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Vol. III, No. 11

Key West, Florida

December, 1978



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With a little help from our friends . . .

Solares Hill Co., Inc.

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From the Editor

Hello --

THIS IS our biggest issue of all time! I certainly hope that you enjoy it.

BULLETIN

GOVERNOR CALLS SPECIAL SESSION TO RATIFY CRITICAL STATE CONCERN DESIGNATION FOR FLORIDA KEYS AND GREEN SWAMP

GOVERNOR REUBEN ASKEW has ordered a special session of the Florida Legislature to ratify the Critical Concern designation made by the Cabinet a few years ago. The House and Senate are to convene for three days starting at 11 am Wednesday, December 6. Last week the Florida Supreme Court set aside the Cabinet designations saying that they were an unconstitutional delegation of legislative power to the Cabinet but suggesting that the House and Senate could correct the legal defect by ratifying the Cabinet actions. The Green Swamp in Central Florida, which is an essential element supplying water to the Florida aquifers, has little other statutory protection and vitally needs Critical Concern protection. Although the Florida Keys are now protected by other state and local laws growing out of Critical Concern designation, the continued designation is highly desirable from the standpoint of receiving continued state and federal aid and to make sure that our new laws are not frivolously ignored or repealed.

Solares Hill urges its readers to send letters and telegrams expressing their views to their legislative delegation:

Representative Joe Allen
Senator Richard Anderson
Senator Vernon Holloway
Senator Robert McKnight
House or Senate Office Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

CONGRATULATIONS are due to B.J. Martin for his fantastic Key West movie. So much material put out on this island is shallow and unfeeling or intense and ignorant that it is a real pleasure to see a movie on Key West that has been made with wisdom, affection, awareness, and style.

SPEAKING OF congratulations, the Key West football team certainly has them coming for its great season. This island really produces exciting athletes and first rate teams.

WE'RE HAVING OUR first contest! Maybe the photo quiz is too easy; maybe it is too hard. We will learn from the response to this one and prepare next month's quiz accordingly.

THIS IS THE Christmas issue of Solares Hill and we have remained light and happy.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and we'll see you next month.

WF



Cover artist this time is Ann Irvine. Her work may be seen at Guild Hall, Gingerbread Gallery, and Artists Unlimited. Her Christmas cards are available at selected stores in Key West.

Red Beccaise

IT'S A FAMILIAR SIGHT in the late afternoon at the Red Beccaise house on Olivia Street. The men who work with Red -- Al, Sawyer, Bill, Gus and Roland are sitting around the old bench under the heavily laden sour orange tree, sharing a couple of six-packs and generous helpings of Miss Frenchy's super grouper chowder and rapping about everything under the setting sun.

They've just finished moving a Conch house across town, and everyone's feeling good about accomplishing a dangerous and complicated job.

RED AND MISS FRENCHY, his wife of twenty-five years, are up on the porch discussing a heavy safe moving number that's been called in for the next morning. Before they stroll over to Che Che's for a few well deserved cold ones, Red sits and talks about the years in Key West and the nature of his unique business.

RED BECCAISE, like his father and his grandfather before him, is this island's premiere truckin' man. With the huge ton and a half, six-wheeled dump truck, the ton and a half van truck, the one ton pick up, a rented Low-Boy tractor trailer from Toppino, and the thousand pounds of man power gathered in front, he can move or haul away just about anything -- refrigerators, trash, pianos, old lumber, furniture, you name it.

The sides of the yard are piled high with enormous timbers and blocks of wood used to jack up and move houses. There's a long forked pole that one man, sitting atop the moving house, uses to lift the electric lines. A twenty-seven foot "jim pole," similar to a ship's mast, can be lashed to the front of a two-story Conch house and, with block and tackle, used to gently lift and set a nine hundred pound piano on the second floor porch. It's been in continual use for over fifty years. Various salvaged lumber items like the fabled, steel-hard Dade County pine, old green shutters and quaint gingerbread oddities -- definitely endangered species these days -- are stacked all around the house.

THE CITY CEMETERY stretches away from Red's place east and north all the way to Frances Street and Angela Street, and our unobstructed view of the stars-sprinkled, still blue but darkening sky is truly wonderful. A strange kind of haunting stillness settles about us, and the occasional shouts of neighborhood children seem to come from a long ago time.

Red says he was "born among the dead" here in 1919 and remembers growing up in a happy, boisterous home. There were eight children in the Beccaise family -- five girls and three boys -- and always twice that many kids playing around the house...the girls skipping rope, the boys

playing marbles on the dusty street, and, on hot afternoons, all of them walking over to the beach for a swim. In those days, as now, Olivia Street was racially integrated, and everyone knew each other

by Jim Coan

photo by Richard Marsh

Olivia Street was a bustling, mellow scene with lots of kids and dogs and chickens and friendly greetings from the porches.



Miss Frenchy and Red

by their first name or Conch nickname.

OLIVIA STREET itself in those days was white coral rock and without sidewalks. A crack in the asphalt today marks where a fifteen foot deep sewage ditch was later put down the middle. A block away, Division Street or "Rocky Road" (now Truman Avenue) was bricked over, and the electric trolleys ran out to the old Trust Cigar Factory on Flagler Avenue.

The Busy Bee Bakery was at Frances and Olivia, and on the cemetery side of Frances and Olivia was Herbert Weech's grocery. A grocery then, as Curry's is now, was at Olivia and Windsor Lane, and a few doors down was the Lopez grocery with a big, old-fashioned pork barrel next to the counter.

Kitty corner from the Curry grocery, where Tom Major now lives, was Benny Tynes' furniture store.

RED'S GRANDFATHER, Odette Beccaise, an intrepid Frenchman from Missouri, came to Key West and bought this property in the last century. (His house later burned down and the present one was built on its foundation.) He made deliveries around the island with long-bed, horse drawn wagons and hauled about two yards of sand or rock at a time from the beach to construction sites with two-wheeled, horse drawn "dump carts."

CHARLES BECCAISE, Red's father, was really into the hauling scene when Red was growing up. Even though it was a pre-inflation era, he still had those eight youngsters to provide for. Charles had several different-sized wagons with steel rimmed, wooden wheels. The largest wagon was twenty feet long with a double team of horses and could carry a hundred sacks of flour.

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There were always F.E.C. freight trains to be unloaded at Trumbo Point or cargo laden ships from New York, Havana, New Orleans, Galveston, and Tampa docking at Mallory Docks or the old P & O Steamship Company docks.

Key West was a regularly scheduled stop on the East Coast run for the *Florida*, the *Cuba* and the *Governor Cobb*. Red remembers cases and cases of Peter Doger beer from New York, a popular brand in those days, being unloaded at Mallory Docks.

CHARLES HAD AS MANY as twenty-seven horses and mules, and their care and feeding was a big part of the business. There were also many pigs and over a hundred chickens around the house in those days. The stables ran along the east and north side of the property, and a large water trough, kept filled with fresh well water by a hand pump, was at the end of the front porch.

These large draft animals were walked to open areas around the island to graze, and this would benefit the owners there by keeping the grass down. One favorite grazing spot was what is now a trailer park off United and William near the Texgas Company. Another was Trumbo Point, when the stock pens were empty after a herd of cattle or race horses had been shipped out.

OFTEN THE CHILDREN would ride the horses down to Rest Beach and wash them off shoulder high in the water. The salt water was very beneficial and would quickly heal up any harness sores.

Red's youth coincided with the Great Depression, and although money was in short supply here and the island more isolated than ever after the FEC railroad was washed away forever in the '35 hurricane, he remembers it as a time when there was an abundance of trust and friendship and sharing. He helped keep it together at home by working three or four hours a day on an NRA project at the aquarium and made

month. As the Thirties drew to a close, the highway opened up, Pan-Am began regularly scheduled sea plane flights, and the outside world began to intrude, at first subtly, and then in a big way.

HE ALREADY BELONGED to the Florida State Guard when World War II appeared on the horizon, and his company used to drill weekly at the Old Armory Building at Southard and White. Suddenly, like a lot of other men his age, he was in the Army Air Corps, tripping around Germany, France, Belgium, Holland and Scotland, far from the mellow timelessness of Olivia Street.

When Red came back from Europe, he could really see things begin to change on the island. The Navy Base had brought thousands of young men from all over the country to Key West. One of the little Conch houses across the street was sold for \$900, and that was thought to be a rather outrageous price.

A man named Joe Sirugo bought fifty to seventy-five acres off Roosevelt Boulevard and started building prefab houses that could be purchased with VA loans, and that was the beginning of the modern building boom. Red picked up the reins of his ancestors' business, and he's watched it all happen and has been a part of it ever since...up to and including the restoration fever of the past few years.

WE BOTH GLANCE up at the same time and suddenly, incredibly, a huge full moon is perched just above the rooftops down the street. We sit there speechless for a time, both of us sharing an unspoken appreciation of how often over the years this same apparition has lifted the heads of all the people sitting on all the little porches of all the little houses of this magical island. Surely, the history of Key West is its people and moments like this.



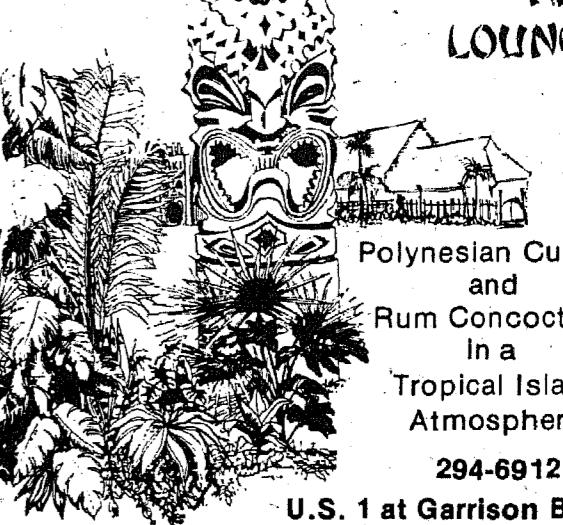
By Martha de Poo, orig. illus. by J. Tenniel, 'Alice in Wonderland,' 1865

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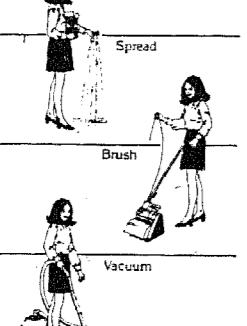
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EXPATRIATE

A Poem

It's nice to be back here
Up north, after ten years
With palm fronds.

(I wonder if the hawks came back to Rose Lane.)

And now to briskly walk,
Exchanging rapid talk;
Form new bonds.

(I wonder who hangs out at the Sandcastle.)

I love the autumn shades;
Winds stronger than the Trades
Sing wild tunes.

(I wonder if the Salt Pond will be saved.)

The beaches of Cape Cod --
Velvet on feet unshod --
With piled dunes.

(I wonder what's happening at the Casa Marina.)

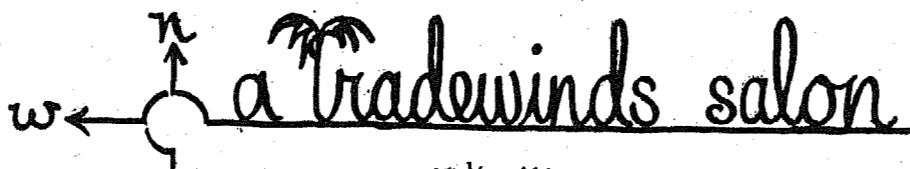
Brave little fishing boats:
Raging Atlantic gloats,
Wreck-making.

(I wonder how the shrimp haul will be this year.)

The sun goes down in flames,
With clouds plays vivid games:
Eye-breaking.

(I wonder who'll be at Sunset tonight.)

by Helen R. Chapman



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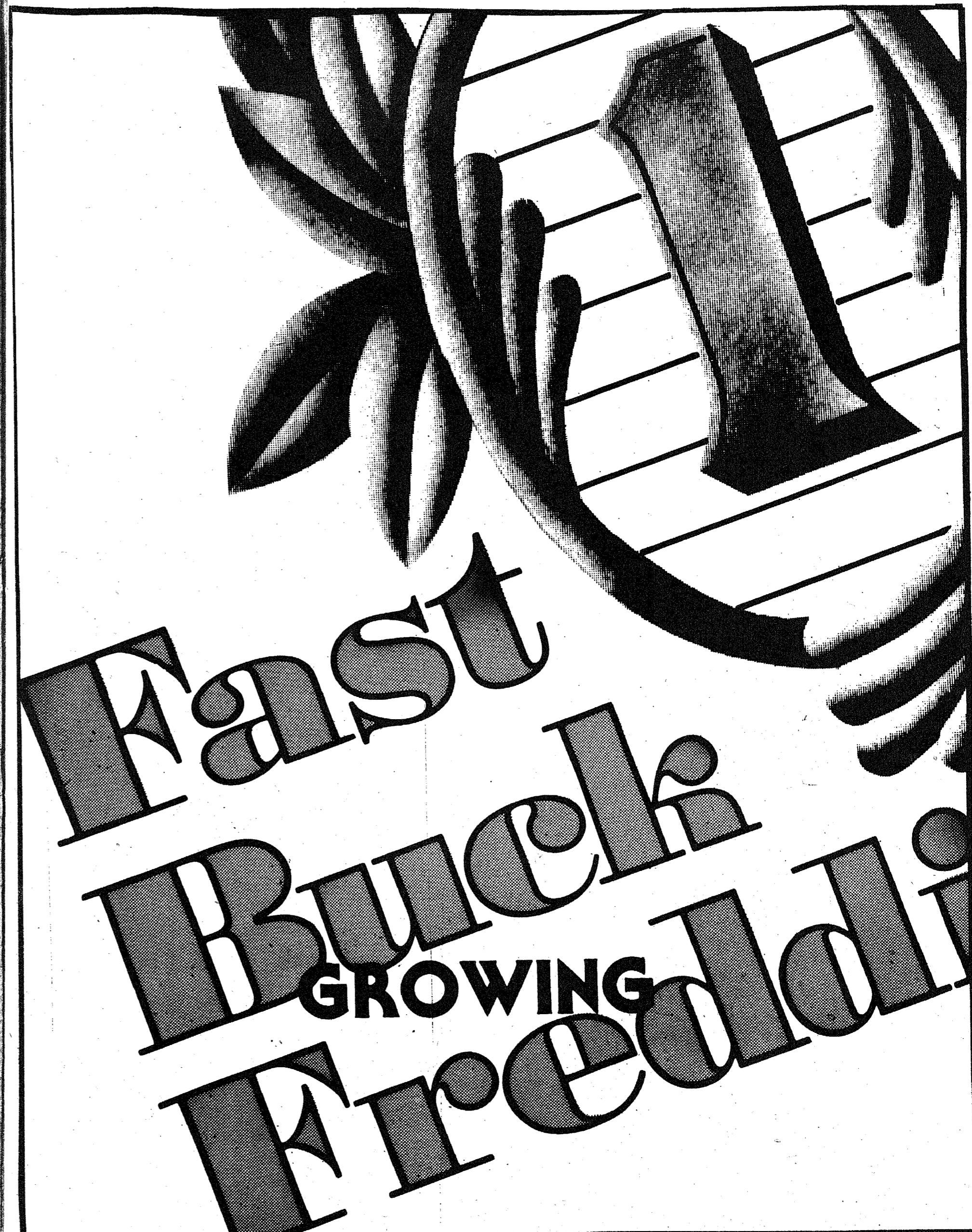
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notes and antic-dotes

by Dorothy Raymer

A RADIO COMMERCIAL, sung to the tune of "Deep In The Heart of Texas," was heard daily in Key West a little more than a decade ago. The song now survives as a fragment performed now and then by Jack and Jim Holt, a singer-guitarist team known for their superb harmonizing.

The Holts first presented the radio ditty as part of their shows at Captain Tony's Saloon, back in 1967. Since then, the Holts have incorporated the ditty into programs at various night clubs, such as the original Bamboo Room, which was on Smith Lane, at the second Bamboo Room on Big Coppitt Key, and at the 900 Bar on Simonton Street.

A SORT OF poetic license was exhibited in the words: "On the corner of Caroline and Elizabeth Streets, deep in the heart of Conchtown, you're always a winner at Carlos Food Center, deep in the heart of Conchtown."

Conchtown has just lost a tiny corner of its heart, for Carlos Food Center went out of the market business on November 22, the day before Thanksgiving this year.

The passing of the friendly store was a sad occasion for the immediate neighborhood, for the shrimp boat colony in the adjacent area, and for longtime customers scattered all over the island, who had been dealing for decades at "Carlos," as the food center was called for brevity.

THE HISTORY of the enterprise trails clear back to 1909, sixty-nine years ago, when a shop was established at the same site, 701 Caroline Street. It was not as large as the present remodeled structure, but was a forerunner of the modern demi-supermarket, where groceries, meat, dairy products, fruit and vegetables, and household items were sold.

Founder Juan Calleja came to Key West from Cuba in 1879 with his parents when he was only four months old, and he lived here all his life. He died in 1965 in his 86th year, a much beloved, distinguished and courtly gentleman, who continued to make brief trips to the center just to keep in touch even after retirement. Always active, he also had a business he conducted as a young man, a general store at 518 Fleming Street, where he sold drygoods and notions as well as food stuffs.

CARLOS FOOD CENTER celebrated its 55th anniversary, April 4, 1964. Twelve years prior to that date, Carlos Calleja had succeeded his father as operator and was the keystone of the family system. He had begun working for his father as a bicycle delivery boy when he was 15 years old.

With Carlos at the Caroline Street location was Ernesto Herce, a boyhood chum, who became a business associate in charge of the meat department. This friendship-partnership endured, and right up to the final closing of the center, Ernesto was on duty. In fact, one of the main reasons of the shuttering of the market was due to the coming retirement of Ernesto, now nearly 70. Expert butchers are scarce, and proper training for good help takes a long period.

I WROTE a special feature on the anniversary observance. One of the pictures appearing in *The Key West Citizen* for the event was a vintage reproduction of a 1909 calendar, copies of which had been given out as souvenirs for the opening. That year was also the date of the birth of Carlos Calleja. Thus, he was literally "born into the business." So the pictorial subject, a mother holding a baby, was singularly appropriate.

The calendar theme was also expressive of the family-run enterprise, which persisted via blood relationship and marriage. Grace, daughter of Ernesto Herce, was married to Carlos Calleja and used to help at the shop. The Callejas had three offspring,

Giselda, Hortense, and John. All three children chipped in with time and effort when help was needed. Young John, who is now a practicing physician here, often served at the cash register in one of the checking lanes when he was still a student at Key West High School. When Dr. Calleja first opened his new office last year, one of his women patients stared at him in astonishment and exclaimed, "Oh! I remember you. You used to check out my groceries." But now he does medical checkups!

Hortense, John's sister, kept the family tradition going through marriage to Ernesto (Preacher) Perez. He became store manager when Hortense's father, Carlos I, retired in 1964. Also in the trade the past several years has been their son, named Carlos after his grandfather. Young Carlos proved to be knowledgeable in every aspect of the center's work.

OUTSTANDING VETERAN EMPLOYEE Clarence Ferguson, tall and amiable, who was head of the delivery service, was accomplished in practically every department, functioning in any niche. And he was a whiz at customer relations.

Through the passage of years, there has been a turnover of workers, and it is impossible to refer to any but the few mentioned. Manager Perez expressed appreciation for the loyal personnel, but he admitted it was becoming more difficult to obtain skilled workers, and that this was another factor contributing to the closeout of one of the last of the local stores accenting Cuban and Spanish specialities.

UP UNTIL 1959, when Fidel Castro became the dictator of Cuba, products from the neighboring island only 90 miles away were available. After that date, many delicacies were imported from Spain. Some of the Cuban-style foods, such as the custard called "flan," and the long loaves of Cuban bread, to name only two, were made either locally or brought down from Miami.

