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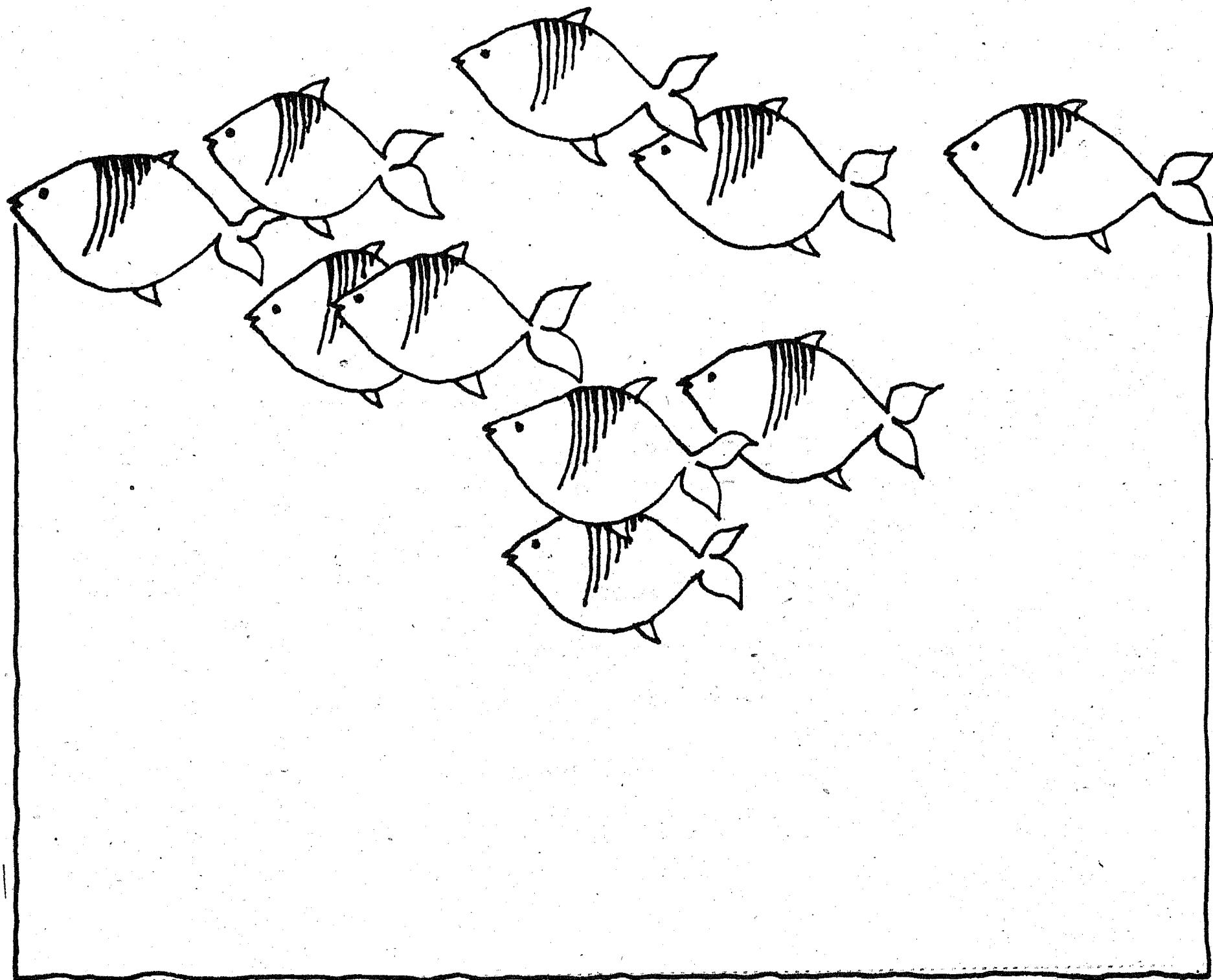
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Vol. V, No. II

Key West, Florida

February 1980



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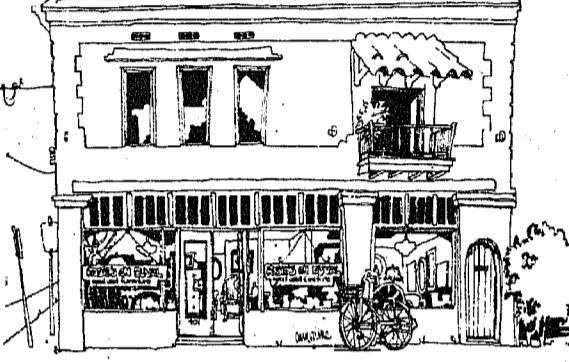
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FROM THE EDITOR

HELLO --

KEN DURR, of the Upper Keys Citizens Association, sent Solares Hill a copy of a very interesting letter different Keys groups sent to Representative Joe Allen about our water problems. The letter points out that there are a total of four large residential and tourist accommodation projects which have received or are expected to receive official approval in the next thirty days. The number of units planned total 520, or a representation of 10% increase in the population of Key Largo. There are two projects planned for Plantation Key as well, and these 260 new units, along with the 520 units expected in Key Largo, total a 15% increase of population on the two islands. Included with this letter was a petition to demand an immediate moratorium "on all new connection hookups to the FKA pipeline fresh water distribution system for all residential dwelling units over one-family occupancy and all new business establishments. This includes all units not occupied at this time."

DENNIS WARDLOW, executive director of the FKA, had called for a ten unit maximum hook-up per project per year enforcement a few months ago. Has this gone by the board for some crazy reason? The concern of the citizens of the Upper Keys about the water shortage and their petition for a moratorium of water hook-ups make excellent sense, but it leads one to wonder what the FKA is doing about all our problems. ARE THEY ENFORCING THE TEN UNIT HOOK-UP? IF NOT, SHOULDN'T THEY?

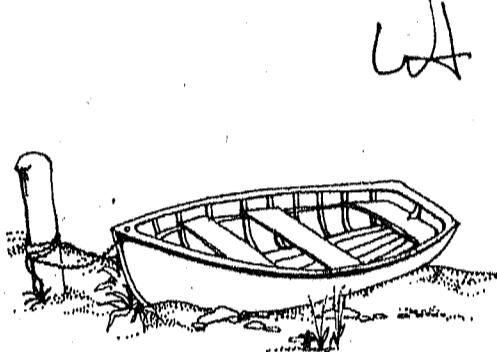
THE RECREATION YARD for the prisoners at the County Jail is crawling toward completion. Public Works Director Ed Stichney says that it is about 70% done, but often there is just one man or maybe two on the job. He said that no one wanted the job and hence he was unable to get a good binding contract with the contractor that would demand completion by a certain date. This sure proves that the building trade industry must be alive and very well.

THE EXCELLENT write-up on alternate

sources of energy in our January issue was by Steve Kline, not Steve Klein. Sorry for the spelling mistake.

J.P. BO, who continually helped Greene Street Theatre during its shaky days by generously giving of his time and talent, is going to be on the receiving end of some assistance on the night of February 20. BO, who has undergone a serious and expensive back operation, is being presented with a benefit performance by some of Key West's most talented performers -- Jamie Alcroft, Mack Dryden, Hearts of Palm, Jerry Grapel, and Lloyd "Ed Sullivan" Mager among others -- at the Orchid Tree, 913 Truman Avenue. Those who remember "The Ed Sullivan Shows" and the more recent "Vital Signs" variety shows will be excited to know that more of the same will be coming their way that Wednesday evening at 8:30. And may I add on behalf of many, many people "Get Well, BO!"

DOROTHY RAYMER, whose column "Notes and Antics-Dotes" regularly appears in our paper, had been sick during the month of January. Her column will re-appear next issue. Similarly, Bill Westray hasn't been up to par, and he is absent from these pages this month.



Cover artist this time is Cecelia Johnson

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With a little help from our friends . . .

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AUNT BEVA

BY FRANCES SIGNORELLI
PHOTO BY RICHARD MARSH

I WAIT TO meet my date at Truffles, passing my hand over my eyes. It's been a long day....A whiff of fingers smelling of buttered English muffin, Miami Herald newsprint, a hibiscus, a dust mop, orange peel, Charlie perfume, my hair, bacon and tomato, raspberry preserves and the car.

My date comes, my husband's Aunt Beva Sanchez. A bouncy, bustling little lady, a merry, staunch little lady, 75 years old, with bright, caramel-colored eyes in a round, tan face topped by

at home with our husbands and babies. We would be dancing on the Sociedad de Cuba balcony, and when one of the babies needed nursing, Mama would put a light in the window of that room, and the right mama of the three of us would trip down the stairs and run home to feed the baby."

"Were your sweethearts, and then husbands, local men?"

"Of course!" We didn't KNOW any other man," said Aunt Beva, pitying my ignorance. Jennie married Glen Albury, Beva married Pepe Sanchez, Margarite married Harry Mitchell and Mirta married Leonte Valladares.

AUNT BEVA, as a girl, visited her



snowy hair. She's right up there with Miss Lillian for drollery and spunk. The spectre of Old Age is no spectre at all with such a person. In America, now sometimes, it seems that Life is devalued for the elderly. At the best, we patronize them; at the worst, we neglect them. It is a solid relief, sitting there over coffee with Aunt Beva, that here is one who can convince you that aging is joy just like all the rest of the package, and that we may as well give old age a swift kick and weather it fiestily.

OUT THE WINDOW stands Sociedad de Cuba - the Cuban Club, its silhouette like a big, yellow pasteboard cut-out against a pale, blue backdrop of island sky. Beva grew up with her three sisters, Jennie, Mirta and Margarite, in her father Julio Lacedonia's big house nearby. "We all were married and lived

grandmother in Cuba for the celebration of the saint, Caridad de Cobre (saint who saved the fisherman). Each key had its own saint in those days. In the vaults of Aunt Beva's mind are stored marvelous memories of a sweet, rural Key West, when the cattle were driven through the streets, and, when the cigar economy failed, Cuba sent a large boat which docked at Mallory and took on board any Cubans who needed to return, free. There was constant going back and forth to Cuba then, just as to Miami today. Though Aunt Beva never took the boat to the USA mainland nor left the island by hard-surfaced road, in those days.

Aunt Beva's father was a cigar selector. (Her grandfather, Jose La Rosa, was captain of Gato Cigar factory (left in charge when the Gatos moved away), and he laid down strict curfews

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for the beaus calling on his daughters, her mother providing beautiful dresses for the light-hearted, giggling girls. One unfortunate girl friend was killed, wrecked, in the pond out the present Flagler Avenue, while riding behind a boy on a motorcycle. This was considered so fast that the Lacedonia girls were not allowed to attend the funeral. "What was she doing out so far?"

AUNT BEVA, who married into the Cafe Estrella (the Star Coffee Mill on Front Street) put her son, Doc Josie Sanchez, through medical school, roasting coffee beans from Columbia, Arabia, Brazil and Java. She used Keys button-wood charcoal -- so hard and brittle that it would twang like crystal. Aunt Beva's husband, Pepe Sanchez, lost his health, and she served his food at his bedside from 1947 to 1975, also putting in 12 hours at the coffee mill roasting, cooling, grinding, packing, delivering. Most islanders liked to walk down, following their noses, to get their aromatic blend. "I sent Josie \$18 a week (to the University of Miami Medical School). He was good and made do with it. He had hung around Key West Drug Store since he was six years old, longing to be a doctor. Percy Curry, at the Key West Citizen across the street, and I shared the scales, and if my machinery broke down, Sugar Sweeting helped repair it, and the firemen lent me a hand sometimes, lifting big bags."

Aunt Beva loves to keep close with dozens of relatives, an idea which is not given to everyone to understand. If they are ailing, Aunt Beva is really in her element. Her little backbone strengthens, and she comes running with her special tincture of brisk affection.

AUNT BEVA EXPLAINS that there were two brothers Lacedonia who died, one leaving 9 children, one, 7, and these cousins always are in her heart. The whole pack were moved along as cigar vicissitudes. One widow was moved closer, as she was two blocks over, and it seemed too far away. Aunt Beva is like the little bird (perhaps the chimney sweep) which secretes a "glue" to hold the nest together.

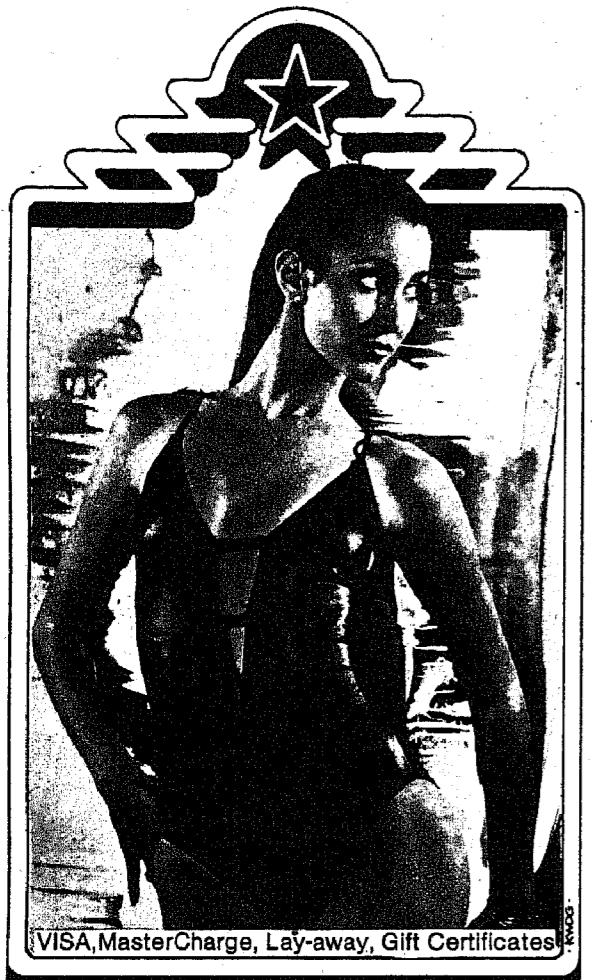
Over coffee at Truffles, Aunt Beva raises her mischievous lozenge-colored eyes. "I can just see the Grand Marches at Sociedad de Cuba, and the song "It's Three O'Clock in the Morning," which the band played so that you found your husband for that last dance, and you still clutched your dance program as a souvenir.

Aunt Beva, often hard pressed, with a spirit un-gettable, possesses a detached tenderness which rides right over age and condition. Is it that "divine indifference" St. Thomas Aquinas talked about?

Aunt Beva, with her deep family feeling and her plucky go-ahead, is wood that never discovered that it is a violin.

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Quickly blending with the night, I follow, though they're out of sight.
The girl is humming a merry tune to the slowly rising moon.
Watching the wavelets ripple by, the moon can see her, so can I.
The boy is busy with schemes and plots, little knowing we read his thoughts.
Watching the water's changing hue, he swiftly guides the small canoe
To the distant, sandy shore, as he often has before,
Visioning the dark recesses where they may exchange caresses.
How can they know that every sigh is heard by the wise old moon and I.
I haven't moved from this one spot, but I see them though I see them not.
How do I know what they're doing?
Ah. My friend, I've been canoeing.

Thea Tapley

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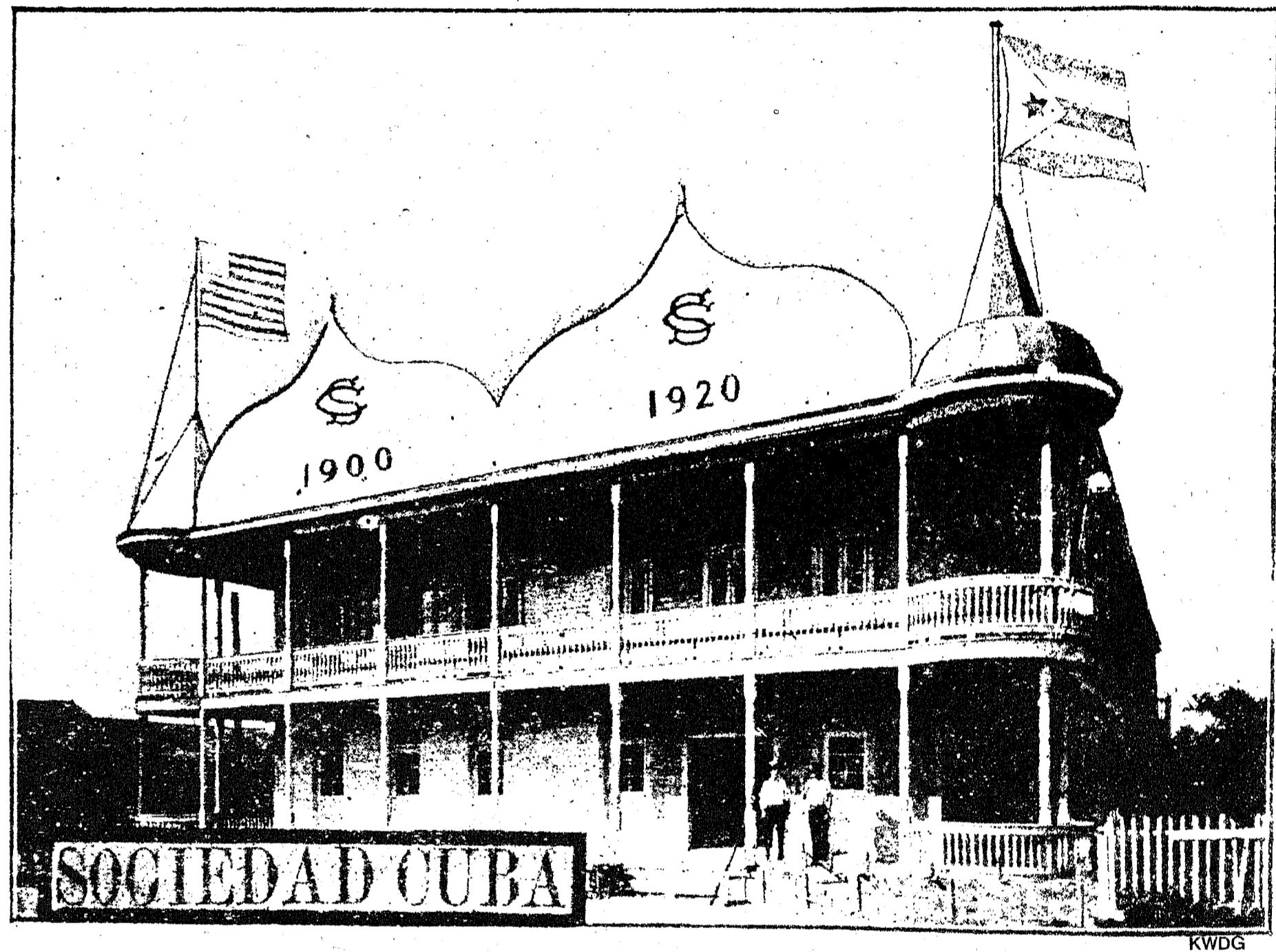
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VOTE BUYING

BY GARRY BOULARD

"NO MAN WORTHY of the office of President should be willing to hold it if 'counted in' or placed there, by any fraud. Either party can afford to be disappointed in the result, but the country cannot afford to have the result tainted by the suspicion of illegal or false returns." -- outgoing President Ulysses S. Grant, in November of 1876, after the presidential election returns in the close race between Democrat Samuel Tilden and Republican Rutherford B. Hayes were called into question.

Three southern states, South Carolina, Louisiana and Florida, were suspected of being the scenes of vote-buying and electioneering, and as a result the entire outcome of the election hinged on these three states. In Florida, which had been originally announced as being won by the Democrats, henchmen from the Republican party contested the results in several counties, as part of a post-election plan to alter the right-ful returns.

Monroe County was one of the counties where the votes were up for grabs. The third ward at the time voting solidly for Tilden, 457 to 3, the Republican henchmen procured affidavits that stated physical intimidation had been practiced to prevent black voters in this ward from voting. Those votes from Monroe County were then thrown out by the Republican returning board in Tallahassee, and Florida was announced officially as having been won by Republican Hayes.

The chaos did not end there. Answering the calls for an unbiased investigation into the vote-buying stories, Congress passed the Electoral Commission Law of 1877, setting up a fifteen-man commission to report on the returns. Unless both Houses of Congress rejected a disputed return, that return was considered accepted. With a Democratic House and a Republican Senate, all disputed returns became accepted, and the election went to Republican Hayes, who became president despite the fact that Tilden (by everyone's open admission) actually had more popular votes -- to the tune of 250,000 more!

IT OBVIOUSLY HAS been a long time since 1876. But anyone seriously studying the antics, bribes and frauds that exist as part of a sick "business as usual" atmosphere in both Key West and Monroe County in recent elections could tell you that we haven't come a long way.

The 1979 city elections were no exception. In the tight city commission race between incumbent Ralph Arnold and his eventual successor, Richard Heyman, supporters of Heyman went to the press and the State Attorney's office with stories of friends and supporters of Arnold purchasing votes for their candidate.

Nothing ever came of the accusations, because, sadly, the persons who had first-hand knowledge of the vote-buying failed for reasons unknown to present their claims to investigators at the State Attorney's office. Without those persons' testimonies, the S.A.'s office refused to go ahead with an investigation, despite the fact that a resident of Key West, Armando (Papo) Quesada, had been accused by Heyman's campaign manager, Peter Ilchuk, as having been instrumental in giving out huge sums of money to potential Arnold voters in Blacktown (Precincts 6 and 7).

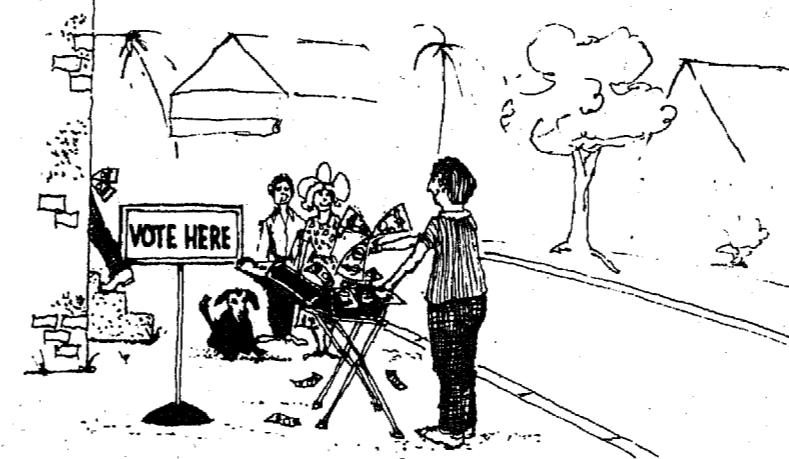
Heyman's margin over Arnold amounted to slightly over 200 votes out of a total of nearly 6,000 votes cast. According to an unnamed source, vote-buying in at least four precincts on

this island, if it's put to its full potential, could be worth anywhere between 800 and 1500 votes. The numbers speak for themselves. In a close election, those paid-for ballots can and have made the difference.

JIMMY WEEKLEY, brother of City Commissioner Alton Weekley and an active supporter of Heyman's in last fall's campaign, commented, "Out of the last three elections I've been involved in, vote-buying has played a significant part in all three." Weekley went on to recall two past close elections where he believed vote-buying had occurred: "I first noticed it in 1977, when Bruce Esquinaldo and Jimmy Mira were in a very, very close race for city commissioner. We were never able to pinpoint it, but we kept getting reports that Esquinaldo's people were buying up those Mira votes. All of the accounts came out of Blacktown."

In 1978, during the County Commission race which was eventually won by Curt Blair with the fantastic margin of one vote, those same stories, originating from the same place, occurred again. Weekley says it took him a while to "figure things out," but that by 1979 he was convinced he had narrowed down where the money was coming from. His account has been supported and corroborated by at least three other active politicos in this town who have chosen to remain silent for reasons of their economic well-being.

ACCORDING TO THOSE reports, a very discernable pattern shows itself that not only is disturbing for its simplicity, but also is downright annoying that it is still in operation, considering the relative openness of its methods. Weekley and



the other informants have stated that usually on the weekend before the election in question a large sum of money, anywhere from \$1000 and over, will be dropped off at a friendly neighborhood house in either Precinct 6 or 7. This will be followed by several rented cars that suddenly appear in the vicinity on election morning with community pols offering area residents a "free ride" to the polls.

THE GOING RATE for a bought vote in 1979 was \$3. "Not much when you consider a gallon of milk is practically that much now," Weekley commented. But, of course, the obvious flaw in the scheme is that even the vote-buyers are unable to actually witness what any given voter, whether he or she has accepted the three bucks or not, will do once in the voting booth. It's highly conceivable that this last time around, the persons accepting the money had the last laugh. Considering that Arnold failed to carry either Precinct 6 or 7, there's good reason to believe that's exactly what happened.

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The man accused of handing out the money for the Arnold votes, Quesada, called the charges "Bull----," and then offered that he was more interested in seeing that his friends and neighbors get to the polls than anything else. "I don't believe it's against the law to help somebody in politics. I help my friends."

Lang Milian, who was defeated in his attempt to unseat Commissioner Mary Graham, pointed out, "If there is fraud and votes being bought, then I know it isn't just west of Whitehead Street (Precincts 6 and 7). You can be sure they're doing their fair share of it out at the Jaycees (Precinct 3), too."

THE MAN FOR whom all of this recent illegal activity has supposedly occurred, Ralph Arnold, has steadfastly maintained that he had no knowledge of the electioneering. "If votes were being bought for me, then I knew nothing about it," he

said. "Nothing at all. I was totally unaware of the whole thing."

Arnold continued, "Sure, I imagine some of those things happened. But I was in no way involved in anything like that in Blacktown. I put all my effort into the Jaycees' precinct. I never even thought about what was going on down there (in Blacktown). If they were buying votes for me they sure as hell didn't do a very good job. I lost."

BUT ARNOLD'S DEFEAT, on the basis of undisclosed accounts, is just one time in recent years when those suspected of actively soliciting votes with money and/or favors were not met with victory. Whether or not they have been personally aware of the questionable efforts on their behalf, Mayor Charles "Sonny" McCoy, Commissioners Esquinaldo and Weekley, and former Commissioner Dennis Wardlow have been mentioned by these unnamed accounts as the candidates who have benefitted most from suspected vote

fraud. Sometimes a vote-buying candidate will fill out a card listing the names of those other candidates he would feel most comfortable with and this is done without the other candidates' knowledge.

Far more disturbing than the fact that the culprits have never been brought to justice, and the possibility that some representatives in this city are not there by a truthful democratic means, is the growing feeling among honest, but now bitter, campaign workers that the only way to win an election around this island is through money. And not the legitimate spending of money for campaign purposes (posters, TV and radio time, etc.), but an extra thousand or two, stored in someone's closet, to be ready for use on election day by those persons in Key West's poorest sections who may look on \$3, \$5 or \$10 as being worth the asked-for vote if it'll help out with the ever-increasing grocery bill.

Those same campaign workers point

out that it is usually the "old-line" regime that wants to forever maintain the status quo, no matter how inadequate that status quo may be, rather than let a more progressive candidate win an election legitimately. Those same people have forgotten the victories of such upstarts as Alton Weekley for the City Commission and Frank Doolittle for the Civil Service Board in 1977, Curt Blair for the County Commission in 1978, and Heyman's win this past November. Instead, many of them have taken on the attitude of one young student worker who told me, "Next time around we'll have the money to match every one of those votes, including all the dead people that regularly vote in every election."

