antietam are now history; Shiloh, Vicksburg, and the bloodbath that came to be known as Gettysburg are events soon to be enacted. Watson is on his way to Tennessee where there is currently heavy fighting. Accompanying him is his friend from Key West, Alfred Lowe, who is destined to remain with him throughout his military service.

AFTER TRAVELING by foot, stage, and train he finally arrives in Savannah at sunset on March 30th. His entry in the diary for the following day succinctly describes a city in wartime: "Remained

here all day taking a look at the city which is well fortified. Everything at high prices." The next day he leaves for Macon and Atlanta, arriving in Knoxville on the morning of April 2nd. He is now quite close to the areas of heavy fighting, and he encounters a number of men from Florida that he knows, including a Lieutenant Maloney from Key West. Almost immediately Watson becomes incapacitated by an illness which he describes as "disease of the lungs," an ailment that prevents him from engaging in any fighting and which will plague the man with headaches, chills, and fevers for the remaining pages of his journal. In two months' time his health is restored to such an extent that he is able to resume his duties, and he has his first taste of combat in securing the defenses of the city of Knoxville.

RAIN, THE BANE of the footsoldier, falls in torrents, complicating Watson's already delicate state of health, and



on. I told them that I was too sick to march and they would pass on but when the last rear guard came up and I told them my case they told me that I could get in a wagon if I liked. I thanked them and got into the wagon which was very dirty having been loaded with bacon which made it very greasy. I rode for 3 or 4 hours when the wagon turned off into another road and I had to get out and march the rest of the way. The sun was dreadful hot and I was so sick and my head ached dreadful. I had ate nothing all day and drank a great deal of water. I vomited 8 or 10 times during the day, the last time I threw up blood..."

WATSON RECOVERS from his hangover, the Southern forces rally, and a military ring-around-the-rosy is played as Watson's detachment boards train cars to Chattanooga and then back to Knoxville and his old camping ground. His entry for July 5th reads: "We rode on a platform car very much crowded and the sun was dreadful hot and we were all... black...with the coal dust that blew over us from the engine. It would run down through our shirts collars to our stockings and we were so much crowded that we barely had room to sit with our feet drawn up under us...We rode all night and I did not get a wink of sleep."

AN ARMY MAY TRAVEL on its stomach, but there is little to fill the stomach of the Confederate forces as he describes the situation back in Tennessee: "Our rations now consist of 3/4 lbs. corn meal and 1/3 lb. bacon and a little salt so that we have to spend all of our wages for food or starve."

The rains begin again and his detachment moves out into the Knoxville environs. Food is still in short supply, and breakfast one morning consists of "mush and meat from a cow's head that we brought with us." Whiskey is apparently in even shorter supply than food, but during one night's ride on a train he remarks that "...a man passed a bucket full of whiskey to us on top of the cars and some of the boys got pretty merry on it. I took a couple of good horns myself."

HIS DETACHMENT makes camp in the vicinity of Zollicoffer, Tennessee, their only shelter consisting of sheds constructed of tree bark to protect them from the sun and rain. On a hike into the countryside for food he returns with sixteen onions for which he is forced to pay \$2.00. The next few weeks are spent stopping and starting, marching and camping as the rain accompanies them: "Rained in the night and the most of us got a good wetting as we had no shelter. We threw our blankets over our heads and set up until the rain was over and then rolled up in our wet blankets and turned in on the wet ground."

July 25th he continues: "I went into the country foraging this morning, bought some potatoes and a few peas. I could get nothing else. In the afternoon drew rations and for the first time since I've been in service we got 1-3/4 lbs. of flour per rations. It rained all the afternoon and nearly all night."

STILL IN RETREAT, the soldiers draw rations including a quantity of whiskey. The evils of booze and the chaos of a retreating army are vividly pointed out in his next day's entry: "Got up early this morning and started after taking a drink. I felt very sick and at 10 a.m. I was so sick that I could go no further and the ambulances were all full so I could not get into one so I got under a shady tree and lay down and every rear guard that came along would order me to get up and go

and bark from on the old camping ground and building me a shelter and platform to sleep on...I slept in my new shanty on the soft side of an oak plank with one blanket over it but slept sound."

CHARACTER GUIDANCE and the chaplain may be the accoutrements of the modern army military, but one hundred and sixteen years ago the spiritual development of the infantryman was less formalized. Private Watson describes a confrontation between God and the Devil:

"There is a revival going on in the Regt. and half of them are being converted, which makes better for us as they will not go out so often now after potatoes, etc. and our boys will stand a better chance to get more for the psalm singing hypocrites will be afraid of being found out and being expelled from church. The preacher is a regular "snorter" and can be heard for miles off yelling out Hell fire and brimstone which just suits the "Crackers." A good sensible preacher could not get along with them. Our company have always been looked upon as hard cases, but I suppose we will be called the ungodly company now. But we don't care a fig for any of them, for we beat them in everything that we undertake and they all know it, yet we are all on friendly terms."

HE DESCRIBES other efforts to shape the morals of the troops: "Had dress parade this afternoon and Colonel Bullock had the following order read: Any commissioned officer, non commissioned officer or private found drinking, gambling, or swearing, should be court-martialed and punished severely, also that tomorrow was fast day and that there would be preaching in the Regt."

THE EFFECTS of this character guidance are not far ranging, as is evidenced by the entry of the following day: "Drew 1 1/4 days rations of beef this morning which I thought strange as we are to fast today but just as we got the beef to camps we were ordered to pack up and march to the depot. We hurried up but had to wait at the depot for some time. While waiting there I saw Capt. Smith, Lt. Maloney and the doctors, and many more of the officers of our Regt. all pretty tight. Capt. S. Called me aside and gave me a drink of peach brandy and \$10.00 to buy him a quart more of brandy. I got it and had another drink out of it. I then bought some for myself. Many of the boys in our company were gloriously tight which shows but little respect for Colonel Bullock's order of yesterday."

We finally started and arrived at Bristol Tenn. where we took our things out of the cars and waited for some time for another train for we go no further on in the train we came in. While waiting several of us got most gloriously tight. At 9 p.m. we started for Knoxville. I slept on the top of the car as there was no room inside. I spread my blanket and Alfred Lowe and I lay on it and covered with his. I put my cartridge box under my head for a pillow. During the night I awoke and found that my blanket and cartridge box was gone and Alfred's hat also. The car shook so much that I could not get to sleep any more for I was afraid of being shook off."

KNOXVILLE IS ONLY a brief stopping point, for Watson continues in his entry for August 23rd: "At sunrise we started and marched all day. It was very hot and dusty. I could not see a man 30 yards ahead of me on account of the dust, my feet were blistered and my shoulders hurt so badly that I could hardly get along. At 8 p.m. we halted and camped for the night, I drew 1 day's rations of beef for tomorrow. I then went to a branch and had a good bath and then turned in and slept sound all night."

THE METHOD behind the military madness makes no attempt to manifest it-

self as the Army marches and makes camp and then marches on.

August 24th: "Turned out early expecting to start again but remained here until dusk when the order was given to pack up and start for Loudon. The place we stopped at last night and today is called Turkey Creek. We started and marched all night. It was as hard a march as we ever had for the night was very dark and warm and the road very rough and in some places it was so dark that we could not see two feet ahead of us and to make matters worse we were not allowed to rest during the night."

August 25th: "Arrived at Loudon at daybreak, crossed the bridge and halted. I laid down on the ground and slept about one hour, when we were ordered to fall in and crossed the river again and camped in a thick wood. We were ordered to draw and cook 3 days rations which was done. After I got through issuing rations I lay down and slept about 3 hours and then went to the river and had a swim, came back to camp."

MORE ORDERS are given, the Army continues to march, and tension mounts as the forces approach the battle zones.

August 30th: "Our Regt. has been building batteries ever since we have been here and this morning we all went out on picket. Our company was on the outpost. We were conscripted as many green watermelons and peaches as we wanted. At dark we were ordered in and when we arrived at camp we found that the Regt. had left for Charleston, Tenn. We started immediately and overtook them before they crossed the river. We crossed and marched about 2 miles and camped for the night, very cold."

August 31st: "Started early this morning and marched all day. Passed through Philadelphia, Tenn., Sweet Water, Tenn., and camped one mile from Sweet Water. Drew 1 day's rations of corn meal and tainted beef. Cooked it and turned in."

September 1st: "Started early and marched until 4 p.m. Passed through Athens and a small town called Mouse Creek. Camped at Riceville, drew and cooked one day's rations of flour and bacon, turned in and slept all night."

September 2nd: "Started at daylight and arrived at Charleston, Tenn. at 12 M

September 8th: "Arrived in Cleveland at 10 1/2 a.m. We were all very tired for we had marched 20 miles without resting for we were closely pursued by the Yankees and it was so dark in some places that we could not see each other. On our arrival we jumped into the cars without permission from anyone for everything was in confusion as they were evacuating the place as the enemy were expected every moment and none of our troops are here. The train started at 11 1/2 a.m. and arrived at Daulton at 4 p.m. We camped close to the R. Road. While at Cleveland we conscripted a bag of flour and some bacon. It belonged to the government and we have drawn no rations since we left the Regt."