The shelves of Carlos' mart still offered cans of nectar, tamarind, guanabana, mango, papaya, the candy *terron de yema*, guava juice and guava paste, and a wide range of Cuban coffee brands.

In the vegetable section, a Spanish sweet potato, ginger root, yuca, and malanga, a root vegetable, as well as jalapeno peppers in jars or cans, could be bought. Canned "Palacio" items from Spain were displayed: *bonita del norte*, spicy sardines in oil, and squid in its own ink.

CARLOS' MARKET became noted for a Conch favorite dish and earned the title of "Souse Headquarters." "Souse is a hot concoction made with pickled pig's feet as one of the main ingredients, and has nothing to do with the souses to be found in a wino's row court, which formed regularly across the street from the market, assembling on the porch of Carpenter's Hall. The clique was headed by a tall, thin vagrant known as "King Philip." He and his royal rascals managed to scrape together enough money for cheap wine.

Every class of the multi-layered structure of island society visited the food center, some in search of gourmet goodies, others seeking Cuban source products.

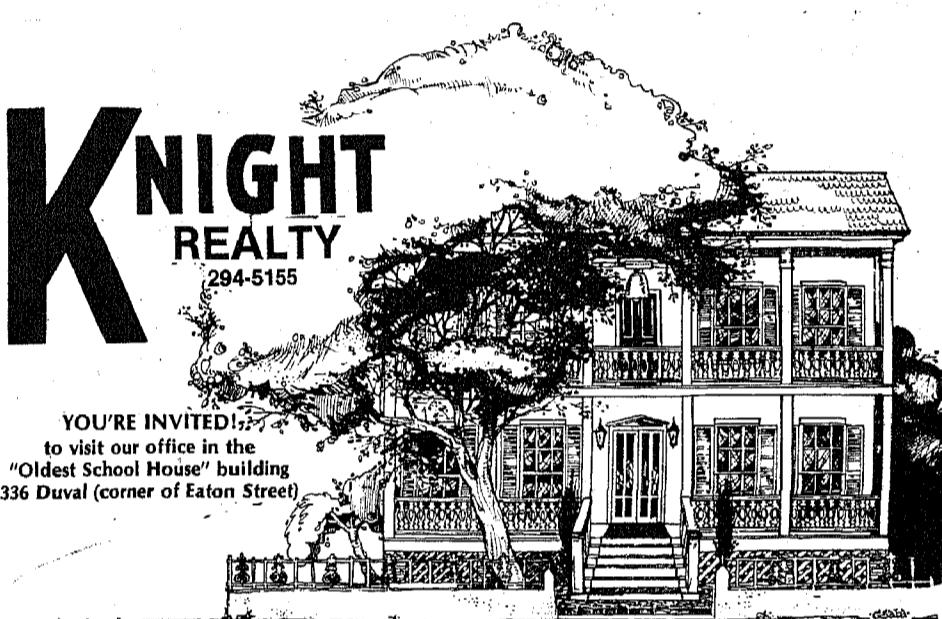
The now much-touted soul food was sold here early on, long before such nourishment became a national trend.

THE PARADE OF CHARACTERS who wandered in and out of the non-sacred portals added rugged individual flavor to the pi-quant atmosphere. Among them was a woman called Moon Girl, a cadaverous annual visitor who hailed from Alabama. She explained her gaunt build by casually announcing she suffered from chronic hookworm.

Nevertheless, she never seemed to lack for male companionship, mostly recruited from shrimp fleet crews. Sometimes she wore ragged clothing, but every now and then, Moon Girl shone brightly in avant garde fashion. Evidently her wardrobe depended on temporary affluence of escorts.

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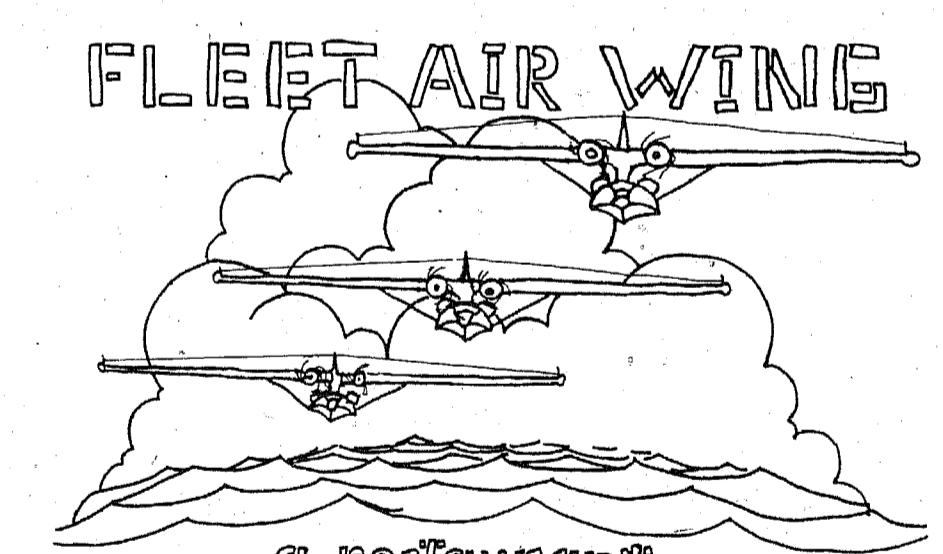
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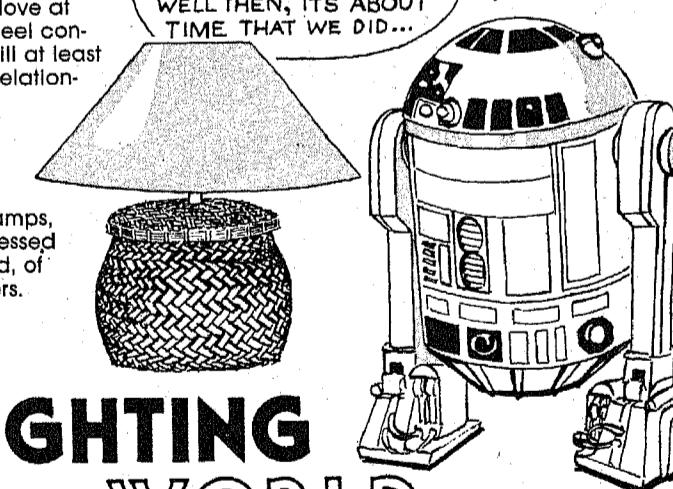
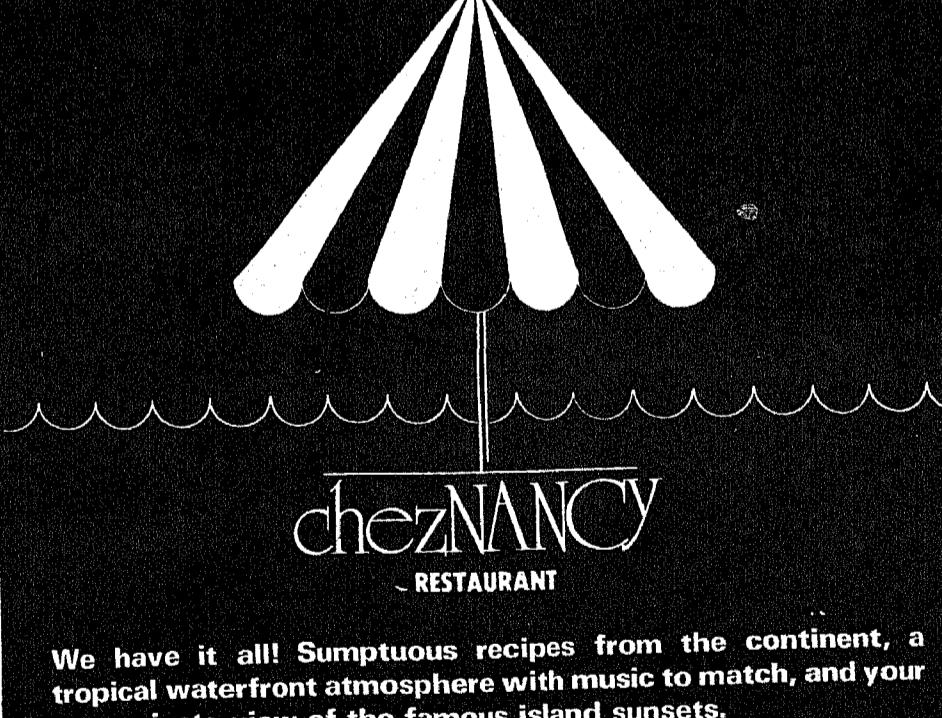
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THE ODDEST CUSTOMER was a white-bearded oldster, who often dropped into the newspaper office to talk about art. His field was unique. He painted the doors of old outhouses. Old World Charm dropped out of the picture eventually, possibly because the city began banning outdoor toilets.

A fantastic coincidence cropped up not so long ago when two of the store's patrons, in succession, acquired long raccoon fur coats, of 1920's collegiate style.

An aging female, labeled Crazy Helen, was the first to promenade, fur-clad, in the heat of mid-August. As she walked around the store aisles, she adapted grand mannerisms and a haughty demeanor, proudly showing off her furry garment.

Then she disappeared from the setting, and an elderly man, Roy Passwater, now deceased, showed up in an ankle-length, moth-eaten raccoon overcoat, which he, too, sported in summer weather.

I have a hunch he inherited the hirsute relic from Crazy Helen.

DRIFTERS STILL assemble along the porch of the Carpenter's Hall, on the corner opposite the grocery site, but the ranks of the old-timers have thinned. There were more halcyon yesterdays when the grizzled group would pool resources, chiefly gotten through panhandling or from a little of leftover welfare checks, and then send one of their more sober representatives over to the center to purchase beer or preferably wine, usually Thunderbird make. Sometimes even rubbing alcohol tempted the drinkers even though they were aware of the hazard of consuming it.

Finally "Preacher" Perez eliminated alcoholic beverages from the stock entirely, and strict surveillance was ordered on the purchase of the harmful rubbing liquid.

Perez, a devout churchman, has nevertheless maintained a sympathetic attitude toward genuine down-and-outers, even those who belong to the so-called "hippie" ele-

ment, if they proved to be really in need of rations. He learned that his reputation as being a man to approach if one was really desperate for a handout had circulated afar.

THE DISCOVERY occurred when a young



man with a backpack and a weary look arrived at the store and asked to see "the priest." Informed there was no priest on the premises, the sad-eyed hiker then asked if he could talk to "the minister." In rapid succession, the youth inquired for audience with "a clergyman" or "a deacon," and then struck the key word, "preacher."

Erasto Perez, nicknamed "Preacher," listened to the vagabond, who was from Chicago, and was astounded to learn that his goodwill reputation had carried that far. The forlorn caller said, "I was told by friends in Chicago that if I got to Key West and really needed a handout, to come to Carlos' place on Caroline Street and ask for you. I just got your title mixed up at first."

CARLOS FOOD CENTER has served not only as a commercial convenience but also as a community center for an almost in-

credible record -- a total of 71 years. People from every career level and from every byway of life have come to the center to shop, and then lingered to exchange comments on issues of the day, important or minor.

The store has been a clearing house for news, rumors, gossip, views and opinions, expressed in both Spanish and English, or pure Conch talk.

Situations were laughed about, or criticized. Lively discussions created a sort of bilingual club where all types of humanity met and communicated.

I am only one of legions who regret the passing of Carlos Food Center with its contrasting continental and provincial atmosphere, and above all I'll miss the warm and welcoming attitude of the staff.

IN SAYING ADIOS, there is one glimmer of hope for a continuance of the friendly tradition, so long an integral part of the center scene.

The recently established sandwich shop will continue to serve homemade food and will even expand the menu.

In addition, the building will be partitioned into a variety of separate shops.

The oft-quoted phrase can be applied -- "The old order changeth, and giveth place to new."

THE END

AN AMPHIBIAN ADVENTURE

MY WALLED PATIO garden contains a small pond, approximately six feet square, with a tall palm tree growing out of the middle. When I moved here, the pond was full of tadpoles, and I was delighted to discover that the garden contained a few attractive tree frogs that warbled gently like songbirds during the day. This prompted me to encourage the tadpoles to survive, become tree frogs, and keep my garden free of insect pests.

After a time, however, croaking began at night, becoming so loud and persistent that it became difficult to sleep. Several wakeful nights persuaded me to clean out

the pool or any remaining tadpoles. With the help of a flashlight I began searching for frogs at night, capturing them by hand. Those taken were tossed into a wetland off the property. Eleven frogs were removed in June.

WE WERE NOW into the breeding season, and settings of caviar-like eggs had constantly to be removed from the pond.

Four goldfish were added to help out. Breeding pairs of treefrogs were a large, gray/green female with a much smaller bright yellow or reddish brown male on her back, clutching her firmly around the neck. They were easy to catch as a pair, being somewhat preoccupied, and when tossed into the swamp, landed still conjoined. Nine frogs were removed in July.

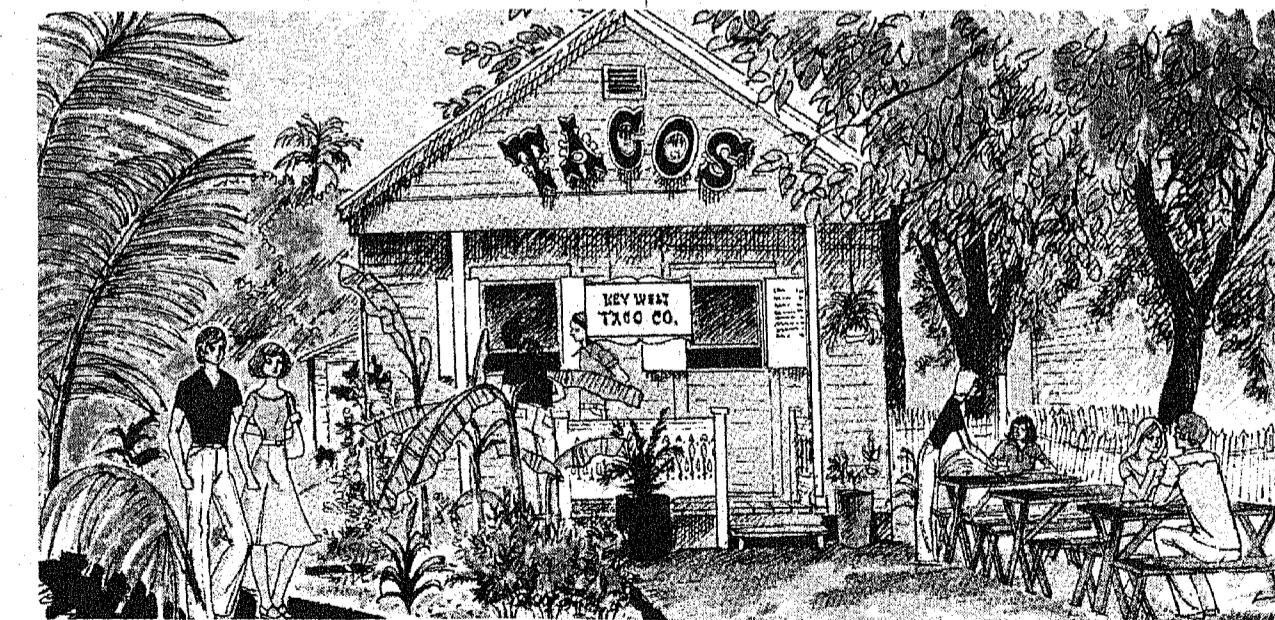
CAPTURE AND DISPOSAL of frogs would quiet the area for a while, but sooner or later the noise returned. Many smaller frogs began to appear, presumably from the generation of tadpoles I had helped along. The noise increased and could now be heard throughout the house. I doubled my efforts to capture the celebrants. Twenty-six frogs were removed in August.

The breeding season finished, and the large females and eggs in the pond disappeared. The number of small frogs continued to increase, along with the volume of the croaking, which now could be heard down the block. Twenty-four frogs were removed in September.

NOW IT IS October first, and things have been relatively quiet for a week or so; a little warbling by day, an occasional croak at night. At breakfast the other morning, however, I saw a large female scamper up the trunk of the palm tree in pursuit of a small male. Even so, I am confident that continued absence of eggs in the pond promises me eventual triumph. Seventy frogs were removed during June through September.

The four goldfish have trebled in size. Sleep comes easier, again.

By Thomas M. Beck



Who's Right?

LAST SUMMER Monroe County Sheriff William (Billy) Freeman announced a new policy for the department that would require all his employees to take lie-detector tests and file annual financial disclosure statements. Predictably, many employees protested, and the constitutionality of the order is now being argued in court.

When the controversy hit the papers, the sheriff's side of the story was the only one heard. One reason was that there is a department policy against employees speaking to the press. Another is that the public seemed to think it knew the other side of the story already. "The only ones against it are the ones with something to hide," was an often-expressed opinion.

THE DEPUTY we talked to said that although he has nothing to hide, he'll resign his position before buckling under to what he believes is a violation of his human rights. "Murderers and rapists have the right to refuse to take the polygraph," he said. "I just want the same right extended to me."

That deputy has been in law enforcement for almost 20 years. He watched the progress of civil rights in this country in the 1960's and said he agrees with the decisions. "This (polygraph policy) is a step backward. The sheriff is trying to take away human rights rather than add to them. If I have to lose my job for a principle, I'll just have to lose my job."

FREEMAN EXPLAINED his position this way: "It's incumbent on me to make a substantial effort to select those personnel who can be reasonably expected to maintain a high standard of conduct and performance. If the sheriff is negligent

by failing to conduct proper background investigations or negligent in retaining an employee who's unqualified to serve, then the sheriff can be held liable. Since deputies are empowered to make arrests and carry firearms, it behooves a sheriff to do all in his power to ensure that only those persons reasonably fit to perform in this context are appointed or retained."

THE DEPUTY had no argument with that statement, and agrees that the sheriff has the right to require polygraph examinations of all new employees. Eight or nine new employees have already been hired under the new policy, and all underwent polygraph tests and psychological exams.

"I think it's fine for new employees to be required to take the test," said the deputy. "They've got a choice. They take it or they look for work somewhere else. I have no choice. I either take it or I'm fired. That's not a choice. I don't buy it. If we give in on this, what's to keep him from searching our homes with no warrant? Everybody in the country has a right to refuse to take a lie-detector test except the people in my position. I'm not a second-class citizen. I think I should at least have the same rights a criminal has."

SHERIFF FREEMAN said, "What was on my mind when I started this was to give the public assurance that they've got an honest police force. It serves the public interest. Even a hint of police corruption endangers respect for the law. The bottom line was to raise the standards of the sheriff's office, to get out of dark ages thinking."

THE DEPUTY SAID, "If somebody wants to please the public at my expense, I'm

by Mack Dryden

sorry. No. I don't buy it. If the sheriff has probable cause to think one of his employees is engaged in illegal activity, okay. Let him show probable cause and ask for a polygraph. But don't take away my freedom of choice just because I'm a deputy."

Said Freeman: "I strongly feel the public's right to an honest law enforcement agency overshadows or is paramount to those individual rights. The conduct of a law officer can't be just as good as an ordinary citizen. It has to be better. He has to set an example. If you want to smoke pot, for example, there are plenty of other jobs available. A man should know what is expected of him before he starts a job."

"It's not easy working under these conditions," said the deputy. "We've got no civil service board to appeal to. We can't go to the career service council the other county employees have. We're at the mercy of the sheriff."

"SEVERAL OF THE men have come to me and asked me if they could go ahead and take the test and get it over with," said Freeman. "I told them I couldn't give it to them because the court has this injunction on it. Now there's a violation of rights, I think. When a man wants to take it and can't."