SUCH A PROSPECT is dismal. That "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em" line may apply to many things in life, but it should never apply to exerting one person's will over the wishes of thousands of other persons who have just as

legitimate a right to make their intentions known as the persons who forever, greedily, want to remain in power. Every major opinion poll in this country has shown that an overwhelming majority of Americans shrug their shoulders and view such activity as "politics as usual." Joining up with the operations and methods of our local thugs can only reinforce that opinion and result in a general negativity in government.

Despite the perhaps thousands of votes that have been bought and paid for in both city and county elections past, there is strong reason to believe that the day of the belligerent vote-buyer may soon be coming to an end. As the prospects and the races (and hence, the hoped-for favors) become juicier, the chances increase that those who shell out the money for political friends will get more careless. It's the classic story: greed eventually wins out over everything, including common sense. All it will take is one stupid mistake, one

proposed bribe to the wrong person, to bring down a slew of charges and potential charges on the culprits. There are more than just a handful of people who adamantly agreed with Jimmy Weekley when he stated, "I'm determined to break this thing. A lot of us know who's involved and how they go about it. I think it'll be just a matter of time now."



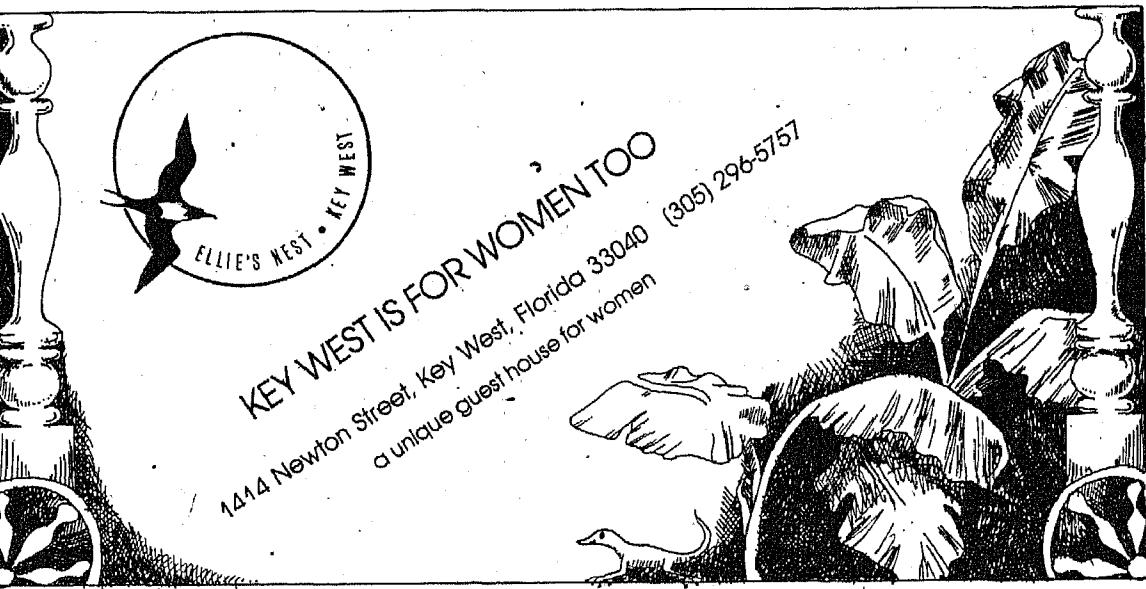
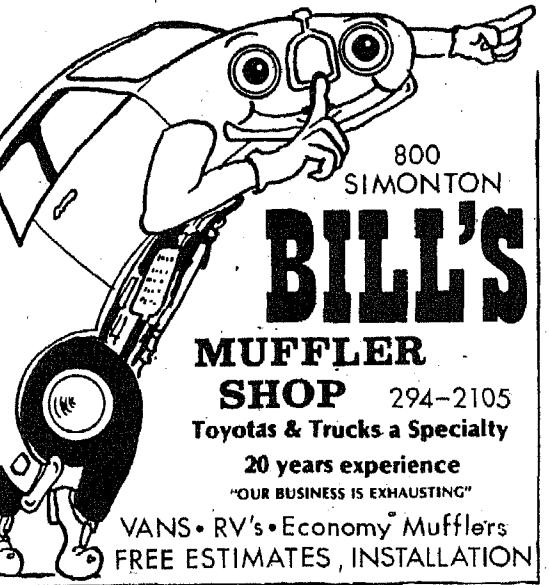
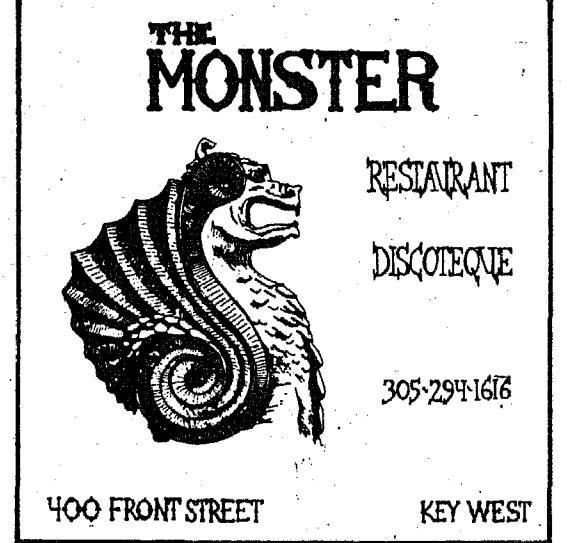
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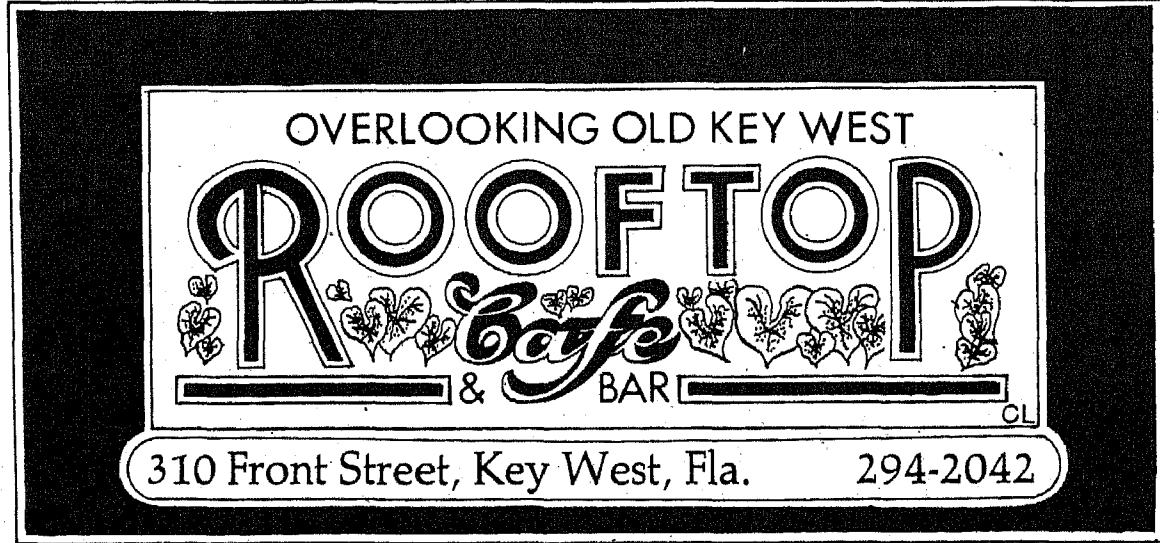
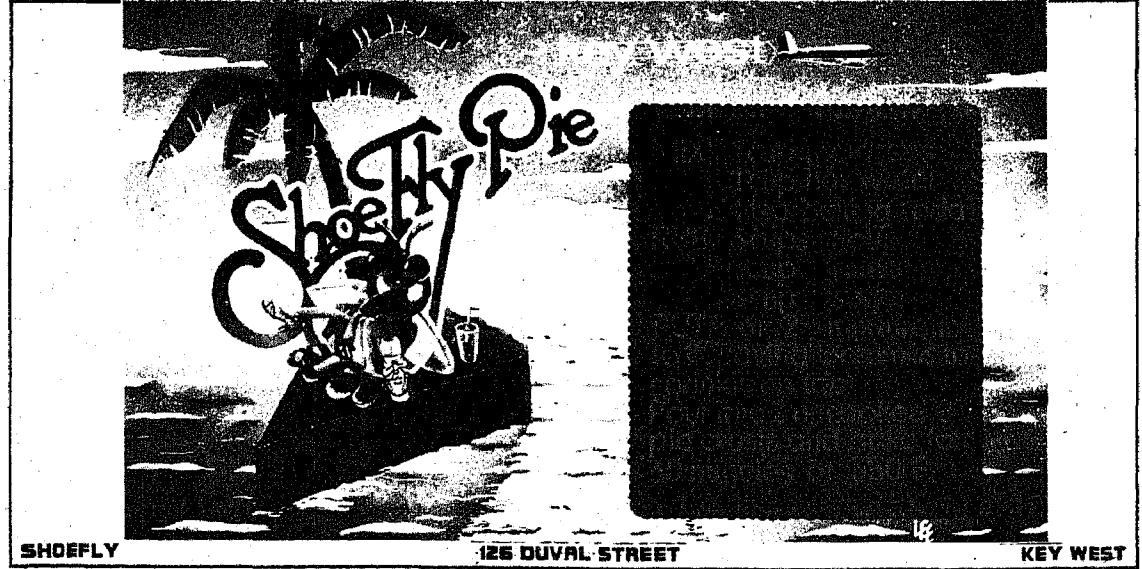


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TENNIS ANYONE?

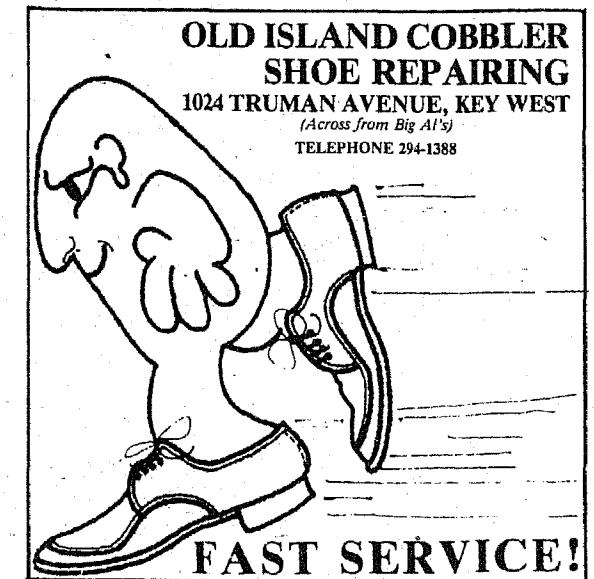
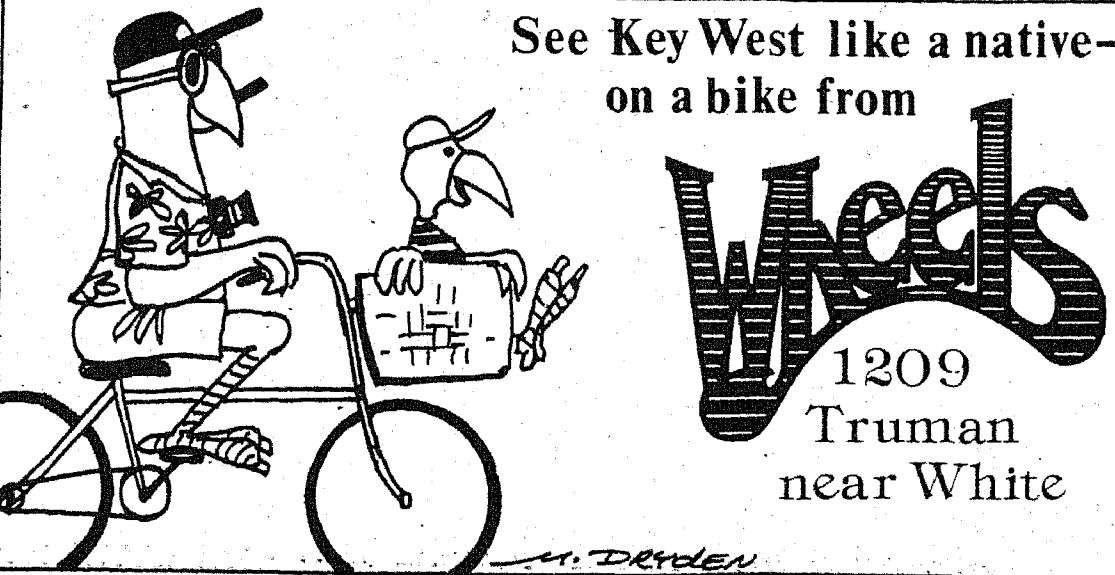
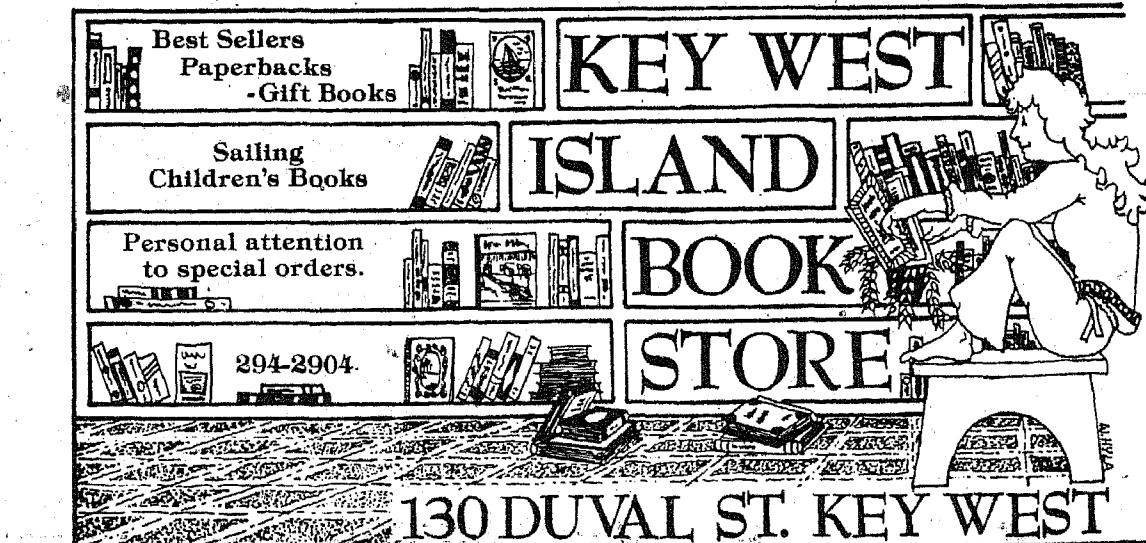


Nicknames and Conch Tales

This is a paper back book by Walter H. Norman of 1997 nicknames and true stories during the period of 1900 thru the 50's. The author is giving his historical and comical recollections of his youth in Key West. Your local book store keeps a good supply. Here is what is being said about the book: — Joe Allen, State Representative, "FANTASTIC". Marc Bock, V.P. First American Bank, Tavernier — "TERRIFIC". Harry Knight, Tax Collector — "very good", Geo. Allen Warren, "every Conch will love it".

This book is not for children or the timid. It will not be popular with the sanctimonious, prudes, all sour-pusses and some librarians. Some of the names have been deleted to protect the author, who is innocent.

If your book store doesn't have it in stock, write W.H. Norman, P.O. Box 900, Tavernier, FL. Send \$7.25, which includes tax and it will be sent postpaid to you or drop by Norman's Handicraft at MM 90.2 and pick up a copy.



New Old Town Resident

BY ELAINE MERRILL

I HAD LIVED in Key West for seven years and was, by authority vested in a Conch Train driver heard in passing, a fresh water Conch. Didn't I remember when the Fisherman's Cafe was the original Fisherman's Cafe? Hadn't I watched a stretch of living salt pond turn before my disbelieving eyes into that developer's fantasy, Key Plaza? Wasn't I, for heaven's sake, one of the few people I knew who would actually recognize Bum Farto should he surface one day on White Street?

All this is to say that, after seven years' residency, I had come to feel as if I was truly an adopted Key Wester. My complacency endured until a few months ago when, for the first time, I moved my abode north of the magical demarcation line of Truman Avenue into the heart of what is quaintly called Old Town. Or Old Towne. Or, if you will, Conch Town. Suddenly I was forced to consider that perhaps I had up until this point been not a Key Wester at all, but a mere suburbanite.

IN MY NEW HOME I experienced entirely new facets of Key West living. The first shock was the house itself, a wooden "Conch" house of indeterminate age. Gone was the comforting hum of the air conditioner, replaced by the indolent whirring of ceiling fans. Gone was the cool slap-slap of bare feet on terazzo, replaced by my "ouch!" as a luckless foot hit a rough spot in the bug-eaten floorboards. And, speaking of bugs, the enlightening experience of the month of May was termite swarming. The landlord made light of it; my children merely made a bushel collection of termite wings.

I soon noticed differences in living which originated outside the house as well as in. The chief neighborhood noise I had noticed in what I now refer to as suburbia had been mechanical. Cars squealing along the George Street drag

strip competed with disco music played at unbelievable decibel levels. Lawn mowers and children, my own among them, were the order of a Sunday morning.

OLD TOWN NOISES are of a different breed. In the early evenings the clip-clop of the carriage tour horse drifts over still air. The electronic chime of the Old City Hall clock sings out more or less melodically at unpredictable intervals. Later in the evening, bicycle tires can be heard bumping in ancient chuckholes on lower Whitehead, Duval, Ann and Simonton streets as the populace flows towards sunset. After dark, particularly on Fridays and Saturdays, four distinguishable musical effects can be heard competing from Sloppy Joe's, Captain Tony's, The Midget and The Monster. Then, late at night, Old Town people return to the bikes or cars they've parked behind the Key West Citizen building or Old City Hall. Lovers, singers, fighters, muggers; all have voices which have at one time or another split the dark right outside my window.

So I've been able to know by the house and the sounds that my Old Town experience is different from my suburban one. The main difference I have noticed, though, is in the feel my children and I have of living in a neighborhood. Before, the car was our chief mode of transportation from and to our isolated dwelling. Now when we step out of our door we are already in the marketplace. We walk or ride bicycles as many places as we can. When we want to swim we grab a towel and visit the Simonton Street yacht club. For groceries we peddle to Fausto's where the high and the low of Key West blissfully navigate their shopping carts beneath the dire shoplifter warnings. We can buy clothing, shoes or books, plus meals ranging from a snack at Angelo's to an elegant dinner at Port of Call. And, of course, there are bars;

too many at hand to cover in a week of intense pub-crawling.

And, always, there are the people. In suburban Key West, people stayed in motion. In Conch Town, slow motion is more like it. People walk. They positively stroll. They congregate at the Post Office, they congregate in front of Artists Unlimited. They gather in the doorways at Shorty's, they meet for coffee at McCrory's. And they all, at one time or another, stand in the shade of the Court House trees and wave their arms descriptively over the latest local scuttlebutt.

EVEN THE TOURISTS seem to be a bit calmer in Old Town. On the beaches I used to see them playing frenzied volleyball or snorkelling vigorously. In Conch Town they seem to have inhaled a bit of the native spirit, and perambulate without rapidity. They windowshop endlessly. They eat ice cream from Mrs. Biddle's or drink coffee from Tutti's and Frutti's. They pore over their maps on street corners, never hesitating to stop a dog-walker such as I to ask the way to the Pier House. In suburbia, tourists were those people who pointed at my mahogany tree from the Conch Train. In Old Town they are those people ever on the sidewalk outside my front door.

These days, six months into my Conch Town residency, I might in an unguarded moment confess that my feel for existence in Key West was, up until now, incomplete. The fabric of my life still is fundamentally comprised of the same elements as ever. But somehow, living in the heart of the city, the threads are more noticeable, the texture more defined. In the suburbs the concrete, the car and the distances insulated me from the living activities of the town. Where I am now I'm developing a bit of snugness these days. You may even notice me if you're downtown. I'm the dog-walker on the street corner drawing on my immense store of Conch Town knowledge to give a smiling tourist expert directions to the Pier House.

Two Poems

Mr. Dodie

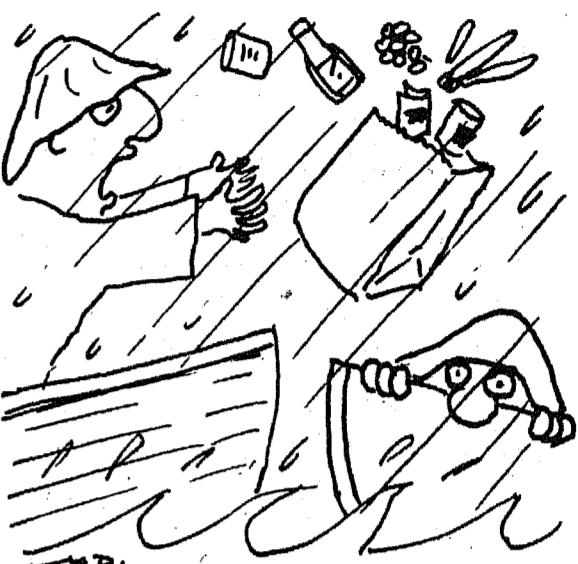
Mr. Dodie came to dock today
He held a pipe between
His teeth
Bought his first boat in 1910
Two hundred and eighty dollars
Pride of the fleet she was
Twenty nine feet long
Man came on my boat
He worked
Didn't work
He got off
Waves his pipe stem with his hand
Didn't work
Off!
Mister Dodie came
To the docks today
He held a pipe between his teeth.

Achina Marina

Mingo stood upon the dock
His wool cap on his head
Do you want to take a boat ride?
Was the first thing that he said
His face was worn and weathered
From sea wind and the sun
Boys let's pull this net off
We're going to make a little run
Chester Alexander has planned a little trip
We're going to make a grocery run
To the Achina Marina ship
She's anchored out by the Smith Shoals Light
She cannot come to port
Today we're ocean bag boys

We'll have a little sport
So we loaded her up
With cigarettes, and case of beans and beef
This ship's crew is growing lean
We'll take them some relief
But when we cleared the Calda Channel
The wind was blowing wild
The seas would toss this boat around
Like the toy of a child
Spray came crashing over the bow
The groceries all got wet
We'd like to turn this boat around
And the hungry ship forget
But when I take a job, he said
I like to see it through
We'll keep her bow into the sea
And see what she can do
The boat fell down
Off the crest of a wave
Like a rock off a canyon's rim
We all did know that Key West town
Was too far to swim
No other boat around in sight.
Tied to the dock at home
No sailor sane upon these seas
Today would choose to roam
Now the ship came rising out of the sea
And she looked like a cliff afloat
Twelve-foot seas crashed on her sides
To crush our little boat
We'd make a pass for the cargo net
And we'd fill it if we could
I crawled about on my hands and knees
Cause I'd fall down if I stood
Mingo stood on the flying bridge
His black hair in the wind
I heard him speak to the ocean
Like a man to an angry friend

Achina Marina, I hope your men eat well
The men who made this grocery run
Just made it straight through hell
Now Chester Alexander
I tell you what is true



When you need an ocean bag boy
I'll leave it up to you.
Mingo stood upon the dock
A wool cap on his head
Do you want to take a boat ride?
Was the first thing that he said.

by Jodie Adams

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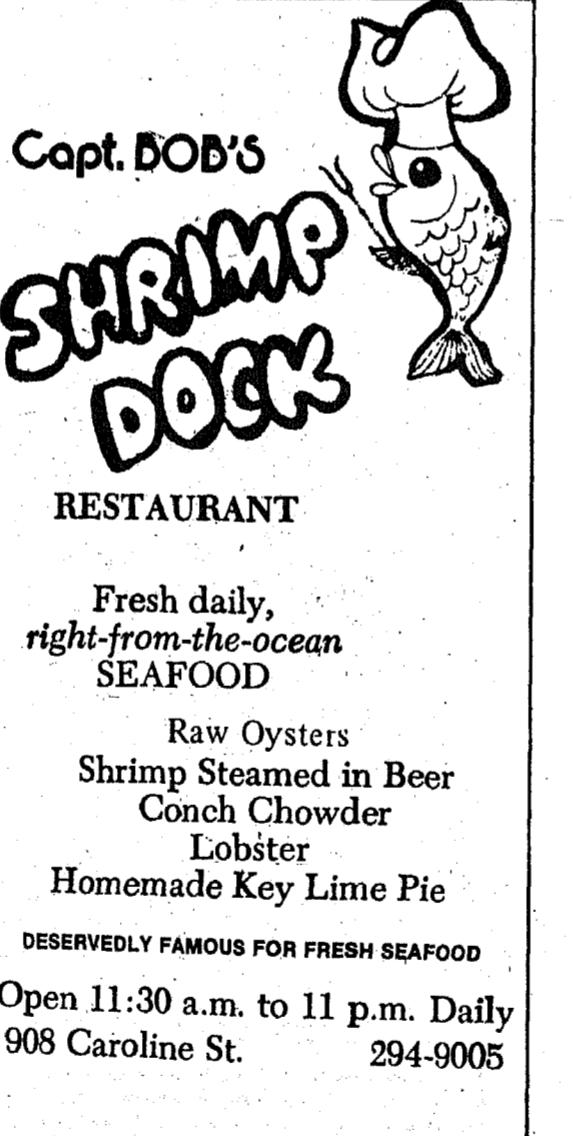
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Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum

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The History of The United States



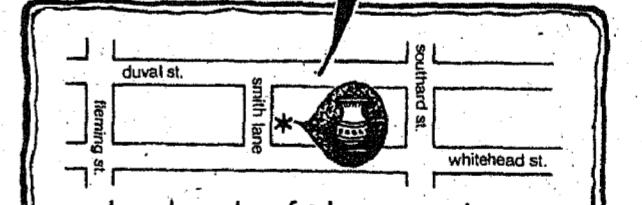
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GUEST EDITORIAL

BY GIL RYDER

THE CONTROVERSY CONTINUES concerning the Truman Annex surplus land. Now the County is also involved and has retained Wurster, Bernhardi and Emmons, Inc. of San Francisco to develop County plans for the area. The County planners are much more affable and courteous to the citizen groups than the City's Redevelopment Agency, and seem to take seriously the objections of the citizen groups. In short, they are better salesmen.

The County plan is different from

the Redevelopment Agency's, and the County planners seem much more flexible. In the long run, however, they both have the same basic objectives: to put the great emphasis on Hotel, Motel (County uses the word "Inn"), and super expensive vacation homes.

Both City and County planners have the same basic flaw in their approach to the project: no neighborhood impact study. The City planners don't have the money to do it and the County planners, having come in late, don't have the time.

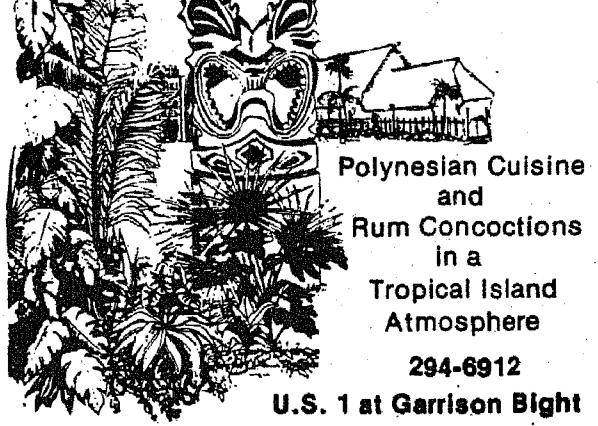
AN IMPACT STUDY is absolutely essential and should be the first thing done. Planners should know how much traffic will be added to the streets of Key West (and U.S. 1 all through the Keys); how much more potable water will be needed; what will have to be done to

or more of our local citizens, screaming their lungs out, and forcing abandonment of the plans for a millionaire's paradise at Truman Annex.