September 9th: "My birthday and a very dull one for we have nothing to eat but bread. We drew 2 days rations of flour and salt but could get no meat. At 3 p.m. 20 men and 1 officer were detailed to load cars. When they came back they brought a side of bacon weighing 60 lbs. and a box of tobacco which was divided among us. Col. Bullock's wife being in the cars near us we went and serenaded her. Real music we sang *Fairey-Bell, Let Me Kiss Him For His Mother*, and *The Homespun Dress*. At the end of each song there was quite a clapping of hands in the cars. We went back to camps, took a smoke and turned in."

September 10th: "All our company

continued on page 29

before morning, which was done. It was midnight before I got to bed, but was soon asleep for I was very tired."

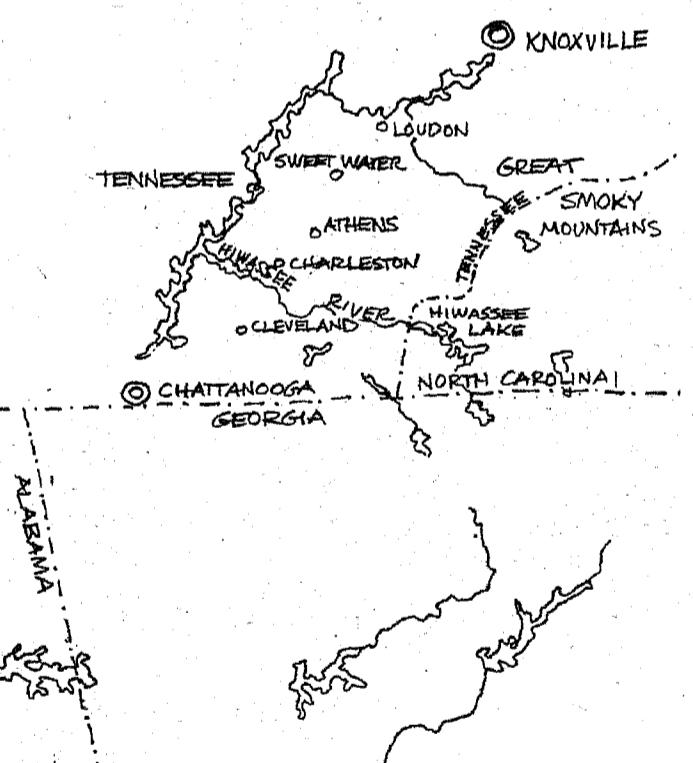
September 3rd: "Turned out early this morning feeling very stiff and sore and remained here until 3 p.m. when our company was ordered to march to the Hiwassee River, distance 6 miles, to guard some steamboats. Arrived at the boats at 7 1/2 p.m. and posted pickets across (sic) the river."

September 4th: "After breakfast I went in swimming and washed my underclothes and kept my pants and shirt on until they were dry, then put the underclothes on and washed the others for I have but one suit. Some of the boys killed a fine hog and bought a bushel of potatoes and we had a glorious dinner, the first good meal we have had for a long time."

September 5th: "Some of the boys went foraging and wounded a hog, but did not get it so we will have to go without today and in fact our rations are entirely out, and we don't know where to get any more for there is no commissary within 6 miles of us. We bought a bushel of potatoes for \$6.00 which will make just two meals."

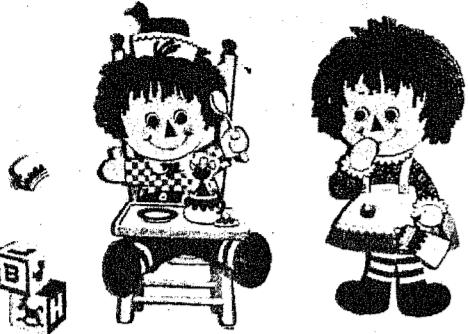
September 6th, Sunday: "I have soled my shoes today, a case of necessity. The boys killed two hogs which was quite a god-send." His Key West background and frame of reference is apparent in his next statement: "I went into the woods in the afternoon and got a fine lot of poppaws (i.e., paw paws), a very fine fruit about the size and shape of a mango. Heard cannonading in the direction of Chattanooga during the day."

September 7th: "At 4 p.m. some cavalrymen came on board with orders to burn the boats. We turned out and Capt. Smith ordered us to cook all the food we had and objected to burn the boats unless he had positive orders in writing, for he had orders to hold the boats at all hazards, so the men went away. We got everything ready to burn them however and at 11 p.m. positive orders came for us to burn them and leave as soon as possible for we were nearly surrounded by the Yankees. At 12 midnight we set fire to them and started for Cleveland."



(sic) marched through and camped 6 miles beyond, drew 3 days rations of corn meal and beef with orders to cook them up and put the cooking utensils in the wagons

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ZONING CONFLICT

by Mack Dryden

KEY WEST is undergoing traumatic sociological changes -- some good, some bad -- and the city can't change the rules fast enough to keep up. The influx of new people and different values is having a tangible impact for better or worse, and for that reason some ordinances that worked

given permission by the city to have a fifth dwelling on the same property.

THE ADJACENT neighbors are upset, the owner doesn't care, and there's apparently nothing anybody can do about it.

The property in question is at

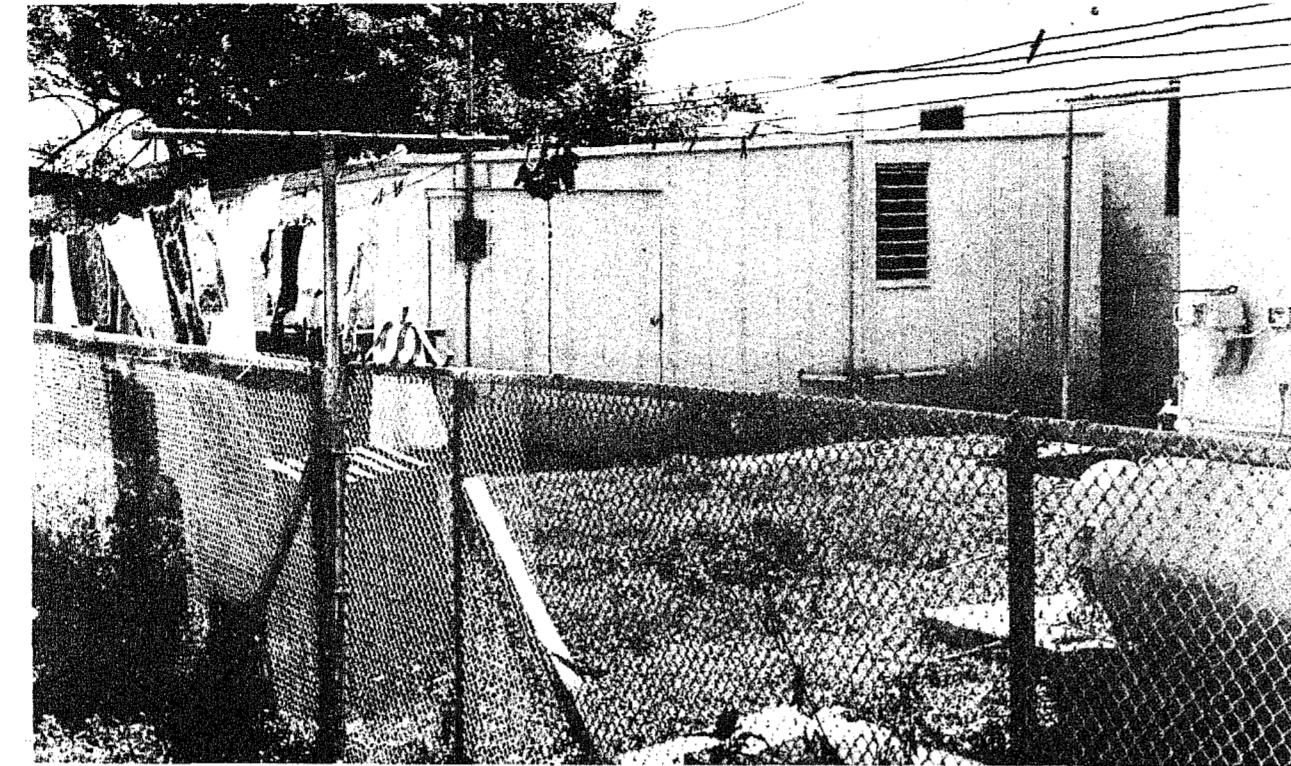


photo by Sheldon Ramsdell

fine five years ago are obsolete now. Naturally, some residents are suffering as a result, and a typical example came to our attention last month. There is a 76-by-100 foot lot in the New Town, which under present ordinances can have on it only a one-family dwelling. It has four, and the owner has just been

2503 Harris Avenue in a residential neighborhood near Key Plaza. There was a two-story, two-unit apartment house on the property back in 1962 when then-owner Harrell Flowers moved in two new apartments for a total of four. Neighbors protested loudly over the addition, saying it would cause traffic and garbage

problems. The city fathers said they sympathized but could do nothing since no ordinance specifically prohibited the addition. There was also a utility shed on the property at that time.