"Sure, some have already volunteered said the deputy. "And that's fine. Every person will have to make up his own mind on this. But the question is, who can afford to fight for the principle? There's a lot on the line. A man who has family and no other way to support them won't fight too hard if it's 'just' a principle I'm not made that way. There's an awful lot at stake here. But I can't give in to this."

THE END

OLD U.S. 1

YOU CAN DRIVE the highway from Key West to Miami today in about 3½ hours -- barring accidents and bridges jammed in the open position -- but you're missing a great deal of the romance and oldtime adventure, back-breaking though it may have been, when it was literally an all-day trek in the tradition of the pioneers, back in the early 1930's.

Charles J. Curry, now retired after a distinguished career in the federal civil service at the Key West Naval Base where he won several commendations, was one of the many local young men who got much-needed employment in the Great Depression, building what is now known as the Old State Road through the Florida Keys, the original U.S. 1.

IN THOSE YEARS, Henry Flagler's Florida East Coast Railroad was still puffing along, and the road more or less ran alongside, interspersed by two-car passenger ferry crossings that you had to make if you wanted to make it to Miami for the weekend.

Curry, who today serves as assistant director of the county's Municipal Service District, worked on a survey team with Hal Lewinsky, building and laying out the Old State Road, along with its numerous wooden bridges over channels between the Keys.

"You had to start out soon after sunrise from Key West if you wanted to get a place on the ferry at No Name Key," Curry recalled. "It was an over-land and over-water journey that, if you ever made it, you'd never forget."

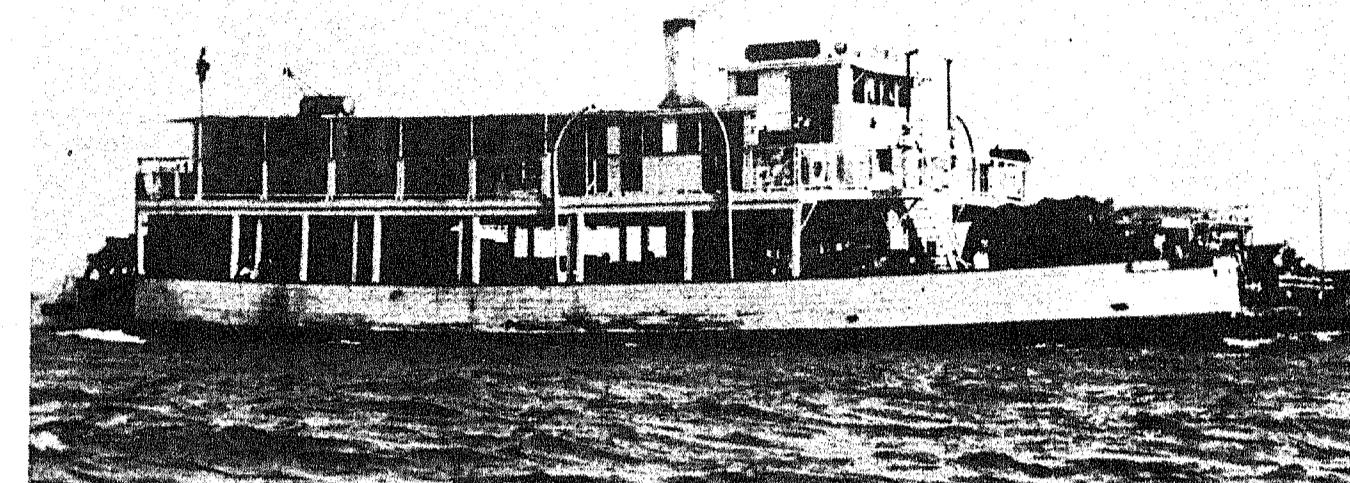
FROM AN EARLY START, you'd be lucky to reach Miami around 12 hours later, maybe a little sooner of course, depending much on how the weather was for those ferry crossings.

Black-painted boxy-styled Fords and Chevies made up the small local population of automobiles, unlike today's clogging of the streets and byways with trucks, vans, buses, motorcycles and what-have-you.

You would drive out of Key West and cross the first wooden bridge to Stock

Near where King's Point Marina is now was the next wooden bridge, and that led to the western end of the old Boca Chica road. Meanwhile, the railroad line followed the line of the present highway, to the north of the Old State Road,

Along you drove on the Boca Chica road, passing Luther Pinder's fishing



One of the car ferries
photo courtesy of Monroe County Public Library

camp on the left and heading east near the ocean shoreline.

HENRY FLAGLER'S iron-horse, the F.E.C., railroad, would be huffing, puffing and chuffing into town across another of its viaducts, making for the terminal at Trumbo Point, now the site of Naval officers' housing. The late Kingman Curry, chief baggage agent for the F.E.C., was on hand for the arrivals.

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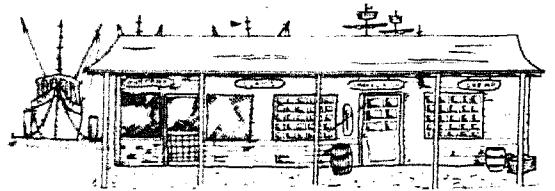
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You rattled along Boca Chica road to the east side of Geiger Key, approximately near the little fishing shack you pass on the way to the Tamarac Park subdivision.

This wooden bridge was different, though.

The construction crews would begin work at the land side on each end of the bridge and aim toward the middle, over water.

There was a little miscalculation on this one, and when they got within shouting distance they found out they were several yards out-of-line, so they had to insert a dogleg in the middle to hook up.

"It was the only bridge that jogged," Curry said.

THE EASTERNMOST END of that bridge connected near the southern side of Sugarloaf Key, and if you stop your car on the ocean-side of the highway near Keevan's construction area and look south over the mangrove-fringed islands, you will be able to see one of the last remaining vestiges of the Old State Road. It's a white, sandy gouge amid the greenery, along a slight bluff.

If your car can take a lot of punishment and a few assorted scratches, you can reach that remote, secluded point, populated by waterfowl and exotic birds, by approaching it from the other end. Take SR 939, the T-intersection at U.S. 1 across from the Sugarloaf Lodge, a follow that well-paved road south until it branches off. Take the right branch which meanders on a westerly course, crosses a concrete bridge, and continues into a wild area. You'll hit the dead end, but there you drive around a couple bumps and obstacles and you'll come to the mail-topped Old State Road. It is so narrow-gauge that only one car can wind through the tangled bushes, wildflowers and trees, driving no more than 5 mph.

WHEN YOU REACH the end, you'll see the wooden planks and supports of the old wrecked bridge. Look to the right,

and in the distance you'll see modern-day U.S. 1 with trucks, cars and vans passing along.

Anyway, back to the old road as it ran along the shoreline of Sugarloaf, past what was once the late Rep. Bernie C. Pappy's estate and some other beautifully secluded properties with hundreds of yards of white sand and rustling palms. None of them lavish, but all of them totally comfortable.

YOU KEEP ON heading in an easterly direction over what now becomes a bumpy, pitted old road, and it leads to U.S. 1 at Capt. Eddie's Fish Basket restaurant and beer bar. It crosses the highway there (which was the railroad line in the 1930's) and veers right, so that now you're on the Gulf side of the highway.

It follows the old railroad line (the highway) and crosses to Cudjoe Key, then to Summerland, where it hits Johnson Point, an old fishing camp, and the wooden bridge there is revealed by a wooden abutment.

RIGHT HERE, Curry recalls, the bridge angle apparently took off in a more northerly direction to Ramrod Key, the Torches and then to the northern corner of Little Torch, crossed the Big Pine channel and hooked up with what is now Watson road. The stretch you're on now ran straight across Big Pine Key from west to east, and curved to join the wooden bridge to No Name Key, replacing character and personality with anonymous concrete.

Big Pine was sparsely settled in the 1930's, with most of the people living near the railroad and clustered around the late famous Big Pine Inn, once a popular hangout for booze runners from Cuba and railroad workers.

"You tried to get to the ferry dock at No Name by around 9 or 9:30 in the morning, otherwise you were in for an all-day stay with the mosquitoes," Curry said.

THE TALL, high-waisted ferry boat was steam-powered and billowed black

smoke from her stack. She made fairly good speed even loaded with 40 to 50 cars and passengers. Two of the skippers on the ferry line, Curry recalled, were Capt. Bootie Roberts and his brother, Verrill, both from Key West, along with other local crew members.

"It was a social day out on the water, when the weather was right. There was food and refreshments and even the slot machines got some action."

THE FERRY HEADED into open water on the north side of what is now Sunshine Key and Bahia Honda, passing far to the north of Pigeon Key. All the time, you could see the railroad in the distance. About 11 a.m. you'd land at Hog Key, the westernmost end of what is now Marathon (Key Vaca). In the meantime, the ferry from Hog Key to No Name would pass with its returning passengers. The ferry dock was near where the Seven Mile Grill is located today.

"We'd get in the car at Hog Key and drive off onto the Old State Road, following the railroad line, more or less, up to the next ferry landing at Grassy Key. You can see the road easily from the highway today."

From Grassy Key you'd make the second crossing to Lower Matecumbe, another 1½ hour trip.

WHEN THE KILLER HURRICANE of '35 ripped into the Florida Keys on the Labor Day weekend, it literally tore apart the railroad bed, the rails, ties, everything all through the middle and upper Keys, drowning over 400 people, most of whom were railroad workers brought in for jobs during the Depression.

After the wind and water died down, Key West and the Keys were isolated from the world.

The ferry service finally got back to work, even though one of them was sunk and the other beached by the storm.

It was evident then to the government that the only way out of the mess was to construct a new highway on the foundation of the railroad line.

ONE OF THE lasting signs of that killer storm you can see today on the bay side of the Indian Key fill. It's the twisted skeletal finger of a rail section that had been wrenched apart and then hurled with mighty force into the bay bottom near the highway, point first. Today it's a favorite perch for pelicans and cormorants.

It wreaked damage in the millions and killed hundreds, that storm, but it also resulted in hundreds of jobs for poor people in the Keys.

"For years we worked on that highway over the railroad line, built bridges, including the Seven Mile Bridge. I was stationed there at Pigeon Key for two and a half years during construction," Curry remembered.

THEY USED what was left of the railroad lines for bridge railings, and a young construction man on the job, Leo (Sully) Sullivan, had the bright idea for rigging a platform that would run along wheels in the grooves of the railroad lines. The platform moved easily up and down the Seven Mile Bridge by means of pulleys and wheels, holding the maintenance men who did the never-ending repairs to the structure. In later years Sully ran an ironmongery shop near the Fisherman's Cafe on Caroline Street.

The car-passenger ferry, after the storm, made its overwater passage from No Name Key all the way to Lower Matecumbe. Eventually the county closed it down.

The old road itself on Key Largo for many years ran up to Card Sound, where it crossed wooden bridges and then headed into Miami.

"It was about 7 p.m. when you got there, and it had been a long day's traveling," Curry concluded.

THE END

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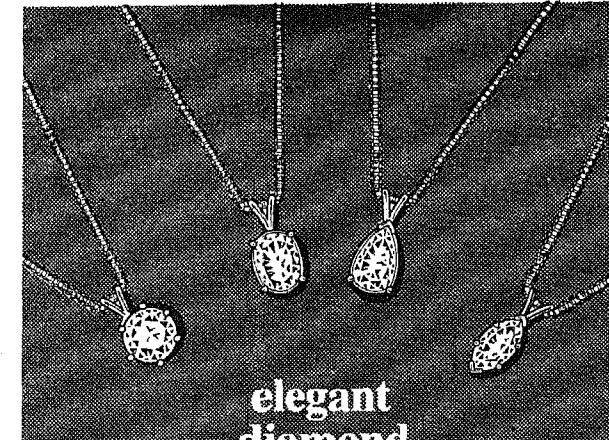
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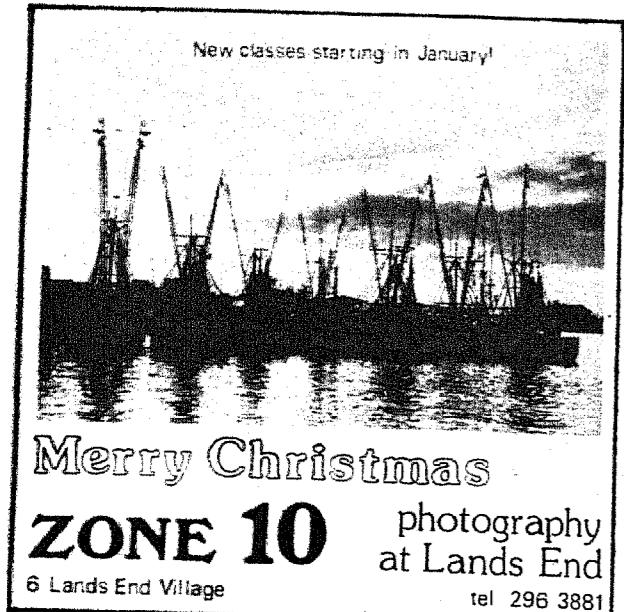
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other Key Largo customers presently served by private R.O. plants thereby producing about \$1.3 million additional revenue; however, we find it difficult to believe that 1850 residents of Key Largo can consume much more than 200,000 gallons of water per day or produce more than \$260,000 additional revenue per year.

READING THE FmHA letter of loan conditions reveals several significant cost factors that we do not find included in the FKAAs projected figures. The first provides that FmHA will not close, that is, convey any money until the pipeline is completed and the general contractor, all sub-contractors, and the attorney have been paid in full. The second is that the FKAAs must obtain interim financing by borrowing from commercial sources to finance the entire construction program. Even the \$11,325,000 bond debt will not be refinanced until the work is complete. So we will have construction loans of up to \$38 to \$40 million to pay interest on at commercial rates from private lenders for about two years or more, as well as the interest and principal of \$781,000 per year on the present bonds. The proposed pipeline then would have the potential of supporting three times the present population of Monroe County.

WE HAVE NOT REACHED a firm judgment on the proposed pipeline question at this time. A group of us of varied disciplines will be continuing our investigations and studies and will report further in a later issue. We have attempted in this article to report as many facts as we can and to raise some questions that bother us and for which we are still seeking answers. Our early feeling is that we need some kind of new pipeline, but that the specific pipeline planned may be larger than necessary.

WE BELIEVE that the old Navy pipeline is seriously deteriorated in exposed areas, but that the \$26 million in grants for pipeline replacement on the new bridges will correct many of the worst sections of the present line. We feel that the proposed new 36"-30"-24" line could be financed out of revenue at a water rate about half way between the present basic rate of \$3.56 per thousand and the current cost to consumers of about \$4.00 per thousand with Fuel Adjustment added. This project as planned will ultimately cost the people of Monroe County over \$120 million with principal and interest, a staggering amount for our population to under-

stand.

AS WE REVIEWED the engineering studies and other data associated with the pipeline project, the figure of 19 to 19.5

When you think of interiors

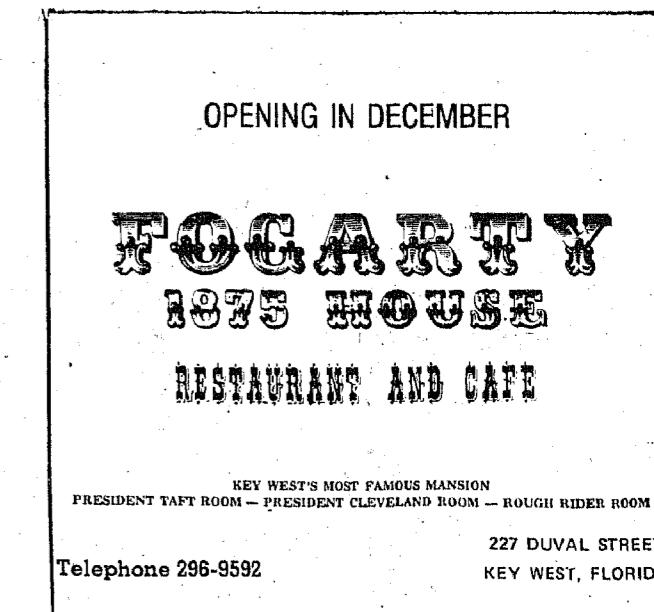
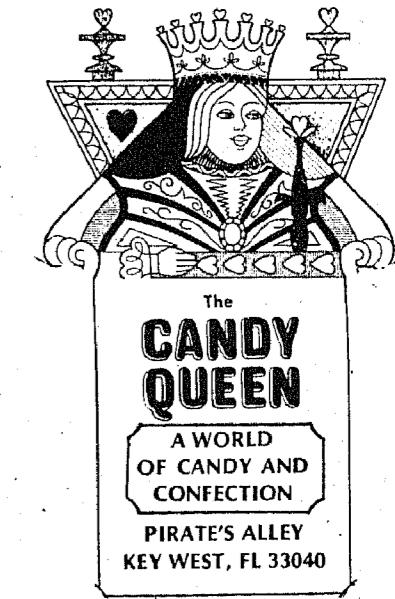
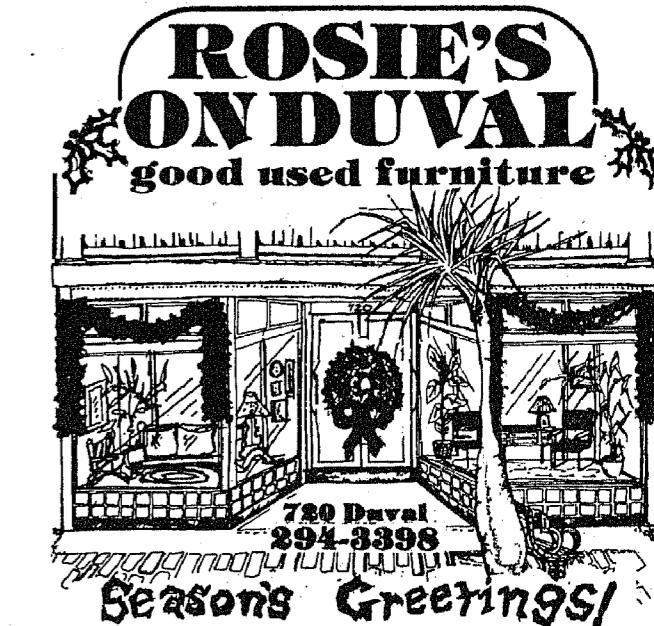
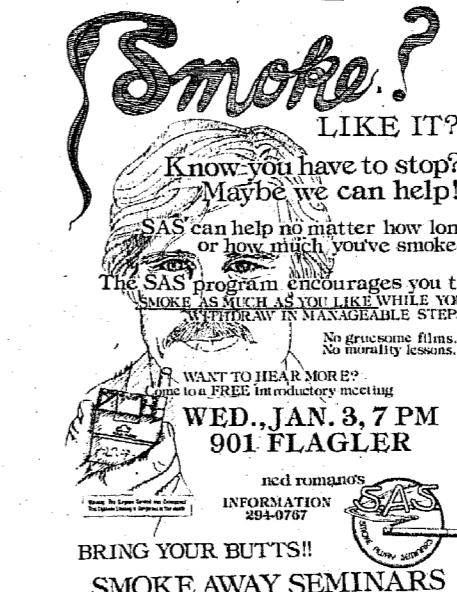
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write. It is vitally urgent that FCAA be totally frank in all its presentations on this subject.

We feel that the referendum election on the pipeline will be a very close decision. If it is to succeed, it must be convincingly justified and supported by full and absolute candor on the part of the Aqueduct Authority staff and board.

Fascell Interview

MEMBER OF THE Congress continuously since his election in 1954, Dante Fascell has labored long for the interests of Monroe County as well as Dade County. His assignments include the Committees on International Relations and on Government Operations. The following is an edited version of an interview by B.G. Carter with Congressman Dante B. Fascell. It was made in the Congressman's office in Washington on Monday, 11 September.

