

11TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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solares sh hill

VOL. 15, NO. 4 / KEY WEST, FLORIDA / APRIL, 1987

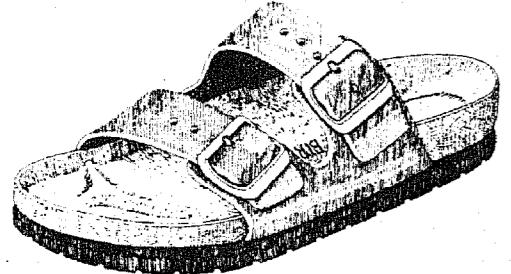


FRANK KAISER, SNOWSTORM OVER KEY WEST, PART V,
PG. 28

GUEST WRITERS: PHILIP BURTON, MEMORIES OF DYLAN THOMAS,
PART 1, PG. 42
SHEL SILVERSTEIN, PG. 71

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FROM THE EDITOR

Hello,

Welcome to our 11th anniversary issue. We've had the very good fortune to have the flawless Philip Burton grace this issue with two articles: a book review and the first of a three part series on his recollections of Dylan Thomas. The photos that will accompany this series were generously provided to us by famed photographer Rollie McKenna. Shel Silverstein returns to us for a most welcome second time as well.

Egregiously and lamentably missing from this issue are two of our varsity players: Bill Westray and George Murphy. Bill is still away and George's computer devoured his article at deadline, but next

month I trust these gentlemen will be with us again. However, Frank Kaiser continues his excellent series on cocaine, and critic Vaughn Gibson launches a stout defense of controversial impresario Parvan Bakardjeiv. Richard Watherwax is in top form and is nicely complimented by Glenna Moore. There are other nice moments in this issue and I trust you will enjoy them.

With the opening of the Truman Annex Presidential Gates, a whole new era is upon Key West. Pritam Singh has made a covenant with the people of Key West to perform a sensitive and community-oriented build-out and I wish him well in his mammoth undertaking. And, in move that proves how sound he can be, he will marry the lovely Annie Johnston in the near future here in Key West. An auspicious April for Pritam!

La Concha had the grandest of reopenings this past month. A special touch was flowers dropped from a hovering helicopter.

See you next month.

WT

Our cover artist this month is Michael Palmer. His work, including the art used for the cover, is for sale at the Gingerbread Gallery, 910 Duval Street.

Letter to the Editor

My first and hopefully last exposure to your publication came with the March edition. First impression was one gets what one pays for but after reading the editorial I changed my opinion, realizing if it became necessary I would be willing to pay you rather than having to read such garbage. It's also obvious why you won't print letters from readers.

Sincerely,
H.C. Kilpatrick



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THANK YOU

Around the World on a Piano

Lyle Weaver's Magic Carpet

by Bud Jacobson

He hails from a small town in southern Iowa — Tabor — and never took a piano lesson in his life. But he's got a thousand tunes at his fingertips.

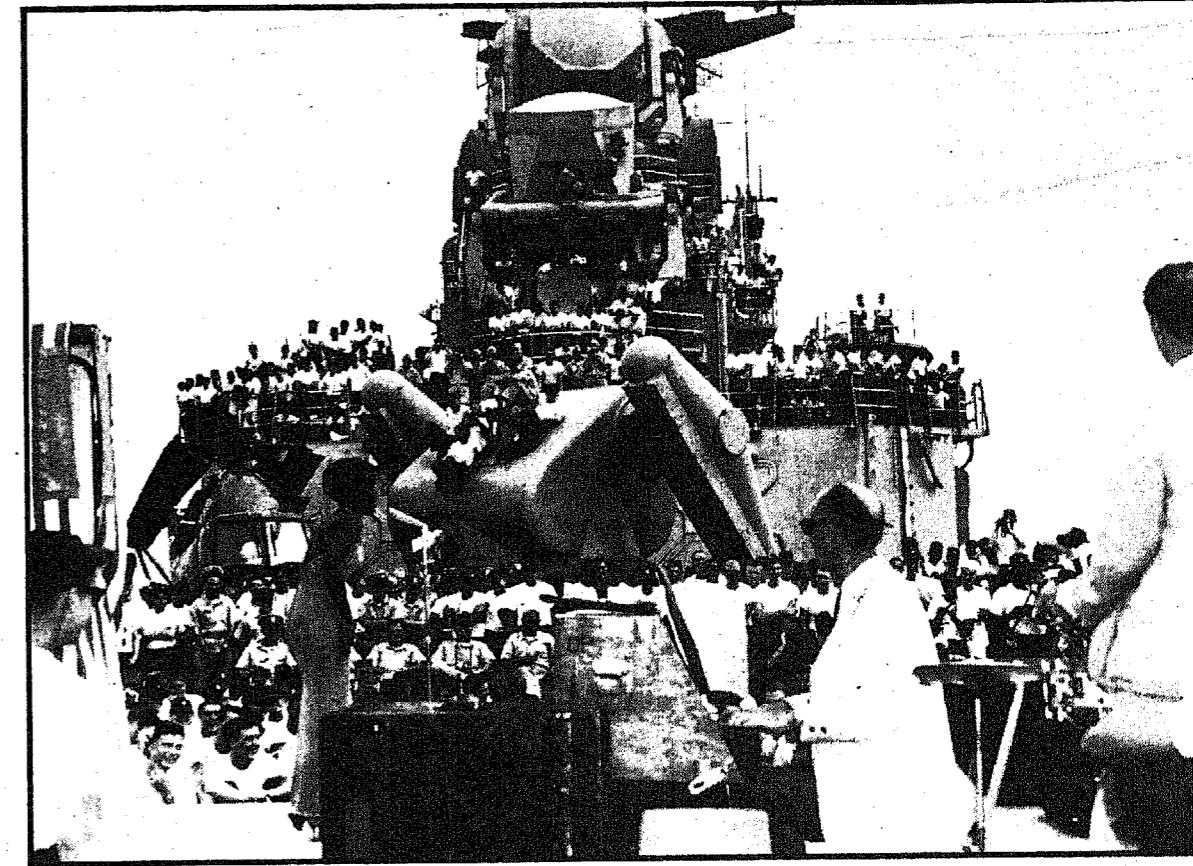
With a natural-born swinging talent on the ivories (as they used to say), Lyle Weaver has seen the world several times over and, along the way, made hundreds of friends and a few pennies to boot.

These days in Key West, you can catch Lyle during the dinner hour at Dickie's on Grinnell Street (Bobby Nesbitt entertains the night owl shift after 9 PM), but back in 1932, when Lyle got out of high school, you would have caught him on the road to Omaha, a few miles south of Tabor, where paid employment lured him in the depth of the Great Depression.

"I went right to work playing piano in a downtown barroom in Omaha. Tunes like "Ja-Da," and "I Can't Give You Anything But Love, Baby" were the hot favorites.

The piano man, as he is known in the trade, is always the key figure in small outfits so he was the top banana in a group called "The Melody Weavers." Lyle smiles when he says that.

"That doesn't sound very imaginative but in those days names like The Grateful Dead



Playing to a full house for the U.S.O.

and Led Zeppelin would more likely get you thrown out and we needed work."

He moved from there to New Orleans where he joined a studio band, in the late 1930s, at radio station WWL (still going strong) and it was there he came down severely ill with tuberculosis and landed on his back in a hospital for a spell. Around

that time, President Roosevelt ordered the draft as the war in Europe kept creeping closer. In spite of his wishes to get in uniform, the TB prevented that and "it was very frustrating to be a civilian."

Lyle got his strength back living in the uplands of New Mexico and then headed to San Francisco where he grabbed a riveting

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job in an aircraft factory. Shortly after that, one of his pals in the music business called him saying they "were looking for a good man with a piano" for a U.S.O. group.

"That's me," said Lyle brightly and quit his job inside an hour, passed an FBI check and was on a Greyhound bus roaring toward Reno, Nevada, and his future. From then on, for over 20 years, it was Lyle Weaver on the road with the USO, around the world, through a couple wars. High adventure.

"We played the stateside bases first, in groups with guys like Ray Bolger and Little Jack Little, going from Seattle to Miami and then to Pittsburgh in 1942 and that's where we got the word we were going overseas.

"We crossed the pond in a convoy, landed in England and did tours of bases

there and on D-Day plus 40 we were the first USO group to go up to the front lines."

His group played five shows daily, many of them in the mud and rain and within easy hearing distance of the guns and bombs, inside shooting distance of the Germans, sleeping in haylofts and old barns, on the ground, wherever.

The USO entertainment groups, he explained, consisted of an M.C. who was a stand-up comic, a gal singer, a gal dancer, a novelty act and the piano man. Transport was supplied by the Army in unpadded trucks whenever they could hitch a ride, open air.

"One of the outstanding performers I met over there was Marion McPartland, wife of the trumpet player, Jimmy McPartland, and we got together again in New York at the

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Hickory House."

They were seven weeks at the front before they got leave to Paris and "that's still my favorite city."

No rest for the wicked, however, and after V-E day, Weaver's bunch and other USO groups were shuffled off to the Pacific. Shows for the Marines and Army on the beaches at Saipan and Guam; shows for the Navy on the decks of battleships and aircraft carriers.

Some of those shows, after V-J day, he said, "we played in front of 10,000 to 15,000 troops. It was great and they loved us."

But that war, too, came to an end.

"A successful end, you could say, and we all came back to civilian life. What a change!"

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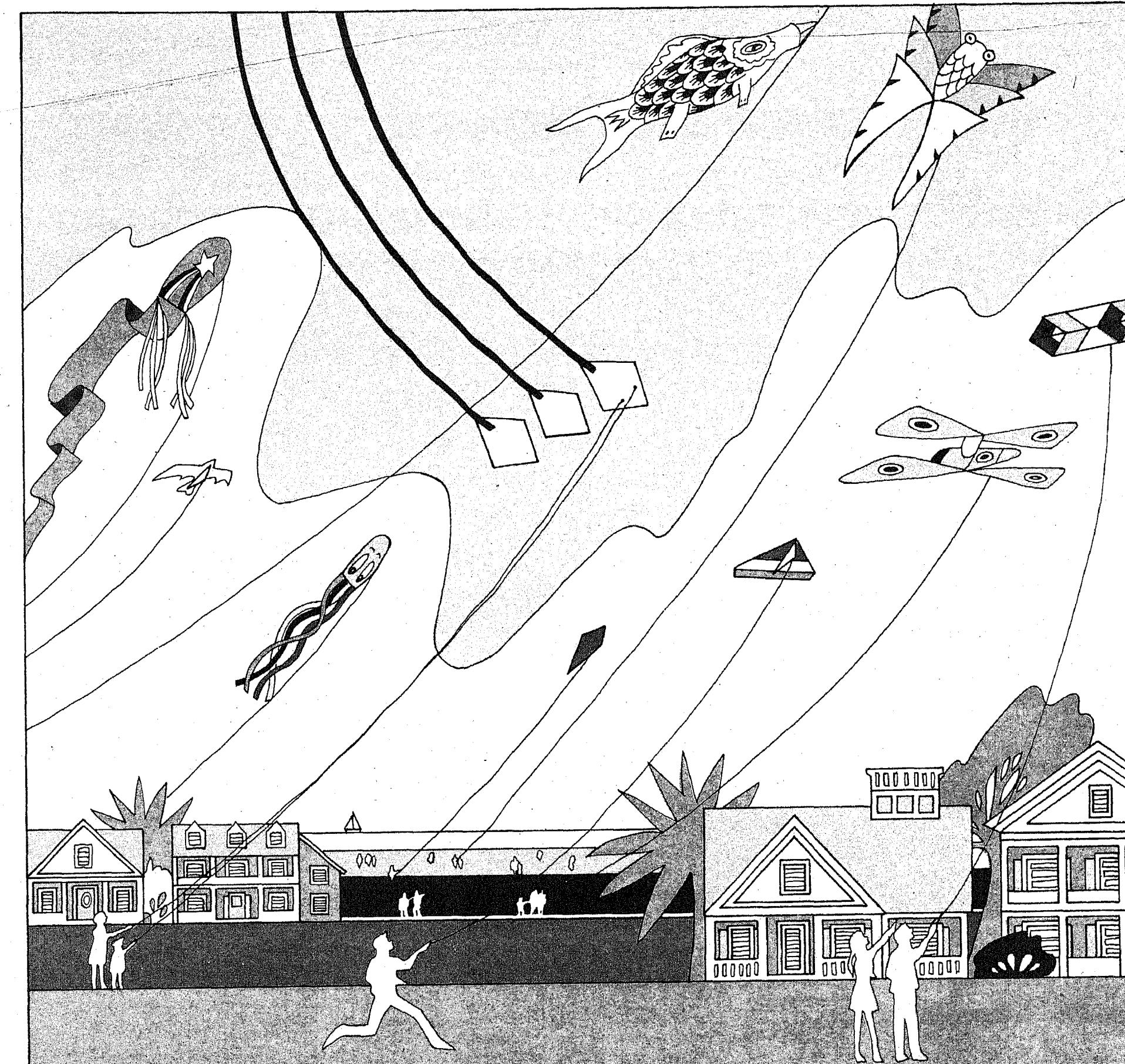
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It was in Chicago in the late 1940s where Lyle was doing the piano stint for Bob McGrew's society band at the Drake Hotel, on Michigan Avenue, when a wealthy Chicago woman with strong connections in the entertainment game and hotel business, leased the Casa Marina in Key West.

"Well, winter was coming and I'd heard about Key West. Mrs. Barnes, that was her name, hired a staff from the Morrison Hotel, waiters, busboys, etc., and we all moved to Key West. Bill Ryan, the late bail bondsman, was the service chief at the Casa; a fun loving person, he was."

While at the Casa Marina in those years, stars like Xavier Cugat, Oleg Cassini, some of the reigning tennis pros of the year would show up for the winter season and there was also, for the enjoyment of the guests, an Arthur Murray Dance Studio.

"Well," Lyle said musing, "the dance studio wasn't doing too well -- they weren't selling many lessons."

"Then one day the gal who was part of their evening dance act was out in the ocean swimming off the hotel's pier when she lost the top of her bathing suit.

"A lot of the men used to play cards in the bathhouse and the word got around about the topless swimmer. A crowd gathered, and then more people. She finally walked out of the water and from then on

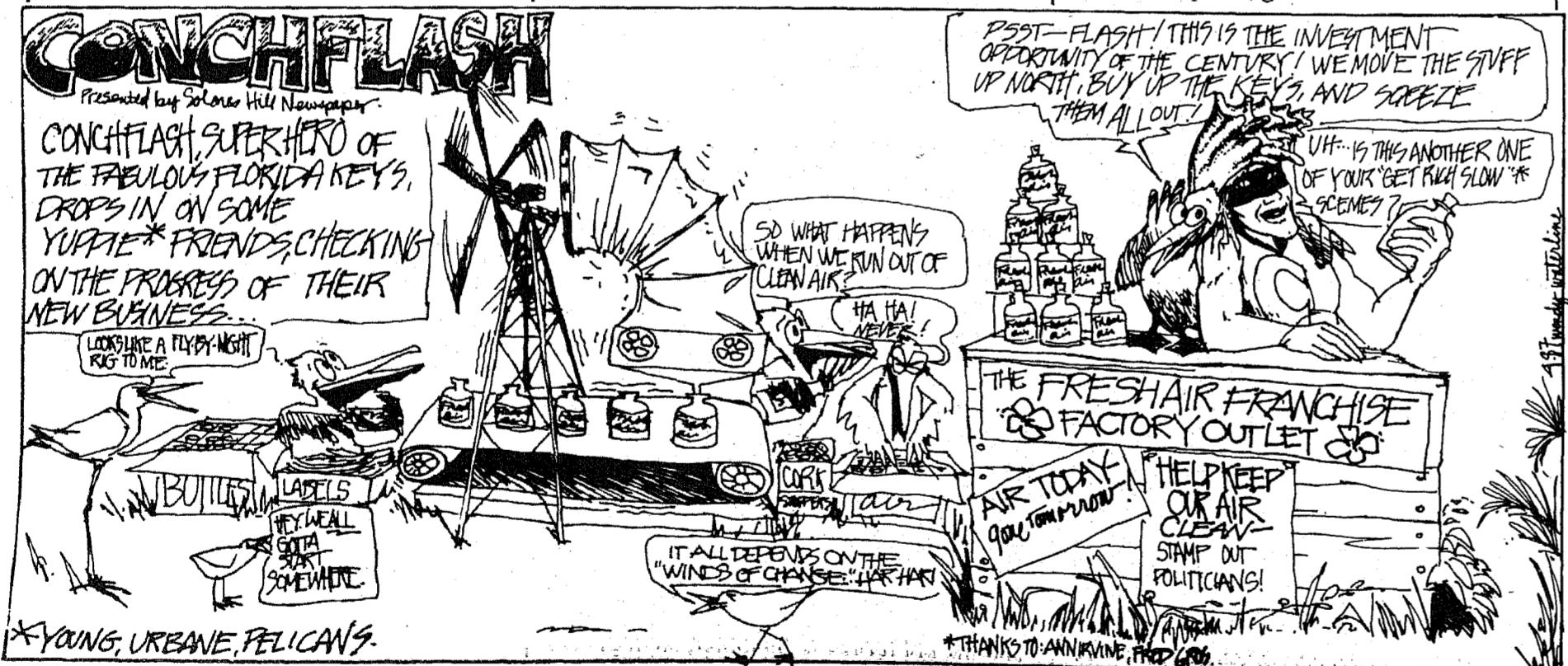


Photo by Richard Walker

the dance lessons picked up amazingly."

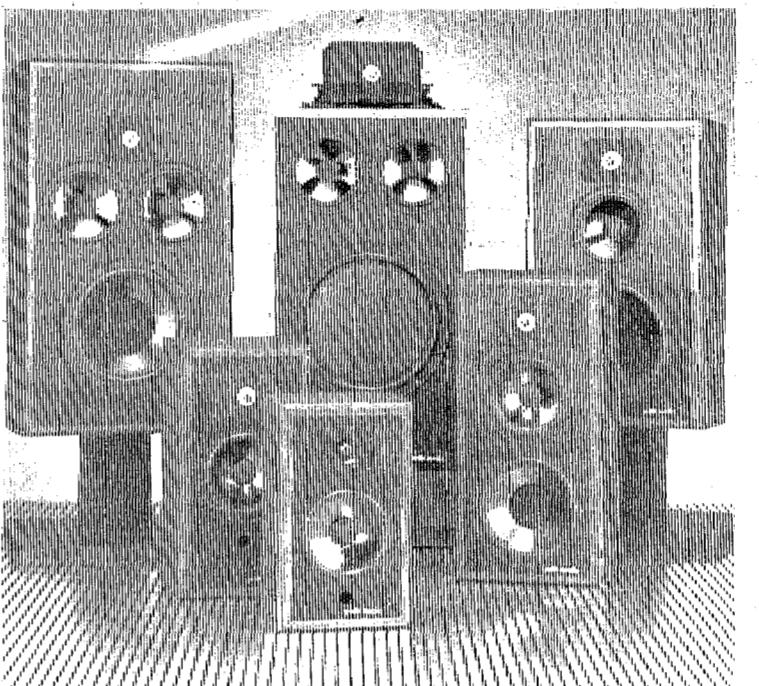
After the Casa, and in another season, Lyle went to work at the Bamboo Room, on Smith Lane (now Appelrouth).

"It was owned by George Curry and Carlos Gelrich and was the only air-conditioned bar in town; also the nicest -- good atmosphere, good clientele.



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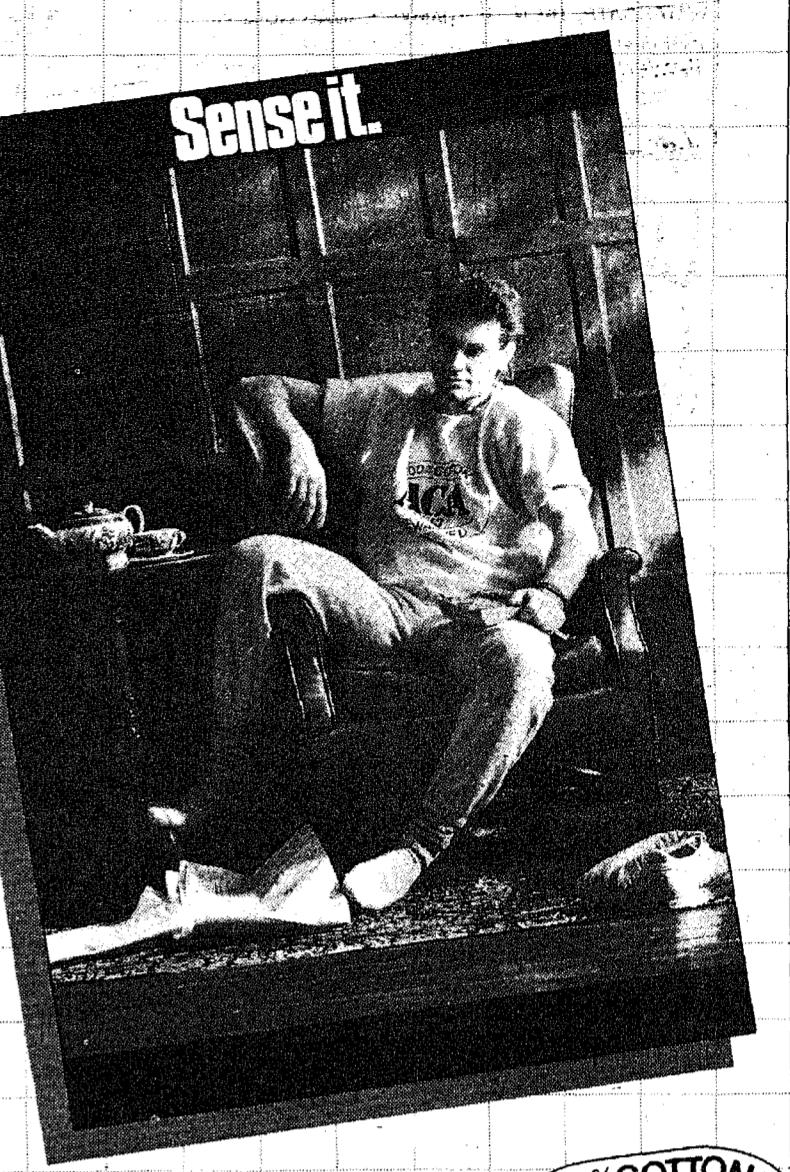
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sure, I knew that was Leonard Bernstein
playing piano."

"

One night, a few years ago, Leonard Bernstein was in town and came over to the Sands -- he and David were friends.

"

Leonard draped himself over the piano,

stretched out and sang Bessie Smith blues

for everybody. Of course, he had to keep

telling me what chords to play -- he was the

leader even when he camped it up."

"

On another night at the Sands, a couple

of young busboys were listening from the

kitchen and one of them told the other,

"that's Leonard Bernstein at the piano."

"

G'wan, that ain't Leonard Bernstein,"

said the skeptical kid, "if it was he'd play

'Why O, Why O, Why O, Did I Ever Leave

Ohio.'"

"

Weaver heard what the kid said and

turned to Leonard.

"

You know I never play my own stuff,

Lyle; you play it," said the great one.

"

Weaver broke into a chorus of the song

and the kid turned to the other, saying, "Oh

Sands, in a big fantastic wooden building at
the end of Simonton.

"

It was about that time when a bar down
Duval Street, the Cabana Club, owned by
Curry, Gelrich and Harry Goldberg, would
raffle off a live goat, a rooster, or something
on weekends; competition was fierce
between the bars downtown.

"

One night, they promoted a raffle of a
live horse. They somehow got the horse in
the door and just as the raffle started, the
horse fell over dead.

"

I think instead of a horse, that night, the
owners gave away a lot of drinks on the
house."

"

Lyle was the pianist when David
Wolkowsky opened the restaurant at the
Pier House, then leased by Tony Sweet,
and called Tony's Fish Market. David had
him playing piano later when he opened the

Report From The Ashrams: Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh

by William Schlicht

Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, now a headline, network, news personality because he is being held by authorities in North Carolina, began his climb toward New Age spiritual leadership as guru of an ashram in Poona, India. Thousands of people, particularly young people, from all over the world went to the ashram to find enlightenment, a new way of life, and to solve their problems. And many of them did just that. Many of them whose lives had been empty, blank, or useless found a new purpose in living, a place where they felt they belonged. There can be no doubt that many of his followers, some of whom had been terribly unhappy, even suicidal, and some who had been drug abusers, who simply couldn't fit into their own societies, found a home in the Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh Ashram. The ashram was a haven where they were able for the first time to live productive lives under the spiritual guidance of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh.

I visited the Poona Ashram, which is located less than one hundred miles from Bombay, for an extended period in 1980. As a clinical psychologist and psychotherapist I was very interested in what I had heard about the amazing therapy

methods, particularly in groups, which were practiced at the ashram. I was extremely impressed, both by what I found there, and as a result of my participation in two therapy groups led by Western trained therapists who were spiritually inspired by the Bhagwan. In fact, I think it might be fair to say that at the time Rajneesh had one of the most effective group therapy centers anywhere in the world.

It is not easy to say exactly what benefit I derived from being in those groups in Poona, but I have looked again at a journal I kept during that period and this has helped. Like all therapeutic gains, these are things that need to be learned more than once, insights which need to be repeated over and over again.

I was really quite ill at the time with diarrhea, nausea, and weakness, but, acting on sudden impulse, I decided not to ask for any special consideration due to my physical condition. A very significant realization followed: I recognized that most of the time in the past when I had asked for and received special consideration, it wasn't a good thing after all. Afterward I always had the lingering feeling I was coping out and was forced to see myself as someone who was weak, not up to the level of the others — not a good feeling at all!

Then there was the experience brought about, I am convinced, by group therapy at the ashram, of becoming aware of my own anxiety arising over the silliest things. One morning I realized I was getting frantic, really anxious because I was in a hurry and couldn't find my toothpaste. It dawned on

me then how ridiculous the whole thing was and then I understood how often an anxiety response is so habitual that we are not even aware that it is happening. When psychotherapists say that some behavior is unconscious, this is actually what they mean. The effective group therapy at the Bhagwan's ashram allowed me to see clearly what was happening. It sometimes takes a drastic interruption in our usual routine, a confrontation we couldn't ordinarily experience to permit these breakthroughs to occur.

There was one other thing that I got out of being in group therapy in Poona, which was that I began to breathe fully instead of the shallow, inhibited breathing which I did before. What a wonderful feeling of being alive, healthy, and full of energy comes from such a simple change. But we in American society hardly ever take the time to be conscious of our own breathing. In the ashram groups, paying attention to breathing and breathing fully was something which was stressed constantly.

Not everything about the ashram impressed this observer favorably; perhaps the most unsettling aspect of the place was evidence of extremely strong peer pressure as if to say, "You had better conform or watch out!" I saw clearly that many ashramites really did worship the Bhagwan and were convinced of his divinity. There was also a slight but noticeable manifestation of a vaguely fascist influence in some parts of the ashram.

I had ample opportunity to talk with Indians and fellow Westerners living in

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and refreshments put out in the rooms for arriving guests. That bothered me some because while there certainly was accommodation for wealthy visitors, nothing was available for budget travelers. I inquired specifically about the possibility of camping and was told that it was not permitted; this despite the fact that the ashram includes countless acres of land which is not presently being used for any other purpose. The cost of many of the programs at the ashram was another clear indication that they are intended for people with plenty of money; some of the courses cost as much as seven thousand five hundred dollars and only lasted a little longer than three months. No mention was made of the availability of scholarship assistance for those unable to pay such huge fees. The signs of great wealth were visible everywhere; parked near the airstrip I observed four airplanes of what looked to be DC-3 class, along with four other smaller two engine aircraft. The ashram also maintains a fleet of the familiar yellow school buses to provide transportation for

those who live and work within the community; the size of the fleet, however, would be the envy of many of our larger school systems.

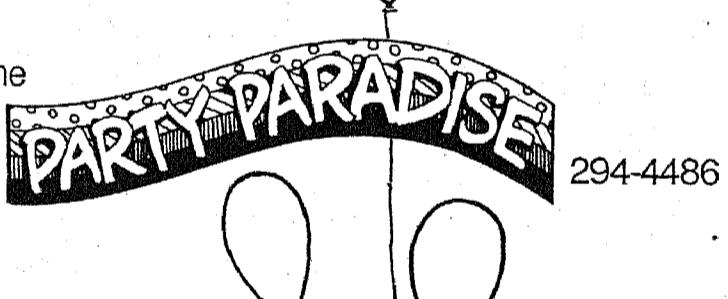
I left the ashram, after spending only one day, feeling profoundly discouraged by what I had seen. And as I traveled on, it became clear that the relations which existed between the Rajneesh group and their neighbors were deteriorating rapidly. At one place I observed obscene graffiti insulting the Bhagwan which had been painted on the walls of some old disused farm buildings. I stopped on the way to talk with one of the Rajneesh neighbors, who had no association whatever with the ashram. This individual informed me that property taxes had unfairly and unreasonably quadrupled within a one year period, that local citizens not a part of the ashram were constantly harassed by the ashram peace (police) officers, and that the school in their town had been changed so drastically that they no longer felt they could send their children there.

As I continued to talk about the ashram

and to experience feelings of letdown and dismay over the undesirable changes which had taken place, I remembered a video presentation of the Bhagwan which I had watched while waiting for the bus tour to begin. Rajneesh was being interviewed by a television news reporter and defending the activities of the ashram in connection with bringing to Rajneeshpuram a large number of homeless, derelict individuals to offer them a new way of life, a chance to begin again. Critics of the Bhagwan had charged that the so-called charitable effort was simply an attempt to bring in people who would vote the way Bhagwan wanted them to, in an upcoming election. This is a plausible view since voting in Oregon elections calls for only minimal residency requirements. In this television interview, it seemed to me that Rajneesh was acting more like a political leader intent on outtalking and outsmarting a political opponent than an enlightened spiritual leader. Seeing the Bhagwan in this way I found to be more disenchanted than anything else I had observed in the ashram.

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Now with serious felony charges facing Rajneesh and several of his followers, charges including the planning of violent acts and taking human life, what is the state of the ashram? Certainly the inevitable comparisons with Jonestown will be made, though I do not believe those comparisons are justified. But I do think that we are fortunate indeed that the authorities intervened before things got entirely out of hand, before there was widespread violence at Rajneeshpuram.

It seems evident now that the Bhagwan was corrupted by his own power and his sense of importance. And in a very real sense he was also corrupted and betrayed by his disciples. There is evidence that the Bhagwan reached a point of grandiosity where the capacity of his judgement would have to be brought into question. For example, in a brochure produced for a Mahaparinirvana Day Celebration, there is advertised the "Rajneesh Bible" based upon the Bhagwan's morning discourses.

And yet, despite all that has happened, and I fully expect some indictments and some guilty verdicts to be brought in, we should not lose sight of the fact that Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh has made a noteworthy contribution toward the growth of spirituality in the modern age. Countless contemporary philosophers would surely agree that in the Bhagwan's talks and writings there is much to be found, which must be considered as genuine enlightenment. And undoubtedly great numbers of people have been helped to live better lives under the influence of this

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controversial figure and in some small way I myself have benefited and must, for that reason, regret even more the tragic transformation of the guru and his ashram from a force for good to a force for evil.

Perhaps all this can only lead us once again to the perennial question of whether paradise can exist on earth, or will the inhabitants of paradise inevitably come into conflict with the rest of us, the larger community, who have vastly different

visions of paradise? It seems as if Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh has shown us once again that if paradise can exist on earth it can only do so for a very limited span of time.

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Beans
by Chris Gantry

Two dirt-poor women, migrant farm workers, had already picked twenty bushels of beans by eleven o'clock. The farmer paid them sixty cents a bushel. Mavis was bursting with energy. She'd eaten a good breakfast of fatback and fried

Green Parrot
Key West



dirt clods at a dead cornstalk. "Ya know . . . beans'll protect ya' if they like ya," said Hatina without looking at Mavis. "They'll give ya' money if ya' ask 'em for it."

"Beans! . . . Give me money," yelled Mavis out over the hot fields.

"That's it," squealed Hatina, "ask 'em again." This time Mavis screamed loudly. "Beans . . . send me money." Hatina clapped and laughed. "Ya' told them beans, didn't ya' . . . yer so brave, Mavis."

Mavis stood up, cupped her hands over her mouth and threw her head back. "Beans . . . gimme the money," she bellowed like a large animal. Hatina went wild. "O-o-o-h, ya cocky, brazen thing," she shrilled. "Ya know, I think they really like ya."

By four in the afternoon, the women had picked fifty-one bushels of beans under the July sun. They knew better than to slack off because the farmer always came about this time to check on the day's work.

"Mavis," said Hatina from over in the next row. "I want that big, black, naugahide living room suite with the matching end tables down in Stuben's window."

"How much," said Mavis.

"Six hundred bucks."

Mavis reached into the bosom of her tattered farm dress and pulled out a thick roll of cash. Peeling off six one-hundred dollar bills, she handed them over to a wide-eyed Hatina. Suddenly, she pulled back her hand. "Wait," she said, "here . . . take an extra four hundred and go for the suede."

time, Gabriel would wail and scream until she finally got her way. Even in the winter, she wore her sandals in the snow.

As Gabriel grew older, she took to

tying ribbons and delicate chains on her

toes. She had special names for each one.

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Toes

by Chris Gantry

Gabriel was fascinated with her own toes. As a teenager, she had spent countless hours painting them with different colored nail polishes. When she was scolded by her mother for wearing open-toed shoes all the



time, Gabriel would wail and scream until she finally got her way. Even in the winter, she wore her sandals in the snow.

As Gabriel grew older, she took to

tying ribbons and delicate chains on her

toes. She had special names for each one.

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what I want to."

Coming down the aisle was Gabriel, but nobody saw her head. That's because she was walking upside-down and backwards on her foot-like hands. Her nervous, embarrassed father had his left arm looped around Gabriel's right ankle. Gabriel carried a large bouquet of flowers tightly gripped between Pappy Chicken and Bunny Boop.

on a warm spring day, eating his lunch outside on the hood of his car.

Rapid machine gun fire gouged huge holes in the embankment. Kip screamed

in the distance, he heard people singing.

Kip spun around, looking out over the top of the trench. Coming straight at him, in a horizontal line, were about fifty Oriental men. They all wore little white lace frocks. Ribbons were in their hair, and they wore cute pink socks with black saddle shoes. They carried daisies in their hands, and they skipped, singing nonsense rhymes.

Kip, still shaking violently, laughed in a frenzied vibrato. The Oriental men tiptoed up to the trench, looking at Kip with giant, innocent eyes. Some of them sucked their thumbs and shyly stared at the ground. One of the braver ones got down on his knees and smiled adoringly at Kip. Timidly, he held out his hand, speaking in a high voice. "You wanna turn pway bally wit uz . . . pweaze." The others giggled.