UNDER THE Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance passed in 1969, the property is in "non-conforming usage," meaning that it doesn't comply with present laws, but nothing can be done because it's "grandfathered" in. Now Fred Haas, who bought the property four years ago, is turning the utility shed into an apartment for his son, and neighbor Dorothy Fork is furious and apparently helpless. Since the shed was already there, and it's for "personal use" and not for rent, city officials say a zoning variance isn't required.

"If he ever rents it, then we can do something," said Building Inspector Clem Albury. "If his son lives in it for free, it's legal."

MRS. FORK is frustrated and angry because she said the noise, garbage, and traffic emanating from the apartments has been "intolerable" since Haas bought it; another unit can only add to the problem, she said.

"They throw trash into my yard, they steal my fruit, they killed my cat with a pellet gun, and the motorcycles and cars block my driveway and come in at all hours of the night," she said. "I've called the police and they say they have to catch somebody doing something before they can do anything, so I don't know what to do."

GERALD SANTANA, who is on the other side at 2507, complained that visitors to the apartments block his driveway, and he has had to push cars away to move his own.

Mrs. Fred Haas said that Mrs. Fork

"is one of those people who complain about little or nothing. Nobody pays much attention to her."

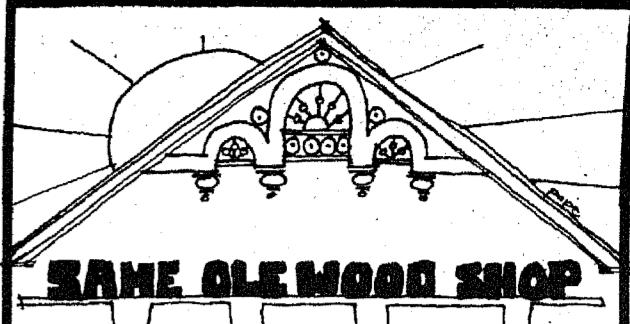
HARRELL FLOWERS, who sold the place to Haas, said, "I get sick sometimes when I drive by. I've seen piles of trash and boxes and junk. Nobody takes care of the place. Mrs. Fork is in a no-win situation. They've already caused her a lot of grief and trouble, and they can cause her a lot more if she keeps kicking. She can't win."

Ed. note: The intent of Section VI of the Zoning Ordinance, which deals with nonconforming uses of land and non-conforming structures, is "to permit these non-conformities to continue until they are removed, but not to encourage their survival.... It is further the intent of this ordinance that nonconformities shall not be enlarged upon, expanded or extended..."

Section VI 5 (a) says that a non-conforming structure may remain, but "no such structure may be enlarged or altered in a way which increases its non-conformity..."

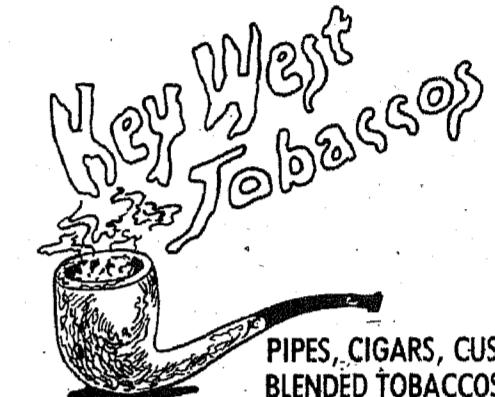
Mrs. Fork apparently feels that converting the utility shed into living quarters would increase or expand the nonconformity. The city's position seems to be that if the City Code does not specifically prohibit Mr. Haas from converting his utility shed into living quarters for a member of his family, it is not illegal.

It seems to us that the situation is a matter of interpretation of the Zoning Ordinance, and that interpretation can only come from a Circuit Court decision.



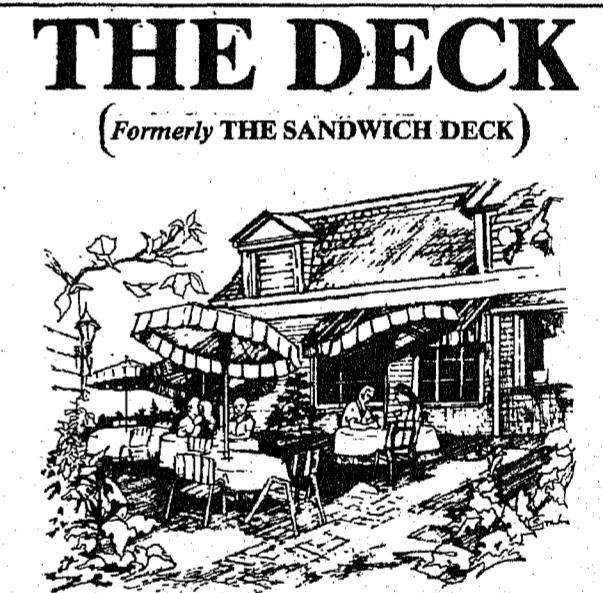
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Hooray For Hollywood

by Timothy Hoskins

THE SUN is high and hot, and its brilliance attacks the cool blueness of the water off Key West. A lone and lonely looking salvage boat rolls slightly in the gentle seas, its rusty hull almost visibly deteriorating. On the afterdeck two tourists are excitedly reeling in a much sought after fish. As they boat their prize, the captain pokes his head out of the wheelhouse and calls to his mate who is busying himself with some fishing tackle. The skipper points to a small outboard that is rapidly approaching the larger craft from port side. In it is a pot-bellied, weathered fellow who seems very anxious to impart some information, and, as he pulls alongside, his shouts become audible. He is saying something about a wreck on the reef, and with a few deft movements he throws up some lines and clamors aboard. A short conference ensues and the pair of fishermen depart in the skiff, return for their forgotten fish, then disappear.

It is all very nice.
It is also all very fake.



THIS IS the set of Paramount Pictures' production of *Spanner's Key*, a movie pilot set in Key West that may become a regular series on network television.

The boat in question is actually tied up at the mole at Truman Annex, the sunlight is supplied by huge lamps, the rust is painted on, and the fish, although quite real, is also quite dead.

AND I'M not even real. I convinced the producer, Ben Chapman, that I was a writer and was interested in doing an article for a local newspaper (S.H.) on the movie. In reality, I'm nothing more than a star struck kid who gets slack-jawed and bleary-eyed at the mere mention of anybody famous on any level. The writer bit was just a clever ruse that I hoped would enable me to rub elbows with some movie stars. That's why I was out there on that pier the day they shot the scene I described.

IT SHOULD be explained, though, that what I recounted (which is more or less what you'll see on TV) was

actually the second take of this particular part of the drama. The first take looked more like a Mack Sennett comedy. Someone had neglected to put the dead fish on the end of the fisherman's line making it a little difficult to express a lot of jubilation over a bare hook. Panama Assidy (played by William Windom) ped in on the outboard right on cue and proceeded to hit mate Winston L. St. Andrew (Felton Perry) in the face with one rope while missing skipper Jim Spanner (Michael Parks) altogether with the other one. Obviously, the boat was somewhat less than secured, which didn't really matter much since, in his haste, old Panama had left the throttle control in forward before he jumped the larger craft. Thus, unrestrained and unguided, the little boat continued churning right along until coming to a rather abrupt halt against the cement pilings of the pier. Well, after all, these are actors not sailors.

ALL OF THE filming I watched was not, of course, as comical as this was, but the first take fiasco became almost standard procedure. At times it seemed that the director, Alex Singer, a volatile man with boundless energy, was the only one who had read the script. The actors walked through their parts like fey fourth-graders in a school play. Then, after a little rehearsing, an

almost miraculous transformation took place, and the actors would be telling the director how the scene should be shot. Despite the contradiction, the end result would be so obviously perfect that Singer's singing cry of "Cut...Print it" was invariably anti-climactic.

THE STAR Michael Parks, a handsome, easy going but sometimes brooding actor, plays the part of Jim Spanner, a handsome, easy going but sometimes brooding salvage boat operator. He is, needless to say, well cast. The on-camera Parks, in fact, is so remarkably similar to the off-camera Parks that one gets the rather unsettling impression that there is no difference. It is hard to say whether he is natural all the time or acting all the time. Between takes he drifts around the set, jumping rope with the children, clowning with the crew, or minding his nine-year old son James, who may be described as looking like his

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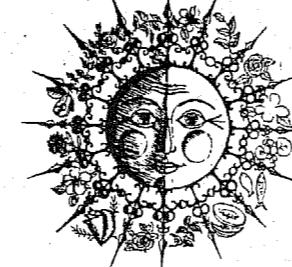
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father. Only small. The elder Parks, due in part to his motorcycle-borne drifter role in *Then Came Bronson*, is said to possess a "Marlon Brando mumble," which is a little ridiculous considering that Brando didn't even have a "Marlon Brando mumble." Every time I spoke with Michael Parks, I found him to be quite articulate, with the only mumbling coming from my corner as I vainly attempted to appear clever.