CARTER--Congressman, someone has said that Monroe County has not only more bridges than any other county in the United States but also more problems. What has happened in the co-ordination of the pursuit of the drug traffic in the Keys?

FASCCELL--Basically what we've done is to urge the Administration to make as much available in terms of manpower, equipment, or any other thing that's necessary to deal with the problem. Everybody knows how drastic the situation is in terms of Florida's being a port of entry, particularly the Keys. We want it stopped.

CARTER--Will this be a continuing program or just something that will garner headlines for a year and then disappear?

FASCCELL--No, it's a continuing program. It started when I was successful in getting the regional office of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) located in South

Florida. We have had excellent response (sometimes not so fast as we would like), but they're working their hearts out. They have assigned more men and more equipment. This is an ongoing program because it's obvious that the problem will not disappear.

CARTER--Some people have said that there has been an absence of co-ordination among the several agencies -- the DEA, the Coast Guard, and even the Air Force. Not long ago a presumed carrier flew over Cuba and was tracked by Homestead Air Force Base. Then there was no equipment available for the pursuit. What co-ordination will the new program offer?

FASCCELL--There is always a problem when several agencies are involved, but we hope that this kind of example will not recur. We've asked for a loan of aircraft, and they now are being outfitted specially so that they can be used in this kind of work. More personnel have been assigned by Customs. We are receiving help.

CARTER--On replacement of the bridges, it seems that the last chapter has now been written with recent presidential approval. But was there not some difficulty regarding the appropriation preceding the authorization? Has this now been removed, and have we now the money?

FASCCELL--All the funds have been appropriated, and there is enough money to continue the program for this particular year. The authorization bill has not passed yet, but we expect it to be adopted soon.

CARTER--Many questions that face Monroe County touch upon economic matters. Of the unanswered questions, perhaps the chief one is the Naval Air Station. Since your radio statement of the 12th of May when you reported your and the two sena-

tors' conversation with the Secretary of the Navy, what has happened on the status

FASCCELL--Two things have happened primarily. One has been the internal study which must be conducted by the Navy. The other is the impact study which is required by law when the military is considering the closing of a base. These two studies are going forward, and we're waiting the results of these studies and a determination by the Navy.

It would be very easy to put it on an economic basis from a naval standpoint. All that's necessary is to transfer more units there. As I've told the Navy many, many times, it is just as easy to move units to Boca Chica as to move them away. The Navy hasn't saved a single dollar by moving units from Key West -- ever!

But, until the Navy decides to move more units into Boca Chica, we remain on the hit list. It happens every year in the review of the budget when they have to look at their shore establishment and decide what they can do to offset cuts in their budget. When they have a base that doesn't have enough units, from a military standpoint they can't justify it. This, notwithstanding the fact that Key West is the finest military location in my judgement on the Eastern seaboard for that type of work.

But we made it clear that if Boca Chica is not put on an operational basis, then we don't want it to go on a standby basis or to close and just sit on it. We expect the Navy absolutely to make that property available for the economic benefit of the people in Monroe County.

CARTER--One of the strongest aspects of the news release was that you gave the Navy, in effect, only two alternatives -- to return it to the local community or to full, sustainable operation.

FASCCELL--Those alternatives are proper. If the Navy is considering right now clos-

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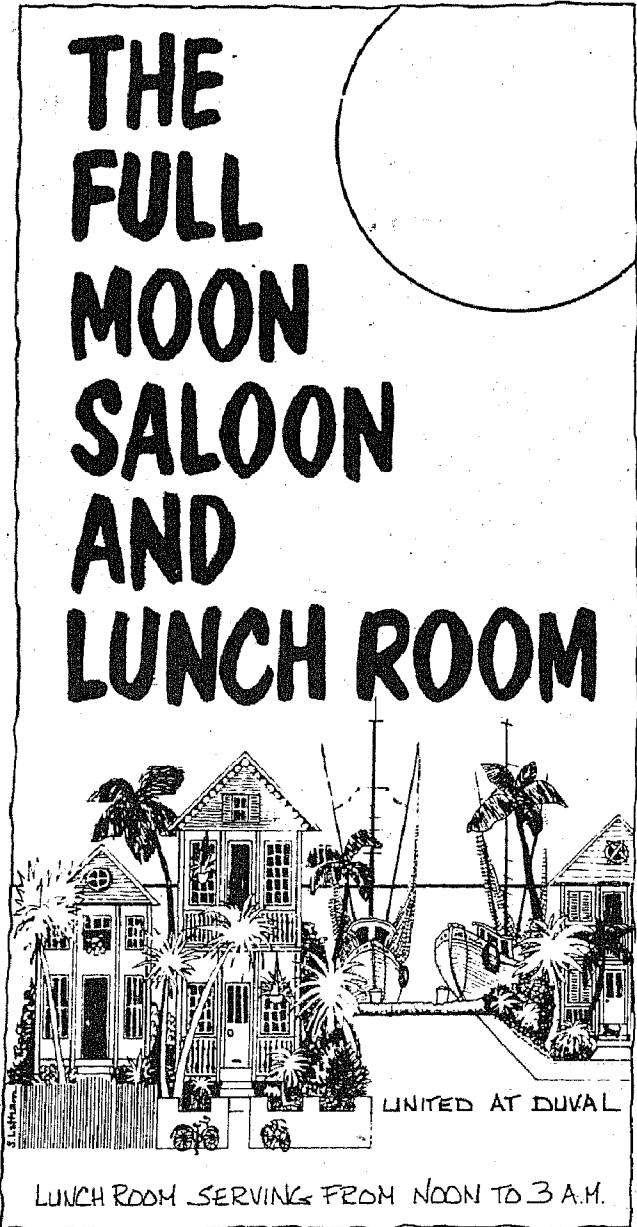
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THE SANDCASTLE /

INTERVIEW continued from page 18
ing the Base because it's not economically justifiable, then on what rationale can it be held half-open or half-closed? It's just not right; furthermore, it's not fair to the local community.

CARTER--Another economic question -- a very important one for future development -- relates to the request by the Aqueduct Authority to the Farmers Home Administration (FHA) for a loan that would permit the construction of a new pipeline. Do we know anything new about the probable approval of this loan?

FASCELL--At present it is just making its progress through the FHA, hopefully for approval. The problem with the pipeline is, of course, the same problem that we had with the bridges. It is the largest case of its kind that has ever gone to the federal government. On the bridges, for example, when we sought \$109 million of federal funds, the entire bridge replacement program for the whole country was only \$75 million. So it was a little tough convincing people that we should have \$109 million for one county.

And we have the same problem with the pipeline. There are no programs whereby a local unit of government can obtain grant money for the construction of a water pipeline. The only program that we've been able to find is this loan program through the Farmers Home Administration. But there again the amount of money involved is greater than for any other single project that the FHA has had anywhere in the country.

But the concessional terms -- the length of years and the low rate of interest -- do make it attractive. However, assuming that the FHA were to approve the loan, it would still be subject to a referendum of the people in Monroe County. Now, if the people in Monroe County turn down the referendum, then I don't know what they will do for water.

CARTER--There is a continuing debate con-

cerning preservation and development. Very often it becomes a straight taking of sides rather than the seeking of a joint program that might both preserve and provide for development. Some would be concerned that this new pipeline might become the Trojan horse which, if approved, would permit much more intensive development even with the land-use plan that Monroe County intends to have. Is there any provision that could remove the fear that this new pipeline might be used too much for intensive development?

FASCELL--I don't know anything as far as the pipeline itself is concerned. The question of use of water as an inhibitor of population growth is a matter of local decision. Nobody else can make that decision. But it certainly doesn't seem proper to me to deny existing population the water that it needs. And also, the existing pipeline is extremely old. It is not economical to keep repairing it for very long. Sooner or later something must be done about it.

When you add all of the elements, some move has to be made with respect to water. Now, how much future potential do you want in terms of water, and will that attract a lot of people down there? I really can't say. The Keys are growing; they're fantastic. People like the sun, the weather, the fishing, the swimming, and everything that goes with Keys' life.

It will be one of the most difficult decisions on a day-to-day basis. We've seen evidences of the community trying to make that decision every day. But you have the same problem with electricity and with waste.

What's happening in Monroe County is the same thing that's happening in any growth area. Where do you achieve a proper balance between saving the things that brought you there in the first place and taking care of everybody who wants to come there? A lot of places are experiencing this difficulty. I agree that

the answer lies in joint making of decisions and not in simply taking sides at one end or the other. The answer lies in trying to arrive at a reasonable conclusion that everybody can accept.

CARTER--One issue that would interest people who enjoy watching reefs and particularly those in the Lower Keys concerns Looe Key. In mid-July the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced a review of the results of the evaluation of coral reefs. This postponed, at least, the designation of Looe Key as a marine sanctuary. Have you general thoughts about the designation or the preservation of the coral reefs?

FASCELL--I think that it is absolutely essential to preserve the coral reefs. Not only are they the only coral reefs on the Eastern seaboard, but they are the real basis of the food chain which makes it possible for the fishermen to live. To destroy the reef and say that it won't affect the fishermen is just absolutely not justified. I can understand the feelings with respect to commercial fishing. I certainly respect them and have tried to support them in every way, but it is absolutely essential that we preserve the reefs.

CARTER--Another matter of economic significance for people in the Keys is the payment in lieu of taxes on federal lands. You have championed it steadfastly. Would it be fair to expect the approval of your current efforts?

FASCELL--As you know, we were successful in obtaining a payment in lieu of taxes for those federal lands which are within Monroe County. What we're trying to do now is to have a payment for State-owned lands which were eventually turned over to the federal government.

CARTER--In view of the nearness of adjournment, will you continue to press for this appropriation?

FASCELL--Absolutely. We're doing our

best now to have it this year, but chances right now are rather slim, because Congress will try to adjourn by the middle of October. But if the bill doesn't pass, I'll certainly introduce it next year. (It was not passed during this session. -Ed.)

CARTER--Many people frequently see tourism as the boon of the Keys. Others, including some who have had experience in tourism, see it as a bane because of the absence of skills in tourism that would permit employees to have high salaries. Have the Keys any alternatives to tourism which might not be perceived by local people at the present time?

FASCELL--I think that the alternatives are perceived, but there are problems. You have to recognize that the Keys have been in transition -- first, because of growth, tremendous growth. Secondly, the economy which was produced by the Navy steadily has been declining. The Keys have had to adjust, and they have adjusted extremely well.

One of the essential and obvious things is that the Keys have had to diversify their economy. They have begun to do that. Now the easiest thing to begin diversification was tourism. They have done very well, and probably there is still some potential there.

But there are other areas that could be developed. One reason why we fought so hard to have the excess naval property turned over to the community was so that the community could use it for its economic benefit. I think now of the area around the old submarine base.

And there are other possibilities. Key West is a natural in terms of those kinds of industries of high skill, for example, oceanographic industries. These could bring additional skills and additional economic benefit to Key West. They ought to and probably are being explored.

But Key West and Monroe County cannot rely totally on tourism. They must diversify in addition to that. THE END



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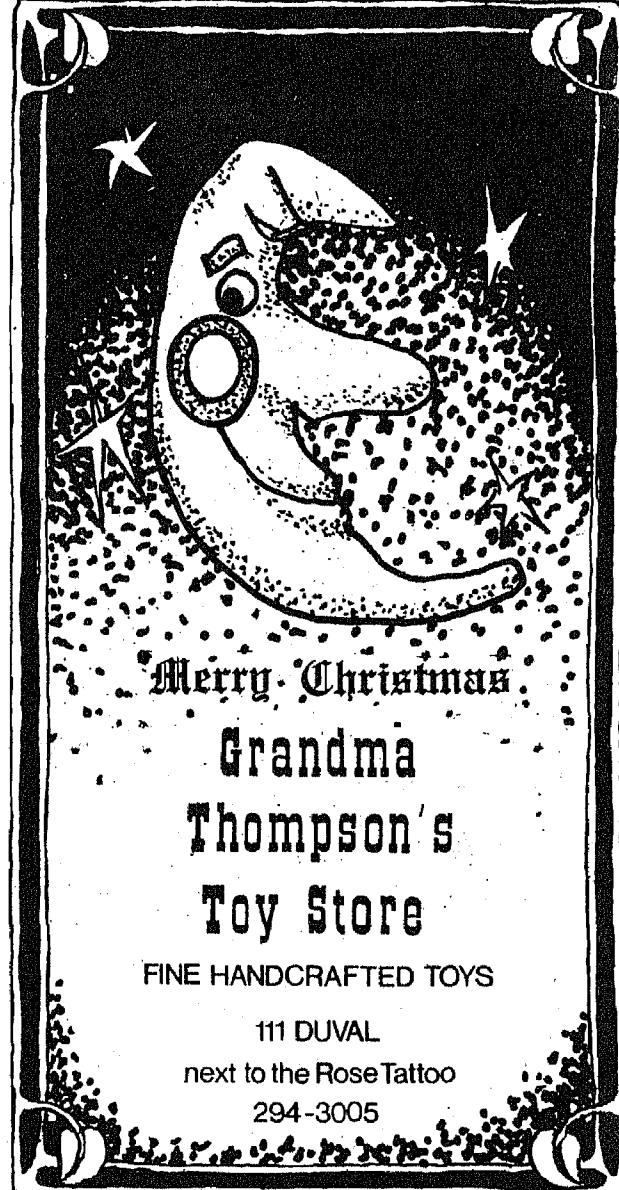
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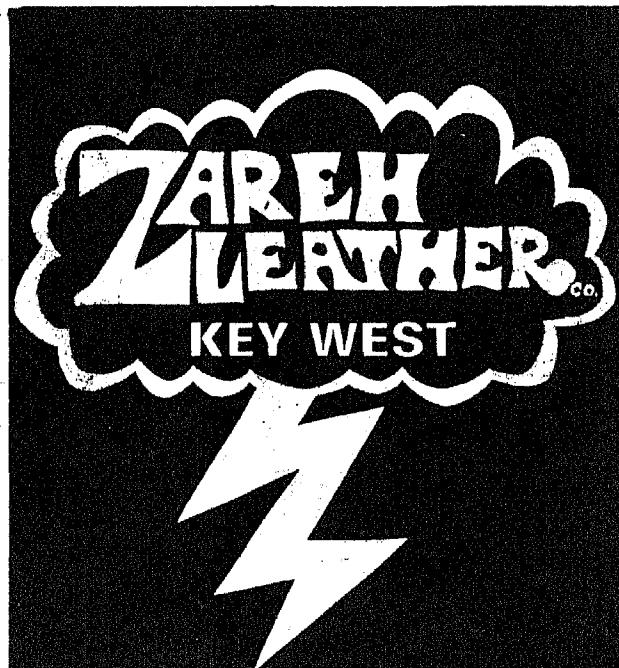
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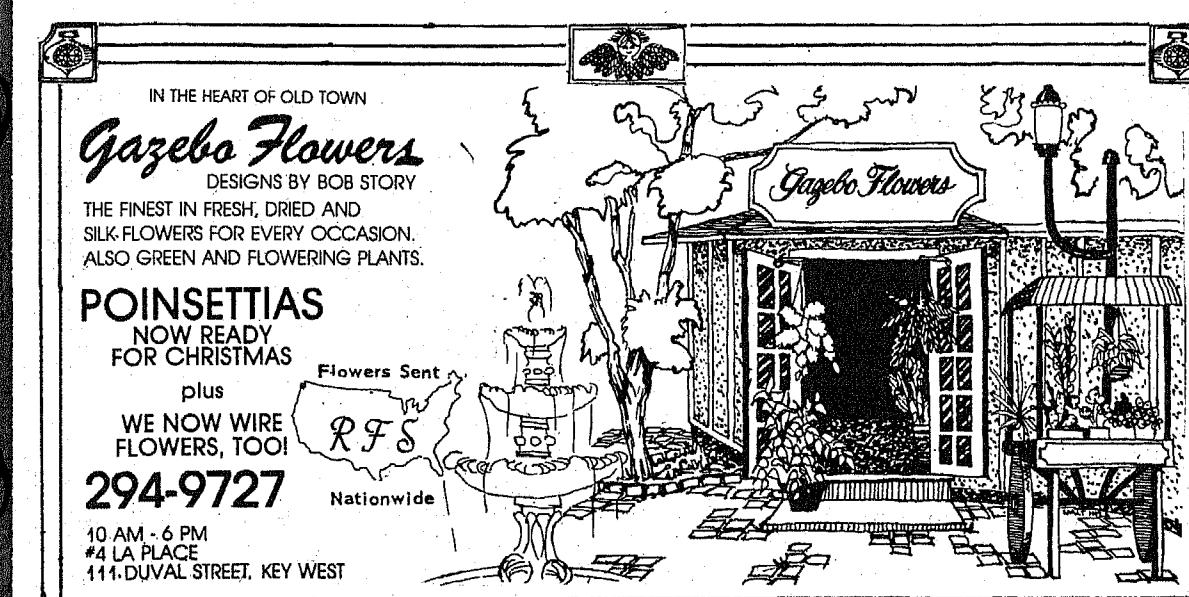
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Tenant Association

by Sheldon Ramsdell
and Jean-Louis d'Heilly

PRESSURE IS GROWING in Key West for the organization of tenants groups, concludes Ms. Yvonne Leon of Legal Services of the Florida Keys, 600 White Street, Key West (294-5675). Tenant and landlord problems are increasing as Key West becomes an ever more popular place to live and to visit.

"We must indeed all hang together, or most assuredly, we shall all hang separately," Benjamin Franklin remarked at the beginning of the American Revolution. This still rings true today in the Tenant revolution.

"Individually, tenants, like colonies, are vulnerable. Landlords turn a deaf ear to the complaints of the wronged tenant and turn tyrant -- the sentence -- eviction -- should the renter dare demand his due. But God help the landlord who ignores the collective voice of his residents. George 3rd ignored that voice and lost a nation. Louis XVI ignored it and lost his head." So states the pamphlet *How To Form A Local Tenant Group*, available from the National Tenant Association, 1742 N St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

KEY WEST IS IN DANGER of losing its elderly, middle class and service personnel. Each group is caught in the bind of rising rents, poor services and capricious landlords.

"We are afraid to complain about things that need fixing, because the landlord may use it as an excuse to raise rent, or worse, eviction," said one retired gentleman at the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) on White Street. "I would rather make the repairs myself. Still my rent just went up \$25."

Retired people on fixed incomes are especially feeling the pinch. Florence Morris, a member of AARP, says, "I own my mobile home, but they are raising our

ground rate. It used to cost me \$20 a month, but today it is \$100 a month, and I have to pay my own utilities. I'll be evicted if I can't keep up the payments!"

WORKING AND SERVICE PEOPLE are also feeling the bite. John, "The Carpenter," of Caroline Street wondered aloud, "What will these landlords do for carpenters, painters, roofers, gardeners and service people if they keep jacking the rents up? They want to drive us out so they can command high rents during the season. This is my last winter in Key West. I cannot afford to live here any longer."

Rundown efficiency apartments that rented for \$65 five years ago now rent for \$220. One tenant asserted, "In the old days if there were violations of the health and safety codes we would cooperate with the landlord and clean them up. Now with new tenants paying higher rents, the (tenants) go to the proper authorities and maybe to court."

LOCAL RESTAURANT and small business people are faced with keeping workers who cannot find or afford apartments. One businessman is considering building his own housing. This would bring back the old company town and store custom where the worker would be under the thumb of his boss 24 hours a day.

Most working people in Key West cannot afford a lawyer and yet are not poor enough to qualify for Legal Services (legal aid).

ROBERT DUFFY, staff attorney for the Legal Services, explained, "It's a landlord's market. There are very few, if any, leases in Key West."

