

solares hill

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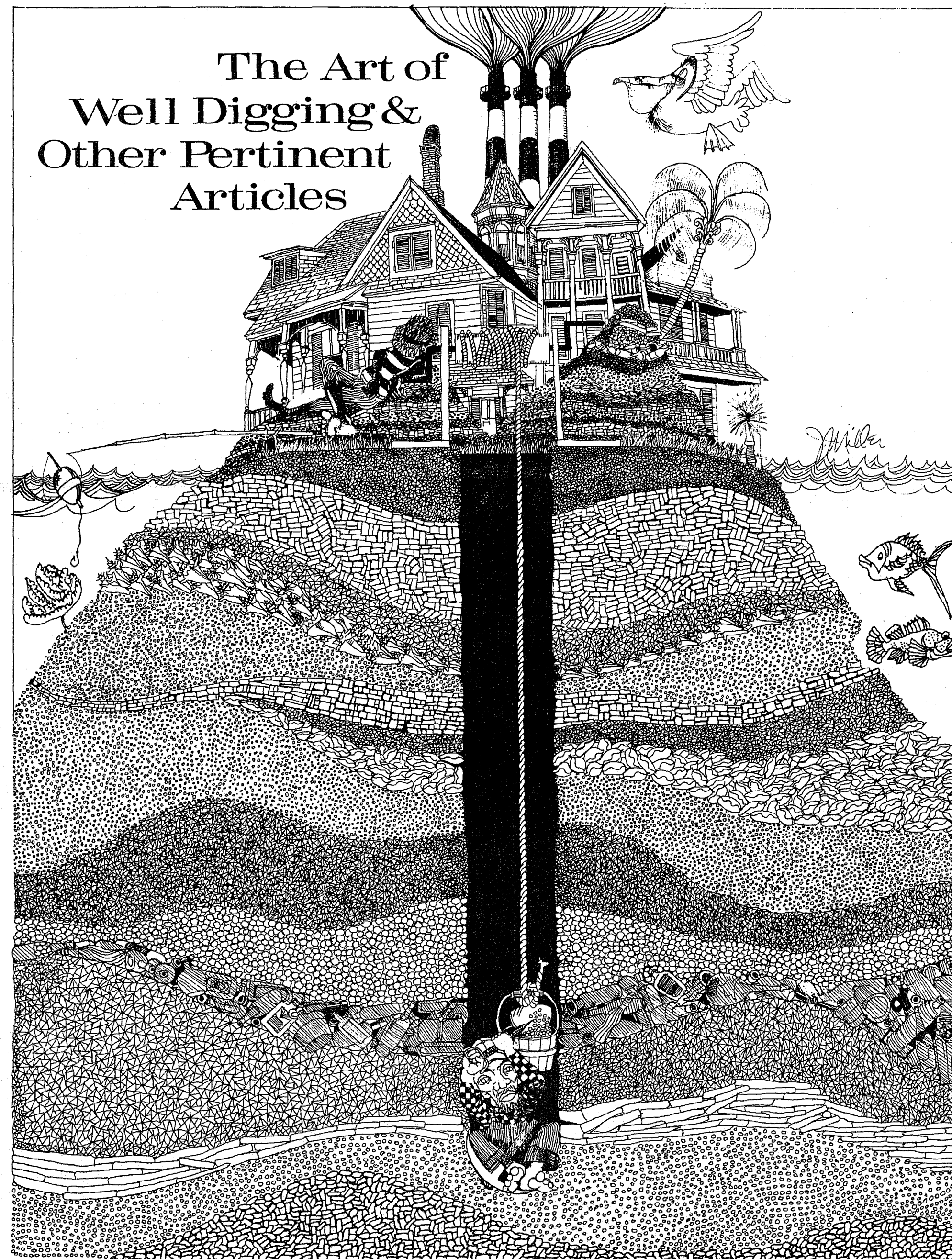
"The highest point in Key West"

VOL. 1, NO. 7

Key West, Florida

August, 1971

The Art of Well Digging & Other Pertinent Articles



Register! And Vote!

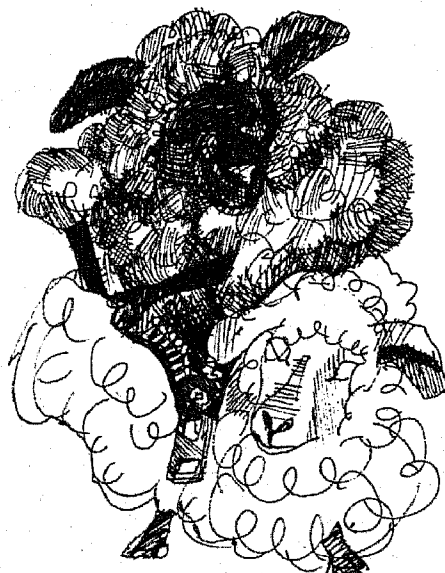
A Statement by Marty Kossak,
Past President, K.W.H.S. Student Council



It is important for 18-21 year olds to exercise their new right because it is the quickest, fairest, and best way of affecting change in America. I feel it is extremely important for the new voting group to come out to the polls in high percentages and thus force the politicians both local and federal to give our ideas and opinions some merit. Of course 18-21 year olds must also exercise their right to prove to the adult skeptics that we are ready and mature enough to vote, wisely. I'm sure many adults will be surprised that there are conservative-thinking as well as liberal-minded youths.

Marty Kossak

Solares Hill: SHEEP IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING?



WAIT TIL OCTOBER

Poppe

As you have probably noticed, *Solares Hill* is not in the obituary business, but we can't help introducing Poppe, by way of saying goodbye to one of our own. Poppe was a Founding Subscriber to this newspaper. When we were first getting started last January, February and March, Poppe, after working all day, would ride his motorcycle thirty miles into Key West several times a week to varitype our copy, often until midnight or one A.M. He was a very giving dude.

Poppe was an outlaw biker, road captain of Key West's own Spirit, who really broke all the rules by being, at the same time, an attentive husband and father, a gentle and pretty wise counselor, a considerate companion, a complex many-talented man, and a damned good friend. A very giving dude.

At about 10:00 A.M. on June 26, 1971 - a bright yellow and chrome morning, same color as the full-dressed Hog he rode - Poppe got wiped out in a head-on with a car that shouldn't have been where it was. An almost incredible, spectacular accident ended Poppe's ride, fast.

He was in no hurry, but perhaps a half dozen times in the years I've known him, Poppe said something like "When my time comes, I hope I'm riding and I hope it's fast," or "When I die I'm going to be riding and it's going to be a big one." It was fast and he was riding the best, his big bright yellow and chrome full-dressed Harley 74 Electroglide and it was spectacular and monstrous.

Poppe got the ultimate reward of a very giving life - the death that pleased him most. He rode out in the highest style.

Stan Becker

A favorite poem of Poppe's was Spoke Song by Edwin Crusoe IV. Here is part of it.

Gave her just a little gun
Popped the clutch and off I run
Whirling rainbows in the sun
Scramblin' through the country.

Wind's alive electric air
Screaming dangers constant dare
Where I'm going I don't care
My bike and I are free.

Engine's climbing ringing whine
Singing music in my mind
Making the sunspots shine
In the windows of my mind.

Tober

Tober is Lande's famous swim off Mallory Dock.

Tober is the elderly man who early in the morning cleans Fleming Street trash off the sidewalk with his cane.

Tober is the deserted serenity of Key West streets after a late evening shower.

Tober is Bing selling ribs outside Howie's Bar.

Tober is Chu-chu's new truck.

Tober is seeing that ugly Navy housing off White Street come down.

Tober is John Ryan in his little buggy passing Sloppy Joe's.

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Editorial

W. Huckel

I want to discuss the Community Pool on Thomas Street: why it should be reopened, how the city government has responded to this need, and why a change in philosophy is necessary to bring about its reopening.

Young people in our country have been calling for a drastic rearrangement of our country's priorities. They would replace our national philosophy of strength through armament with a philosophy of strength through concern. This does not mean a total disarmament of our defenses; it does mean, though, that security is better attained through concern. Rather than arm every official to the teeth to combat ever increasing enemies of the "system", the young would explore the causes of the unrest and act to remedy them. You do not stop uptightness with arms; you only contain it. You stop uptightness by removing the problems that caused it.

On a national level the Kerner Commission Report (in the aftermath of the Detroit riots) called for immediate social reforms to prevent further outbreaks of violence. This report has been downgraded, shuffled around, and ignored.

On a local level the reports of the Pool and Cultural Center Association to the City Commission, which call for the reopening of the Community Pool, have similarly been downgraded, shuffled around, and ignored.

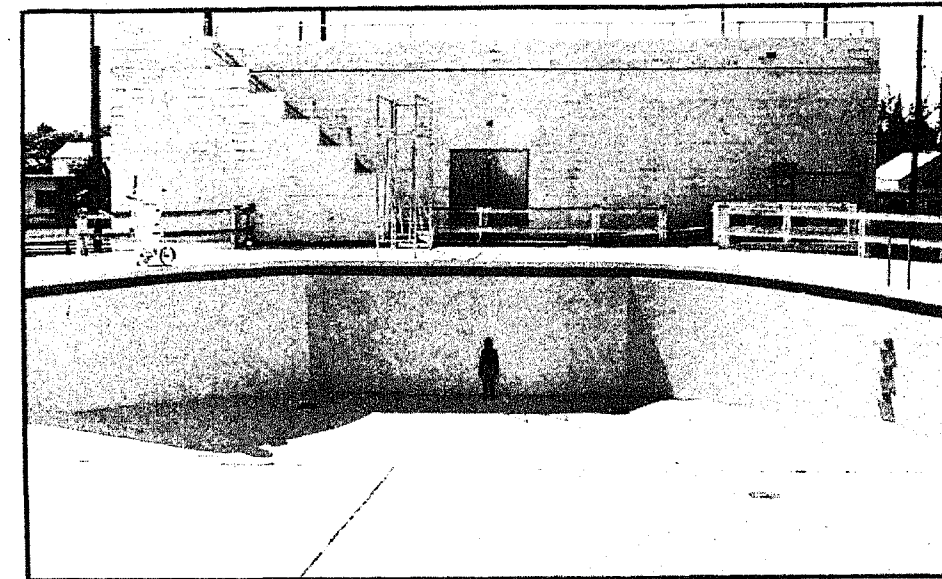
First, why should the Community Pool area be fixed up? There are no other recreational services in the area. Often in the evenings there are over a hundred young men, women, and children at the facility watching the girls' softball game or running footraces or just fooling around - mainly just fooling around. Had the facility been open the pool would have been used, the proposed arts-and-crafts room, the reading room, and the meeting rooms could have been used, the outdoor terrace full of young people eating and dancing. Instead of nothing to do which leads the young to boredom and apathy and delinquency, a going center would offer plenty to do. This is what a community facility is all about.