EVEN MORE CASUAL than Parks, if possible, is Felton Perry, who plays Spanner's sidekick Winston L. T. St. Andrew. Before being introduced, I spent a few embarrassing moments with him, not realizing that he was a star. I thought he was a stand-in. His easy manner and constant smile contrast sharply with his crocodile body, which survived surprisingly unscathed after being blown to smithereen in the Clint Eastwood flick *Magnum Force*. As Eastwood's partner, Perry was, as he phrased it, "the fool that opened the mailbox." When not talking movies, Perry had a lot of praise for Key West and its environs, and with his Caribbean accent (I'm still not sure if it's contrived or natural) he blends in perfectly.

WILLIAM WINDOM as Panama Cassidy is, if not the most charming, certainly the most professional of all the actors present. Through the experience of countless movie and television roles, he emerges as an intense, methodic man who seems totally immersed in the job at hand. On camera, he acted; during breaks, he prepared for the next scene. At one point, when he was unsure of some of the boating terminology in the script, he bellowed out a request for a yachtsman to advise him on the vernacular. When no one stepped forward, he became somewhat insistent, explaining that, "I don't want

a bunch of sailors writing in saying 'That old fool doesn't know what he's talking about.'" It occurred to me that, even if there was a mistake, it would be fictional Cassidy's fault, not William Windom's. But, as Windom pointed out, to the audience there is no difference.

ALONG WITH not-so-little-any-more Mossie Drier and others, the cast is rounded out (and quite nicely, I might add) by Marie Louise Weller as Dr. Tracy Russell. Fortunately, she plays the part of a Ph.D. and not a medical doctor, else I would have been tempted to play sick. M.L., as she is called by the crew and secretly by at least one sycophant, actually looks like an actress. There is no other way to describe her. She has a wild crop of corn-yellow hair, a dark, pouting look, and the kind of figure for which the mold is kept safely locked somewhere deep in Hollywood. Every time I saw her it took great effort to stifle the incredible urge to fall and grovel at her dainty feet. Alas, she remained unapproachable: her stardom, coupled with the debilitating effect that any pretty girl has on me, proved insurmountable.

BUT NOW we meet the most important thespian of all. This one is well known, if not worldwide, at least by everyone likely to be reading this. It is none other than... Key West! (No relation to Mae.) This area, from Pigeon Key to Duval Street to the reef, is the main character, and it will determine the fate of the series. The movie is primarily an action show with a lot of scenery, underwater shots and such, and it will be interesting to see just how the island stacks up against its formidable TV competition. If successful, it will truly be the own that is the star.

I FOR ONE rather enjoy the idea of living in a movie star, although I haven't quite figured out where to put the sunglasses and silk scarf. Also, I've been wondering where to get an autograph.

I realize, of course, that Duval and Front is hardly Hollywood and Vine, but I can't seem to walk around Mallory Square without whistling "You ought to be in pictures."

Ed. note: We can't help reminding our readers that a year ago Solares Hill suggested a TV series about a salvage tug working out of Key West. Would-be script writer Richard Marsh proposed a pilot episode based on the experiences of Captain Alfred Kirchhoff, acting skipper of the salvage tug Curb stationed at the old Navy submarine basin, in an April 1977 article on the civilian reuse of the Navy Base.

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Since all power failures are usually blamed on the poor utility companies, military saboteurs, or U.F.O.'s, I am hereby going to set the record straight.

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I had to get up early for a job interview and I figured I needed the alarm as a safety back-up.

Well I was in bed with this good book and while turning the pages, my clock radio started to give off this strange hum.

Since it's an old radio, I thought that the concussion from the evenings war games jarred something loose, so I hit it. That only made the hummm LOUD-ER.

Then I shook it. It stayed the same.

Then I covered it with all my clothes - then two pillows and a sleeping bag.

In desperation I threw a hex on it. The vibrations slowly fanned out and back down the wires to the power plant and at 10:20 A.M. it happened.

I BLEW THE MAIN FUSE!

For those of you who enjoyed a day off, I'm glad.

For those of you who had to work harder (police, etc.), I'm sorry.

And if I don't get my clock radio replaced soon, it might just happen again.

Responsibly yours,
The Wizard

(For those of you who don't know, Key West experienced a black-out for over five hours at the end of March. The war games the writer refers to were those performed by the Blue Berets who were coincidentally in town at the time. This message which we received at press time solves the mystery of what caused the black-out and we are pleased to be able to share this information with our readers....Ed.)

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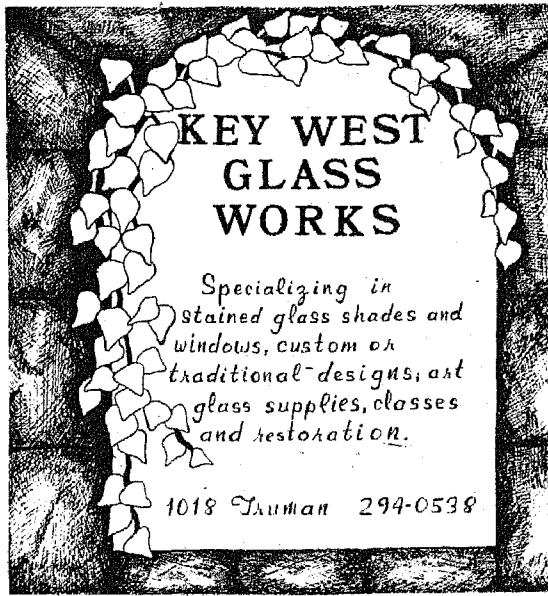
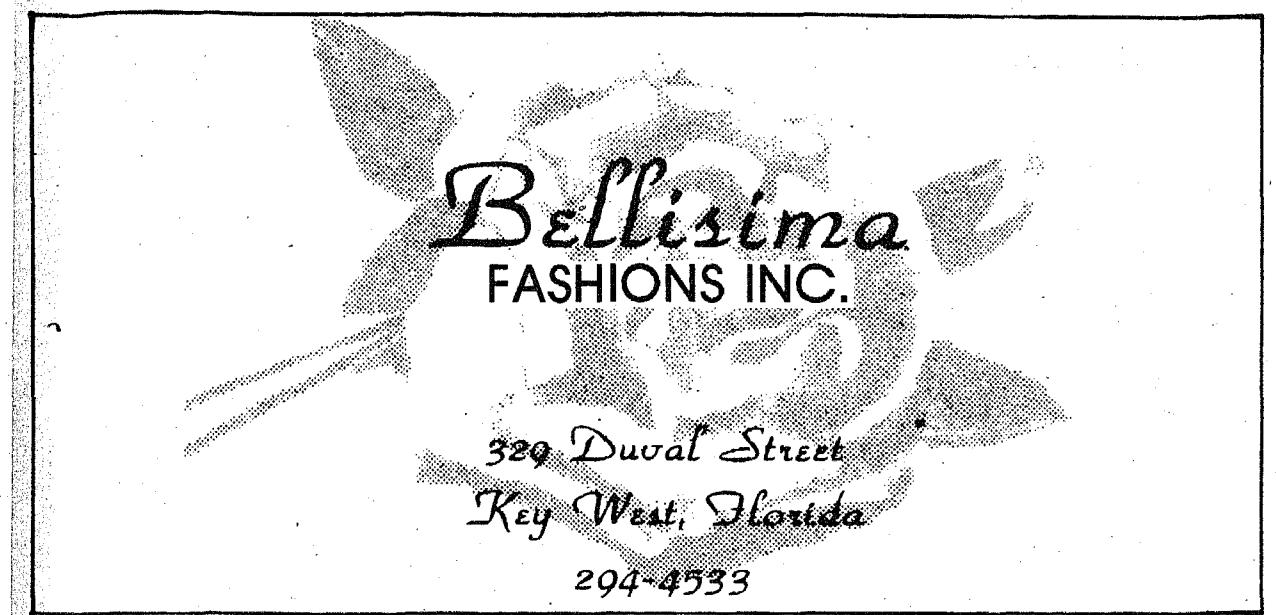
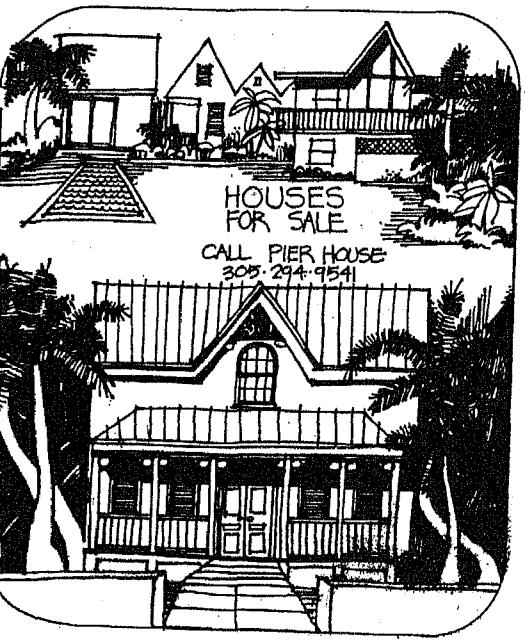
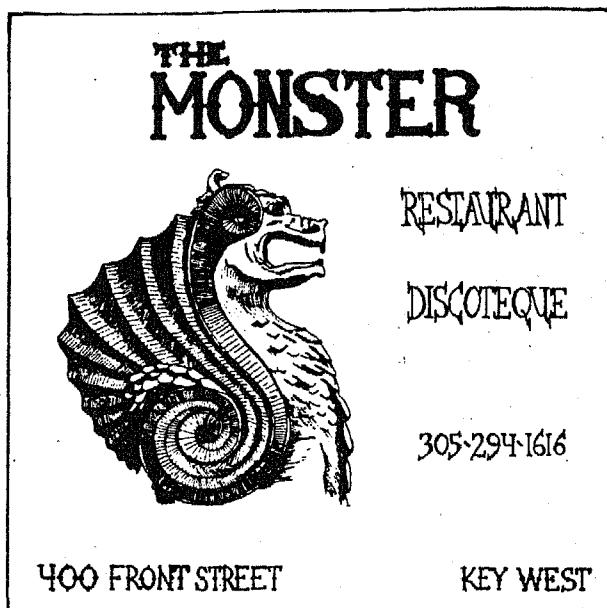
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editorial