"The market value is up," said a William Street landlord. "It's a tourist trap!"

The market may be up, but the product remains the same.

MOST RENTALS are a matter of verbal agreement between landlord and tenant. "Leases should be in writing, state the rent, duration of term, addresses of apartment and partners involved. If there is no lease, it's a month-to-month tenancy which can be terminated by either side by a 15-day notice. One should have their obligations and duties in writing," says attorney Duffy.

ACCORDING TO THE *Consumer Handbook On The Landlord Tenant Act*, available from Legal Services or Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Tallahassee, FL 32304 (or call toll free 800-342-3176), landlords are free to evict tenants at the end of the rental period upon proper written notice, and following required statutory steps, if there is no lease.

IF TENANTS are living in apartments that are in violation of health and safety standards they may withhold a portion or all of the rent. Tenants should first consult with Legal Services, their tenant Association, Florida Statutes, or the *Consumer Handbook On The Landlord Tenant Act*, for the proper procedure.

In organizing a Tenants Association, the best time is after a landlord has made a severe increase in rents, drastically reduced service, or made an unexpected war on children or pets.

Building or block meetings should be held to discuss the situation which can lead to action and redress. Associations bring neighbors together and serve a function of airing concerns and experiences while organizing for action.

The "lay back" days of the casual and lax relationships between landlord and tenants may soon end in Key West. But one should learn his rights and not be afraid to demand proper treatment and care of his high-priced home.

(Next month we will write about this situation from the landlord's point of view... Ed.)

THE END

STATE LAW POINTS OUT: "The landlord is responsible at all times during the tenancy: 1) to comply with all requirements of applicable building or health codes, or, in the absence of these codes, to maintain all structural components (e.g. roofs, windows, floors, exterior walls, etc.) in good repair; and to maintain the plumbing in reasonable working condition. 2) Unless otherwise agreed in writing, in addition to the above requirements, the landlord of a dwelling unit, other than a single-family home or duplex, shall also make reasonable provisions for extermination of rats and bugs; supplying locks and keys; removal of garbage; heat; running and hot water. He must also maintain common areas in a clean and safe condition."

IF TENANTS are living in apartments that are in violation of health and safety standards they may withhold a portion or all of the rent. Tenants should first consult with Legal Services, their tenant Association, Florida Statutes, or the *Consumer Handbook On The Landlord Tenant Act*, for the proper procedure.

Crisis situations are always ripe for organization. An organization of a city-wide Tenants Association seems in the offing for redress of grievances. City officials and landlords will be asked to look at the situation in terms of code violations and high rents. Ms. Yvonne Leon, paralegal worker of Legal Services, is interested in getting together with those interested in forming a Tenants Association.

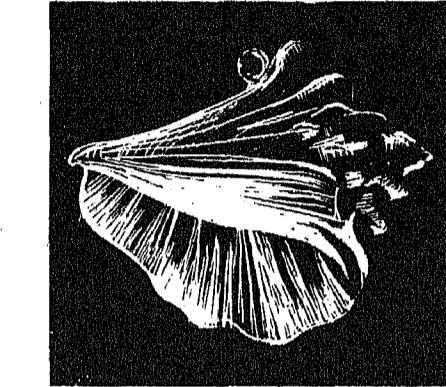
"We don't want to run the show or lead the Association, but something has to be done," Yvonne explains. "Buildings, or even blocks, of tenants can organize themselves, meet and be briefed on their rights and landlords' responsibilities. Learn about eviction procedures, termination of verbal rental agreements, and landlord-tenant obligations."

Even without a written lease which contains specific obligations of landlord-tenant responsibilities, tenants are covered under Florida State Laws, specifically section 83.40.

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JOGGING

PERHAPS THE two newest, and undoubtedly the best fads ever to sweep the country, are jogging and its more advanced cousin, running. Until only recently most people had viewed these activities as either a penitential purging of excess pounds for predominately overweight joggers, or a masochistic compulsion on the part of agony riddled competitive runners.

Due in part to certain competitive runners (particularly Frank Shorter and his victory in the last Olympic marathon) and to a novice throng of jogging doctors and former heart patients, persons seen hyperambulating along the public thoroughfares are no longer gawked at as if they were fleeing the embarrassment of appearing in public in what appeared to be their underwear.

AS FADS GO, the jogging sensation likely will never equal the hula-hoop and frisbee because, although the latter two are physically beneficial (some waistline benefit must be gained from the hula-hoop if one regards the slimness of real hula dancers), the exercise premium of the frisbee declines as control of the plastic discus is mastered -- no short sprints to catch it when your partner launches it direct to your hands each throw), considerable energy and some pain are necessary to jog. That is why those who persevere in it will take the jog from fad to institution in this country.

TIME IS the arbitrary element that differentiates jogging from running, even though other factors are particular to each. Generally, a pace quicker than nine minutes per mile is considered running. Running requires an extraordinary expenditure of muscle energy and an intake of up to eight hundred per cent more oxygen than when the runner is in a resting position. The runner may go much further than the jogger in a given time span, although training experts and cardiologists, who advocate jogging as an antidote to, or recovery from, heart attack, agree that the amount of time spent in exercise, not the rapidity of it, is what is beneficial.

FROM THIRTY MINUTES to an hour of mild exercise is a far better influence on the heart and lungs than, say, five vigorous minutes of jumping jacks. Joggers often view their sport as a way to gain or regain a plateau of health acceptable to themselves. There are numerous introductory programs and strictly calibrated courses which the person who would like to begin jogging would do well to consult.

BASICALLY, these many day-by-day work plans advocate "easy does it." Most persons, when possessed of a new interest, can hardly wait for results and are eager to note their personal progress in that area. In a properly planned schedule for a novice, two to three weeks will elapse before sore muscles will allow him any view of progress, but in two months the improvements are stunningly apparent, i.e. stronger legs, smaller stomach, lower pulse rate and a happier opinion of oneself.

TO SOMEONE unprepared physically to jog, an overdose of mileage the first few days could, through sore muscles or abnormal heart stress, nip in the bud a very beneficial and self-satisfying sport.

Runners also, and particularly the world-class Mercurys, are ever cautioned about over training. Over training, as is well documented in running publications, inevitably results in either injury or staleness -- the twin nemeses of

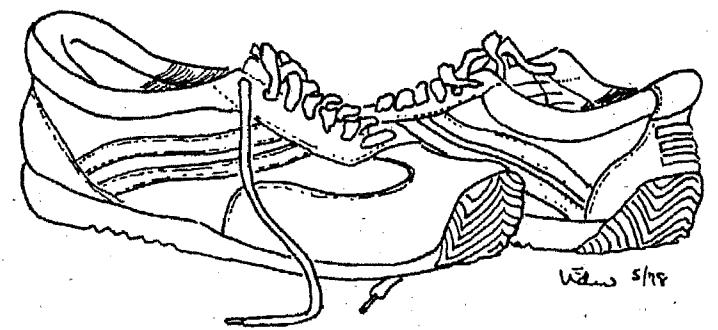
by John Hellen

Illustrated by Ed Devito

positively addicted runners.

OVER TRAINING is simply running too far, too fast, too often. It is not solely the sin of the avaricious medal monger or the I-can-beat-anyone-on-the-block egoist. It is a pattern that may develop out of being unaware of the subtle addiction that accompanies progress as a runner. It becomes every bit as compulsive an urge as coffee, nicotine, alcohol, or chocolate, although the idea of someone being addicted is not so bad when it's physical health that is desired.

ONE CAN NOT remain healthy, however, if one is consistently plagued



with one or more of the litany of woes that threaten the runner. Just the knee and ankle joints alone are able to receive at least two dozen different over-stresses which render them unusable.

There are two knees and two ankles, of which only one needs to be paining to prevent the runner his run. There are also two hip sockets, two sets of upper leg muscles, two calves, two very complex and temperamental Achilles tendons, two support-demanding arches, ten toes -- ten fruity orbs always ripe for the blight of the blister.

THERE ARE the buttocks and groin encircled in the chafing war of the athletic supporter. There is the lace-work of interwoven primate muscle known as the lower back. The catalog of minor miseries from running must include also pains in the stomach, pains in the chest, pains about the neck and shoulders, lung pains, heart palpitation pains, rib-cage pains, and pains in the butt.

Practically all of these maladies result from over exertion and not heed-ing bodily signals.

EVEN THOUGH the novice runner is the most susceptible to any and all the above quirks and kinks, runners well advanced in the art of trouble-free running are prone to be sidelined with these or the most dangerous running malady -- staleness. Staleness is exactly as it sounds: old, unpalatable, tedious from familiarity. It may be equated with loss of interest. It follows, usually, an intense, long period of training or a superlative individual effort in a race. It bleaches the running experience of its joy.

ONE VERY encouraging psychological trend among today's legions of "neo-harrriers" is a kind of art for art's sake attitude. Beyond health and blue ribbons, firm physique and glory, other motivational incentives keep many people running.

Some runners believe that within the microcosmic reaches of DNA there is a dominant gene that, if not suppressed by civilized environment, would insure the inheritance of man as a runner. Cavemen did not simply saunter out of the reach of dinosaurs, nor did they just walk up to a water buffalo and spear it; they ran -- hard!

OTHER RUNNERS, perhaps with a predisposition to mystic revelation, say, they feel a mild transcendental awareness, particularly after about an hour of running; a meditative clarity that focuses on not one thing but all things; the hypnotic state of the mantra as accomplished by the fluid pattern of the run.

Some runners, a bit skeptical perhaps, dismiss the above state as mild sun stroke, and go on to report that their best creative thoughts come while running, or answers to trivialities will present themselves; common sense seems to be more applicable to complex personal problems.

OTHER ANSWERS to "Why in God's name do you run," range from simple direct reasons such as "to get away from the wife for awhile," through evasive, shy responses as, "Never was one to let the grass grow under my feet."

Regardless of what individual reasons runners have to explain their sport the important fact is that they do run -- and to run is to insure good health. In this class of runner we have been speaking of there is an awareness of the adequacy of the activity itself. Of very little consequence to this group are stop-watches, distances, faster and slower runners or absolute exertion. Competition is a foreign word, for the only competition is with the self. The self is the self's best friend, so run slow, run fast, run long, run short, run to your mood self, run to your joy self, run self, run float glide self, fly self.

NO MATTER how many verbal accolades the runner/jogger attributes to his activity, persons never attempting a program of jog/run are still skeptical (if not as cynical as they were a decade ago) of the sanity of the participants. Some twelve years ago when this writer was in high school, a carload of my contemporaries overtook me on a Massachusetts country road. It was very early spring, the temperature was a very comfortable 40, but the road was slushy from a recent snowstorm and replete with puddles. Slowing up beside me as I ran, the guys, all athletes themselves, began a rather witless commentary upon my zany occupation.

I could think of nothing to say which would have refuted their pre-conceived notions of my lunacy, so I kept quiet. Their jibes continued for a half mile or so, during which time I was thoroughly splashed from the hips to the toes with puddle water flung by the car's tires. A partially full beer can was tossed at me which I assume was their opinion of what was a normal and, yes, better activity for such a drizzly day.

ATTITUDES TODAY are much more lenient towards the runner, although only a month ago, while I was 'climbing' Cow Key bridge, a group about the same age as my class-mates drove past me and one of the group pointed a toy (I hope) gun at me while the driver was able to elicit a back fire from his car at the same time. These instances serve only to dramatize the polarity of runners and riders.

Almost every runner has a few stories about careless motorists, duty-bound dogs or intransigent pedestrians, but the stories are traded with laughs rather than with a holier-than-thou persecution backlash.

KEY WEST, although it offers no hills, has several enjoyable 'runs' that keep the jogger out of the motorized public's way and provide long unbroken

stretches. The most obvious courses are the bicycle paths along AlA and North Roosevelt Boulevard. Depending on the individual's program and level of development, the bicycle paths, completed as a loop by First Street and Bertha Street, offer a comfortable six-mile circle, of which five miles are right along the ocean where the breezes and view are best.

The only dangerous parts of this run are the delta-like intersections at the approach to the Stock Island

ONE OF MY FAVORITE runs is the narrow gauge roadway, formerly U.S. 1, hidden away on Sugarloaf Key. The first mile or so of this run has precarious footing, due to the heavily eroded macadam, but further on the road remains smooth. The absolute quietness of the area is a pleasure, and if one is a quiet runner much local fauna may be seen.

The old road extends about three miles where it dead-ends at what had been a ferry depot, just east of Boca

test their bodies; a jogger's aim is to gradually and painlessly arrive at the level where it is safe to push and test himself.

IN EITHER CASE, to avoid the numerous pitfalls of injury that either activity may induce, the major investment for anyone seriously planning a jog/run program is shoes. Advances in the structural design of running shoes in recent years have been to all runners' advantage. Previously, cross-country and track shoes had been only streamlined modifications of basketball or baseball shoes. Little attention had been given to the special needs of distance running.

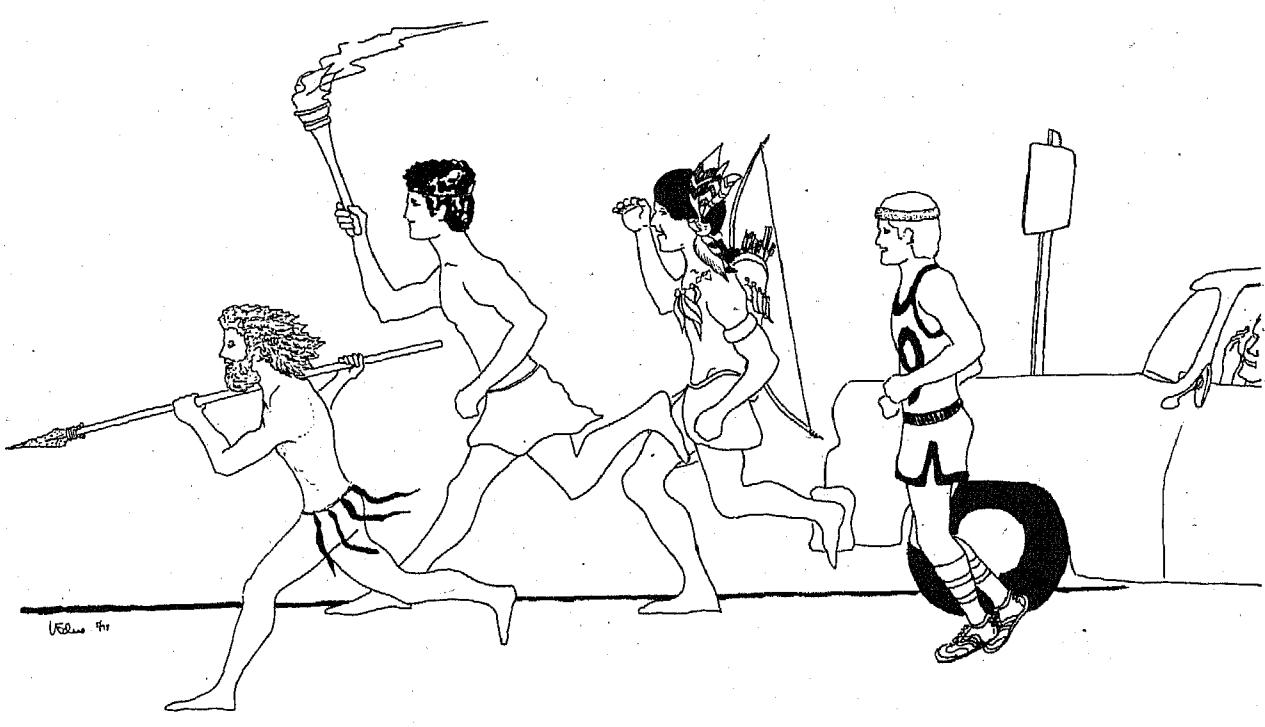
Much laboratory testing of stress points, heel cushioning, arch support, ventilation and sole gridwork for distance runners, was conducted by such firms as Adidas, Nike, etc., and their aggregate conclusions have been styled into the best shoes ever for the runner.

IF ONE were to run a mile in a standard pair of 'sneakers' and then switch to the lightweight, foot-hugging modern running shoes, the change might feel as dramatic as from mo-ped to a Harley Davidson motorcycle. It is well worth the expense for a proper shoe, not only because of the comfort, but to reduce the chance of injury.

Other necessities for the runner are socks, supporters and shorts; but these items are of no consequence monetarily. Of course, surrounding any fad will be stylized accessories available usually not at bargain prices. There are always those who feel that to be completely 'in' with an activity all the endorsed and monogrammed trappings are necessary. (Which may be true, because after spending a hundred dollars on a Bruce Jenner sweatshirt, band wrapped kneesocks, a Frank Shorter headband, non-binding gym shorts and a Ted Williams ditty bag, one would feel obliged to run.)

JOGGING AND RUNNING then, may be said to be presently a fad, at least in terms of those who begin, but, due either to injury, ennui, or sensitivity to criticism, drop out. However, of the multitudes now aerating their lungs, strengthening their hearts, and bolstering their self-esteem, a considerable portion will remain with the program to the extent that there will evolve another phenomenon of American life, as predictable as the mosquito and the 6 o'clock news, -- the hyperambulator gliding past the hubbub and torpor of modern society, the primal man incarnate communing meditatively with the breeze which cools him and the ground that can't hold him still.

"Why do you run?" "Because I have legs!"



bridge, the crossing at First Street and North Roosevelt Boulevard, the Flagler intersection at Bertha Street, and the Sigsbee entrance at Kennedy Drive. It is very likely that one's pace will be interrupted at these intersections.

THE PALM-LINED dirt road paralleling AlA is an excellent short course for those wanting only a brief workout. It is about a mile and a half long and considerably easier on the feet, ankles and knees than cement sidewalks.

An excellent loop for beginners is the four-tenths of a mile circular drive at Peary Court. Very little traffic utilizes this loop except along the western edge where a short cut for traffic from Eaton Street to Southard Street is allowed.

ONE MAY FIGURE two and a half laps to the mile, and if fatigue sets in unexpectedly, there is no long walk back to the car or bicycle. The Peary Court run, despite a holocaust of glass shards and housing rubble, takes one past more than twenty large shade trees of different kinds, and one easily imagines a family picnicking under each shady oasis, were the area reclaimed into the park it should be.

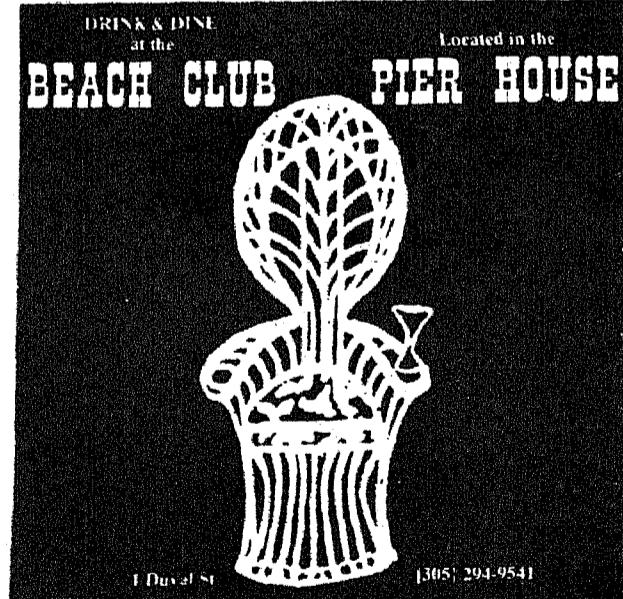
POSSIBLY THE BEST unencumbered run, easiest on the legs, least restricting in the feeling of openness, would be the golf course on Stock Island. As long as the runner is an early riser so as not to be a distraction to those using the links for its intended purpose, and as long as the runner is courteous of greens, tees and traps, the golf course appears as an ideal run. In New England many multi-college cross-country races are held partly or entirely on golf courses.