So what has happened?

Federal funds were sought for this project. Most of the application for federal funds was completed last August and given to the city to send in. At a special meeting of the City Commission we were told that the application had been made to the appropriate government agency for funds for the pool project.

I checked with the city official who handles city applications to federal agencies and he told me that application had been made to the Neighborhood Facilities Program (also known now as the Metropolitan Authority Commission). I was told that a man from the M.A.C. office in Atlanta had been down to see the pool and was favorably impressed with it - actually so impressed that he would request from Washington that funds be available for this project if Atlanta approved it.

A newspaper article in the Key West Citizen came out with a write-up on the pool and I sent this along with a request for all the aid that his office could give us to Representative Dante Fascell. Last summer I had stopped in Washington to speak to Rep. Fascell about the pool project but unfortunately was unable to catch him. However his secretary told me that he could do nothing until the city had made an application. Therefore I sent him the article on the city sending in the application for the pool.



This photo needs no caption

I went to Atlanta last November to speak with the officials involved with the M.A.C. The officials in charge of the Key West area reported there had been NO application from the city of Key West to them concerning the pool and that obviously they could do nothing until they received one.

On my return I spoke to a city commissioner who told me he would check up on this.

I received a letter from Rep. Fascell stating that he had been informed that the city had not yet applied for funds.

I spoke with the same city official who had told me previously that the application had been sent in to Atlanta. He told me that the city had made INQUIRIES about the pool project to Atlanta but had not sent in an application yet. In checking with this official subsequently, I was told that the forms were being sent into Atlanta.

I spoke with another official out at the H.U.D. office on Catherine Street and he told me that a preliminary form had just been sent into Atlanta expressing interest on the part of the city of Key West in this project and asking if we were eligible for aid. This form was still not the application.

Finally I was told that Atlanta had informed the city that there were no more funds available for this funding period.

Obviously this is no way to handle city affairs. The conclusion must be either that the city government doesn't want the pool reopened or that the city government was deceitfully inefficient. Unfortunately, I feel that it is a mixture of the two.

In the meantime due to the splendid help of Chief Daniels and his men from the U.S.S. Gilmore the pool machinery has been cleaned and the pool painted. We are buying a chlorinator with money we of the Pool and Cultural Center

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The Fire This Time: A Solares Hill Round Table

In its July issue Solares Hill presented the first part of a two part interview with three young blacks concerning the black crisis in Key West. Part one was a discussion of the problems here. Part two is an investigation of possible solutions to these problems.

Prewitt: Where do the ideas (new awarenesses of the young blacks) come from? Who is the big influence?

Teacher: Now, see, this is my personal feeling, I think that the young blacks are beginning to think for themselves.

Mack: Put it this way, they hear by the beating of the drum.

Prewitt: The drum?

Mack: The drum.

Prewitt: What do you mean by that?

Teacher: The vibes that go around. It's not a thing that you put words into other people. They feel this way. They are beginning to realize, you know, that there has to be some kind of change. Some kind of change has to come about.

Mack: Another thing, I think if there's a coalition between blacks and whites, that it would stop a lot of aggression.

Prewitt: What kind of coalition?

Mack: The type where there is work being done by both groups to solve the problems. And then if this does come about, "the man" can not direct everything against the blacks. And if he does, that shows his racism. Like I was telling you, I'm personally into this third world* thing. I believe in a coalition for all oppressed people. When they get going into this coalition, they're doing the same thing that the blacks are doing. They want change. The system we look at here we see on an international scale. The same problems that are happening abroad are happening here, too.

Prewitt: What kind of coalition could come about here in Key West?

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EDITORIAL MICHAEL PREWITT ART DIRECTION JERRY MILLER
EDITORIAL "DANCING BILL" HUCKEL PHOTOGRAPHY LEE BALLARD

With a little help from our friends ...

Pat, Cas, Ray, Ruthie, Warren, Georgia, Becky, Bill, The Dating Game VC, Jane, Janet, Darlene, Mario, Sue, Ann, August Plinth, Slide-rule Sammy, Steve, Aunt Helen, SFC, Jr., No. 12, Peter and Susan

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Notices of Key West

Written December 1835

William Adea Whitehead



W. A. Whitehead

William Adea Whitehead was in effect Key West's first historian. When John Rodman of St. Augustine in 1835 requested a detailed description of the island, William Whitehead responded with the following "Notices". Whitehead, though just 26, was well qualified to write such a sketch. Arriving in Key West in 1828, he found the young growing island to be in need of many of his skills. In 1828, he produced the first survey of the island. Appointed collector of customs in 1830, Whitehead helped bring "law and order" to the marine wrecking frontier out on the reefs. He served on the first town council; he was fire chief, head of the school committee, editor of two local papers, and finally mayor. A common island saying on Key West lanes in the early years of the island city was, "he knows almost as much as Whitehead".

Before proceeding to answer your specific questions, relative to the present condition of Key West, it may not be uninteresting to you to receive some information as to the first settlement and improvement of the Island, with which so far as my acquaintance extends, I willingly furnish you.

It is probable that from the time of the first visit of Ponce de Leon in 1512 (1513) until the cession of the Floridas to the United States, the Islands (or Keys as they are termed, a corruption of the Spanish Cayo) which extend in a South Westerly direction from Cape Florida, were only resorted to by the aborigines of the country - the piratical crews with which the neighboring seas were infested - and the fishermen (many of them of St. Augustine) who were engaged in supplying the market of Havana from the "finny tribes" that abound in their vicinity. Of the occasional presence of the first, we have evidence in the marks of ancient fortifications or mounds of stones found in various situations, (in one of which, opened some years since, human bones of a large size were discovered) and tradition has in addition, brought down to us notices of them which deserve all the credit conferred upon the same authority in other parts of the country. The oldest settler in this section of the country, one whose residence for 50 years has been in the vicinity of Charlotte's Harbor, has informed me that it was an account, current in his early years, that some eighty or ninety years previous (probably now 130 years ago) the Indians inhabiting the Islands along the coast and those on the main land were of different tribes, and as the Island Indians frequently visited the main for the purpose of hunting, a feud arose between the two tribes, and those from the main having made an irruption into the Islands, their inhabitants were driven from Island to Island until they reached Key West. Here, as they could flee no farther, they stood their ground, and a battle was fought resulting in the almost entire extermination of the Islanders: only a few escaped, (and that by a miracle as they embarked in canoes upon the ocean) whose descendants, it is said, were known to have been met in the Island of Cuba.

This battle strewed the Island with bones, as it is probable the conquerors tarried not to commit the bodies of the dead to the ground, and hence the name of the Island Cayo Hueso (in Spanish "Bone Key") which the English, with the same ease that they transformed the wine Xeres Seco into "Sherry Sack," corrupted into "Key West."

That the harbor of Key West was the resort of Pirates, occasionally, has been proved by the evidence of many who were connected with them in their lawless depredations (sic), and by the discovery of hidden articles that could only have been secreted by them. That the Islands of the Florida coast were known to the fishermen supplying the Havana market is certain, as many persons are still to be found who visited them in that capacity, some years before the Provinces were ceded to the United States.

On 26th August 1815 for some military services rendered to the Government by Juan P. Salas, Don Juan de Estrada, then Governor of Florida granted to him the Island of Key West, but nothing was done by him in the way of settlement or improvement, and the Island had the same wild aspect it had worn for ages, when on 20th Dec. 1821, Salas sold his right, title and interest to John W. Simonton Esq., then of Mobile, who met with Salas in Havana. Having heard of the advantageous situation of the Harbor & etc., Mr. Simonton was induced, from the certain prospect of improvement throughout the country, by the cession of the United States, (which his mercantile experience led him to foresee must advance the interests of a settlement at this point,) to give Two thousand Dollars for the Island, and on the 19th January 1822, took possession. Soon after making the purchase Mr. Simonton sold one half of his interest to the John Whitehead & John W. Fleeming Esqs., also of Mobile at that time, and another quarter to Messrs. John Warner and John Mountain, whose interest is vested in Col. P.C. Greens, who resides on the Island.

The Proprietors immediately did everything in their power to improve the Island as rapidly as possible, and they all gave their personal attention to the erection of buildings, clearing of land & etc. In February 1823 Commodore Patterson & Lieut. Tuttle of the U. S. Navy arrived with orders from the Government to survey the coast and harbor of Key West. They were soon followed by Government vessels bringing stores, materials & etc., and by the end of the year the Island was a regularly constituted Naval Depot & Station under the command of Commodore Porter, by the name of Thompson's Island, a title it has long ceased to bear, and which it is probable will never be revived, as it was conferred merely out of compliment to the then Secretary of the Navy. A Collector and Inspector of the Customs arrived in April 1823 - and since that time Key West has been a regular Port of Entry.

During the occupancy of the United States the growth of the Town was considerably checked from its being most of the time under martial law, but the advantageous locality of the Island, the fineness of its harbor, etc., were fully developed, and the effectual suppression of Piracy may be attributed in a great measure to the conveniences it afforded to our Squadron engaged on that arduous service. The Naval Depot was removed in 1826 to Pensacola. The Superior Court for this portion of the Territory, being much needed on account of its civil jurisdiction, but imperiously called for by the fact that all the admiralty business, involving a vast amount of property, devolved for want of it upon minor tribunals, was established by Act of Congress in winter of 1827. The winter following, the Island, which had previously been held in common, was surveyed and divided among the four proprietary interests, and they retain undiminished, with the exception of a few sales of town lots, the portions then allotted to each. Since that time the Town has increased in size and population, and the character of its inhabitants has risen considerably from the introduction of many families of great worth and respectability, bringing with them and spreading among their fellow citizens a desire for the privileges, protection and advantages of social order and wholesome restraint. It is now the seat of Justice for the County of Monroe, and the residence of the officers of Superior Court of the Southern Judicial District of Florida having Maritime Jurisdiction. It is also a Port of Entry enjoying all the privileges of the largest seaports of the Country, and a Military Post. It has a Court House, Custom House, and other public buildings of respectable size and appearance, although of course not to be compared with those in the older sections of the Union, and the private buildings erected are assuming annually greater marks of taste and comfort in their construction.