AT THIS POINT you may well ask, "Okay, wise guy, if the officials and their planners are doing everything wrong, what is the right thing to do?" There are two very simple answers:

1. Simple justice and a sense of honor would decree that the 86 acres of land involved must be returned to the people from whom it was taken some 40 years ago, and that these people (or their direct heirs) would pay the same price they received all those years ago. These are the only people who have a moral right to make a profit on that land. Unfortunately, justice is a manmade concept, largely confined to the fantasy

HUKILAU RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE



WE MUST WONDER WHETHER THE IMPACT STUDY WAS OMITTED BECAUSE THE FACTS EXPOSED BY SUCH A STUDY WOULD CAUSE OUTRAGE AMONG THE CITIZENS.

the sewer system; how much electric power will be needed; how many more policemen and equipment, firemen and equipment will be needed; whether present garbage and trash disposal facilities are adequate; and many other items that must be paid for. They should also have figures for all the many added problems that will come with the opening of the State Park in that area.

We must wonder whether the impact study was omitted because the facts exposed by such a study would cause outrage among the citizens.

Maybe, instead of 200 jamming City Hall at public hearings, we'd see 5,000

world of storybooks, read by the naive. There is no justice and little honor in our world of factual realism.

2. We should be guided by the phrase, "Highest and Best Use." The highest and best use is that which will bring the greatest and best improvement in the quality of life to the citizens now in residence in Key West -- the greatest good for the greatest number.

IN ORDER TO obtain the greatest good for the greatest number, dwelling units should be restricted to privately owned, one-family and two-family houses, with the exterior appearance in conformance

with historic precedence. Every effort should be made to encourage local working people of modest means to purchase these units with the federal help available through various programs. This would make it possible for the young people of the area, now paying exorbitant rents, to own decent homes, and, in the case of the two-family houses, rent from the second apartment would help pay off the mortgage by the time of retirement, and they would have the security of rental income to improve their financial picture after retirement.

These units should be purchased under a "Contract for Deed" arrangement, the contract specifying that purchaser could not sell his or her interest in the unit for ten years, at which time the Deed will be given to the purchaser.

thus making opportunities for local people and keeping the profits in the local economy. Great care should be taken to establish new businesses in such a manner and at such a pace that the new businesses will not destroy existing businesses in the downtown area.

There should be an indigenous market, with a Bahamian island appearance, restricted to fabrication and sale of local items of wood, straw, shells, plants, food, etc., adjoining a picnic area, with a stop for the Tour Train. Key West has many skilled people well able to engage in this trade, and it would give visitors an opportunity to buy Keys souvenirs that were not made in Taiwan or Brooklyn.

SERIOUS ATTENTION SHOULD be given

water problems in the winter. The capacity of the pipeline is not the only thing that restricts the amount of water we receive. A State agency allocates how much water will come to the Keys -- the allocation is not unlimited.

AS WE CONSIDER the many aspects of the Annex development, we should try to make ourselves aware of the avenues open to developers. For instance, "Tax Increment Financing," a procedure that seems to allow for a bond issue to help in development of the area, the bonds to be repaid by setting aside a portion of the ad valorem tax for that purpose.

There are no clear-cut answers as



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OF KEY WEST

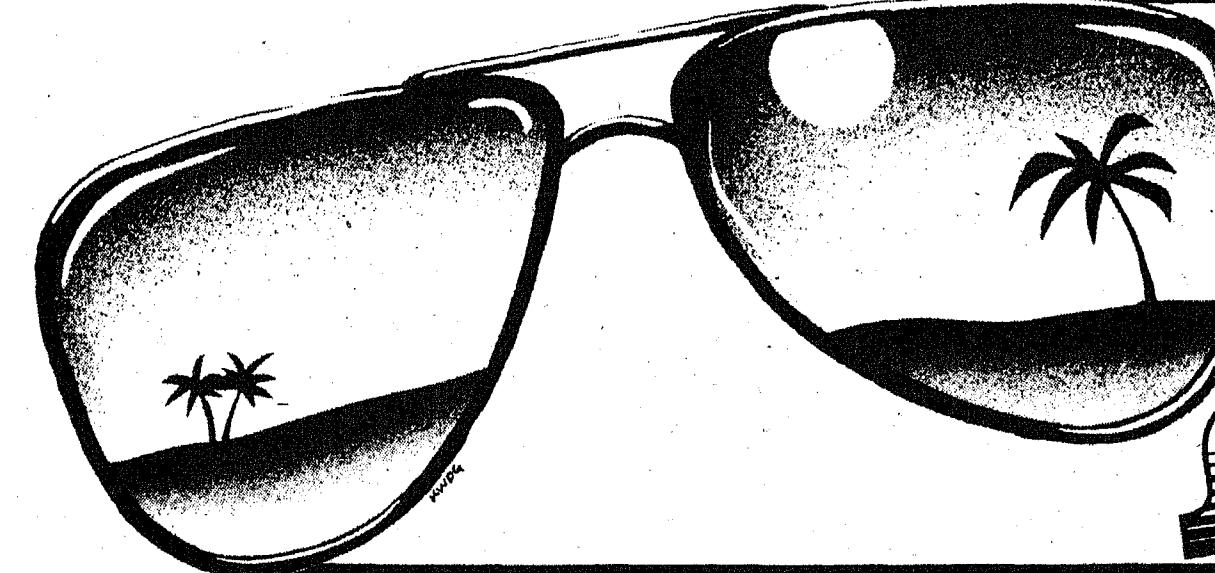
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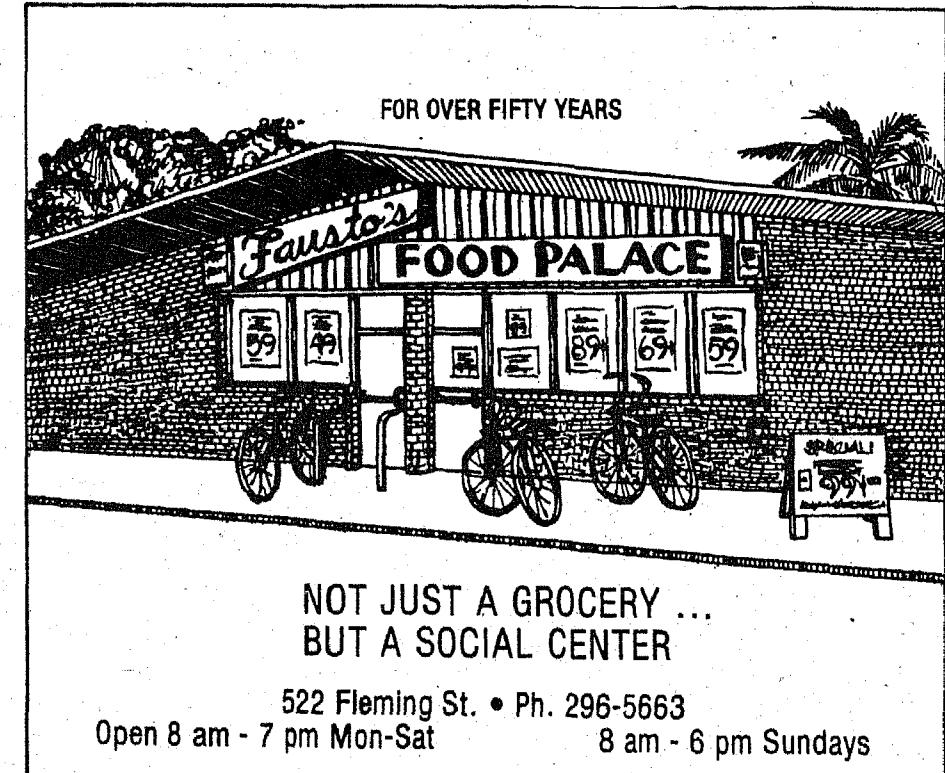
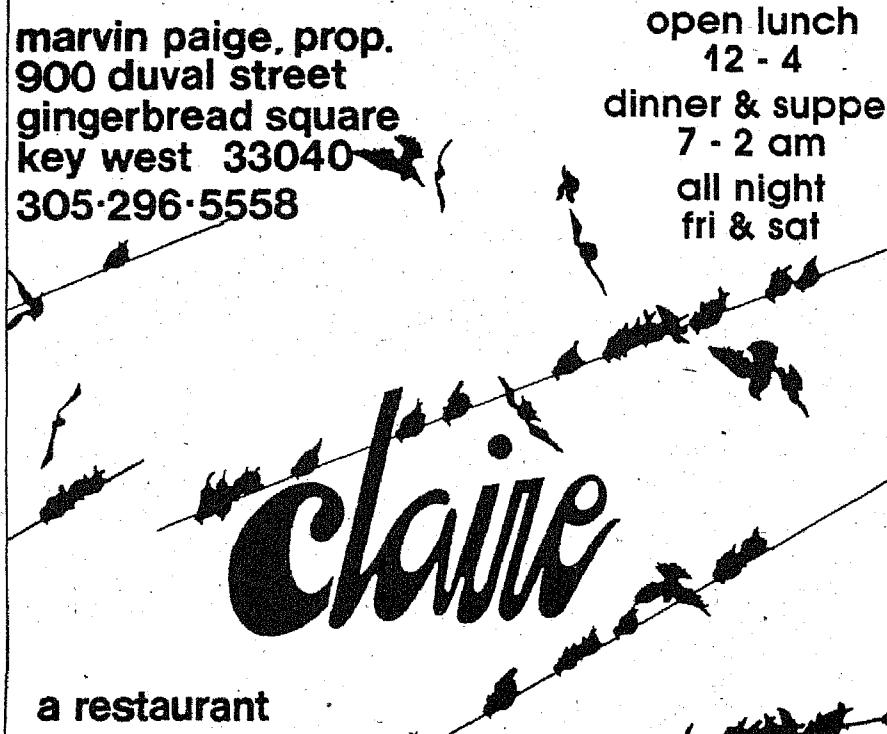
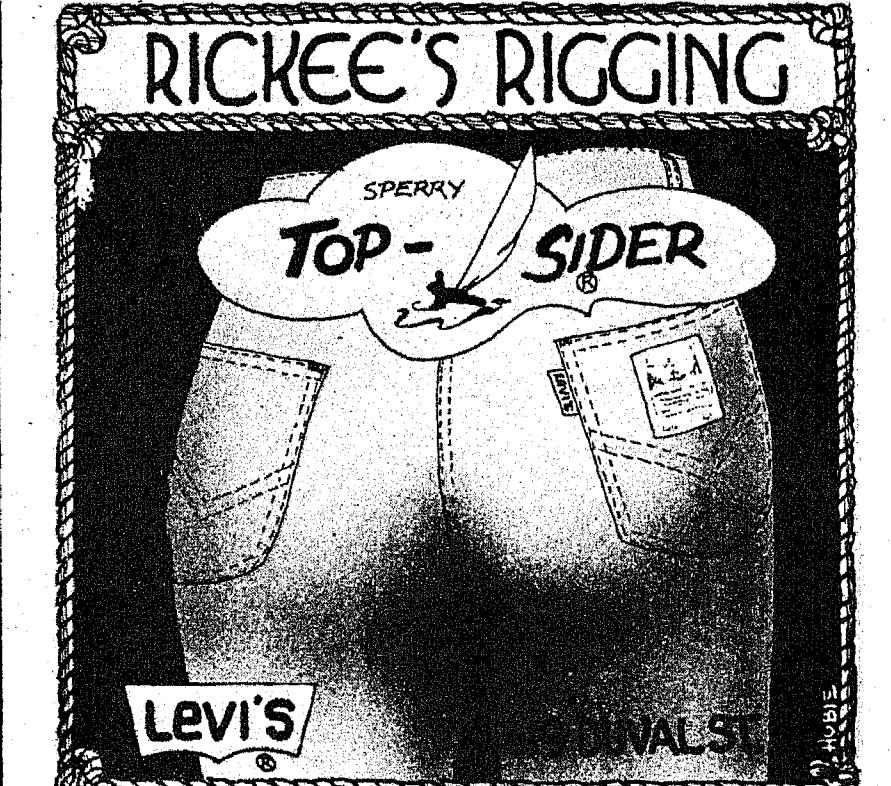
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to exactly how the system works, but, on the surface at least, it would appear that future tax money is earmarked to help underwrite the cost of development at the taxpayers' expense.

County planners admit that development of the Annex will cause property values to rise in Key West. We must all consider that with tax valuation increasing, and using Tax Increment Financing, it's not very likely that millage will be reduced.

ANOTHER ITEM TO which all citizens should give serious thought is electric power. Adding new business establishments, new homes, and 500 to 1000 new hotel-motel units to City Electric's load seems ridiculous, when you consider that they can't keep up with present summer requirements. Pro-development people will argue that the new tie-line to the mainland will solve all those problems, but don't bet your family heirlooms on that doubtful solution. Just remember that the generating plant on Stock Island was the solution to all our electrical problems just a few short years ago. We have the Stock Island plant now, and our problems are worse.

Why should we believe that the tie-line will solve our problems any better than the Stock Island generator did?

Remember all those expensive concrete utility poles going up the Lower Keys? Remember how they all fell down? Remember that the contractor who installed those poles didn't have to make good? The contractor had a good attorney. We should be grateful that the contractor's attorney is now City Electric's attorney. No, don't bet on the tie-line solving our power problems.

DO YOU THINK this all sounds very negative? Good thinking! It is negative. Here we are, planning a super rich development in a community that runs out of water in the winter, runs out of electricity in the summer, and

has sewage running in the streets and canals for months on end because of a breakdown. It might be wise to get our existing house in order before we build all those new ones.

According to County planners, two tanks in the Navy Tank Farm were never used for fuel or anything else and are now surplus. These tanks are said to have underwater pipes to Key West. No matter what else is done, these tanks should be grabbed and used for water storage -- that we need.

THE MAYOR OF KEY WEST and two City Commissioners have mentioned the possibility of having the people choose between the City and County Plans by referendum vote in March of this year.

This would be something like going shopping for a new car and coming up against one of the hard-sell boys who keeps pounding away on the theme that if you don't buy his Cadillac your only other choice is to go to his competitor across the road and buy his Lincoln. You know very well that all you can afford is a Chevrolet, a Ford, or maybe even a motor scooter. You may have a great desire for a large gas-guzzling, luxury vehicle, but what you need, and can pay for, is wheels.

And so it is with the Annex development -- we may desire luxury housing, but what we need is a roof over the citizens' heads.

There should be a third option on the referendum:

City Plan County Plan

Neither Plan

"Neither Plan" will win by a landslide.

KEY WEST MIGHT be better off if we planted the Annex's 86 acres in grass, used existing buildings for cow barns and established a small dairy farm. At

least, we should save transportation costs on some of our milk, and that would be a direct benefit to many of our citizens.

It doesn't matter who plans the Annex development, as long as it's planned for the needs of the community, not for the desires of the idle rich, or for the financial gain of big developers. (They're your pals, just the way Big Oil is.)

The greatest good for the greatest number should take precedence over any plan that will enrich a few and impoverish others.



Neil's Poem

that morning you first
came to me
and wrapped me
in your smiling mouth

melting I flowed
down into that
well of warmth

me so soft
boneless I drowned
in your smile

by Kate Bressler

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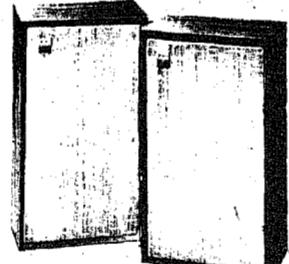
The Kenwood KD 1030 turntable is supplied with a high quality tone arm and the belt drive turntable has been engineered by the greats from Kenwood. Beautiful wood-simulated sidings make it an attractive piece to display in your home.



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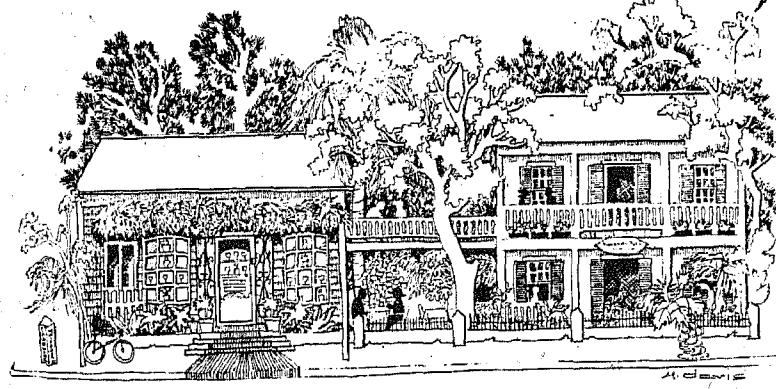
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TENNESSEE WILLIAMS PREMIER OPENS NEW THEATRE

The world premier of Tennessee Williams' play *Will Mr. Merrivether Return From Memphis?* was the inaugural production at the new Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center at the Florida Keys Community College on January 24.

Out-of-town reviewers were there, as well as the leading lights of Key West society and the island's most famous resident, Tennessee Williams himself, often described as America's finest living playwright.

The play received mixed reviews, but the after-theatre reception in the lobby was unanimously acclaimed as a success.



POETRY

STAR SHINE

Once there was a "Star"
That streaked across my days
With short and fiery brilliance
And set my heart ablaze.

Wasn't there a meaning,
A cosmic-karmic seeming
Of bonds from other times?

Wasn't there a closeness
In all our gay verboseness
And much between the lines?

The "Star" is a metaphor
For love in meteor-form
That lights a life but once
And quickly passes on.

The memory of the light --
That dancing shower of bright --
Twists my heart to hunger
For another dazzling night.

D.M.

AVAST

Avast, ye landlubbers,
Stand by for a ram,
Ye foul up my oceans,
How angry I am!
My whales cry to me,
"Save me Lord, please.
We have young ones to feed,
And we all are in need.
Must we be last of a vanishing breed?"
My dolphins are dying,
The air's hard to breathe.
You clean up the oceans,
Before I rebuke
You and your ways
With a massive right fluke.
I'll never forgive thee, as just
As I am.
King Neptune I be, stand by
For a ram!!!

George Campbell

KEY SPREE

By the time that you get here from Islamorada
You are more than just ready for a Pina Colada.

You can stroll through downtown and never fear --
There's plenty of places to get a cold beer,

Maybe on draft or in bottles or in cans,
And then you pass one of our Hot-dog stands,

Or sit down to dine on a great shrimp salad
And from some saloon hear a nice country ballad.

You can spend your money on shells or on trinkets,
On clothing or on paintings, (if you don't choose, to drink it),

Rent skates, a horse-carriage, a rickshaw or bike,
A Moped, the Conch Train, whatever you like.

You can watch us print fabrics or make perfume or lotion
Or lie on the beaches or swim in the ocean.

Or charter a boat for a sail, dive, or fish --
In fact we've got something to grant any wish.

Key West is a place that has so much to see --
You can take it all serious or make it a spree

And relish the lovely, abundant Hibiscus,
But take care -- if you wear it -- lest it make you promiscuous!

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HFC

19

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The Holy Grail

BACK IN MISSISSIPPI, we were taught that it's impolite to ask anybody but immediate family how much rent they're paying. In Key West, you might as well post it just inside the door to save time. Everybody is going to ask, and only snobs don't tell.

The reason everybody asks is that finding and keeping a decent place to live in Key West is like a quest for the Holy Grail. When you graduate from the flophouses and find a comfortable place, you guard it with your life. And people ask because they hate the idea of anybody getting a better deal than they have ("Three-fifty a month for this? Jeez! I pay only two and a half and I've got a gazebo and a huge kitchen and a hot-tub and twelve ceiling fans and a giant avocado tree and hot and cold running hula dancers.")

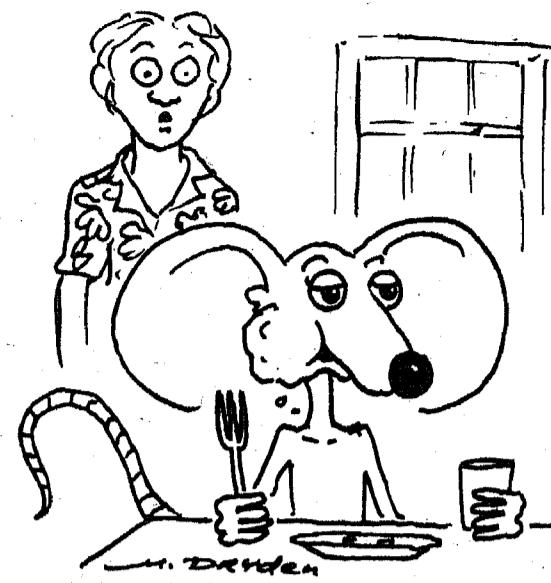
Just recently I made my sixth move

WRITTEN AND
ILLUSTRATED BY MACK DRYDEN

since I got to Key West in February, 1977 (seventh if you count my first week at Boyd's Campground on Stock Island). As all locals know, February is not exactly primo apartment-hunting season in Key West. I looked in the classifieds. "Quiet room for single person, \$70 weekly" was about the cheapest I could find. It was on Whitehead Street near the Green Parrot Bar. A 900-year-old man showed me a big closet with a Be Nice bumper sticker on the wall. A sagging army cot took up about three-quarters of the floor space. I thought he was kidding. "I was looking for the 70-dollar-a-week room," I said. He got a kick out of that.

To make a painful story short, I finally took an efficiency on Truman Avenue for \$260 a month and started looking for another place.

the first guy had left. Then I lay down for a few minutes to rest up for



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tions or just to chew the fat, and dogs and cats ambled through to check it out.

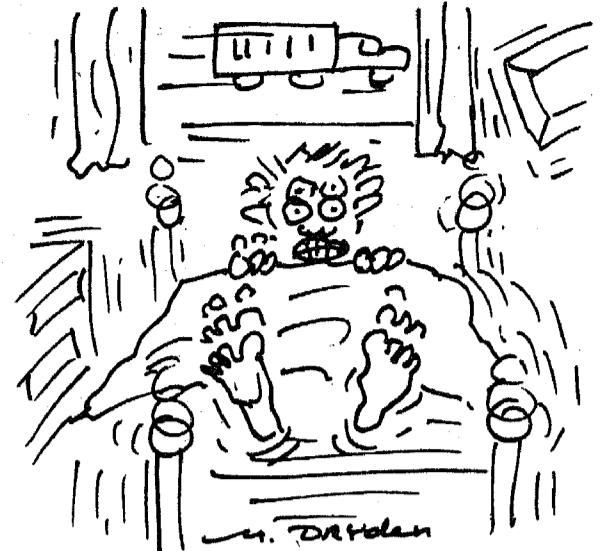
I MOVED TO a place on Caroline after that, then over to a place on White Street, or Indianapolis South. Souped-up Firebirds and Harleys could hit 80 between the light at Truman and my front door and still have time to throw the chute out before they got to Eaton Street. My windows shook every night. I asked the city if they'd consider installing a couple of speed bumps, but they said they'd rather not have to deal with airborne motorcycles.

During my next move, I got a taste of the kind of horror story I'd been hearing about. Another guy and I decided to share a place on Windsor Lane. Ah, Windsor Lane. Bicycles, chirping birds, little children skipping to school in their matching outfits. We paid \$25 deposit to hold the place, cleaned out our former digs, stacked a ton of stuff into my roommate's pickup, and headed over to Shangri-La. Sorry, the owner said, but he'd decided to subdivide the place one more time and make two one-bedroom places and jack up the rent to the current Key West absurdity.

We didn't kill him for some reason I forgot. We moved into a buddy's kitchen and started looking. We were desperate, so we took a place on Eaton Street for \$350 plus utilities. Ah, Eaton Street. Interstate Eaton Street, Corridor for the 18-wheeled Leviathans that keep this great country growing.

MAN IS A very adaptable creature, I have found. After two months I couldn't get to sleep if my bedroom wasn't vibrating. We nailed everything down and boarded up the front windows and stayed there for 10 months, Feeling the Earth, Move, Under Our Feet.

At the end of the ten months we broke the lease and found a young couple with a baby to take it over. That kid will either grow up being able to sleep anywhere, or he'll run amok before he's six and ax somebody.

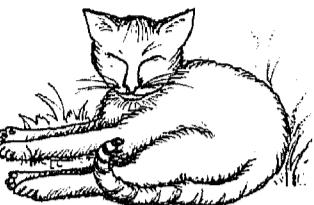


Anyway, I boxed everything up and stashed it hither and yon with friends before taking off on a two-month odyssey through the South. That's still another story. I stayed a week in Houston, the oil sheiks' paradise. They burn more gas in one rush hour than Key West does in a year.

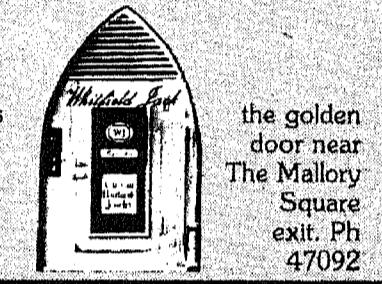
I GOT BACK to Key West after the tourist crush, and For Rent signs were sprouting like bougainvillea. My former roommate was living in a three-bedroom place with another friend of mine, and the third room had just come open. I dived in head first. A happy ending. It's clean, it's reasonable, and it's on Catherine Street, which is generally too bumpy for the Key West Hell Drivers to build up any momentum. (I go out every weekend and enlarge a few potholes. We all have to do our part.)

So here I am, paying less than half

the rent I paid two and a half years ago for a much better place. I keep picking up roommates, of course, and five years from now we'll probably have a whole tribe splitting the rent. But I've learned that in Key West, them that ain't got ain't got a prayer if they don't stick together. I recommend it.



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WAITING FOR TURTLES ON HOSPITAL KEY
BY HEIDI LANDECKER

THERE ARE SEVEN islands off Key West toward the Yucatan Peninsula that are a sort of lonely afterthought to the Florida Keys. The Dry Tortugas, which earn their name from the absence of fresh water and the presence of turtles, are washed by a Gulf Stream that is warm in summer and stormy in winter. They are a naturalist's paradise, with nesting terns and coral gardens and great silver tarpon in the clear waters that wash their beaches, but these qualities will have to wait for other writers. This essay concerns the smallest of them, an island called Hospital Key.

Hospital Key is tiny and remote. Its peculiar name comes from a more peculiar circumstance. When the Tortugas were an island prison for Union deserters of the Civil War, it housed the most serious, quarantined victims of a yellow fever epidemic. It is not surprising that their "hospitalization" often ended in death, for the island is a mere strip of sand, treeless and exposed to the sun -- hardly the place for a speedy recovery. Indeed, its very status as an island is questionable, for during winter storms it may return completely to the ocean floor. It is barely an acre in size.

IN SPITE OF its odd history, Hospital Key is remarkable. I know this because I spent a night on its tenuous sand during the full moon of last July, waiting and watching for turtles. The great green and loggerhead and hawksbill turtles who spend their lives in the sea have their beginnings in the loose sand of island beaches. Because Hospital Key is no more than a beach, it seemed a good place to wait for a mother turtle to lumber ashore and lay her eggs in the

summer night. A biologist who understood the ways of lady turtles so engaged told us that our presence, if quiet and dark, would not disturb her important mission. As it happened, it was not turtles but the absence of them that lent a rare quality of expectation and a certain eeriness to the night.