by Richard Marsh

ANOTHER TURN OF THE SCREW

UNLESS THE PEOPLE of Key West act quickly, City Hall is going to give itself one more excuse to meddle in their private affairs without good reason.

"An ordinance regulating personal property sales in residential zoning districts" -- that is, "garage" or "porch" or "yard" sales -- was passed unanimously at the March 20 City Commission meeting on the first reading. It will probably be passed and made a part of the city's Code of Ordinances at the second reading April 3, unless citizens raise a cry of indignation at this needless introduction of bureaucracy into their lives and infringement of their freedom.

THIS "Garage Sale Ordinance" will add nothing positive to the Code of Ordinances. The problems that it is intended to eliminate -- the regular, unsightly, and annoying mini-junkyards that have sprung up around town posing as garage sales -- are already prohibited by three areas of the City Code: the zoning, occupational license, and nuisance ordinances. If these ordinances were enforced, there would be no problem.

ON THE OTHER HAND, the proposed ordinance will create a maze of regulations "permitting" residents to do what they are already permitted to do -- sell their surplus accumulation of odds and ends from time to time at their homes without asking permission from City Hall and paying a fee.

THE PROPOSED ordinance is "intended to prohibit the infringement of any businesses in any established residential areas by regulating the term and frequency of garage sales, so as not to disturb the residential environment of the area." The ordinance defines "garage sale" as "all general sales, open to the public, conducted from or on a residential premise in any residential zone, as defined by the zoning ordinance, for the purpose of disposing of personal property..."

THE EXISTING zoning ordinance permits "customary accessory uses of a residential nature...in keeping with the residential character of the district" and prohibits "all uses not specifically or provisionally permitted herein; any use not in keeping with the single-family residential character of the district." Exceptions are R-1B, R2, and HP-1, which allow home occupations if they are "clearly incidental and secondary to the use of the dwelling for dwelling purposes and shall not change the character thereof." But even here "there shall be no display of goods visible from any street" and "occupations which generate greater volume of traffic than would normally be expected in a residential neighborhood" are prohibited.

A continuing rummage sale cannot be passed off as a "home occupation."

IN OTHER WORDS, under an existing but largely unenforced ordinance, you cannot hold a continuing rummage

sale at your house or in your garage, no matter what you call it, if you live in a residential neighborhood. A new ordinance is not needed, because the zoning ordinance alone is enough to prohibit continuing rummage sales, if those who are annoyed by them insist that the existing law be enforced.

According to the proposed ordinance, the person to whom a permit to hold a garage sale is issued (for \$5) shall not "permit any loud or boisterous conduct on said premises nor permit vehicles to impede the passages of traffic on any roads or streets in the area of such premises." (You pay your \$5 and you get to be a traffic cop for a day.) These are duplications of existing ordinances. "Offensive Conditions and Nuisances" are prohibited in general by Section 17-14 of the Code, and Section 29-3 says, "It shall be unlawful for any person to obstruct any street in the city."

PART OF THE complaint about the continuing rummage sales around town that masquerade as garage sales is that they are unsightly nuisances and create traffic problems. So why have the offenders not been prosecuted under the existing ordinances?

Merchants who maintain stores, hire employees, and pay occupational licenses have complained that operators of continuing rummage sales are detracting from their businesses by selling new merchandise that is still in original boxes, and, since they have lower overhead, that they are undercutting the prices of the legitimate merchants. And without even paying for an occupational license. And all in the name of "garage sale!" To add insult to injury, the rummage sellers, with nothing to lose by closing up "shop" for a day, since they have no ex-

penses except their merchandise, can take off for the beach whenever they feel like it.

THESE MERCHANTS have a valid complaint, but this is not a sufficient reason to enact a new ordinance, because the existing license ordinance (Section 18-1) clearly states that you cannot do much of anything except work for someone else unless you get an occupational license. An occupational license could not properly be issued to conduct a business in an area that is not zoned for it.

THE PROPOSED Garage Sale Ordinance does not do anything to solve the problem of continuing rummage sales that existing ordinances could not do if they were enforced.

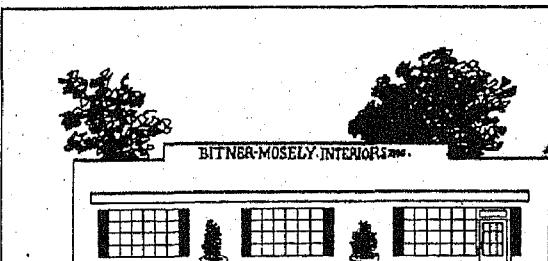
The continuing rummage sale at 904 Fleming, which at one time spread across the sidewalk, prompted Commissioner Alton Weekley to ask a couple meetings ago if something could be done to close down the operation.

After a second warning from Sanitation and License Inspector Blackie Valdez, the operation ceased and the junk piled up to the ceiling in the house (which shocked Fire Marshall Sergio Hernandez when he inspected the place) was moved out. This was accomplished without the proposed ordinance, and because the Fire Marshall was called in the situation was probably more thoroughly corrected than it would have been under the proposed ordinance.

THE NEW ORDINANCE is not necessary.