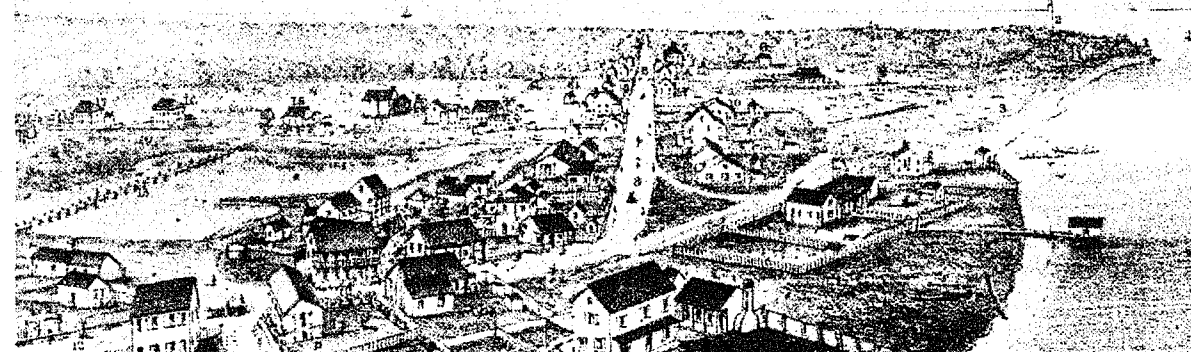
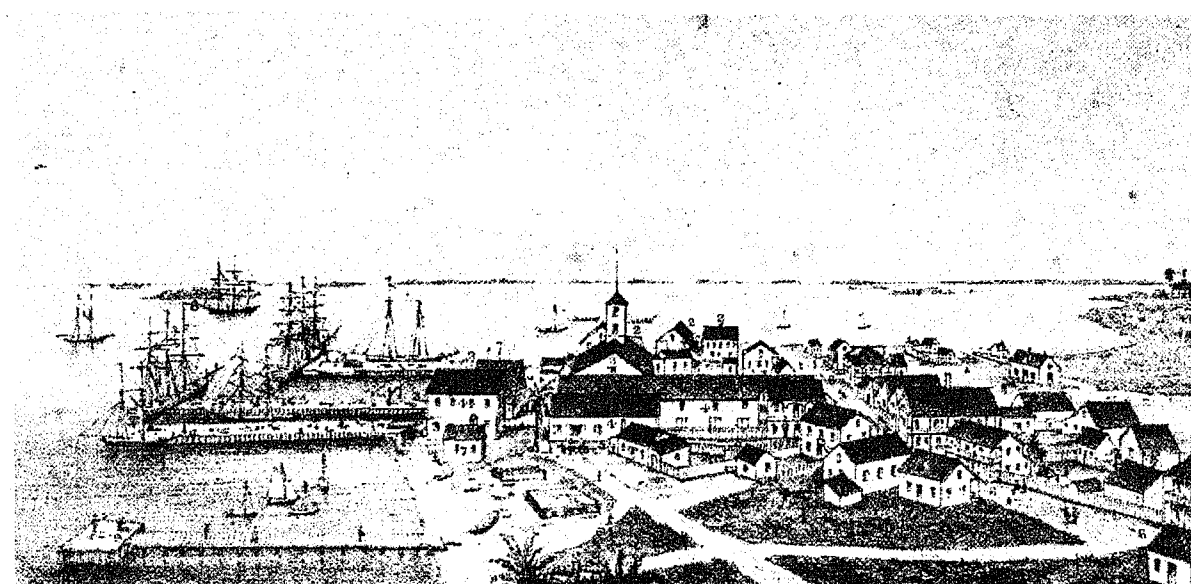
Key West has been much calumniated - not to as great an extent of late years as formerly - but still from the constant repetition in the papers of whatever tends to its injury, and the suppression of whatever tells to its credit, (intentionally or not I cannot tell) the disadvantages it has labored under from previous attacks, continue to some extent to mar its advancement. Capital and enterprise have been kept away, and it may be some time ere the regular course of either towards the Island will be unobstructed by the remaining prejudices against it.

The principal charges against the island are the unhealthfulness of the climate and the character of its population. In relation to the last, you who know personally many, residing here and others by reputation, require nothing to be said to prove the high character of a portion of our citizens, and I feel no hesitation in saying, (although like all inhabited spots on the face of the globe, we have our variety) that the remainder as a body deserve in no way the aspersions cast upon them. The wreckers and those connected with them, suffer most from these calumniations, but had I time I could produce many instances of an exhibition of honesty, generosity, fortitude and a number of other of the best characteristics of our nature, which would have done credit to far more exalted stations. Judge Webb took occasion not long since, from the Bench, in giving his decision in an admiralty case to speak of these men in the following terms. "I am gratified with the opportunity of expressing on this, as I have done on other occasions, my entire conviction that the course pursued by the individuals, now engaged in this occupation on the coast of Florida, is as exemplary in regard to the rights of others, as that of any other class of this or other communities. They are the instruments of saving an immense amount of property, which without their exertions would be wholly lost, and so far as their conduct in rendering these services has come to the knowledge of this Court (and it is often the subject of minute and critical examination) it has, with but few exceptions, been found correct, meritorious and praiseworthy." These are the men that Mr. Ornithologist Audubon (sic) must go out of his way (in the volume of work not long since published) to stigmatize as being "engaged in enterprises which they are nowise anxious to publish either to the government or the world." Place a man in a tempest-tossed vessel on the Florida reef, and I am much mistaken if he would not think a Wrecker a being of more intrinsic value to him, than all the bird catchers in Christendom.

In our ordinary Admiralty business there is but little legal skill required, all the services rendered, consisting generally, of drawing a libel and answer, and examining the witnesses on either side. Precedents are very little looked after, and the matter is left with the Judge, whose experience in such cases, from a practice here of six or seven years is very considerable.

I agree with you fully as to the want of industry, energy, etc., among Floridians generally. It is to be regretted, but we cannot expect that their character in that respect will be improved until more of the sterling citizens of the North are intermingled with them.

The character of Key West for health continues still to be estimated by the standard directed when the Island was in the occupancy of the United States Forces under the command of Commodore Porter, which is far from being the proper way to consider the subject. It is true that great mortality existed among the forces, but they were here without the possession of any of the comforts of life, and the death of numbers may rightly be attributed to their imprudence and dissipation. Commodore Porter himself has stated publicly in the papers, "that malady with which the Naval forces, under my command for the suppression of piracy, were afflicted had its origin in the excessive severity of the duty performed, and the



Top: Key West Looking North

Bottom: Key West Looking South

total absence of every description of comfort. The Disease was contracted among the haunts of the pirates on the coast of Cuba, and not, as is generally supposed, at Key West."

Since the removal of the Naval depot, with the exception of the summer of 1829, when fevers prevailed to some extent, I feel no hesitation in asserting that Key West has been as healthy as any place South of the Potomac, if not more so, and indeed far more healthy than many places at the North, where healthfulness is so little doubted as never to be made the subject of inquiry. During the last year (1835) there were, exclusive of Soldiers, 13 deaths, among the population of the town, including transient persons, Seamen in Port, etc., which at my estimate of 600 gives 1 death in 46 - a result that will compare with some of the healthiest places on the globe. The diseases were as follows: Consumption 3; Visceral derangements 2; Bilious fever 2; Intemperance 1; Casualty 1; Chronic Dysentery 1; Lockjaw 1; Measles 1; Cancer in Stomach (supposed) 1. - In conclusion, I would observe that a residence in Key West is not subjecting oneself to all the evils that flesh is heir to, as is generally imagined. The mosquitoes are to me the most annoying of all the unpleasant circumstances attending it, and their attacks can be in a great measure guarded against, so that we are not deprived of all comfort even in the height of their season, and possessing as we do so many delights, from the climate and other sources, we should not violently complain at their molestation for a month or two.

The temperature of our atmosphere is exceedingly fine throughout the year. I have never known it in the shade above 80 degrees nor less than 45 degrees.

The expense of living is high, but it is counterbalanced in some measure, as labor, mechanical productions, and professional services are much better paid for than elsewhere; the costliness of everything is however a subject of regret.

I will now take leave of the subject, fearing much that I have already exceeded your patience.

The Art of Well Digging

Story by Michael Prewitt

Illustrations by Jerry Miller

Oh, the man that invented that steam drill, Thought he was mighty fine John Henry made his fourteen feet The steam drill only made nine, Lord, Lord, The steam drill only made nine.

- The Ballad of John Henry

This is the story of a giant of a man and his craft, a crafty inventor and his machine, and a blistered reporter after his day digging wells.

Well-digging has always been a vital enterprise in Key West. Although slightly optimistic about the depth needed to reach sweet water, John Lee Williams, in 1837 reported in, *The Territory of Florida*:

"Wells of fresh water may be obtained in any part of the island by cutting through the limestone rock from six to ten feet."

If Mr. Williams were around today he would have to dig as far as 32 feet on top of Solares Hill to reach sweet water. But there is fresh water under almost any part of the island.

With only cisterns for the storage of rain water, for drinking, the well became a vital source of water from the first days of the island's settlement. Today this vital trade is pursued by only four Key Westers. This reporter ventured out to rediscover the art of well-digging from two of these noted craftsmen. With only minor wounds on his hands, upper arms and back, the novice well-digger takes pen in blistered hand to fill you, dear reader, in on this long forgotten art.

As with any craft which is sharpened to a fever pitch of skill and acumen, the art of well-digging has proponents of differing techniques.

Henry Poole is well-digging's technician, the old calculating inventor-digger who is about to revolutionize well-digging on this island with the machine

which is partially pictured in the adjacent drawing. Henry, or Father as he is called by most Conchs and many Key Westers, has been digging wells for over 30 years. He has dug hundreds and he claims he would be the favorite in any contest of well-digging because he is experienced. Father explained many of the ins and outs (ups and downs) of digging to me in an afternoon dig back of Bill Geyser's place on Simonton Street. His machine still on the works, Father was relying on his hand tools (also his inventions).

The drill bit is a steel bit, shaped like a canoe paddle blade, about four inches wide. This bit is connected to an eight foot pipe shaft; total weight of this assembly - approximately twenty pounds. On top of the shaft are threads to attach another eight foot shaft - total weight of two pipe sections and bit 35 pounds. For the 32 foot-deep well he dug on Solares Hill, Father used five sections of pipe - about 60 pounds of drill rig.

That's why Father has done a lot of scheming and come up with his digging machine. Driven by a lawnmower engine commandeered from the Stock Island used parts department (City dump), the digging machine will lift the bit and then drop it into the hole. Father will stand to right of machine, smoke cigarettes, and grin a lot.