Overjoyed that the gunfire had stopped, Kip leaned out of the trench, taking the hands of two of the Oriental men. They all skipped off together, laughing and kicking a little red ball.

The Army shipped PVT. Kip Clackman home in a body bag in the same clothes he'd been wearing when they found him in the trench -- a white lace frock, pink socks and saddle shoes, and ribbons in his hair, clutching some crumpled daisies.

Bullets

by Chris Gantry

Bullets pounded into and around the shallow trench that PVT. Kip Clackman lay cringing in. He'd had this grand illusion of war that had quickly disappeared when the first mortar shell exploded less than fifty feet from him, showering him with shrapnel and dirt.

Now Kip was deathly afraid. His terrified face and limbs shook spasmodically. He was only a hair's breadth from the bullets slamming over his head.

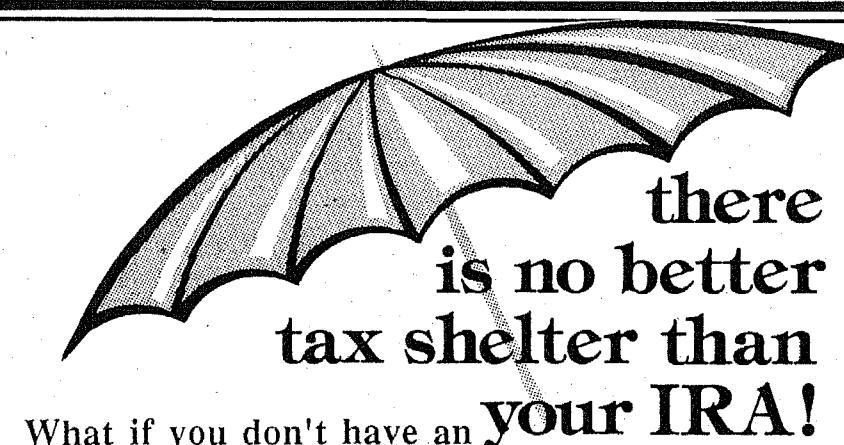
Kip had been a carpet salesman before enlisting in the Army. Years of boredom plied Kip's overfantasizing mind with visions of heroism and daring exploits. He joined the service to make them come true.

Kip was gurgling and shrieking in short hysterical bursts. Bullets were ploughing in from all angles. He prayed to be once again selling carpet in some little Alabama town



pathetically. He remembered his sister, Blume. He'd stolen the shells she'd collected one summer on a Florida beach and gave them to Senise, a town tramp, who gave him free sex, when he was sixteen, in the Marmaduke Hotel. "Blum-m-m-m-m-e," he howled over the thunder of bullets.

Kip was on the verge of heart failure when suddenly there was dead silence. Off



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The Shrimp Boats

by D. Shirlee Ezmirly

Plans for the annual Blessing of the Shrimp Fleet have not materialized this year for several reasons.

Decorating a shrimp boat takes both time and money. It also requires a lot of effort and extra work on the part of everyone concerned.

Competition is becoming greater and greater, and the shrimp boats don't stay in port very long before heading out to sea again.

For those reasons, fewer and fewer shrimp boats have been participating in the annual event.

The Blessing is a very special occasion. Perhaps more shrimp boat owners would

consider having their vessels receive the Invocation if it were not necessary to have them decorated. Prizes would therefore be eliminated. Last year, one shrimper from Texas joined the line-up just to receive the Blessing, and perhaps that's the whole idea.

Decorated shrimpers are beautiful, but if it comes down to the decision of either having decorated boats, or no Blessing, then surely the Blessing should have priority.

These days, commercial fishing vessels need all the help they can get.

Vessels that make up the shrimp fleet are some 2000 strong, and are among the hardest working boats in the world. Approximately 300 of them operate from Key West as their home port, and every

year they are joined by 200 more from other states. These boats deserve all the admiration, respect and appreciation that they can get, and that goes for the captains and crew members as well. It isn't easy to leave their families and friends on shore to head out to sea, while hoping for a good catch. The shrimp fleet has to be ready to travel to wherever the shrimp population is greatest.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SHRIMP BOATS

Shrimp trawlers are equipped to tow one to two nets from each side of the boat; the size of the nets varies with the size and power of the vessel to which they are attached. Visualizing an ice cream cone with its wide mouth and tapered body gives a rough idea of the shape of the nets. The mouth of the net is kept open from top to bottom by floats on top, and weights attached to the foot rope on the bottom. From side to side, there are large pieces of wood known as otter boards, or more commonly, "doors," measuring about three by eight feet in length attached to the nets at an angle, so that the pressure of the water produced as the net is dragged forward pulls the doors, which in turn pull the sides of the nets causing them to open wide. The tail of the net resembles a tube and this is where the shrimp land when they are scooped up. A third net is also carried onboard and this is the "try net." This is aptly named because it is dragged first to determine if shrimp are present on the bottom in sufficient numbers to warrant putting down the larger nets.

Some of the nets have something resembling hula skirts of different colors, and these are made of strips of material called whiskers. As the nets bounce or tumble in the water, these whiskers drag beneath them, and thus protect them from sharp rocks, etc., on the bottom. Shrimp trawlers from Texas cover the outside of their nets with a strong, webbed material which keeps sharks from feasting on the fish trapped inside.

Last are the tall and colorful outrigger booms, which range in color from red to blue to green to yellow and every color in between. These are used for balance, lessening the tendency to make the vessel top heavy which could cause it to capsize in rough seas. The selected colors of the outrigger booms have no particular significance but are chosen by the vessel owners through custom or tradition or merely because they are specially favored.

Boats in the Keys also use frame trawls which are nets made of cotton webbing and are dragged behind a boat. Shrimp are also caught in the Keys by lift nets. The nets are lowered at right angles from the sides of the boat so that the current sweeps the shrimp into the mouth of the net.

HEADING OUT

The procedure for starting the trip is pretty much standard in Key West, because all boats fish in open waters. The trip length may vary, but the initial preparation is always the same.

Ice is blown in at one dock, and fuel, lube oil and water are put on at another. This is sometimes done a day in advance, depending on the amounts needed and the availability. Nets and hardware are checked

one more time. Groceries will come aboard and be properly stored last and a time is set for all hands to be aboard for departure.

Only a few minutes after leaving the dock, the outrigger booms are often lowered, and any slack in the towing and try nets is taken up. The outrigger tie-down chains are secured as well as the try-net rigging. Mooring lines and all gear not used for fishing are stowed away.

Normal practice is for the rigman to run the boat to the fishing grounds while the captain gets some sleep. Immediately upon reaching the shrimp grounds, the try net is lowered to locate profitable concentrations of shrimp. When they are located, the trawl nets are whipped up, and the doors are swung outboard. The nets are lowered and the doors are released. The tail bags are thrown over the side, and the towing begins, lasting from 1 1/2 to 5 hours, depending upon the abundance of shrimp. Nets are prevented from getting tangled together by setting out one net or trawl about 25 fathoms deeper than the other. (A fathom is a unit of length equal to six feet.) Usually the trawl or net on the starboard (right) side of the boat is given the longer scope, and is set out first. After the first trawl or net is out, about 150 feet of warp are paid out before the second trawl or net is set out from the other side of the boat. When this one is clear and ready, both trawls are lowered simultaneously to the depth needed to scoop up the shrimp.

At the end of a drag, the nets are brought aboard by hauling them in, often at the same time. Cascades of shrimp are dumped on the deck. A large amount of "trash" is often caught with the shrimp. This consists of fish, sponges, crabs, and other animals, plus all kinds of shells and stones. The amount of "trash" varies by area, season, and even by the kind of net used, and most of it is returned to the sea.

The shrimp are separated from the "trash," sorted, heads are removed, and the shrimp tails are washed and packed in the hold with ice as 100 pound "boxes of shrimp." Occasionally, especially when the shrimp are small, or during periods of extremely high catches, heading is not done at sea. Instead, whole shrimp will be carried to shore and headed by workers there. Considerable effort is made to find concentrations of larger shrimp since these bring a higher price. Under normal conditions, a vessel will fish for about twelve hours during the night and then be anchored, allowing the crew to sleep.

A practice called "freighting" may take place. One vessel returning to port will transport the catches from other vessels that wish to remain on the grounds.

While at sea on a shrimp boat, the last things a fisherman will do is eat and sleep. His sense of responsibility and professionalism will lead him to accomplish seamens' chores first, and take care of his needs last.

When a fishing vessel delivers shrimp to port, the catch is unloaded into wash tanks where the ice is separated from the shrimp, and they are cleaned. Following this, if the shrimp have already been headed, they will be graded for size and quality. Grading for



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quality is done on the basis of the presence of black spot, the odor, the appearance, or the color of the shrimp. Black spot, or melanosis, on shrimp makes the shrimp look unsightly and therefore reduces their market value. The discoloration is due to the darkening of certain chemicals in the shell of the shrimp and involves the oxidation of melanine. The reaction is similar to that which causes apples and potatoes to darken when they are exposed to air. The darkening does not indicate spoilage and does not affect the flavor of the shrimp. In fact, except in rare cases, the black spot is restricted to the shell, and when the shrimp are peeled there is no trace of the discoloration.

The shrimp are separated from the "trash," sorted, heads are removed, and the shrimp tails are washed and packed in the hold with ice as 100 pound "boxes of shrimp." Occasionally, especially when the shrimp are small, or during periods of extremely high catches, heading is not done at sea. Instead, whole shrimp will be carried to shore and headed by workers there. Considerable effort is made to find concentrations of larger shrimp since these bring a higher price. Under normal conditions, a vessel will fish for about twelve hours during the night and then be anchored, allowing the crew to sleep.

Top grade is called "pearls," followed by "goods," "fairs," and "pickouts." The

wooden boxes containing shrimp and ice are shipped by refrigerated or insulated trucks to markets in the north, or to processing plants.

The very short time that the shrimp boat remains in port during the season is consumed by many jobs to be done. Large holes or tears in the nets must be mended, broken gear must be repaired, and hardware replaced. And, last, but not least, after fishing all night and running all day into port with the catch, fishermen are exhausted and badly in need of sleep. They will be able to stay in port for two or three days, and then head out again for fifteen or more days, depending on the weather.

WHY SHRIMPING OCCURS AT NIGHT
Spawning of shrimp occurs offshore.

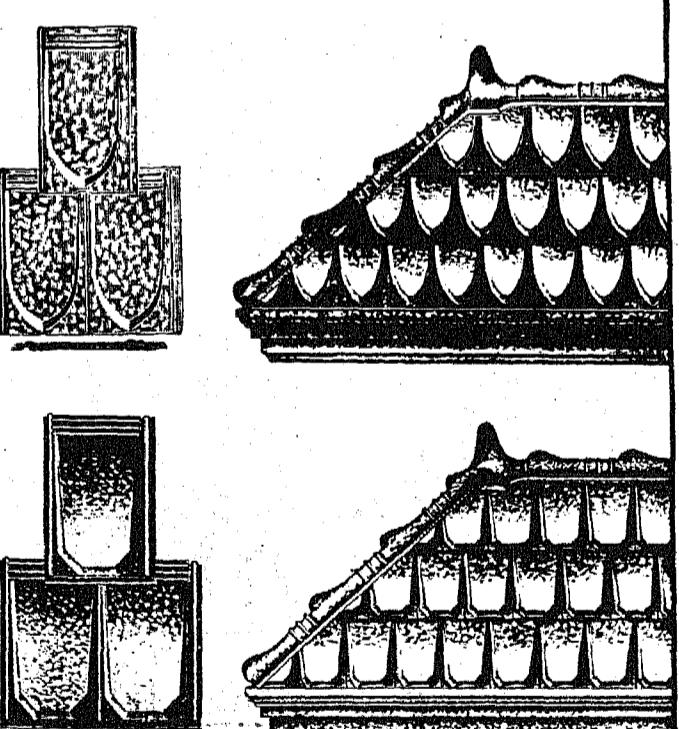
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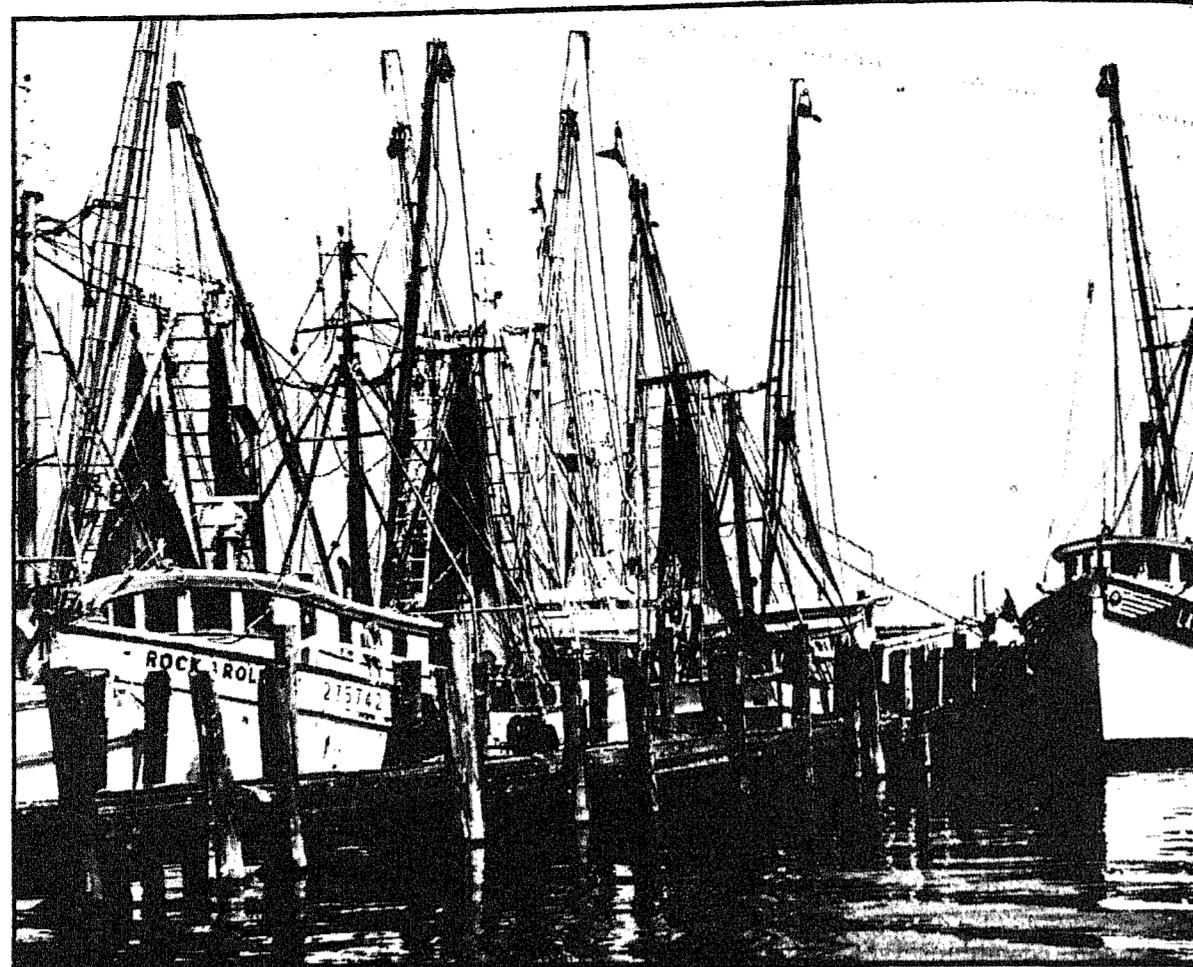
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Shrimp boats in the harbor

Females can carry a third to a half million eggs. About 200,000 are cast in one spawning. She lays these eggs, often in beds off the Dry Tortugas, while she is swimming, and at night, mostly around midnight. Before long, the water swarms

with tiny bits of life that are 1/50th of an inch long. Three days after the shrimp hatch, they have gone through six stages of growth. The newly-hatched shrimp is so unlike the adult that it might easily be taken for a completely different creature. These

baby shrimp have no friends, and lots of enemies who enjoy gobbling them up. In a single week, the death rate can reach 80 percent. But the little shrimp has one thing in its favor: the presence of millions and millions and perhaps millions of billions of relatives. It has plenty of company as it hitchhikes to the rich feeding grounds of mangrove swamp shallows at the edge of land in Everglades National Park. The shrimp accept rides on sticks, seaweed, or other material floating on the water to get to their destination, one hundred miles away. Once they arrive, after a three or four week trip, they grow rapidly for three to seven months. They are cheerfully indiscriminate eaters, and become scavengers and cannibals, and, as a result, soon reach three to four inches in length. At this point, during the fall months, when the water in the shallows begins to drop in temperature, the activity of the shrimp quickens. Again, back to hitchhiking on the currents or on loose grass or other debris, the shrimp leave the chilling waters in search of the still-warm, deeper water offshore in Florida Bay.

After a two month trip, the shrimp return as half-grown adults to the areas where they are hatched. They swim close to the sea bed at night, and bury themselves in the mud by day. They have a marked aversion to sunlight and rise to the surface only after dark. Therefore, when the moon is full, the shrimpers will head into port, because the "little pink devils" have buried themselves

deep in the mud on the bottom. The balance of their lives will be spent in these offshore areas. The average life span is thought to be about eighteen months, although shrimp may live to be several years old.

In 1949, hordes of pink shrimp were discovered in the Dry Tortugas shrimp beds. It is known that the young shrimp maturing in the shallows near Flamingo in the Everglades were part of the same population caught by commercial trawlers off the Dry Tortugas, one hundred miles to the southwest, because many females were tagged in one place and recovered in the other location, four months later. The number of the tag which definitely proved their hitchhiking ability was number 064.

Pink shrimp support the fishing off the Tortugas. There is almost a continuous distribution of them throughout the Gulf of Mexico, but commercial catches are consistently made on the shell, coral sand, and coral silt bottoms of the southerly Gulf of Mexico. Two rather restricted areas, one off Southern Florida, and the other off the Yucatan Peninsula, produce over 90 percent of the pink shrimp landings.

On the very next occasion when preparing to enjoy a plate of succulent, tender, flavorful shrimp, give a little thought to the importance and value that the mangroves play in their development. It's really very simple. No mangroves, no shrimp.



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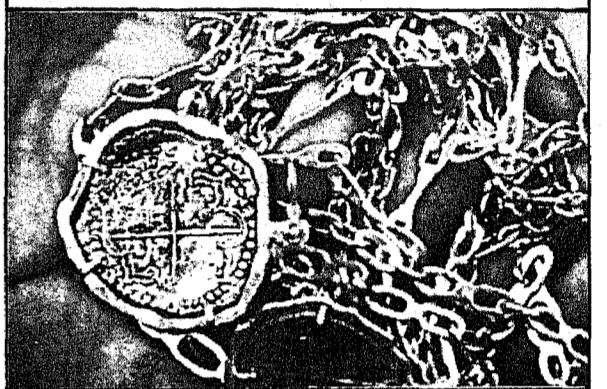
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Key West, the "Havana Special," and Dylan Thomas

by Albert Perez

Key West was a delightful experience of discovery in the early 1930s, when, for me, the island city was the setting for the essence of Dylan Thomas' poem, "Fern Hill":

*Now as I was young and easy under the apple boughs
About the lilting house and happy as the grass was green,
The night above the dingle starry,*

Time let me hail and climb
Golden in the heydays of his eyes ...
The poet's exuberance had a pastoral setting; mine had Key West in the railroad days

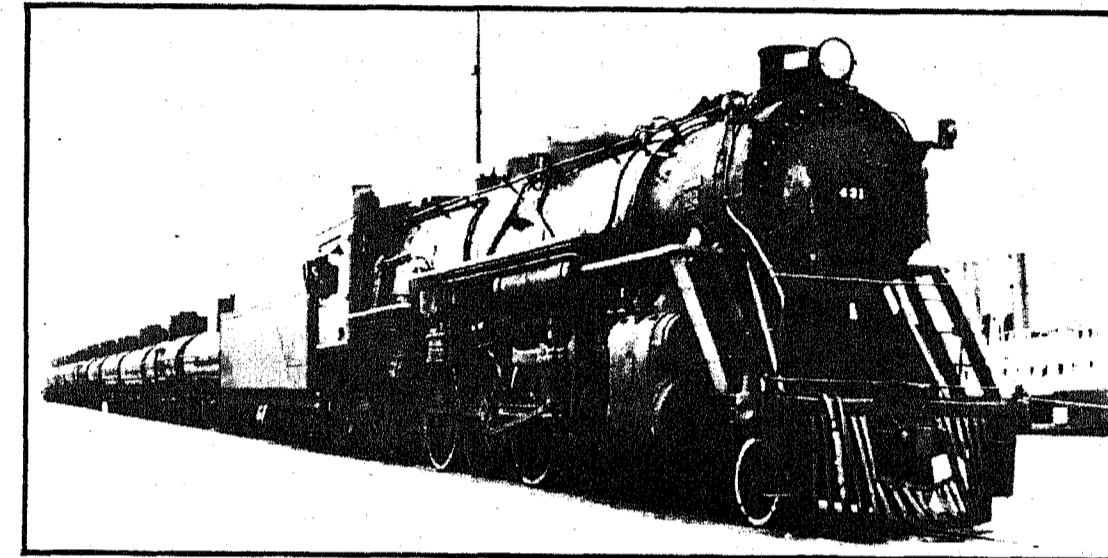
*And nothing I cared, at my sky blue trades,
that time allows
In all his tuneful turnings so few and such morning songs
Before the children green and golden
Follow him out of grace.*

Key West lacked something forever gone and irreplaceable when its 100-mile transmarine link to the mainland no longer resounded to the "Havana Special." Thereafter, the mangroves were torn and formidable, the streets deprived. Of course, my senses had responded to other stimuli, but none had approached the sights and sounds of the iron horse that ran over the sea.

Oh as I was young and easy in the mercy of his means,

*Time held me green and dying
Though I sang in my chains like the sea.*

Automobiles had no drivers — a car was a fantastic contraption with a will of its own. Pirulís were pointed lollipops sold off



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a cart by Gregorio Vandez. Coast artillerists wore campaign hats and puttees as they shuffled to Sousa. City Hall was red bricks and a staircase entrance of filigreed iron. Perinkee's compressed air hose startled most anyone but those who were amused by it. The open ice truck had big cakes of burlap-covered ice and men standing on rear running boards snapping the bell rope. Crip Lastres sang "Spanish limes and I got 'em sweet!" Fishermen sold their catch of the day door-to-door, a mess of crawfish selling for a quarter. And the towered bell in the cemetery tolled for fires and whenever a fireman died.

The Strand theatre had big, bright pictures that moved and talked — a fantastic recreation of life on a grand scale, made to order. In them were: Will Rogers, a cowlick on his forehead; Gable and Beery, who flew biplanes and traded punches; and Ginger and Fred, who danced the continental. When the Strand burned, the projectionist's young son died in the fire.

The cadence of the locomotive and the deep blast of the steamship were omnipresent, for these emanated from Trumbo Point, where Key Westers went to

Solares Hill — April 1987 — Page 23

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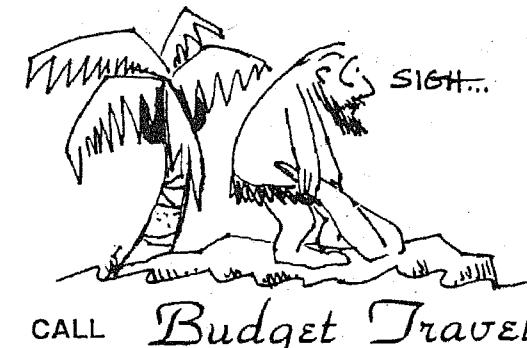
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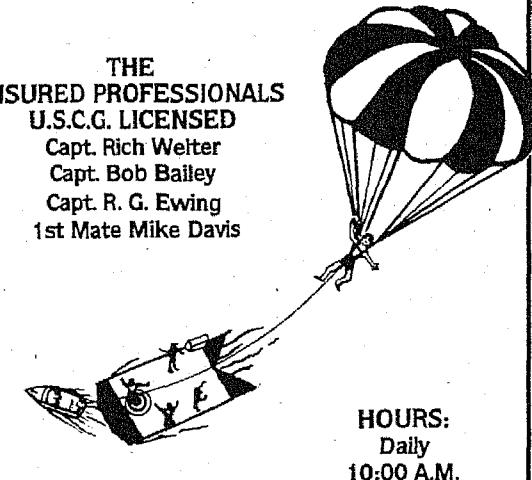
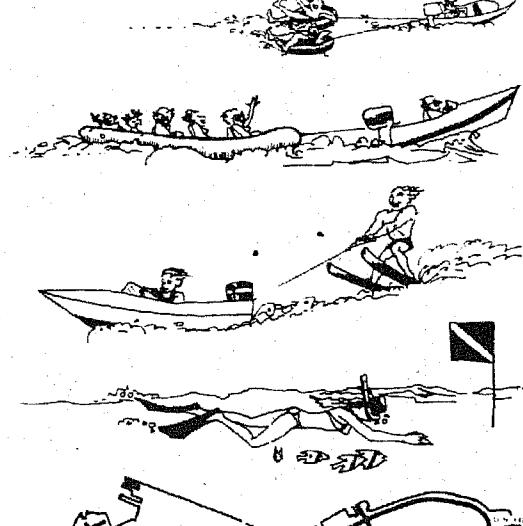
WHEN ROCK FEVER STRIKES ...



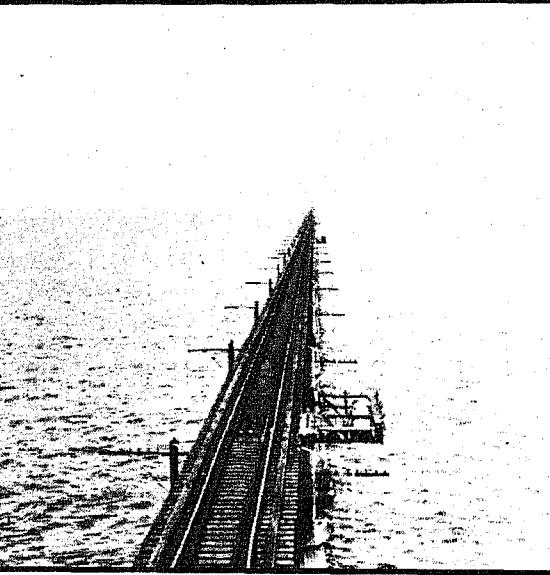
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look at trains, ships, and travelers. There, the station was a splash of Flagler yellow on a sea of turquoise, and the trains were the muted umbers and blacks of a solid vitality:



Seven Mile Bridge

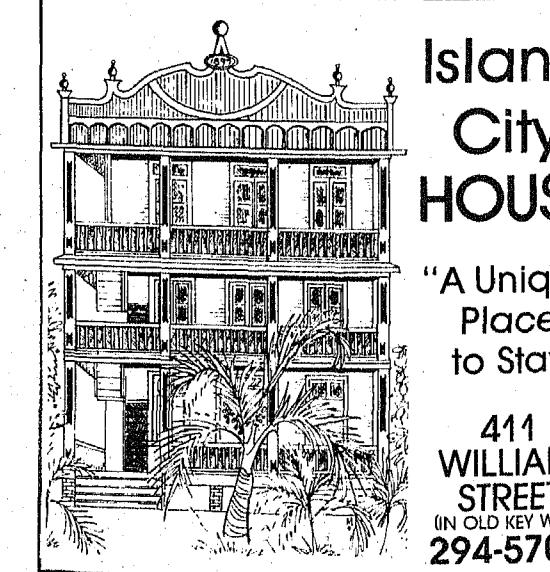
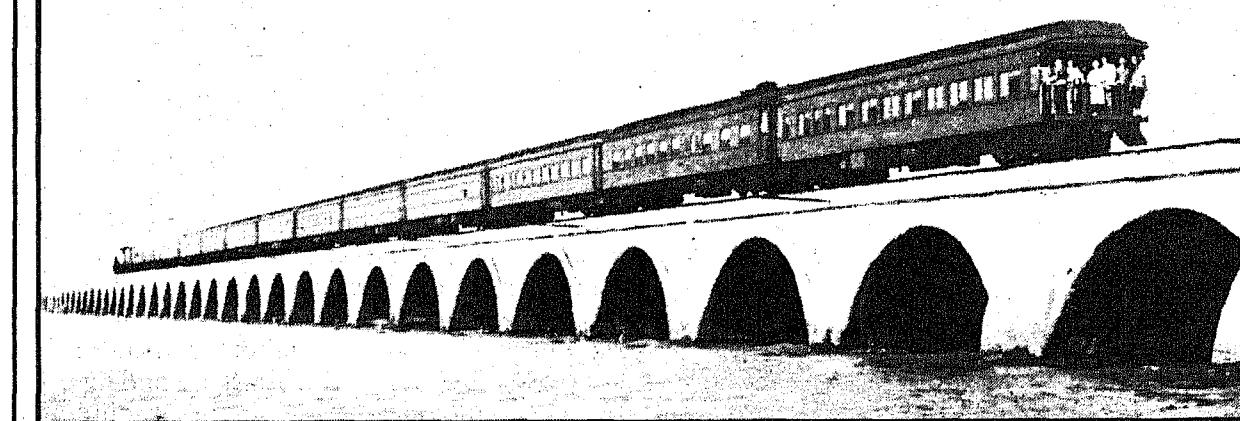
Those umber coach cars with the elongated white lettering proclaiming that they were of the Florida East Coast, Flagler System, somehow seemed incongruous in Key West; yet, there they were, solid, exciting and important. Where did they come from, and how did they get here?

I arrived at Trumbo just in time for the Special's locomotive to greet me with its relaxed power, clanging away as it pulled into the sunny incongruity of Key West. It spilled a trail of water and stressed the rails as it ground to a halt at the far end of the pier, where its big driving wheels assumed a poised dynamic to its steaming boiler and



Detail of installations on Long Key Viaduct

It was morning and, as I boarded the train, I carried a cage with a canary in it. The train was next to another, and in-between were loaded luggage wagons. Yardmen pried open wheel journal boxes and inspected them. Redcaps hustled. As the birdcage amused the passengers, my father remarked that a vagrant had been

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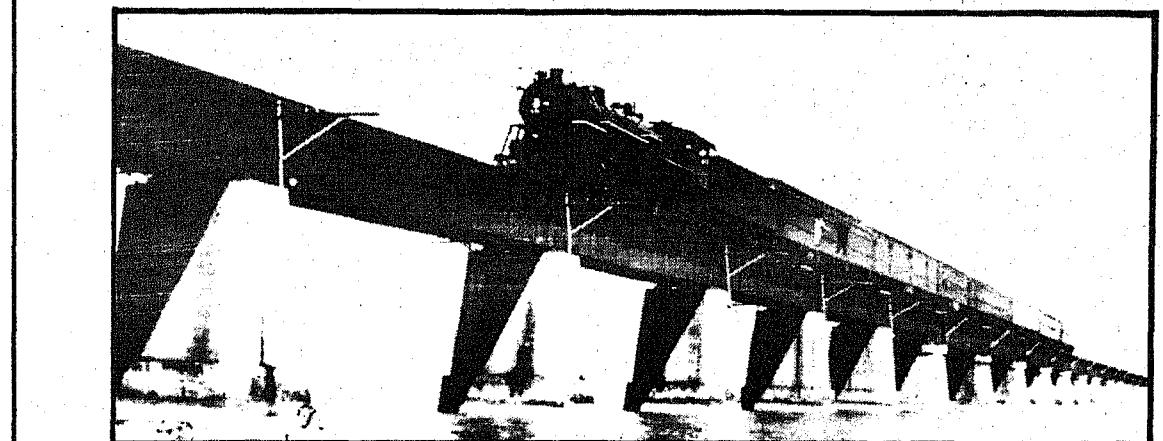
The "Havana Special" on Long Key Viaduct

recently crushed by a train.

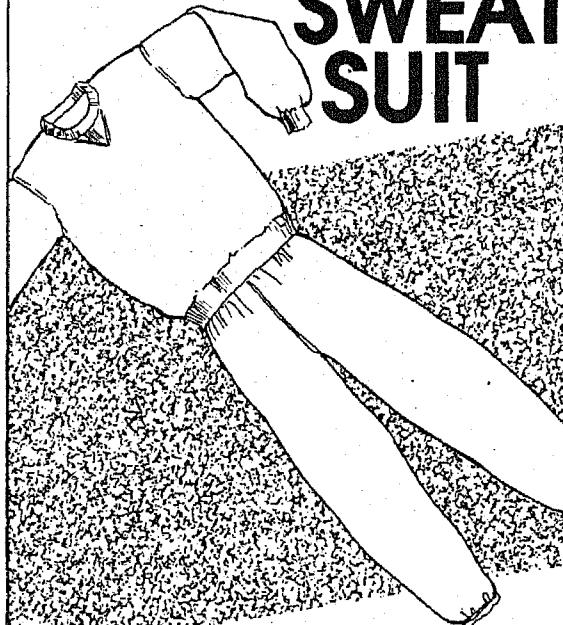
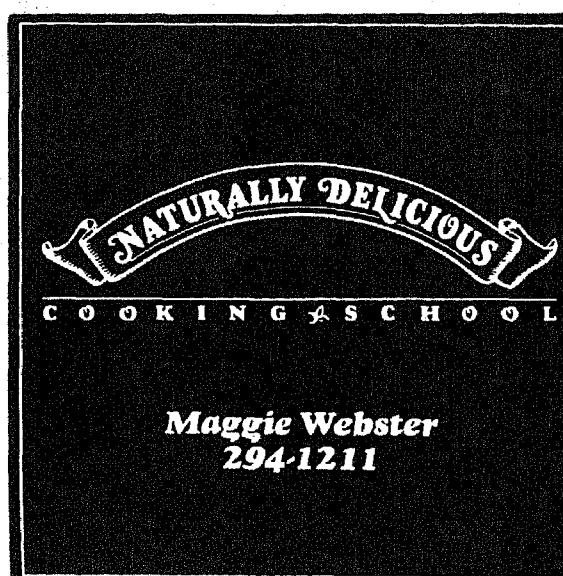
The railroad embankment that led from Trumbo formed the enclosure of Garrison Bight. The engine pulled its train across this with the rhythmic staccato of pounding cylinders and its whistle deep and plaintive — poignant sounds that transcended their island outpost setting. The Special spoke of

romance, and appealed to the spirit as it crossed Roosevelt Boulevard, penetrated the mangrove marsh to Stock Island, and gained the straight iron up the Keys, with their stench of rotting seaweed and every gradation of hue from green to violet embracing the shoreline.