ANOTHER PERFECT open area for the jogger would be the old Navy base. As yet the facility is still off-limits to the general public, but in time, its wide avenues and lengthy sidewalks will be another alternative for safe, enjoyable running.



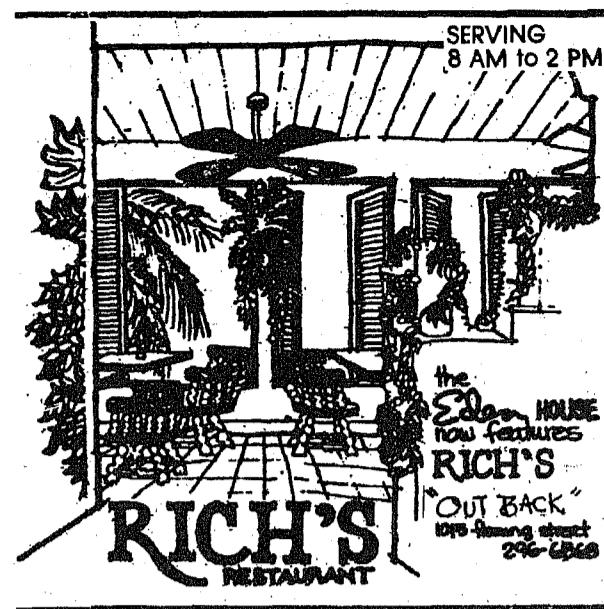
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Tony & The Booby-Baggers

by Birdman

photo by Richard Marsh

AN UNUSUAL VISITOR arrived in Key West about the first of September and stayed until the middle of November.

It was a Brown Booby, a bird known to scientists as *Sula leucogaster*. This one was more familiarly known as "Tony" by the many friends he (or she) made at the swimming pier at Monroe County Beach.

THE BROWN BOOBY is a member of the Gannet family, and is widely distributed among the islands of the tropical oceans of both hemispheres. Boobies are not often seen at Key West, the last one reported having been about three years ago at the former King's Point Marina on Stock Island.

The Booby is a large bird, nearly two feet long, with a wingspread of almost five feet. It has big webbed yellow toes, a long blue-grey bill, and watchful blue eyes.

TONY WAS DRESSED entirely in shades of brown, which is typical of the young bird. If it survives to adulthood, about a year from now, the rich brown of the underparts will be replaced by white, and the bill will be as yellow as the toes.

Tony had, unfortunately, another distinguishing feature: a mangled lower mandible, or bill.

This "jaw" was twisted and misaligned, to the point that objects (such as fish) it tried to pick up would spin off into the distance. This is one thing that won Tony many friends and much concern.

Another thing was the tameness of the bird. Rubbing the top of the head and patting the back were favorite strokes. You could sit on the dock with Tony at your side like an intimate dog.

Many people came with food. Some did not realize that the Booby eats only such things as flying fish, small mullet, squid, and the like. Fish. So they tried to interest the bird in ice cream, bread,

apples, melons, and assorted other human foodstuffs. Tony did seem almost human. Others came with fish.

WE HAVE PIECED TOGETHER part of the bird's history, but fear that the future is uncertain because of that damaged bill.

Tony was probably hatched in the Bahamas around the end of last April, and so was about five months old when first seen at Key West. There is precedent for such wanderings by young Boobies. Twice they have been spotted in Bermuda,

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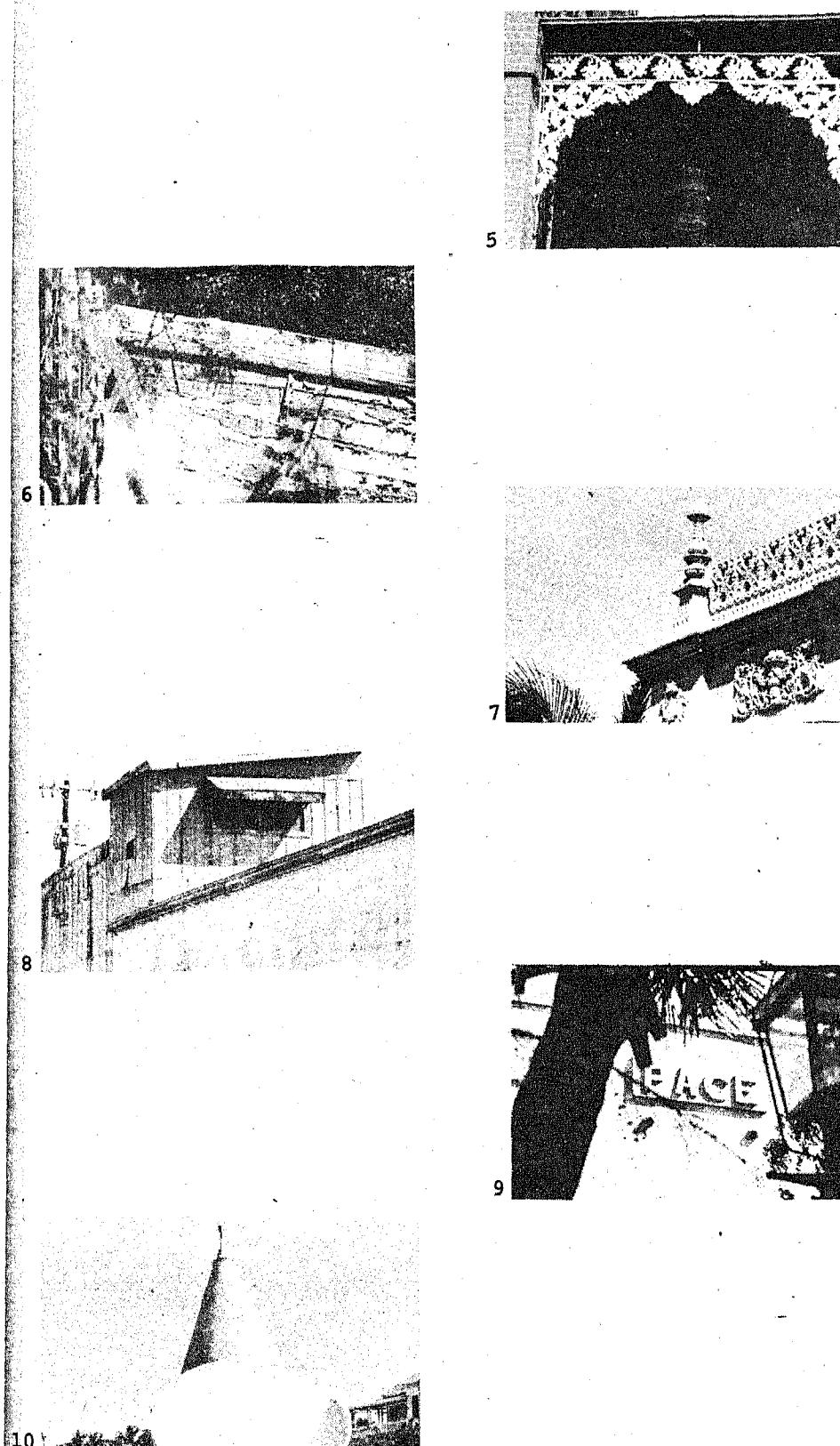
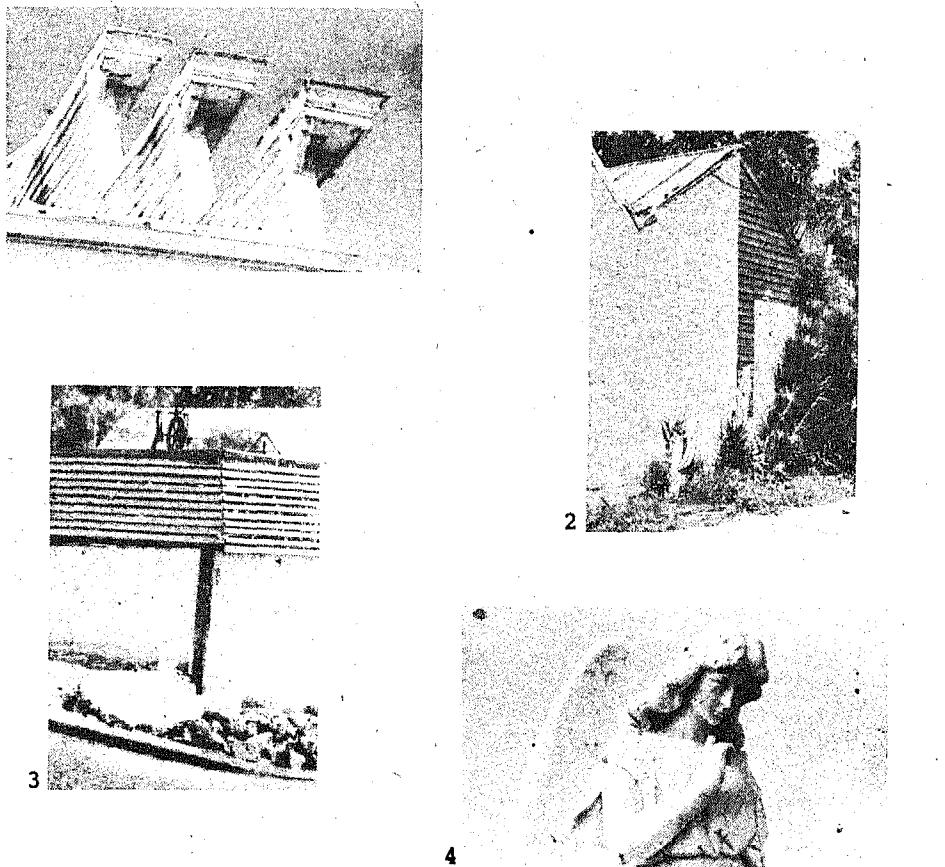
All of these objects are in the Old Town area and can be seen (and were photographed) on or from public property.

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NEWS RELEASE

THERE WAS AN enthusiastic "South of the Border" atmosphere prevailing at a recent Band Booster meeting as the members, under the leadership of President Ellie Smith, began to mobilize a massive fund-raising program directed at sending the Key West High School Band back to Mexico City next March.

THIS WILL BE the band's second trip to Mexico City, the last trip being in 1975, just before any current band members entered high school. Buses will transport the students to Miami International Airport on March 30, from which they will fly to the Mexican capitol. There they will appear in concert and marching performances along with taking tours of the historical city and surrounding area. Each student is responsible for earning, through the many fund-raising programs being planned, the \$270 which is estimated to be the per-student cost of the trip. Monies raised by these students' parents participating in Band Booster projects are also credited to that student's "account" toward the cost of the trip.

One project was a large Cuban Dinner hosted by the Band Boosters in the KWHHS Cafeteria on October 17 in conjunction with that school's first Open House. Profits from the meal were credited toward each band student's personal share of the cost of the trip, pro-rated according to how many tickets they or their parents sold.

ANOTHER BAND BOOSTER PROJECT is the raffle of a Honda Express motorcycle and a 10-speed bicycle, the winners to be announced at the Band's Christmas Concert on December 21. Booster members are now

selling the one-dollar tickets for this raffle.

Although most Band Booster members are parents of one or more musicians in the band, any interested person is invited to become an active member at a cost of \$1 per year. Meetings are held in the KWHHS Band Room the first Tuesday evening of each month at 8 p.m.

A PROPOSAL FOR
A CAYO HUESO (CUBAN ROOTS) FESTIVAL

CAYO HUESO, as Key West was and is known to those of Hispanic heritage, has historically been the focal point for Cuban-American relations and interaction.

The balcony on Duval Street from which Jose Marti made his impassioned

pleas for Cuban independence;

the San Carlos Institute, so long a

living witness to all that is best in the Cuban-American nexus;

the folk art of Mario Sanchez, so eloquently made to live in the sensitive documentary film on this man of Cuban-American heritage who himself is a living monument to the marriage of two cultures

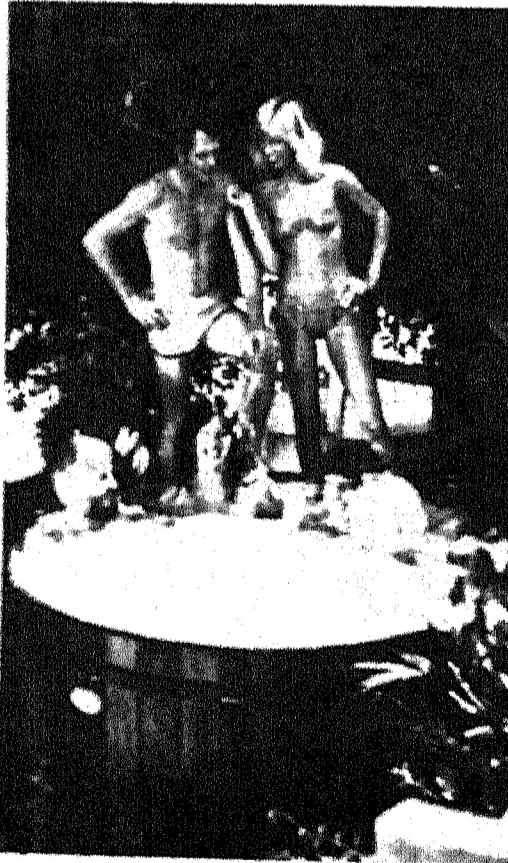
these are just a few of the more obvious highlights of a living, breathing, vibrant cultural mix that sociologists can point to as a true cross-acculturation in the very best sense.

THE CIGAR FACTORIES are long gone, but the children of the cigar makers and their families live on. They are true Americans, proud of their unique multi-cultural background, which is still visible and audible in so many obvious and more subtle ways in the Cayo Hueso of today.

continued on page 32

S

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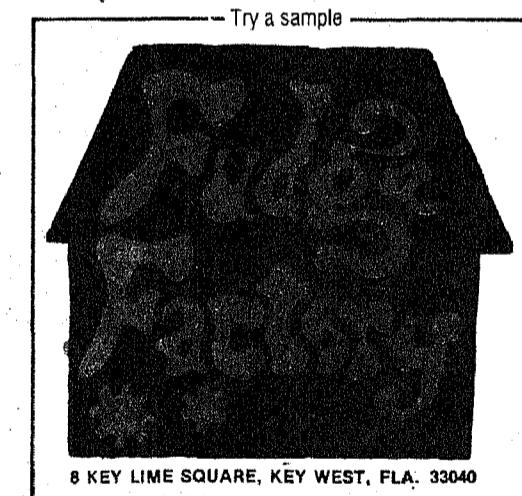
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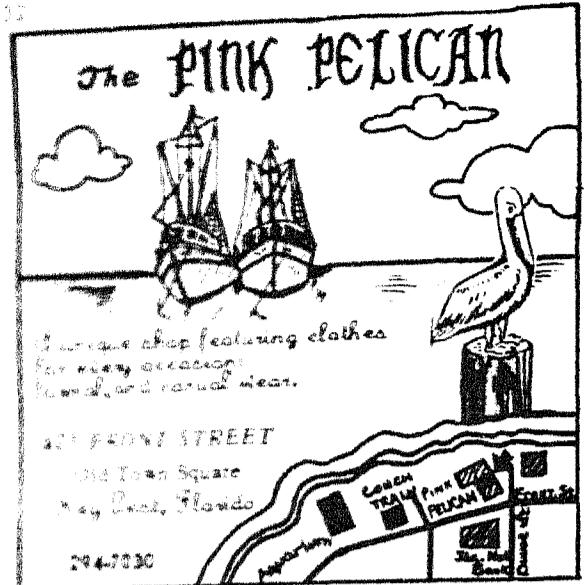


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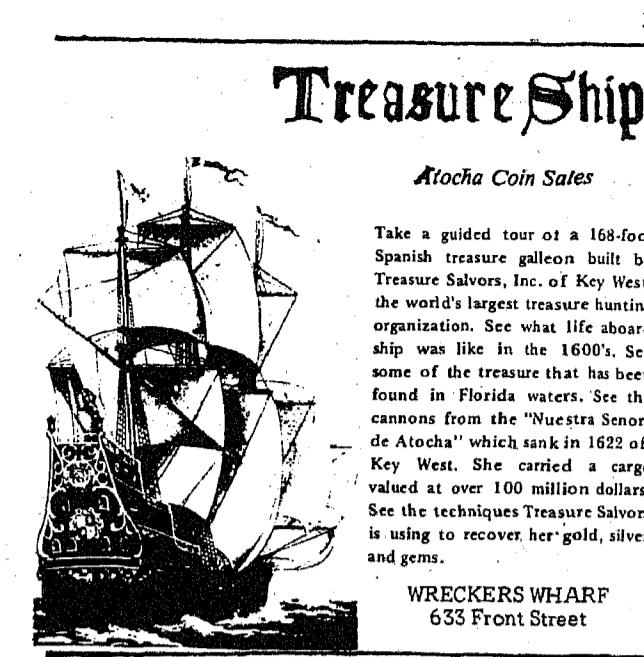
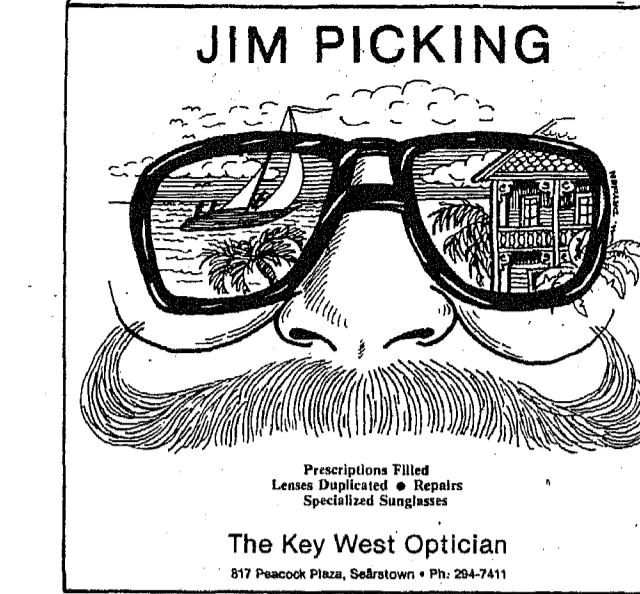
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SOME REMARKS continued from page 30

AN ISLAND ROOTS festival is now held annually here to commemorate the Bahamian connection with Key West. Certainly this is in the best Conch tradition. Why not a "Cuban Roots" festival to celebrate the best that Cuba and her people have given to this uniquely American island city?

What could such a celebration of the historical Cuban-American connection through and in Key West encompass? It could consist of a series of carefully planned and coordinated events on many levels.

IT COULD BE a showcase for Cuban-American culture as it exists uniquely in Key West today. For example, the San Carlos Institute, now being increasingly appreciated for its key role in fostering the best in Cuban culture in America throughout the history of Cuban-American relations, can be a fitting setting for a presentation of the film on Mario Sanchez, in both Spanish and English, and an exhibition of the work of Mario Sanchez, which so uniquely captures the interplay of both cultures in Key West.

It could be a showcase for the best in Cuban art and culture, both traditional and modern, such as performances by the Cuban Ballet and the Comparsa folk dancers, possibly in front of the San Carlos Institute, including an explanation of the origins and tradition of the Comparsa in Cuba.

It could feature Cuba and its people as depicted in American literature and art through a Hemingway film festival, featuring his works with a Cuban setting like *The Old Man and the Sea*, with background on the actual person and incident which served as the basis for the work, and a Cuban film festival, with presentations or discussions of Cuban art, literature, poetry, and music.

EXHIBITION BASKETBALL GAMES between teams at various age or academic levels could be held, as well as baseball games, soccer, and other sporting events, and

a chess tournament.