But so much for dreaming. At Bill Geyser's, Father explained the full process: "Now this island is a rock, so you've got to break up that rock to get to the water. I use my drill bit and when the hole is a few inches deep, I start pouring water into the hole. This water helps break down the rock. Now see this tube. This tube is my pump. I've got a little piece of leather hinge on the bottom which makes a flap. This flap opens when water and the rock comes in and then closes by the force of the tube's contents. You know, it's a trap. Now when I've broken up quite a lot of this rock into fine sand, I put down this pump and drain the hole." By this time Father had the pump filled with creamy white liquid which he poured out on the ground like he was pouring pancake batter on a skillet.

"This here is like cement. Holds tight. I use it when I put in my casings. Holds them in the hole just like cement."

Father's stroke is as practiced and as consistent as Arnold Palmer's or Ted Williams'. Pull up on the shaft, hold it over the head, let the bit drop giving it a final force with a slight flex of the knee. When he's humming, Father works the bit 20 times a minute.

"One time I was working for Roberts' Plumbing and I had to do this well around back of Olivia Street. There used to be an old grocery there. I got off work at 5:30, I remember. And I told them I'd have that well in by dark."

Father is taking a cigarette break; Geyser's well is four feet deep; Father's shirt is soaked through.

"Of course they didn't believe me, so I set out with all the power I had. Now that well was 16 feet deep and I had sweet water by nightfall. Even had time to hook up the pump. Now that couldn't have been more than an hour. Sixteen feet. Probably less than an hour. Got dark early then; I remember."

Father is back now pouring water down Geyser's hole. The stroke is slower in the late July heat.

"Maybe I'll spend some time on that machine tonight."

* * *

He sat on his front porch and told me why he didn't want publicity.

"What'll that do for me. I don't want any publicity. I got enough business now. Publicity will just mean more people knocking on my door, getting me up from the table."

An hour later we were still on the porch. He loves to talk about well-digging, but he doesn't want any publicity. Call him John Henry. He's 6'3-1/4". He's got those biceps that keep going right down to the forearm. He'll be 60 years old in August.

"I've been digging wells for 41 years. Over 400 wells in Key West, quite naturally." John Henry, although from Key West, speaks with the Bahamian lilt of his parents and grandparents.

Bahamian wells are those open wells. Open and wide. You dig them with a crow-bar and it takes six months to do. But the Bahamians didn't know any better when they came, so they dug those open artesian wells. "Now my gadget is a handy one quite naturally. I carry it on my bicycle. My gadget is handy and can go in among the dwellings, you know. Quite handy. The city has a big gadget, but it can't dig where I can."

John Henry sees the city as his competition. John Henry vs. the Aqueduct Commission. His business comes from word of mouth. Undercover. But John Henry knows the island and its water. He's a great believer in the strength of God and nature.

"Look at me now. I've been drinking that sweet water for all my life and I'm strong now. That's water from the ground now. God almighty gave you these springs to use - quite naturally, they're the best water. With the Aqueduct water, you don't know what you get. Chlorine, other chemicals, they're bad for the stomach now. That well water is the sweetest."

"Sweeeeet water!!" Father just struck water. From Fausto's to City Electric pedestrians are wondering at the bellow coming from 412 Simonton Street. The digging is over. Now comes the delicate part. We see a flaw in the cold, scheming inventor.

"These wells will flow and flow. You can't pump them dry. But I've got to bless this one before I hook up the pump. The blessing is the most important part. Honey is what I use. God says in the Bible that honey's the sweetest thing. So I use honey to keep the well sweet. Stick with God and his way. His water is good. His water is sweet. Good for the kidneys. I've never had a stomach ailment."

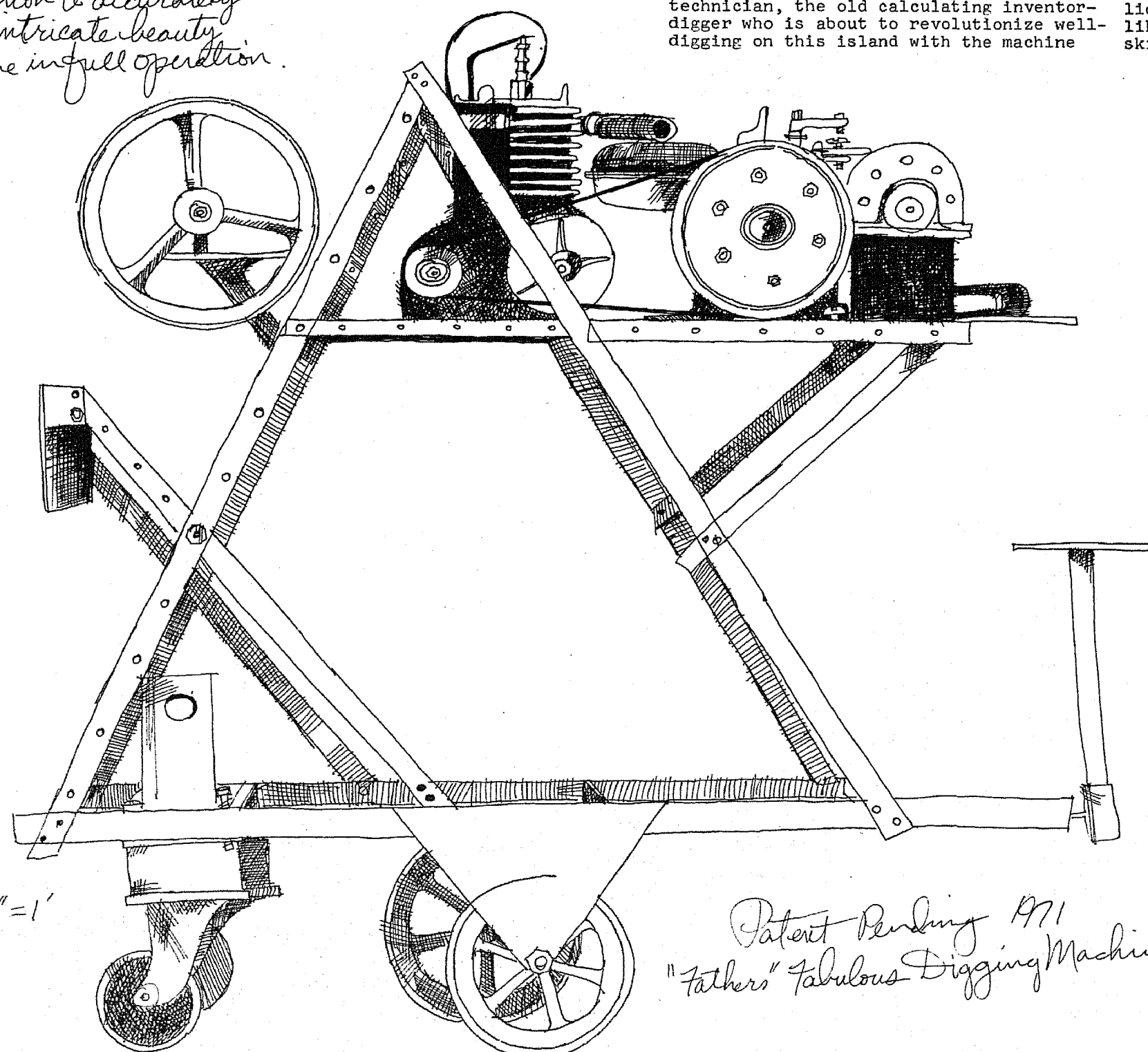
Father packs up his bit and his pump. He's got to get home. There's a machine out back which will transform the art of well-digging for evermore.

Artist's Note:

To prevent an anticipated dispute at the patent office in D.C. involving certain highly competitive local diggers, specific components of this machine have been classified CONFIDENTIAL by the inventor.

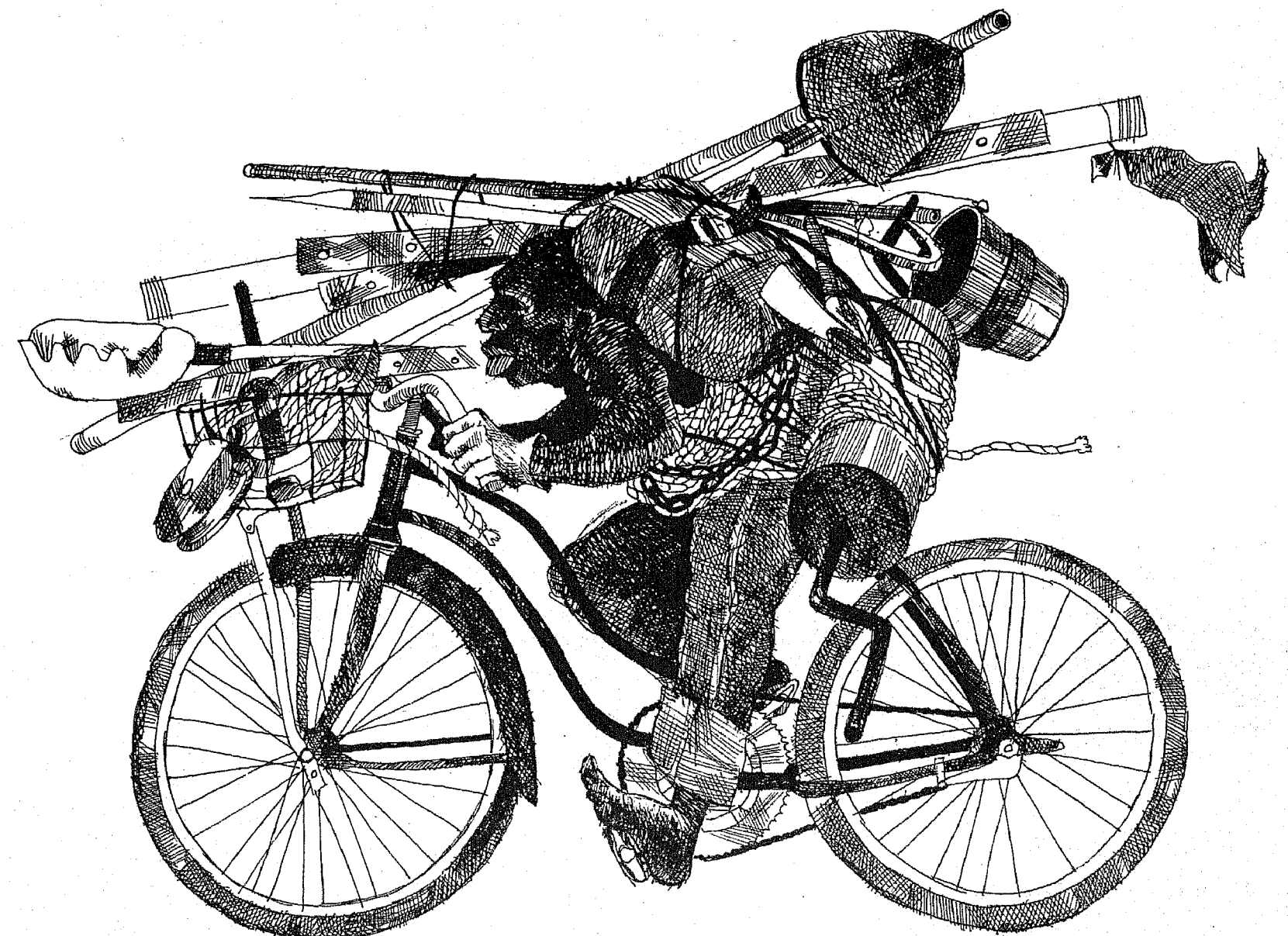
These components, all part of the highly sophisticated vertical shaft assembly which is essential for operation, have been omitted from this sketch in accordance with the regulations of this classification.