The engineer sped on the stretches of



Approaching Pigeon Key

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Snowstorm Over Key West, Part V . . . Cocaine and Kids: How Drugs Affect Key West High School Today

by Frank Kaiser

John Welsh, 39, loves kids. Especially kids with problems. Good thing. His job as Dean of Students at Key West High School deals with little else. If you're one of KWHS's 1,350 students and you get into trouble, you're going to cross paths with Welsh. Guaranteed.

So I'm sitting in Welsh's office to interview him on student drug abuse as part of a *Solares Hill* investigation. The place is pandemonium. Students rush in and out for Welsh's signature on discipline slips and such (and get this: his office has *three* doors to accommodate the traffic), while co-

worker and program manager Connie Fahey hovers and darts like a sleek fire extinguisher, putting out problems before they ignite into disaster. Phones ring; a walkie-talkie's hollow voice screams; Principal Clarence Phillips paces, second in line to a student doing her best to explain her tardiness to the Dean.

Through it all, Welsh remains cool. He actually enjoys all this!

This guy is good. He's got style. He's got rapport and more. The tardy 15-year-old looks at his steel blue eyes and melts. "I really needed you to get into trouble again," Welsh says with a smile. They both laugh. Welsh is muscular, yet quick; he's full of energy, sweetened with humor. Street-smart, his first teaching job was at a tough reform school, the New Jersey State School for Boys. He's learned to handle chaos well.

Pictures and posters cover his office walls, the posters spelling out exact rules, regulations and consequences. You do this; you get that. No hedging, no exceptions.



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No nonsense. One sign posted here -- and in every room in the high school -- shouts out in bright red letters:

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"Do you mean that?" I ask.
"We do," Welsh replies. "Expulsion is mandatory." He's again eaten up in the swirl of activity.

* * * *

By this time I've talked with maybe 20 people at KWHS about drugs -- teachers, students, counselors at the high school, counselors at Mental Health and at Health and Rehabilitation Services (HRS), too. And it all reminds me of the old joke about blind men explaining an elephant, each feeling and "seeing" only his own little section. One clear, bright image does emerge, however: drug use on campus is less than ever. "You should have been here in the '70s," everyone says.

MARIJUANAVILLE

Drugs were constant Key West news in the late 1960s and all through the 1970s. A police officer was quoted in the September 22, 1968, issue of the *Key West Citizen* saying "... drugs flow into the Keys by land, sea and air. The drug traffic takes every conceivable route into Key West." By the mid-'70s, then-detective Larry Rodriguez estimated that in the previous five years, sales of marijuana in Key West had tripled. Prices were dropping, pushers were everywhere.

In 1976, monies from illegal drugs affected most everyone in town -- city higher-ups included -- there was so much of it. It was during that year that former fire chief Bum Farto skipped town shortly after his conviction for drug dealing, never to be

heard from again.

By 1980, Sheriff Freeman had "more marijuana than many Colombian plantation owners" sitting outside his office. Our community made national news as an estimated \$21 million in marijuana -- 1,294 bales of the stuff -- overflowed from the sheriff's evidence room into 16 locked and sagging rental trucks below.

The high school, of course, reflected the community.

Everyone I spoke with at KWHS who had been there through the 1970s speaks of that grim time as World War II veterans speak of Iwo Jima. Today, according to most, high school drug use is a shadow of its former self. Still, as we shall see, that shadow is dark, dense and, occasionally, bleak.

SIC 'EM, LUCY

The school bell rings; suddenly Welsh's office clears. "Closing the campus and introducing the dogs have really cramped the style of those kids wanting to get high here," Welsh states. "Last year there'd be 40 or 50 every day who'd go off and get high or stoned and never return from lunch."

Closed campus? Dogs?

This year, to "help the students make right choices at lunch," all the kids -- with the exception of exempted seniors -- eat lunch on campus. In fact, from 7:40 to 3:10, students are expected to stay on campus as if there were steel bars on all windows and doors. While the administration sees positive results -- including more student interrelating and far

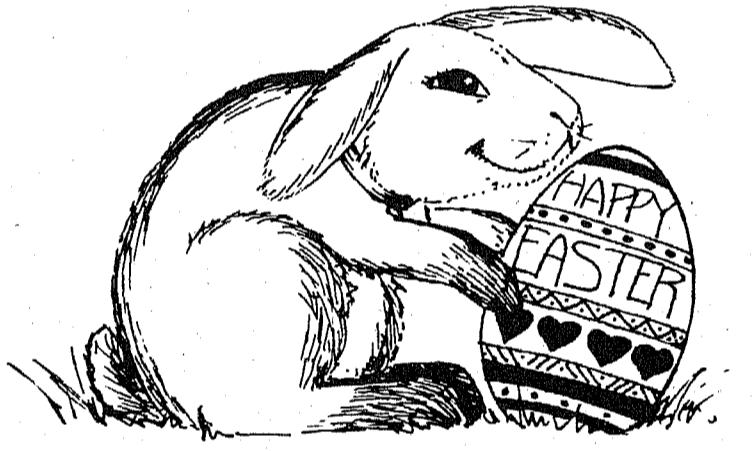


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less on-campus drug trafficking -- most students resent this restriction. "Why," they ask, "must we suffer the consequences for the acts of maybe 100 kids who do drugs?"

The dogs, named Lucy and Ethel, are far less controversial, especially considering that last year KWHS featured in-school cops on patrol. These black Labs are cute and friendly. (At the beginning of the year there was a third Labrador retriever contracted, named Energy. It was, its trainer agreed, the slowest mutt ever encountered and was soon retired.)

And they work! These dogs do, indeed, sniff out drugs. They've found the stuff in unassigned lockers, buried on the campus grounds, stashed in trees, in the parking lot. The students are now believers. Enough marijuana has been found, Welsh feels, to make the kids paranoid about bringing anything illegal to school.

Students may be wary but many still use. The drugs of choice: alcohol and marijuana, although cocaine -- especially crack -- has become a most serious problem. "If we suspect that a kid's using, I call the parents," Welsh explains. "Usually they tell me that they also have suspected drug use but were unwilling to make a confrontation. Most kids' first reaction is to deny it anyway. When it comes down to it, talking with the kid is often the best way to help."

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years older, out of school and on their way to being successful. Often that works.

In hard cases where kids are getting into serious trouble over drugs and often building a juvenile record, the school tries to get parents to agree to a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program. Problem is, most parents don't have the money for in-patient treatment. It can cost \$8,000 to \$10,000 for the minimum period of 30 days in a treatment center. And even if they can come up with the money, there's no in-patient facility for adolescents in Monroe County.

THE SEVEN DEADLIES - UPDATED

When I was in high school some 30 years ago, the top seven discipline problems in public school were: talking, chewing gum, making noise, running in the halls, getting out of turn in line, wearing improper clothes, and not putting paper in wastebaskets.

A recent survey lists the big seven as: drug abuse, alcohol abuse, pregnancy, suicide, rape, robbery, and assault.

So it's little wonder that I took a deep, apprehensive breath before marching through the gates of Key West High School on my way to learn about drug use here. And, talk of culture shock, the day I spoke with Shelia Borden, they were ripping her office apart to make room for a child-care center for the children of the 15 to 20 eligible day students. "There will probably be more," Shelia explained. "Some of the students haven't delivered yet."

But outside of recognizing problems we wouldn't look at in the 1950s, high school is still high school. I'll bet that if someone had bottled "Fragrance of High School Hallway between Classes," "Essence of Food Fight," or "Scent of Locker Room with Jock Itch and Gym Shoes" back then and put it in a time capsule, they'd find the exact same smells today at KWHS. The stinging scent of post-exam and pre-date anxiety will remain static throughout the centuries. The odors open memory's door widest.

* * * *

Key West High School has much to be

proud of. Scholastically no slouch (49 percent of the class of '86 went on to college), the school's true colors fly with extra-curricular activities. KWHS's choirs are nationally known. Where else will you find retarded and emotionally handicapped kids singing side by side with 50 Conchettas and the captain of the football team? Seeing and hearing them is magical. How else can you explain Joe Wilt's getting those kids all starting and ending on the same note at the same time?

There's an excellent band as well. And don't forget the state championship baseball team -- basketball and soccer teams that do well -- not to mention the girls' softball, basketball and volleyball teams which add further luster to the school's spirit.

But, like any other high school today, there's also the dark, drug side. Nationally, about 70 percent of all high school graduates have used illegal drugs by the time they graduate; add the drug alcohol and you add another 15 to 20 percent. About 20

percent have tried cocaine and perhaps six percent use so-called hard drugs regularly.

HORROR STORIES

Here in Key West, kids with drug problems tend to be from a one-parent family, usually a mother who must work. The problem's more critical with freshmen, especially those registering late. Says Linda Bird, KWHS ninth-grade counselor, "A lot of freshmen come in with drug habits. Those at highest risk for drug abuse, runaway, suicide and all, are the kids new to the community, registering late." This is no small matter. Of this year's 450 freshmen, 150 entered after school started.

Bird explains: "Many of these kids are horror stories! They have run away from Mom to live with Dad, run away from Dad to live with Mom, been sexually abused and now live with an aunt, been physically abused and live with grandmother. Some come in straight from a detox center." All this and more is normal, according to Bird, drugs have better chance of taking hold."

Ralph Freer, sophomore counselor (each grade level has a guidance counselor who stays with the class through each of the four grades), sees KWHS serving a unique and itinerant class of kids. "We have the military kids in and out, we have the children of seasonal fishermen from the Carolinas and Texas wintering here, kids from very affluent families attend KWHS from November through March -- plus the kids drifting in and out, their mothers looking for work and housing here at the end of the road." Freer continues, "In such a transient environment, in a place where you may not even know the kid next door, drugs have better chance of taking hold."

Freer, 43, is counselor to 300 tenth graders. He's affable and open and makes for a great "uncle." Since many of his charges seek help and advice about drugs, Freer speaks with authority when he says, "Kids use drugs first to experiment."

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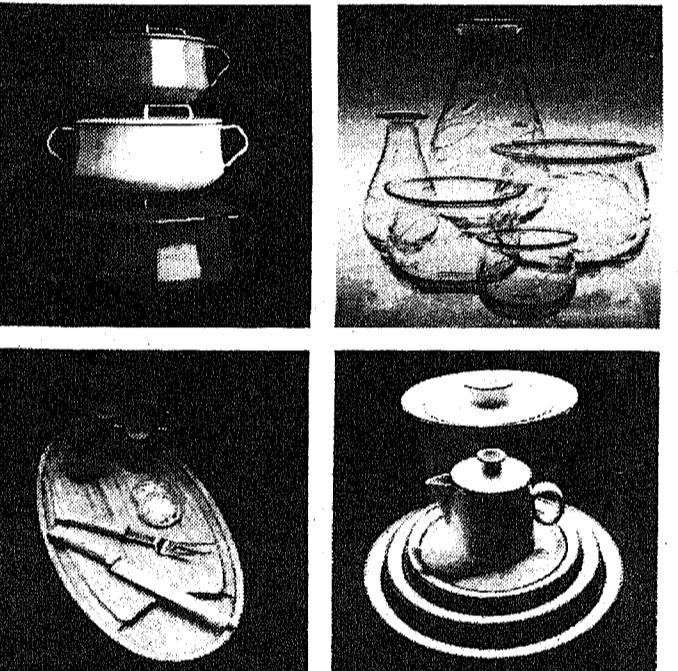
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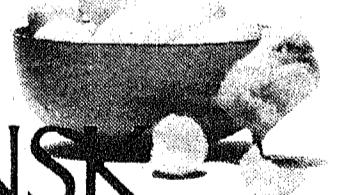
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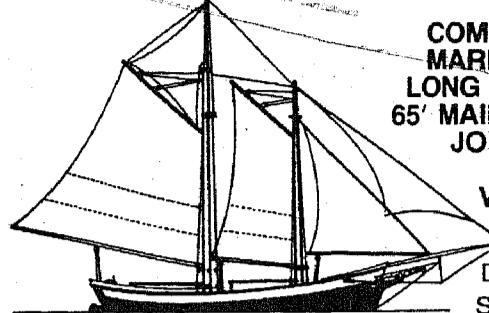


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Page 32 — April 1987 — Solares Hill

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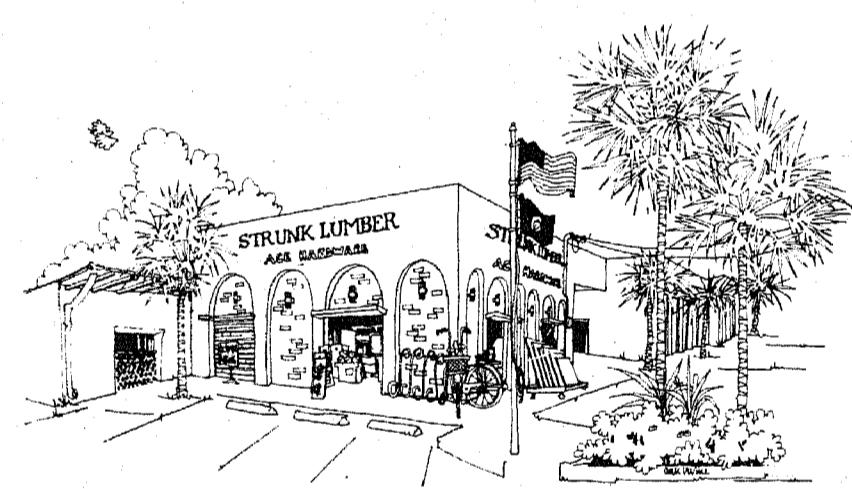
There's a lot of peer pressure here, especially with the girls. And if the kid has low self-esteem and maybe isn't getting any attention at home, drug use meets a need not otherwise met. Drugs can make you feel good, can help you forget your problems. Of course there are diminishing returns. But you don't know that when you start using.

"Some use drugs and alcohol to become part of a group. Some do it to rebel. Some to enhance what they're already doing, feeling -- falsely -- that drugs make them a

better baseball or football player." Freer shrugs, then continues. "Kids here are under a lot of pressure. Academically, standards are getting higher all the time. It's hard being a kid today. Some simply can't cope and drop out and get into drugs full time."

During the 1985-86 school year, of 1138 students, 79 dropped out of school. Forty-three boys, 36 girls. Dean Welsh figures 40 percent of those left because of serious drug problems.

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many of the kids high on drugs.

What happens to them? "The second time they're caught, we get HRS involved," explains Welsh. "It begins to get very formal when they meet with the kid and his parents and point out that the next step is for the truant to go before Judge Helio Gomez and explain why he doesn't want to obey the law. Most kids buy out at that point."

The dean helps break up a fight outside his office between two girls over a common boyfriend. Then he continues, "Sometimes when I go out with my wife at night I could take student attendance at bars downtown. I'm there on my own private time but some assume that I'm taking names. Others walk right up and boldly ask to buy us drinks!" However, most of the under-age students head for the door. Welsh believes they get in with either false I.D. or lack of careful door checks.

"ROCK CITY" LOSERS

Crack cocaine, unheard of just one year ago, now causes students more and faster grief than any drug before it. (For a closer look at this drug, what it is and how it hurts, see "Portrait of a Pearle Junkie," *Solares Hill*, February, 1987.) The drug, inexpensive and extremely addictive, has created a panic among high school administrators nationwide. It can be deadly.

Most KWHS kids think of crack users as losers. "They'll sit right here," Welsh relates, "and tell me that so-and-so is a crack monster and 'lives' out at Pearle Trailer Park. They call it 'Rock City'; Cuban kids call it 'Aluminito.'

"Once a kid gets wrapped up in coke, we lose. They're on the streets in no time. I've lost seven or eight so far this year to crack," Welsh says sadly. He tells of one student who last year earned high grades along with praise for his athletic feats. Then, in the fall, he got hooked on crack cocaine, was suspended for bizarre behavior, got into trouble supporting his addiction with burglaries -- and now he's gone. Disappeared.

"It seems like you lose them overnight, that stuff works so fast," Welsh says. "Kids will tell me, 'Hey, this one's getting into crack. Help him!' You've got to bring so much pressure on the kid that he thinks, 'I must really be screwing up. Look at all these people telling me that.' We'll even show him where to go to talk to other addicts, kids who have been high for years. Sometimes that helps."

70 POUNDS AND NEAR DEATH

Often it doesn't. Across town in the Professional Building, Sherrisse Noelle and Debbie Dell know too well what happens to kids once John Welsh loses track of them. Noelle and Dell are probation officers for HRS's Children, Youth and Family Counseling Service. They deal with adolescents in trouble with the law, kids arrested for repeated burglaries, that kind of thing.

Ninety-five percent of these kids are crack cocaine addicts. Sometimes the teenagers come off the street weighing 70 or 80 pounds, near death. "It's scary," Noelle says. "The way the system works, the kids

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have to commit a crime before anything substantial can be done to help them. By then it can be too late."

Keep in mind, this is Key West we're talking about; these 70-pound junkies are Key West kids, often from middle and upper class families.

Although these dedicated ladies have worked with cocaine addicts as young as 11, most of these kids get into heavy drugs at about 14. Then there are truancy problems and petty thievery. "There is a lot of denial with parents," says Noelle. "Parents should wonder when their jobless kid comes home with \$300 in his pocket." Kids on the way to becoming junkies usually start stealing from their parents to support their addiction. "I had one kid who

wore a different expensive watch each time I saw him," Noelle says. "When I asked the mother, she said that he picked up key limes and sold them."

By age 16 the kid usually has dropped out of school; supporting his habit has become a full-time preoccupation. At this age he gets into his first serious trouble with the law, usually by getting caught committing a burglary. After a detention hearing to determine if the adolescent is dangerous to the community or himself -- and perhaps should be sent to the detention center in Miami -- the kid is arraigned before Judge Gomez.

Once there's an adjudicatory hearing and final disposition (sentencing), Noelle and Dell's department gets into the act. Usually

the delinquent is sentenced to three months of "community control," during which time he must tell HRS of his every move and undergo weekly urinalyses. "We also do a drug evaluation to determine if the child should be sent to treatment," they say. Unfortunately, drug treatment means sending the boy -- and their clients are usually male -- to Miami, maybe farther.

Monroe County desperately needs a drug and alcohol treatment center for adolescents. Most experts agree that addiction is a family disease, that treating only the addict is often non-productive. Miami, 157 miles northeast of Key West, is too far away for Key West families to get involved.

But many are sent, anyway, to Dade and Broward drug treatment centers, the 30-day tab paid by Medicaid. "They return all gungho about staying straight," says Dell. "They really want to, but when they go back into the environment they left -- the peer pressure, family problems and all -- they're soon back out on the streets using."

"We get very involved trying to help these kids," says Noelle. "We drive them around to look for jobs, to get them back in school if possible; we get to know their parents." But the three months' supervision is up all too soon.

Debbie Dell has had only one kid stay straight after returning from treatment; he left town. And Sherrisse Noelle's experience is little better: one boy of more than a score who stopped smoking crack. He substituted alcohol.

Both counselors agree that, until Monroe County gets an in-patient treatment program, more juvenile drug counseling, an effective employment program for the young, a teen center where kids can safely hang out during the day and an alternative education program, there isn't a lot of hope for our teenage crack addicts.

"What we're seeing now are kids who start using drugs at 12; they go on down the road ending up in the adult criminal system," says Noelle. "As they go, they get angrier and more sociopathic than ever. The prison system then finishes the job."

JIMMY CAGNEY SYNDROME

Alternative Education is for those kids who won't or can't stay in a regular school setting. With Alternative Ed, they can show up at 11 and work until 2 or whatever, and still -- with effort -- get an equivalent high school degree. Until recently Alternative Ed was contracted to the Marine Institute of Deerfield Beach. Dean Welsh misses it. "If I had a behavioral problem, a kid with a chip on his shoulder -- the Jimmy Cagney syndrome, I call it -- I'd send him to the Marine Institute. It was geared for action and certain kids loved it. But they got shifted around all the time -- from the Navy base to a building at the Catholic school, to this place and that. The people who ran the program finally got fed up, packed up and left."

And the teen center? The day I first saw Welsh, students were passing a petition for signatures calling for the reopening of the old teen center located near the airport exit on South Roosevelt. It looks like they may get it.

The teen center, originally called the 505

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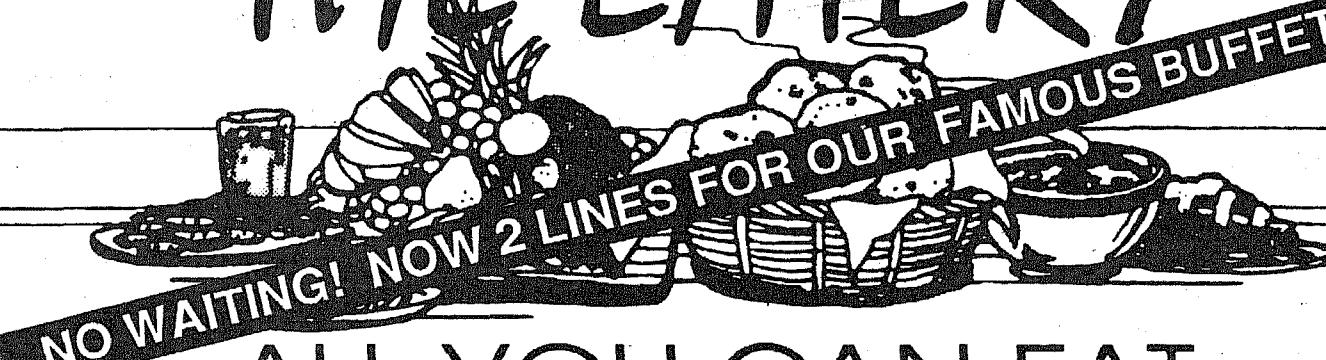


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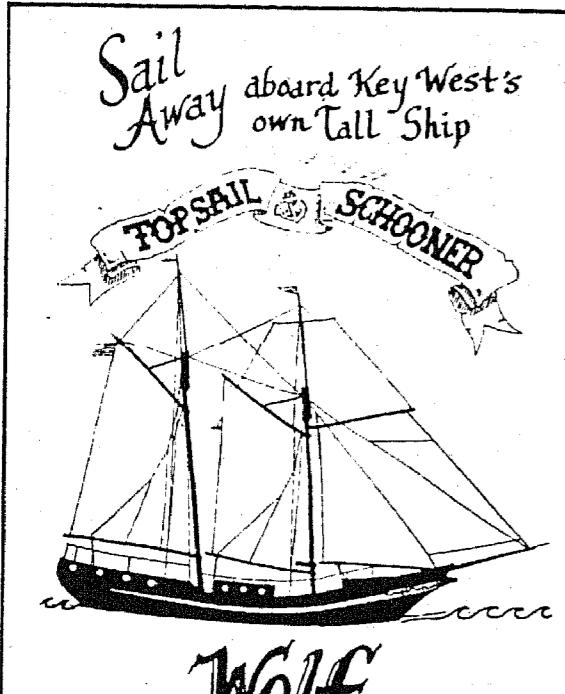
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Teen Club, was built years ago in a project spearheaded by then-Clerk of the Criminal Court, Louis Carbonell. The county, which owns the property, gave Carbonell a 30-year lease at a dollar a year. The building, 30 feet wide by 130 feet long, was perfect for teen dances and get-togethers; 500 members used to gather on Saturday nights. Then, according to Carbonell, allowing 18-year-olds to drink legally "hurt plenty. Finally the kids started fooling around with this damn dope -- excuse the expression -- and now the building's not used much."

An organization called Lower Florida Keys Youth Club intends to change all that. According to Charlette Ure, member of the board and spokesperson, "Mr. Carbonell will give back the lease to the county so that we can reopen the building as a full-time teen center." As soon as they receive final County Commission approval, LFKYC will reopen the building for dances, craft programs, and activities for all ages. They plan to get rid of the psychodelically-painted interior, replace it with a disco look. A skating rink will be installed outside. As Ure says, "Hopefully this will attract those kids who say that there's no place to go and nothing to do but drugs."

A DRUG-FREE ENVIRONMENT?

Some time ago, I spoke about the student drug problem with Leon Fowler, a teacher at Horace O'Bryant middle school and, for the last two years, president of United Teachers of Monroe. Fowler is probably in

closer touch with our county's 480 teachers than anyone.

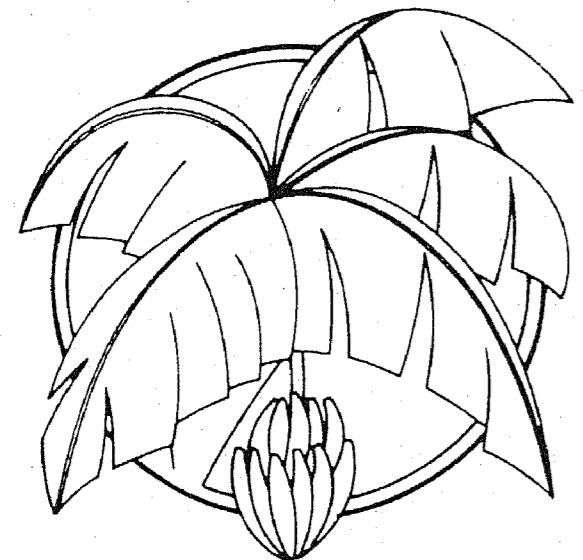
"We've got to learn that kids can't see the future," Fowler told me. "They care only about now. So you can't scare them. You've got to educate them, give them the skills to say no and tools to feel good about themselves. And you've got to start in kindergarten. Then, when the time comes, they will resist peer pressures to use illegal drugs. They'll know better."

Of course, he's right. Just this January the Monroe County School Board agreed to a sweeping proposal which would train kids beginning in kindergarten to say no to alcohol and drugs. The Board has committed all Monroe County schools to becoming drug-free and plans to coordinate community resources to overcome drug and alcohol abuse among students.

Coordination is certainly one key. I've found many good and dedicated people working on drug problems in the dark. They lack information about other agencies and services which could augment, even multiply their efforts toward illegal drug prevention and control. To pull everyone's hard work together would make all our lives easier and, indeed, closer to the dream of a drug-free school system.

Next: A look at Delphos Alcoholic and Drug Treatment Center and an open meeting of Narcotics Anonymous. If you have constructive suggestions for these articles, please call 294-1429. F.K.

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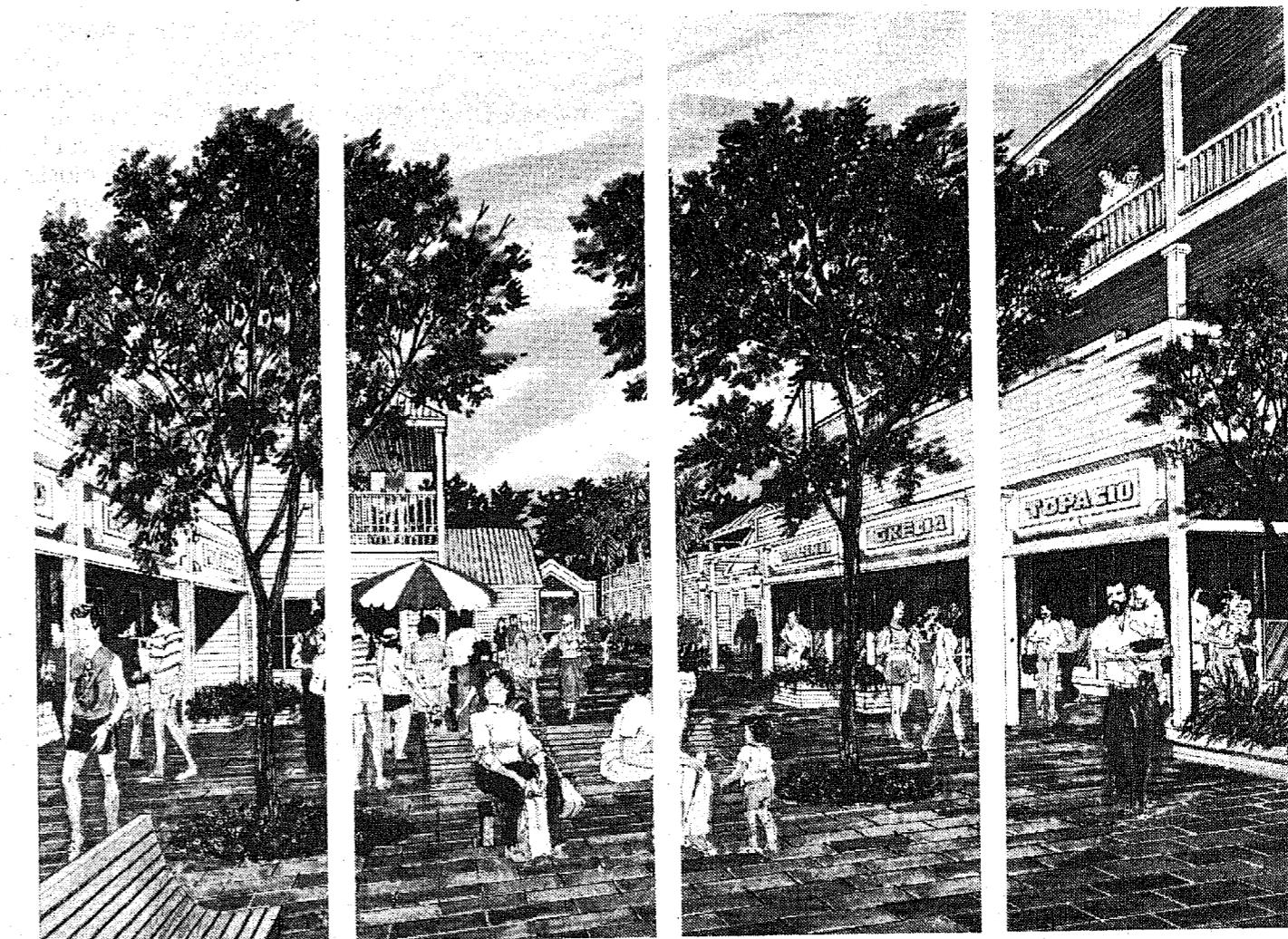
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• *Pagliacci* Thurs. thru Sun., April 16-19, at Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. Thurs. 4/16 7:30 PM; other three nights 8:00 curtain.
• *The Dresser* opens April 1st thru April 26 at The Red Barn Theatre. 8:30 curtain. Call 296-9911 for tickets.
• Bobby Nesbitt in concert at The Waterfront Playhouse, April 3. Call 294-5015 for info.
• *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* opens April 20 thru May 3 at the Waterfront Playhouse. 8:30 curtain; call 294-5015 for tickets.
• *Pirates of Penzance* held over indefinitely at Jan McArt's Cabaret Theatre. Call 296-2120 for tickets.
• *Madeline; Raccoon*
• Walt Disney's *101 Dalmatians*, Big Pine Methodist Church Youth Center, Key Deer Blvd., MM 30.5, Big Pine. Benefit Big Pine Cooperative Pre-School & Kindergarten. Sunday, April 5, 3:45 PM.
• Lower Keys Property Owners Association installation dinner, April 6, 6-7 PM Cocktails; 7 PM Covered Dish Supper. Commissioner Gene Lytton, speaker.
• County Commission Meeting, April 7, 9 AM, Courtroom B, Key West.
• Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors' Meeting, 7:30 AM, April 8, Chamber Office, Big Pine Key.
• Monroe County Planning Commission, April 16, 10 AM, DAV Building, Marathon.
• Lower Keys Chamber TDC Advisory Committee meeting, 7:30 PM, Chamber Office, Big Pine Key.
• Deadline for Tourist Development Council agenda for May 6 TDC meeting, April 22.
• Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce monthly General Membership meeting, 7:30 PM, April 23, Lower Keys Property Owners Association Building, Big Pine Key.

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The Conch Republic News
The Official Publication Of The Conch Republic Celebration
Key West and the Florida Keys
Vol. I, No. 1
April 1987

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Conch Republic Celebrates Fifth Birthday

Island Republic Seeks Admission To United Nations

Conch Republic Prime Minister Tom Sawyer said in his letter that Conch Republic membership will be "particularly beneficial ... by adding to the General Assembly's deliberations a voice of goodwill and good humor which has not been overly prevalent among members in some years."

Sawyer's remarks were included in a letter to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar seeking membership for the Conch Republic in the international organization.

Con't on pg. 2

Community Sponsorship Triples for Conch Republic Celebration

Sponsor support for the Conch Republic Celebration, still a young event by Key West standards, has increased 300% over last year, with businesses ranging from Marathon to Key West.

"It is extremely gratifying to receive this kind of local support from the business community," Festival Director Michael Whalton stated. "This increase reinforces my belief that the Conch Republic Celebration can and will grow

Con't on pg. 4



KEY WEST -- Dignitaries will gather to celebrate the Fifth Anniversary of the Conch Republic in Key West and the Florida Keys, April 25 through May 3. Pictured above during last year's festivities are (left to right) First Prime Minister Dennis Wardlow, Admiral Wilhelmina Harvey, and Claude Valdez. (Photo by Jeffrey Cardenas)



FISHING FOR CONCH? -- This young lady is competing in Basic Training, one of the events that appeals to the maverick streak of the Conch survivor. (Photo by Jeffrey Cardenas)

Conchs to Invade Tallahassee in April

Florida Keys and Key West residents will take Tallahassee by storm April 22 and 23 for "Conch Day" at the capital.

Conch commandos will deliver Conch Militia draft notices to the legislators, tourism officials, cabinet members and Governor Bob Martinez. A seven-foot Key Lime pie and gallons of conch chowder with Cuban bread will be served

Legislators will be invited to a reception at the House office portico on Thursday, April 22, in Tallahassee Wednesday, April 21, and Friday, April 23. Legislators will also receive

souvenirs from the Keys.

"We are going to extend a most gracious invitation for all to come down and participate in 'Basic Training' during the Conch Republic Celebration," announced Michael Whalton, coordinator of Conch Day.