WE STEPPED GENTLY when we first arrived on Hospital Key, as if we feared the sands might shift underfoot and subside. They didn't, and we moved across the empty beach and around the turtle cones in the fading light. Turtle cones are round depressions under which lie perhaps a hundred eggs, buried and developing in the sand. To and from them are the odd tracks of turtle bellies pushed laboriously by flippers meant for swimming in the sea. This left the island with the strange sense of having been recently visited and then abandoned to the sweeping wind and the constant tide. The qualities of light, sound, and sensation were different here, more important than on true islands where plants and land smells and birds absorb our attention. Hospital Key has few permanent inhabitants. Most are like the turtles and the turtle watchers who touch down briefly with some ephemeral cause but do not stay. This is as it should be, for the sands themselves are but transient visitors to air, light, and islandness.

ONLY THE GHOST CRABS, who scuttle over the island in the darkness, seem to be residents. They remain hidden during the day when the island is a hot strip reflecting the sun's intensity, but at night they emerge to run silently on many legs. I presume they search for food, although I have no idea what comprised their meals -- no other living things revealed themselves on Hospital Key. I like the behavior of ghost crabs, particularly the swift movements which appear only as a twitching at the corner

of one's eye as they whisk along the beach. When one turns to look at them directly, they are still. They are colored like sand and shells, and easily overlooked when not in motion. Furthermore they have the uncanny ability to bury themselves quickly in the sand with spade-like hind-legs, leaving only two eyestalks exposed. In this way ghost crabs are often invisible, but always watching.

I like anthropomorphism, and have chosen to believe that the ghost crabs informed the turtles of our presence during the full moon of last July. Although we watched carefully from sunset until sunrise, not one turtle climbed from the surf. This is not to say that we did not see turtles, for when one is on a small island at 2 a.m. looking for turtles, one sees many. Each irregularity in the tide took on a certain turtleness as we waited and watched in expectation. Turtles, it seems, are like many things in life that come only when we do not look for them.

BUT THE NIGHT of watching was worthwhile. As I circumnavigated the shoreline during my two-hour turtle watch, the sea pounded the windward side and swept away some precious sand. Looking back at our sleeping entourage, I smiled. With our blankets and sleeping bags in the moonlight, we looked like a tiny group of Bedouins, huddled in the desert. I was reminded of the other human visitors who gave Hospital Key its name, also nomads on their way to another destination.

In the morning the enchantment of wind and moonlight and pounding sea gave way to empty sand in the brilliant sun. We hastened aboard our boats before the heat became unpleasant, leaving the ghosts and the ghost crabs and the embryonic turtles to wait for other nomads that would happen by.



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Ship Ahoy AND All That JAZZ

BY HELEN CHAPMAN

FOR THOSE OF YOU who have never lived on a boat, allow me to give you some advice. First of all: don't -- if you have an alternative, try to select something the size of the Titanic, only sturdier. However, if for reasons of your own (probably financial), you decide on a smaller craft, your best bet is an 18-foot wood skiff with a roof.

You won't need much -- just a head* and a shower and a kitchen range and a water heater and a live-in maid who pumps bilges. And a large monthly income. This last-mentioned item will let you tie up to a dock. Otherwise you'll have to sit out on a mooring or tie on to a not-too-swift pelican (which, by the way, works pretty well -- they don't migrate).

Now that you are more or less firmly ensconced, you have to consider eating. Forget roast beef and Yorkshire pudding. Rice-A-Roni with canned peas is a lot easier. Not as tasty, but a lot easier! After dinner, which comes complete with dirty dishes, fill a bucket with sea water and joy -- and forget about it.

ONE DAY IT RAINS -- and lo! you're leaking (the roof, that is, not the hull, hopefully). Drips appear like magic! I have never figured out why rain dripping through a house is never as wet as rain dripping through a boat. Some ancient mariner must have angered the rain gods. In any case, there you are, tripping over buckets and pots in the middle of the night on your way to the rail.**

After you have survived all of the above, you'll feel like celebrating ashore. Besides, you need a shower.

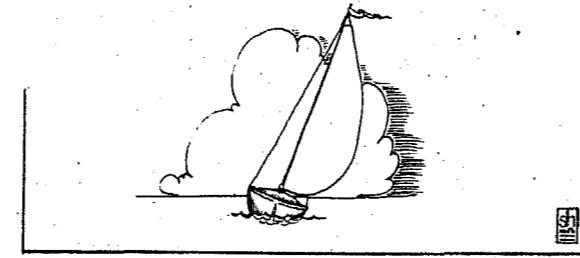
Once you are clean, celebrating is absolutely necessary! Assuming that you have it together, pick a dockside pub, or at least one no further than the Midget Bar. Because once past Fleming Street, you'll never remember where you left your dinghy. On the other hand, a lot of dinghies have been lost at the Midget. That's a chance you have to take.

OKAY. NOW YOU'VE found the damned dinghy (at 4 a.m., all dinghies are damned), only to discover you forgot where the boat is. I never said it was easy, did I? But wait a minute! Don't panic. After all, how many 18-foot wood boats with leaky cabins and lousy paint jobs can there be? Well...

I'm writing this on a friend's boat, which is none too fancy, and while pondering an ending to this piece of weighty prose, I noticed a folding hatrack lying on the deck. So, friends, my parting words are these: forget the head and shower, forget the bilge-pumping maid, forget the canned peas. All you really need aboard a boat is a folding hatrack.

*If you don't know what this term means, join the Navy.

**Not to be confused with "head."



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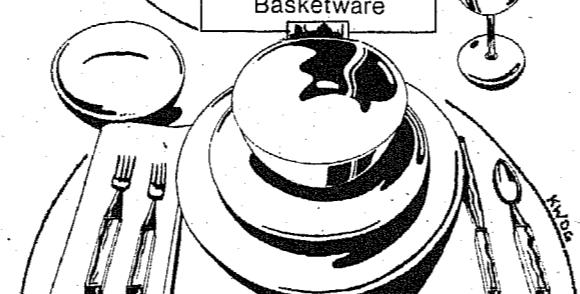
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Horse with diaper

OF CRITTER LITTER AND PEOPLE POLLUTION

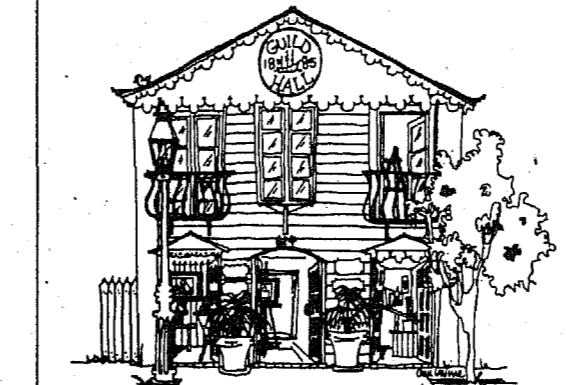
A retired horseman and a sea captain were discussing world problems with a carriage tour driver resting between tours. When the subject turned to local affairs, the former cowboy pointed out the irony of litter and piles of trash complacently being allowed to collect on the streets and beaches, while the carriage horses were required to wear diapers so that public sensibilities would not be offended by the occasional dropping of "road apples" in the street.

The old sea dog suggested that people should be made to wear diapers around their necks so that they wouldn't drop litter in the streets. Horse manure in the streets is the least of Key West's problems, he pointed out. After all, the officials at City Hall alone ...

From then on, the conversation became unfit to print.

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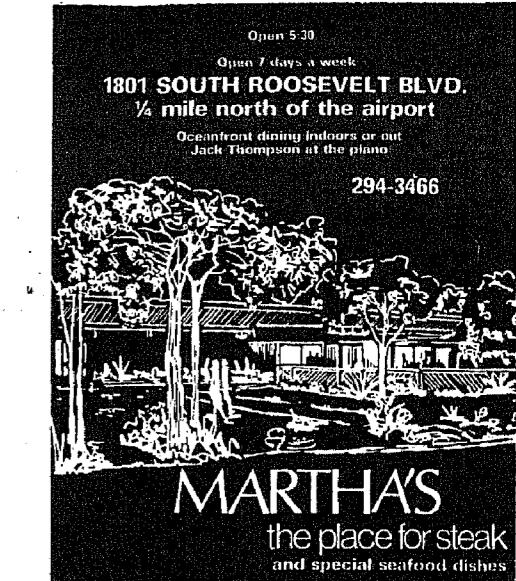
Rest Beach next to Casa Caselles construction

PHOTOS BY RICHARD MARSH



HAPPY
VALENTINE'S DAY

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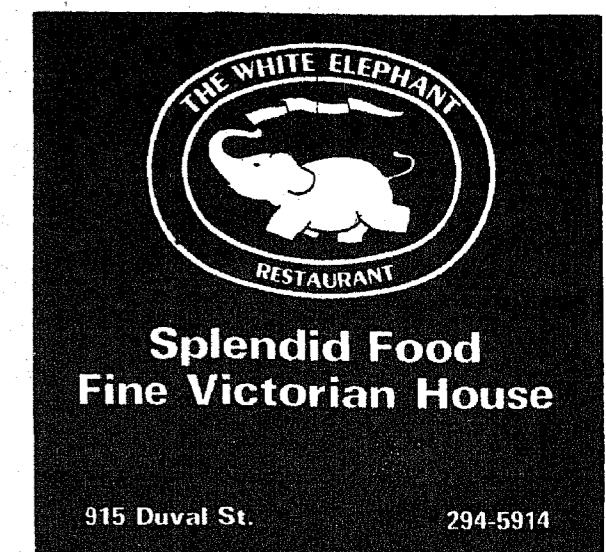


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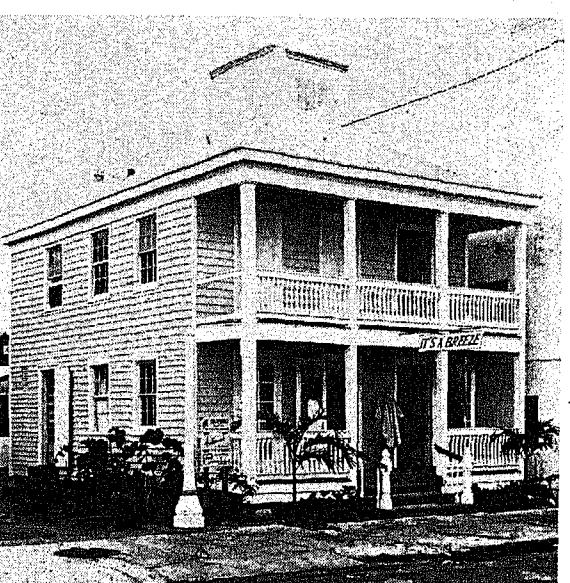


NEW LIFE FOR AN OLD BUILDING

Local businessmen Ed Swift and Chris Belland recently moved a deserted building on Southard across the street to Key Lime Square, where it has been reborn as "It's A Breeze."

This recent project of the partners is an attractive addition to the neighborhood.

PHOTOS BY RICHARD MARSH



assortment, inc.

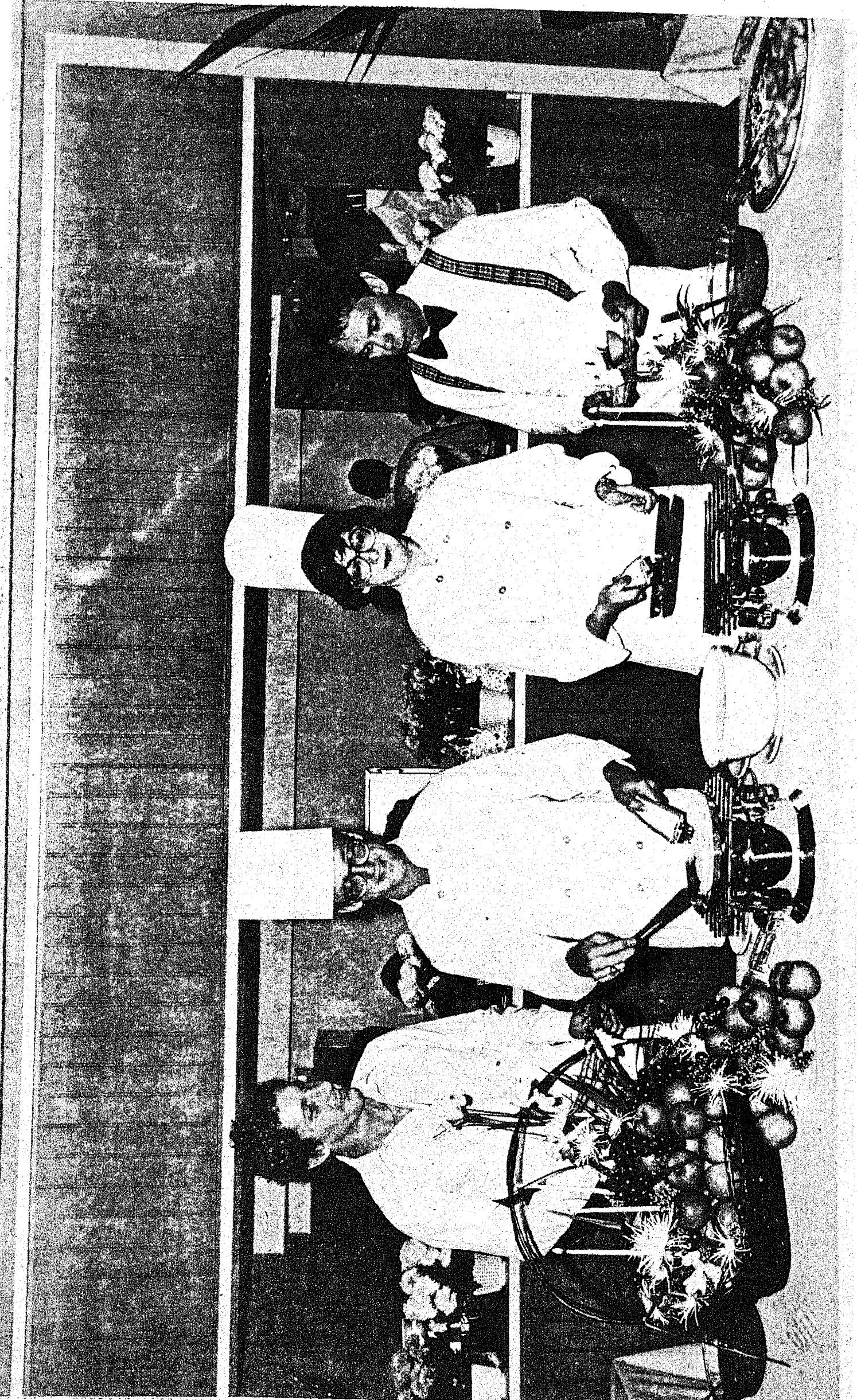
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CONCH

by
Benny Pierce

--DEDICATED--

with loving respect to the memory of my father
Benjamin J. Pierce
1908-1962
Born-Lived-Died
as a conch

dedicated with great love to my mother who
became more of a conch and
became less of a country girl
as time passed for all of us
Elba M. Pierce

--AND--

with the greatest respect and admiration for
John Keasler
without whose time and encouragement, to a complete
unknown, this poem would never have become the
reality that I see before me. He taught me the value of a
complete rewrite and how to persevere while in search of
that truly final effort that is a finished manuscript. Every
poem I shall ever write will carry a trace of his teaching
and also be done, and carry with, my deepest gratitude.

PREFACE

WHAT IS A "CONCH"?
--PRONOUNCED "KONK"--

To explain this word; or more important to understand it, one must realize that in the following context it is a slang term which identifies a particular breed of person to, or with, a particular area of birth. For example I use the following colloquial terms if you please:

A "RAZORBACK" would identify with Arkansas
A "CAJUN" would identify with Louisiana
A "CRACKER" would identify with Georgia
An "OKIE" would identify with Oklahoma
A "CONCH" would identify with Key West, Fla.

These slang terms were never meant to be derogatory to those persons, or to their respective heritages, and to allow even the slightest inference as such, would do an irreparable damage to those persons and their generations to come. In this sense it could also be a damaging blow to the history of our nation. The colloquial slang word "Conch" stemmed from the Bahama Islands, but with the migration of the people to the Florida Keys, in particular to the island of Key West, the term was quickly adopted. As years went by the island people of Key West soon related to the word in this manner. To wit, anyone born on the island of Key West and raised in the island tradition is a "CONCH;" and should be very proud to be known for what the word stands for. I believe over the years since, that the pride has gradually diminished to such a degree that it is no longer symbolic of the nature of the island or its people. With this concern in mind the following poem was conceived and written in the hope that it would cause all "CONCHS" to re-appraise its value, to stand tall, believe in your traditions and heritage and proclaim to all:

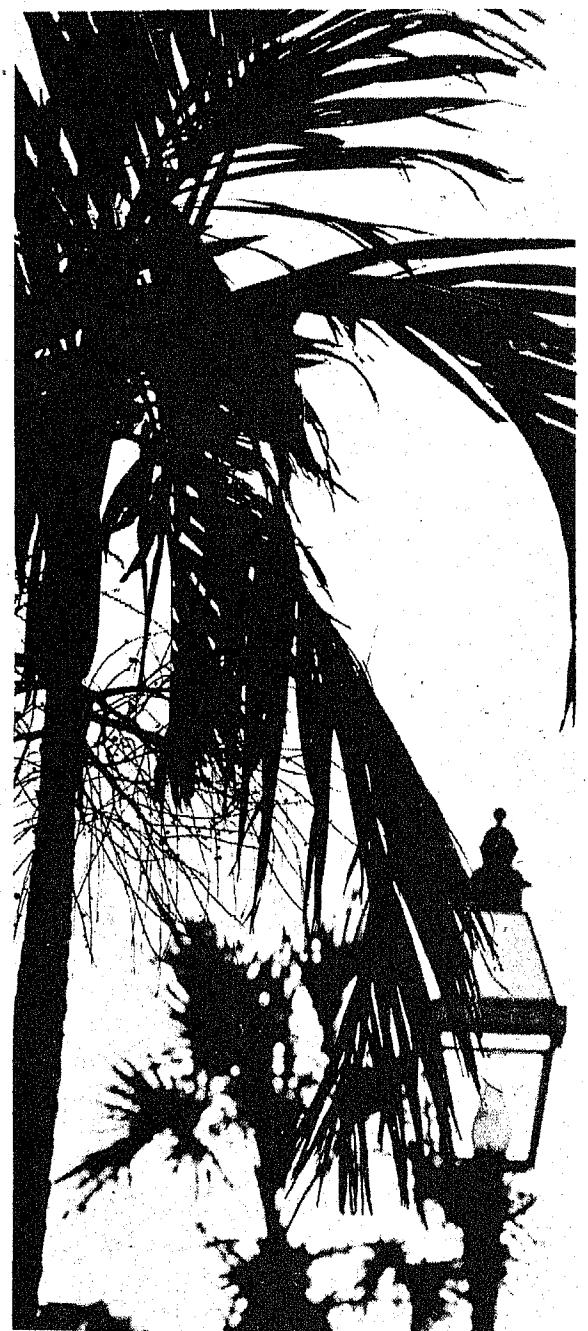
"YOU BET YOUR SWEET CONCH I AM."

Benny Pierce
--A PROUD CONCH--

Ladies and Gentlemen of the jury
may I present my case
Born of classic literary blunders
which time alone cannot erase
I will try to be restrictive
so as not to sound vindictive
For as I write these words
My hope will be to show
that these most famous authors
Judged, and yet did not know
I cite these literal atrocities
as pure 'mud-sling' ing' at its best
Since nothing could more erroneously
describe a native of Key West
In their futile attempts to define a "Conch"
These men chose only these words to say
And their words still spitefully haunt us
Through many years and to this very day

"Conch," one of the lower class of white inhabitants along the Florida Keys. (Sir William Craigie)
"Conch," A low class white person, especially one living along the southern coast of Florida (Midford Mathews)
"Conch," Any person born in Bahamas. One of an inferior class of whites in Florida and vicinity. (Webster's Dictionary)
"Conch," There are many loan words from the Spanish and the inhabitants have invented the usual opprobrious terms for one another. (Henry Louis Mencken)

And so decided these "GREAT" men to write such biased defamation And yet these giants of the pen would make no later offer of reparation Still: I would ask all of those offended to consider perhaps this was not intended. But nonetheless such learned men as they cannot be permitted the error of their way For they stigmatized an unknown heritage so curiously simple; but Proud and Free As they used each pointed interpretation to imply through inference; class illiteracy So Ladies and Gentlemen of the jury this case now comes before you The time and day for adjudication now many long years since over-due While I do not dare to place myself in league with these "Great" men For I could not describe a "Conch"



PHOTOS BY RICHARD MARSH

with thousands of words from my pen
But "Conch" isn't just any word
to be kicked about so recklessly

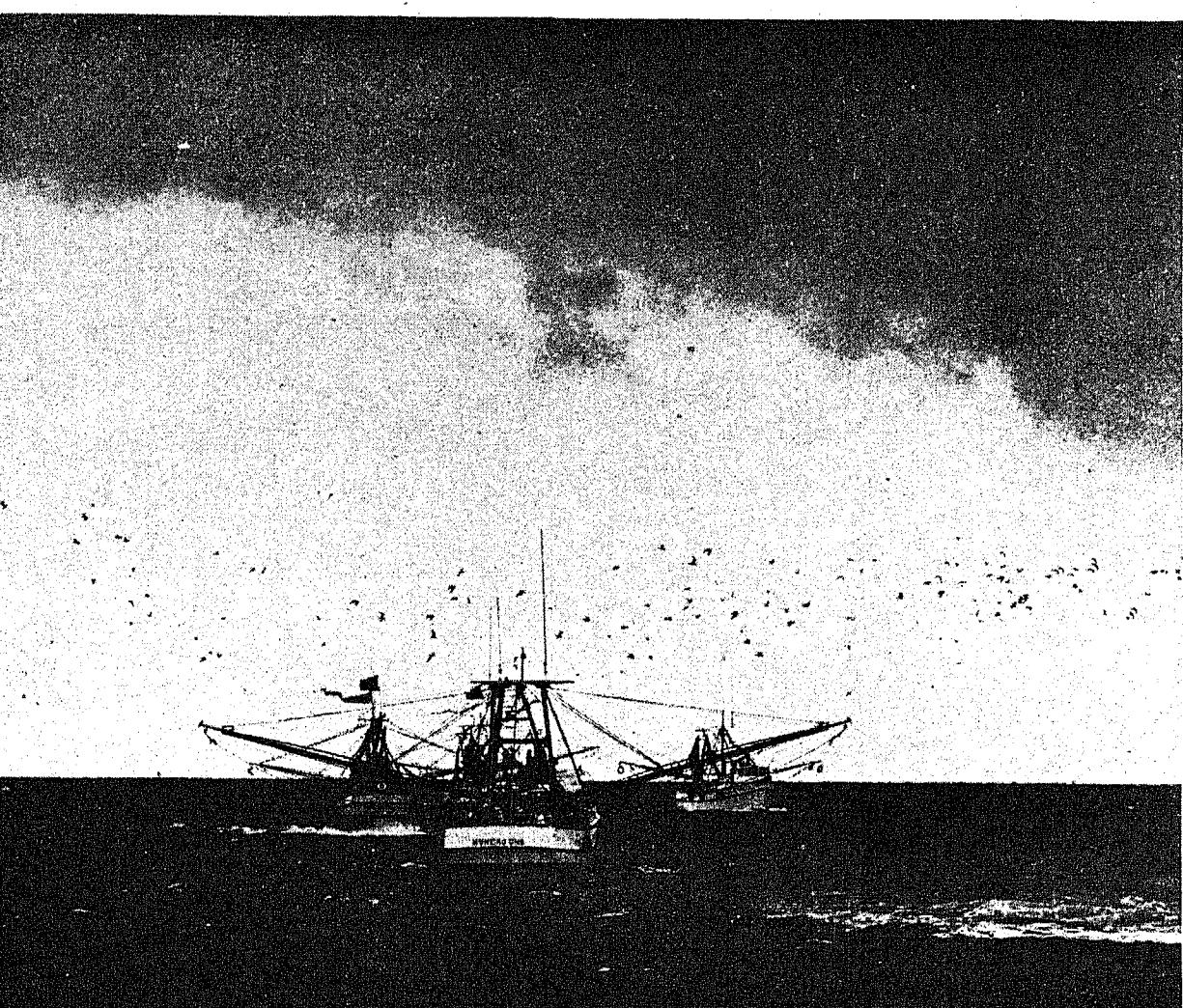
Nor any word when synonymous
with a person's home or ancestry
So herein of childhood memories
that have stood life's aging test

I offer these as my definitions
of a "conch" and my Key West

"Conch" is a one word summation
of a way of life to me
coconuts and swaying palms
beaches and endless sea

"Conch" is the island and its lifestyle
so devoid of big-city tension
the pace which creates the illusion
of time relaxing in suspension

"Conch" is where two restless oceans
come ashore to nearly meet



and so we call sea-to-sea Duval
"The World's Longest Street"

"Conch" is the "Southernmost White House"
where dignitaries would meet
Remember Mr. President Truman
striding briskly along Whitehead Street?