It is therefore necessary to make maximum utilization of one's imagination to accurately visualize the intricate beauty of this machine in full operation.



Scale: 1"=1'

Patent Pending 1971
"Father's" Fabulous Digging Machine



Ace & Ed



From: Ace Pickapart
To: Editor Sol Hill

Sol,

I was offered a job with your competition, but I turned them down. They wanted to do an exposé of you and your friends, but I am not a fink. Besides I like your paper.

Just because you are cheap doesn't mean you are a bad editor, does it? In any case, they wanted me to attend all the social events (all four of them) and interview kiddies on their birthdays. As long as I did not offend anyone important or anyone's family, I could do straight news reporting. I figured that left only a few hippies and the flaming seagulls; so I turned them down. Besides I had to supply my own film for pictures.

I guess you and I will have to carry on ferreting out the real stories in Key West.

Your Reporter,
Arny

From: Editor, Solares Hill
To: Ace Pickapart

Dear Ace,

I was the one who suggested the other editors hire you, but they said, "Not on a bet." It cost me two cases of scotch to "sacrifice" you to them; why did you let me down?

I fire you; you do not go; I get someone to offer you a decent salary; I even called the police to look you up, and you wind up interviewing them and taking pictures. I assign you all the miserable jobs, taking out the garbage, etc. and still you don't go away.

Arnold, please leave me. I don't like you. I even hate you. Please, please leave. I will pay your way by raft or rowboat - just leave me be!

S.H.

From: A. the Ace
To: Editor, Solares Hill

Dear Editor,

I have been around this town too long. What I mean is that I don't really look at things anymore, not as if they were newly seen. I tried to see this city as a tourist, and are we in trouble.

Take the front of your house - beautiful; but the back is a real dump. Ever look behind some of our beautiful homes and buildings? Eeh!

I suggest the paper give two public awards for property owners. One for civic minded people who clean up and fix up, give them, say, an orchid. Give those ech owners a prickly pear. In any case, everyone could clean up a little, just for their own pleasure.

I did my own clean-up project by cleaning out the petty cash drawer for my salary.

Yours,
Arny

Department of Good Ideas

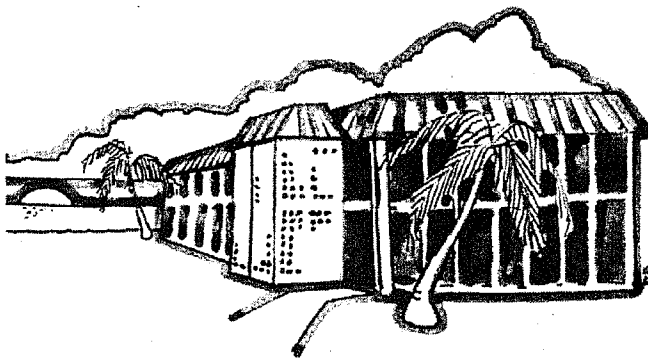
1. All car wrecker-tow trucks should carry brooms to sweep glass off the streets and into the gutters (or receptacles) after accidents.

2. Build a native conch-style reed thatched roof over the bandstand at Mallory Square. It would both look good and be functional.

Submitted by
"Tony" Boan

From Our Community College

Charles Peck



In the last issue we had a look at one of the aspects of the community school concept. This was the HEAP program, an endeavor to increase community participation and educational relevance.

The community school concept is an important development in educational philosophy. The objective is for the school to become an integral part of the community, serving ALL of the people of the community. In order for this concept to work there must be a need for the facilities of the school. I am sure most people, in the Key West area, would like to use these facilities for something. Some possibilities are recreational ... cards, theater, sports, clubs, or festivals ... others may be enrichment courses ... art classes, boning up on the three R's, vocational training, cake decorating, seminars, or anything else you would like. The only way this can become a vibrant reality is for the citizenry to take active interest in the program. Help yourself and the community evolve and thoroughly enjoy yourself. Participate.

These schools are ours. We pay the taxes which build and support our schools. Let's make use of this opportunity to elevate community consciousness. These classes or gatherings can be a very effective vehicle for the community, through the introduction of different groups to one another. With exposure comes greater understanding and mutual respect which results in more community cooperation.

The Key West area schools have such a program. The local college also has a program for increased community relatedness. If you have an idea either contact the Director of Community Schools, Robert B. Shaw (294-1861), or consult the coordinator of the school in your area. Those interested in finding out about the possibilities or programs available at our Community College should contact the student personnel office of the school.

People, these buildings belong to us! Let us open wide their doors and use that which is ours. If you want to do something, know something, or start something, get together with your neighbors and use the facilities you already have!

Community School Coordinators:

Cecil Bain, Jr.
Douglas Elementary School
801 Port Street
Key West, Florida 33040
Phone: 296-8911

Charles Chester
Coral Shores High School
Tavernier, Florida 33070
Phone: 852-8673

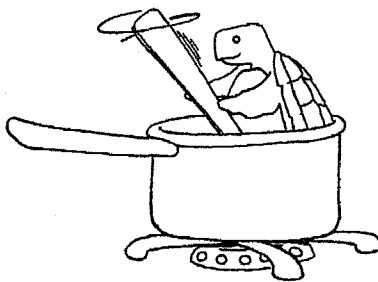
Lemond Leigh
Sigsbee Elementary School
Sigsbee Park (off Felton Rd.)
Key West, Florida 33040
Phone: 294-0807

Norman Patton
Key West High School
2100 Flagler Avenue
Key West, Florida 33040
Phone: 294-0448

Ronald F. Stone
Marathon High School
Marathon, Florida 33050
Phone: 743-3030

Mock Turtle Soup

Scott Guthery



Hot fun in the summertime. It could only happen Key West, and if you survive the month of August you've got it made. Anywhere north of the Seven Mile Bridge the rest of the United States is undergoing the summer vacation ordeal. Ford station wagons full of kids and air mattresses, gas stations full of kids and soft drink vending machines, motel swimming pools full of kids and chlorine. What could possibly be going on in Key West in the summertime?

Knock on wood, but the hurricane season hasn't dealt us a tiresome blow as yet. That amounts to tough luck for all the hardy souls who inhabit the local bars waiting for the hurricane. So they all go sit on a neighbor's floodlit front porch and play dominoes. Or some of them paddle their Coca-Cola rubber rafts about fifty yards off Southernmost Beach, toss an anchor, and forget the world. Some people might even go so far as to ride bikes into swimming pools. Anything to keep from going stir crazy.

Interrupting, momentarily, this lazy discussion, Mock Turtle Soup would like to simultaneously recognize a new Key West summer sport and award the first, second and third place prizes in our most recent unannounced contest. The sport might accurately, if informally, be called The Great Race to Make a Buck. Or perhaps The Billboarding of America. It amounts to a wild perversion of that already wayward industry: ADVERTISING. Anyway, the third prize goes to that unknown genius of a salesman who peddled dozens and dozens of neon signs in Key West. You know the signs that alternately blink white and yellow, then yellow and white. That salesman must be a marvel. Continuing, the second prize goes to a business which for months and until just recently had the first prize in the bag. It is, of course, the charter boat "Danny III". The award speaks for itself. And finally, in a tremendous come-from-behind victory, the winner of the 1971 Lady Bird Beautification Trophy is The Spanish Garden gift shop, located directly behind its very own billboard in the heart of Old Key West. Congrats!

Back to Key West in the summertime, afloat in oceans of mink oil lotion, aloe preparations, Busch Bavarian, spring tide floods, and Presidential Candidates. What more can be said when it is all so plain to see? Sitting back in my rattan rocker, wearing only Levi cut-offs and my stereo earphones, I suddenly get this picture of Duval Street on a hot Saturday night. Fifty thousand gleeful fools strolling along singing "Everything is Beautiful." If you make it through August the rest is easy.

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Ray's Bike Shop 906 Truman Avenue

Letters to Solares Hill

Editor
Solares Hill Publishing Company
812 Fleming St.
Key West, Fla. 33040

Dear Sir,

Re: Your editorial July

I found your editorial well written and extremely current in content and I only hope that those in the Commissioners positions take heed.

The young people's desire for a revolution of CONCERN now is very real and extremely overdue, but as in our bureaucracy, these remedial plans filter down with glacial speed. Some survive and some do not.

Key West now has available an educational achievement program, funded by the U. S. Government, HEAP, and we associated with it sincerely hope that it does not go in the same fashion of those mentioned in your editorial. HEAP (Higher Educational Achievement Program) is located at the Florida Keys Community College and is a program to assist the disadvantaged, those financially, academically and culturally. Key West, most certainly, qualifies in all respects.

It is obvious, that through education and better jobs, these inequities that exist within so many of our minority groups can slowly and surely be erased. But it takes more than just standing around on the corners bitching about it. Let's face it, Key West is certainly short of job availability, but the educational opportunities are HERE-----come and get them! The Vocational Technology portion of our school offers tremendous opportunity, for example: Marine Propulsion degrees. The Key West area, so water orientated, is ridiculously short of good small engine mechanics. If you doubt me, ask any boat owner; yet, this program goes begging-----why? We have a \$5000,000 marine engine laboratory and test facilities. They are HERE-----come and get them!