"The Federation feels Conch Day is a

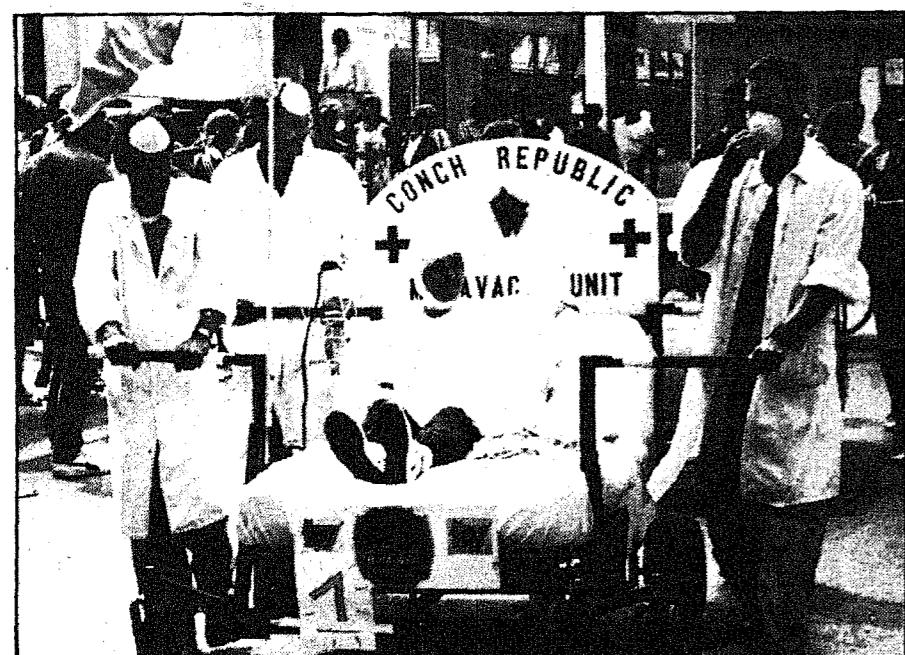
very good way to bring the Florida Keys to the attention of the legislators, to let them know what we have to offer here and what our unique circumstances are," stated Sandra Barrett, President of the Federation of Chambers.

"There are many new people in Tallahassee this year at every level and we want to acquaint them with the Keys. Our natural resources here have received a great deal of attention. It is now time to focus on the people and the business community of Monroe County."

Special arrangements for air transportation have been provided by Piedmont Airlines, Official Airlines of the Conch Republic Celebration.

Con't on pg. 11

FM 107 - Miller Lite Bed Race, Parade Open Celebration



OVER FIFTY BEDS are expected to parade and compete in the FM 107 Miller Lite Bed Race to begin 10 AM on Saturday, April 25. (Photo courtesy of FM-107)

In the Conch Republic it's traditional for the inhabitants to prove their man and womanhood with a race that exhibits the ingenuity and creativity that has made Key West famous.

This annual ritual takes place on a sunny day during the anniversary of the secession of the Conch Republic from the United States. It's been five years since that fateful day when the citizens of the Keys rebelled against the border patrol and set up their own unique government.

In memory, the Conch Flag will fly proudly in the warm, tropical breezes, local citizens will stand proud, and they'll line the streets as their best young men and women compete in "The Conch Republic Fifth Anniversary FM-107 Miller Lite Bed Race."

A parade of beds will kick off the festivities. Fifty beds are expected to enter from the local community, including entrants from hotels, restaurants, bars, hospitals, and public service organizations.

Bed racing is an unusual sport, appealing to those with a taste for adventure, a sense of the ridiculous, and, most definitely, the ability to laugh, particularly at one's self. The beds will consist of a mattress, wheels, and five "Conchs," four to push the bed and one to

The Conch Republic News

The Official Publication of the Conch Republic Celebration
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Michael Whalton, Minister of Special Events

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Layout by Walt Hyla

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Special thanks to Solares Hill Publications and Universal Press.

The Conch Republic Celebration 1987 is produced by the Key West Tourist Development Association with special assistance from the Monroe County Tourist Development Council.

Blessing of Bicycles to Join Bed Race



ANIMAL CRUISER -- Conchs of all ages will bedeck their cruisers for the annual Blessing of the Bicycle Fleet and Parade to be held this year in conjunction with the Bed Parade, Saturday, April 25, on Key West's Duval Street. (Photo by Jeffrey Cardenas)

The Island Republic's most popular

Everyone is invited to bring your form of transportation, the bicycle, will be honored at the Blessing of the Bicycle parade and enter the decorating Fleet held this year in conjunction with the FM-107 - Miller Lite Bed Parade and Race on April 25, 1987.

The bicycle fleet and the beds will be blessed at the beginning of the parade which begins at 10 AM at the corner of Duval and Fleming Streets.

United Nations

Cont. from pg. 1

just north of the Florida Keys, the chain of vacation islands that joined in the secession.

Pledging to uphold the UN charter and support the world body's principles, Sawyer's letter pointed out that "foremost among individual freedoms recognized in the Conch Republic is the 'freedom to enjoy life to its utmost."

"It is indeed unfortunate," he wrote, "that some UN members seem to have disregarded this freedom in their national priorities, but we believe it is well worth

representing as a global goal for people everywhere."

Sawyer invited the Secretary-General to discuss world problems "over a piece of Key lime pie -- our national gourmet specialty -- and a cup of coffee."

General Assembly members have not yet been polled for reaction to the Conch Republic's UN application.

Sawyer said it is only coincidental that "our application is being submitted six weeks before the Conch Republic Celebration April 25-May 3, commemorating the fifth anniversary of the Conch Republic's founding as an 'independent nation.'

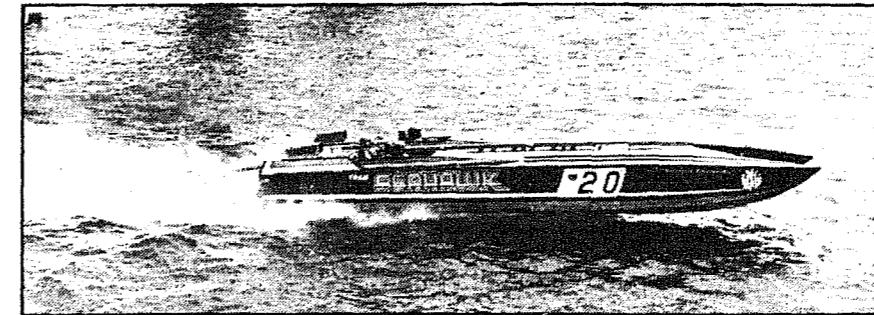
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Bud Light Marathon Offshore Challenge Set for April 25



FULL THROTTLE -- The Bud Light Marathon Offshore Challenge is scheduled for April 25. The race course incorporates both the old and new Seven Mile Bridges. Last year's Open Division was won by Willie Falcon, driving Team Seahawk (20). (Photo by Stuart Newman Associates)

Offshore racing aficionados will have an

excellent opportunity to view their favorite competitors when throttles are slammed forward for the 11 AM start of the 1987 edition of the Bud Light Marathon Offshore Challenge on Saturday, April 25.

The nationally-sanctioned APBA (American Power Boat Association) race

takes the high speed boats close to the old Seven Mile Bridge and there's no admission charge to view the action.

"Last year was our first race and it was a

tremendous success," Scott Curry, Commodore of the sponsoring Conch Republic Offshore Power Boat Race Association (CROPBRA), said, adding that this year's Challenge would be video taped by Innovative Productions, Inc., for a nationally syndicated broadcast. "The racers, crews, and their families really enjoyed themselves and we attracted

thousands of people to view the action."

The 149-mile race (for classes Super, Open and Modified) will take boats around the course four times. Six different classes of boats -- Superboat, Open, Modified, Pro-stock, Stock A and B -- plan to compete. Race headquarters are at Sombrero Resort and wet pits are at Faro Blanco Marine Resort.

Sponsors besides CROPBRA include Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce, Marine Bank, Marathon Hotel/Motel Association, and the Monroe County Tourist Development Council.

The first race of the national offshore circuit is one of numerous events scheduled during the fifth anniversary of the founding of the Conch Republic.

For additional race information, contact the Marathon Chamber at (305) 743-5417.

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Key West Fishing Tourney Kicks Off During Celebration

The official opening of the Key West Fishing Tournament will take place in conjunction with the Conch Republic Celebration on Friday, May 1, and Saturday, May 2.

Anglers wishing to enter this tournament within a tournament must register by 8 AM on May 1. Fishing begins Friday and Saturday at 8:30 AM, with lines out of the water by 3:30. Weigh-in must be completed by 5:30. Weigh stations will be at Garrison Bight Marina and Oceanside Marina. Entry fee is \$50 per boat, which allows up to six anglers. Anglers may change the second day, but the committee boat must be notified. Fish caught in this two-day kick-off tourney can also be entered in the Key West Fishing Tournament.

Trophies and \$500 cash will be awarded for the largest billfish, tarpon (minimum weight of 50 pounds), barracuda (minimum 16 pounds), and dolphin. Prizes worth hundreds of dollars will be awarded for the largest wahoo, shark (minimum 75 pounds), permit, and grouper.

"We've added a new prize this year to encourage more participation," announced Capt. Mark Jones, Chairman of the Kick-off Tournament. "\$100 cash will be awarded for the largest GRUNT," excluding margo.

Trophies will be awarded for the most tarpon, billfish, and barracuda released.

All trophies and prizes will be presented at an awards ceremony Saturday, May 2. Rules and registration forms will be available at all marinas and most motels in the Key West area. For more information, call Rita Pearce at (305) 294-6098, or Art Barton at 294-4676.

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CLASSIFIEDS

Sponsorship Triples

Cont'd from pg. 1
appreciate the support." Sponsorships range from \$1000 to \$100.

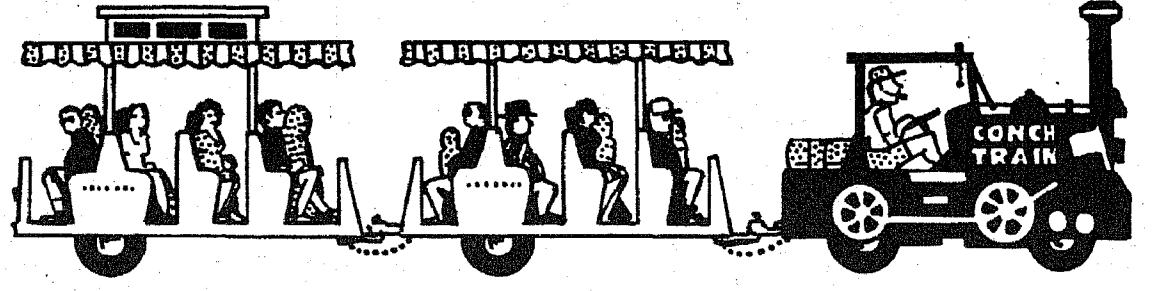
Major sponsors include Joe Russo at FM 107 Radio, founder of the Conch Republic Bed Race and Parade, Pier House, and the Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce, all of whom were original perpetrators of the anniversary.

The Reach, who last year spawned the "Conch Republic Marching Kazoo Band" and Color Guard," and the Key West Hotel/Motel Association are again major sponsors. Avis Rent A Car, Piedmont Airlines -- The Official Airlines of the Conch Republic Celebration, and Conch Republic Rum, Vodka, and Gin join the group of major supporters for the first time this year.

Other sponsors include Burger King of Key West, Mallory Market, Holiday Inn's La Concha Resort Hotel, Ocean Key House, and Fast Buck Freddie's.

Telecommunications, Inc., Barnett Bank of the Keys, Key West Kite Company, Pelican Landing, Econolodge, and Marriott's Casa Marina are also sponsoring the event.

Additional sponsors are Key West Sandal, Gingerbread Gallery, Heron House, Days Inn of Key West, Blair Building, Hilton Haven Motel, Key West Insurance Inc., Inn at the Wharf, Gulfview Motel, Goldentex, Richard C. Walker, MD, Monroe County Glass & Mirror, Hemingway Home and Museum, Great American Title & Mortgage, The Stuffed Pig in Marathon, Budget Rent-A-Car, La Te Da, Conch Tour Train, Old Town Trolley, Doyle Bush Photography, Claire Restaurant, and Schooner Wolf.



Conch Tour Train - 294-5161



Old Town Trolley - 296-6688

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the Conch Tour Train and Old Town Trolley.
They can show you like no one else can. So why not
see the best of Key West with some of the natives.

Second Annual Marathon to Key West Regatta to Draw Many Florida Yachtsmen

Marathon and Key West Sailing Clubs predict a large turnout for the Second Annual Marathon to Key West Regatta held again this year in conjunction with the Conch Republic Celebration. "Last year over 65 boats and 350 sailing enthusiasts from the southeast Florida coast, Key Largo to Key West, participated," organizers stated. "Response was just great last year. The participants enjoyed the regatta and the off-the-wall happenings of the Celebration."

The race, fully handicapped, is open to monohulls and multihulls over 20 feet in length. The skippers can choose either racing or cruising divisions.

A skippers' meeting and get-together

will kick off the activities Friday night, May 1, at Sombrero Marina's Dockside Lounge in Marathon. The race begins Saturday morning at 9 AM off Boot Key in the Marathon Harbor. The earlier finishers should be arriving in Key West sometime around 3 PM. Plans are being finalized for a post-race party in Key West, so participants should check local newspapers for time and location.

Interested sailors can write Marathon Sailing Club, P.O. Box 3292, Marathon Shores, FL, 33052, for further information. Entry forms can also be obtained at the Marathon Chamber of Commerce and the Key West Chamber of Commerce.

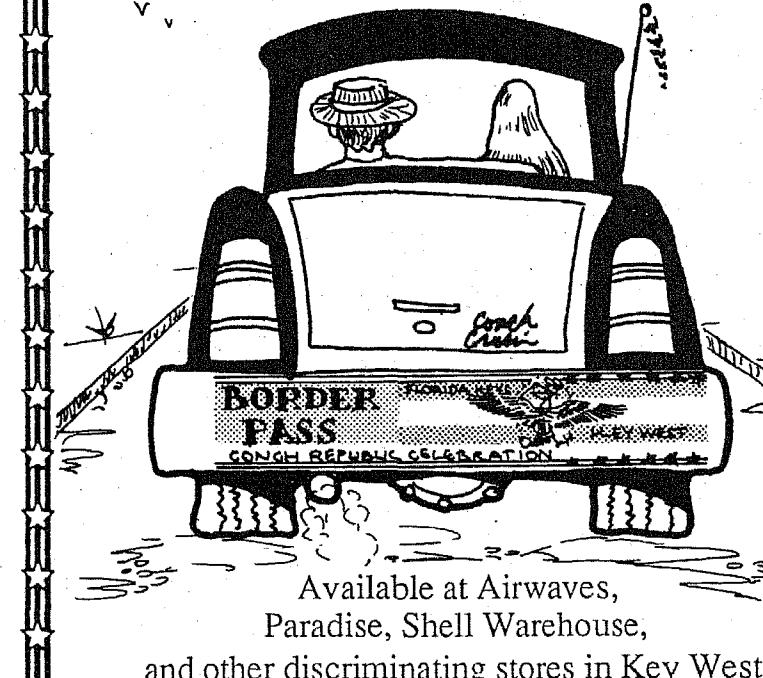
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Conchs to Sell "Bills" of Rights Auction Ambassadorships

In honor of the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution, the Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce will host the Conch Republic Constitutional Convention and Ambassadors Reception on Thursday, April 30.

In keeping with true Conch individuality, the Conch Republic will draft its own Constitution, complete with a unique Bill of Rights. As would be typical of an emerging Island Nation, the "Bills" can be bought.



7th Annual
**HEMINGWAY
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Pier House Hosts Wreckers Party -- Pirates and Plunder



PIRATES AND PLUNDER -- Admiral of the Conch Republic Fleet, Wilhelmina Harvey, and other dignitaries found they were not safe from pirates' dastardly deeds during the Wreckers Party at the Pier House. This year's party will begin at 7:30 on the Pier House beach, Friday, May 1. (Photo by Jeffrey Cardenas)

In the late 1800's Key West was the wealthiest city per capita in the United States. Wrecking cargo ships upon the reef was a way of life and the Conch Republic homes were filled with the finest food and drink, live entertainment and music.

PM. And in the tradition of the Pier House, there will be an abundance of the finest food and drink, live entertainment and music.

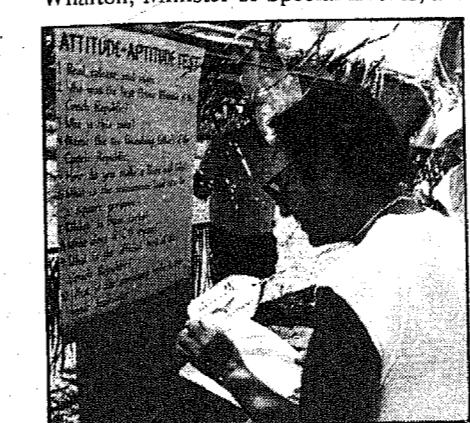
The beach will be adorned with a buffet of treasures from land and sea. Live pirates will perform from the tall ship Schooner *Wolf*. And Coffee Butler, the Minister of Music, will perform with his Junkanoo band.

Today, in the tradition of these forefathers, the Pier House Resort is inviting the public to attend a party of pirates and plunder during their Wreckers party on the beach, Friday, May 1, at 7:30 PM.

For more information call the Pier House, (305) 294-9541, Ext. 521.

Secrecy Surrounds "We Try Harder" Basic Training

KEY WEST -- One of the most talked about and popular events of the Conch Republic Celebration last year was "Basic Training," originally created by Michael Whalon, Minister of Special Events, and



"AM I READY FOR THIS?" -- Becoming a member of the Conch Republic Army requires intelligence and proper "attitude." Completing Avis Rent A Car's Basic Training means you have both Conch logic. (Photo by Jeffrey Cardenas)

Tico Walley, Minister of Fun and Games. This series of tasks, designed to appeal to the "maverick streak of the Conch survivor," was a riotous afternoon of sun, fun, and frolic.

Avis Rent A Car is sponsoring this year's "We Try Harder" Basic Training. Plans are underway for a challenging program for this year's flock of eager new Militia candidates. Organizers will not, however, disclose any of the details of the



ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR -- Basic Training for the Conch Republic Army is one of the many scheduled activities for this year's Celebration. Draftees will train on a wacky obstacle course beginning at 1 PM, Saturday, May 2. (Photo by Jeffrey Cardenas)

West will also be utilized. basic training exercises so that all entrants can participate on an equal basis. They

The basic format will be similar to last year. Those individuals and teams aspiring to be members of the Conch Republic Militia must complete a series of tasks before receiving their Conch Commando Certificates.

Marriott's Casa Marina Resort will again host some of the Basic Training events. Other locations throughout Key

West will also be utilized. An exciting new feature has been added to this year's Basic Training. Teams can also participate, which should heighten the spirit of competition. Teams and individuals can register ahead of time this year at a special booth during the FM-107 - Miller Lite Bed Race and Parade, April 25, beginning at 10 AM.

For more information, call Conch Republic Celebration Headquarters, (305) 294-4440.

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History of the Conch Republic

Each April the residents of the Conch Republic, driven by their uncompromising spirit and love for a party, commemorate the Florida Keys' secession from the United States in 1982. This may have appeared to be a folly to some (which is true), but sprang from serious circumstances (which is also true).

Without warning on April 18, 1982, the U.S. Border Patrol set up a road block at the head of the Florida Keys on the only highway access. Each vehicle leaving the Keys was stopped and searched and all passengers were asked to prove U.S. citizenship. Visitors were delayed for hours and traffic was backed up for miles.

The purpose was to find illegal aliens and drug movement. The result was rapid national media attention, immediately making the Florida Keys and Key West a most unattractive travel destination. Southbound traffic on U.S. 1 was virtually non-existent; hotel rooms, bars,

restaurants, charter boats and art galleries were empty.

Conchs Appeal To Federal Judge

In the meantime, officials in Key West and the Keys were becoming frustrated. On the morning of April 19, Dennis Wardlow, then mayor of Key West, sent telegrams to dozens of state and federal officials demanding an explanation. He

received not one response. A group of officials and businessmen appeared before a federal judge in Miami to plead their case. He ruled the checkpoint could still stand.

Returning home with no success, the defeated but determined and innovative Conchs planned their next move. Key West and the Florida Keys would secede from the United States and establish The Conch Republic. Within 24 hours border passes and temporary visas were printed, T-shirts appeared with official emblems, If We're Not Equal, We'll Get Out.

So during lunch hour on Friday, April 22, 1982, Prime Minister Dennis Wardlow raised the official flag and read the Conch Republic Declaration of Independence, "We the people of Key West are called Conchs ... I proclaim that

simple as that ... We're Conchs and we've had enough. We're happy to secede today with some humor. But there's some anger, too. Big trouble has started in much smaller places than this."

The founding fathers, Dennis Wardlow, Dennis Bitner, Edwin O. Swift, John Magliola, Townsend Kieffer, and William Smith, then promptly applied for foreign

aid.

Not long after the secession the roadblock was removed, but the spirit of the Conch Republic had been established. Each year the bravery and creative survival instincts of the founding fathers are commemorated during the Conch Republic Celebration. This year, typical republic is raised, I hereby state to Washington ... we secede from the United States. We've raised our flag, given notice, and named our new government ... and revelry span 10 days, from April 25 through May 3.

Conch Republic Military Ball At Fort Reach

Whether you choose militia fatigues, apparel depicting your favorite Conch Republic personality, beachwear, fishing gear or just "zany threads," you'll fit right in at the Conch Republic Military Ball at The Reach on Saturday, May 2. Grand or grubby, you will see it all.

The Reach, located at 1422 Simonton Street, will be converted to "Fort Reach" to defend the Conch Republic's eastern

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Dont u pholks hav no prof reederz? Eye wood lik two apli four thee werk. Eye hav leeft thee uther payper coz itz hav it phonetics.

Prez serve thee konk litricher Ernest Kowfet

Sir,

May we take the time to thank the

many residents and visitors who donated their hard earned dollars to help get our sisters out of the freezer.

It made our journey south so worthwhile, especially the offer so graciously made by your Republic Army Chief to use Christmas Tree Island to form a Leper Colony.

Signed The Little Sisters of Hoboken c/o Mt. St. Helens

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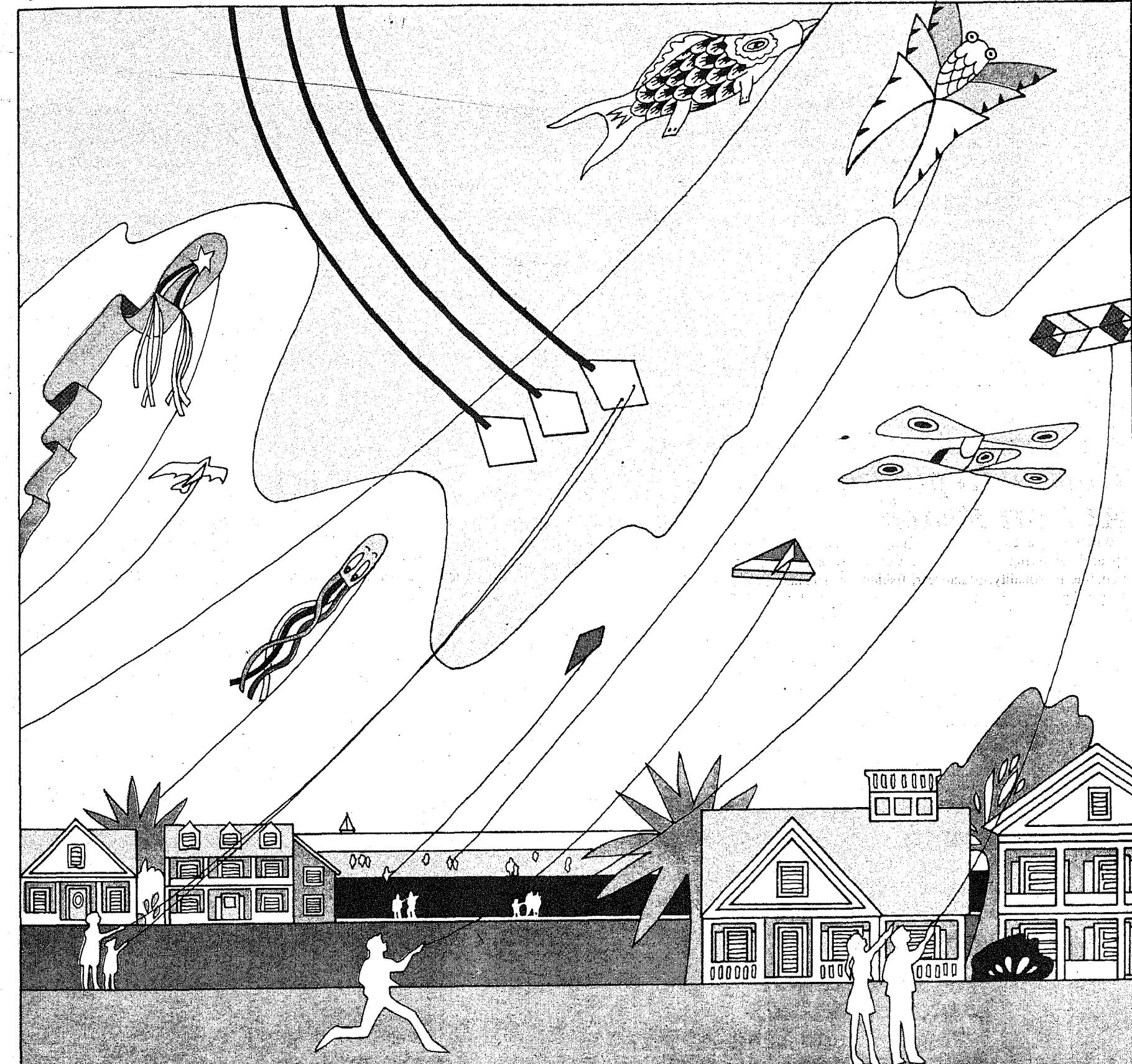
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FREE! OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, NOON MAY 3, SMATHERS BEACH

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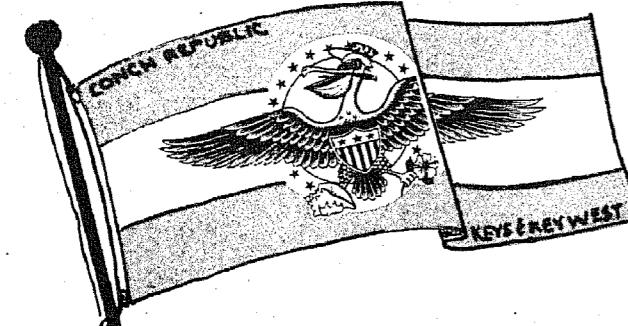
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107
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CONCH REPUBLIC CELEBRATION Flags



These limited edition flags are dark blue, light blue, yellow, and white with design visible on both sides. Available through Conch Republic Celebration Headquarters, 294-4440.



TRANSFUSION? -- There are many types during Conch Republic Celebration and this Conch Commando seems ready and willing. Basic Training, sponsored this year by Avis Rent A Car, will be held Saturday, May 2, beginning at 1 PM. (Photo by Jeffrey Cardenas)

MALLORY MARKET

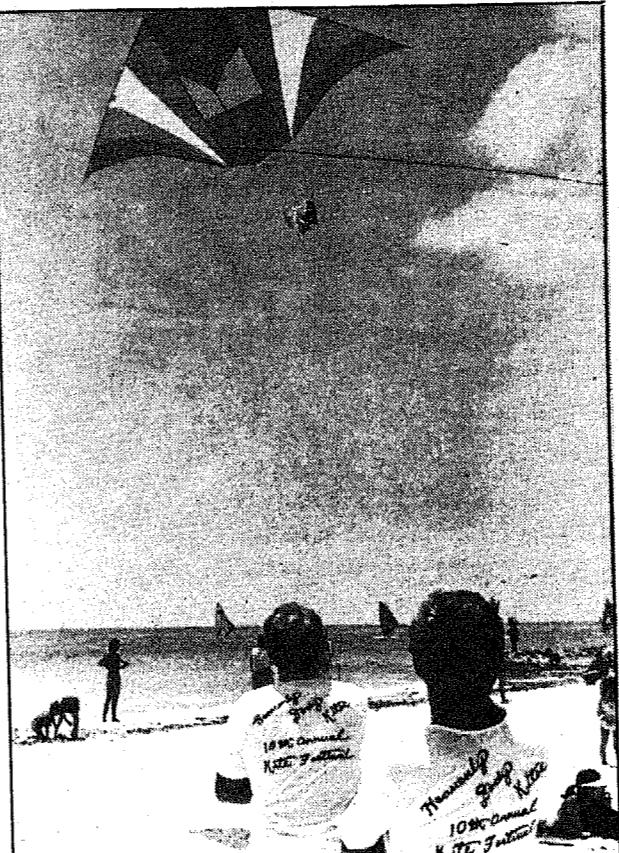
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296-4557 PARKING CLOSE BY . . . AT MALLORY SQUARE

Kites Fly in 11th Annual Festival



LOOK TO THE SKY -- Heavenly Body Kites will give away 100 kites at the 11th Annual Kite Festival from 11 AM to 3 PM on Key West's Smathers Beach, Sunday, May 3. (Photo by Jeffrey Cardenas)

The skies will again fill with color and movement when hundreds of kites catch the wind in the Heavenly Body Kites' 11th Annual Kite Festival at Key West's Smathers Beach Sunday, May 3.

Spectacular kites will dip and soar through the sky as Greg Lavelle, better known as the Key West Kiteman, and

many avid kitefliers from all over the country participate in this popular event. The first 100 children to arrive at the kite festival will receive free kites donated by Heavenly Body Kites.

Fifty dollar gift certificates will be presented to the youngest kiteflier, the oldest kiteflier, best hand-made kite,

longest kite flying, best kite performance, and the kiteflier coming the greatest distance.

This free family event is scheduled from 11 AM to 3 PM. For more information, contact Heavenly Body Kites, 409 Greene Street, Key West, FL, 33040, or call (305) 296-2535.

FAMILY EVENT -- Prime Minister of the Conch Republic and Mayor of Key West, Tom Sawyer, and his son, Steven, participate in the Kite Festival during this island nation's birthday. (Photo by Jeffrey Cardenas)

ATTENTION: Flagship *Wolf* challenges *Rachel and Ebenezer*. It's Schooner than you think.

WANTED: Recruits to defend the Conch Republic. Back to Basics. Training for our army. Call 294-4440.

ATTENTION: Race you to Bed or Bed you to Race. FM 107-Miller Lite wheeling 'em in. Call 296-7511.

Crime Report

Inconvenient Theft

The headquarters of the Conch Republic Army was broken into late yesterday and every toilet pedestal was removed from the premises. When investigating this hideous theft, officials said, "We have nothing to go on."

Case Solved

A rash of bonfires that broke out on Christmas Tree Island last week was the subject of a report to the Conch Republic

governors at a special meeting early yesterday. Police officials stated it was, "Just a case of someone arson around."

Sunset Uninterrupted

A 500 pound female visitor fell at Mallory Square last evening and rocked herself to sleep trying to get up. "If it wasn't for the fact she had pierced ears, we would have missed sunset," one eye witness stated.

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**Conch Republic
Celebration
Schedule of Events**

Saturday April 25

10 AM -- FM 107 Conch Republic Anniversary Bed Race & Parade and Blessing of the Bicycles and Parade

11 AM -- Marathon Offshore Challenge Powerboat Race

Thursday April 30

5 PM -- Conch Republic Constitutional Convention and Ambassadors Reception

Friday May 1

8:30 AM -- Key West Fishing Tournament Conch Republic Kick-Off

6:00 PM -- Battle of the Tall Ships and Arrival of Dignitaries

6:00 PM -- Marathon to Key West Regatta - Skippers Meeting

7:00 PM -- Tribute to the Conch Republic "Founding Fathers"

7:30 PM -- Wreckers Party at Pier House

Saturday May 2

8:00 AM -- Marathon to Key West Sailboat Race

8:30 AM -- Second Day of Conch Republic Fishing Tournament

1:00 PM -- Basic Training for the Conch Republic Army

3:00 PM -- First Sailboats arrive in Key West

6:00 PM -- Party for Marathon to Key West Racers

7:00 PM -- Awards Party for Key West - Conch Republic Tournament

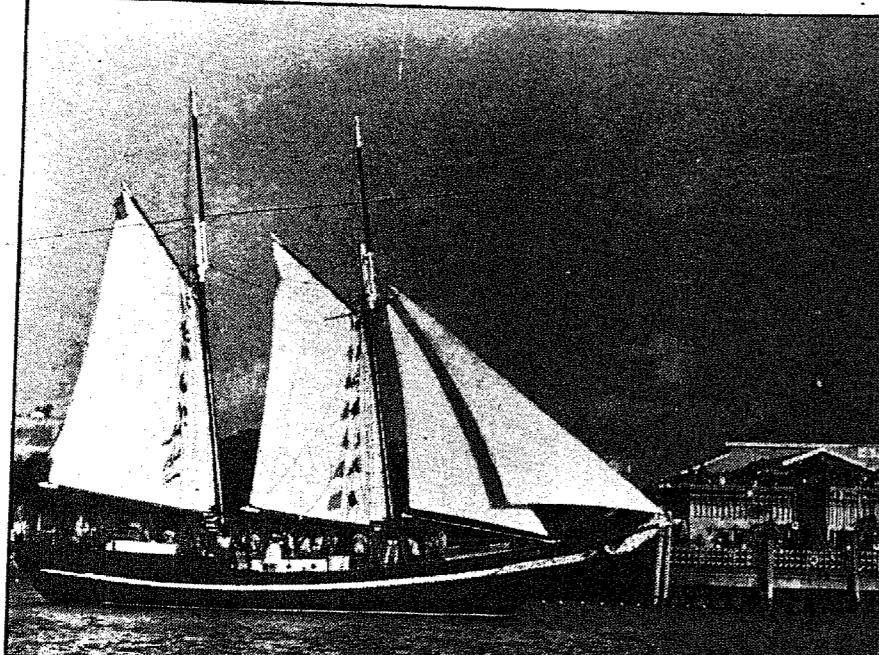
9:00 PM -- Military Ball at The Reach

Sunday May 3

11:00 AM -- Heavenly Body Kites 10th Annual Kite Festival

Noon -- Conch Republic Crossing Windsurfing Regatta

Tall Ships Battle in Harbor, Founders Honored



KEY WEST -- Only in the Conch Republic can you see the Admiral of the Conch Fleet, Wilhelmina Harvey, Prime Minister Tom Sawyer, and many members of his cabinet arrive at Mallory Dock aboard two of the finest schooners afloat on the seven seas.

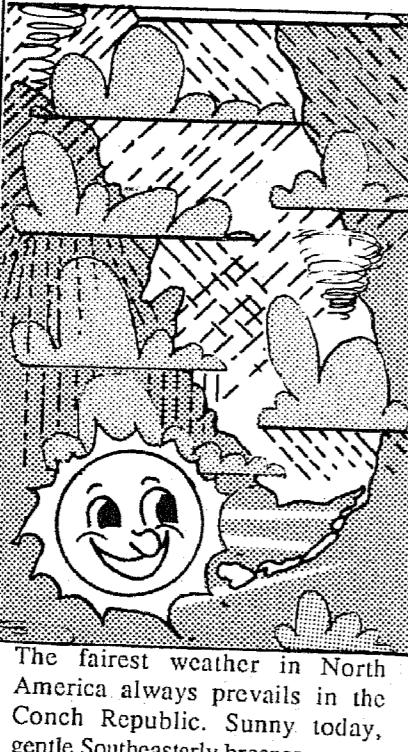
The official flagship of this island nation, the Schooner *Wolf*, will sail across the sunset and do ritual battle once more with the *Rachel* and *Ebenezer* at 6 PM, Friday, May 1. Each ship will have its own flotilla of smaller vessels complete with pirates.