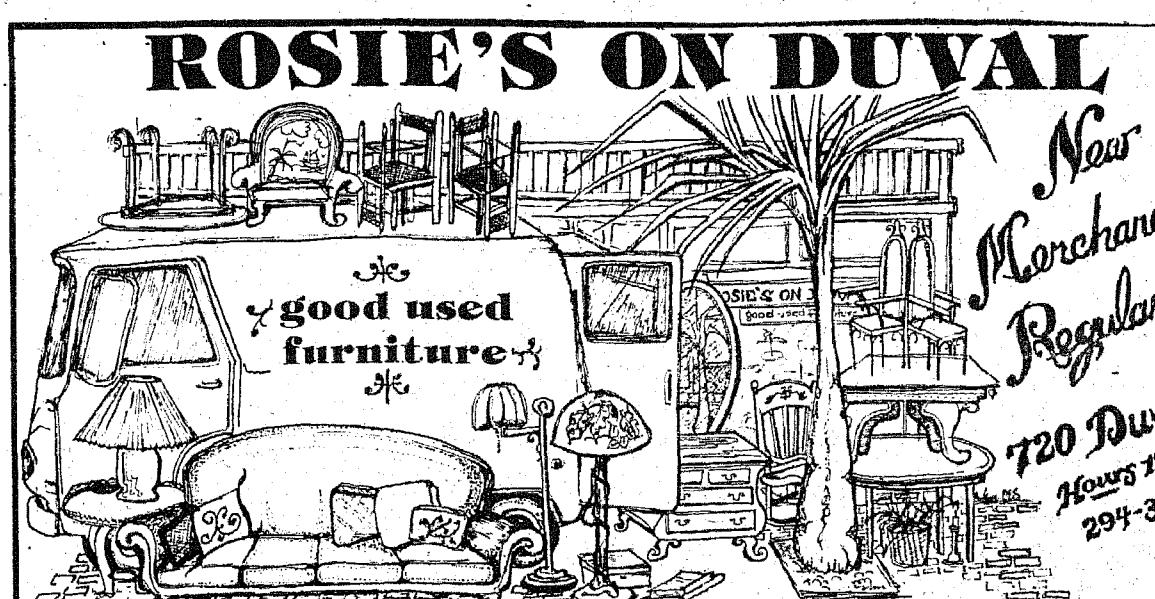
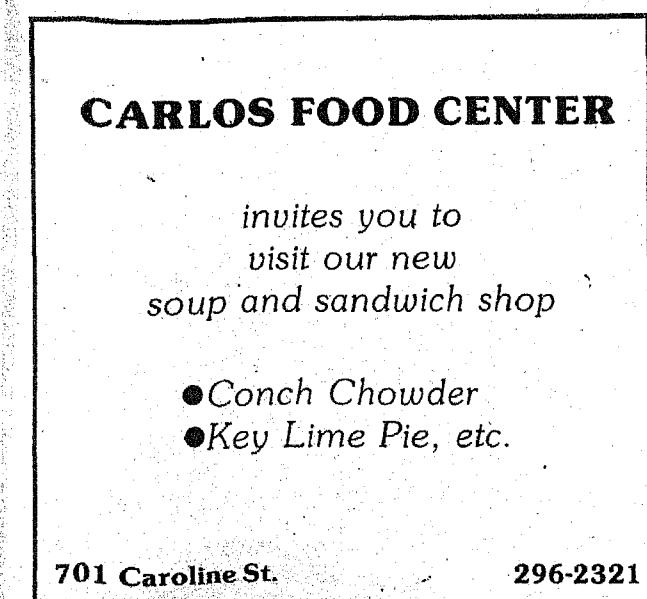
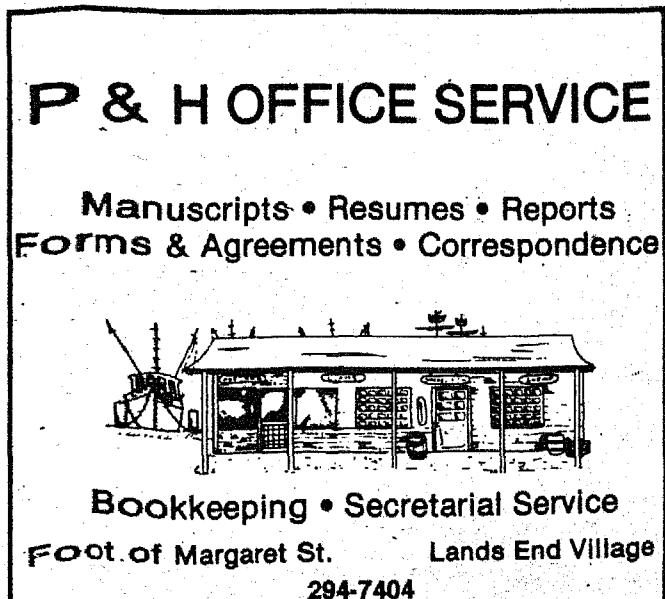
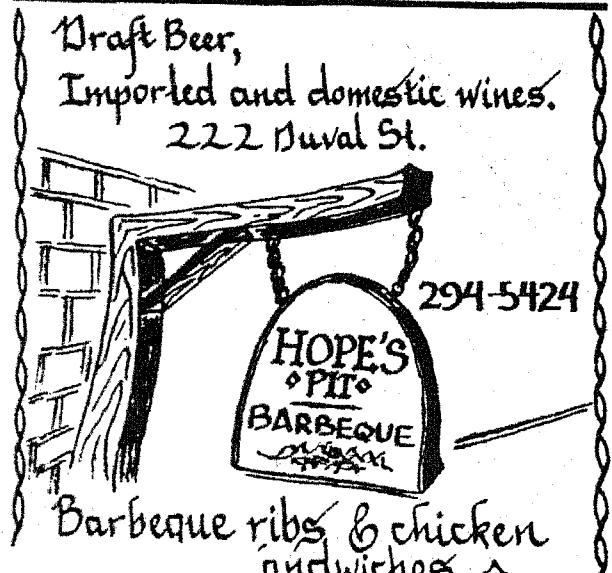
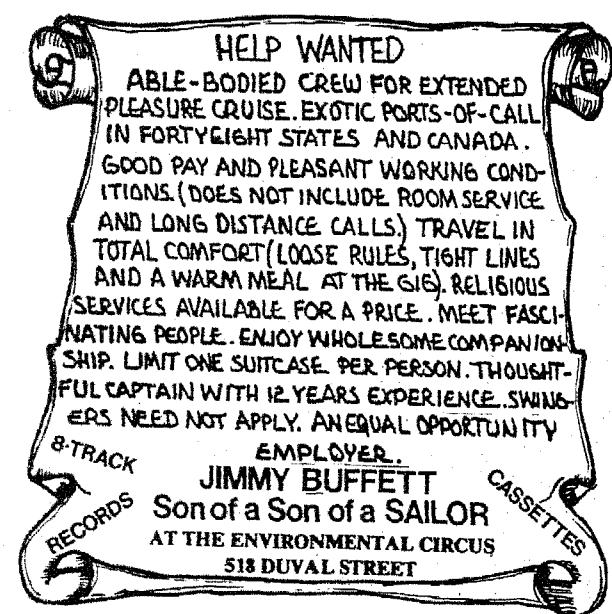
So much for what the new ordinance will not do. Here is what it will do.

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and no objection voiced by any member of the audience.

When I spoke with City Attorney Joe Allen about the proposed ordinance, he explained that it "permits you to engage in isolated sales."

His use of the term "permits" in that way reminded me chillingly of something a circuit judge (not from Key West) told me once in a conversation about the First Amendment -- the one that deals with freedom of the press. He made me promise that if I ever used what he said I would not identify him, because his advice, if its full implications are understood, indicates a seemingly radical philosophy.

REFERING TO minor infringements of freedom of the press that had come before higher courts, he said, "Don't try to get a court decision on anything regarding the First Amendment, because you can't win. Even if you win a case, you lose, because once you let the courts tell you what you can do, at the same time you let them tell you what you cannot do."

To apply that advice to the city's proposed Garage Sale Ordinance, don't give the city the authority to permit you to hold a garage sale, because then, as demonstrated in the proposed ordinance, the city will be able to forbid you to have a garage sale.

YOU HOLD the authority now. Will you give it up, or will you attend the April 3 meeting and tell the City Commission that you want to keep the freedoms you have left, and you will not let them take this one away from you?

It is a small freedom, but Liberty is made up of many small freedoms.

busy today loading cars, moved camps in the afternoon. One soldier shot another through the head killing him instantly. Everything in confusion loading cars with all kinds of government stores. Some of the boys conscripted a ham, a lot of sugar and other things that we needed."

September 11th: "All hands at work loading cars, trains leaving all night and morning. Yankees reported close at hand at 10 a.m. We were ordered to draw and cook 2 days rations and march to Lafayette, Ga., our brigade reported to be there. Started at 3 p.m. and marched until dark, halted by an old church and turned in. My clothes wet with perspiration and covered with dust, but I slept well."

September 12th: "At 3 a.m. we turned out and marched until 10 a.m., halted and rested for 4 hours. All of us very tired for we had to climb some very steep hill, it was very warm and dusty. Soon after we stopped it rained which spoilt our rest. At 3 p.m. started and marched 4 miles when we met our Regt., who thought that the Yankees had taken us prisoners. They welcomed us back very warmly and were very glad to see us safely back. Drew 2 days rations and cooked them. This place is Lafayette, Ga., remained here all night."

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Dave Fedor: Mr. Basketball At Key West High

FOR THE PAST fifteen years Dave Fedor has led the Key West High School basketball team down narrow halls and through open doors into basketball gyms all across the state. And 291 times he has walked back down those halls with one more win under his belt.

Now we sit and talk in his office, which is filled with memorabilia such as trophies, pictures and stickers that have accumulated here, due in part to his success as head mentor of Conch basketball squads since 1963. He talks with pride and modesty about his 1968 state championship team.

"WE HAD two players that went on

all talent than some of the others. Not only did we have two guys that were major college prospects, but the other players on the team were in the category of small and junior college prospects. We just had a good group of athletes."

FEDOR, a 1962 graduate of Florida State, was drafted by the San Francisco Warriors in the third round, following his four year stint with the Seminoles. After three months, his NBA team was experiencing a losing streak. In order to bolster the situation, the Warriors traded one player for two, which put them over the team limit, and Fedor was released. After enrolling in the Spring

the squad all the way up until 1977, when Terrance graduated. "There were some fine basketball players in their families," commented the Conch coach.