Strangely enough, those of us associated with HEAP, in our endeavors to recruit are having trouble contacting the Black youth in the community. We have contacted Wesley House and some young Black people, both here and in Marathon, but the "hard core" Blacks that you mentioned in your editorial, those who want THE CHANCE, are the hardest to reach. These, and Viet Veterans are the ones we know that we can help, so if your newspaper can, PLEASE help us reach these people.

I have also enclosed a new Spanish edition of the Florida Keys Community College catalog that was printed with the express purpose of reaching the Spanish speaking parents of the young. We at Florida Keys are concerned and we hope, in ways such as these, of assisting your revolution of CONCERN. How does that quote go? "One small step for man

Good Luck in the future for what appears to be an excellent newspaper.

Respectfully,

Robert J. Magaz
Counselor-recruiter
HEAP

July 21, 1971

Mr. Charles Peck
Solares Hill Publishing Co.
812 Fleming Street
Key West, Fla. 33040

Dear Mr. Peck;

As director of the Higher Education Achievement Program at the Florida Keys Community College, I would like to express my personal appreciation for the fine article that appeared in the Solares Hill last week about our program. You did a beautiful job.

We feel that your article will reach a lot of prospective students. Once our program gets underway you may desire to observe its operation. Please feel free to visit us.

Sincerely,

O. V. Harrell

Editorial

continued from page 3

Association raised. Much work was done inside the pool by the city recreational department under the able leadership of Bill Cates and paid for with money given to the city by City Electric for this purpose.

City officials say - and truthfully so - that the pool area is continually vandalized. With a pool supervisor during the day and a watchman at night, the pool would not be so vulnerable. How do you get kids to stop vandalizing? When you have a facility that is more exciting to keep than to destroy, is how. We need the city's help here. We want to fill up that pool and get it filled up with children this summer. The whole pool area can become the finest recreational facility south of Miami.

The only way to break the cycle of more delinquency, more police, more up-tightness leading to more delinquency, more police is to remove the reasons for delinquency. Make it more desirable to be law-abiding. Stop a policy of increased force; start a policy of better times. Rather than buy new police equipment and hire more policemen to curb the ever rising tide of delinquency, an effort would be made to give the kids something to do so that they wouldn't get in trouble in the first place.

This is what is meant by a change in priorities.

THIS IS OUR SUBSCRIPTION FORM

26 issues of SOLARES HILL is a lot of TOBER. We'll be on hand this summer chronicling the art and science of staying cool and landing those big ones. And we'll keep you posted this fall on the changing of the guard at City Hall. Our future interviews will corner black militants, renown playwrights, outspoken lawyers and presidential candidates. Subscribe now to the highest point in Key West, SOLARES HILL.

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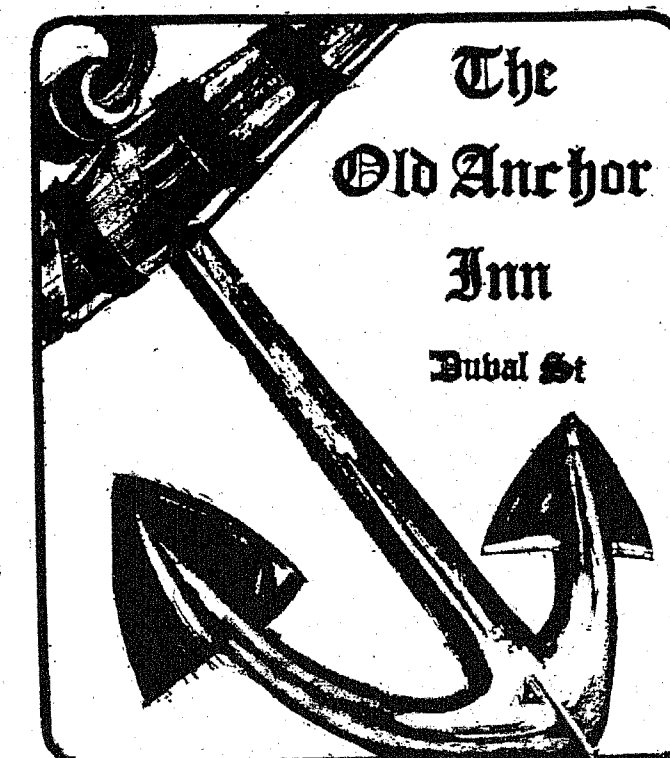
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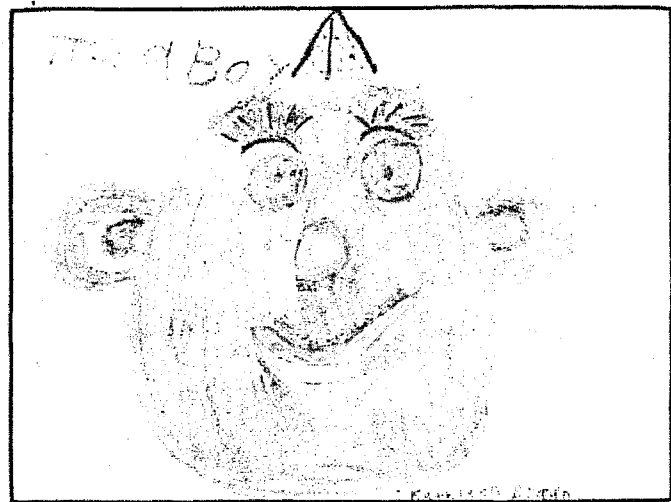
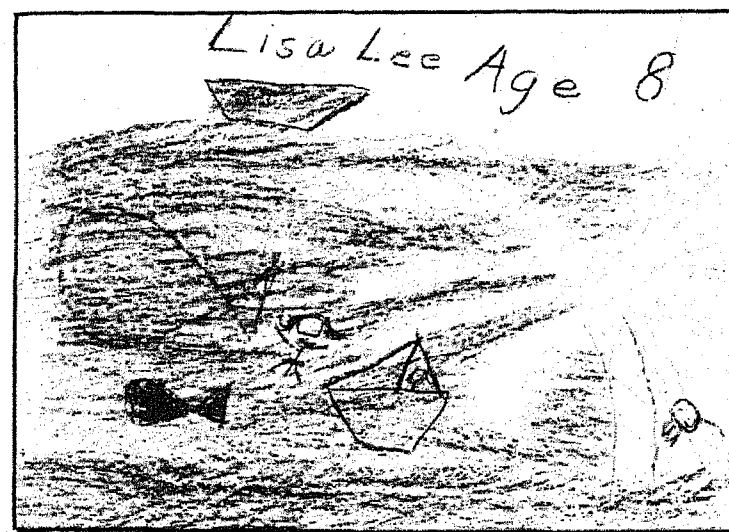
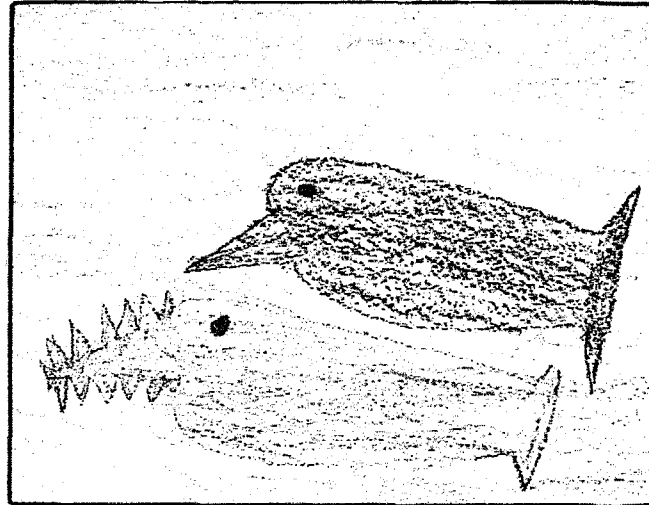
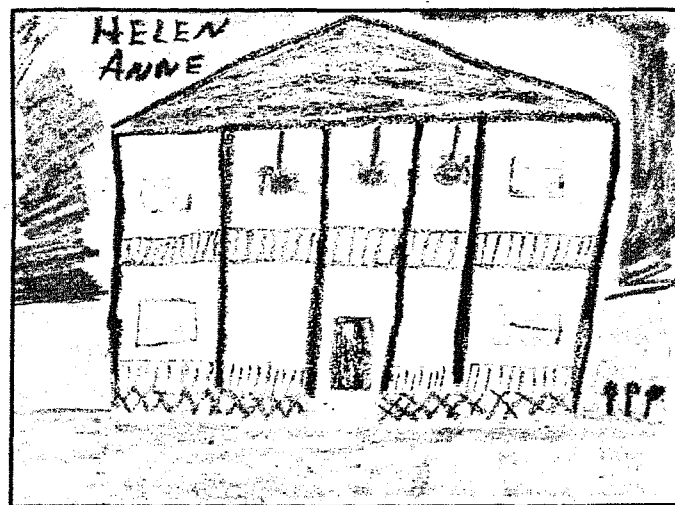
ARTISTS UNLIMITED