The Battle of the Tall Ships will be a cacophony of cannons, music, swords and water balloons, an event not to be missed at the junction of the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.

Immediately following the tall ship battle the Founding Fathers of the Conch Republic will be honored in Mallory Square.

SEA BATTLE -- Conch Republic Flagship Schooner *Wolf* will battle the *Rachel* and *Ebenezer* in Key West Harbor, Friday, May 1, at 6 PM. Cannons and water balloons ready. (Photo by Jeffrey Cardenas)

Weather Report



FOUNDING FATHERS -- The Founding Fathers of the Conch Republic will be honored in Mallory Square just following the Battle of the Tallships, Friday, May 1. Pictured at last year's Tribute are (left to right) Prime Minister Tom Sawyer, Founder John Magliola, First Prime Minister Dennis Wardlow, Founder Townsend Keiffer (behind Wardlow), Admiral of the Conch Republic Navy Wilhelmina Harvey (and former Mayor of Monroe County), and Founder Ed Swift. (Photo by Jeffrey Cardenas)

The Conch Republic News

The Official Publication Of The



April 25-May 3, 1987

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SPECIAL EVENTS

• Annual Plant Ramble, Key West Garden Club, Joe Allen Garden Center, So. Roosevelt Blvd., April 16 & 17. All plants for sale; browse and enjoy!
• Conch Republic Celebration begins April 25 through May 3. See special pull-out section in this issue.

Sugar & Spice Beauty Pageant; girls from ages newborn to 15 and over eligible. Sunday, April 17, 1982, 10:00 AM, at the Conch Republic Elementary School. For information, call 294-9209.

First Annual Radio Auction, Live on WUS-FM, 104.7. To benefit Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce, Tuesday & Wednesday, April 14 & 15, 2 PM till 6 PM. To donate call 294-2411. For more info call 872-9403.

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"We Do It Our Way!"****Book Review****American Tropic** by David A. Kaufelt (Poseidon Press: \$17.95, 463 pp.)

by Philip Burton

This novel is set in Florida and the Caribbean and covers 350 years, 1512-1961. It tells a powerful and compelling story of generations descended from three oddly assorted young people who were saved from the Inquisition and taken to the New World: a Jew who was still in a catatonic state from seeing his father, mother and sister burned at the stake, an actress who had been accused of witchcraft,

and a well-born Spaniard who had been condemned for reading a Spanish translation of the Bible. They meet on their ship of escape, *La Nao*, one of three commanded by Ponce de Leon, and their common plight draws them together.

The action shifts between Cuba and mainland Florida, and is firmly grounded in history. Several well-known figures play vital parts in the narrative, notably the formidable Andrew Jackson and the ambitious Julia Tuttle, and there are fascinating glimpses of the life of Indian tribes. The outstanding strength of the writing is in its delineation of a long gallery of memorable characters, all of them clearly individualized. Chief among them are some exceptionally strong-willed but very attractive women, starting with the actress,

Floridita; it is they who dominate the story. There are so many inter-related characters that I would have welcomed a genealogical table; it would have to have been given a double-page.

Much of the story takes place in Pensacola under its successive occupations by Spain, England, and the United States. Then there is the founding and development of Miami, followed by that of South Beach, which was made necessary because of the strictly guarded anti-semitism of Miami. The Cuban part of the story ends with the Castro revolution. The family names which occur throughout are Levi, from the fair-haired Jewish boy in the original trio, and de Cordoba, from the young hidalgo.

It is a usual temptation for the author of such a work as this, which requires a great

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deal of study and research, to be so obsessed by some of his findings that he feels he must share them with his readers, though they are not vital to the story he is

far-fetched. And there's a Foreword on John Cabot's discovery of Florida in 1498 which I could have done without. For me it would have been much more preferable to extend the story to 1971, or even better still, to 1981. I became so taken with the characters that I felt cheated when I had to leave the last two young de Cordobas, Victor and Paloma, as they were starting a new life in Florida, having escaped from Castro's Cuba. (I have just learned that there was originally a Sixth Part, but the author was persuaded to cut it out because the book would have been too long for commercial purposes.) But there still is a good shape to the novel as it stands, for it begins and ends with an escape from tyranny, the first from the Inquisition and the last from Communist Cuba.

To sum up, I was absorbed by this book. There is such variety and vividness in the characters and their actions that I feared the author's imagination and inventiveness would run dry before the end; they didn't.

*David A. Kaufelt*

telling. Thus he came upon an Indian legend about three black doves which would come to destroy the Indian world; the general significance of this is obvious but to particularize it seems to me unnecessary and

to leave the last two young de Cordobas, Victor and Paloma, as they were starting a new life in Florida, having escaped from Castro's Cuba. (I have just learned that there was originally a Sixth Part, but the author was persuaded to cut it out because the book would have been too long for commercial purposes.) But there still is a good shape to the novel as it stands, for it begins and ends with an escape from tyranny, the first from the Inquisition and the last from Communist Cuba.

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Memories of Dylan Thomas (Part I)

by Philip Burton

I am ashamed to say that I was not aware of the work of Dylan Thomas until 1943, though by that time he had had five books published. Now I am happy to remember that it was Richard Burton, when he was seventeen, who introduced me to the poetry. On Sunday mornings we went to different places of worship, he to his Welsh Church -- he always retained a fierce loyalty to the Welsh language -- and I to the Episcopal Church. We met for lunch. One Sunday he came in excitedly flourishing a newspaper and he exclaimed, "Listen to this," and he read "The force that through the green fuse drives the flower." My first reaction was one he was used to: "What does it mean?" "I don't know, but isn't it beautiful?" A second reading soon revealed the meaning, and thus began my rapid growth of admiration for Dylan Thomas.

I told that story to Paul Ferris, and in his biography of Richard he related it and then described it as "nonsense." The newspaper was the long extinct *Sunday Referee*, and it had printed Dylan's poem in its Poet's Corner in 1933, ten years before. I don't know how Richard got hold of the old paper but I'm certain that he did, and so introduced me to Dylan Thomas.

Three years later, in 1946, I first met Dylan. It was in London. Since 1937 I had been a freelance writer for the British



Photo by Nora Summers, Courtesy of Rollie McKenna ©

Dylan Thomas as a young man

Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), and in 1945, when the war was over, I joined the staff as the Features Producer for Wales. I spent some preliminary weeks in London to learn the workings of the Features

Department, and during that time I was given the use of an impressive office in Rothwell House. Dylan had heard of my being in London and he came to see me. He obviously hoped to get a contract from me,

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not knowing that I had been warned that he might do so in the hope of getting an advance payment on a contract he had no intention of fulfilling. For my part, by this time I had boundless admiration for his poetry and longed to work with him.

He sat across a large table from me and we engaged in an amiable but searching conversation. At last I asked, "How do you pronounce your name?" After a smiling moment he said, "In Wales they call me 'Dullan,' in London they call me 'Dillan,' but my intimate friends call me 'Shit Face.'" That was the beginning of a very pleasant and rewarding friendship.

In May of the following year, 1947, I produced and directed his radio program, *Return Journey*. It was a return to Swansea, his birthplace, in search of the boy and adolescent he had been. I went with him on his search. The centre of the town he had known was no more. It had been wiped out by German bombs. In the program he would list the names of more than fifty stores, etc. which were now only names in his memory. He took me, of course, to the house where he had been born; it was in a row overlooking the town and Swansea Bay. His father had been the English Master in the very good Swansea Grammar School. One of the places I remembered visiting with him was an old secondhand bookstore; it was on the second floor to get to which we had to climb stairs. In the program, in which he was to be his own Narrator, he described himself, in the third person, as being at eighteen "... above medium height. Above medium height for

Wales, I mean; he's five foot six and a half. Thick blubber lips; snub nose; curly mousebrown hair; one front tooth broken after playing a game called Cats and Dogs, in the Mermaid, Mumbles; speaks rather fancy; truculent; plausible; a bit of a shower-off; plus-fours and no breakfast, you know; ... a bombastic adolescent provincial Bohemian with a thick-knotted artist's tie made out of his sister's scarf ... a gabbling, ambitious, mock-tough, pretentious young man." Fourteen years later he was clearly recognizable.

The payment for the projected program would depend upon its length, and so, of course, would the advance payment. Dylan said it would be at least an hour. I was determined not to be one of the suckers caught by his specious promises; much to his dismay I insisted on a preliminary estimate of 30 minutes. When the handwritten script finally arrived I timed it to be 25 minutes; it had to be 29 1/2 minutes.

The program was broadcast from the Cardiff Studios, and Dylan came to stay with me for some days before we started rehearsals so that we could finalize the script. I had been told that his alcoholic addiction at that time was to "Irish Porter." I got in a case of it. My memory is that he didn't touch it; he was too happily engaged in working on the script. I pointed out that it was too short and that he had omitted two important aspects of his youthful years, girls and books. "All right," he said, "you do one and I'll do the other." He didn't know that I had something of a gift for pastiche; I had written a whole script in the

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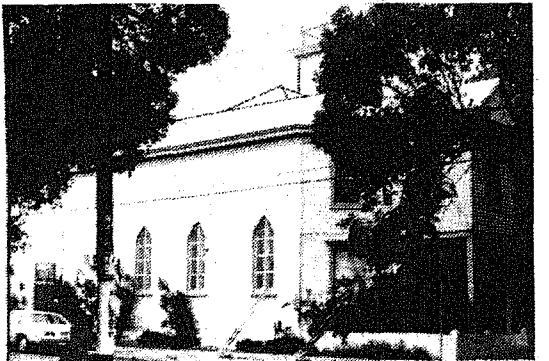
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style of J.M. Synge. "Choose," I replied. "Girls, of course," he said. I remembered the secondhand bookstore, and I wrote a scene in which an old preacher, who was looking on a Saturday morning for a sermon for the following day, described the boy who seemed to be using the store as a library; he was well-known to the preacher and the owner of the store.

The live broadcast was a big success and the recording of it was broadcast several times. It was amply reviewed in the press. One of the notices -- I think it was in the *Spectator* -- made particular mention of the scene in the bookshop. I understand that Dylan often spoke of this with great amusement; I don't know how he embellished it but I'm sure he did. When *Return Journey* was published in the volume, *Quite Early One Morning* -- and this was after Dylan's death -- I insisted that the scene in the bookstore be omitted. The editor was a good friend of mine, Aneirin Talfan Davies, and he agreed somewhat reluctantly. I think he was disappointed not to include the footnote he had written about the scene.

Almost thirty years after the first broadcast of *Return Journey*, when Paul Ferris was writing his biography of Dylan Thomas, he listened to a recording of the broadcast and followed it with the published text. He was puzzled by the discrepancy; I think it was Aneirin who enlightened him. I felt I owned it to Dylan that the words in his books should be wholly his.

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pertaining to the subject's life or career. Turning the page, the reader discovers the name that person adopted professionally, plus a photo and biographical information.

According to Chetkin, the book is far from being an exposé of Jews who are hiding their true faith. Instead it's a celebration of Jewishness, proudly pointing to those who, in one form or another, have "made it." And it's a good idea -- an upbeat, informative book. Also included are sections on Jewish baseball and basketball figures, a pop quiz about Jews who have influenced history, and a breakdown of the world's Jewish population, country by country.

Commercially successful as his book has been, Len Chetkin didn't originally dream

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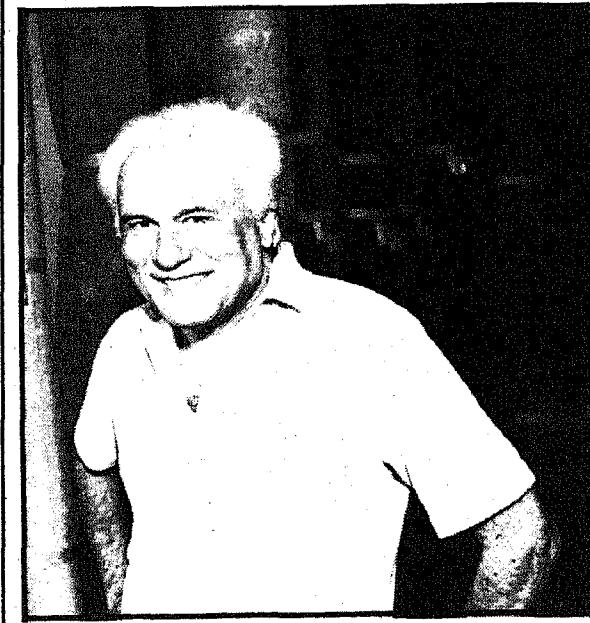
of winning kudos as an author. In fact, from an early age he was entranced by the world of music, and eventually traveled the country as a member of a musical trio. When the trio landed in Key West for an engagement, Chetkin knew he'd found himself a home.

Shortly thereafter, he gave up the exhausting life of a traveling musician and opened the first Carpet and Casuals store, on Flagler Avenue. The business, begun on a shoestring, has proved very profitable. Years ago Chetkin was able to buy the valuable Duval Street building that has housed Carpet and Casuals since he moved from Flagler to the downtown area, and he has recently renovated the building and opened it to an attractive group of upscale shops. And if, these days, Carpet and Casuals is not Len Chetkin's first passion, at least it provides a steady base from which he can explore other careers and lifestyles.

Singing, for example. Len, who many years ago appeared in several local theatre productions, gave a benefit concert to raise money for Key West's Bayview Park in 1982. It has been suggested that the well-attended benefit might have been a self-imposed test for Chetkin, to see if he could still charm a crowd with his voice -- because, less than a year later, Len was in New York about to open his nightclub act at Manhattan's famed Downing Square. Only a man with boundless enthusiasm could have pulled that off. Chetkin did.

Len's outgoing nature is balanced by a deep interest in religious questions, such as how to devise a modern-day interpretation of the teachings of Jesus. He is also

intrigued by the world of the spirit, having become involved in spiritualism when he met his wife, Emmy. Emmy, although not



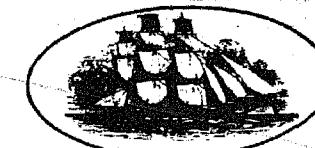
Len Chetkin

there. Len began the interview, that late March morning, by reminiscing about writing his book.

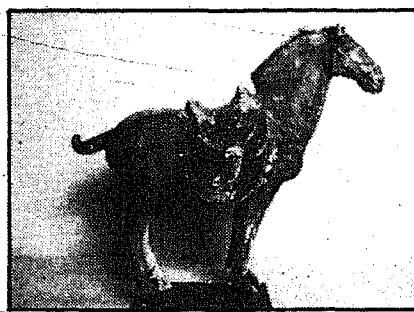
Chetkin on *Guess Who's Jewish*: "I had always wondered why some Jewish person didn't write a book about the Jewish people who have changed their names, because so many of them have. There's a little meat there to do a book. Originally I was just going to use the word 'guess' as a provocative title ... then I decided to make kind of a game book out of it, where you can actually have the opportunity to guess who it is. So I went ahead with it, and when I got the manuscript done I took it to one publisher and he bought it. One publisher. Amazing. You know, the thing about getting this book done is, it's given me a tremendous amount of confidence. It has sold around 25,000 copies."

On his second book: "The new one, which I'm about three quarters of the way through, will be the same format, only it'll be *Guess Who Said*, subtitled, *How Wrong Can You Be*. It's going to be good. *Guess Who Said* is going to be things that are total lies or total miscalculations by prominent people. For example, guess who said, 'I guess we'll run through those Indians in one day.' Obviously, we know who that is. You turn the page, there's a picture of Custer. And then an actual newspaper article, 'Custer Massacred.'

On the craft of writing: "To put something together takes time. It takes a long time. You know, the truth of the matter is, if you get at it, it gets done. But if you say, 'Oh no, I've got to go down and get a drink,' or something, it never gets



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done. You can accomplish a lot if you really stay at it. You know what the whole thing is? Trust your thoughts. Write what comes into your head. It could be unbelievable, things that you didn't even know were in there. The psychics all say to me, 'Keep writing.'

On Carpet and Casuals, started in 1966: "I started at 3259 Flagler Avenue, with six little deck-board sample books and \$100 worth of remnants. Six months later they tore up Flagler Avenue. I came downtown in July of '66 and I've been downtown ever since."

On Key West: "I came in December of '64 from New Jersey. I was on the road in music and I got booked into the Key Wester when it was called Carousel Lounge. I just never left. All through my life, to live near water was a dream for me. As a little kid, I used to think, 'Wow, to have a house near water -- unbelievable.' That's the way I felt. It just shows you, what you visualize, you get."

On his early Key West memories: "Coming down here was great. When I first arrived, I took a ride down South Roosevelt Boulevard. I thought that was the greatest ride in the world. There's something about Key West ... in those days there wasn't a fast food place in the city except a Royal Castle. Almost the entire North Roosevelt Boulevard was empty. There were no shopping centers. The downtown area when I came here was the shopping area. Shortly afterwards Searstown opened. Then downtown became Death Valley. It was just store after

empty store, and little by little it started to be renovated."

On the recent renovation of the shops in his building: "It turned out well. I think maybe this'll be the beginning of people trying to do something a little nicer."

On the music business and being on the road: "You can have the road. The road gets old fast if you're not making it. You're here, and you're a thousand miles away two days later. That gets old. We had a trio: piano, drums, and myself singing and playing bass -- and I never was much of a bass player. So I was never unhappy about putting the bass down -- I didn't care if I ever played again. I am a singer, though. I like to sing. I sang my first song, called 'Don't Fence Me In,' in a synagogue in Bradford, Pennsylvania, when I was 14 years old."

On his love of tennis: "I play a lot of tennis. I'm not great, but I'm good. I play at Bayview, play at the Key Wester, play over at the beach. Tennis is a great game. In '82, when I was playing seven days a week, in my age group I was ranked tenth, which is good in the state of Florida. I had never played those tournaments around the state, and I used to think to myself, 'How good can they be, these guys? I mean, I'm playing pretty good tennis.' So I entered a few tournaments, and found that I was doing pretty well. I continued to enter and got ranked tenth."

On his wife, Emmy: "I've never met anyone who is so in tune with human relations as she is. You tell her a problem, she zeros right in on it. You tell her

something that's happening, she zeros right in on what the answer is. She's really uncanny about it. She just seems to know. Without a doubt, my life began when I met her. She got me into spiritualism. We're building a house in New York state, and the area we're building it in is a spiritualist community."

On his deep interest in spiritualism: "Spiritualism ... you know, any psychic will tell you that everybody is psychic. It's just a matter of being trained, becoming aware. On four or five different occasions after meditations at seminars, I have read somebody just as if I'm talking to you. Here's the whole key to it -- you have to learn to trust your thought. You cannot analyze the thought. You've got to trust what comes into your head."

On his future plans: "My next thing is, I'm going to try to lecture on love. Not only on love, but self-esteem. This is what I want to do, and I'm going to do it. My life is just beginning."

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Key West Botanical Gardens Reopen

by Ellie Crane

The fluctuating history of the Key West Botanical Garden will lead the reader to the importance of the reopening of that garden on Sunday, April 12, 1987.

Just as the City of Key West has had its years of prosperity and times of hardship, the Key West Botanical Garden has had its ups and downs since its inception.

During the depression, when Key West went bankrupt, the Botanical Garden was founded and developed under the Federal Emergency Relief Administration as a showplace for tourists. Located on Stock Island it was comprised of 55 acres of hardwood hammocks and two fresh water ponds. Part of this tract was developed into gardens where exotic plants were introduced amongst the natives.

During World War II the garden was neglected. However, in the early 1950s the Key West Garden Club, the Monroe County Audubon Society and the Boy and Girl Scouts cleared the trails and labeled the trees.

Over the years portions of the garden were encroached upon and designated for other purposes. By 1960 only a small remnant of the original tract of garden and hammock remained, approximately 11 acres.

Following hurricane Donna in 1960 civic leaders from many local organizations renewed their interest in saving what remained of the garden. The city made a resolution that this described parcel of land remain a permanent botanical garden and arboretum. A Community Advisory Council was formed for the restoration and perpetuation of the garden and it was formally opened with a garden party in 1961. The garden flourished for 5 years.

Again the garden became neglected until in 1972 the Key West Garden Club secured a lease from the city to have and to hold the

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property with the following agreement: a) that the leased premises be used for botanical gardens and remain open, free to the public; b) that the necessary care and maintenance be provided to operate said premises; and c) that continued permission be granted for nature study by local groups.

That lease was renewed in 1976 for 15 years. Club members worked towards the restoration of the garden until 1978 when



Maureen Shaw-Huckel tags tree

In 1985 the garden club renewed its commitment. In 1987 long range goals were established, one of which was to seek funds for the garden's restoration, preservation and maintenance.

Ongoing improvements to the garden include the clearing of underbrush, making paths of woodchips, identifying and labeling of trees and shrubs and the erection of a new sign at the entrance.

A reopening gala for the Key West Botanical Garden will be held on Sunday, April 12, from 3 to 6 PM (rain date April 19). The garden is located on Jr. College Rd. and the Key West Garden Club cordially invites the public to attend. Admission is free. There will be guided tours, noted speakers, entertainment, refreshments, and a drawing for prizes.

The purpose of the gala is to make the public aware of the revitalization of the garden and its importance as a wildlife sanctuary where people can come to relax, stroll through the woods and study the flora and fauna.

The Key West Garden Club is continuing to work towards the permanent preservation of this 11 acre plot because it contains one of the last two hardwood hammocks in the Key West environs and is the habitat for several endangered and rare species of plants and animals.

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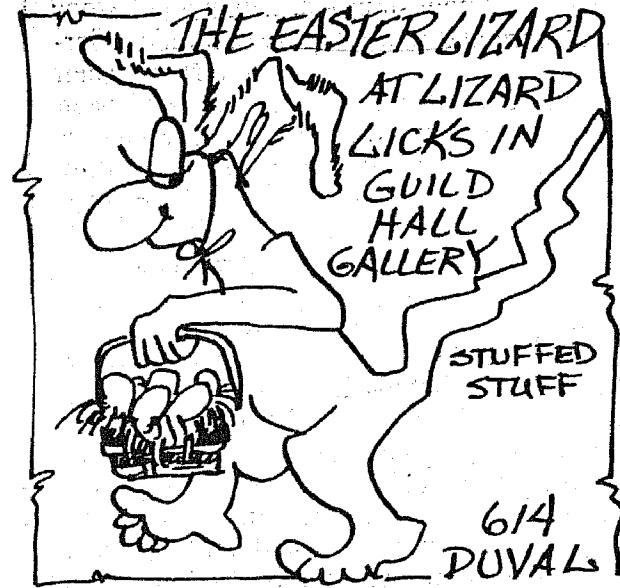
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GALLERY HOPPING

by Gordon Lacy

The movie critics killed *My Beautiful Launderette* with kindness and a lot of blather about political and racial unrest in London, altogether the last thing in the world I wanted to see. Well, it isn't that. It is funny violence and rib-tickling sex. A gay love affair with a happy ending and the heroine who would take either of the heroes or both of them simply vanishes between

trains, *deus ex machina*. I am longing for the "silents," however; not silent films, silent audiences. The first 20 minutes of any film is inaudible, the animals are feeding. When finally I could hear the dialogue, which is Pakistani English and Soho Cockney, I realized that it was not intended to be understood except for three or four unmistakeable jokes that manage to penetrate the assailed ears. I am going right back to see this film again and waiting for the day it hits the cassettes.

There was a great deal to be seen this month. At the Gingerbread, Craig Biondi's big handsome show offered several surprises in canvasses of football or hockey done in colors most un-Biondian. This



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14 April

BERTRAND PENOT

Photos

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ARISTOS GALLERY

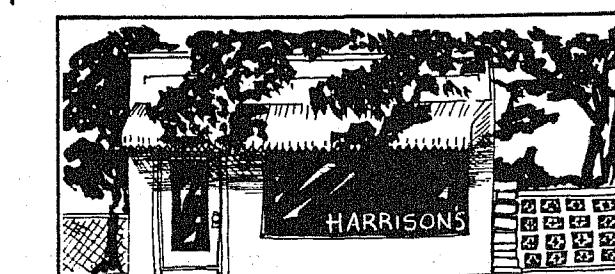
Barbara A. Cooper

(305) 296-0218
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painter grows and takes risks. John Kiraly showed eight large, romantic, and highly exotic landscapes in his show "Blame It on Brazil." All the paintings had red dots and had been pre-sold, which is lovely for the artist and eliminates opening night tensions and rivalries. For practically every painting we have sold this season there have been two people who cry, "Oh, that was the one I wanted" as you put the red star on. And they buy nothing. Kay Hoppick will be the Gingerbread's last one-man show of the season on the 7th of April for two weeks, followed by a group showing of the gallery's artists which will include new comer Patricia Townsend from England who paints small in oils, Michael Palmer who will show acrylics from the Cape and George Garcia who is a wood carver.

Karen at the Artist Warehouse will be showing Florence Miller's oils and watercolors and Wayne Pelke's clay reliefs. Karen has had the excellent idea to capture the Truman Annex as it is now in oils on canvas. We may all be grateful for these memories one day in the future.

The White Street Gallery opened the Nick Lawrence show at the very moment of the deluge on the 6th of March. A few hardy or adventurous supporters made it through the waters and were rewarded with drink and sustenance and a magical and very



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funny show, brainchild of Lawrence's fabulist imagination. Catastrophe struck again on the 21st at Michael Haykin's premiere in the form of a CES outage, unpardonable to my way of thinking, though we seem to be accustoming ourselves to this company's frailties. Haykin's painting is sheer genius and must be seen. His show ranged from tender to lyric to funny to landscape and back. I have not yet seen the new Vaughn Gibson paintings, mainly portraits, but feel we can safely count on some shocks and surprises when his show opens the 31st of March. On the 14th of April we are proud to present our actor-son, Bertrand Penot, in his first one-man photographic show.

Barbara Cooper of Aristos seems to be out of town at writing and I am told that the gallery will be open as usual showing the gallery's artists.

The Guild Hall Gallery is featuring Sonia Robinson's paper wall collages in vibrant pinks and lavenders. Gary Zimmerman will be featured and his new painted mirrors have a frosted art-deco look about them. Go see Poochie's new oils of Bahama Village; they are well worth the trip. Sue Sturtevant is showing mixed-media, watercolors and pastels. Judi Bradford is working on a large cartoon of downtown Duval St. that includes local people and Conch events of importance which will make up into a folding poster kit as a souvenir. Judi reports a lot of traffic in and out of the gallery and a constant turnover in the stock.

Helen Harrison of Harrison's has a stock

that fluctuates greatly too. Helen is a devotee of fabrics and textures; her own wood pieces are very smooth and polished indeed and she shows Diallo's sensuous calabashes. At the present she has a collection of cloth mats in the vivid colors of Panama and two larger African blankets, one a mud cloth. She also has some attractive pottery by Maggie Ruley and a coco de mer from the Seychelles that is explicitly suggestive.

Joe Pais of the Lane Gallery will be showing the French husband-wife team of Cattel and Magarez that had such success at the Fred Gros Gallery two seasons ago. This couple paint together, often on the same canvas, although they paint on about any old thing, including newspapers. We have one of their "throw-away" paintings and wouldn't dream of letting it go. They will be on view through the 18th of April.

On the 19th, Easter Sunday, the gallery will be given over to a one-man one-day show of Alice Terry's new oil paintings and decorated eggs and things. The tone of the show will be a light-hearted celebration of the season, a sort of ode to Spring, I gather, and any of my friends who don't go will be noted in my little black book for later execution.

Sandford says she is back to painting in water colors on a regular basis. She was up north on Cedar Key "somewhere offa Tampa" she says and is "going back on the street" which she assures me means painting the streets of Key West. She is now showing at Karen's Artist Warehouse.

The Haitian Art Company has just

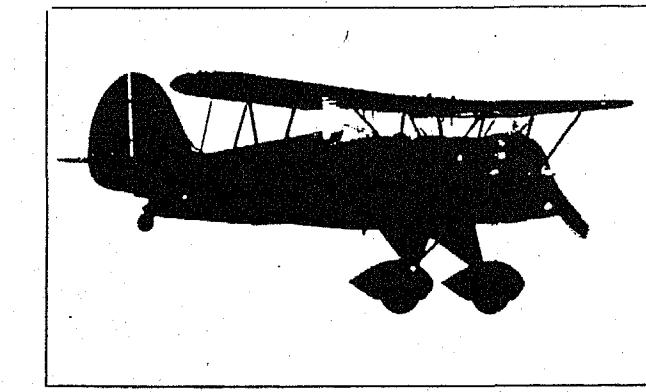
received a new shipment with a lot of wood sculpture and many highly colored papier-mache birds, lions, tigers, giraffes. Their stock of their three hottest stars had been depleted and is now renewed; the famous Haitian, G.E. Gourgue, a surrealist now living in Spain, H.R. Bresil who does lush waterfalls and egrets and Eric Jean-Louis, specialist in flamingoes and sea lagoons, all are represented anew at the gallery which is now open from 9 AM - 6 PM.

The Key West Art Center will continue the members' show through the beginning of May and Florence Recher is inaugurating demos by her various artists to explain techniques to the high school and junior high school students and let them experiment on the 6th and 7th of April. They will be transported by Conch trains, thanks to Ed Swift.

Jack Baron is recuperating after a year's hard labor and the huge success of his show "The Birthday Party" at the East Martello where he sold an unprecedented thirty-six pieces. Our most sincere congratulations, Jack.

On Saturday, the 28th of March, there was a party sponsored by Dave Tackett for the unveiling of the 43rd Mario Sanchez work donated to East Martello by Margo Golan. Mr. and Mrs. Sanchez were in attendance. The piece is entitled "The Fisherman's Dream." On the 7th of April Jeremiah Miller will present fifteen oil paintings concerning the South, people and places, primarily landscape work in tandem for the 4th time with photographer Martin Leassig who is showing fifteen color

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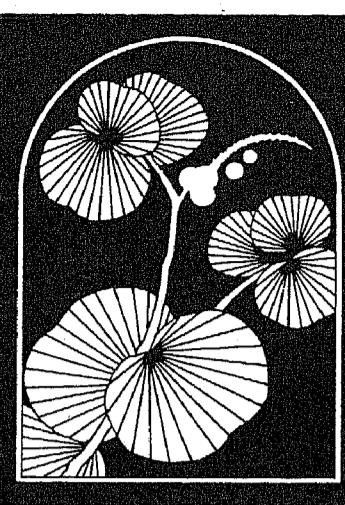
Farrington's will be showing prints (embossed serigraphs) of Neil Adamson of the U.S. Watercolor Society. These are Florida landscapes (Florida hammocks in the jargon, I am told) and Florida water birds -- the Roseate Spoonbill, Great Blue Heron, Brown Pelican -- all, Ned assures me, at reasonable prices and exceptional quality and quite suitable as approaching Mother's Day gifts. They are also featuring the watercolors of John J. Christian who paints the mangroves, tropical reef fish and bird life. Ned reiterates "Mother's Day."

John Martini is still working on his April presentations and says Lucky Street Gallery will have the gallery artists all represented as usual. Jean Louis LeBrun's paintings and his two-man show with John's sculpture are more subtle than his last year's product and while the color is still as strong, he has taken a decidedly romantic stance. His work is interesting and I mean that the eye is stimulated. It is very hard to classify cut steel sculptures as adorable without meaning to be snide, not at all my intention in relation to some of John Martini's charming creations. His figures are droll, some are painted, they have movement and one, a figure with green glass, left me quite smitten.

Connie Moody, Gallery 37 in Marathon, milemarker 51.5, singer and gallery owner, reports that she is slogging out the first year of every gallery. She and Bill have sold Alice Terry, Vaughn Gibson, a pair of Ron Clemons, some Irma Quigley, and are giving a show representing four decades of Joan Howe's work. On April 3, a touring situation in co-op with Lee Dodez at his showroom, and April 9, a Spring Garden show, in cooperation with the Marathon Garden Club.

Musically speaking, Moody will sing for us April 26, at Richard Lisker's Casa Gato, Bach, Handel, Strauss, Schubert, and heavenly.

I'm sorry I've been unable to get to the Gem Gallery at 316-A Simonton St. but promise a report on what they're up to for next issue.



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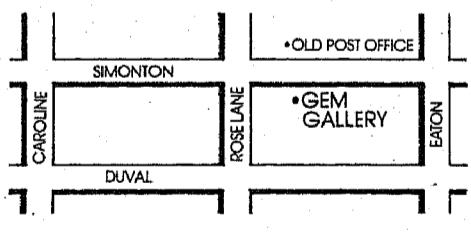


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researched in archives but which he actually composed, having no taste for research, and which became an immediate hit to the point where the deluded producer was obliged to

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THE ACCIDENT

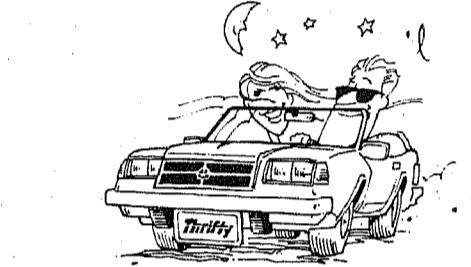


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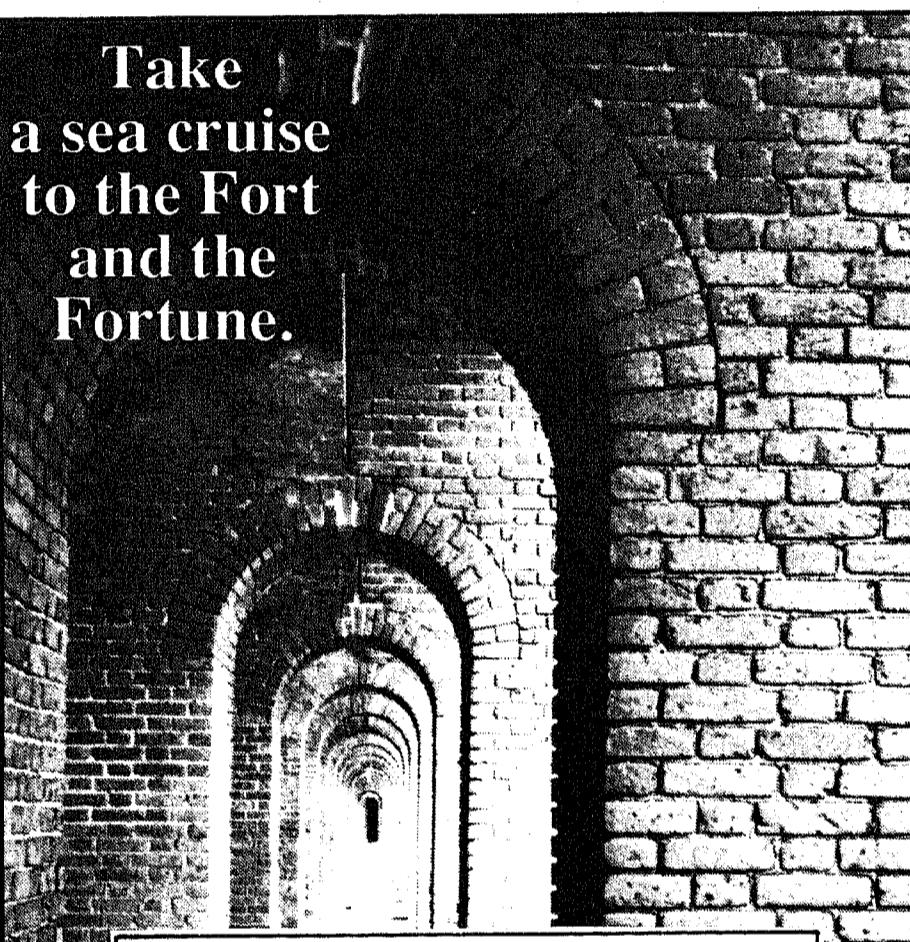
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Advance reservations are required. Tickets are available at the Treasure Salvors Museum and at other ticket outlets on the island.