"Conch" is being "The Southernmost City"
in the Continental U.S.A.
and it's STILL the place where people go
when they need to get away

"Conch" is U.S. highway number one
which denotes symbolically
and links our scenic islands
to the number one of "The Florida Keys"

"Conch" is the home of green turtle soup,
turtle kraals and the cannery
and it's the home of such TRUE greatness
as "The Old Man" and "Tennessee"

"Conch" is the home of Key Lime pie
our gourmet delicacy
and a resting place for shrimp boats
after harvesting our sea

"Conch" is black beans and yellow rice
and occasional jewfish steaks
and holding a conchshell to your ear
to hear the sea-sound it makes

"Conch" is an in-born creativity
but in a special kind of way
an artist who paints on driftwood
shaped by wind and sea at play

"Conch" is learning to respect the peaceful ocean
how deceptively dangerous she can be
like the MAN-O-WAR floating serenely
with painful tentacles waiting patiently

"Conch" is the prideful old cigar-maker
who hand rolls every leaf
and days of gold; when pirates bold
captured ships wrecked on the reef

"Conch" is learning to blow a conchshell
for tradition has its ways
and standing atop Martello's Fort
to herald in "Old Island Days"

"Conch" is learning to ride a sea turtle
for that special kind of thrill
and a barefoot shimmy up a coconut tree
takes a certain kind of skill

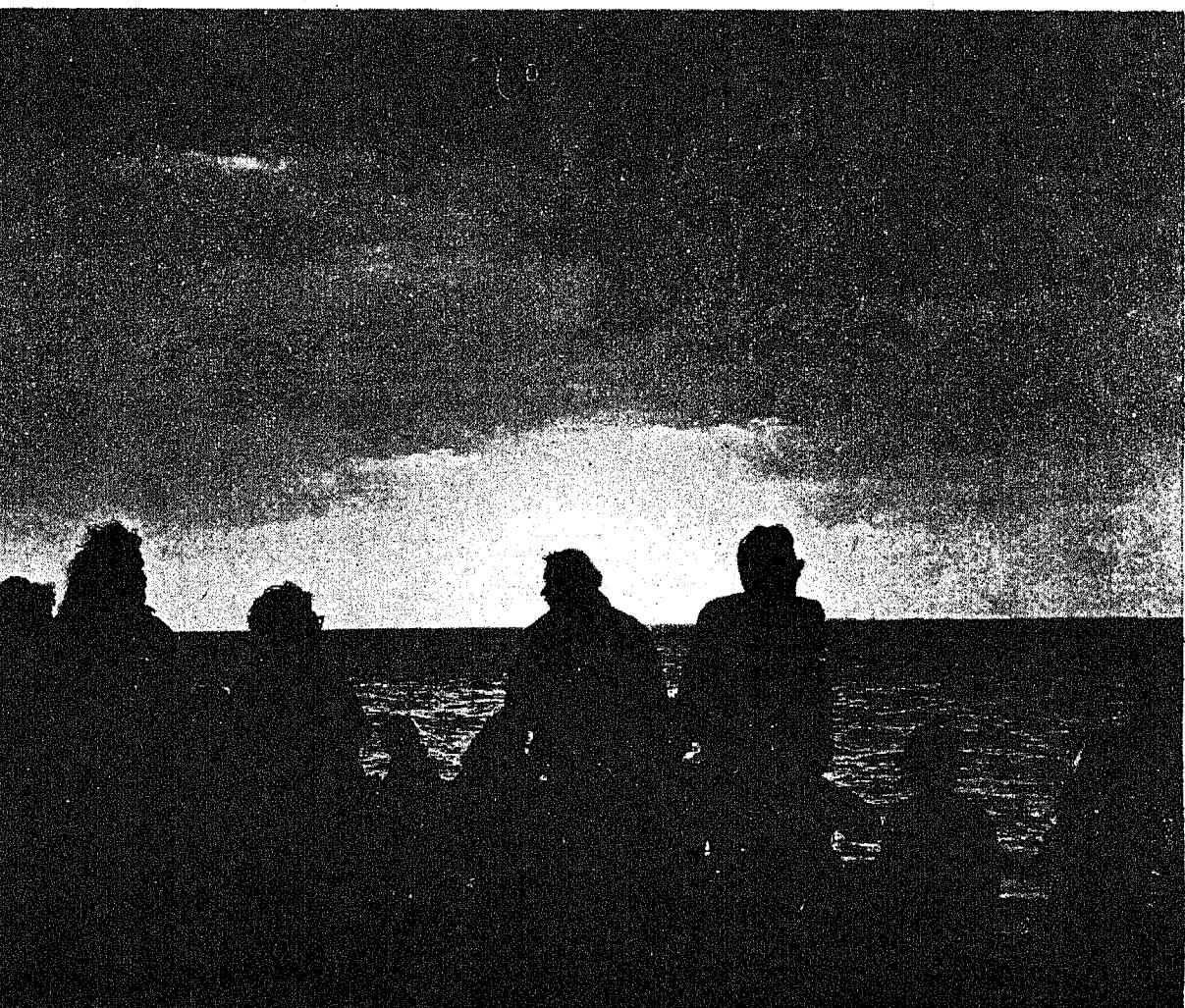
"Conch" is beach parties in winter months
when Northern-Aires are freezing
and the salty smell of the ocean-spray
pollen free air to relieve your sneezing

"Conch" is the old clap-board houses
still standing in "Old Conch-Town"
hurricanes and the years have tried
and couldn't bring them down
"Just Thrown' Together" it has been said;
but they have withstood every blast
because they were built
by sea-knowing Conchs
who built ships and homes to last

"Conch" is a common bond, and yes, clannish
for if threatened we would unite
although always the underdog
each challenge was met in spirited fight
concerned to earn our rightful place
but to do so with pride; never disgrace

"Conch" above all else means Americans
made from an international recipe
start with many different cultures
then add a desire to be free
mix in years of hardship and fighting
but only to protect our lot
stir in pride for generations
and a "CONCH" is what you've got

So to any self-appointed judges
trying to kick us "Conchs" around
I would suggest you take the time
to know WHO you are 'put' ting-down
We will not permit you to label us
without some consequence
even you may be brought to trial
if only in a literary sense
so, Ladies and Gentlemen of the jury
please judge the merits of this case
I have tried to present an honest rebuttal
but let me also now add in haste
For anything more than a word description
it would truly be for the best
to discover and judge for yourself
The People and The Island of Key West



(This poem originally was published in
1974 by Southwind, the literary magazine of
Miami-Dade Community College.)

All Stuck Up

THE PURSUIT OF surface beauty can be a painful and fruitless search, especially for young girls caught up in the glossy deceit of fashion photography and cosmetic testimonials. The need for glamor was non-existent in our house, because our mother was an artist and demonstrated to us that it was more important to BE creative than to merely exist for appearance's sake only.

I, for instance, desperately wanted curly hair, and wasted hours of my time smearing slimy setting lotion on my head and pin-curling the resultant strings into irregular rows of knobby circles that I hoped would give me irresistible allure. But since my hair was defiantly straight, I usually provided my sisters with more than enough reason to laugh and roll on the floor for a solid twenty minutes each time I made an entrance with my "bent ends," as they called what I imagined to be softly cascading ringlets. I presumed they were just jealous because they neither possessed the skill or patience for working with hair that God had given me, and the fact that my hair stuck out at right angles to my face after a session with the bobby pins did not especially signify failure.

I ATTRIBUTED THE lack of fluff and swirl to a deficiency inherent in the bobby pins from Kress's dime store or the unyielding humidity of Key West weather. My mother tried to tell me that I could never expect my hair to be anything but straight, particularly in Key West, and how senseless it was to worry at all about how you looked because everybody was made different anyway and that in itself was the true beauty in life. But her efforts

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY AMY LEE DE POCO

to dissuade me only gave me more incentive to strive for perfection.

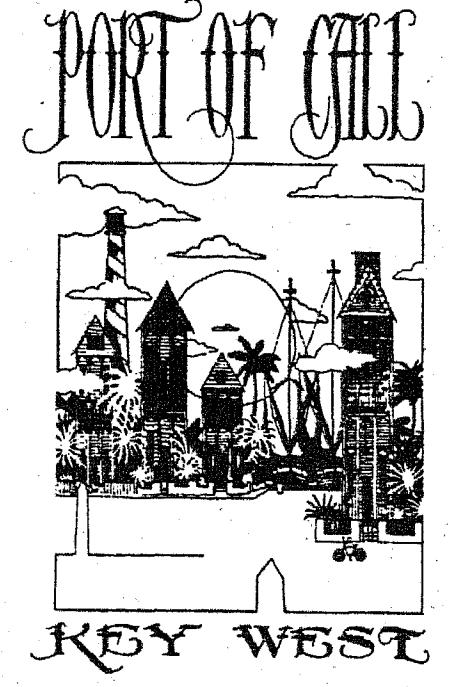
The seed of keeping up appearances had taken firm root in my persona, and I was not about to rudely yank it out on the basis of what my mother perceived to

hair. Anything was possible.



be the true meaning of life. There was always the possibility of my growing up and getting a good job at Sue's School of Beauty and living the rest of my days as a well-paid and well-coiffed setter of

green and quite viscous and had the smell of an old beauty parlor about it. The lotion was nauseating enough to smell, but the texture was even harder to live with. I used a plastic wide-tooth comb



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that I also bought at Kress, and the spaces between the teeth were just wide enough apart to hold the lotion stretched and clinging there so that the light could catch it and illuminate the slime, making it more repulsive than anything Vincent Price ever cringed in horror at.

It was also very tricky to work with without getting it dripped all over the back of my neck. If I held the comb up, the lotion would ooze down as if it were going down the stairs and end up in one very unappealing blob at the end. This made for uneven distribution on my head, and some of my hair received more lotion than other parts, which in turn caused my pincurls to come out looking like the streamers on the floor after the last dance at a very long wedding reception. None of these obstacles could dampen my passion for the ultimate hair-do, however, and I continued to practice with the bobby pins and Nestle Lotion until I reached a stage of adequate proficiency.

MY SISTERS, Martha and Kathryn, did not understand how a person could be so obsessed with such a time-wasting preoccupation, but I was confident the day would come when they, lacking the necessary skills for transforming stringy, lifeless hair into a creation to be proud of, would come tooting to me to help them out. I considered mastering bobby pins a much shrewder investment than catching flies in dog food cans, which happened to be Martha's forte. Kathryn was quite good at licking stamps and pasting them in a huge album of manila paper, and since I didn't want to work at the post office either, I considered myself to be well ahead in the game of lifetime skills.

I won't say that I spent all my time fussing at the mirror, I merely kept at it long enough on a regular basis to provide varied interest to my life. There were only so many Spanish lime trees to be climbed, or hopscotch games to play, before the urge to do something different and exciting struck. Changing one's ap-

pearance is always exciting, even if you are the same person inside.

WE HAD A FRIEND who lived right around the corner from us named Farnie. Farnie was what all of us wished we could be. She had beautiful blond hair, big blue eyes, and the longest eyelashes I had ever seen, except for Daisy's, the cow on the Borden Milk commercial. Farnie was also the cleanest of all our friends (both of them). She always had on blinding white socks and immaculate grasshoppers, a kind of tennis shoe that slipped on. I think she must have had fifteen pairs of identical shoes, because never once did I see dirt on her shoes. I had one pair of tennis shoes that laced up, and it never occurred to me that you could wash them. I wore them and wore them and wore them until they got absolutely disgustingly dirty and became an embarrassment to me.

Seeking to emulate Farnie and her lily-pure feet, I asked the girl across the street how to make shoes stay white. She told me it was very easy -- all one had to do was polish them with white shoe polish. I thought I had discovered the Secret that started the Cold War. I immediately got hold of some white polish and gave my shoes a thorough treatment, not knowing that it's best to start with clean shoes. Needless to say, I ended up with a pair of very grey and smeary pair of shoes that made a chalky trail whenever it rained. Farnie's elusive mystique of cleanliness remained intact, and my envy was beginning to peek around the corner.

WE ALL PLAYED together harmoniously, for the most part, but as is usually the case with children, friendship and hatred fluctuated with the moon or the tides or weekly allowances. Since Farnie was generously endowed with an allowance that could comfortably feed four children facing drought on the Ivory Coast, she was hardly ever without

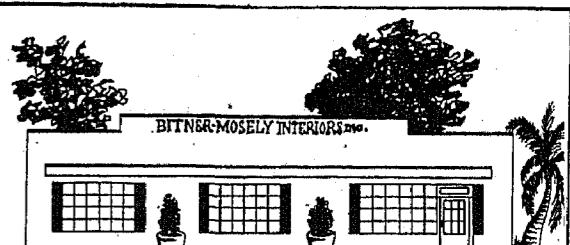


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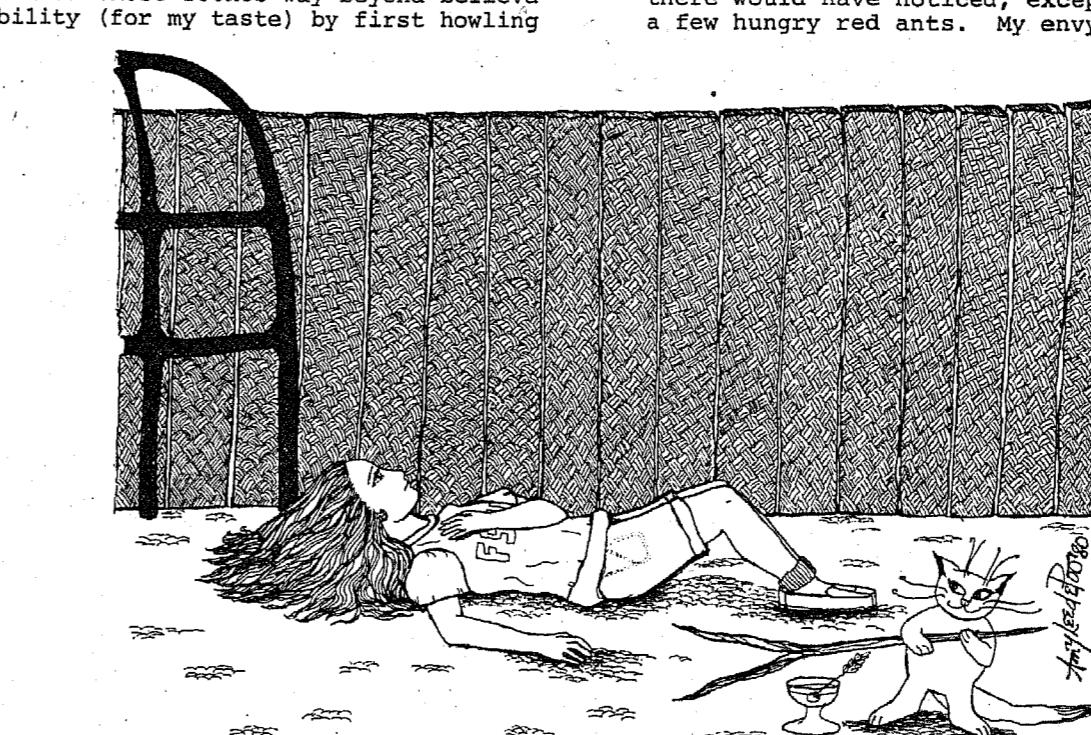
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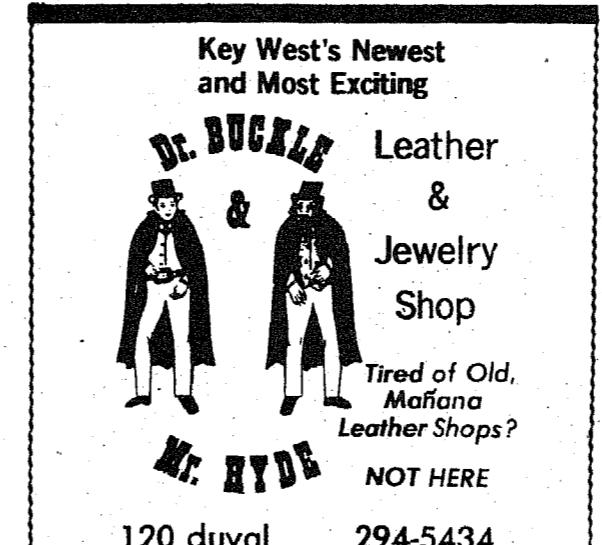
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Also . . . Hats — Hats — Hats
By the Mad Hatter



and shrieking and flopping around like a fresh-caught yellowtail on the hot deck of a boat. Then she'd clutch at her knee and exclaim, "My charlie-horse! My charlie horse!" (What ever or who ever that was escaped me.) At last she'd wind down to a pitiful whimper and grace the denouement with a few well-placed, deep exhalations. For the finale she would slowly raise herself up on her elbows with her head back and her hair tips brushing the asphalt in a gasping



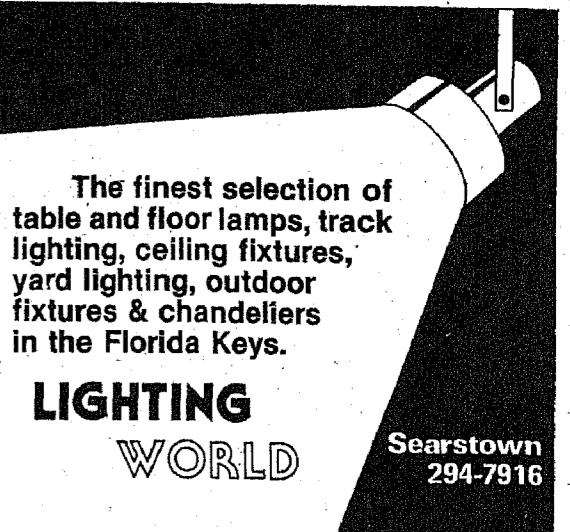
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main anonymous because of my annoying guilt that time will never erase our adolescent crimes of physical violence upon his person and his bicycle.

FARNIE SPENT A lot of time at our house when we were growing up, and vice-versa. She, too, had very straight hair, but she never seemed interested in curling her hair or changing her appearance. (With perhaps the exception of one time when we were all smitten with a new product being advertised on television -- Quick Tan Tanning Lotion; Farnie bought a bottle and we all rubbed it on our legs and got very brown legs. But we forgot to wash our hands after the application, and unfortunately our palms turned orange for a week.)

Perhaps she was more athletically inclined, or she had listened to and believed my dreadful sisters' exaggerated accounts of how my hair really looked when I was finished. I spared no superlatives during Monday recess raving about how wonderful it felt to have genuinely curly hair after a weekend session in my own personal salon.

MARTEA AND KATHRYN would not let anyone believe that I had developed a way with hair. My sisters always picked on me anyway, since I truly was the de-

finitive model child, and they just couldn't stand it. And they NEVER let an opportunity slip by to make note of how big my feet were, making immature observations such as: "Amy never bothers with putting on her water skis -- she just jumps in and grabs the rope;" or "We looked all over town to find school shoes for Amy, our little Cinderella, and we finally had to buy the Glass-Bottom Boat."

I did not let their disparaging remarks on my ability to ski, with skis or without, or on my ability to do wondrous things with hair, ever bother me and instead developed a strong and positive outlook on survival amongst the savages. I managed to convince Farnie I had actually gotten pretty clever with my combs and brushes and pins and generously offered to do her hair sometime, just for fun.

ONE DAY AFTER SCHOOL, we were all sitting around with not very much to do, and I mentioned in passing that a new hairstyle had come out and I had seen a picture of it in *Life* magazine. It was called the bee-hive. It was part french-twist, but the essence of it was the process of back-combing or rat-teasing the hair to make a large bouffant on the top of the head. It was wonderful, and

I was sure I could do it just right if I had some hairspray. We talked about it a little more, and Farnie seemed very interested. Finally she said that her mother had lots of hairspray and that we could go over to her house and use that, and I could try out my new hair-do on her.

I thought this to be an outstanding idea. I truly wanted to test my expertise with someone else's hair, especially since it would be much easier than struggling with my own and not being able to see the back of my head. I got all my brushes and pins and combs, and my sister Martha and I went over to Farnie's house to see what I could come up with. Kathryn elected to stay at home because she liked to watch the Mickey Mouse Club on television in the afternoon, and she didn't want to miss a single opportunity to expand her cultural horizons.

WE WENT DIRECTLY to Farnie's room, which was like a paradise to us. For one thing, it was all her very own, since she was the only girl in a family of three boys, and she had her own television AND air-conditioner. My sisters and I all slept in the same room, and we didn't even have a fan. If we called down the stairs and complained of the

heat and that it was too hot to sleep, my father, John, would tell us that if that was all we had to cry about, he could give us something worth a whole lot more to really cry about. That made us very quiet, but it still didn't stop the oppressive heat and humidity of a summer night in Key West. I couldn't imagine such complete luxury as an air-conditioned bedroom, and this part of Farnie's personal domain made her sometimes overbearing personality a lot easier to take.

We found a chair that Farnie could sit on and piled up some books so she would be high enough in front of her dresser mirror to see. She had "borrowed" a brand new can of Adorn hairspray from her mother's room, and to me this was the magic ingredient for the perfect rendition of an authentic beehive hair-do.

Farnie's hair was unlike anyone's hair in my family. It was totally straight and very smooth, like silk, and genuinely baby-fine in texture. If I picked it up, it was so slippery it just sort of slid right through my fingers before I could really get hold of it. I could see this was going to cause problems. The only thing for me to do was to section it off and pin the sections away from the crown of her head

while I worked with a rattail comb to properly tease her hair. Since I wholeheartedly wanted to do a first-class job on her hair-do, I took just a little bit of her hair at a time, pulled it taut, and used the comb to rake down her baby-fine hair into a tangled ball at the bottom and really give some substance to the basis of this hair style.

OF COURSE, IT was very painful and Farhie did her share of screaming and wanting to chuck the whole thing, but I convinced her all the agony was indeed going to be worth it once she saw how beautiful her hair was going to turn out.

I must have spent about forty-five minutes doing the teasing alone. After all that was completed, I spent another half-hour smoothing just the outermost layer carefully over the teasing underneath and pinning it into place. I sprayed it a little bit and stood back to appraise her hair.

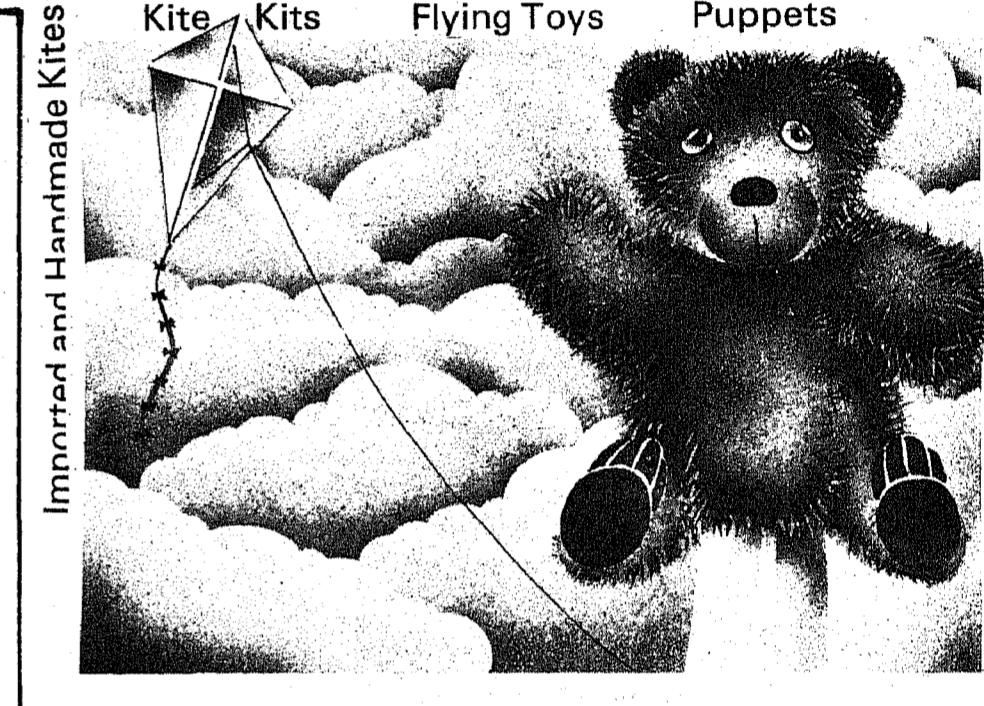
It was beautiful. It was more than beautiful -- it was exquisite. I couldn't help myself. I gushed about it. Martha was quite impressed. I'm sure she didn't think I had it in me to turn out something so professional-looking at my tender age. But it wasn't just my flair for hair that made it look so beautiful. It was the combination of

Farnie's baby-fine texture and the honey-gold color of her hair and the late afternoon sun slanting through the windows of her bedroom that made her head glow with such luminosity that I was feeling that old twinge of jealousy stir in my heart again. I almost wished I hadn't done such a wonderful job of it, because it made me look so drab in comparison. The duality of having a head crowned with spun gold and immaculate shoes and socks to boot was enough to make me sick. (How could one person deserve all this? When was God going to reward me for being the perfect child?) She looked like an ambassador's wife. I felt like the lackey that has to run ahead and roll out the red carpet.

It was getting towards dinner time, and I knew I had to go home. Miss Pygmalion was still examining her head from the back with a hand mirror. I could tell she really liked it. As I was nearing the door, she called to me and asked me if I could do it again in the morning before school so she could wear it that way the next day. At first I thought, well, why not, but then I took into account how long it had taken me this afternoon, and I couldn't conceive of getting up that early and sacrificing sleep to make someone else appear absolutely ravishing.



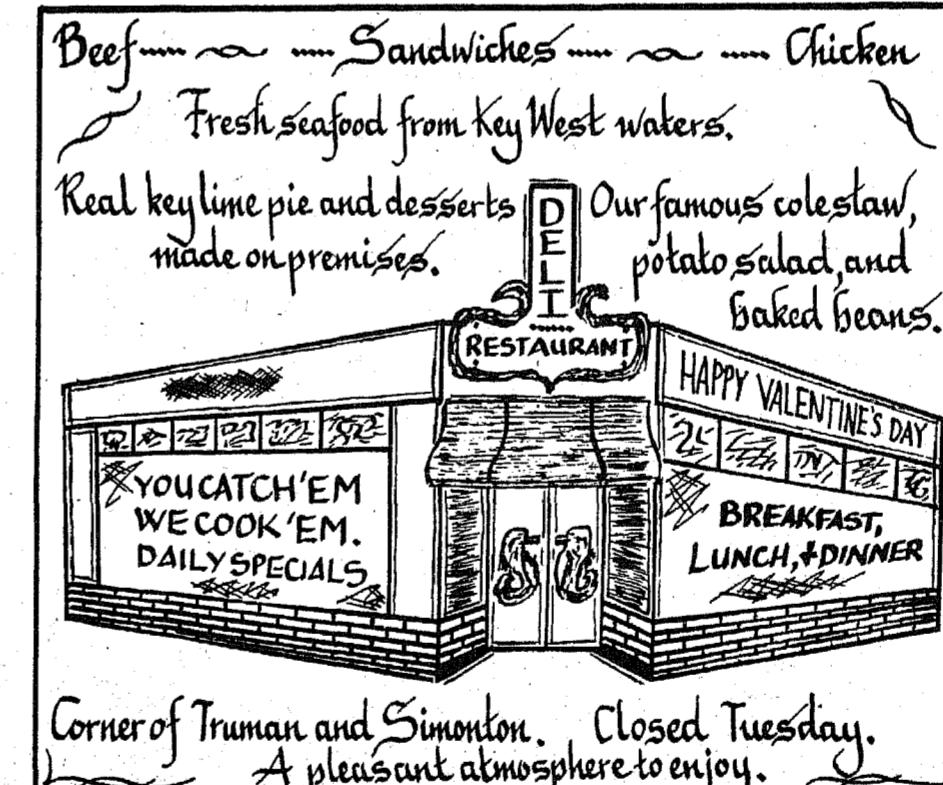
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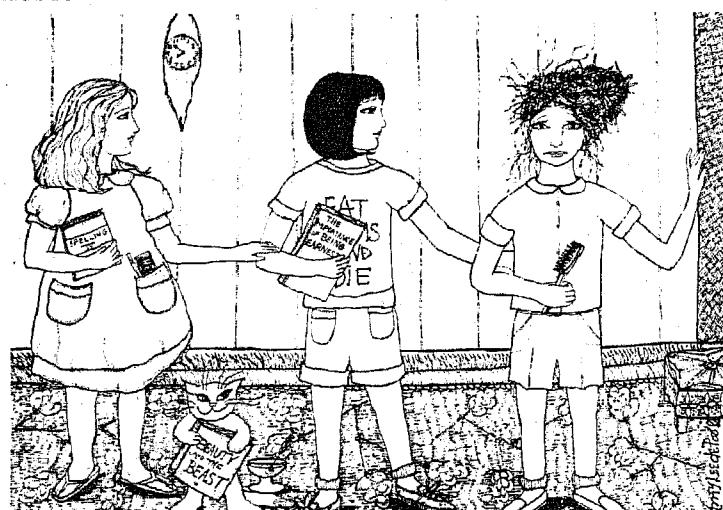
I TOLD HER NO and turned to go, when the thought struck me that if I sprayed it a little more, she could put one of her mother's hair scarves around her head, sleep with it pinned up, and in the morning she would be all ready to go. Farnie agreed to this, and she sat back in the chair while I prepared to do my very best to preserve the fruits of my labor. I absolutely emptied that can of Adorn hairspray onto her head, and the gaseous cloud was so thick at one point that I had to leave the room to get some air. I showed her how to wrap the scarf when she went to bed and set off with Martha for home and supper.

The prospect of being the one responsible for such an amazing feat of glamorization was enough to make me excited and happy about getting up for school, and I went to sleep with visions of realizing my dream of being in great demand at Sue's School of Beauty in my later years.

THE NEXT MORNING, Martha and I were just gathering our books together and slurping the last sips of milk from our cereal bowls when we heard the front door slam. I wondered who it could possibly be when I recognized Farnie's voice. She was crying. Her father or mother usually drove her to school if she didn't want to take her bike, and I was sure with her delicate hair-do she wouldn't want to risk a breeze mussing it up by riding a bicycle. Then she appeared in the kitchen, and I could see why crying fit the occasion.