The Unique Art Gallery

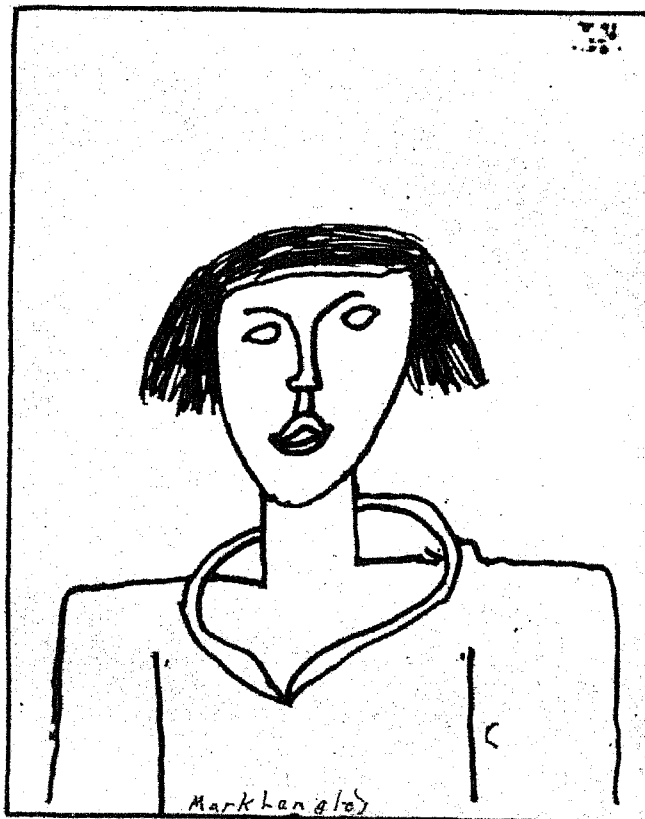
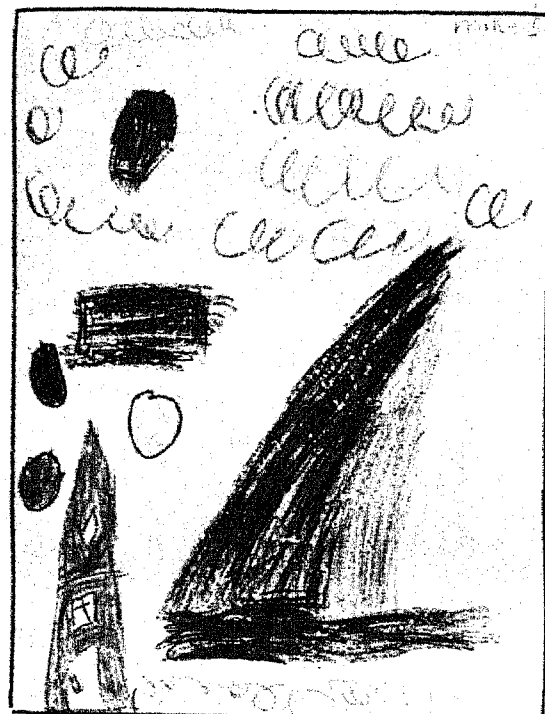
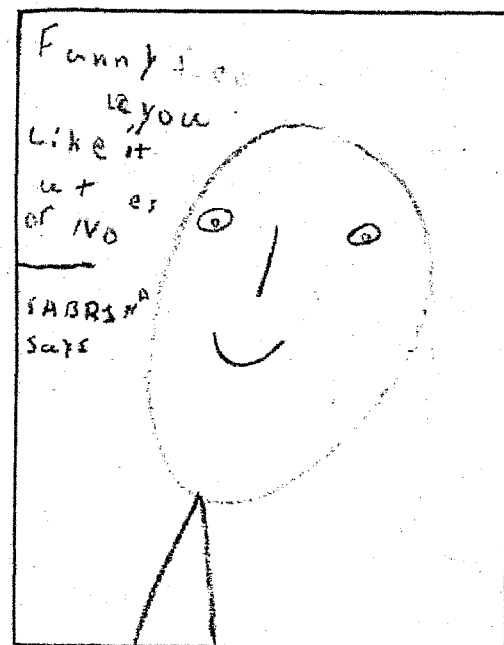
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The Kids Look at Key West



Solares Hill is proud to present a selection of Key West children's art. We had asked for drawings on local themes and, if you look carefully, you will spy familiar houses, faces, and boats.

Our thanks go to the Sunshine Training Center, Pat's Day Care, Mark Langley, and the kids of Winsor Lane for their contributions.

In the future, Solares Hill will run a special children's poetry page - local themes hoped for.

Round Table

continued from page 3

MACK: What kind?

TEACHER: Community . . . Check the streets on Whitehead; they're very rough, rocky, messed up. You can't say that is white territory. That's black territory, too. The whites are in that territory, the poor whites are there. That's a ghetto, but there are whites in there. It would bring more attention from the white power structure if oppressed people get together. They would feel more concerned if the whites were involved.

CAREY: It's such a small community to be so divided and its a great, great division. That's the thing. When you consider . . . there's like one of everything in Key West so everybody goes to that one of everything, like school. But yet when you get out of school, you are in a different world. Everybody else is in their world and nobody cares about what you're doing in your world. It just seems silly.

TEACHER: I think there is going to be a violent change.

PREWITT: How's it going to happen. Is there going to be more shooting?

TEACHER: All I got to say is that there's going to be a change and when it comes you'll know. It's necessary that white people get involved.

HUCKEL: Now, what I want to know, from what you said before, is what kind of program could be worked out with the white establishment that would make things better right now. If everyone was willing to do something so there would be no more violence, what could be done, what could they do?

TEACHER: Funds can be put into a self-help program to better opportunities.

HUCKEL: What about a program for the younger kids to do? A large scale recreation program, an educational program for the kids? Would that make a difference?

TEACHER: Yeah, it would make a difference. I'm hoping to see something like that.

MACK: But it would have to be to their taste.

TEACHER: A lot of young kids need help. They can easily get involved in a lot of things. I'm concerned about the young, concerned about the brothers going to school now. I'm going round and lecturing to the brothers about going back to school, because really you need to go. We need everybody to do something. Like I'm helping Margaret get a scholarship out there next year. The reason I don't like to speak verbally out there is because I don't feel I have enough support. I need support from all the people.

I'm very concerned about my young brothers. You need self help, just like you say, self-help programs. You'd be surprised some beautiful brothers out there have some beautiful heads, but, wow, I mean there's nothing being done to try to further their minds or their education. This is why they drop out. That's why they rebel in the school. People don't understand why these kids rebel over things in the school system. It's because its not geared for them. It's not geared to perpetuate the capitalists who are in these schools, who are in this whole town. It shouldn't be like that. It shouldn't be that way at all and this is what I'm concerned about.

HUCKEL: Could the police help by setting up a Police Athletic League or something like that?

CAREY: I don't think so.

MACK: No.

HUCKEL: Generally are there any cops that the young blacks can talk to at all?

CAREY: Not any more.

TEACHER: See, this is my personal opinion, I think the pigs here want to see crime. They protect oppression, they protect lots of things.

HUCKEL: Like what?

TEACHER: You can see it. Any law enforcement can do a lot to help but they don't want to help, they like crime. You can take it from the local all the way to the national. Just like the CIA. They don't want crime to stop. They talk about it but they don't want to help. They talk about stopping junkies, but they don't want to help . . . When junkies get out what happens? They pick them up again. Why not build a rehabilitation program. Why not rehabilitate the prisoners?

HUCKEL: That was one of Merlin Curry's eight points, to put in a rehabilitation center in Key West? Let me ask one other thing. When Merlin Curry, Reggie Burton and Cecil Bain headed up the eight point program and went before the City Commission, was this the start of unity among the young blacks, a common voice, a common ground? Was that the first real young leadership?

TEACHER: It was a beautiful thing but it never kept going. They had the support of the older black people at first, but then they lost their support.

HUCKEL: How did they lose it?

TEACHER: Well . . . they just didn't demonstrate enough, you know. I don't know if they had something against Merlin or what because when Merlin had his program going, it was a beautiful thing. He had support from the older people in the community and the people listened. The white power structure listened and because he had support from the older people. But after they deviated from Merlin the police started picking him up for any charge any bull shit charge. If they saw him on a corner, they'd say he's loitering or doing something else and they put him in jail. He had no more support from the older people. He lost interest in the community and they lost interest in him. I think Merlin and them had a beautiful program going.

PREWITT: Do you think there's any chance to have that again? To have some kind of very strong leadership that has the respect of the older blacks, the younger blacks and the establishment?

TEACHER: I think it would be even stronger because now it shows more meaning than it did then.

PREWITT: Do you think it could come through a kind of an organization like NAACP?

TEACHER: No it couldn't come through that. NAACP lost power the night of those arrests.

HUCKEL: Suppose NAACP was suddenly hip. It's known, it has money, it has prestige, it has access to lawyers, it can become a political focus, place where everyone can go and work things out. The main thing is that it is already here.

CAREY: I think you should wait on that. I think you should find another organization.

PREWITT: What's another one?

CAREY: I don't know, I'm not sure.

TEACHER: The NAACP can be a beautiful thing but its members are not geared to support the people. It's geared to support the people of the NAACP only.

MACK: Most members of the NAACP are against us. Besides, it's more like a one-man thing.

CAREY: And it's all wrapped up.

PREWITT: Is there any other kind of organization that you think could unite people and try to start changing things or do you think its going to have to come about informally?

TEACHER: I think another organization. If it shows respect for all people it would bring about more of a change then.

PREWITT: Do you know of anyone or any organization . . .

TEACHER: A new one would have to be formed.

PREWITT: Then there are none yet, as far as you know. Is anybody talking toward getting something together?

TEACHER: Yeah we talk, but we don't trust people.

MACK: Its hard . . .

TEACHER: Its hard to trust people in this town now because everybody is betraying everybody, you see. We want true people and we have a lot of true young blacks down there but they don't have anybody to put their faith into. Most people don't understand those young blacks down there in the ghetto. They don't have anyone that they can trust, so, what happens is they divert from alot of people.

MACK: Also there's no political party at all. Everything is bought.

HUCKEL: Do you think an organization could come about that related to young people and would speak for most of the people in the black community?

TEACHER: Sure I would like to do that. When I first finished college I wanted to be the Mayor of this town. I was serious about that; I was very serious about that. I'm not hung up on this bourgeois ideology thing. My life is no different from Jonah's or Margaret's because I'm a teacher. That's just a title. But I'm still black and I catch hell because I'm a black man. Not because I'm a teacher, not because I'm a minister, not because I belong to a different church, a Catholic church or Baptist church or any kind of church.

I catch hell cause I'm black. This is what we're hung up on you know this bourgeois idea: just eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow you might die. We don't give a damn what our brothers and sisters are experiencing. But the older generation is going to die. They won't live forever. They are blocking the path for the young ones to make it the way we want to do it. I believe in building a nation and to preserve that nation we need people who can do something. Most people, when they hear the word revolution, always think about armed struggle. Revolution is just not arm struggle. However, if all black people felt pessimistic, then Uncle Toms would be because they wouldn't hope anymore and couldn't. But as of now, I wouldn't tell brothers, let's go out in the street and be belligerent. That's not the way to do it. There's still another way. Like the self-help programs. If we can do something about that there can be some hope. But the minute black people feel that there is no hope, there will be trouble. But I see there's hope now, I feel optimistic.

HUCKEL: Hope of what sort?

TEACHER: Of help, but there's still going to be oppression no matter where you go.