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Pop goes the weasel! Backing car out of my driveway on Similar Sound, sticking head out window. Roommate standing in door eating a fried egg sandwich. I am off to Fleming Key to see 220 llamas that arrived on a stretch (longer) DC8 transport from La Paz, Bolivia. Roommate: "Well, Good Grief, I mean to say." Will he ever realize that I feed my imagination with encounter and experience. He doesn't see that there may be more to animals than we know. I can't justify to him how I got involved with Elizabeth Freeman's deaf white cat that can read lips. Or, the Similar Sound raccoon that can open a can of pineapple slices with a manual can opener. Roommate: "But your over-reaction spills over into the fruit and vegetable kingdom. Remember the day you bought an apple because you said you felt sorry for it. There was a bad brown bruise on one of its cheeks."

Perilously cutting into traffic which is whizzing bumper to bumper headed for Key West. Courage fortified by the breakfast Queen Elizabeth takes daily: black coffee, seven grapes and a piece of toast. (Addition: four string beans located on a saucer.) Speed past Tarmac, past an ethereal flash of aquamarine Gulf water. Running through my mind grocery list: one box of rigatoni, one kiwi, two frozen Dinner Classics, loaf very thin rye bread ... When you are slowed down to 35 mph, there is where I always pray, between the junior college turnoff and Holiday Inn on the Gulf, pray for a variety of prayees. Bless Pritam Singh, roommate, four offspring, four grands, bicycle riders in Key West, motorists coping with bicycle riders in Key West, Sunset, my ginger cat...

The guard at entrance to Trumbo Point. Here entered livestock trailers, roaring in

bearing 220 beautiful creatures, the llamas. Lois Krill, a fellow member of my University Women's Club, put me on to the llamas. There is her husband awaiting me, Galen Krill, our only government vet, to escort me over to mysterious Fleming Key. Cross bridge. Pass acres of heavily fenced ammunition storage, Fat Albert balloon tethered. Stop at the Harry S. Truman Animal Import Center, a big, white, featureless building wrapped around by the Gulf stream. You can see the gray rumps of mangrove islands all around hunched in the water like some odd ocean monsters.

Galen Krill is a vet who in Indiana treated farm cattle, declawed pet ocelot, delivered 4H calves, saved a poodle that O.D.'d on diet pills, diagnosed sick chickens. Now, he administers one of the five US quarantine import centers for detection of dreaded Foot and Mouth Disease. There was not been a case of FMD since 1929 in America, thanks to these centers — New York, Miami, Los Angeles, Honolulu, and Key West. Here, Doc Krill has lodged such exotics as water buffalo, a spider monkey sequestered from a pot boat bust, and llamas.

These regal beauties, the llamas, cousins to camels, will be here in the pens 90 days. I confess. It is love at first sight. Easy to understand why people like Michael Jackson and Kim Novak keep them as beloved companions. All of these probably

will be sold as pets or breeders of pets in New York. They can be housebroken. They stand about with their big eyes and you feel a positive emotional aura. Up in the thin air of their native Andes mountains, everything from their smallest hair to their droppings are used by the Indians. Their woven fleece keeps the Indians warm; their hides give him sandals, tallow for candles; braided long hairs make rope; excrement, dried, constitutes fuel for fire.

Look at this one, a tragedy queen. She probably stands four feet high in her exotic black and white coat, regarding me like a monarch, royally, humorously, down her loftily tilted nose up there at the end of a glorious neck. A poetic throat. Her melting brown eyes emote through incomparable

eyelashes. She starts to hum softly. Does this mean she likes me? Does it mean she knows something I never can know? Someone will buy her, perhaps paying \$8,000 for her. Males bring \$5,000. She will give her buyer a special joy. She is fastidious, placing her droppings tidily, a neat, modest pile of pills out of the way. It's strange, her being a cousin of a camel. She is a camelid. She was bequeathed all of the graces the poor camel missed. Usually she is aloof, proud and quiet. She is soft-footed, as she has no hooves. She is noted to be docile, affectionate but very feminine. Get her provoked and she SPITS. Remind you of anyone? The fellows tending the llamas learn to dodge. Spitting is a common social gesture of llamas if they are not pleased, and they do it to each other often. She shifts gracefully and turns that lovely head that appears to be so intelligent, and you sigh and wish she could wear a tiara. She is a "ruminator." She has five stomachs, and she chews alfalfa, legumes and other roughage. In her band of beauties there are some handsome/snobish prince males and there are babies, called juveniles. Babies are fed from bottles with nipples at times. Some of the llama visitors are black and white, shades of brown, often with dazzling designer patterns.

Doc Galen Krill ushers me through the complex, modern, no nonsense sanitizing rooms with their flawless methods of preventing FMD from ever entering our country. But, my heart rolls over and turns back to the beguiling llama. She is too gentle and exquisite ever to become a vicuna coat.

Pass back through the Trumbo Point guardpost, relinquish my card. A very efficient guard at the entrance. "Every pot must have its lid." Old French Proverb. On a base of ten, I give my llama a nine. One point off for spitting.

Safe Sex

by Robert Levitt

Most of us are aware of the new sexual revolution currently unfolding, especially those whose past or present includes multiple partners. The challenge presented by AIDS is being faced in all segments of society. Safe sex, an uncharted new realm for many of us, must be a part of our collective future if there is to be a future at all. These fundamental changes challenge our belief systems, our bodies and our creativity in unaccustomed ways. The resulting stress and confusion can strain relationships and lead to social and sexual dysfunction. The answer need not be celibacy, however. Just as education can calm irrational fears about AIDS, learning

the many options available under current safe sex guidelines can replace frustration with fun. So how do you find out about all this and "take the worry out of being close?"

Since the gay community has been dealing with the grim realities of AIDS for over six years, most of the large urban areas in the US now offer well-established programs of safe sex education and counseling. Using these varied programs as models, local counselors and AIDS organizations are teaming up to develop similar educational resources for Key West. Although these programs are mostly growing from within the local gay community, the information offered is equally applicable to anyone interested in making positive, healthful changes in their sexual behavior and is available to all.

On Saturday, April 4, there will be an all-day seminar on these new sexual behaviors directed primarily toward those involved with the physical and mental caring of persons with AIDS. The seminar will be led by John Acevedo, an educator and social worker who has developed several successful programs for the San Francisco AIDS Health Project. Although there will be a professional perspective to the day, the information and techniques are useful to any concerned persons and the event is open to the public. Topics to be covered will include historical perspectives, personal vs. sexual identity, loss issues, safe sex guidelines, verbal and non-verbal communication, and the presentation of a model for an eight-week educational support group. There will be audio/visual presentations, large and small group discussions and ample time for questions and answers. The seminar will be held at the Metropolitan Community Church, 1215 Petronia Street, from 9 AM until 5:30 PM and the cost is \$20. Pre-registration and further information are available by calling 296-2393 weekdays.

Mr. Acevedo will also lead an evening workshop on Friday, April 3, from 6:30-9:30 PM at the Old Plantation, at Southard and Thomas Streets. This event will differ from the full day seminar in several basic ways. Emphasis will be on the perspective of gay and bisexual men, so the presentation will be more graphic and narrowly defined. Entitled "Hot and Healthy Sex," the workshop is similar to ones Acevedo regularly leads in San Francisco, and he hopes it will be equally popular on an ongoing basis in Key West. This event is probably not appropriate for the general public.

AIDS Help, Inc. has just received a grant from the state of Florida to conduct two months of one-to-one counseling for those with questions about changing to safer sexual behaviors. Most of this counseling is done on the telephone to encourage candid exchange. Experienced counselors are available various day, evening and weekend hours to answer questions about AIDS, safe sex transitions and other related issues. To use this free service, call 296-6196, and you will be given further information about the service and how to contact the counselors.

These programs are just the beginning of a local response to serious and complex issues in our community, and sponsors hope similar educational efforts will be developed on an ongoing basis. Weekly support groups already meet for persons with AIDS, bereaved loved ones, holistic healing and other topics involving AIDS. The next area of need is in education of those less directly involved with AIDS care but seriously interested in AIDS prevention. For now, that kind of education and behavioral change is our only real defense.

To stay abreast of future educational developments, please call one of the following: Monroe County AIDS Education Project, 294-8302; AIDS Help, Inc., 296-6196; or Helpline, 296-4357/294-5463. Any of these organizations welcome suggestions and volunteers.

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Metropolitan Community Church, Key West

by Paul Cherry

Metropolitan Community Church, Key West (MCC Key West) is now permanently housed in the handsomely and tastefully done renovation of the old Salvation Army building at 1215 Petronia Street. Three spectacular stained glass windows, designed and executed by Wayne Smith and Greg McDonald, grace the renovation and the entire restored building is indeed a remarkable monument to the faith of this small and dedicated congregation and its pastor, Reverend Steven Torrence.

On June 12, 1980, MCC Key West achieved Mission Status from the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC). The UFMCC was founded in October of 1968 in Los Angeles, its present central office, by the Reverend Dr. Troy Perry. Reverend Perry felt the call to proclaim to Christian people alienated because of their sexual orientation from their own churches that they were still included in God's love. Reverend Perry created a fellowship of Christians who seek growth through a continuing spiritual pilgrimage. As a fellowship group, the members' mutual commitment to love and to spiritually serve as their unifying bond even though each member's basic theological beliefs may range from Fundamentalism to Catholicism.

The UFMCC is now a worldwide fellowship of 30,000 members with 243 churches in eleven countries. The UFMCC

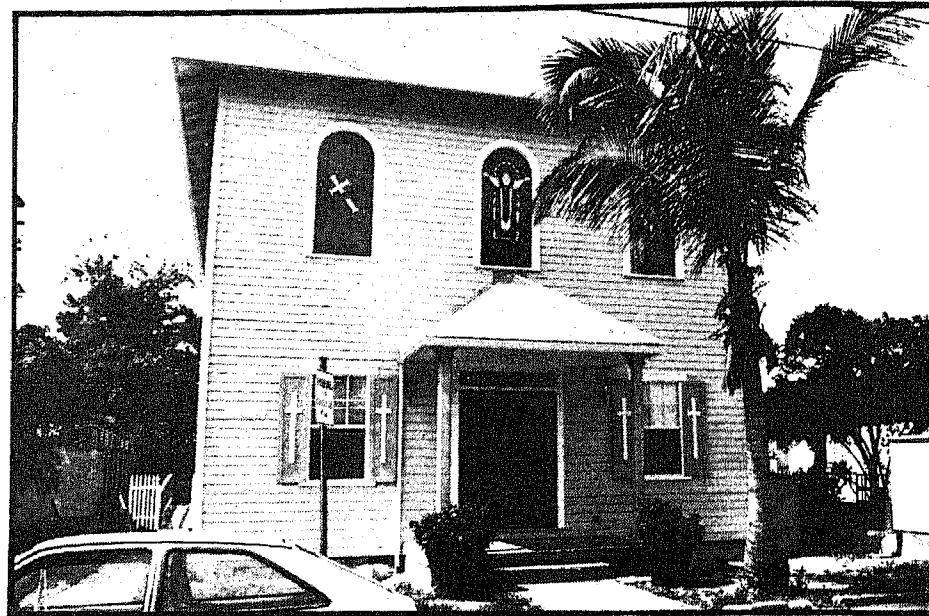


Photo by Rickard Wadewitz

follows a congregational style government with local churches having considerable autonomy. MCC Key West is one of eighteen churches in Florida.

In 1980, twelve members of MCC Key West rented space at the Women's Club at 319 Duval Street to hold their meetings. The membership fluctuated until 1985 when the church extended a call to Reverend Steven Torrence who was based in Seattle, Washington. Reverend Torrence arrived in August of 1985 to meet the "challenges" — a dwindling congregation and a homeless church.

The charisma of Reverend Torrence, a devoted congregation, and the benevolence of Mr. Lucio Petrocelli helped to alleviate the "challenges." By January 1986, due to Reverend Torrence's personal appeal, the fellowship membership had increased to 62 members, giving MCC Key West Chartered Church Status — the highest status a fellowship can achieve, and Mr. Lucio Petrocelli of New York City offered a gift of \$50,000 to build a church if the congregation could match the amount within three months. Reverend Torrence and his congregation created a "Three Phase Program" to reach their goal — a permanent home.

Phase I was completed in two months with \$54,000 donated by members. The first "challenge" was met. Phase II was to raise additional funds and to find a suitable building for renovation. By June 1986, a building was purchased and another \$150,000 had been raised through donations and benefits. Phase III is to continue to raise funds and to complete the

kitchen, the social hall and the landscaping.

MCC Key West believes in God as Creator, Christ and the Holy Spirit. They practice the traditional sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. They adhere to the historic articles of faith as expressed in the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed. Before becoming a member, one must first attend three instructional classes under the guidance of Reverend Torrence. The three classes are: History; Basic Tenets of Christian Faith; and Commitment.

The purpose of MCC Key West is not primarily to reach out only to the gay community, but to the needs and the services of the entire community. Reverend Torrence devotes ten hours a week to the Hospital Ministry Program and ten hours a week to DELPHOS — an alcohol and drug rehabilitation program. MCC Key West presently houses AIDS Help, Inc., an organization funded by a grant from the state to administer financial assistance to those suffering from AIDS or from ARC (Aids Related Complex) who are unable to work. The office space is limited to retain all the files and further office space is needed.

MCC Key West will be commemorating the dedication of their church building April 24 to April 26 with a "Celebration Weekend."

Friday Evening, April 24
6:00-8:30 PM -- "Celebration" Sunset Cruise -- \$15. Door prizes, raffle, food, cash bar. (Reservations necessary)

Saturday Morning, April 25
10:00-10:30 AM -- Coffee & Donuts in the Church Social Hall

10:30 to 11:30 AM -- Seminar: "Homosexuality and The Bible," The Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey

Saturday Evening, April 25
7:00-7:45 PM -- Pizza Party in the Church Social Hall

8:00-9:00 PM -- Singspiration & Message by the Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey

Sunday Morning, April 26
11:00-12:00 PM -- Dedication Service with the Rev. Steven Torrence, Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey, and Rev. Frankye White

12:00-1:30 PM -- Social Hour

For further information and for reservations for the cruise, please contact Rev. Steven Torrence, (305) 294-8912.

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296-3648. Dennis Clark, pastor. Sunday school 9:45 am,
Sunday services 11:00 am and 7:00 pm, Thursday service
7:00 pm.

S. James Missionary Baptist Church, 312 Olivia,
296-5593. Fred L. Carter, DD, pastor. Sunday worship
11:00 am and 6:00 pm, Sunday school 9:30 am.

Big Coppit First Baptist Church, Ave. F, MM 10,
294-4118. Randy Kitchens, Pastor. Sunday worship 11:00
am and 7:30 pm, Sunday school 9:45 am, prayer meeting
Wed. evenings at 7:30.

Fifth St. Baptist Church, 2318 Fogarty Ave., 294-
2255. Rev. R. Hetherington. Sunday worship 11:00 am
and 7:00 pm, Sunday school 9:45 am.

First Baptist Church, 524 Eaton St., 296-8544. Charles
Teagle Jr., Pastor. Sunday worship 11:00 am and 7:00
pm, Sunday school 9:30 am. Wednesday evening
service 7:00.

Key West Baptist Temple, 5727 Second Ave., Stock
Island. Morris Wright, pastor. Sunday worship 10:50 am
and 6:30 pm, Sunday school 9:45 am, senior citizen Sun-
day service 2:30 pm, Wednesday evening prayer service
7:00.

Sugarloaf Baptist Mission, meeting at Sugarloaf
Elementary School, 45-2204. Rev. Mark Beasley, pastor.
Sunday school 9:45 am, worship service 11:00 am. Vacation
bible school for children ages 3 thru 12 July 14-25 Mon.
thru Fri. 9:00 am to 12 noon, at Sugarloaf Elementary
School.

CATHOLIC

St. Bede's Catholic Church, 2700 Flagler Ave.,
294-2984. Rev. Thomas F. Mullane, pastor. Mass Monday
10:30 am at Senior Citizen Plaza, Tuesday thru Friday
9:00 am in the church; Sunday 9:00 am, 11:15 am, 7:00
pm in the church; Vigil Mass Saturday 7:00 pm.

St. Mary Star of the Sea, Truman Ave. & 1010 Windsor
Lane, 294-1018. Sunday Mass 10:30 am, Spanish service
Sunday evening 6:00, daily Mass at 8:00 am.

LUTHERAN

Grace Lutheran, 2713 Flagler Ave., 296-5161. Rev.
Paul N. Rauscher, pastor. Sunday services 9:00

am, Sunday school and adult Bible class 10:15 am.

Elementary school for three-year-olds thru sixth grade.

Holy Trinity, 3424 N. Roosevelt Blvd., 294-1305.

Donald Johnson, pastor. Sunday worship 11:00 am.

METHODIST

Cornish Memorial A.M.E. Zion, 702 Whitehead St.,

294-2350. Dr. F. Isaac Lowe. Sunday worship 11:00, Sun-
day school 9:30 am.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Cosmic Lightbearers, 721 Waddell Ave., 294-0294.

Rev. Jeanette Bottoms. "We are a small group of New Age
seekers who currently use the natural settings of Key West
as our place of worship. Thursday 7:30 pm, Higgs Beach
gazebo."

Gospel Chapel, 720 Southard St., 294-4351.

Metropolitan Community Church, Universal Fellow-
ship, 1215 Petronia Street, 294-8912

Movement of Spiritual Inner Awareness, 1005
Seminary St., 294-6739. Rev. Sheri Fylyk. Taped
seminars by John-Roger, Tues. evenings 7:30 pm.

PRESBYTERIAN

Peace Covenant Presbyterian, 2610 Flagler, 294-
1223. Sunday service 11:00 am, Sunday school 9:15 am.

Trinity Presbyterian USA, 717 Simonton St., 296-
3318. Rev. Albert W. Moses. Sunday service 11:00 am,
Sunday school 9:30 am.

QUAKERS

Quakers, Sunday 10:30 am. Information 294-1523.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Seventh-Day Adventist, 1006 Thomas St., 294-4077.

SYNAGOGUE

Congregation B'Nai Zion, 750 United St., 296-5739.

Rabbi Sol Landau. Services on Fri. evenings at 8:00.

UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST

Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Key West, at the

Women's Club, 319 Duval Street, 294-3529; 296-4522.

Sunday Services 10:00 AM.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

First Congregational, 527 William St., 296-8633. Rev.

V. K. Relyea. Sunday services 11:00 am and 7:00 pm.

Sunday school 9:45 am.

UNITY

Unity of the Keys, 3424 Duck Ave., 296-5888. Sunday

11:00 am, Tuesday evening course in miracles 7:00 pm,

Thursday 11 am basic Unity principles.

WESLEYAN METHODIST

Holiness Wesleyan Methodist, 800 Eisenhower Dr.,

294-4742. Raymond Shreve, pastor. Sunday worship

11:00 and 7:30 pm, Sunday school 9:45 am, Wednesday

prayer meeting 7:30, Thursday evening service at 7:00.

Church Directory

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

First Church of Christ Scientist, 327 Elizabeth St., 296-8215.
Sunday services 10:00 am. Reading room open Tuesday and

Thursday.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church of Christ, 1710 Von Phister St., 296-3331 or
294-2202.

Lower Keys Church of Christ, 1609 Patricia St., 294-

3042, 82-9721. Sunday Bible study 10:00 am, Sunday

worship 11:00 am, Wednesday worship service at 7:00 pm.

CHURCH OF GOD

Church of God, 1419 White St., 296-8844. R.W. Tum-
mond, pastor. Sunday worship 11:00 am and 7:00 pm,
Sunday school 9:45 am, family night Thursday at 7:30.

EPISCOPAL

Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, 901 Flagler Ave.,
296-3286. Rev. Neal H. Brown. Sunday services 7:30 and
10:00 am, Sunday school 9:15 am, Holy Communion
Wednesday evening at 7:30.

St. Paul's, 401 Duval St., 296-5142. Rev. Jack B.
Meyer. Sunday worship 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 am; Sunday
school 9:00 am, Wednesday services 7:00 and 9:00 am.

St. Petre's, 1001 Center St., 296-2346. Rev. Norbert M.
Cooper. Sunday services 11:00 am, Sunday school 10:00
am; Mass on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:00 am.

LUTHERAN

Grace Lutheran, 2713 Flagler Ave., 296-5161. Rev.
Paul N. Rauscher, pastor. Sunday services 9:00 am,
Sunday school and adult Bible class 10:15 am.

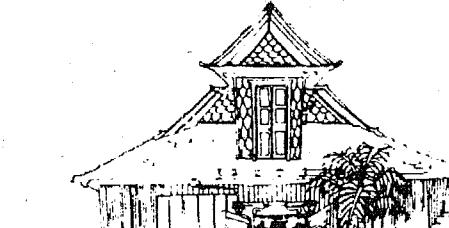
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day school 9:30 am.



Red Barn Theatre

PRESENTS

KEY WEST BUSINESS DIGEST

Ads Sold And Placed By Sunset Media Services, Inc.

SUNSHINE VIDEO

EDUARDO HERRERA - OWNER

If you want to know where to go for the most complete selection of movies for rental at reasonable cost you should know about SUNSHINE VIDEO, at 1222 White St. in Key West, phone 296-4002. This movie rental store offers the best buy for your entertainment dollar. Sunshine Video is aware of all the latest trends in the video industry and they have ALL the latest releases and an extensive selection of favorite box-office hits. In addition they have a wide selection of Disney movies and other children's selections, Spanish movies, and blank tapes and accessories for your VCR. Free Movie Club membership is available!

KENNEDY STUDIOS GALLERY

ROBERT KENNEDY - OWNER

On display at KENNEDY STUDIOS GALLERY you will find an inspiring selection of original oil paintings, etchings and water colors, as well as an array of fine prints and quality reproductions. Homeowners and businesses in this area can find art work here to enhance any home or office decor. With two locations at 133 Duval St., phone 296-5850; and at 716 Duval St., phone 296-7251, this fine art gallery and dealer showcases original art and reproductions from nationally known artists, as well as a fine selection of work by talented local artists.

The management of Kennedy Studios Gallery is known for their discriminating choice of works of art that will appeal to a wide spectrum of interests. People in this area have come to appreciate the ability of this dealer to select works of art that combine beauty with enduring value. We take particular pleasure in recommending this fine art gallery and dealer to our readers. We thank them for helping to strengthen the cultural awareness of this community.

YOUR GIFT HEADQUARTERS IN KEY WEST

BIRD IN HAND

Everyone knows a person who's hard to buy for. If the person you're shopping for falls into that category stop in at BIRD IN HAND in Key West, located at 400 Front St., phone 296-6324, for a selection of distinctive and breathtaking gifts sure to please the most discriminating tastes. They feature Hummels, Waterford, Kaiser Porcelain and a stunning selection of Karat Gold Jewelry.

Their talented, knowledgeable staff will gladly assist you in selecting just the right gift at a price you can afford. We suggest that the people of Key West, and visitors to the area as well, make Bird In Hand their gift headquarters. Browsers are welcome and for personal attention, ask for Rosemary, the Manager.

JAY-MAR OF KEY WEST

When in need of stationary guards, call in the experts at JAY-MAR OF KEY WEST INC., located in Key West, phone 294-1082, where service beyond the average is a guiding principle. Jay-Mar is family owned and operated with extensive background in the security field. This company strives to provide their clients with efficient and professional security programs in order to protect their clients' property and goods. Don't settle for less than the best when the best is available through them.

Call their friendly and courteous staff anytime for an estimate on the job you need done, to name a few . . . armed or unarmed stationary guards, guards for special occasions and holidays, curtailing of vandalism and theft, or in need of private investigative services, Jay-Mar of Key West Inc. can help you. They're more than happy to advise you on your needs at a reasonable price. The owners of Jay-Mar of Key West wish to thank all of their many customers.

LET'S GO COUNTRY IN KEY WEST

At The POINCIANA LOUNGE

The POINCIANA LOUNGE features good drinks, friendly folks and Great Country-Western entertainment. Alyce Milan, the owner, and Kerry Fowler, the manager, invite everyone in Key West to visit them often. They have top country bands on Tues. - Sat. from 9:30 P.M. till . . . ! Now featured every Sun. and Mon. is John Anderson, from 6:00 - 10:00 P.M. Be sure to stop by during Happy Hours from 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. - well drinks and domestic beer . . . only \$1.00.

They cater to the most fun loving people in Key West. We are pleased to point to this popular lounge as the place where you can really enjoy yourself to the fullest. Poinciana Lounge is located at 3432 Duck Ave. (4 blocks N. of Kennedy Dr.), phone 294-6800. Come in soon and see why they're so popular with local residents and visitors.

half shell fish market

In Key West most people that enjoy the true flavor of seafood prefer to buy their fresh fish and seafood items from HALF SHELL FISH MARKET, located at 5 Lands End Village in Key West, phone 294-5028. This leading seafood shop carries a wide variety of fresh seafood items that are in season. In addition, THEY SHIP ANYWHERE IN THE U.S. They purchase their seafood from local fishermen to insure the finest in freshness and quality for their customers. The management of Half Shell Fish Market has built an excellent reputation in this area for serving the public honestly and offering the freshest, choice seafood.

From fresh fish, lobster, shrimp, stone crabs, clams to oysters, you'll find their selection complete. And, if you've never tasted fresh seafood, you'll be surprised at how much better it tastes than what you can buy frozen. So join the many residents who enjoy the true flavor of fresh seafood by stopping at HALF SHELL FISH MARKET soon. It is easy to understand why local residents and visitors to Key West make them their seafood headquarters.

HARBOUR LIGHTS RESTAURANTS

AND The Raw Bar

When you order seafood, you want it to be outstandingly fresh, and perfectly prepared so you can enjoy all the natural flavor. At HARBOUR LIGHTS RESTAURANT fresh seafood dishes are their specialty. You know they'll serve your favorite native seafood prepared exactly as you like it and cooked in a variety of distinctive and flavorful ways. In addition to their extensive seafood menu, HARBOUR LIGHTS RESTAURANT also specializes in aged prime beef as well as the Chef's Daily Specials. Be sure to take advantage of their TUESDAY PRIME RIB SPECIAL for only \$9.95. On THURSDAY stop by for their ALL YOU CAN EAT FISH FRY for \$7.95. If a more casual atmosphere is to your liking, The Raw Bar, open from 11 A.M. - 5 P.M. is the ideal solution.

Harbour Lights Restaurant is located overlooking the water at Garrison Bight Causeway, phone 294-9343 for reservations. Dinner is served from 6 P.M. - 10:30 P.M. and the Lounge offers Happy Hour from 3 P.M. - 6 P.M. Enjoy the "Best of Key West" by experiencing a meal soon at the Harbour Lights Restaurant.

THE REAL ESTATE CO. OF KEY WEST, INC.

JAMES BLUM & WILLIAM HALPIN - OWNERS

Are you bewildered by the maze of real estate firms that offer their services in this area? They all offer what they call total, professional real estate services, but your only concern is simply buying or selling a home and you need help. THE REAL ESTATE CO. OF KEY WEST is a firm you can look to for the kind of help you need. They are located at 1100 Duval St. in Key West, phone 296-0011, and they invite you to call on them at any time.

They are familiar with this area so if you are looking for a new home, they can find one that suits you. They'll help you evaluate the condition of the house to be sure you're getting what you're paying for. And they can assist with a financing package to make the purchase affordable to you, despite high interest rates.

If you are selling, they'll find you a buyer quickly with a minimum of inconvenience to you. The personnel at The Real Estate Co. of Key West are highly trained in the real estate field but they also pride themselves on simply being of service. We recommend you call upon them for any real estate needs. They can help. Ask for the owners, Jim Blum and Bill Halpin, licensed real estate brokers. You'll be served directly by them.

ARNOLD'S TOWING SERVICE

RICKY ARNOLD - OWNER

Write down these phone numbers and put them in your glove compartment: 296-3832 (or 294-6123 nights & weekends) You now have the phone number of the fastest and most reliable towing service in this area, ARNOLD'S TOWING SERVICE. They offer 24-hour service by radio-dispatched light and heavy-duty wreckers capable of handling most any towing job. They tow anywhere, anytime, and that's a service we all need once in a while.

Their employees are courteous and helpful and their charges are reasonable. So put their phone number in your glove compartment so that you're ready for any breakdowns. We cannot recommend a better towing service in the area.

LOOE KEY DIVE CENTER AT LOOE REEF RESORT

Everyone knows for scuba lessons, equipment and supplies, LOOE KEY DIVE CENTER, located on Ramrod Key at MM 27.5, phone 872-2215, has an excellent reputation among divers for their full line of top quality diving equipment and for complete SCUBA certification by fully accredited scuba instructors. By the way, they furnish ALL scuba equipment needed to become a certified diver. Be sure to ask about their daily dive trips aboard their 40' dive boat with 2 glass bottom panels. Looe Key is a national marine sanctuary for your diving enjoyment.

At the Looe Key Reef Resort visit the Reef Room and The Tiki Bar, a restaurant and lounge offering an extensive menu for your dining pleasure. Pam and Joe Glenn thank their many customers and invite residents and visitors to stop by and see all they have to offer.

KEY WEST BUSINESS DIGEST

Ads Sold And Placed By Sunset Media Services, Inc.

ROWE DRYWALL INC.

The introduction of drywall construction in building is one of the most important cost and time-saving developments since building began, but it must be installed by professionals in the field. When you need drywall work done, call the professionals at ROWE DRYWALL INC., located at 1111 12th St., Suite 212-B (Key West Professional Plaza) in Key West, phone 294-6745 or 294-6405. Rowe Drywall Inc. has the experience to handle any drywall installation quickly and expertly. And they will be happy to offer any needed advice in the planning and design stages. Call this firm to learn about their reasonable rates for drywall installation. A complete drywall service is offered by them, including installation, taping, texturing and repair work. Expert work is the standard of this fine contracting firm and no job is too large or too small for them. They are licensed (SP 1051; SP 1052) and insured and you'll find their cost estimates precise and their work on-time.

We unhesitatingly recommend Rowe Drywall Inc. for drywall contracting in this area. For more information and personal attention, call today and ask for Bob.

BARNETT'S PAINT & BODY

People in our area do not have to look far for a shop that does quality auto body work and painting. Most everyone knows that BARNETT'S PAINT & BODY, at 1111 Eaton St. (rear) in Key West, phone 296-4018, can repair, refinish and repaint any automobile, foreign or domestic quickly, economically and professionally. Barnett's will complete the work to your exact specifications in accordance with the estimate, so turn to them for all your auto paint and body needs!

A TOUCH OF GLASS

STAINED GLASS OVERLAY OF THE GLADES & KEYS

A TOUCH OF GLASS offers the unique craft of designer glass - that is - transforming clear, solid glass into beautiful, functional pieces of art - to the Keys community. These professional craftsmen are trained personally by Paul Salgado, the owner, in the art of stained glass overlay. Unlike conventional stained glass, stained glass overlay uses a patented, fade-resistant film and solid lead which the artist carefully bonds to both sides of any flat glass surface. This makes the pieces extremely durable and eliminates the problems of leakage, sagging and complicated maintenance. In fact, each creation of A Touch Of Glass is FULLY GUARANTEED for the life of the structure.

Designs can be created to complement any decor and are applicable to entryways, windows, sliding and shower doors, skylights and mirrors, just to name a few. For added convenience, the designers will come to your home so that existing glass does not need to be removed. If non-colored designer glass is preferred, A Touch Of Glass also provides the finest beveled, carved and etched glass.

We highly suggest, a call or visit to A Touch Of Glass for a free estimate. They are located in the artistic colony of Cauley Square at 22400 Old Dixie Hwy., just S. of Cutler Ridge and N. of Homestead, phone 257-3004.

CONNIE'S CONCH CONNECTION

CONNIE'S CONCH CONNECTION, located at 3850 N. Roosevelt Blvd. in Key West, phone 296-0512, cordially invites you to stop in and browse through their unique selection of gifts. Their selection is quite varied, reasonably priced, and includes natural shell and coral jewelry, printed T-shirts, sundries, etc. You'll find the staff friendly and eager to help you select a suitable gift, so STOP IN SOON!

la Trattoria

Fine food and drink are favorite topics of conversation, and at LA TRATTORIA, fine food and drink are a most enjoyable reality. This outstanding restaurant is a favorite night spot for particular people who know and appreciate the very best in food. As one of the finer restaurants in Key West, they feature fine Italian and French cuisine prepared in ways that will delight the most particular person.

La Trattoria is located at 524 Duval St. in Key West, phone 294-7863, Virgilio Vitale, the owner, invites you to dine here soon. They're open from 6:00 P.M. until . . . If you enjoy outstanding food, this is a restaurant you owe it to yourself to try! Virgilio Vitale and his staff thank his customers look forward to seeing you soon!

CATES ELECTRIC, INC.

For any electrical wiring and repair work you can count on CATES ELECTRIC, INC. (William T. Cates - President) located at 1020 Von Phister St. in Key West, phone 294-1777. They are experts in residential and commercial wiring. You can rest assured you're getting the best contractors available in the area. Serving Key West for over 31 years, you can depend on Cates Electric, Inc. for professional work and courteous service. They thank their customers. Call today for personal attention and fast service.