Serious conferences on a non-ideological basis could also be included in such areas as trade, ecology, fisheries, cultural and educational exchange, medicine. The history of the development of unique clinics in Cuba, and how these might be adapted to help cut the high cost of medical care in the U.S., could be explained.

THE CUBAN-AMERICAN community in the greater Miami area could be attracted by a careful, cost-effective publicity campaign, through the Latin and bi-lingual news media, TV, radio, and newspapers in Miami.

Available tourist resources could be adapted, like a special bi-lingual or Spanish Conch Tour Train, featuring points of Cuban historical and cultural significance in Key West, with leaflets. Possible support could come from the Key West Chamber of Commerce, and other organizations whose members might benefit in any way from such a festival.

by Ernest J. Szetela

FUSION DANCE CONCERT DECEMBER 22

FUSION DANCE COMPANY is returning to Key West for a December 22 concert which promises to be a Christmas event to delight all. The benefit concert will be at the Key West High School Auditorium at 8 p.m. and is sponsored by Margo Cone, the New School of Dance and the Tennessee Williams Repertory Company.

This will be *Fusion's* final concert of their twelve week fall season. The last time the four year old company was in Key West was in 1976. Baird Thompson, PR man for *Fusion*, says, "This time Key West will see a brand new *Fusion*, in style and personnel."

Thompson continues, "*Fusion* is not the normal concept of modern dance. The

company approaches dance in pursuit of romance and fantasy for the audience, as well as themselves. We want to project an image -- the image of a dance company that runs the gamut of styles, mingling with other performing arts."

FUSION DANCERS come from a wide range backgrounds. Gary Davis, the *Fusion* master, comes from the Martha Graham Contemporary Dance Company and the Alvin Ailey Dance Company. The company ballet stress, Petra Bravo, was soloist and first mistress with the internationally claimed Ballet Nacional de Cuba as well as the Chicago Ballet Company. Other *Fusion* members have performed as soloists with Pearl Lang, Paul Taylor and Jeff Duncan.

ACCORDING TO THOMPSON, "*Fusion* is an expected kind of experience. An audience will never see the same show twice, nor the same dance piece performed the same way. The company likes the element of surprise and uses that as a guiding policy for all their dance pieces and concerts. *Fusion* dancers have no singular style or look. They're all sizes and shapes, and like that visual variety."

William Lord, who now shares the *Fusion* artistic directorship with Mary Drury, explains, "We blend bodies and dance attitudes with diverse choreography, and present a well-rounded and interesting amalgam of professional dance and dancers in effect, we are a 'fusion' of dances and attitudes. Our company identity is not supposed to be definable."

"That's why bringing *Fusion* to Key West for a concert seemed so right," says Drury, Producer-Director of the Tennessee Williams Repertory Company. "Aside from their tremendous reputation and appeal throughout South Florida, *Fusion's* approach to dance is witty, original and theatrical. A *Fusion* concert is entertaining and full of surprises. That's what I expect from dance, or theatre or of the performing arts. To be surprised, or entertained or moved by it.

Like the *Key West Picture Show* Premiere last month at the San Carlos, *Fusion* is another class act that we think a Key West audience will rave about."

DRURY GOES ON TO SAY, "The Repertory Company is going beyond just presenting professional theatre to Key West. People are hungry for all the performing arts. They want to feel culturally alive. They want to be entertained. The Company's going to do just that, with quality events and artists. Co-producing arts events with other high quality Key West arts organizations like the Picture Show and Margo Cone and the New School of Dance is one of our major goals. I think the local cultural scene will develop further, faster when we work together on events."

Tickets for the concert are available at the San Carlos Box Office and the New School of Dance, or you can call 296-9611 for information.

by Shelly Keller

THE MONROE COUNTY Division of the Better Business Bureau of the Florida Institute of Business and Professions, Inc., is being established.

The Florida Institute is successor to the organization that was originally chartered in 1952 as the Better Business Bureau of Miami Beach. In 1960 the name was changed to the Better Business Bureau of Greater Miami, and in 1966 it was changed to the Better Business Bureau of South Florida. In 1978 it was changed to the present name.

IT IS AN independent, non-profit organization which has always been controlled by South Florida business and professional people.

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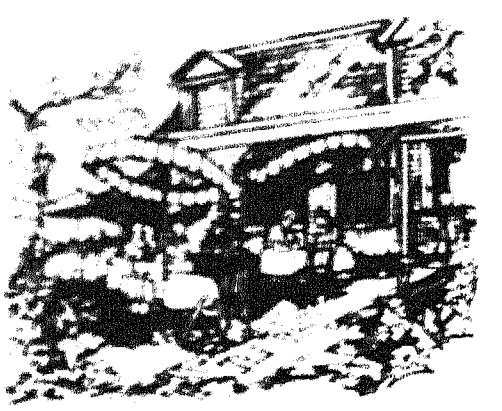
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THE KEY WEST Picture Show.

THERE WAS A STAK in every eye, if not every seat, for the premiere of *The Key West Picture Show* at the San Carlos Theater. As bicycles took the place of limos, over 400 turned out to turn on to a 40-minute spectacle of their beloved island. They whooped as old-timers Cesar Catala and Sarah Russell indulged in humorous nostalgia, and Rev. and Mrs. Thurlow Weed blew a red-faced rendition of "The Sabre Dance" on two conch shells. Laughter shook the rafters and drowned the sound as fast forward turistas scurried to strains of "Flight of the Bumblebee." It's our own home movie...to Key West with love, from filmmakers Mark Henriksen and Anna Benson.

BACKED BY producer B.J. Martin, owner of *The Picture Show* on Duval Street, Mark and Anna spent five months filming in Key West. On an island teeming with the exotic, erotic, and erratic, finishing off ten hours of film was easy. Leaving more than 90% on the cutting room floor took the better part of a year. What emerged from the Atlanta studio is part travelog, part documentary, and part spoof -- a delightful collage of the characters, moods, and attractions that make Key West unique.

Benson and Henriksen captured the magic of the full moon and subtropical climate (to which Capt. Tony attributes the hot-blooded sex drive); the carefree, laid-back lifestyle where age is no barrier; and the hearty Conch heritage that has endured hurricanes, hardships, and hordes of Winnebagos. They zoom in on the mannequin in the Widow's Walk, the cottage with "V for Victory" windows, the ritual of sunset, and the fantasia of Halloween.

They take outsiders behind the curtain curtain to a Cuban dance complete with native costumes, a Los Quinceños (Sweet 15) party and a bakery turning out Cuban bread with espresso speed. They focus on the leisure and life-giving sea. The urge to dance in every fashion. The Conchitecture. The craftsmen, artists, and writers. The people who came here to feel alive. The woman who came here to die (eight years ago!). The person of dubious gender who dubs it all "just one big asylum" (and

s/he should know!). It's candid Key West, and everybody's smiling.

NATURALLY *The Key West Picture Show* is a hit with locals, but what of the tourists it aims to woo? If initial re-



Justo -- one of the stars

actions are any indication, folks will flock to the flick for a mini-vacation. At the Miami International Film Festival, it won the gold Special Jury medal for creative excellence in filmmaking. On his initial documentary endeavor, B.J. Martin won the Florida Producer award. Key West artist Ken Albright's poster proclaiming "Life Is A Breeze in the Florida Keys" swept up the best documentary poster prize. At the Island Roots Festival, revelers raved after each of the continuous shows. Queries from as far as Japan have requested copies to promote international tourism. The film is as fascinating as the island it portrays.

Both are destined to be big hits this season. No one comes to Key West just once, and the same holds true for *The Key West Picture Show*. Tourists can savor the flavor of an overall view. Locals can watch themselves and friends frolic across the screen. In fact, the film has just one flaw -- it's not long enough. As the sun sets and the final credits flash, Sarah Russell laments, "Honey, you won't see it again." But you will. See it every day, if you like, at 2, 3, and 4 p.m. at the Key West Picture Show.

by Margo McCollum

THE END



124

For Elegance Without Extravagance

THE QUEEN'S TABLE

DINNER SUMMER SCHEDULE
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the same ports of call as I do. Isn't this a sign of maturity, learning that there will be a person now and then whom you simply cannot get around? There just is no way this person can see you kindly in any of your lights. And this you sadly accept. And, isn't this named acceptance of reality?

the worst river to cross is the office equipment maze for one who never could properly sharpen a pencil. The smart gold stamps for closing the newsletter -- legal seals they are called -- require wheeling back and forth the length of the island from Budde's to Monroe Office Supply houses.

And, I would like to get a hold of the man who invented staplers.

PRINTERS ALWAYS require a lot of placating. One must smile and smile and convince him that you believe that the sun shines through his back side.

But, to make up for all embarrassments and dislocations, comes the lovely compensation. The writing. The only part which deeply, seriously matters.

The cat is sitting on the copy, and my husband's Florsheim shoe has knocked over the paper clips (the office being the bedroom, also).

THE LAST ISSUE of *The Year of the First Island Newsletter* is locked up, and I sit meditating as a mother for a child off to camp with his name tapes sewed in, his treat money knotted in one of his socks, and a box of kleenex to take along.

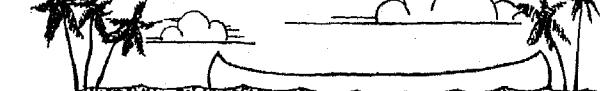
Will my little newsletter possess the ephemeral qualities of sky writing? The words standing out bravely for a moment. Then, the letters beginning to fold at the knuckles. Dispersing smokily. Soon, will it be restored to a smudge on the horizon? Remaining only a shade, swiftly erased from the line of vision.

O, well. Such is the precariousness of a scribbler's life.

THE END



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I ALWAYS FEEL in tune with the Chinese idea of naming their years -- The Year of the Rat, The Year of the Snake, and so forth.

Here I was, shuffling through fading school souvenirs and papers, a cup towel over my head, at a steamer trunk, up in mother's attic at the Texas Panhandle ranch house. I rapped cobwebs off a little old brown imitation leather school girl's diary. The fly-leaf in confident brash teenage handwriting reads, "THE YEAR THE CAT FELL INTO THE CISTERNS."

THE YEAR 1978 stands as The Year An Island Newsletter Was Begun. With one year behind me of a modest success at island newsletters, I can testify that, as year ideas go, such an endeavor can stand right up there, in stage fright, with bigger, nobler causes.

Deciding to publish a Key West newsletter during The Season must rank with resolving to leave for Australia, adopting a Russian baby, picketing the courthouse every day at 4 p.m., or going in for acupuncture.

FIRST, I TEST the water with my elbow. Two women and I lunch at a corner table at the Pier House Beach Club. I petition the glossy one first. She is a good-time girl, generally rated to possess terrible taste, which suits her to perfection. "Publish a Key West newsletter called 'Sound of the Conch!'" What do you want to do something like that for?"

I drearily regard her. Most any idea is quite incomprehensible to her. Besides, she has a heart the size of a grape pit.

I leave her daintily inserting a small shrimp into her beautiful mouth, and I turn to the other pal.

She always regards me with disciplined affection. She has one question to ask. "Is there any lolly in it?"

She is remarkably chintzy -- as mean as Hell about money.

I thoughtfully pick up my glass of iced tea. Surely my newsletter can become a roaring success if these two take against it, I suspect, not unreasonably.

SO, THE ISLAND NEWSLETTER is launched, and, unaccountably, or accountably, subscriptions sell like hot cakes. Of course, with a Yankee canniness, I "forget" about approaching one or two or three persons who dangle about the island, at times following the same pursuits and making

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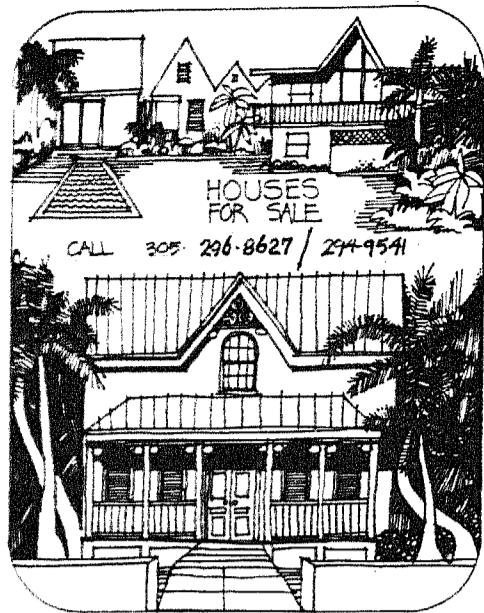
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MONKEYSEE** MONKEY DO

THE SUMMERS in Key West during the mid-1950s seemed hotter, longer and almost intolerably deserted -- especially to a young girl with nothing but time on her hands and limited choices of entertainment. There really wasn't a whole lot to do except go swimming at the beach to look for sea pigeons to horrify your more squeamish friends, hang around Mallory Square in hopes of spotting a rare tourist to ogie, or climb trees and plot suitable revenge on whoever was outcast from the gang at the time. The latter choice was a frequent occurrence among my sisters and our friends -- to pick a fight with one friend or another, or perhaps just let a little fight blossom into a full-blown battle and exclude the offending party from play.

I GUESS MOST CHILDREN do the same sort of thing, seemingly to break up the monotony of waiting for adulthood to set in. I had my share of being ostracized from the group, and during these periods of jealous exclusion would devise my own schemes to keep myself occupied and out of trouble.

I was what most parents would call the model child. (There are some members of my immediate family who would differ with me on this point, but anyway, that is how I remember it.)

As I was saying, I had my share of being a frequently ousted member of the group.

IT WAS IN JULY, the most brutally hot, scorched month since school let out. My sisters and their friends had all gone down to Mallory Square to watch the local kids dive up silver change thrown by tourists standing on the pier.

Since Key West had a very meager trickle of summer visitors, a boy's income depended largely on his ability to

call out the most amusing or contrived plea for the tourist to direct his generosity. We girls were amused mostly by the unabashed begging some of these kids would go through just for a quarter. Some would promise to catch it between their toes before the coin reached the bottom, others would bring it up and present it on the tongue, and still others would make change under water! (They kept the spoils inside their swim trunks or in their mouths.) We never threw money but would clap if one boy made a particularly long swim out to retrieve a silver dollar thrown by someone with a sense of sport.

NOW I KNEW THEY were all down at the dock having loads of fun, while I sat at



home picking my toenails on the front porch. Not only did I have boredom and

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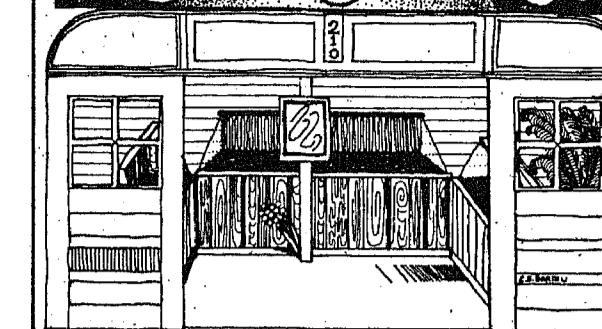
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look of disbelief on her face are among my more vivid recollections.

I ARRIVED ON THE SCENE, and as expected there was the old crowd, my chums idly watching the poetry of making easy money. Of course, as I drove up, my wonderful younger sister recognized the plight of her favorite simian pet.

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO THAT MONKEY? DOES MAMA KNOW WHERE THAT MONKEY IS? BOY ARE YOU GOING TO GET IT NOW? WHAT IF SHE GETS AWAY AND GETS RUN OVER? (This sister always but always failed to see the humor in a situation.) HERE! GIVE ME THAT LEASH!"

And with that, she lunged for the leash and deftly undid my carefully tied knot, thus relieving Trinket from her bondage.

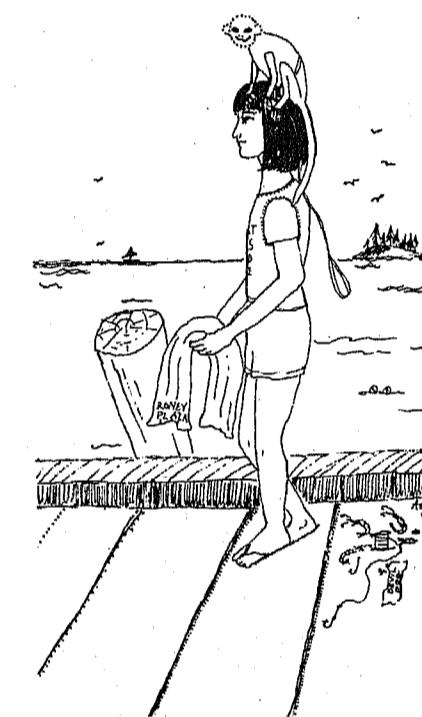
Certainly it is to be expected that all that hysterical screaming would unravel even the sturdiest adult, so one can imagine what it did to a very high-strung squirrel monkey. Well, here comes the worst part of it all.

WILD CREATURES, in moments of stress, will make for high ground to seek safety and assess the commotion. I happened to be quite tall for my age, and my head was indeed the highest point available.

Trinket took a flying leap for and landed squarely on my head. She also at this moment lost control of her bodily functions and let loose with what I guessed to be the digested and ready for release remains of a green caterpillar, two locusts, a spitting spider and an old, chewy lizard. I can distinctly remember the look of complete horror and amazement on the faces of the small crowd, which by now had gathered.

Needless to say, the faces of my chosen victims of spite were bathed in a distinct aura of obvious and complete delight.

Alas, my last memory of that day was



f the family monkey I pedaled off towards Mallory Square at breakneck speed. The frantic appeal of the wind whistling through poor Trinket's hair and the total

how incredibly hot the water in a yard hose can be when it's been lying in the



Key West sun, and how funny my hair smelled still, after the final hosing down.

THE END

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and, in fact, it was not long before great difficulties were encountered, the chief of which was the lack of money to meet the expenses of the campaign, and the failure to secure

Finally, Abel was the only one to
get his gold and silver back. Abel noticed there
was a lot of gold and silver with the pirates. A few
pirates had gold and silver bars. He should see the
pirates and ask them what would the pirates
like to trade and what price he will
get for what he has on the boat. "When the
pirates were surprised, the pirate walked
over to Abel and said he wanted Abel and the
pirate team to join the pirate team.

"...a few feet after the lattering female, it remained. After some curious reciprocal visits, of short duration, which were doubtless manifestations of affection, the caterpillars flew off," says Audubon.

"There was least semblance of a quarrel than I observed between my two of these remarkable creatures. Indeed, they all appeared to be happy members of a single family. And as if to gratify my utmost curiosity, a few of them went through the ceremony of courtship in my presence," he concluded.

saved his life." Bow had just returned from a little excursion on his boat, Queen Elisabeth IV.

"You shouldn't bother any wildlife," he says gently.

I HAVE HEARD that local resident Ray Felton, who spent his first five years in this area, feels it was one of the most valuable times of his life. He has said that he wouldn't trade that experience he had as a child for anything. Bow Red says, "Bird Key's all washed away now. I was on it. I remember. I'd love to get back there. You can't see it any-
- but the beauty's still there."

more, but the beauty's still there."

THE MIGRATION from September to April would leave the place pretty bare of sooties and gaddies....All scattered further southward. "You know all those birds would leave together when it was time. They seemed to know," says Bow. Bow Red recalls that then there would be "no more hollerin -- it would get very quiet." Merriam set to understand how they find their way so far and so straight, 220 miles away.

their way back to nests 1,080 miles away. Today these same birds are unchanged and unchanging, "voicing their age old thrust across the sand." It is still not clear why they fluctuate in numbers as

clear why they fluctuate in numbers as they do. Nor can man conceive how they work out flight patterns, having such perfect oneness of mind and telepathy as they do. The mother would always know where their young were -- newly hatched birds ramble forth to meet their parents.

AS TO THE childhood Bow and George shared there, both agree that it was great, but that one had to be a good swimmer. "Had to be to get away from those sharks. Man eaters they were," says Bow.