Farnie was a disaster area. Her hair had shifted into two distinct parts: the crust and the mincemeat, so to speak. Her beautiful bouffant crown had become transformed into a flat, yellow, lacquered plate. Bunches of unspeakable tumbleweed littered her head. The bobby pins were virtually glued into place, forming a sticky lump in the back. Baby-fine sprays sprung from her forehead in

crinkly detachment from the rest of the horror, as if they were trying to escape. She still clutched the brush she had evidently been trying to get through her hair. It was to no avail -- a pitchfork would have been hard pressed to make headway in that mess.



THE BRUSH would not move. Farnie collapsed on the sofa, still crying and starting another one of her scenes. (That's gratitude, I must say, after all my earnest effort.)

My mother came to investigate the commotion and stood in shock at the

I didn't know what to do. Farnie was still screaming and crying and beating her chest. I just couldn't bring myself to feel blame for it. I TOLD her to sleep very carefully and in one spot. She looked like she had spent the night going around in the dryer at the Margaret Truman Laundrette. I tried to console her.

"Farnie, I'm sorry about your hair -- but really, it doesn't look that bad. Maybe if I brushed it over and sprayed it again it would go back the way it was and..."

"YOU'RE NOT TOUCHING MY HAIR EVER AGAIN! YOU RUINED IT! I CAN'T EVEN COMB IT!"

"I did not ruin it -- it can be fixed. Here, let me see if this brush will..."

sight of poor Farnie. "AMY -- what the HELL have you done to Farnie's hair? You'll never get a comb through that! Here, let me try. Sit down over here, Farnie, and I'll... Holy Jesus, this is impossible. Why I can't even...oh, for God, what is going on here?"

My mother was whisking away at the impenetrable heap and trying to resurrect Farnie's flagging spirit and equally flagging hair. I thought about trying to help and being loyal to the cause and sticking around to see her through.

But Martha took note of the time, and both of us, true-blue in times of crisis, made a dash for our bikes so we wouldn't be late. And we weren't.

Farnie was.

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MARINERS VOW FIGHT TO SAVE NAVY PORT FACILITIES

KEY WEST'S BAR PILOT comes from a long line of seafaring people who came to the island in the 1830's. Their lifestyle, passed down through five generations, now rests with a man known locally as "Dirty Eddie," or Captain "Blink" Crusoe. He's the fellow in the little shack down at the foot of Front Street who guides unfamiliar vessels through the shoals into Key West Harbor.

Chet Alexander came to Key West in 1952. He's in the marine salvage business. One hundred years ago, there were far too many wreckers and salvors to count. For the most part, they were responsible for Key West's short-lived reputation as the city with the highest per capita income in the United States. Today, Alexander's Marine is one of only four remaining salvage businesses in Key West.

Before relocating here, Dave Fasold made a name for himself in California as an authority on commercial marine operations. He moved to Key West and opened Key West Wrecker and Salvor because the island is one of the last places where a man such as himself can make a living.

CRUSOE, PASOLD AND ALEXANDER are not what you might call "political" men. Their livelihoods take them to sea, far away from the political machinery that drives Key West. And yet, the trio finds itself increasingly drawn into one of the most controversial public debates Key West has ever known: The Truman Annex Proposed Land Usage Plan.

They're involved because they have strong feelings about what's going on, and there are very few people left to represent their interests.

"Key West has one of the best ports in the world right in its own backyard," said Chet Alexander, by far the most outspoken of the three men. "And it's threatened with extinction, because we've got politicians and real estate

developers trying to sell baubles to the Indians all over again."

BEFORE THE TRUMAN ANNEX was declared government surplus, the port within the property was extensively used by the Navy as a comprehensive marine facility. Its deep water harbor could accommodate submarines and ships drawing as much as 33 feet of underwater draft. Its dry dock facilities accommodated boats and ships urgently needing emergency repairs, repairs that would have sometimes necessitated a long and often impossible detour around the Florida peninsula to another suitable port, had the Navy port been unavailable. Its drygoods and provisions suppliers kept the Navy in food

AS CRUSOE TALKS, he handles an information directory for the Port of Key West. Published in 1975, the pamphlet contains facts about the City's various boat and harbor facilities, including a description of the island's impressive deep water port, harbor and channels. The remainder of the directory contains chart maps and a list of marine-related businesses, including chandlers, electrical, machine, welding, diesel and vessel repair experts, harbor services and bunkers. Of the 30 various services available in 1975, only 18 remain. The rest have either moved away or gone out of business.

Today more than ever before, tourism, rather than the sea, has taken over as

"KEY WEST HAS ONE OF THE BEST PORTS IN THE WORLD RIGHT IN ITS OWN BACKYARD."

-- CHET ALEXANDER

and every other imaginable commodity, as well as providing a respectable number of jobs for local residents. During its heyday, the Truman Annex port employed more than 200 skilled workers in jobs directly related to port and harbor activities.

When World War II and the cold war gradually subsided into a guarded peace, the Atlantic Fleet gave way to missiles and Phantom Jets, and the Navy was no longer able to justify the cost of maintaining its Key West operation. When they pulled out, they left the island without one of its major sources of income and local employment.

"Some of the locals who used to work at the port retired after the Navy moved out. Some moved away, but most of them are still around town," said Ed Crusoe. "A lot of them turned to crawfishing. But it's getting harder and harder to make a living as a fisherman. There's just too many people in the business and too little profit."

the island's prevailing occupation and source of income.

"It's sad," said Crusoe. "In two short generations, the families of Key West have just about lost all nautical connections their families once had. Two generations ago, their grandfathers made their livings off the sea. The island was founded on that tradition, and now the grandchildren don't even seem to have any concept that we have a port here. And it's one of the best ports in the world!"

"Almost all the newcomers who've come here are involved in tourist-related industries. They couldn't care less about anything that isn't related to running a restaurant or a gift shop. "There's such a big push for tourism, nobody can see they've got all their eggs in one basket. With the cost of gasoline and inflation getting higher every day, sooner or later the bubble's bound to burst. And then what? The

city needs more than tourism for its people to make money.

"It's nice to have parks. It's nice to have a lot of things. But what the community really needs is jobs so that people can afford to live here and enjoy all the pretty things and leisure time activities that are being provided for them."

"We've grown so totally dependent on the highway, and to a much lesser extent the airport, that no one ever stops to think what's going to happen down here if a road goes out. Where will we get our food, our clothing, our building supplies? Where will we get our salaries? Without the road, the tourists won't be coming down. It's a shame, but I think it might take a disaster before people realize the box we're getting ourselves into down here."

ACCORDING TO Denis Anderson,

THE ISLAND'S HISTORY, ITS LOCAL COLOR, AND ITS GINGERBREAD HOUSES THAT ATTRACT TOURISTS IN EVER INCREASING NUMBERS WOULDN'T BE HERE WERE IT NOT FOR THE CITY'S TRADITION AS A SEAPORT.

the director of the Key West Redevelopment Agency, which has the responsibility for converting the Truman Annex to civilian re-use. Crusoe, Alexander, and Fasold are "pretty responsible members of the marine community" and experts in their respective fields. Anderson is well acquainted with all three and says they are regulars at the many Redevelopment Agency hearings.

Perhaps the most vocal representatives of the marine community, the men insist they have the best interests of their colleagues at heart when they consistently push for a land use plan that takes the deep water port facilities -- and their intended usage -- into consideration before final recommendations are made to the federal General Services Administration, which will decide on the final disposition of the Truman Annex property.

JOINING THEM AT public hearings are

all the other special interest groups, intent on promoting their own hopes for future usage of the property.

"I've been going to meetings since I got the Pilot's job in 1972," said Crusoe. "Meetings, hearings, scramblings and yellings. Everyone listens to everyone else's ideas, but they've all got their own axes to grind. I understand the need for low cost housing, but the people in favor of it have been so busy shouting that we haven't been able to get a word in edgewise. They've drowned out anyone else with any ideas. In a way, jobs are more important than low cost housing, because if people are making good wages, they won't need all this subsidized housing. That's a point I think most people have missed."

THE POTENTIAL REVENUE to be generated by re-opening port facilities on the navy base is a significant consider-

ation. While some marine proponents speculate on possible wages for the community, others have gone beyond the expertise in Key West and requested a dollars and cents estimate of potential income and business for the city.

Due to the specialized nature of shipyard employment, many employees would command professional salaries as high as \$25,000 per year. Others would perform semi-skilled tasks paying in the low to middle teens. Still others would fill laborer positions, making up the bottom end of the pay scale. When averaged out, a conservative estimate of 50 employees making \$14,000 a year amounts to local incomes of approximately \$700,000 annually.

This figure, provided by the President of General Offshore Corporation, a Fort Lauderdale concern, coincides exactly with rough pencil estimates worked out by Ed Crusoe in less than

five minutes. In a letter addressed to Norman Lee, President of the Propeller Club, Key West Chapter, General Offshore went on to estimate that within five years the payroll forecast for a Key West-based shipyard would approach 165 employees, making an average of \$16,000 and totalling \$2,722,500 per year.

APPROACHING THE QUESTION from an alternative stance, John Ploegert, President of Tracor Marine Shipyard in Port Everglades, offered: "Based on my recollection of historical averages, a ship repair yard consisting of 10 acres of waterfront land with 2,500 feet of bulkhead/pier space and a \$4 million to \$6 million capital investment (can be expected) to return \$9 million to the community each year."

Chet Alexander thinks the number of people who could be employed by such a shipyard is conservative. He estimates marine-related employment would ultimately reach 1,000 "when you stop to consider all the peripherally-related businesses such as supplies, marine equipment, transport workers and even tourist attractions who will be forced to increase their staffs and payrolls" as a direct result of (consumer) needs brought to this city by an active port and harbor facility."

ON THE SURFACE, it would seem that 90-odd acres of disposable property would be enough to satisfy the needs of every special interest group. That is precisely what the Redevelopment Agency hopes to achieve before the final land use plan is submitted for GSA approval. The problem arises, however, in the physical layout of the property and its proximity to the water: everyone wants their plans located on the water's edge.

Marine-use proponents say the port should be reinstated as a major shipping harbor. To do that, much of the land adjacent to the water would have to be used specifically for boat and port activities; thus eliminating its use for residential development. Marine spokesmen say the former Navy base should be

*** Chez Emile ***



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used to accommodate barges, passenger ships, cargo vessels, minor ship repairs, fueling, small boat construction (similar to that which is found on Stock Island) and general marine-related activities.

CRUSOE SAYS THERE is no reason why the surplus property cannot accommodate a marine industry as well as residential development.

"They build condos all around Port Everglades. No one is complaining out on Star Island about Dodge Island, the port of Miami. Ships tied up are an attractive sight. People like to look at them. There's no pollution. Nothing we're promoting is dirty industry. Shipyards come under the same basic environmental rules as any other clean industry. One of the major tourist attractions in Gibraltar is a stroll on a street overlooking the water where the ships are berthed. We could have something just like that, too."

Dave Fasold agrees: "We're at the junction of the Caribbean, Gulf and Atlantic. Ships waiting to get into Tampa or Miami can expect a three or four day delay before they even get into port. Multiply that by the time they've wasted trying to get there and you're talking about millions of dollars in lost revenue. Ships would love to see a port in Key West."

Citing examples of cities such as Key West where port operations are an economic mainstay, Fasold said, "In Vera Cruz, ships pull into port right in the center of town. It's a beautiful sight. Think about San Francisco. A great part of that city's reputation as a tourist attraction is based on the ships docked down at the piers. There's no reason in the world why a healthy marine port and industry would hurt Key West. On the contrary. It would be a shot in the arm!"

CHEF ALEXANDER HOLDS similar opin-

ions. "Key West is the gateway to the Gulf," he said. "Experts on shipping would love to be able to stop here. A large ship loses millions while it's waiting to get into port. The larger the ship, the more expensive it gets. You begin running into hundreds of thousands of dollars a day every time a container ship is delayed at port.

"And what about our dry dock facilities. We've already got the old railway bed. It wouldn't take much of an investment to be able to have a facility where these ships could be hauled up to dry dock for repairs. Right now, we've got over a million dollars in machinery going to waste down there on the docks. It's a crime!"

Crusoe added, "We're right at the corner where all the ships from the Gulf of Mexico go by. All the ships going from there to the Panama Canal pass right by us. Everyone going to Florida's east coast or down the South Atlantic are within a quarter-day's ride from Key West. The Bahama Channel, the Northwest Province Channel, the Florida Straits all converge right here at our doorstep. Why do you think the Navy chose Key West as a major port of entry?

Because we are at the junction of trade routes. Key West is one of a few places in the world that has that quality. Gibraltar is like that. The Azores are like that. And they are still very active ports today.

"When a ship, like a truck, has a mechanical problem, it has to find a place for repairs and fast. When a ship needs provisions, it needs them right away. Instead of coming to Key West, ships are now spending as much as five, six, or seven days to reach an active port. And they have to go right past us to do it. It's crazy!

"This port is perfect for cruise ship berthing. It's made for container vessel traffic. Containers don't need warehousing. Right now, part of the reason why Key West has such a high cost

of living is that everything has to be trucked down here. If we had a port for container vessels, we could drastically cut the cost of bringing provisions to Key West. We would also have the basis for a new industry, trucking. It makes far greater sense for ships to leave their goods in Key West and have them transported up to southern Florida than it does for them to go days out of their way to reach Miami.

"We used to have a lot of small ships coming in here for fueling and provisions. You know how those truck stops look all the way down the interstate? Well, try and think of the Navy port as a truck stop for ships. The only difference is that we're closed, and all the other truck stops are open and collecting the income we should be getting."

LAND DEVELOPERS ENVISION the shoreline of the former port facilities as an ideal location for affluent residential housing, hotels, and yacht marinas connected by a network of tree-lined promenades. Low income housing factions insist that at least portion of any housing built on the base should be geared toward long-time residents who can't afford the \$100,000 price tags attached to Key West houses in the last five years.

As far as Alexander is concerned, "It's like taking La Guardia airport and turning it into a club for hand gliders."

Fasold said, "It's silly to put a boat that draws three feet into a port specifically designed to take a 35 foot draft. We have a deep water harbor in Key West. Nobody allows dredging anymore. If we lose this one, it's gone for good. You have to remember, we are an island. There are always things that can't come by road: generators for City Electric, pre-cast pilings, water barges for Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority. What happens when we no longer have that deep water port? Where does the county think we're going to dock these supply vessels then? In 18 feet of water? It's

a complete waste of time, space, and energy to use that deep water port for anything other than what it's intended for.

"All I know is that there is a place for us on that base, and, hopefully, someone will realize it before condos start sprouting up all over the outer mole. As far as sailboats and yachts go, I suggest they put them along the perimeter of Garrison Bight. It's plenty deep enough for them, and it's completely wasted space right now.

"I just think local government is letting go of a tremendous opportunity if they relinquish the port facilities. And besides, they're kissing good-bye all that Federal money available for fixing up a port facility. They sure won't get any assistance for a yacht marina, I know that," Fasold said.

ED CRUSOE HAS already resigned himself to the fact that "compromises are in order."

"If I had my way," he said, "I'd turn the entire port area over to marine re-development. But I recognize there's going to have to be a compromise if we want to get anything out of there. So let's look at it logically. The outer piers are much better suited to large boats than they are to yachts. Looking at trade-offs, if there has to be a place for small boats, restaurants, boutiques, and all that other stuff out on the property, I would rather it be on the inside; give up the Key Wall in front of the Administration building rather than sacrifice the mole. We've got a 35-foot deep channel out there. The S.S. United States, one of the largest passenger ships in the world, only draws 32 feet of water.

"We've been getting small cruise ships into port in the last few months. They don't draw over 22 feet of water. But if we had the Pacific Princess here again, the only place she could dock would be on the outside mole. If that's

filled up with small boat slips, then we've got no place to put her. There's also another problem. The county plan has trees and promenades and small docking shown for the mole. What they don't know is that when we get a norther blowing in here, we get a water surge that bangs small boats up against the pilings and crushes them to death. It makes absolutely no sense to use the mole for that purpose."

CHEF ALEXANDER CAN'T understand why there are no marine experts consulting with either the city or the county on their proposed land usage plans.

"If it was an airport we were talking about," he said, "you could be sure they'd have a few FAA people on their boards as advisors. Let's appoint a few people who know what they're talking about, instead of real estate salesmen and land developers. Who put these people in there? If this were a big city, they could never get away with it. But it's not. It's Key West. Housing and hotels and condominiums will never make a fraction of the money for the city that a port facility would. It might make the owners and developers rich, but it won't do a thing for the local wage earner, except open up a few more jobs as maids or groundskeepers."

ALEXANDER IS PARTICULARLY upset because he has been contacted by a number of marine-related corporations expressing interest in either relocating to Key West or opening up another arm of their business here. But, according to Alexander, the long delay in making a final decision on the disposition of the base has cooled their enthusiasm.

"A Mississippi shipyard was very interested in establishing themselves down here a few years ago," he said. "They visited, saw the existing facilities, and all they wanted to know was how much and how long. But we lost them. They couldn't wait. In the time it's

taken the Redevelopment Agency to get where they now are with their plans, the shipyard had to locate elsewhere.

"And they're not the only ones. Richard Vetchery, a Marine Surveyor who knows all there is to know about boats, harbors, and ports expressed strong interest in the base facilities. Gulf Coast Transit, in Tampa, badly needs a shipyard and thinks Key West is an excellent place to locate one. But from what I understand, it's going to take another five years before that Navy base gets off the ground. Who's going to wait five years? They need these facilities now, not five years down the road. So what happens? Key West loses out. Again. It's the same old story."

(IN AN EFFORT to validate both the interest and the disillusionment of the marine experts named by Alexander, Solares Hill made several attempts at contacting them. At Alexander's request, we have not talked to anyone at the Mississippi shipyard because "they no longer have any interest in conducting business with Key West." Alexander requested that we delay speaking with the other two parties until he had an opportunity to locate Vetchery's phone number or place of residence, and was contacted again by Gulf Coast Transit. Because Alexander was soon after called out of town on business, that information was not available at press time. Once contact has been made with the interested parties, Solares Hill will pass the context of those conversations along to its readers.)

When asked whether there is any tangible evidence of opposition to their proposal, Crusoe, Fasold, and Alexander all agreed that it wasn't a matter of opposition as much as it was one of non-support.

DENIS ANDERSON DISAGREES. P.R.C.



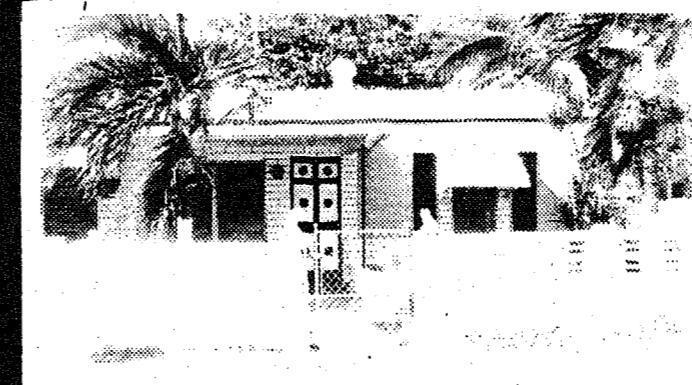
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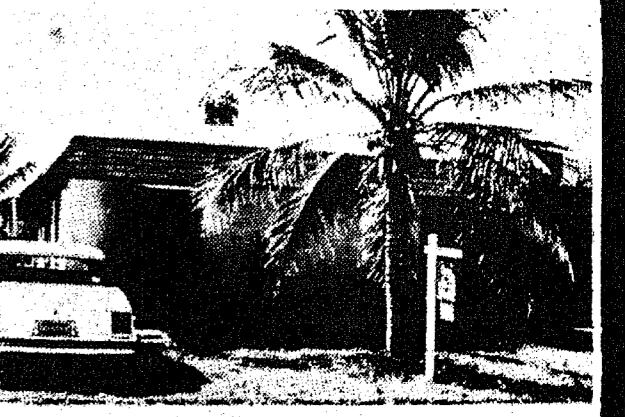
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Harris, the Redevelopment Agency's consultant, is a leading port authority on Florida, the Bahamas, and the Yucatan Peninsula. They have recommended that portions of the port facility be used for emergency dockage, cruise ship accommodation, and possibly light industry. Their suggestion includes use of the outer mole for deep water ships. Anderson sees no problem in using part of the surplus land for marine facilities and moreover speculates that the outer mole is unsuited for any type of residential development because it is too unstable and would never meet state housing requirements.

He does, however, agree that neither the city nor the county has anyone with port development expertise on either of its boards. He furthermore advises that any final development is still a long way away. Present indications are that the Truman Annex won't be ready for any ground-breaking ceremonies for another eight years, far too long for Alexander's business contacts to wait.

They see a vital and rare economic mainstay threatened with extinction. And they don't want to see that happen without putting up a good fight.

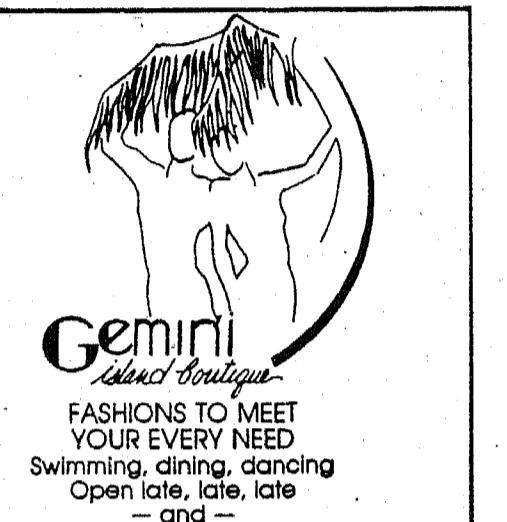
But unless they can make themselves

-- and their ideas -- heard above the din of other competing recommendations, Ed Crusoe, Chet Alexander and Dave Fa-

sold could very well represent the last of a dying breed. Thanks to them and people like them, Key West has a flavor found nowhere else in this country. The island's history, its local color, and its gingerbread houses that attract tourists in ever increasing numbers wouldn't be here were it not for the city's tradition as a seaport.

It would be a real shame to see that chapter in the island's evolution come to a close. If it does, it's the end of an era 150 years in the making.

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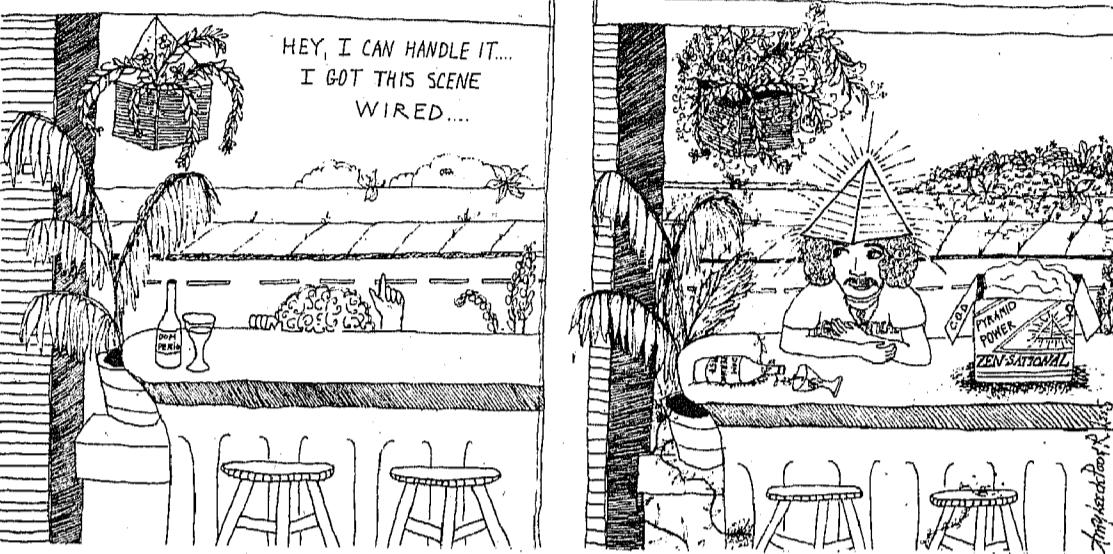
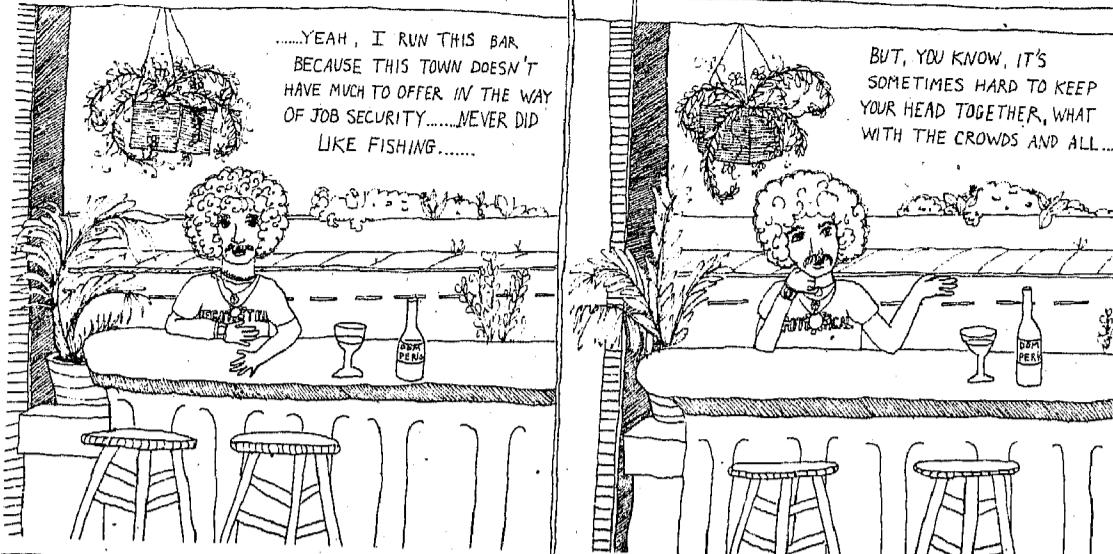
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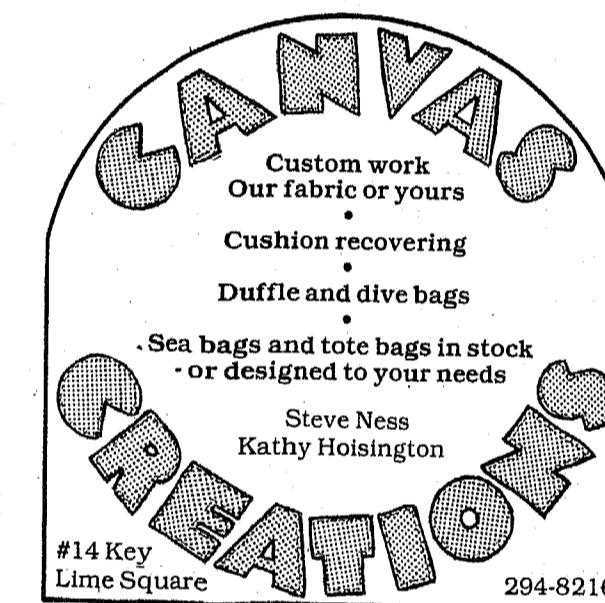
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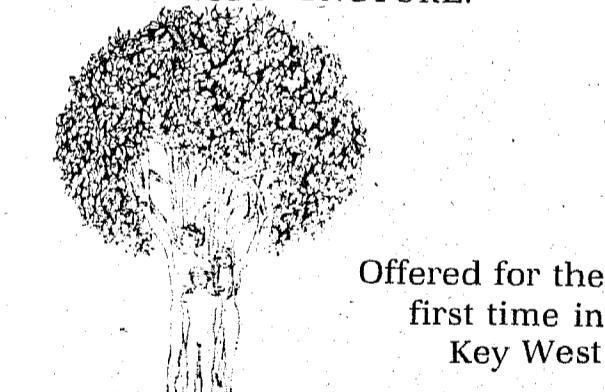
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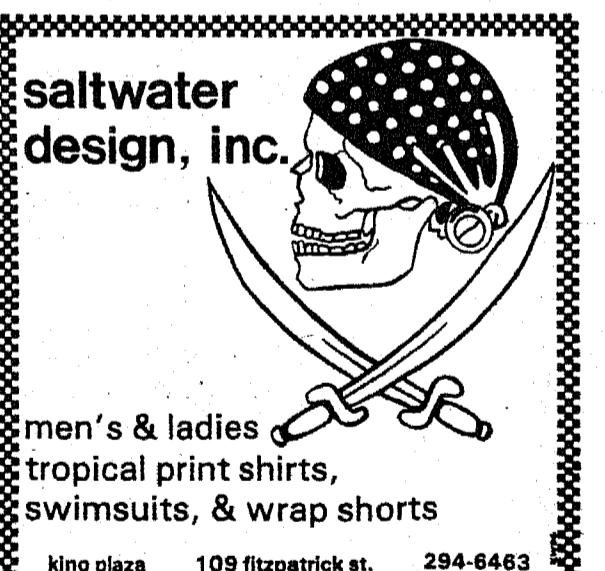
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AT YOUR SERVICE

"AT YOUR SERVICE" is a phrase that needs to be defined and discussed some in light of the many local people involved in the food-service and bar industry. This phrase does not relegate the waiter to the level of indentured servant, as some of the more self-important diners believe. It lets the customer know that this person, the waiter, is going to try to provide a pleasant and interesting time for those dining. It is not the intention of this column to establish a stern bill of rights for both customer and server. Rather, by mentioning some of the stickier situations co-experienced by diners and waiters, it is hoped each will develop a more genuine appreciation of the other.