IN FIFTEEN YEARS there have been many memorable experiences for Dave Fedor. One of the most memorable was winning the state championship. "We went 31 and one for the season," he remembers, "and were ranked number two in the state all year long behind Curley. We played Curley twice at the end of the season, once for the conference playoff, which they won, and once for the regional when we beat them. There were a lot of pressure games that season. We had

by Scott Atwell



1967-68 KWHS "Conchs"

FHSAA CLASS AA STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

Won 31 Lost 1
Region IV AA Champions *** District 16 AA Champions *** GMAC Southern Division Champs
First Key West High School team to be ranked No. 1 in state high school rankings
Won 25 straight games for an undefeated regular season
St. Petersburg Holiday Christmas Tournament Champions

Left to Right: #35 Danny Varela, #31 James Walter Curry, #32 James Singleton, #30 Ed Scott, #45 Mike Raymond, #44 Ronald Harris, Captain, #41 Vaughn Hilburn, #43 Louis Albury, #42 Anthony Mounts, #40 Bill Butler, #34 Burney Stafford & #33 Quenton Thurston

HEAD COACH DAVE FEDOR Asst. Coach Billy Cabanas

to play, and do well, in major college ball. That's a nucleus that you just don't get every year." He is speaking of Ron Harris, who went on to play for Florida State University, and Bill Butler, described as the greatest leaper in Florida history, who went on to play at the University of Louisville.

"We have had many fine teams down through the years," said Fedor, "but I think that one had a little more over-

semester at Florida State. Fedor, who was seeking his master's degree in physical education, was offered the head coaching job at Key West High School.

SINCE HE HAS been here on the Rock, one Key West family has blessed him with outstanding players for a span of ten years. The Butler family first sent him Bill in 1968, and, after that, either a brother or cousin has been a member of

something like four to six over-time games during that year and we won them all.

"We had some games that went right down to the wire, and all tipped in our favor. The culmination of that season, winning the state championship, particularly since I hadn't been coaching too long at the time, made it a great thrill."

A SIDE NOTE to that season that many people do not know is that before the season started Dave Fedor had a chance to return to professional basketball. He had gone out to Oakland in November for a tryout with a team in the new American Basketball League, the Oakland Oaks. He was offered a one-year contract to play for the expansion team. But rather than move his family out West for perhaps only one year, and knowing that his Conchs would be a strong team that year, Fedor declined the offer and remained at Key West High.

WHEN I ASKED HIM whom he would choose as his finest player, the 6'6" coach paused and refrained from answering the question. "I wouldn't want to pick someone who I thought was the best player I ever coached, because we've had so many good ones. Different players have different strengths and weaknesses," Fedor explained. "I don't think the only purpose of coaching is to develop good players. There are other aspects you have to consider such as the character of the individual involved. People have asked me that question before, but I just couldn't really pick out a best!"

OVER HIS fifteen-year coaching period, Fedor has seen changes in rules, equipment, and attitudes, not to mention the competition. "We have had good years and bad years from the standpoint of competition. We had our ups and downs as far as the teams we have had and the teams we played against. But year in and year out we probably have had as tough a high school schedule as anywhere in the state. Now that we are an independent, our schedule is just as tough if not tougher, because the teams that are playing us don't play us unless they think they have chance to beat us. When we were in the conference (Greater Miami Athletic Conference) we played the top schools, but we also played the teams on the bottom. We're not picking up the schools on the bottom anymore, so we sort of lost our easy teams, and we now play teams that are average to above average."

FEDOR'S COACHING has not changed much. He explained: "Most coaches that have been coaching a ten to fifteen year span like I have have changed some because society has changed. As far as

the coaching, I'm not quite as strict as I was ten or fifteen years ago. I try to achieve the same goals, but the methods have varied down through the years. It all boils down to the same thing, you have to pay a price to achieve a goal. It was true fifteen years ago and it's true now. When you get a group that's willing to pay the price, they'll achieve their goal. I think this year's team is a good example of that. This year, we had some young men that were solid high school ball players, and they were willing to put their individual desires aside for the good of the team. As a result, they achieved much more as a team than they would have as individuals."

A GOOD EXAMPLE of a player who was "willing to pay the price" is senior center Steve Robinson. Robinson made a total of five dunks in the Conchs 77-78 season, but after missing a couple he backed off. "You come to wonder," says Fedor, "Well, do I go for the dunk, or do I just make sure I score the basket?" I think Steve came to a psychological point where he realized it was more important to make the two points to help the team effort than it was to go for a little personal glory and get the dunk." Each player made similar sacrifices for the good of the team throughout the season.

THE FAST BREAK was the backbone of this year's offense, according to Fedor. "I think it's one of the reasons Key West teams have been successful. We haven't been that big, but we have been able to get down the floor faster than our opposition. The fast break has been a trademark of our teams down through the years. It goes back all the way to the state championship years and before that. It's always been a part of the game that I like, and I feel it is something you should look for constantly when you get the ball. Many teams don't, but it's one of our primary weapons. It's the first part of our offense that we look to run.

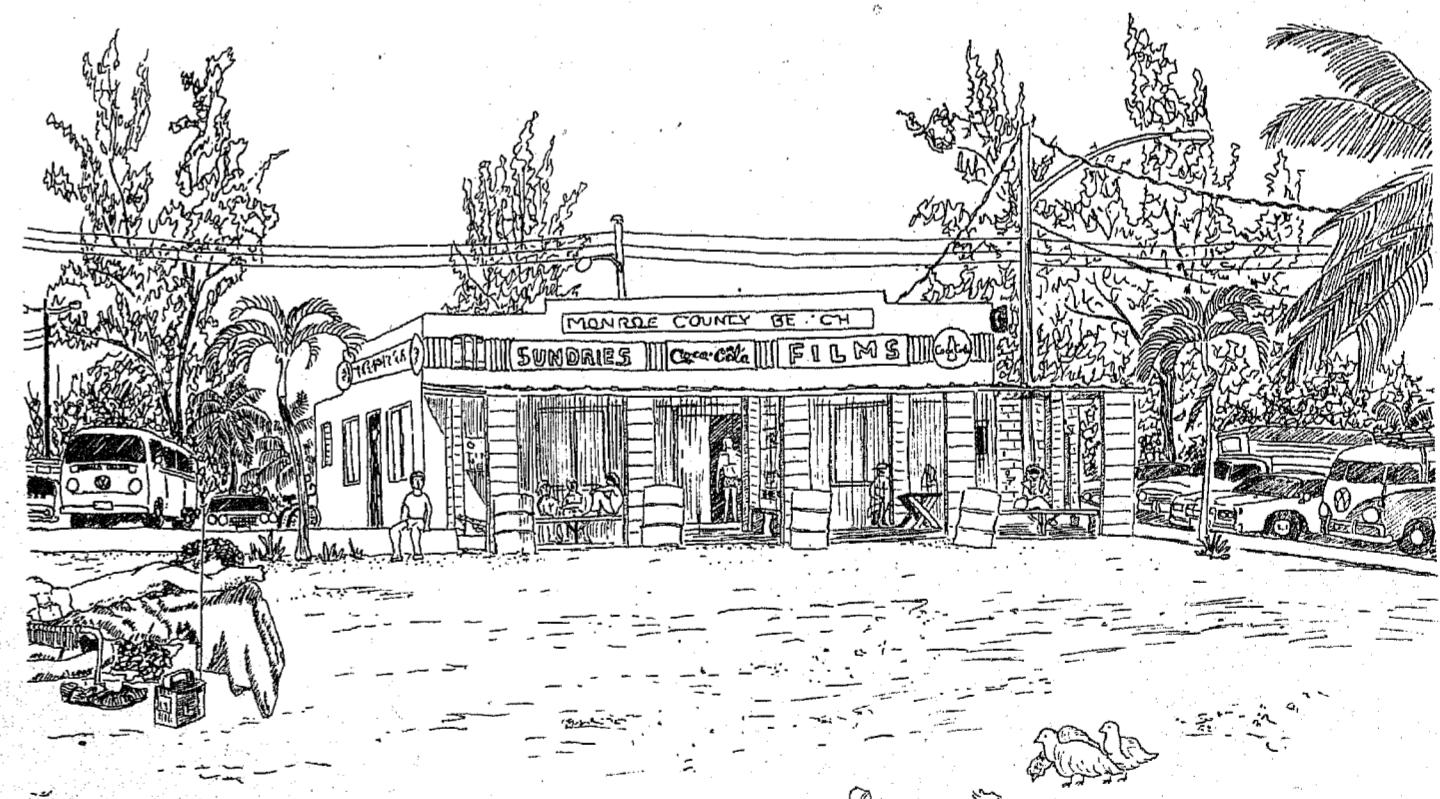
"Basketball is a game of continuous movement. A coach might tell his team before the game, 'Watch out for Key West's fast break. You can't let them get behind you.' These guys are out there in the heat of a ball game, and they're running their offense. Someone

gets a shot. They put it up. As soon as they see that it's missed they have to transfer their thinking from offense to defense. If they are not used to making this daily transition from offense to defense, then, no matter what the coach told them in the locker room, the daily routine of how they practice and play will take precedence. We're used to making that transition from defense to offense because it's part of our normal practice routine. We're going to do it naturally, whereas the other team is going to have to think, 'I gotta get back,' and by then we are already behind them."