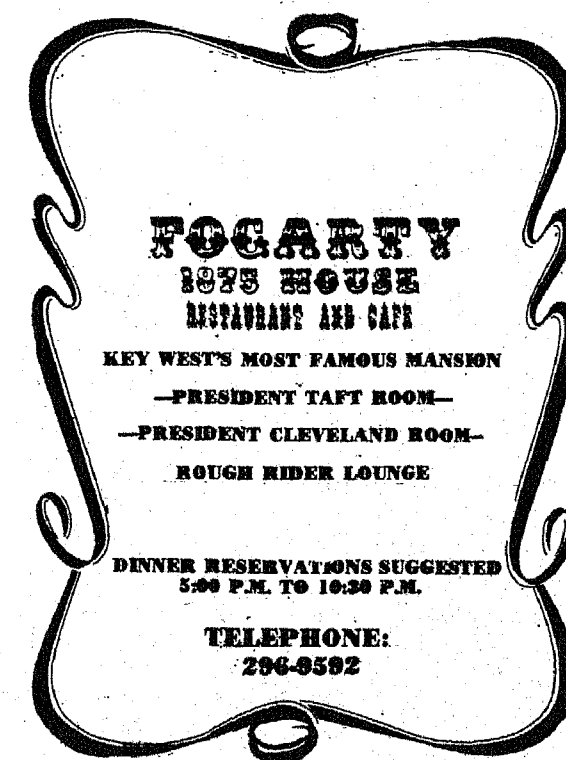
HUCKEL: Here in Key West particularly?

TEACHER: Sure. There's still this procrastination thing going on, these, empty promises. Eventually the people are going to pick up their guns cause they've been waiting too long.

HUCKEL: One of the necessary ways for there to be black progress is for the community to know that the black is discontented. Thus far there's been no dialogue.

TEACHER: That's what I been saying: you can't bend an old tree unless you break it. They see this disenchantment taking place with blacks, but there's nothing being said, nothing.

MACK: Right now the young blacks are more concerned about the brothers in jail, who were busted in the Mini park



White Ibis

Thurlow Weed

The White Ibis has a fine name: Eudocimus albus, which means "the famous white one in good standing." In earlier times, when it was harvested in numbers by hungry Floridians for the dinner table, it was called the Curlew.

The bird stands about two feet tall, and what is not white on it is red. That means the legs, face, and bill. The bill is the most interesting characteristic of this Ibis, for it is long and curves strongly downward, in the shape of a middle finger preparing to flick something. One other part of the bird is not white - the wingtips, which are black. But the black tips are seen only when it flies.

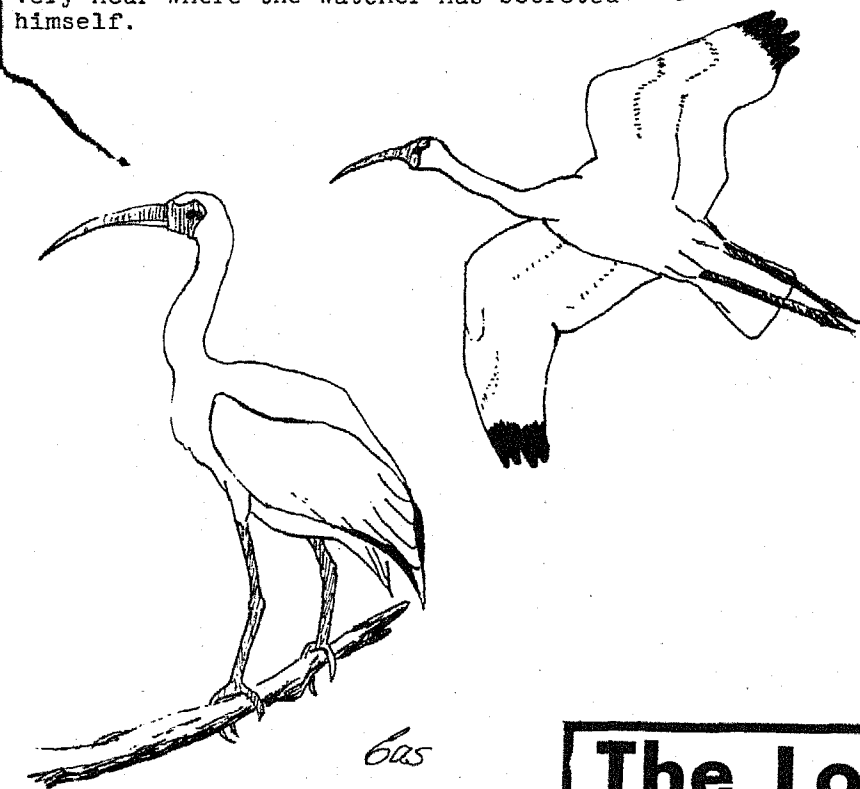
The immature bird is brown, which can confuse novices, and the adolescent is mottled brown and white. It takes about three years to mature.

In the United States, the Ibis' distribution is rather limited. It extends from the Brownsville area of Texas around to perhaps the Carolinas, and is essentially restricted to the coast or to marshy areas. This includes the Keys, of course, and the best place in Key West to spot these elegant birds is in the abandoned salt ponds near the airport.

Natural enemies include water moccasins, vultures, and the Fish Crow, which consumes large numbers of Ibis eggs. We do not have the Fish Crow in Key West.

The White Ibis is a congregational bird, seldom if ever appearing alone. The smallest group I've seen was three. And if Roseate Spoonbills and White Ibis are in the same area, they are usually found together, wading about in the shallows snuffling for the small crustacea they eat. It adds texture to the day to watch a slowly moving and mixing squad of white and pink circulate in the salt ponds.

But the watching must be done from a distance, for they spook easily. A close-up can be had by sitting absolutely motionless in the mangroves at the shoreline, for the birds are in constant motion as they feed and sooner or later will pass very near where the watcher has secreted himself.



Poems

THE WINDOW

e.g. alexander

a slow moving squirrel
with infants eyes
moves across the screen
balanced on a limb
he does his whole act
in less than a minute
then vanishes into
forgotten

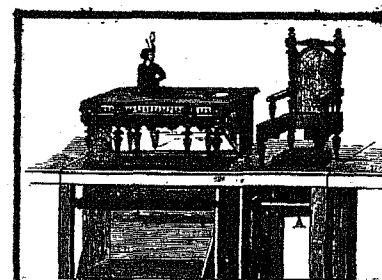
you ask how i spend
my time
this is how i spend
my time

HITCHHIKING THROUGH MIAMI

e.g. alexander

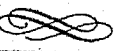
blind people
feeling secure
inside
their great
metallic beast
of burden
ignore me
and go
galloping
on down
the asphalt
unaware
they hide
in a game
of go seek

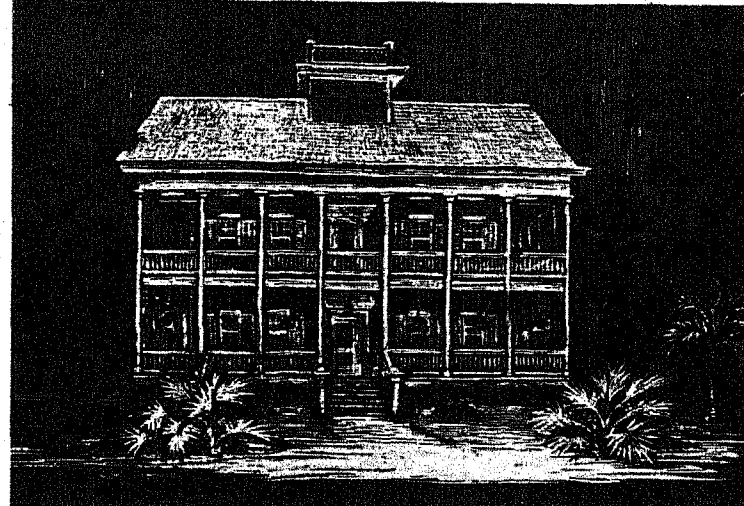
trying not
to feel
or look
sacreligious
between
modern age
biblical towers
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modern age
very very
well off
religious
architects
my fist out
thumb erect
as the
modern age
semi-popular
phallic symbol.



collages . . . and
constructions by
t.szuter

The Lowe House Nursery

HANGING BASKETS OF
BEGONIAS, FERNS, COLEUS
620 Southard St.
WHOLESALE  RETAIL



continued from page 11

than about self help programs. They feel that injustice is the scene. They say, "man, this shit going to happen all the time, but with support from both sides either this shit will stop or this shit won't happen."

HUCKEL: *Do you think a lot of people just want this to be the answer to all the problems. Now that they're locked up every thing is going to be allright so let's forget them.*

CAREY: I think alot of people don't even know what happened after that bust. They probably thought everybody went home and started living again.

MACK: I don't think that, although that bust stopped a lot of things, it also started alot of people thinking.

TEACHER: That bust was a Mickey Mouse show. It really was.

HUCKEL: *Well, Jonah, you were there weren't you?*

MACK: Yeah, I just got busted, I got busted in the park, like I told you.

CAREY: I don't know . . . I think people should be made aware of what's happening.

HUCKEL: *You said, people should be made aware. You can hear a pistol shot, but how many do they have to hear? Do you think something is going to happen between now and the next pistol shot?*

MACK: There's a possible chance that it can. But a lot of the brothers are only thinking of a gun and will continue to gun their way and liberate because there's no other way.

HUCKEL: *A lot of the white community really doesn't know what's happening, they just don't know. That's one of the purposes of this interview. Every-one will have a chance to find out what just what it is that's happening.*

MACK: Like the brother went to line-ups without lawyers.

TEACHER: Right. . . they didn't give them their rights, like the right not to say anything until they see a lawyer. You don't railroad people like that. But that's what they're doing in this system.

HUCKEL: *If something could come about like a crash program that could be set up within say three to five weeks, like the Wesley house that's going to take care of about 150 preschool kids. Supposing that there were eight or ten qualified groovy recreational instructors who were able to come down and somehow set up a program for a lot of the kids who are in school but in the lower grade, so there'd be something for them. They would be going on outings - field trips.*

MACK: The recreational facilities should be set up for the younger kids. Those from ages 14 on up, should have a program with an educational basis, like a school program.

HUCKEL: *Supposing that they had a complete summer program with very hip courses down here and it was on this summer and suppose that you had a very hip black instructor who was laying out groovy high raps, do you think that a lot of the brothers would go?*

MACK: Yeah, sure. Definitely.

HUCKEL: *In other words, you could really have a happening here at Douglass School.*

MACK: I think it would come out nice, because this is what they want. They want to get into something that they can voice, how they want it voiced. Not, you know, restricted by the system. If it is controlled by the system, the rules are set down by the system.

HUCKEL: *What you mean is that they'd receive credit for attending this, or is it just having a free school, an open school . . .*

MACK: To an extent it would be a free thing, but they still get credit for it.

* Third World Attitude. . . attitude held by many American blacks that they are united with the non-white peoples of Africa, Asia, and South America in a struggle against their white oppressors.