HAIR CREATIONS UNISEX SALON

HAIR CREATIONS, located at 1102 Truman Ave. in Key West, phone 294-8265, is popular among men and women when it comes to hair care. People come here to get a styling to suit their features and lifestyle perfectly. Cutting, styling, perms, sculptured nails and manicures, waxing, wigs, and ear piercing are all available. You know that you are getting the best professional service possible at a reasonable price when you come here. They offer service a cut above the average, and they invite you to stop in or make an appointment soon! (Open Tues. - Sat.)

L. VALLADARES & SON

FEATURING A SELECTION OF OVER 3,000 PAPERBACKS

Visit one of this area's most popular newstands, L. VALLADARES & SON, located at 1200 Duval St. in Key West, phone 296-5032. You'll find an enormous selection of out of town newspapers such as the NEW YORK TIMES and the WALL STREET JOURNAL, magazines, paperbacks and greeting cards. The staff is always ready to help you find what you need! They are open 7 days a week, 8:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M. Stop in and see why they are called "The Oldest Newstand in Key West."

"OUR 9th BANNER YEAR"

PHONE 296-5558 FOR RESERVATIONS

We all have our favorite restaurant where we go when we want really good food and exceptional service. On your next special evening, the management and staff of CLAIRE invite you to dine with them. They would like to become your favorite restaurant and are located at 900-904 Duval St. Gourmet dishes and standard favorites are served and the preparation is outstanding. Very reasonably priced cocktails are served in the bar where you can enjoy vintage tunes on their juke-box.

CLAIRE is open from 4 P.M. - 2 A.M. and is a restaurant you owe it to yourself to try. Marvin Paige and the entire staff thank their customers and suggest you call 296-5558 for reservations today!

PAGE'S PAINT STORE

Benjamin Moore PAINTS

Family owned and operated for over 80 years, PAGE'S PAINT STORE is located at 1114 White St. in Key West, phone 296-3422 or 296-5500 offers one of the most complete selections of quality Benjamin Moore exterior and interior paints, stains and varnishes. In addition, they have a large selection of wallpaper for every decor. They also have painting accessories to make the job easier. Call for more information and see Barry for expert color matching.

DEL RIO'S GRILL

"PUT A LITTLE SOUTH IN YOUR MOUTH!"

Headquarters for good food is DEL RIO'S GRILL, KEY WEST'S ONLY CAJUN RESTAURANT, located at 500 Duval St., phone 296-4009. There is not another restaurant that surpasses them in courteous service and good food with that distinctive Cajun flavor. In addition, Del Rio's Grill has the largest selection of rum in Key West, with over 52 different rums available. For excellent food at moderate prices residents and visitors alike are invited to stop by and "savor the Cajun flavor."

Island LIQUORS

DRIVE-THRU

Headquarters for your favorite liquors and party beverages in the Key West and Stock Island area, is ISLAND LIQUORS, located at U.S. Hwy. 1 & 5th St., phone 296-5004, and open 8:00 - midnight, 7 days a week. Courteous and helpful service is a hallmark of this establishment and any beverage items you'll need for that party you're planning are sold here. Use their convenient drive-thru as your one-stop shopping place for party beverages and mixers.

If it is wine you want, ISLAND LIQUORS has an extensive selection featuring a full line of domestic, imported, and estate bottled wines and are always happy to suggest the suitable drink for the occasion.

All of the popular brands of liquors are kept in stock as well as your favorite beer or malt liquor. On that rare occasion that what you want is not in stock, ISLAND LIQUORS will gladly special order it for you. It is not an easy job to properly select the right types and brands of liquors on the market today, but through much study and careful evaluation this store always seems to have just what one wants. The owners, Stacy Harnish and Bill Spottswood and the manager, Monda Harnish, invite you to stop by soon!



Where do people go in Key West when they want the best subs? They go to NO. 1 SUB STATION, located at 1103 Key Plaza Shopping Center in Key West, phone 294-7827. The subs prepared by this friendly shop have fresher meats, tangier cheeses, their rolls fresher and their fixings crispier than anywhere else. They make a specialty of submarine sandwiches, so their subs are exceptional and a nice change of pace from seafood. And their prices are right! Stop in today.

INSIDEOUT natural food & bodycare
Fine natural foods are available at INSIDEOUT Natural Food & Bodycare, located at 529 Southard (at Simonton) in Key West, phone 296-2393. They are open Mon. — Sat., 10:00 — 6:00 P.M. This natural food store has a selection of pure whole foods (package or bulk), Macrobiotic foods, Herbs and Spices, Natural Vitamins, Skin & Body Products, Newage Music & Meditation Tapes, Books and Magazines, as well as their distinctive Crystal Collection!

INSIDEOUT, serving Key West for over 7 years, thanks their many customers.

THE GROCERS

There are many grocery stores in Key West but THE GROCERS, located at 1220 — 1/2 Simonton St., phone 294-6312, offers selection, service and fair prices. They are open Mon. — Fri. from 9 A.M. — 8 P.M., Sat. & Sun. from 11 A.M. — 6:30 P.M. No matter what you need — meats, canned goods, dairy products, fruits, picnic supplies or paper products — it's here! They also have a DELI with meats and cheeses. Deli meats are available from 1/2 lb. and up and DELI SANDWICHES are made to order. Bill and Michael invite you to be sure and stop by!

"The place for a friend to stay"
1015 Fleming Street, Key West, FL 33040
296-6868

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE LOWER KEYS

Just My Opinion

by Gil Ryder

The Land Use Plan (LUP hereafter) is still with us, still imperfect, and still controversial.

A Blue Ribbon Panel has been appointed to study and possibly correct the errors and evils inherent in the LUP. Unfortunately, the Blue Ribbon Panel (BRP hereafter) is also imperfect and controversial.

An LUP has been mandated by the state. The intent and purpose of such LUP is to protect the environment and, at the same time, let development continue. A very difficult, but not impossible goal.

Quite a number of interested and knowledgeable Keys residents believe that the BRP is heavily weighted with members who are in favor of heavy development.

Obviously, heavy development (Colossal Condos, De trop Destination resorts, etc.) and protecting the environment are not really compatible activities. There can never really be any compromise between those in favor of heavy development and those in favor of environmental protection.

If the BRP is heavily weighted in favor of heavy development, then those BRP members favoring heavy development will ride roughshod over the environmentalist

members.

Citizens believing in environmental protection won't approve of the roughshod ride, but their disapproval will avail them nothing. After all, the majority of the voters in the last election voted heavily in favor of heavy development when they elected our new County Commissioners.

Some of those voters may argue that they did not vote for heavy development — they

bitterly about "Bed & Breakfast" deals in private homes. That's like voting in favor of nuclear war and then complaining about a kid in the neighborhood firing a cap pistol. Now there's much discussion about how B&B should be handled in the LUP.

We will never have an LUP that pleases everyone until and unless we are ready, willing, and able either to rid ourselves of the hypocritical words from Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, "All men are created equal," or else live up to the philosophy of that phrase. The phrase also appears in the Declaration of Independence.

The Gettysburg Address is one of the finest orations in history and the Declaration of Independence is a fine, rousing patriotic document, but neither of these great writings is either the law of the land or part of our Constitution. These writings are, rather, the stuff that dreams are made of, in the same category as the poem by Emma Lazarus that appears on the Statue of Liberty.

Now, if we could all agree that we are not governed by oratory, poetry, or patriotic declarations, perhaps we could do something sensible with the LUP and/or zoning matters in general.

We must agree that while we are all Americans with rather clearly spelled-out

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only voted against Republicans. Actually, that's what they thought they were doing when, in fact, although unknowingly, they were voting in favor of heavy development.

The greater part of the majority of voters voting against the environment had to know what they were doing. The three newly elected Commissioners were open and above board throughout their campaigns.

People are funny. Last November they elected a pro-development Commission. Now, during last February and March, some of those same people are complaining

Along the Lower Keys

by Bill Becker

Just after dawn on the morning of March 27, Bill Grimes was out for his regular bicycle ride from his home in Port Pine Heights, Big Pine's northernmost subdivision. Twelve hours earlier he had been among the standing-room-only crowd when the Monroe County Commission voted 4-1 to approve the Cross Big Pine Key Access Road. Subsequently, by a 5-0 vote, the commission agreed to proceed with a biological assessment of the road's potential impact on the endangered Key Deer.

Impact ... Key Deer.

Along Key Deer Boulevard, Grimes looked to the edge of the road and saw a deer that had just been hit by a vehicle. The doe was still alive, although both rear legs were broken, her pelvis was crushed and vital organs lay on the ground. She was only days away from giving birth to twin fawns.

The staff at Bush Animal Clinic worked heroically — performing a caesarian delivery, even attempting heart massage and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation — without success.

Whoever hit the deer must have been going considerably faster than the 30 mph speed limit. They didn't stay around to see the damage.

The incident brutally points out the

bottom line apparent from the public hearing on the access road: Men and Key Deer are not in a stable coexistence on Big Pine Key.

Big Pine Key will continue to grow. Traffic will continue to increase, both on the highway and on all of the island's secondary roads. A building moratorium on Big Pine, triggered by unacceptable levels of traffic on the highway, would be difficult



Bill Becker is News Director for US-1 Radio (104.7 FM)

to rationalize since the highway traffic will increase at a substantially higher rate regardless of a local moratorium.

Port Pine Heights alone has more than four hundred vacant, buildable lots. That means considerably more traffic on Key Deer Boulevard through the heart of the Key Deer Refuge. The 30 mph speed limit is seldom honored and infrequently enforced. A Sheriff's deputy recently issued nearly two dozen speeding tickets in the space of a few hours — and those were only for cars going more than 50.

Estimates of the Key Deer population size are understandably difficult to establish and compare, as counting techniques have been refined over the years. But most indicators point to a decline in the herd. Once thought to number over 400 in the

1970s, the deer population is now estimated at fewer than 300. Lt. Larry Lawrence of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission feels that Key Deer mortality is exceeding the birth rate, and that points to eventual extinction for any species.

While the population may be declining, road kills are up. Forty-seven last year, compared to the average of 41 over the last six years. The majority — 62% — died on the highway.

Where was the biological impact study when FDOT raised the speed limit to 55 mph on the rural stretch of highway on Big Pine — from St. Peter's Church to Spanish Harbor Bridge?

Key Deer researcher Dr. W.D. Klimstra indicates (in a memo to the BPK Civic Association) "... the necessity for corridors to enhance north/south movement (of the deer)." Yet these corridors across the highway continue to be lost to development with hardly a whimper of protest from those same government agencies who have zealously protested the 25-mph access road. Witness: the new Coca-Cola plant on Big Pine. Just another brick in the wall.

Where is the federal government's commitment to this endangered species in terms of educating the resident and transient public in the fragility of this animal's existence? Publishing a pamphlet just won't do it. Buying vacant pineland acreage is fine, but if there are eventually no more deer, what's the difference? It's conceivable that we could have a national

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Mermaid Restaurant
Mexican and Seafood

Free Bean Dip
Chips & Salsa
With This Coupon
Open 7 AM Tues. - Sun.
M.M. 30 1/2
Big Pine Key
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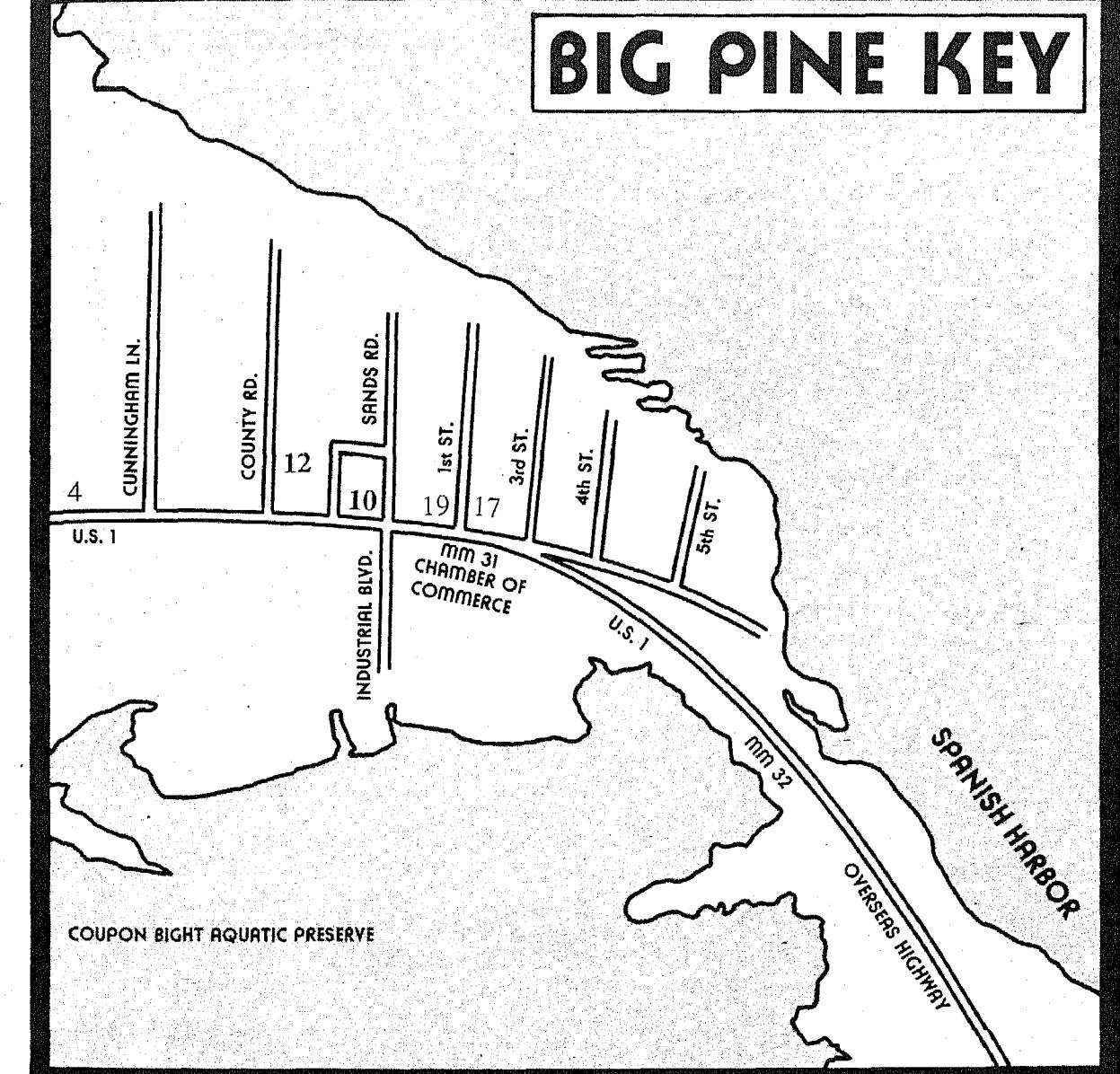
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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE LOWER KEYS

Con't from pg. 59

equal rights in political and religious matters, we are also a people of widely diverse cultural backgrounds and, thus, not socially equal.

Our particular culture and social status depends not on money but, rather, on our family background and lifestyle, and the neighborhood in which we grew up.

The Harvard graduate and the grade school drop-out are not likely to become social equals (although it could happen), and they seldom live in the same neighborhood or attend the same house parties. The Harvard Grad is not necessarily a better person than the drop-out. He may actually be worse morally, physically, and spiritually; but the Harvard Grad and the drop-out are still not the same and, in general, would not desire to be in each other's company -- or neighborhood.

The Harvard Grad and the drop-out are probably extreme examples of cultural differences. There are many grades or classifications of cultural differences. If we accept that premise, then we must also accept that, in spite of oratory, declarations, and poetry, there are classes of people in America.

Once we have accepted as fact that we

are not a classless society, we will have simplified the procedure for establishing residential zoning as follows:

HRC (High Class Residential) permitted uses: minimum plot one acre; single family homes only; any building dripline must be at least 25 feet from any lot line; no light, either interior or exterior, shall intrude upon neighboring properties or public roadway; no sound above x-number of decibels shall pass beyond lot lines; no building or part thereof shall exceed a height of 35 feet above grade of lot. No business of any kind, whether agricultural, manufacturing, piscatorial, educational, literary, or any type of commercial activity shall be conducted either in a building or on the land. No money-making activity of any kind by any family member or guest thereof shall be permitted on the premises, other than activities either by family members, their guests, servants, or contractors engaged in exterior and interior maintenance and/or repairs.

HCR would have the strictest zoning, followed in descending order by: Upper Middle Class, Residential (UMCR); Middle Class, Residential (MCR); Lower Middle Class, Residential (LMCR); and, at the bottom of the list, Low Class, Residential and Business (LCRB) -- no building

restrictions, no restrictions on activities -- openly recognized and honestly admitted to be a slum area. Restrictions would descend on a graduated scale from the highest point (HRC) to the lowest (LCRB).

Such zoning would be absolutely fair because it would permit each person or family to settle in an area with zoning restrictions, or lack of restrictions, most nearly suitable to the recognized culture of the individual or family involved.

From utter snob to utter slob, we would all have the opportunity to live among and enjoy the company of those of our own culture.

After establishing five (5) different residential zones, it should not be too difficult for the Commissioners to figure out which zone(s) will permit Bed & Breakfast arrangements. Rather obviously, it would not be HCR and, for sanitary, health, and general safety reasons, it would not be LCRB.

That leaves three zones to argue about concerning B&B. Maybe B&B belongs in all three or, possibly, not in any.

All the foregoing is a little bit tongue-in-cheek, but not entirely so. Read it over a second time and see if you don't agree that there is at least a germ of common sense buried in all those words.

Con't from pg. 59

wildlife refuge named after an extinct species.

Where is the County's plan for the Big Pine Area of Critical County Concern? Declared specifically in the Land Use Plan to address the Key Deer problem, the ACCC plan was to have been completed in August of last year. To date, there have been two public meetings to discuss it.

Dog leash laws are on the books, yet we continue to hear horror stories of deer being killed by dogs. Maybe there needs to be more stringent punishment for leash-law and speeding violations throughout the range of the deer.

And now FDOT plans to fund a

"corridor study" of Big Pine Key as part of the State's Five-year Transportation Plan. They propose a four-lane Big Pine in 1995, and this study will determine the possibility of putting the two additional lanes to the north or south of the current right-of-way. Sort of like the north/south separation on Key Largo. No kidding.

Anyone who thinks the access road is a big issue fails to put the situation into perspective. We're in for a highly controversial situation that could make Marathon's four-lane hassle look like a backyard stickball argument.

My prediction? The new highway on Big Pine will have to be elevated on pilings -- essentially a two-lane bridge over the

present highway -- possibly for the full length of the island. The upper level, with on/off ramps, would accommodate two-way high-speed transient traffic. The ground level would once again become a low-speed collector of local traffic ... and a way for the deer to cross more safely. You read it here first.

If the human and Key Deer populations are to coexist -- with the needs of both accommodated -- it will require the total, combined effort of government agencies and local residents. Obstruction is not the answer ... cooperation is.

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Cohen Returns for Popular Unity Workshops

by Frank Kaiser

Alan Cohen, noted author, columnist, and lecturer, will lead two workshops at Unity of the Keys on April 14 and 15 at 7:30 PM. He will be joined by pianist Charley Thweatt.

Cohen's best-selling books include *The Dragon Doesn't Live Here Anymore*, *Rising in Love*, and *The Healing of the Planet Earth*. The workshops will focus on self-acceptance, renewing relationships and "finding the courage to follow the path with heart." The work/play/loveshops -- different each evening -- will include group participation, song, laughter, guided meditation, and "sharing our magnificence."

Last year, 80 people attended Cohen's workshop here. Given on a love-offering basis, the workshops will be held at Unity Church, 3424 Duck Avenue, Key West. For information call 296-5888.

ATTN: Lap Swimmers

The Key West Department of Community Services is announcing additional hours for early morning lap swimmers. Starting April 1 the Community Pool will be open from 8 to 10 AM for lap swimming only. These lap hours will be in effect weekdays, Monday through Friday.

The Community Pool is located at 300 Cathrine Street and is open to the public 7 days a week, 10 AM to 6 PM. For more information, phone 292-8248.

Job Fair At FKCC

Florida Keys Community College will be presenting the annual Job Fair Wednesday, April 8, from 2:00-7:00 PM at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center. Graduates of FKCC, continuing students, and members of the general public are invited to attend.

Employers, military representatives, and Job Service of Florida personnel will be on hand to provide career information, and to interview for job openings on the spot.

The FKCC RAVE program staff will be on hand to provide help in resume development, interview skills, and job search strategies. Linda Underwood of RAVE will provide part-time job opening listings in the area, and information on summer job openings nationwide.

For additional information, contact Trish Ginsburg in Student Services at 296-9081, Ext. 263.

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Footnote

by Robert M. Vogel

Most of my adult life was in the company of professors so I know that footnotes are usually of more interest to their authors than to anyone else. But footnotes will out and I have one, called to mind by the salvaging of a World War II torpedo-bomber from 35 feet of water a few miles west of Key West in late February. The finders guessed that it had been on a training flight.

In 1943 I was a wide-eyed Naval Reserve ensign, whimsically assigned by BuPers as the commanding officer of the YP 433. This dreadnought was really a Gloucester trawler painted gray, given three 20 mm guns and a dozen depth charges, then sent to Miami where we docked at Pier 3, convenient to several bars on Biscayne Boulevard.

We were told our purpose was to reassure the civilian population but that effect was unlikely. When we had stopped at Norfolk on our way from New England the sailor who took our lines exclaimed, "You came from Boston in that?"

People along the east coast of Florida those days knew a lot about German submarines; they had seen the burning hulks of torpedoed merchantmen drifting north on the Gulf Stream. If these were to be our prey we were as inadequate in equipment as in personnel and appearance. Anyone could see that we had no radar, and the full truth was that we had no sonar either.¹

As a matter of fact, while we were patrolling one night off Palm Beach an armed freighter, mistaking our silhouette for a U-boat, fired his deck gun at us. We turned on every light and fled. It was the ultimate embarrassment.

Fortunately a time for pride would come. It started the day two airplane mechanics

¹ We finally got sonar but that is another footnote.

unexpectedly reported for temporary duty aboard. Because we never had a chance to feel superior to anyone they raised our spirits immediately when they admitted they were petrified by the idea of going to sea. Next day they delighted us by getting very sick.

(After forty-four years I cannot remember whether our reluctant passengers were Army or Navy. I'll say Army and in the rest of this note will be specific about some details as if I had total recall. I shall be sketchy about others; I know nothing about flying. If any reader can be more accurate he can write his own footnote.)

Our orders were to proceed to Bimini Harbour. There we would take in tow a shallow draft barge, about 15 by 20, equipped with an outboard motor. Then we would proceed to Nassau to take aboard a fisherman familiar with the waters around Andros Island. (The barge and the fisherman-pilot had been engaged by the intelligence office the Navy maintained in Nassau. The two guys who manned that office, a lieutenant and a warrant officer, without doubt had the best duty in the Armed Services.)

So four days after departure from Miami we were off the northeast coast of Andros. The fisherman stood at the bow, his left hand pressing his jaw because the poor fellow had an awful toothache, his right arm pointing aft courses for the helmsman in the pilothouse to take us safely through a maze of monster coral heads.

Finally we could go no closer to shore without grounding. We dropped our hook. On the beach a few hundred feet away sat a single engine, single seat training plane. Its desperate student pilot had put it down expertly on a narrow strip of sand.

It was one of eighteen planes manned by eighteen student pilots that had taken off from their training base in mid-Florida on an exercise in instrument flying. The instructions, which were to remain sealed

until each plane was aloft, were flawed. When gas ran low and the pilots opened the canopies which had been blackened for the exercise, most of them had no idea where they were.

Planes were scattered on several islands in the Bahamas, the Keys, and the southern mainland. It is my memory that no lives were lost although I have always wondered what happened to the fellow who wrote the problem. Three planes had made it back to base but it was widely believed that their pilots had cheated.

The mechanics, with the help of our crew, reduced the plane to fuselage, wing, motor, and propellers. They ferried the pieces to the YP where the parts were lifted to the deck with our boom. Our Bahamian guided us out next day and we took him back to Nassau.

Next we went to a postcard beach on the west side of North Bimini. No coral heads here, but on the beach an identical airplane, looking jaunty and confident as if it belonged there. Its parts were added to our load, the barge returned to its owner, and we set a course for Miami.

When you put an airplane, even a small one, on a boat, even a fair size trawler, there is a lot of airplane and not much boat. The helmsman couldn't see a thing. He steered as directed by a watch officer shouting from atop the wheelhouse.

That is the way we came through the jetties at Government Cut, a gray hull piled high with an aeronautical junkyard. Cars screeched to a halt along the causeway to Miami Beach. Some drivers hopped out for a better view of the strange sight. A few snapped pictures, probably courting arrest for photographing military action the Military preferred to keep a military secret.

That was the YP 433's proudest day, the only time it ever attracted anyone's attention, but the only person in a position to savor it was that fellow up on the wheelhouse.²

2 I did.

Classical Guitarist Takes Us To The Planets

by Kathleen Elgin

Matthew Jampol led his audience gently but firmly on a journey from the Renaissance *Pavanas* to the Planetary Rhythms of Outer Space, and back through Cloudland to the tempo of modern America.

Jampol began his intimate concert with the controlled tempo of Mateo Cartasi's "Moderato", the guitar's rich, warm tones fitting the classical reception rooms of the Casa Gato. Slipping gently into the Gaspar Sonz *Pavanas*, filled with the substance and depth of classical guitar, Jampol then brought us back to now, evoking the sounds of America today with his own composition, *Rhapsody*.

The rather somber mood piece *Lagrima* by Francesco Tarrega, its dramatic harmonies suspended tantalizingly by Mr.

Jampol's mastery of the romantic guitar, preceded the launch into outer space with *Planetary Rhythms*. Written for Penny Mollot and the Key West Dance Theater, it integrates the dance with his music. A few words of commentary, anecdotes and background speeded the count-down to our launch. NASA had supplied Mr. Jampol with tapes of sounds recorded from the Moon, Mars, and Venus, as well as from a stationary satellite.

Integrating the taped sounds and musical interpretation, we lifted from final count-down into space with the haunting, ethereal signals from the Moon; Jampol took off from there with his guitar interpretation of those sounds, orbiting toward Mars, meeting the planet, hearing the NASA sounds interwoven with the suspended melodies of his guitar, then silently moving on towards our rendezvous with a stationary satellite, giving us an acute awareness of the reaches of space and the depth of classical guitar music.

The second part of his performance was

filled with "Jampol Only." His *Cloudland*, with bursts of musical color, seemed to hint of space again, but with more familiar sounds and themes, vibrant with the emotions and feelings of earthly beings.

His last, *Concerto for Solo Guitar*, "in the tradition," had a strong, insistent theme, a denominator of traditional Spanish guitar with free overtones of today. This work showed the heady influence of his surroundings in America and, I believe, a sense of Key West freedom.

The combination of exciting composition and innovative technique involved his audience in a most stimulating evening of music.

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Women's Workshop Held

by Lynn Burton

On March 21, a workshop, co-sponsored by the Lower Keys and Key West Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the Florida Keys Community College, was held at FKCC. The workshop was organized to share information from a national AAUW conference held last fall.

In October, 1985, local AAUW president Lois Krill, vice-president Lou Tarkenton, and member Elizabeth Thom were awarded travel money to attend the AAUW workshop "Equity by 2000; Meeting the Nairobi Challenge" held in Washington, DC. This workshop covered the issues that had been addressed during the U.N. Decade for Women, 1975-1985. During the Decade, three international conferences were held, the last in 1985 in Nairobi, Kenya. The travel money was granted through the AAUW National Education Fund, the philanthropic arm of AAUW, with the understanding that the participants would disseminate information to the local community.

In opening remarks at the workshop in Key West, Trish Ginsburg, of the RAVE program at FKCC and the coordinator of the workshop, welcomed the participants and thanked them for coming. Lois Krill then played excerpts from tapes of speeches given at the Washington, DC conference.

Next, Jane O'Reilly, who covered the Nairobi conference for *Time* magazine, told of 'two' Nairobi conferences; one of the over 2000 government delegates and the other of the over 13,000 representatives from the varying non-governmental organizations from all over the world.

Jeri England, Education Director for NAS, and AAUW member, presented a certificate from AAUW to Trish Ginsburg in recognition of her program of community



Rosemary Harold, Key West Bureau Chief, Miami Herald, addresses the woman and Media discussion group; (left to right) Jane O'Reilly, writer and founding Editor of Ms. magazine; Susan Grey, Assistant News Director, WKIZ and WFYN radio; Amy Hernandez, Sales Manager, WKIZ and WFYN radio.

awareness for women's work. Pat Bonner, personnel director of the Casa Marina Resort, and Trudi Motta, Director of Marion Glass Domestic Abuse Center, addressed the group briefly.

After these opening remarks, the participants divided into four groups to discuss education and employment, health and the family, women and the media, and legislative issues. Each group was led in discussion by a panel of professional women from the Key West area. International concerns of women were discussed, but there was a focus on local problems.

After a lunch break, everyone listened as representatives from each group presented a review of what their group had discussed and issues they thought should be addressed locally.

An agenda was established stating specific things that the group, who adopted the name of Keys Women for Action, would do. These included getting a representative on the affordable housing committee, holding a news conference on the outcome of the workshop, working to have the commission on the status of women reinstated at the county level and initiated at the city level, making known their support for preferred arrests in family violence cases, and establishing a women's support group, or center, in Key West.

To put the agenda into action, a committee consisting of Amy Hernandez, Kathy Snyder, Lois Krill, Lynn Langdale, and headed by Trish Ginsburg was appointed.

**It's Lily Ball Time --
The Easter Seal Dinner Dance of the Year**

The Seventeenth Annual Lily Ball will be held this year at the Casa Marina Hotel on Saturday, May 9, with cocktails at 7 PM, dinner at 8 PM, and dancing to the music of Nolan Drudge at 9 PM. Tickets are \$35 each person and reservations for this popular charity gala may be made by sending your check to the Center of Hope, P.O. Box 2097, Key West. Because this is such a popular event early reservations are advised since seating is limited. The reservations deadline is May 1. Tickets will not be mailed; but there will be a guest list at the door.

Nolan Drudge and the Sound of Brass is well known to Key Westers who love to dance. It will be a treat to have him back on the island for this special evening.

All funds collected from advertising in the Lily Ball program, tickets for the dinner dance and money raised from the annual raffle and auction go to the upkeep of the Center of Hope. Local businesses have been very supportive and are greatly appreciated.

The Lily Ball is sponsored each year by the Easter Seal Society of the Florida Keys, which operates the Center of Hope on Junior College Road, Stock Island. It has been serving Monroe County since 1949. It is an out-patient treatment facility providing physical therapy, speech therapy, hearing services, including audiological evaluation and hearing aid selection and repair, in addition to equipment loans.

The Center of Hope depends entirely upon local support. Please join us at the Lily Ball and make your contribution to this most worthwhile community service. If you cannot attend, a contribution by check made out to the Center of Hope would be gratefully appreciated. If you have any questions, please call 294-1089.

Thank you, Key Westers -- we need your support.

Two Bones to Pick

by V.K. Gibson

i.

The March issue of *Florida Keys Magazine* featured an article by Ellen Sugarman on Parvan Bakardjiev, the County's new "Arts Czar." Ms. Sugarman is a fine writer and this piece was neatly executed. But I think it's fairly safe to say this wasn't a bouquet of roses to Parvan. Indeed, I'm informed that copies of the article were sent by his detractors to all County Commissioners, and anyone else who has any clout in determining how local cultural monies are spent.

I recall attending the Arts Council meeting held in Marathon, when the Search Committee discussed with their fellows their recommendations for the new Executive Director. A good number of highly qualified applicants had applied for the job. Most were "nuts & bolts" people who would have run the Council in more or less conventional fashion: passing along information, reaching out for funds which would be re-apportioned to county arts groups, building ties with national agencies and fellow councils, etc.

Parvan's application rose to the top. The Search Committee was captivated by him. His concept of an International Festival sounded wonderfully exciting, a bold direction for our fledgling Arts Council.

At the time I assumed that these "nonsense" people had gone to the trouble of checking out Mr. Bakardjiev's credentials from all directions. I still have no reason to doubt this.

Now we hear things like this: "Parvan is a wild man; he is obnoxious; a dictator; he's unreliable; his reputation isn't as sterling as people originally thought ..." So forth and so on.

When Parvan took over the council I warned that he would have to deal with the "often bizarre" personalities who occupy positions of power in Key West. And, in truth, it seems that Parvan himself is a bit, shall we say, "distinctive."

Well, so what? I don't know of any important impresario in the history of the performing arts who was not considered "an offensive, autocratic prima donna." Keep in mind that Parvan has his share of admirers, people who consider him brilliant and charming. *It depends upon whom you talk to.*

I'm indifferent to the problems or virtues of Parvan's personality. He's worked long enough in his business to know whether or not his manner is an asset. If he prefers to hire totally devoted employees who have no opinions of their own, fine. (As long as I don't have to work for him!) As for his reputation for offending important art patrons, we are not Palm Beach and it may be appropriate to startle some of our rich art patrons into thinking on a larger scale.

And what about his being the Director of Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center? If there's a legal conflict something should be done about it. Otherwise, if he's doing a good job, leave him alone. (Actually, if he hired a fleet of industrial helicopters to drop

the Theatre into the Gulf it wouldn't bother me.)

The big question we have to answer, in fact the only question worth asking, is: "Can he pull off the Festival and build it into a healthy entity which will survive his departure?"

And the best way to answer that is to investigate what he's achieved in the past. Presumably that's already been done exhaustively (by the Council Search Committee). I call for their evidence (not Parvan's promo pieces) to be presented publicly and in full. Until that happens charges will continue to be flung back and forth.

There is one thing about Parvan which bothers me: his relative lack of involvement with local arts groups and individuals, except when he relates to them as possible resources for his Festival of Continents. I know that he believes the Festival will have a great "coattail" effect on the local art scene. Perhaps he's right.

This aspect of Parvan's philosophy



reminds me of the "Horse, Birds, and Oats" theory of support. It goes like this: The horse (in this case the Festival) eats the oats; what he doesn't digest passes through the beast's system and is eventually left where the birds (the individual artists, performers, etc.) can find their share.

The idea of the Festival sometimes resembles, in my imagination, the great alien spaceship which descended in the movie *Strange Encounters*. How grandiose, how splendid, that soaring chandelier! Yet, there's something disquieting about having a bejeweled behemoth coming to squat on this tiny island: Celebrities flying in on their Learstars, being whisked from place to place in limousines, with great care taken that no one mixes with the locals -- except for the rich and famous locals.

Sadly, we do not have a choice between the "old" Key West and the "new." The past is lost. And if we must suffer newcomers, let it be to the likes of a Pavarotti, rather than the predators who are gnawing away at Key West as if it were a pork chop. Class has a certain saving grace when everything else is lost.