Let us begin at the beginning. One may go out to dine, or may go out to eat, or may go out to get a bite to eat. Obviously some restaurants, by the make-up of their menu, the presence of a wine list and a maitre'd, are intended for the leisure of dining. Dining out is the central activity of the evening. Other restaurants offer a well prepared fare, wine, and the amenity of a host or hostess, although generally at these establishments a meal is not so lengthily lingered over. Patrons who go out to eat may take as much time as they please, but usually they have another activity to attend, a play or movie perhaps. Every restaurant, from a diner to a Chez, wishes its customers a hearty appetite, but for those with an immediate and insatiable need to eat, the diner is best suited. Its special priority is quickness. What is most common to these three

differing restaurant experiences is that waiters serve the meal.

"Waiters" is used here to mean persons who wait on table: it is one of the easier terms in our present day gender-conscious language to shed the implication of role; the diminutives "ess" and "ette" are on the way out.)

WAITERS AND THEIR SERVICE are a vital part in the enjoyment of any dining experience. They are so vital that those who have little understanding of or concern for the delicacies of food and dining make poor waiters or dull patrons. "The food was good but the service was shoddy" is an all too familiar complaint. Next to the chef the waiter should know more about the menu than anyone. A primary duty of the waiter is to answer all questions about the menu.

One of the most frequent mistakes made by customers is in not allowing the waiter time to explain thoroughly the day's specialties. Customers, especially large parties, often have no understanding of acceptable etiquette and the problems they may cause a waiter. Customers frequently give their attention to the printed menu while a recitation of the day's specialties is being given. Then they ask "Could you repeat that?" "Certainly, madame."

Meanwhile, the entrees for one of the waiter's other tables are placed under the hot light and a chef with a reputation to maintain (or build) is playing trolley car with the service bell. The waiter bids, "Excuse me, I will return," and runs off to fetch the entrees. The large group mutters among

itself that the service person seems a bit huffy.

THE WAITER RETURNS some minutes later to the large group and inquires politely if everyone is ready to order. Of course everyone isn't because everything except food has been discussed during the waiter's absence. Like studious schoolchildren the group again peers into its menus and exasperating silence sets in. The waiter pleasantly suggests that the fish of the day is excellent. "What is the fish of the day?" inquires one gentleman, not looking up from his menu. "It is baked grouper, sir." "I hate grouper," snaps the man.

The waiter with one furtive eye surveys his other four tables to discover one needs more butter, another has empty cocktail glasses, a third is ready for their check, and the couple at #4 are so much in love (thank God) that they don't need anything. "Shall I give you a few moments longer with the menu?"

"I'll have steak," says one man. "Very good, sir. Which of the six cuts listed would you prefer?"

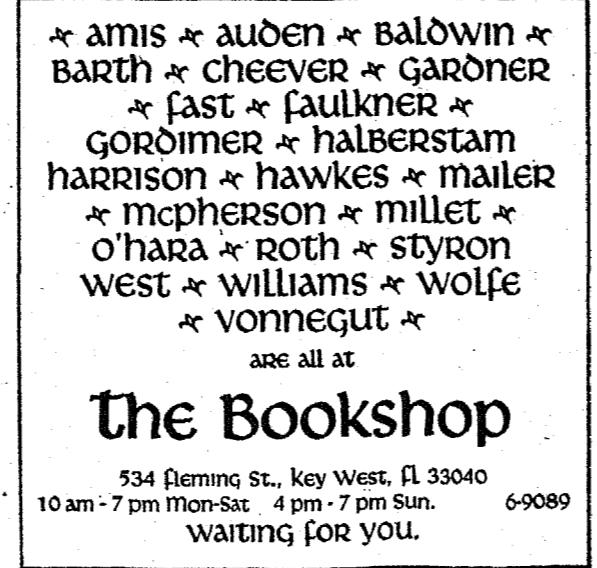
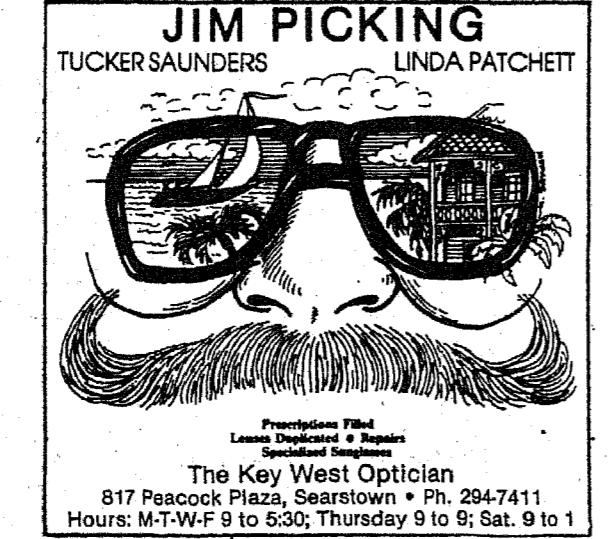
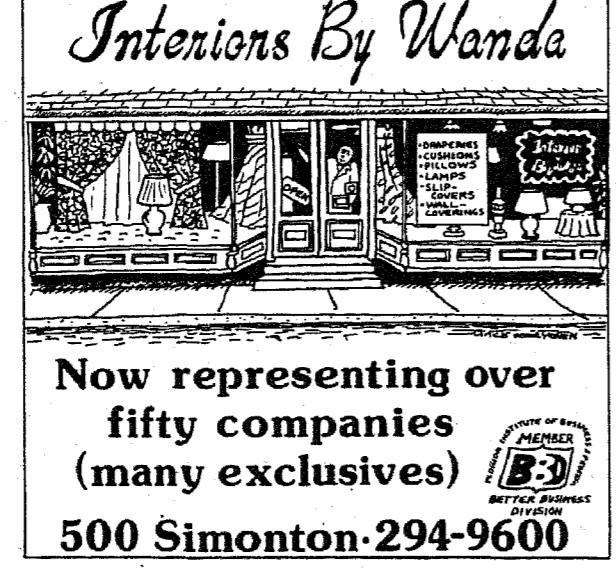
"Filet, of course. Ain't no other real steak."

"Do you like your filet rare, medium or well, sir?"

"Pink but not bloody."

"Yes sir, then medium-rare will suit you."

ON ONE OF twenty computer cards issued to him for the evening the waiter writes 1 fil m-r bak car bl ch. As if on cue, the rest of the group begins randomly articulating their wants.



"Lobster with garlic butter," says one woman. At the same time another asks, "What was that second special you mentioned?" "No, I'd better have the shrimp," says the first woman. "Garlic and I don't agree."

"Give me a steak, too," says another man.

"Yes sir, which of the six steaks listed do..."

"Same as George over there, only make mine rare."

"You know," interrupts George, "I think I'll have the lobster. I can get steak anytime at home, and here we are in a seafood town and all....Bring me another Manhattan, too."

"Yes sir. And you, M'am?"

"Oh, it is so hard to decide. I just don't know."

The waiter says, "I'll give you some more time with the menu and go get you another cocktail. Would anyone else care for another drink?"

"Not me." "Nor me." "No." "Nope."

"I'm o.k."

"I will return," says the waiter, and he strides purposefully into the kitchen to try and straighten out the garbled series of arrows and cross-outs that cover the cardboard food check. Knowing well he is going to catch hell from the cook for submitting a check that looks like a stenographer's notes at an auctioneer convention, the waiter hurries to the far end of the restaurant to fetch another Manhattan and two more drinks for table three. Passing a busperson he mentions butter for table two. After a delay at the bar because the bartender is busy with twelve thirsty souls there, the waiter hurries back with the drinks to discover that the only woman who hasn't ordered has excused herself to go to the ladies' room. The waiter gently inquires, "The lady did not say definitely what she would like to eat?" "No, but she'll be right back. You can go ahead and put our orders in."

"Sir, I must have all your food listed on this one check otherwise the chef

and the cashier will be furious." "All the food on one check! Hell, we want separate checks," snorts the Manhattan man. To compound matters, everyone who three minutes earlier was not ready for a drink now is. The coup de grace: the love birds at table four have walked out without paying while the waiter was at the bar. Who will pay their thirty-one dollar check? The waiter.

Sound exaggerated? It isn't by much. Scenes like this happen daily, even at diners. It is a small wonder that only neophyte waiters exhibit a general good cheer no matter what the situation. The more experienced waiters (if they are to become experienced) of necessity adopt a demeanor of strained tolerance when they sense parties of this sort. When dealing often with doits and snobs for substantial number of evenings during a season, a waiter who is to survive has little choice but to establish at the outset of a dinner that the patron is to receive what he gives. There are probably few waiters who, when in the infancy of their profession, did not fantasize about being the central participant in the drama of finely prepared and presented food. A fantasy wherein trays of choice meat and steaming good greens were ceremoniously set before kings and leaders of nations, who, with a slight nod and unconcealed smile, would convey to the waiter, "Yes you do me justice by your service; you are equal to me by being the best in your profession." Unfortunately, a daydream.

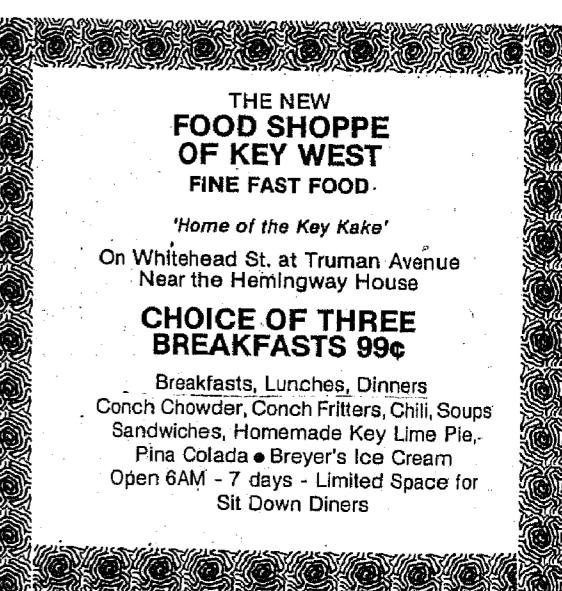
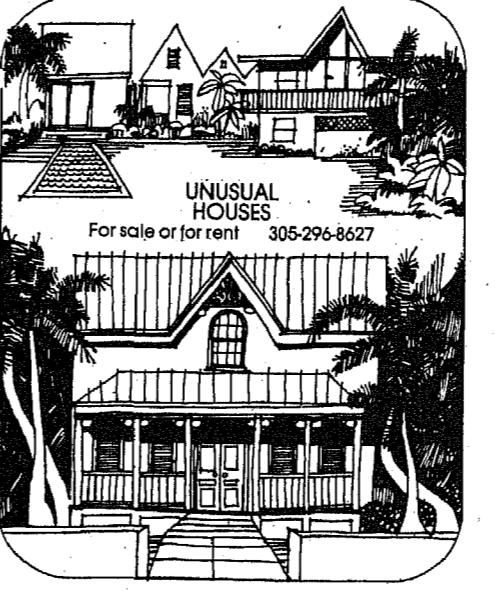
NOT THAT KNOWLEDGEABLE groups of diners don't exist. Indeed they do, and they understand that the waiter who is to serve them is a chosen and trusted representative of the establishment. Real diners, whether they have dined at a place before or not, listen with relish to the day's specialties and wonder in animated conversation with the waiter whether one portion of each of the day's

exotica would overburden the appetite. When final choices are made, the waiter has little trouble from their orderly presented order. The second through the last persons to order do not need to have choices of vegetables and dressings repeatedly listed, and they realize the chef cannot read their mind, so they state how they prefer their meal cooked.

Now we come to the person who views waiting tables as schlepping. Schlepping is waiting on the general public, but in a manner which suggests that it is but a temporary activity, a kind of holding pattern of employment until one's higher creative juices can be mustered. It is widely noted in areas where there is a "season," where extra help is needed for a short time. Rather than viewing waiting as an opportunity to participate with others to create a memorable dining experience, it is condescended to as an activity slightly more meritorious than the slopping of hogs. "Why are you a waiter if you don't like it?" "The bread, man. It's good bread. I need it so I can go to Colombia next year and paint."

KNOWN ALSO AS summer help, these food-service charlatans can and do tarnish an establishment's image. "The food was good but the service was tired." The familiar complaint. "Waiter, what is today's special?" "What's on the menu's what we got, lady." "You haven't any soup?" "Maybe. Hey Al," yells the summer one to a year-round waiter. "We got any soup today?" Rather than yelling back, Al comes over and says firmly, "Of course we have soup, you nit."

Any reputable establishment will not tolerate very much half-hearted performance by someone so miscast in such an important part of its public relations. As a diner, rather than merely allowing bad or flippant service to be reflected in a drastically reduced tip (if any), one should seek out the manager and express concern over such an employee.



APART FROM A genuine liking for people, the real incentive behind being a waiter or bartender (as is the real incentive behind any profession or skilled line of work) is that it pays well. Not in salary does it pay well, but in tips. Any surly waiter who isn't first removed by the house will eventually snivel and sneer himself out of a job, for the tip tray is where the diner either rewards or gets even. While a real pro seldom mentions gratuities to a customer (or anyone else), the part timer is apt to bitch and moan continually about lousy tips. "Those tightwads left me a buck on a thirty dollar check. That's only three percent!" Well, was your service and demeanor only three percent?

Pros know that proper tips will regularly be left. Anyone who has the



audacity to leave no tip to a pro after he has given excellent service and personal repartee will be remembered. The pro won't complain. He will log the offender in his elephantine memory, and

woe the day this person should again show his face. A series of not vengeful but considerably more than subtle pronouncements of welcome will be made.

For instance, a glass of water set close to the table's edge with a mixup in the setting down of silverware, which might cause some water, if not the whole glass, to spill into the patron's lap. Profuse apologies. A dabbing at the wet lap with a linen cloth. Then, too, soup seldom tastes as good lukewarm as it does hot. Those who like rye toast may hate pumpernickel, etc.

Suffice it to say that all bar and restaurant career persons develop knacks for dealing with recalcitrants.

WHILE ON THE SUBJECT of tips, let us clear up some misunderstandings. Unlike the European custom of blatantly adding a surcharge to a guest check to cover waiter salaries, the American tradition of tipping is more flexible. A waiter or bartender is not exclusively a servant. He is an extension of the good will and amiability that all drinking and dining establishments which value their reputations seek to promote. Unlike most other lines of work, the bar/restaurant worker is called upon as a personality. He is expected to provide information about foods, drinks, the evolution of the establishment's decor; he is a joke teller and appreciative listener; he is to give directions, know about local attractions. He is more than a neutral someone carrying a tray or pouring a drink: he is a host.

A restaurant can be a profitable enterprise, but costs are steep, and expense margins are such that to pay waiters and bartenders what they are really worth as adjuncts to the good will and extension of courtesy that a reputable enterprise seeks to create would be a fiscal impossibility for the house. Thus prices are kept in line according to inescapable costs. Bartenders and waiters are paid minimally by the house. Their performance as a host for the house should be understood

by the public, and the public should flatter itself in knowing that all those concerned in the dispensing of fine food and beverage believe they will be done right by the patrons without arbitrary surcharges inflating the check. Good tips are important to retain quality personnel. Most waiters and not a few owners would agree with the statement, "If you can only pay the bill but aren't able to leave a tip, you should stay home."

THERE ARE ALSO very few waiters or bartenders who are insulted by the so called "overtipping." The 15-20 percent standard usually applied to checks to figure a tip has little bearing on a waiter's income when the legions of "one-shot" visitors (people who know you'll never see them again) take up available tables or bar chairs all evening and then leave nothing. If someone else wholeheartedly wishes to leave a five or ten dollar tip, there are few bartenders or waiters who would complain. Bring on the 100 percenters.

One of the true joys of life, then, is dining out. Part of the enjoyment attached to any dining experience or session of drinking is the person providing the service. Beyond merely throwing fare in front of patrons, real servers, professional food and bar service personnel, take a pride in their work similar to the satisfaction felt by anyone who does a task well. In dealing with the manifold personalities of the general public, servers do well in maintaining a personal decorum befitting each situation. The real joy for a server is when those among the public able to appreciate his labors see fit to applaud his efforts. Applause is always welcome, and when in conjunction with legal tender it makes the phrase "at your service" easier to say each time.



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★ Floyd "Ed Sullivan" Mager ★

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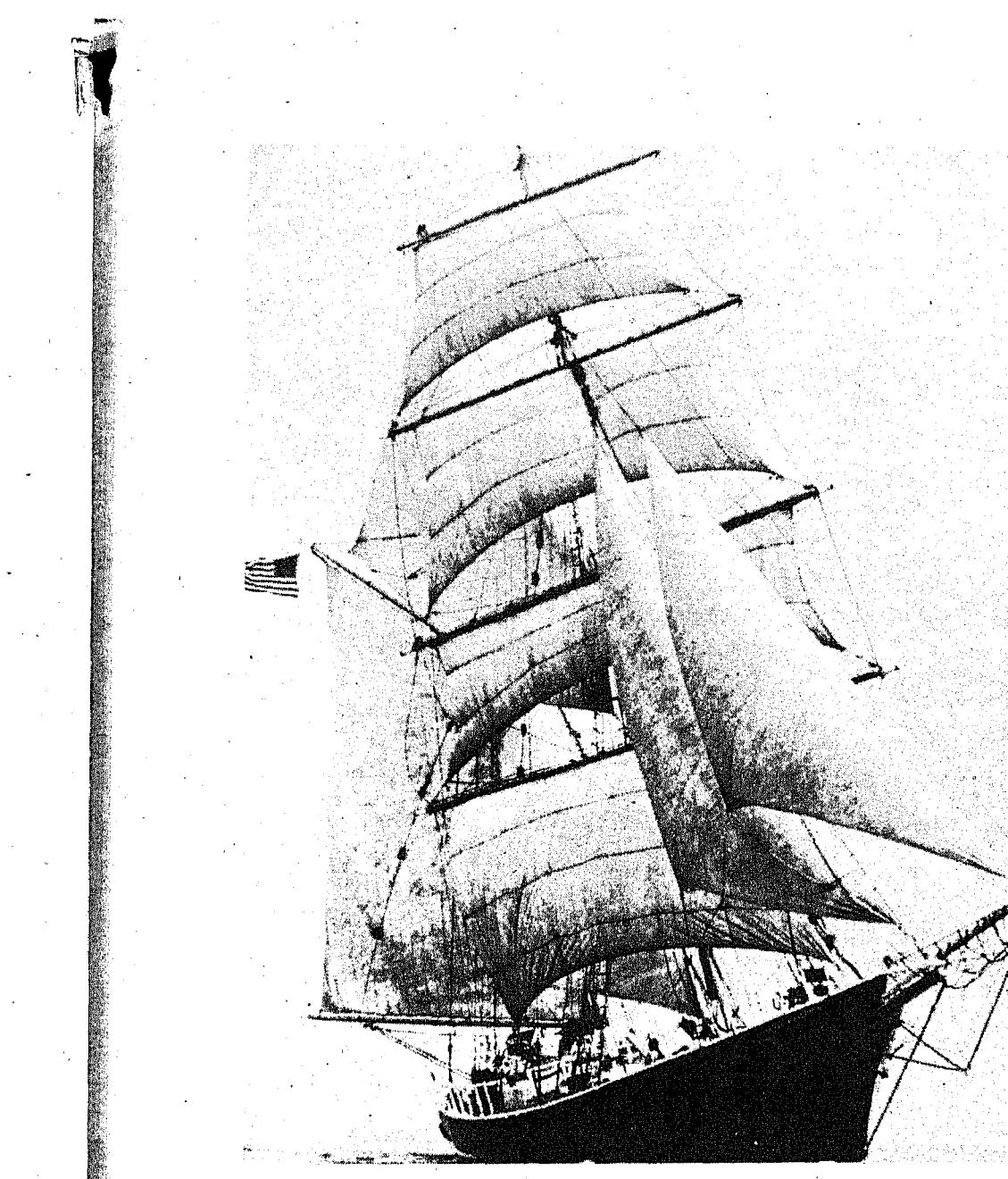
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*All Proceeds Go To J.P. Bo Who Is Recovering From Major Back Surgery on the West Coast

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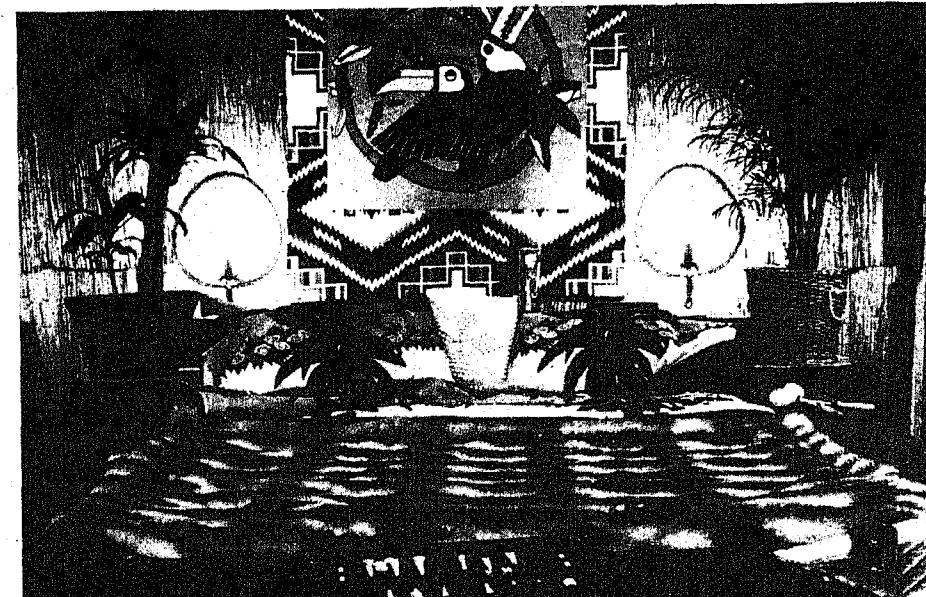
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Young America sails from Pier A, Truman Annex twice every day, except Fridays, at 1:00 p.m. and for a sunset cruise at 5:00 p.m. Each cruise lasts three memorable hours.

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Windsurfers came from all over the country to race in Key West's Third Annual New Year's Manana Regatta this past New Year's weekend.

PHOTO BY RICHARD MARSH



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Valentine's Day Poem

Dear God Child
with flowing hair
and shining eyes
Thy beauty
intoxicates
and fills
my cup
with flower gardens

cards, books, lotions and potions from your grass roots natural food store



REVIEWING STAND

BY DOROTHY RAYMER

Portraits: Wooden Houses of Key West, by Sharon Wells and Lawson Little, is much more than an organized collection of photographs of island architecture. The pictures are in understated black and white instead of color; the text is specific, designating a wide range of structures, along with explanations of categories of architecture, plus brief but clarified historical background.

Susie Iatham assisted in the design and did the layout, which is excellent. The book is published by the Historic Key West Preservation Board, 500 Whitehead Street. The work in the production of *Portraits* was supported by a special governmental grant.

THE TITLE IS extremely applicable, for in looking at the diversified styles of Key West frame structures, the reader senses something of the people who built them and lived in them.

The Latin phrase "genius loci" means spirit of place, and once I applied this to my M.A. thesis on D.H. Lawrence, written years ago. Not since that time, when I analyzed five of his most characteristic novels, have I encountered a subject which merits the label "genius loci," until I examined *Portraits*. It, too, radiates a subtle but powerful feeling of living images. There is a definite flow of communication between the onlooker and the sites pictured.

In less mystic terminology, this might be explained by observing that locations give off "vibes," and the camera eye has recorded the sources.

AFTER THOROUGH PERUSAL of the contents of *Portraits*, it seemed to me that I had seen not just dwellings but something of the original dwellers as well.

The mixed influence, evinced in the wide range of island architecture, is unique and extensive for the actual

limited size of the locale. And the types of buildings are as differentiated as the ancestry of the earlier settlers. As the informative pages indicate in word and illustration, Key West has "Patchwork Architecture" made up of segments from the Bahamas, New England, Creole and of the Victorian era, as well as a melange of all of the "influences" in some cases.

Distinctive periods of history shaped the construction, and the variety of abodes follows these dictates.

Kinds of Conch houses are detailed and the differences accented in the meticulously researched book, which is not only valuable for information but of tremendous interest in all aspects.

YOU WILL BE made aware of the four types of Classical Revival homes, of shotgun houses, frame vernaculars, the fanciful flights of imagination in Queen Anne mansions with fairytale turrets and cupolas, and of the Victorian residences with elaborate "gingerbread" and other lavish ornamentation.

The one consistent note in designs is the maritime touch, the developments of skilled ship builders' and ship's carpenters' craftsmanship. They were masters and justly proud of their workmanship.

FROM ELEGANT MANSIONS through the simple cottages of cigarmakers, and including historic buildings such as the Customs House, Fort Zachary Taylor, East Martello Tower, the Coast Guard Building, the old Armory, and now the Little White House, Key West's architectural display is a treasure to be preserved. The past lives on in the present and, with care, will be part of the island's future.

Portraits focuses on protection and restoration of all the factors through documentation.