DAVE FEDOR's future is undecided right now. "I'm in the process of evaluating what I want to do as far as coaching. I don't see it as 'Well, I eventually want to be at UCLA.' I'm perfectly content to coach right here. The enjoyment of it is the satisfaction of getting the most out of what you've got!"

FINALLY, as our conversation was nearing its end, I asked him how he would like Dave Fedor to be remembered after he is finished coaching at Key West High School. After a moment's pause, staring at one of the walls filled with pictures and trophies, he said, "I would like to be thought of not only as a successful coach, but also as a person who was fair with the people he dealt with. Hopefully I've helped them to be better ball players, and helped them to see the proper emphasis that should be placed on winning and losing in sports. Possibly they will relate this to their later lives. I would like to be remembered just as a person who did a good job."

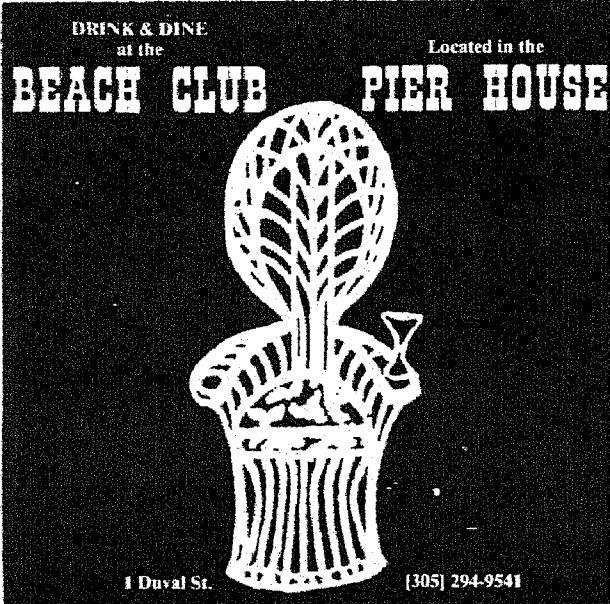
DAVE FEDOR certainly has his life in perspective: he knows how to be a winner and how to be a good loser. But if there is any winner in the Island City it is Key West High School and the community. The proficient coach has done well for himself and for the city of Key West. Wherever life's road takes Dave Fedor, be it UCLA or Marquette, or right here in Key West, the southernmost city will never forget him. The winningest basketball coach in Conch history has left an indelible mark on the city of Key West and the Key West High School basketball court!



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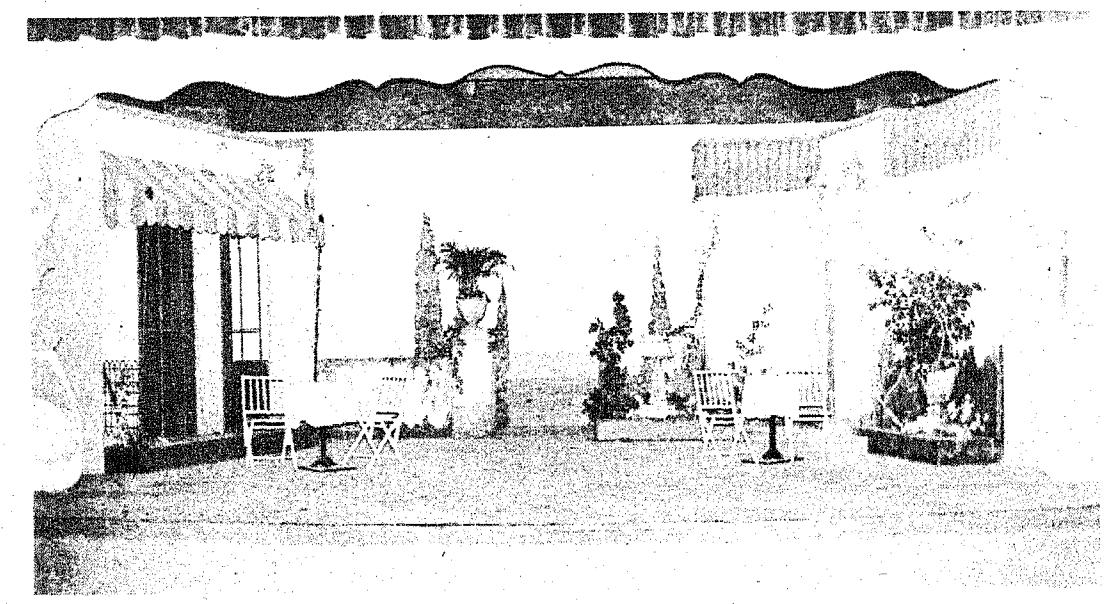
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continued from page 32
influence and a bit of English accent.
The Boy Friend is a companion piece to Gentlemen Prefer Blondes and a revived musical of recent years, The Girl Friend. A continental note is injected in The Boy Friend, not only in the frothy plot, but in the beautifully contrived setting by Edward Lee. Set designs are the interior of a girls' finishing school in a resort town of



The Boyfriend, Act III set
southern France, the beach, and a terrace of a nearby cafe.

THE LIBRETTO is an unabashed spoof of all the frivolous, frolicsome foibles associated with the Roaring Twenties. Foreword to the script tagged the version as "The Tittering Twenties," since only the British lion is permitted to roar.

The title and the theme song emphasize the yearning of teenaged girls to boast of having, "that certain some-

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thing - a boyfriend." Opening takes place at an exclusive finishing school for young ladies near Nice, France, on the Riviera. A bevy of giggling, fluttery girls proclaim in a song that they "hope to attract a husband whose credit is good," but in the meantime, the girls just yearn to have male admirers.

ENTER assorted young men providing a balanced vocal and dance chorus.

photo by Richard Marsh

ing change from the stylized pert French type. She helps young aspirants to love -- Polly (Sandy Sharp) and Tony (Thomas Youngholm) -- overcome misunderstandings.

Youngholm was one of the first applicants for a role and was spotted at the initial rehearsal as an excellent choice for the musical.

THE ENTIRE CAST, major and minor participants, are to be applauded for achievement. Whether or not the same personnel will be involved in the repeat production depends on seasonal availability.

COSTUMING was intriguing and accurate for the most part, but I did miss the rolled stockings worn by girls of that generation. I know, because I was one of them! We even sang a ditty called "There Ain't No Flies On Aunty," which has a phrase, "She rolls her stockings to her knees," and what's more, we rouged those bared knees.

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and dancers.

A SUPERB EXECUTION of the Charleston and the tricky footwork of the Riviera elicited enthusiastic response from the playgoers.

VERN PAGE as Lord Hubert Brockhurst, a gentleman lecher with roving eyes, stole some scenes. Jeanne Muncie as Hilda, his frumpy wife, bolstered the humor.

Michael Ives, as the father of the wistful heroine, Polly Browne, gave a suave interpretation to the part of Percival Browne, millionaire who had become a "stuffed shirt." He is coaxed back to renewal in life interest by Madame Dubonnet, head of the girls' academy, acted by Joan Leach Watson. In this extra love interest insert, the principals handled their roles with grace and ease.

THE MAID with a sense of the romantic was portrayed by Connie Anzervino. Her portrait of Hortense was a refresh-



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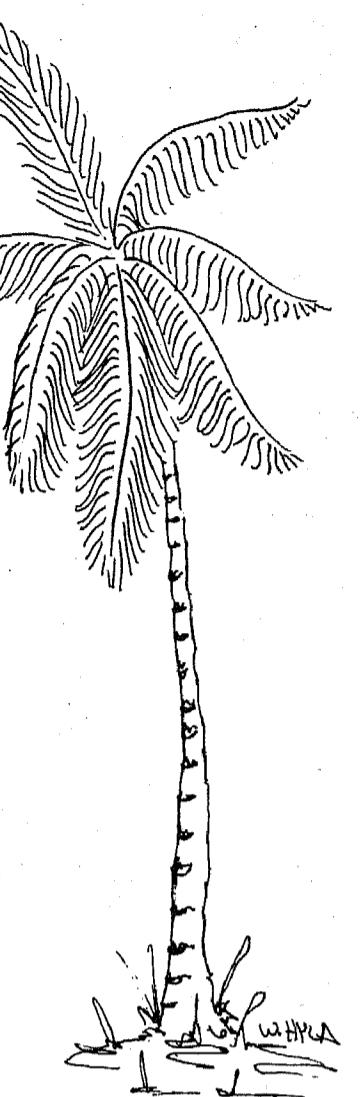
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