Perhaps it's a good idea for Parvan to summon one of his superstar friends and put on a gilt-edge, super-deluxe fundraiser for the Festival, something which will knock this place on its ear. I'm keeping the faith, but others would be reassured to see that there's more to Mr. Bakardjiev than wind blowing down the canyons of his ego.

ii.

There's a lively and healthy debate going on about special circumstances at the Key West Art & Historical Society.

Recently the Society sent out an announcement of their annual membership meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, April 7, when the membership will elect five new Directors.

Included with a list of the nominees were announcements for proposed changes in the by-laws, changes which would add more Board members to the Nominating Committee and give ultimate approval of the slate to the Board.

The meaning of these proposed changes is obvious: The Directors are unhappy with the performance of their current Nominating Committee.

The slate: Becky Bever; Craig Biondi; Kate Moldawer; Sue Sellers; Peter F. Wanger. (Five nominees for five slots. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.) On the surface this list sounds excellent, a selection of dedicated community leaders.

So what's the problem?

During the last two years the Martello Board has shifted the course of the Society toward a greater emphasis upon the historical concerns of the organization. For this reason they combed the nation, looking for a new Executive Director having impeccable credentials as a cultural administrator and with a particularly strong focus upon historical interests. In due course Susan Olsen was chosen over many top applicants and was brought to Key West. She was told: "Make this into a first-rate operation, with history first and social events second."

The Board is naturally intent upon adding to its number new members who offer professional and academic expertise in the historical realm. (This is especially important because Sharon Wells' term of service will be over in a year.) It's well-known around town that the Board specifically urged that Park Ranger and historian Cullen Chambers be included on the slate. His skills would be of value (to give only one example) in cataloging the Museum(s) collections.

The Board also strongly urged the Nominating Committee to choose accountant Rose Chibbaro's replacement so that she could begin training this person. This was neglected also.

I've heard that Susan Olsen is not especially strong in the arts, and the Committee was astute in its choice of artist Craig Biondi for the slate. He's bright, well-educated, and is a proven hard worker for the cultural well-being of Key West. An excellent choice.

The Committee has made a third excellent nomination. That is Kate Moldawer. Her profession as a publicist represents a superior asset which should be honored with a seat on the Board.

The other nominees are fine individuals. But the important thing to remember is that they occupy spots on the slate which might have more wisely been allotted to persons with academic and/or professional credentials in the areas of history, business, and the arts.

I think the drift is clear here. The Martello Board numbers fifteen, and already has a majority of enthusiastic members with general skills: social/party/fundraising and

so forth. What we need now are specific assets.

There's a likelihood that historian Cullen Chambers will be a write-in candidate during the April 7th election. Considering the circumstances, it would be hard to think of a more qualified nominee.

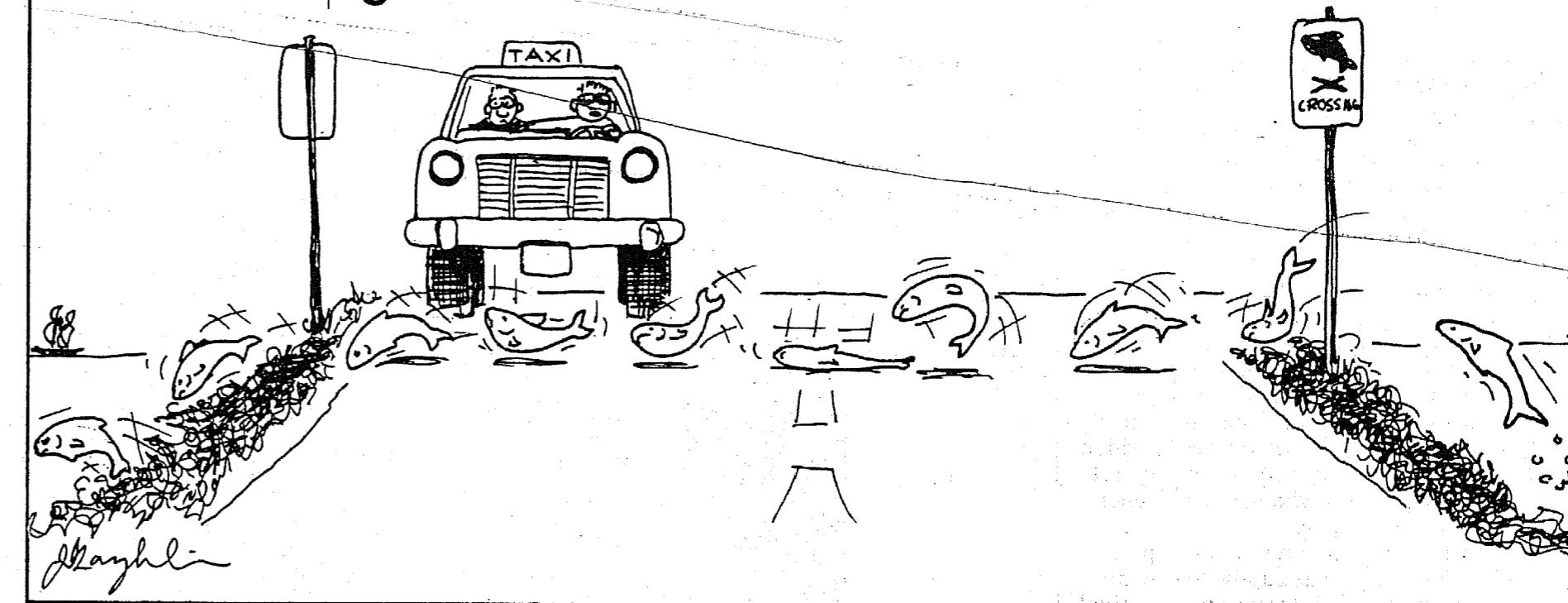
I urge members to vote for Craig Biondi, Peter F. Wanger, Cullen Chambers, and Kate Moldawer. The remaining place can be well-filled by either of the two other candidates. When several more Board seats open up in the future we can hope they'll be filled with people from the spheres of

business, history, and the arts.

The current debate over the upcoming election at Art & Historical is an example of the Democratic process at work. Knowing John Tosi, I expect that all opinions will be given open expression on election night.



SOMewhere UP THE KEYS ON A BACK ROAD...



Opinion

by Gil Ryder

because of the tax change?

Is a 5% increase in the already outrageous medical costs too small to worry about?

Just consider how many old people must treat glaucoma every day for the rest of their lives with prescribed eye drops at just a little under \$40 per ounce. Is a 5% tax on that a negligible item? Is there any medicine so cheap that a 5% tax will be unimportant?

Obviously, the proposed tax on medical costs will add to the problems of those who are already poor and cause those who are not yet poor to join that category pretty quickly when severe and/or lasting illness strikes the family.

Concerning tax on medical services: who would pay the tax on such services and/or materials in cases covered by Medicare or other insurance programs? Would the patients, who have been paying premiums for insurance and Medicare Part B (yes, the senior citizens do pay for it -- every month) and/or private or group insurance pay out of pocket, or would it be part of the medical bill to be paid by the insurance company and/or Medicare. (Many, if not most, senior citizens carry both Medicare Part B and private supplementary policies.)

If it is paid by private insurance or Medicare, wouldn't this carry a penalty in the guise of higher premiums?

Will the proposed change include taxing over-the-counter and/or prescribed medicines?

Would the inclusion of medical services and medicines cause those in tight financial circumstances to postpone seeing the doctor or buying medicine until the medical problem was beyond repair?

Will people be dying younger or quicker

and means to entice someone to provide affordable housing for our young working people, cannot even find someone to define the term. In spite of that, we have a proposal to create still higher housing costs!

Let it be clearly understood that the public is not composed entirely of idiots and that, by and large, most of us are very well aware that the rapid increase in population is bound to be causing an even more rapid increase in cost of government and, therefore, we do understand that we will have to pay more in taxes to support the extra services required by the larger population.

The powers that be should really give a great deal more thought to the matter in order to be certain that necessary taxes are raised in a fair and equitable manner, rather than instituting some slapdash procedure that will so obviously seriously damage the financial well being of so many who are already struggling against an economic tide. If necessary, change the 5% to 6%, but don't tax the medical, legal, and real estate services. Medical and housing costs are already exorbitant, and legal costs not far behind. (Ask a doctor.)

If you want to strike a blow for justice, cut out this column and mail it to:

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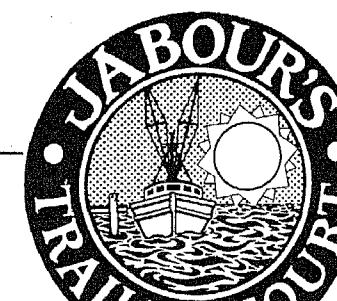
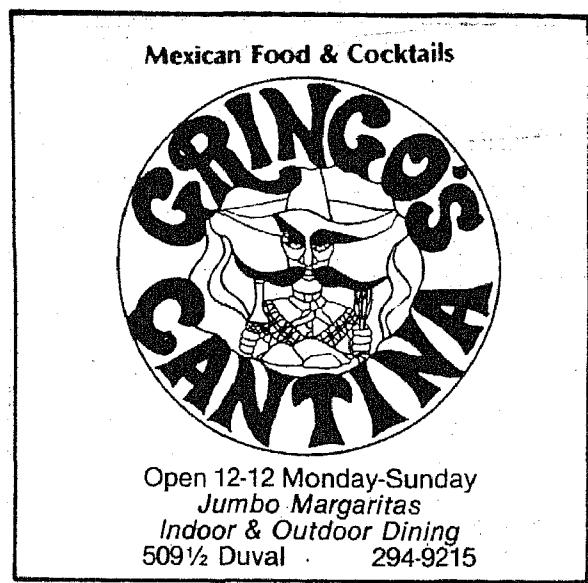
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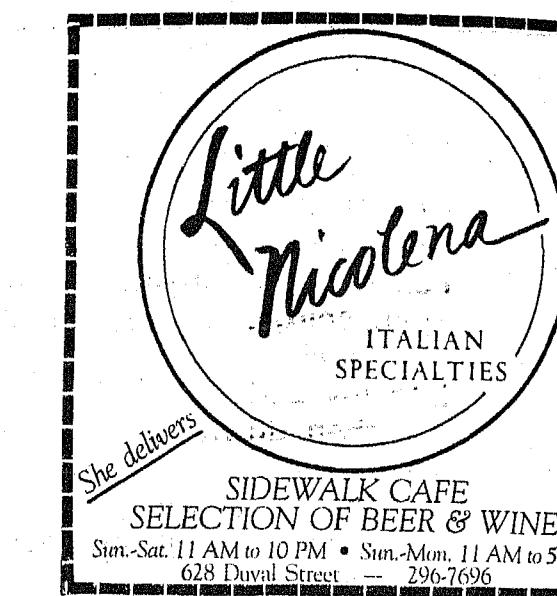
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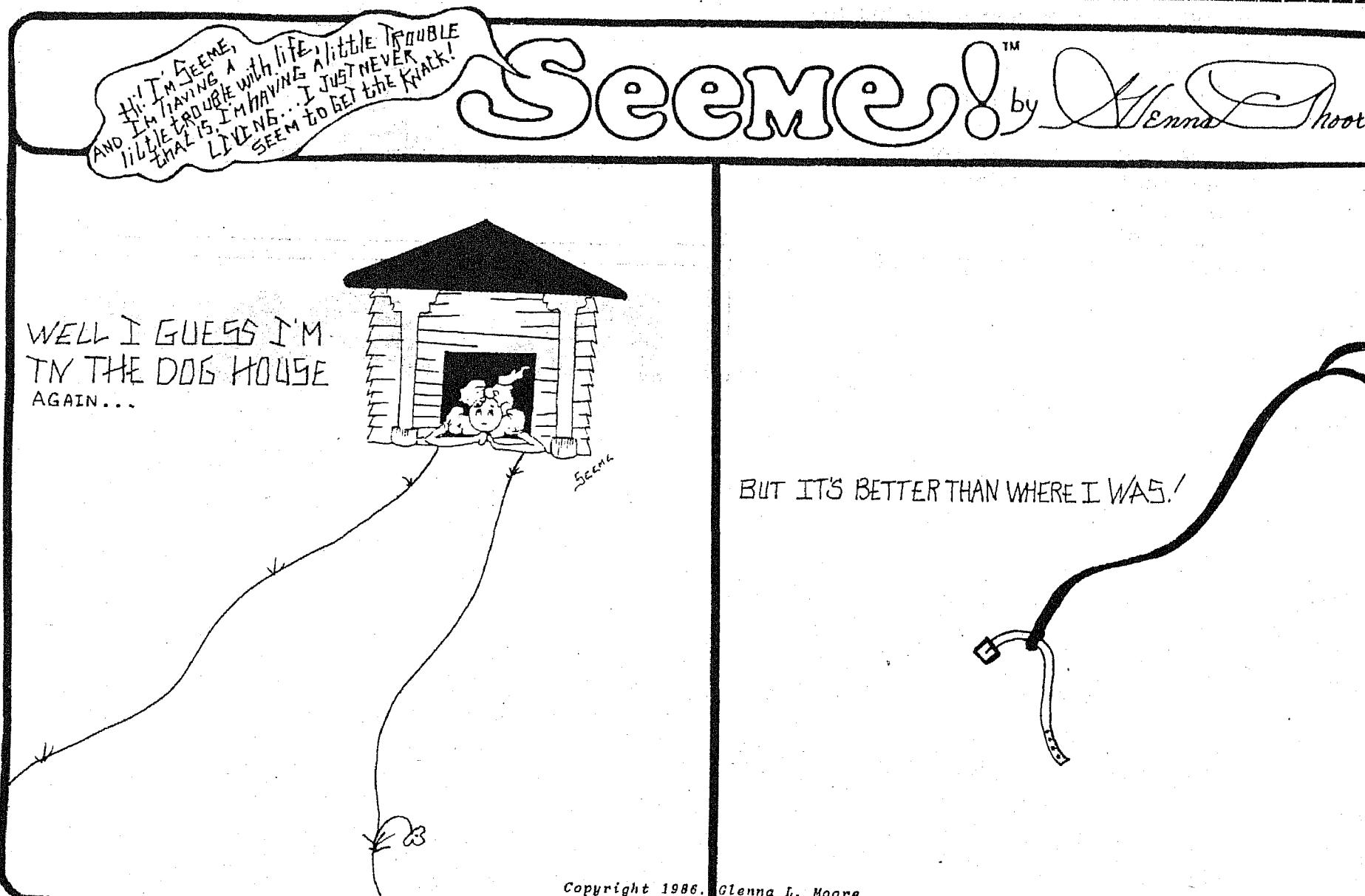


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Felt it gurgle inside my mouth
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Into my belly
But then down
Down further
Not the usual way
But down through my legs
Yes my left leg
And out through a hole in my big toe
No kidding.
A hole in my toe
That I got from that gravel
Out the hole in that toe
Out the hole in my sneaker
Making that big puddle
on the ground
No I did not!
It happened just the way I said.



poems

BY SHEL SILVERSTEIN

YOU'LL NEVER BE KING

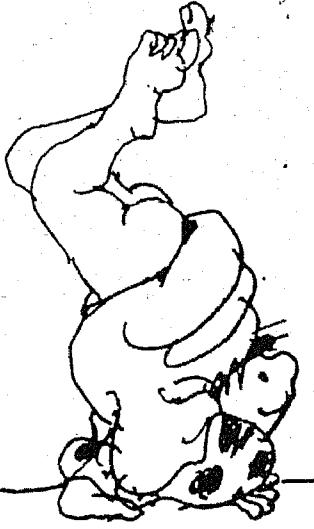
You'll never be king, said the queen to the prince,
If you keep on misplacing your crown,
And you twirl your scepter just like a baton
And you walk through the halls upside down.



He'll never be king, said the duke to the earl,
For he plays with his toes on the throne,
And he wiggles and giggles and rolls in the mud
And he likes to go walking alone.



Oh I shall be king, said the prince to himself,
And my people shall all learn to sing
And play in the sand, and walk on their hands
And have as much fun as their king!



A First Time Visit: A New Englander Drops in on Key West

by Arthur S. Harris, Jr.

I studied the Hertz map of highways slashing through Miami, then pulled out of the rental car lot near Miami International Airport for the drive to Key West. The clutter of bait and tackle shops, fast-food pit stops, and cinder block restaurants on Route 1 leading down to "the Southernmost City" didn't raise my spirits.

Key West, I'd heard, had gone to the dogs -- or to pot. It was cutesy and touristy now, gentrified, with T-shirts garishly displayed, cruise ship passengers with point and shoot cameras strolling streets once lurchingly navigated by sailors, gun-runners, and grizzled charter captains leaving Sloppy Joe's Bar after rummy hand wrestling. Greedy land developers with condos and resort hotels had moved in en masse driving much of the indigenous population -- especially Bahamians -- north.

Oh, the disparaging tales I heard up in New England: guest houses "taken over by gays," fern bars replacing salty, nautical hangouts, and literary types forming an incestuous subculture. No wonder the first chapter of Alison Lurie's novel *Foreign Affairs* appeared in *Shenandoah*, for weren't its editor and Lurie both snowbirds who spent four months a year in Key West?

My cynical view might have been confirmed if, after crossing the last bridge on US Highway 1 and entering the island, I'd followed Route 1 into town -- past the Holiday Inn Motel, the Sears complex, muffler shops and name-brand fast food establishments: McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Some fluky notion (perhaps a sign reading *Beach?*) caused me to turn left, so I approached Key West gently on its southern edge. South Roosevelt Boulevard skirted the Atlantic. No tacky gift shops or boat rentals separated my Mitsubishi from the surf. (Unaccustomed to air conditioning, I didn't discover my rental car came equipped with "air" until the day before I turned it back at MIA.)

Soon a yellow-sand beach with evenly spaced palm trees appeared ahead. Off shore were wind surfers and, farther out, speedboats towing para gliders. I'd heard Key West's beaches were minuscule, and here was expansive, sun-drenched Smathers Beach with plenty of free parking on both sides of the road plus enough space on the beach to avoid the few boom boxes. (How come one never hears Vivaldi coming out of twin speakers powered by 8 "C" cells?)

What's more, this beach of fine grain sand wasn't lined with galvanized-roof drink and eat stands plastered with cigarette poster ads. Instead, RV's with propane gas cylinders were neatly parked along the beachfront. A non-alcoholic banana "daquiri" (milk, banana, ice cream) took care of my thirst, but I'd have to watch calories: my belly blubber was out of place on this beach populated by young, tanned, and thin bodies and a scattering of heavier

RV types seated on the plastic webbing of folding aluminum chairs. So far Key West skewed toward the young. Maybe I'd have to change my view of Florida as a state for the bifocal set.

A low tide splashy "swim" through seaweed before casing downtown Key West as the afternoon waned. I had to be on Mallory Dock at sunset, right? A Key West ritual. But first a drive around town, classical music on my car's FM, a public broadcasting station from Fort Myers.

All right, I admit it: there were some tacky parts as I drove back and forth on the rectangular grid of streets getting my bearings. T-shirt emporiums with tasteless displays encroaching onto the sidewalks, a bikini shop with bikini-clad mannequins outside (talk about *gross!*), as well as upscale boutiques where, I assumed, local dwellings had been razed to make way for sandal shops, Dansk kitchenware, ice cream and frozen yogurt stores. Plenty of downtown kitsch. Grazing vacationers popping in and out of souvenir shops -- the sort of tourists one sees on Acapulco's main drag, the Costera, bordered by high-rise hotels.

But look: there wasn't a high rise hotel in sight. Apparently the tallest building in town was the venerable (if 1925 qualifies) Hotel La Concha whose rooftop bar overlooked this coral rock at the end of the road from six stories high. Later I discovered that the one-time landmark had decayed, then closed. Now, \$20-million later, it had recently opened as Holiday Inn La Concha Resort Hotel. It was now original Pepto-Bismol pink.

Yes, pricey new hotels anchored both ends of Duval Street, but they were stubby affairs, not multi-storyed, sun-blocking hotels of Miami Beach or San Juan's Conanico strip, the sort of hotels where, returning from the beach anxious to shower away sea salt, you stand in the lobby interminably, eyes fixed on lighted numbers above two elevators as they move down in fits and starts from the 28th floor.

I'm not naive enough to assume these two relatively new Key West hotels were welcomed by one and all. Surely they replaced local buildings or piers and now blocked views of the sea.

But on Mallory Dock that evening, with a guitar player, fishers with their lines in the water, and two women from Sweden who seemed incredulous that only four months previously I had seen daily gifts of flowers placed on the sidewalk spot where Prime Minister Olof Palme was assassinated in Stockholm (this is the jet age), I did my touristy thing: watched the sun go down on the horizon. In the foreground: sunset cruises with PA systems, bars, music -- well, yes, a jarring note but perhaps Key West was now, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, a resort with only vestiges of "the sultry, sinful seaport" where "sailors once raised hell" and gun-runners and shrimpers gave the place its character, as Philip Caputo put it a few days later during a talk at Florida Keys Community College.

Ensconced in a sterile motel, air-conditioning sealing me off from noise and humidity, I wondered why in a place with so many guest houses behind picket fences

and lush greenery, I had chosen such a hostelry. Was I too concerned with safe parking for my car and its tape deck? That day's *Key West Citizen* carried half a dozen stories of thefts around town. In retrospect, I might have taken a clue from *Mad* magazine: What, me worry? My home base is Boston, the car theft capital of the 50 states!

Also in next visit department, I'd stay at a white wooden guest house with lots of gingerbread, porches, balconies, and a shaded patio with white metal tables and chairs and maybe a resident Siamese cat or two.

Lying in my antiseptic box, looking over a map of Key West, I decided to forego yet another cliché -- I would not take the conch train the next day. Instead I'd walk everywhere except to Smathers Beach.

* * * * *

Breakfast at The Deli -- lots of locals with cups of coffee, smoking. Too smoky for me. I left in a hurry to stroll. I peered over a picket fence to see a young couple in cut-offs and T-shirts laying down polyurethane on the pine floor of a white wooden house which had obviously just changed owners again, falling now -- at a handsome price, no doubt -- into the hands of young rehabbers. Easy to identify with them as we were once young rehabbers. Well, let's be honest: wife Phyllis was the contractor, designer, foreperson; I the one careful not to get sawdust on my glen plaid suit before hitting the corporation in the morning -- but that's a story for another time.

I was surprised -- no, astonished -- at the amount of historic preservation, at the many clapboard houses with National Register plaques, block after block, some for sale. Later, matching up real estate transfer prices listed in the daily paper with actual properties, I confirmed that Key West was not for me unless I were to win the Massachusetts megabucks lottery. Then I wouldn't mind having a little cottage in Old Town and flying down, as Harry S. Truman did, to soak up sun, sand, and sea and maybe even mix it up a bit with the local literati.

After all, that's what had brought me here: the Fifth Annual Key West Literary Seminar moderated by William Robertson, The *Miami Herald*'s book editor. All my life I've forsaken ballplayers for writers. Oh, I did have a nice chat with Mets first baseman Keith Hernandez in Barbados in December -- bright fellow, history buff and all, but I figure ball players with hefty salaries and product endorsements get along fine without me.

When do we ever see a writer on TV pitching instant coffee, denture cleansers, or an American Express card? No, writers -- even the best of them -- seem to live from grant to fellowship, a Yaddo session here, an honorarium there. Even a book advance comes with built-in anxiety: a certain number of words must be delivered on time.

No, call me your English major type who's always liked hanging around writers -- at bookstore autograph sessions, college appearances, and at seminars such as this

four-day event in Key West where I'd see Thomas McGuane, Joy Williams, Thomas Sanchez, and other Key West luminaries.

At seminars and receptions there'd be discussions about Hemingway, Dos Passos, Tennessee Williams. Gossip too: Why had Philip Caputo sold his big pink house? And after three books about men -- unrelentingly about men -- would Caputo respond to the challenge of a *Miami Herald* writer who doubted he could flesh out a fully-dimensional female character? Would *Indian Country*, which takes place in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, break the patter of Caputo's tough books? Caputo thinks so.

There is seldom agreement at such seminars. For everyone who thinks Ernest Hemingway was this century's great American novelist, there are others (Caputo included) who think he was "a blue-ribbon jerk," over-rated. To Caputo a real writer was Joseph Conrad.

More disagreement: Caputo felt that environment had little influence on a writer. If so, his logic went, he should have done his best work in a villa overlooking Rome. Instead he wrote "fractured dribble there," doing better in a Beirut hotel room with a view of an air shaft, and with occasional plane strafings overhead. No way was he buying the mystical relationship between locale and writer, the idea that places like Sausalito, Sante Fe, SoHo, or Key West were more conducive to writing than, say, Cedar Rapids.

Not so, said Alison Lurie. She feels that a writer changes in a different environment (a sub-theme of her Pulitzer Prize novel *Foreign Affairs*). A new place gives one another chance at life! "You may even become another person." So the blending of writer and new place resembles the first meeting of any two people, up in the air, full of surprise. A new environment can get into one's writing in subtle ways, affecting style, viewpoint.

These pronouncements came from the stage of the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center on Stock Island, but I enjoyed more meeting both these writers informally.

What opposites! The slender, pale Lurie with a little hat and strap shoes whom I met over the guacamole the first night, and Caputo, the ex-Marine lieutenant, tan from several days fishing, who writes of a man cutting out the hearts of his two dead comrades (*Horn of Africa*). Could these two Pulitzer Prize winners possibly enjoy each other's books? Or company?

I wish I could have another shot at meeting Alison Lurie for the first time. Afraid I blew it. Like to take it from the top again. You see, I'd been impressed by two novels which resemble each other: Lurie's *Foreign Affairs* and Anne Tyler's *The Accidental Tourist*. In both novels mismatched couples who've nothing in common somehow make it together: opposites attract, an old theme.

Obsessed with this thought, I launched into a little monologue (with Lurie looking over my shoulder, probably thinking "When's Boatwright coming to my rescue?") only to smart a few days later while re-reading her novel *Real People*. In

it she mentions "the peculiar manner of most people when meeting a writer for the first time." Some "make sensitive and perceptive remarks which they have prepared beforehand."

Oh, wow, that hurt. She'd caught me in my Literary Groupie mode, mesmerized by the mere presence of A Living Author.

I was less intimidated by Philip Caputo -- funny because I've always gotten along better with women than men, especially tough/heroic/battle-scarred men like Caputo. I'm one of those effete intellectual snobs whom Vice President Agnew railed against, a reader of Barbara Pym and Anita Brookner novels, although on the basis of *A Rumor of War* and *Horn of Africa*, I'd say Caputo is one hell of a fine writer.

Although Caputo has obviously soured on Key West, and only seems to come nowadays for the sea and tidal flats and offshore islands, others pondered what has attracted writers to Key West -- and such opposites too: the macho Hemingway and his followers, as well as Tennessee Williams and his. Or that three-piece suiter from Hartford, insurance executive and poet Wallace Stevens who apparently let loose away from New England.

Nowadays there were fast-lane folks like Jim Harrison, and Tom McGuane, whose last novel mightily disappointed me, but then Hemingway had his off days too, eh?

Recent laudatory reviews of William Wright's *Lillian Hellman: The Image, the Woman* were displayed in bookstores around town. Wright told Rosemary Harold of The *Miami Herald* that the "presence of authors draws other authors." But I also like seminar director Lynn Kaufelt's theory that Key West offers writers a second childhood: biking, fishing, swimming, they can "relive the fantasy of being a kid."

Kaufelt, whose book *Key West Writers and Their Houses* (Pineapple Press, Englewood, Florida) I pressed into Caputo's hands so he'd autograph one of the pages devoted to the big Pink House he no longer owns ("To Arthur, Philip Caputo), seemed to be everywhere: now concerned with the sound when soft-voiced Maria V. Cosindas explicated in an unmistakable Boston accent some uneven slides of hers, at the stage pointing to her watch when a seminar was running late, and at evening receptions at The Reach Hotel or the East Martello Museum seeing, along with Monica Haskell, that things went well.

In between sessions I caught rays on Smathers Beach, looked at clever USA Today headlines in newspaper dispensers there (COLD SNAPS USA BACK INTO WINTER), and tried hard not to appear a voyeur when the only topless woman on the beach rubbed white suntan cream onto her firm breasts.

I liked the Key West mix of seedy locals, svelte gays in tank tops, retired English professors who wouldn't be caught dead with *Less Than Zero* or *Another Roadside Attraction* but were re-reading Edith Wharton, and yes, those good midwestern locksmiths and retired police chiefs with wives whom I chatted up while in line at an RV drink stand, working the conversation around to my own private poll. Good

Republicans, were they? What did they think of Reagan nowadays? Results of the Harris Poll: disillusionment. I had the feeling Reagan couldn't carry Kansas today.

Oh, yes, there is a surface gloss to today's Key West. My only acquaintance with the old place is the 1941 WPA *A Guide to Key West* with its black and white photos and an assertion that "the greater part of the island city water front is occupied by Government property ..." Well, now, isn't that something that's changed for the better through the years? And if a Boston developer and Key West honchos ever get together, more valuable acres may become available to the public -- surely an improvement over the old days when services dominated the island.

Oh, there were little disappointments: the smallness of the Red Barn Theatre so I couldn't see *Beyond Therapy*, the booming bar radio at the Exile, but overall I liked the laid-back atmosphere: nobody hassled me at beach or bar.

As I drove the rental car north, the air conditioning blasting away, I knew I'd be back again, next time having morning coffee on a shady guest house patio of crushed stone while reading of snowstorms lashing my native New England.

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**Nature's Way:
April's Answers** by Alice Terry

Finally, and fully, spring is here. The days are longer, the light is different, the mangos and avocados are in bloom, and all of nature seems burgeoning with the promise of good things to come.

Now is the time to prune the crotons, hibiscus, and poinsettias. Feed generously after pruning is finished. It is a good time, also, to start cuttings of many plants, so make use of some of the pruned material for that purpose. Ten to twelve inch long poinsettia cuttings may be rooted in sharp builders sand with soluble plant food.

Calliandra, the powder-puff shrub, may be air-layered for larger plants in a hurry, or start from cuttings. You may also air-layer crotons, hibiscus, and other shrubs and trees at this time.

This is a good time to apply mulch, and

one of the most accessible is that of grass clippings that have been allowed to stand long enough to look as though they were dried-out or yellowish.

Plants showing brand-new growth will need plant food now. Feed your citrus, ixoras, hibiscus, jasmines, palms, lawns, and pentas. Fertilize the avocados at this time.

Bulbs to plant in April in Key West are caladium, tuberose, achimenes, ginger, dahlia, canna, crinum, and zephyranthes. Fertilize your amaryllis after flowering for good blooms next year, and divide and replant the bulbs at this time, if crowded.

One resource book advises that pickle juice mixed with water and poured over the foliage of gardenias will take care of any sooty mold that is visible. Let me know if this works well, please. It makes sense, for the gardenias will respond to the acidic properties of the juice.

Seeds to plant right now are sweet-alyssum, China-aster, balsam, late cosmos, cypress-vine, gaillardia, globe-amaranth, hollyhock, marigold, morning-glory, tertia, and zinnia. How many of these will actually make it through our heated summer weather is problematical, but it is always worth a try, especially for those of us who remember summertimes filled with the sight and fragrance of "northern" flowers. I have noticed an abundance of flowering "bedding" plants in local nurseries: marigolds, petunias, geraniums, and so on. These can provide a "quick-fix" answer for those craving their very own growing remembrances of other times and other places.

Two separate sets of friends recently lost their prized palms to the lethal yellowing disease. Alarmed, I contacted our local Florida Agricultural Agent, Janet Bunch, for information on this still-with-us scourge. I learned that the lethal yellowing plague is indeed still present in Key West. It is carried on the mouth of a certain flying insect, and there is really nothing that can be done to totally cure diseased trees. The best that can be hoped for is to put the disease into a state of remission. This can be

accomplished through a series of injections. If you are concerned about your palm trees, call the Extension Service for further information, which it will be happy to supply. The number to call is 296-9796.

I am a bit puzzled over the local lack of interest in awards for excellence in the fields of gardening and landscape architecture. There is an emphasis, here on awards for architectural projects involving new design or renovation. However, without appropriate and interesting landscaping these buildings would be like jewels without proper settings. Let us look around and praise, in a public manner, the outstanding garden areas in town. Included should be not only the public grounds, but private areas, large and small, as well.

I think that an important use of native plants might be one suitable criterion in judging, but I am not a purist in the matter and favor showy exotics for color and special interest. There are many creative ways to address our local problems in insufficient space, intense summer heat, and the vagaries of the tropical rainfall. The visible plantings facing the streets are but a portent of the more private oases of greenery and color.

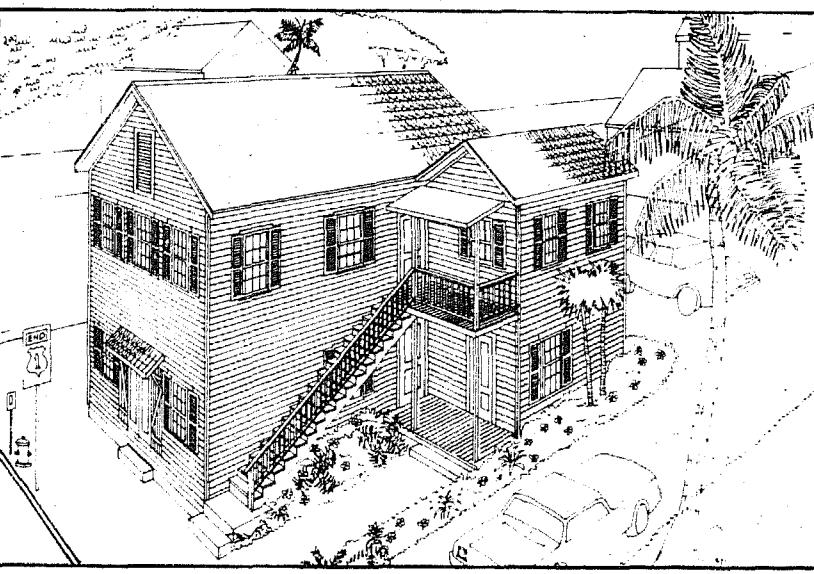
I have become increasingly aware of the growing interest in singling out, for public recognition, the special, noteworthy gardens of our region. The beginning of this year the Tree Commission initiated an award called The Golden Leaf Award in appreciation for efforts in helping preserve the natural beauty of the island. Call the Tree Commission at City Hall if you think of a good recipient for this award. Let's get started now, and not wait until next year's "season."

Please take note that the Key West Botanical Garden, located on Jr. College Road, by the Monroe County Offices on Stock Island, will be formally reopened on the afternoon of April 12. Festivities will take place from 3 to 6 PM. Featured will be words from visiting speakers, refreshments, and tours of the area. The Garden can be reached easily by bus or auto. See you all there.

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