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EAT IN TAKE OUT

49

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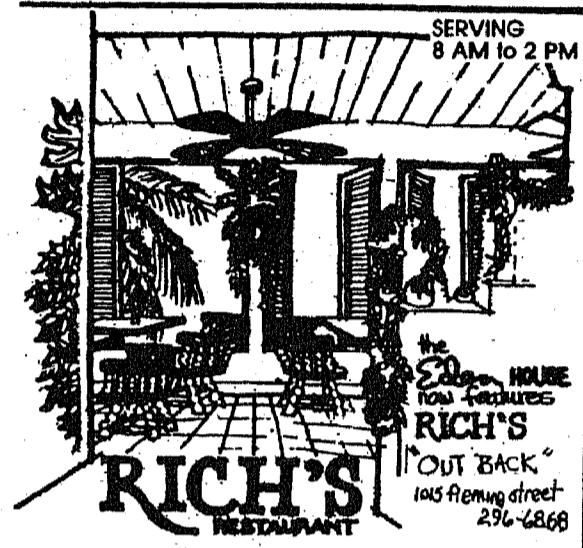


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KEY WEST'S HOROSCOPE

BY EMMA CATES

Sun in Aquarius, after 19th in Pisces
Venus in Pisces, after 9th in Aries
Mercury in Aquarius, after 6th in Pisces,
turning retrograde on the 26th
Saturn in Virgo, retrograde
Jupiter in Virgo, retrograde

Mars in Virgo, retrograde
Uranus in Scorpio
Neptune in Sagittarius
Pluto in Libra, retrograde
North Node in 1 degree of Virgo

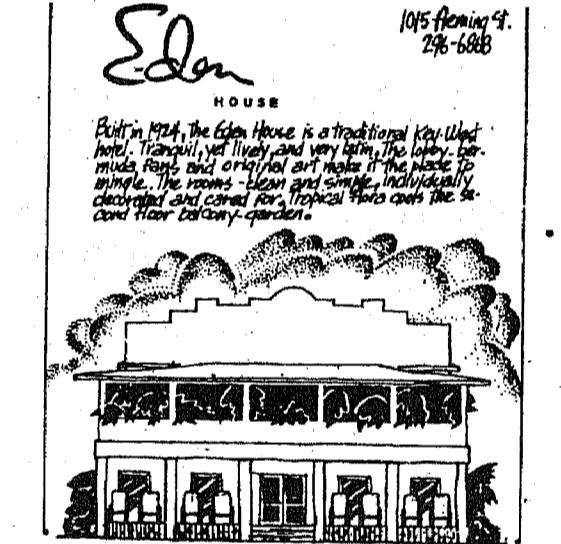
ON FEBRUARY 1 there will be a Full Moon in Leo. This position aspects the Travel houses of the chart of Key West favorably. The influx of tourists should increase markedly at this time. Air travel will be receiving more attention. Improvement in the air service to Key West is in the offing.

ON FEBRUARY 16 the New Moon coincides with the annular eclipse of the sun in the sign of Aquarius. This aspects the mid heaven of the Key West chart. Key West will again be getting national attention, and it should be in a favorable way.

SATURN, THE RULER of our chart, is in retrograde motion in the fourth house sector of the chart. This sector is also tenanted by our progressed moon, and transiting Jupiter and Mars. The 4th house rules new beginnings, so Key West is definitely in a cycle of new starts in the history of our town. Changes are inevitable. The stellium of planets in

Virgo are in good aspect to the Earth planets in the chart of Key West, so the changes will be for the betterment of our city.

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3. Use as a hand-wash

4. A dash in plain water

5. Use as a mouthwash

6. Apply Peppermint Soap dry to feet and mosquito-bites

7. Dilute with 10% water & use as a facial toner

8. Use as a hair rinse

9. 3 dashes in water rinse mouth

10. Use as a facial mask

11. Use as a foot soak

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tors. The Festival provides the opportunity for an educational experience for the entire family. The relaxed informal atmosphere of a festival setting helps the public enjoy art as a natural and everyday part of life. A full range of media and styles broadens one's knowledge and exposure to art. Each person has a unique way of expressing and appreciating art. An art festival provides opportunities to expand one's tastes and preferences. It also provides an outstanding chance for personal collection purchases.

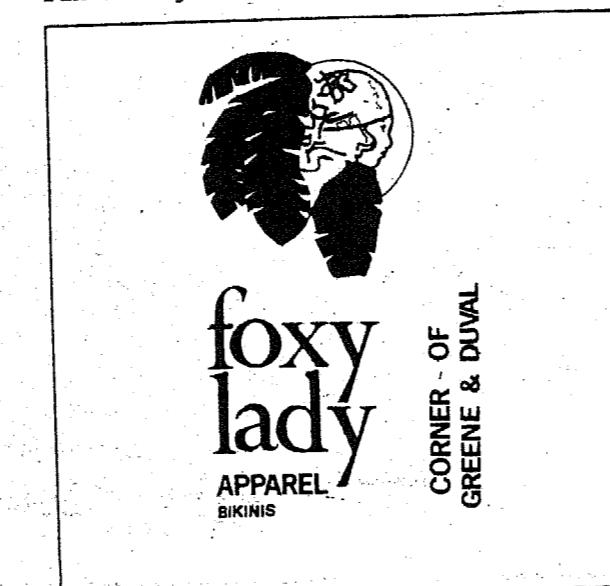
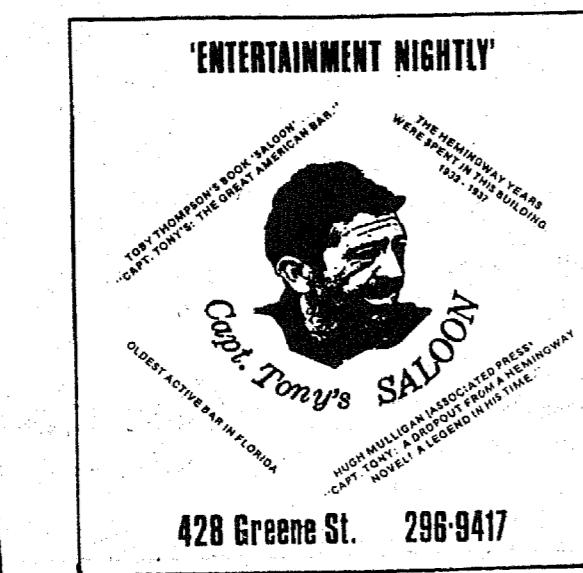
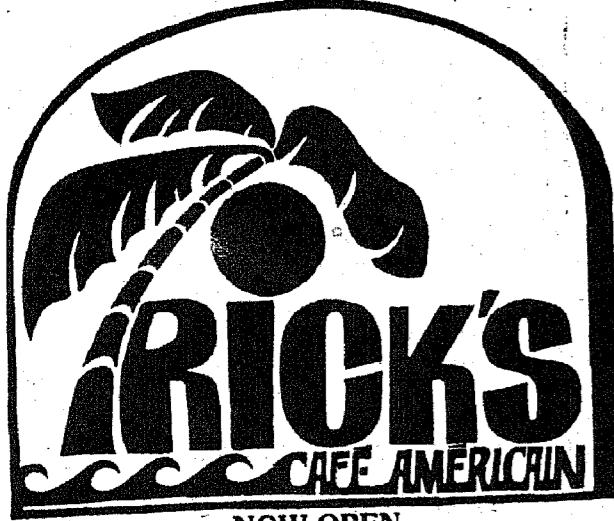
The diversity of media and styles represented in the Festival offers the collector a variety of choices seldom provided by a private gallery. Categories represented in the Festival include sculpture and paintings in oil, watercolor, and mixed media. The latter includes graphics, collage, and drawings.

IN EACH OF the four categories, Merit Award ribbons will be given to the five best in that medium. In addition to ribbons, the winners will receive \$1000 in prize money. The Best in Show is selected from the four first place winners and receives an additional \$150. The Merit Awards are donated by the Key West Art Center. Local merchants and

citizens are generously providing \$5500 in Purchase Awards.

The judges for the Merit Awards are Dr. Arlene Olson, Professor of Art and Art History at the University of Miami, and Ms. Fran Rowin. Ms. Olson received her PhD from Cleveland Reserve. Ms. Rowin received her MA degree from the University of Miami. Both are experienced and qualified judges.

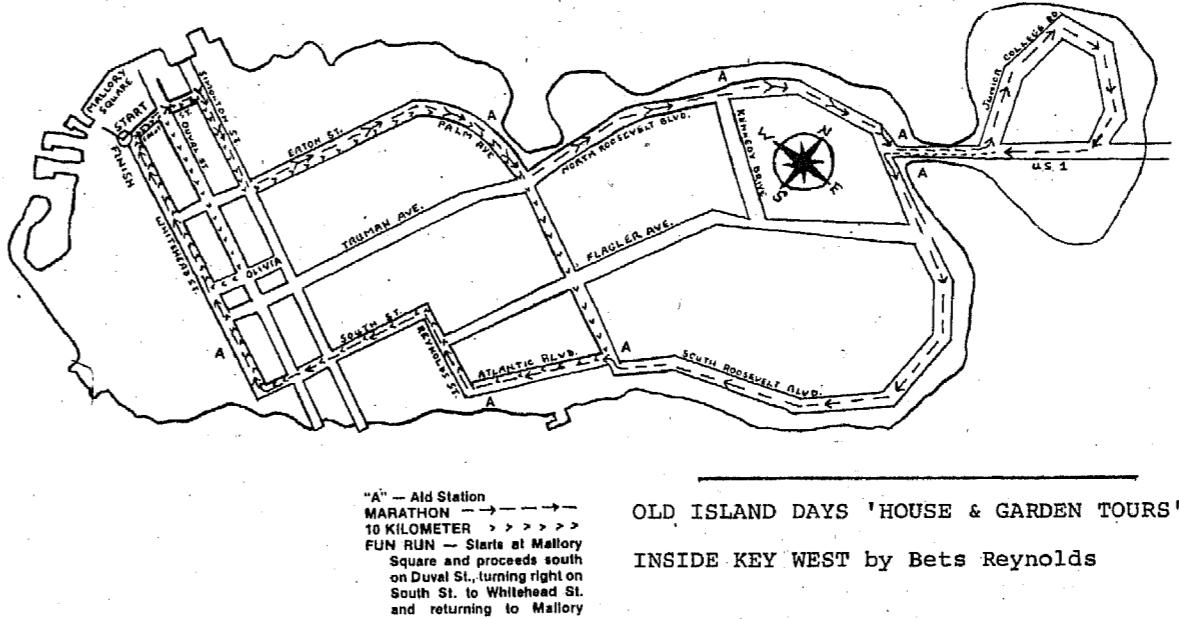
THE SPONSOR AND organizer of the Festival is the Key West Art Center.



ceeds of the race will go to the local Armed Forces YMCA and the Florida Keys Marine Institute. Both of these organizations reach troubled teen-agers, helping them both physically and psychologically.

ruary 17th at 8 a.m. to run for fun and for the community.

Entry forms for the marathon are available at area sporting goods stores, or call 296-9897 or write to the Key West Marathon, Box 4270, Key West.



OLD ISLAND DAYS 'HOUSE & GARDEN TOURS'
INSIDE KEY WEST by Bets Reynolds

cally. In many cases they are the "last resort" of young people in trouble.

Roadrunners Club representative Ned Gardener says that the business community has been very helpful in getting this race off the ground. "Once you get something like this started," he says, "the community sees what a beneficial service it has sponsored, and the whole thing snowballs."

Why all the enthusiasm? The Armed Services YMCA and the FKML help to keep teenagers busy, interested, physically fit and away from the courts and prisons -- out of trouble, in fact. If you think this is a worthwhile endeavor, how about joining the Last Resort Marathon?

SELECT THE DISTANCE for your ability: 2-mile Fun Run, 6.2-mile race, 13.1-mile half-marathon, or the full 26.2-mile marathon.

The 6.2-mile 'Mini-Marathon' will interest physical fitness folks. Then, for the sheer joy of running, there is the 2-mile Fun Run around Old Town. The Fun Run category will welcome all comers, including children and/or their parents, students and senior citizens, and even people who want to walk the Fun Run!

All entrants will receive an official marathon T-shirt. Finishers will receive commemorative ribbons. Divisions include men and women 18 and under, 19 to 29, 30 to 39, 40 to 49, and 50 and older. The top three finishers in each division will be awarded an Olympic-style medal. Everyone is encouraged to enter! Come to Mallory Square on Feb-

ruary 17th at 8 a.m. to run for fun and for the community.

Entry forms for the marathon are available at area sporting goods stores, or call 296-9897 or write to the Key West Marathon, Box 4270, Key West.

I've helped hundreds of people stop smoking. I can help you too.

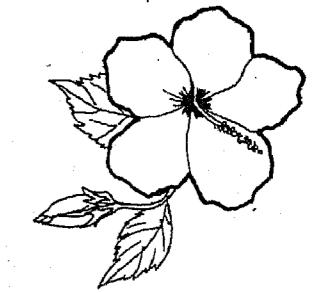
Want to hear more?



Thurs. Feb. 21 7:30 pm
901 Flagler Ave. (at Reynolds St.)
Come!

The Butterly (Poor Richard's)

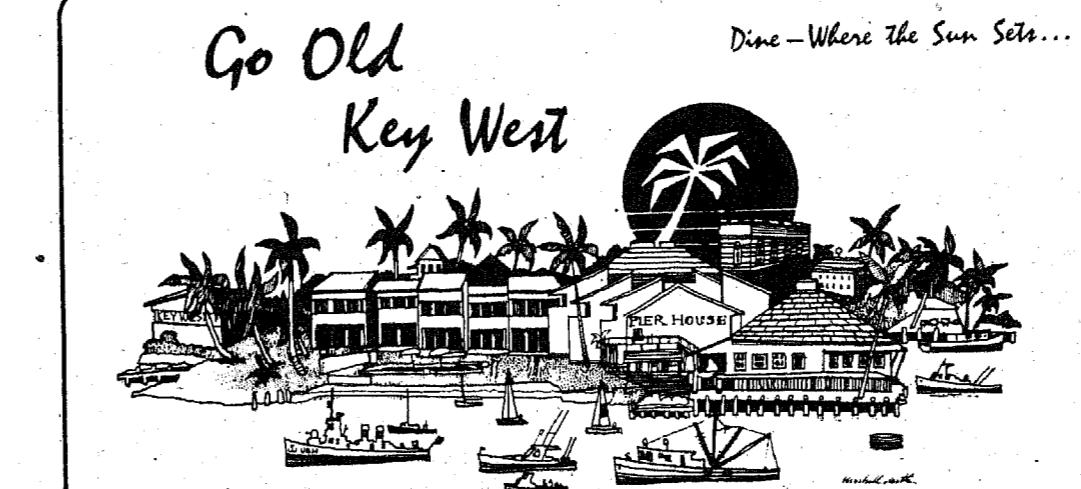
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Key West has all this and much more for the urbane urbanite.

Called "The Rock" by those who live in it -- or on it? -- Key West is a city that captures the hearts and minds of the imaginative but frequently confuses the conventional. Either way, it doesn't care. It has the island characteristic of self-sufficiency, but without insularity, saved from this sin by its many well travelled natives and the sophisticated out-of-towners who have chosen it for their home.

WHAT IS IT about this city that attracts them, some of them very famous indeed? The climate, of course, is almost perfect for those who like sun and warmth mixed with sea breezes, but there are similar climates elsewhere. Perhaps the key to Key West's popularity with a wide variety of people is just that -- variety -- a fascinating human mix.

Key West is a wide open town where the inhabitants, young and old, straight and gay, artists, writers and businessmen, fraternize in a way not conceivable in the uptight cities, suburbs and homogenous retirement communities of the mainland. Here they can live as they like in the homes they like, new ones by the ocean on the "gentle side of the island," or in the old wooden houses of the historic area, known as Old Town or Old Key West.

IT IS IN OLD TOWN that the city shows its uniqueness, more Bahamian than Floridian. This is the Key West that was built before Miami was even a gleam in any land-developer's eye. It is Florida's second-oldest city after St. Augustine, and just a century ago it was its largest and richest. Its history goes back to the early 19th century, when many of the houses were built by ship's carpenters. If a hurricane or a fire were to destroy them, they would be irreplaceable.

The architecture of Old Town is mainly Bahamian and Victorian, the former as simple and straightforward as the

sea-side salt-box homes of Nantucket, the latter elegantly ornamented with Victorian "gingerbread" trim.

Two other types of houses indigenous to the area are the "Eyebrow House" with its two-storyed front porch, the roof of which slants low over the second-story windows, and, secondly, the "Shotgun" or "Cigar-Maker's House," one-storyed, long and narrow. The front door of this house opens into a hall running straight to the back, with all the rooms opening off to one side.

RESTORATION OF THE old homes, much of it by northerners, has created a real estate boom in Old Town. The old wooden houses of Key West have been "discovered."

They are truly Collector's Items, and during Old Island Days, a city-wide celebration of Key West history and traditions, it is possible for "outsiders" to get an insider's view of them on the "House and Garden Tours." What better way to become acquainted with a city than by visiting its homes?

This year's House Tours include an unusually interesting variety of homes, inhabited by an unusually interesting variety of home-owners: artists, decorators, company presidents, business and advertising executives, a florist, a restaurateur, an economist, a journalist, and two well-known authors.

A visit to these homes on the House Tours is recommended for anyone wanting an inside glimpse into the many and varied lifestyles of this two-by-four-mile city, the southernmost in Florida, unique and, yes, beautiful Key West.

TWENTIETH ANNUAL KEY WEST HOUSE & GARDEN TOURS - 1980

TOUR ONE - February 8 & 9
10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Tickets available at Hospitality House, Mallory Square, Key West, or at any of the tour houses.

TOUR TWO (NIGHT) - February 29 & March 1
6:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.

Tickets available at Hospitality House only. These tickets include a Conch Tour Train trip to all of the houses on tour.

TOUR THREE - March 14 & 15
10 A.M. to 4 P.M.
Tickets available at Hospitality House or at any of the tour houses.

OLD ISLAND DAYS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1980

Feb. 1-2 "TROPICAL FEVER FOLLIES," Mary Immaculate High School Auditorium 8:30 P.M. Sponsored by Florida Keys Memorial Hospital Auxiliary.

Feb. 2 SCOUTING IN THE SUN - 10 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Poinciana School grounds - 14th Street & Kennedy Boulevard. Sponsored by Buccaneer District Boy Scouts of America.

Feb. 3 LITTLE MISS OLD ISLAND DAYS BEAUTY PAGEANT. 1:30 P.M. at Glynn Archer School Auditorium. Sponsored by Island Productions.

Feb. 3 OLD ISLAND DAYS RALLYE. See Historic Key West. Starts 2 P.M. from park area adjacent to East Martello Gallery, S. Roosevelt Blvd. Registration starts 1 P.M., nominal fee. Sponsored by Ecurie Vitesse Sports Car Club.

Feb. 5 KEY WEST HANDPRINT FASHIONS - informally modeled during luncheon every Tuesday. Call 294-9535 (or stop in) for the "where."

Feb. 8-9 HOUSE TOURS - 10 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Tickets at Hospitality House, Mallory Square, or at the houses themselves. Sponsored by Old Island Restoration Foundation.

Feb. 9 TROPICAL LUNCHEON - 12:00 to 2:00 P.M. at Key West Woman's Club, 319 Duval Street. Reservations, call Annice Curry at 296-5084 or Eula Sawyer at 294-6868.

Feb. 9 CORONATION OF "QUEEN OF OLD ISLAND DAYS" - Casa Marina Convention Center at 9:00 P.M. Sponsored by Island Productions.

Feb. 13-17 ANTIQUE SHOW - 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Community Center, Mallory Square.

Feb. 15 PICADILLO LUNCHEON - 12:00 to 2:00 P.M., - St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Duval and Eaton Streets. Sponsored by Episcopal Churchwomen.

Feb. 15-22 ART EXHIBITION - original art of Tennessee Williams, Keys' artists, framed work of Ikki Matsumoto, Wellington Ward, Charles Frace, and others. Farrington Galleries, 711 Duval Street. 9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M., Mon - Sat. Tel. 294-6911.

Feb. 16 CUBAN SANDWICHES, Key Lime Tarts and Goodies. 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., Old Island Patio, Mallory Square. Sponsored by Women of the Moose.

Feb. 16 OLDEST HOUSE BENEFIT PARTY 6:00 P.M., 322 Duval Street. Sponsored by Old Island Restoration Foundation.

Feb. 17 LAST RESORT MARATHON (Full Marathon, Half Marathon, 10,000 and 2 mile Fun Run). Starts 7 A.M. Mallory Square. For information call 296-5260. Sponsored by Southernmost Runners Club.

Feb. 21-22 WRECKERS' AUCTION - Viewing

7:00 P.M. Auction at 8:00 P.M. (Place to be announced) Sponsored by Southernmost Humane Society, Inc.

Feb. 23 PANCAKE BREAKFAST - 7:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M., Community Center, Mallory Square. Sponsored by Hi-Noon Lions Club.

Feb. 23-24 SIDEWALK ART FESTIVAL - 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., Mallory Square. Sponsored by Key West Art Center.

Feb. 23 CUBAN SANDWICHES AND KEY LIME TARTS - 11:00 A.M. to 3 P.M., Old Island Patio, Mallory Square. Sponsored by Key West Officers Wives Club.

Feb. 23 MONTE CARLO NIGHT - 8 P.M., Community Center, Mallory Square. Sponsored by Disabled American Veterans, Key West Chapter No. 33.

Feb. 24 CONCH CRITTERS - 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. Conch Chowder, Conch Fritters, Key Lime Pie. Old Island Patio, Mallory Square. Sponsored by Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults of Monroe County.

Feb. 24 ANNUAL MASSING OF THE COLORS - 3:00 P.M., St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Duval and Eaton Streets. Sponsored by Military Order of World Wars.

Feb. 27-March 30 MILITARY COMBAT ART SHOW with local Armed Services Exhibition. East Martello Gallery, 9:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. daily. Sponsored by Key West Art & Historical Society.

Feb. 28 BENEFIT ART AUCTION - Paintings donated by local artists. Gingerbread Square Gallery, 903-Duval Street. 7:30 P.M.

Admission \$1.00.

Feb. 29 - March 1 NIGHT HOUSE TOURS - 6:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. Transportation and tickets at Hospitality House via Conch Tour Trains. Sponsored by Old Island Restoration Foundation.

March 3-7 COMPANY, musical by Stephen Sondheim, Waterfront Playhouse, Mallory Square. Box office open 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. beginning Feb. 25. Telephone 294-5015.

THE GREENE STREET THEATRE IS BACK!

THIS SEASON the Greene Street Theatre is privileged to have a new home in the beautiful Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center at Florida Keys Community College.

The three-show 1980 season includes:

ANYTHING GOES: the classic Cole Porter 1930's musical, featuring "You're the Top," "It's Delovely," and "I Get a Kick Out of You." It runs February 21 - March 1. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, with one Saturday matinee each week.

SPOUS: The most popular psychological thriller of the 1970's. Peter Shaffer's play "...is the closest I have seen to reanimating the spirit of mystery that makes the stage a place of breathless discovery." Walter Kerr, New York Times. Runs March 13 - 22.

TWELFTH NIGHT: Shakespeare's timeless comedy of love, mistaken identities, and parted siblings. With Sir Toby Belch, Andrew Aguecheek, and the irrepressible Viola. One of the Bard's most loved plays: "If music be the food of love, play on."

THE GREENE STREET THEATRE is under new management this year, with David Williams as Managing Director. David comes from Seattle for this season, and he has had considerable experience with regional repertory companies, as well as film and television. He has worked for Seattle Repertory Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts, to name but a few. He was a regular player and stuntman on the "High Chapparal" series, and he narrates films for the National Audubon Society and the U.S. Army.

All productions run Thursday through Saturday for two weeks, with a Saturday matinee each week. Subscribe now for best seating!



Treasure Ship

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Take a guided tour of a 168-foot Spanish treasure galleon built by Treasure Salvors, Inc. of Key West, the world's largest treasure hunting organization. See what life aboard ship was like in the 1600's. See some of the treasure that has been found in Florida waters. See the cannons from the "Nuestra Senora de Atocha" which sank in 1622 off Key West. She carried a cargo valued at over 100 million dollars. See the techniques Treasure Salvors is using to recover her gold, silver and gems.

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EVENTS

For Old Island Days events see schedule on page 52
 Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center (TWFAC)
 at Florida Keys Community College, Stock
 Island; Box Office 294-6363
 Feb. 3 Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo,
 8 p.m.
 Feb. 24 Mano a Mano -- Anita Sheer & Laurie
 Randolph, classical & gypsy guitar concert,
 8 p.m.
 Feb. 21-23, Feb. 28-March 1 Greene Street
 Theatre at TWFAC presents the Cole Porter
 musical *Anything Goes*, 8 p.m.

Senior Citizens Center, 600 White Street,
 296-3119
 Feb. 20 Planning Your Investments, 7 p.m.
 Feb. 27 Poetry for Those Who Hate Poetry, 7 p.m.

Galleries

East Martello, South Roosevelt Blvd, 296-3913
 Feb. 26-March 30 Combat Art Show

Key West Art Center, 301 Front Street, 294-1241
 Feb. 2-16 Florence Recher, one woman show
 Feb. 16-March 1 Martha Sauer, one woman show
 Feb. 20 D. Jonathan Miller of Dallas demon-
 strates wood cut printing, 7:30 p.m.
 Feb. 23, 24 Sidewalk Art Show, Clinton Square,
 at Whitehead & Front

Gingerbread Square Gallery, 903 Duval, 296-8900
 Feb. 12-25 John Kiraly, tropical motifs in
 oils, acrylics, collage technique

Cayo Hueso Graphics, 806 Duval, 296-5221
 Feb. 8-29 North Carolina artists: Shirley
 McConahay, macrame wall pieces & soft sculp-
 ture; Patricia Walach Keough, nature themes
 in oil & watercolors. Haitina primitives.

Poetry Readings

The Bookshop, 534 Fleming, 296-9089
 Feb. 10 Harry Tierney, poet & playwright,
 Leona D'Imarco, author
 Feb. 17 Nick Mousa & Ray Patrick, Toledo
 Poets Center poets
 Feb. 24 Bob Flick reads a 3-act play
 (all at 4:30 p.m.)
 Guild Hall Gallery, 614 Duval, 296-9359
 Feb. 3 Open Poetry Reading, 8:30 p.m. (first
 Sunday of every month)

Regular Events

Monroe County Public Library, 700 Fleming,
 294-7100
 Movies every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
 Feb. 6 A World in One Country & Mayaland Safari
 Feb. 13 Amsterdam Concerto & Beethoven
 Feb. 20 Hollywood: The Selznick Years
 Feb. 27 Romantic Austria & Norman Rockwell's
 World: An American Dream

Key West Kennel Club, Stock Island
 12 races every night except Sunday at 8:00 p.m.,
 11 races Saturday at 2:00 (free); Ladies
 free Tuesday

Square Dancing

Keys Kickers, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
 (Henry Purcell, 872-2593)

Nautical Wheelers, Friday, Sunday (Don Wiley,
 296-9625)

Both at 7:30 p.m. at Poinciana School, 1212
 14th Street.

Regular Public Meetings

City Commission
 First and third Mondays, 8 p.m., City Hall,
 Simonton & Angela
 County Commission
 Feb. 12, Plantation; Feb. 26, Marathon, 10 a.m.
 Aqueduct Authority
 Feb. 28, Marathon Courthouse, 1 p.m.
 City Electric Utility Board
 Second and fourth Wednesdays, 5 p.m., Board
 Room, 930 Caroline Street.

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