"It saved Columbus's life when he saw a bird, to know there had to be land ahead," said Bow. "They discovered America by that bird. The teacher taught me that in school. He would've gone overboard, thinking the world was square. A seagull

A circular logo for "SP'G EDDIE'S". The top half of the circle contains a stylized drawing of a palm tree with many fronds. Below the tree, the words "SP'G EDDIE'S" are written in a bold, blocky font. Underneath the text are three wavy lines representing water. The bottom half of the circle is shaded dark. Around the bottom edge of the circle, the text "• 20 BOX 150 • 201 WEST 106TH 33040" is written in a smaller, sans-serif font, following the curve of the circle.



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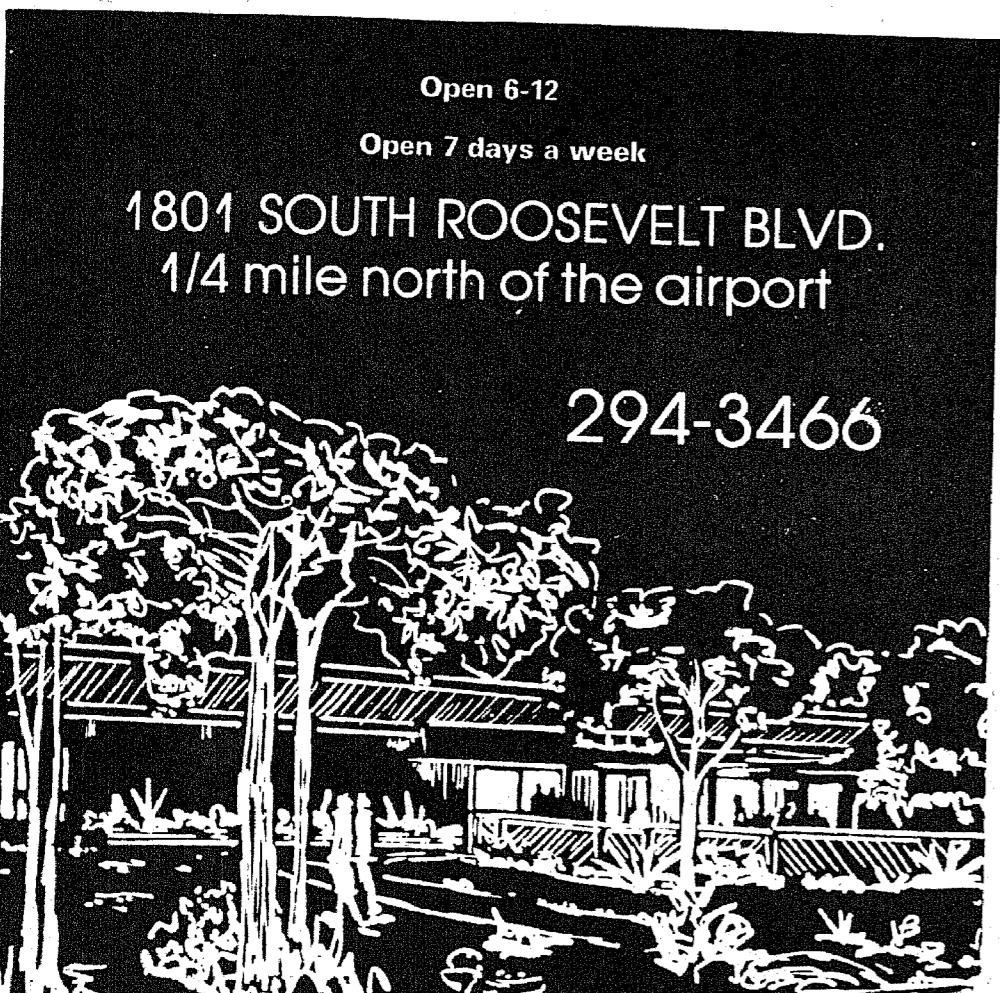
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and watched me come and go.
She helped me when I felt alone
and loved me more each day,
And when I needed scolding for
my wrong she had the way.

She taught me how to care for those
who needed love as much,
And taught me what was right and wrong,
and not to need a crutch.
She scolded all my cuts and scrapes
and hugged me when I cried,
And all the way to manhood stood
there looking on with pride.

A mother does a job so hard
it's hard to comprehend,
But I just want to let you know
she never sees the end.
A mother makes a boy a man
and loves him more with time.
A mother makes the world go round.
I love the one that's mine.

by Jimmy Joe Gibson

sun-naked smiling
we're floating on a breeze
yes I can feel it
how the wind puts me at ease
graceful boat SUNYATA she calmly moves along
I breathe the sea and try to write this song
Oh thank you Lord for Your deep blue sea
And all the joy that it's given me.

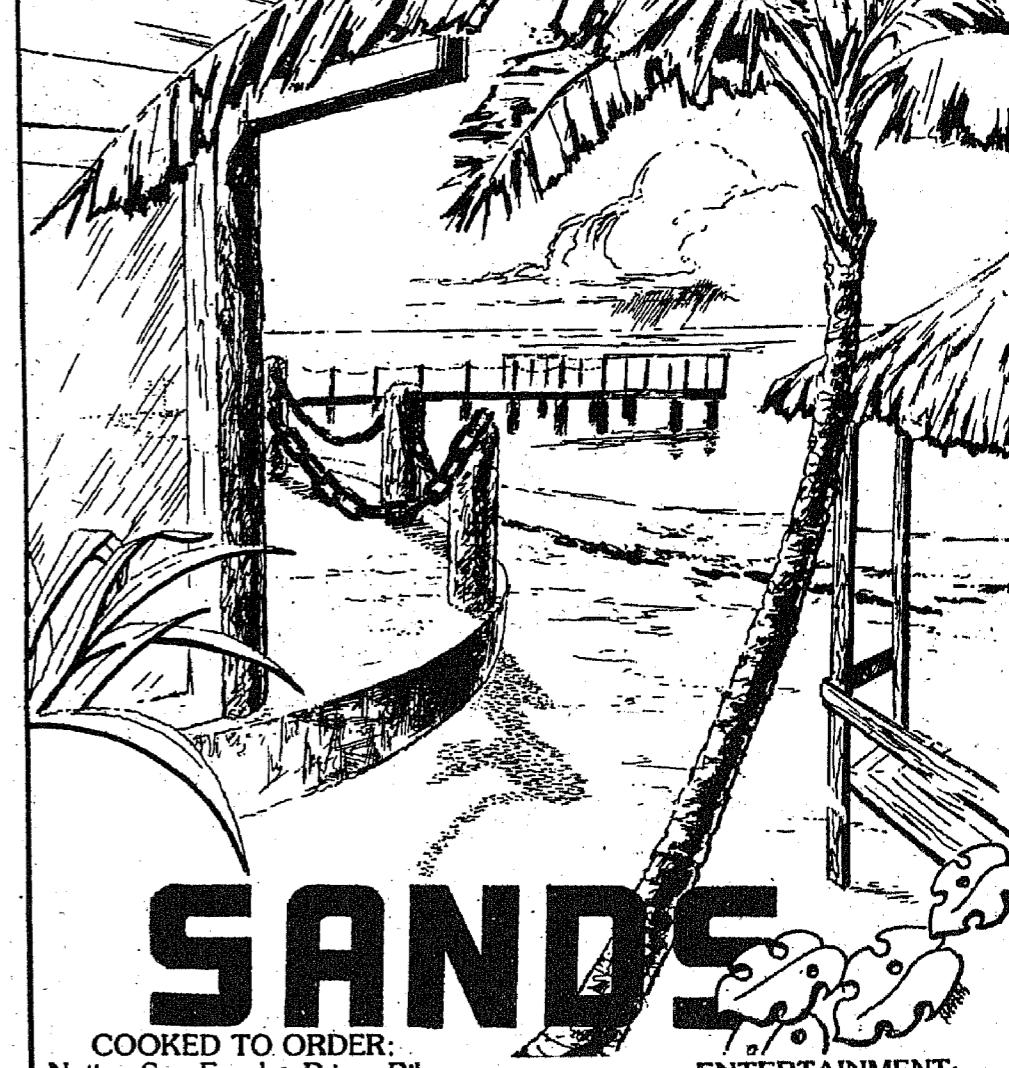
so "hoist the main" to the sea I am going
leavin' all the loves I am knowin'
losing myself to that wide open blue
feelin' again the peace that I knew
gentle breezes caressing our way
free with the wind all thru the day
I hear my love now calling me
So good-bye dear friend I'm going to sea.

sun-naked smiling
we're drifting down that breeze
yes there's so many ways to put your mind at ease
well whatever it takes to put you there
it's all okay with me
I'll just be thankful that I've found the sea.

by Maureen Neville



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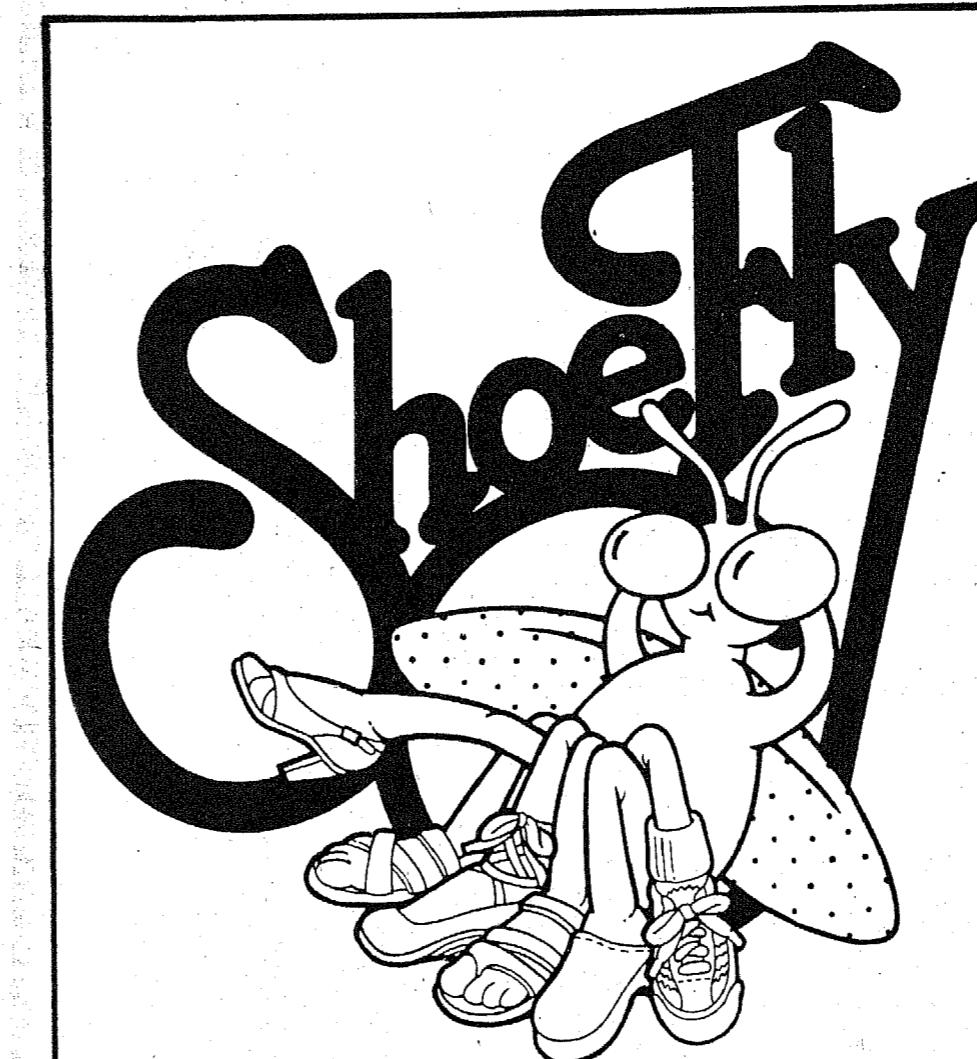


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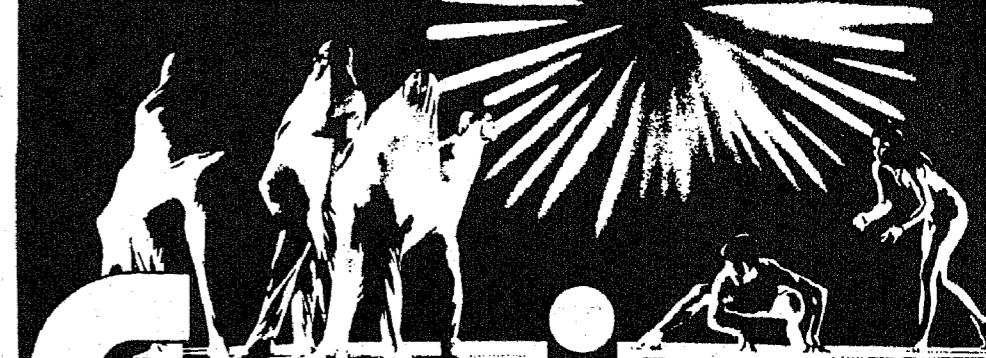
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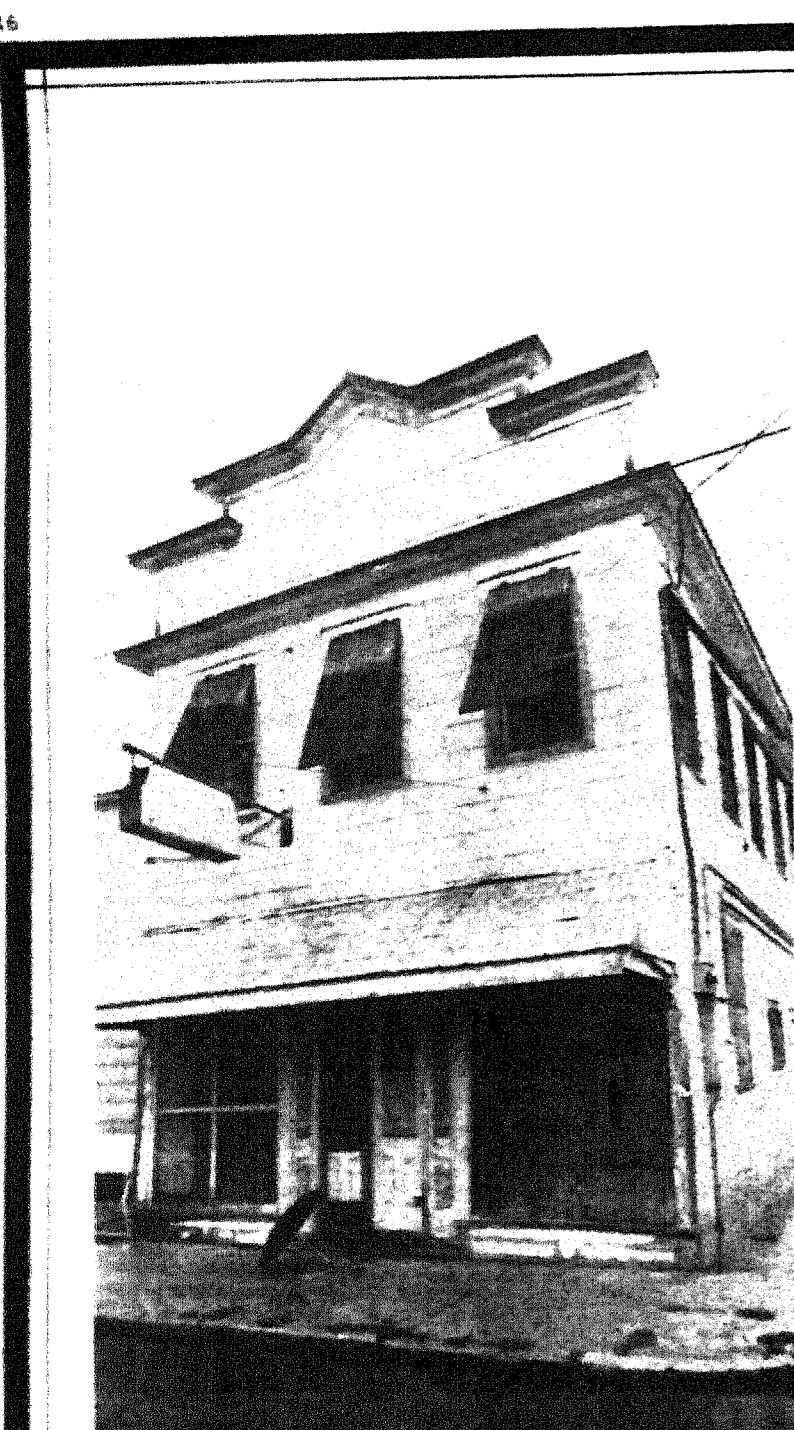
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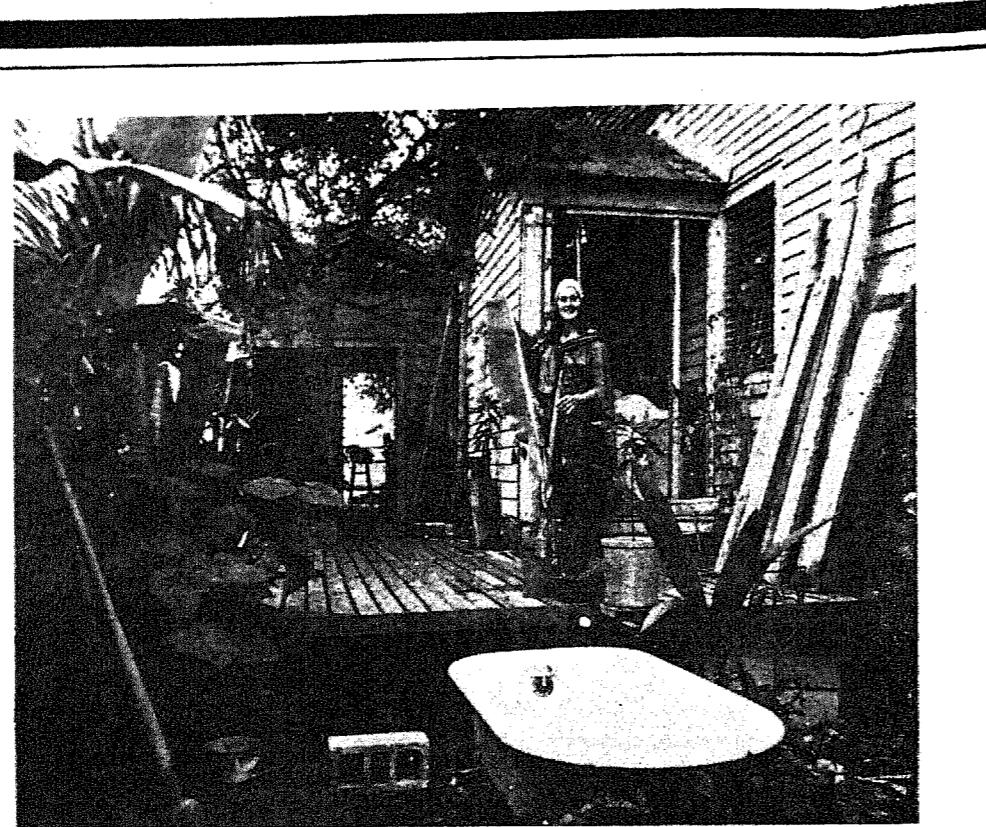




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"Blue Bee" Bakery, Key West



Linda in Michael's backyard, Key West, 1974



Debby, Key West, 1972



"Five Lanes", Key West, 1973

**PHOTOS BY
JANICE
WAGONER**



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Palms like a green wave crest
over Key West
Sun from the blue beyond
is on me now
No, I
didn't have it in me
to winter in Virginia.
by Edward Allen



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