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Vol. IV, No. I

Key West, Florida

January, 1979



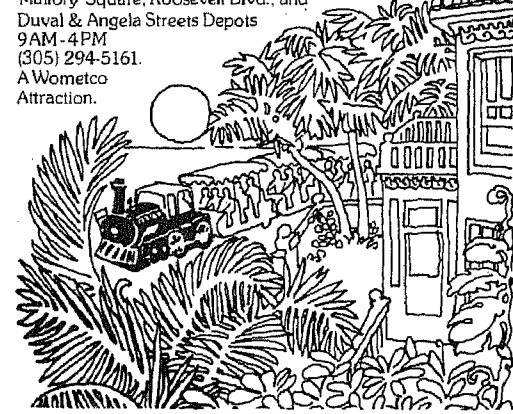
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From the Editor

BULLETIN CRITICAL CONCERN RATIFIED BY STATE LEGISLATURE

IN AN EPIC VOTE, the Florida House and Senate on December 6, 1978, almost unanimously reestablished the designation of Area of Critical State Concern for the entire Florida Keys Area and the Green Swamp Area. In doing so, the legislature set up a joint select committee of the house and senate for the purpose of studying those provisions of Chapter 380, Florida Statutes, and the laws, boundaries, rules, regulations and procedures governing the designation, regulation and protection of areas of critical state concern. The committee is to prepare recommendations and present them to their respective houses on or before March 15, 1979. The special act is automatically repealed on July 1, 1979, making it mandatory for the legislature to act in order to continue the designation.

"THE TELEGRAM and mailgram response by the citizens and conservation groups was fantastic," reported David Kluckman, Florida Audubon Society attorney in Tallahassee. Ted Forsgren, Senior Planner of the Division of State Planning, wrote, "The telegrams and other communications helped to show the legislators that there was local citizen support for continuing the program."

THE SPECIAL Legislative committee is composed of Senators John Vogt, Warren Henderson, Vince Fechtel and Robert McKnight. The house members are Representatives John Lewis, Frank Mann, Dale Patchett and Fred Jones. The committee is expected to visit the Keys to collect evidence and hear testimony. Interested citizens should be alert for press releases on the subject and be prepared to attend meetings or hearings and express their opinions. Mail and telegrams may be addressed to the members at the Senate or House Office Building, Tallahassee, Florida 32304.

Hello --

JACK MATHEWS will be missed when he retires from being the City Clerk and Zoning Director. This man has given the public conscientious, polite, intelligent, and unstinting service during his 18 years at City Hall. I'm sure that I speak for the many people who have frequent dealings with officials when I say that Jack Mathews was the embodiment of the able public servant. Good luck, Jack, and enjoy your retirement!

SPEAKING OF good acts by public officials, I would like to congratulate County Supervisor Will Roberts, C.E.T.A. Coordinator Joe Alonso, and Wayne Marshall, the director of the Florida Keys Marine Institute, for their success in getting much needed funds re-instituted for the very worthy Marine Institute. This program has been a great aid to many young people in our community and deserves adequate funding.

WE'RE USING this logo at the end of our articles. It looks better than putting "the end" after each piece.

BILL WESTRAY did a terrific job in getting together all the information on which he bases his questioning of the wisdom of financing the new \$3 million dollar pipeline. He will have a follow-up article in our February issue on this vital issue.

SOME MONTHS AGO we wrote on a very colorful local woman nick-named "Caledonia." In the article it stated that she died at the mental institution in Chattahoochee. Her son told me that she died here in Key West at home. I'm sorry for the mistake.

Cover artist this time is Robert Kennedy. His works may be seen at the Kennedy Studios, Duval at Greene Street.

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With a little help from our friends . .

Solares Hill Co., Inc.

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Josepha and Shorty

by Phoebe Coan

photo by Richard Marsh

ONE WINDY DAY, hanging out in front of the Conch Shop (second block of Petronia from Duval, near Thomas Street), I took a gander at a very delicious sounding menu. Posted right on front of the powder blue building, the menu gave a preview of the goodies that waited inside.

"The very best in Soul and Seafood," claims the menu. Horace Mobley, who learned to cook from his wife, Josepha, says it is the conch meat which has given him the energy to work two jobs these many years. He is sometimes known as

things. It usually always turns out for me."

AS THE MENU STATES, one can get pigeon peas, white or yellow rice, souse, sausage and potato salad. The conch dishes are fritters, steak, chowder, salad, stew and soup. There is ice cold soda and beer. There is lima bean soup, black eyed peas, pork chops, fried chicken, baked ham, fried fish, fried ham, boiled fish, stew beef, piccadillo, barbecue beef, corn bread, fried cabbage, chili, collards, pork, string beans, and, of course, ham-

ports. "Everybody knows us and our children," she says.

(I did, as I realized. For Josepha's son, Horace, had been a student of mine when he was in 5th grade ten years ago at St. Mary's.)

JOSEPHA'S LITTLE ONES grew up with a Momma who cooked for everyone. The table was always laden with hearty good tasting food, prepared for them by a woman who loved to whistle while she worked. A lady who even today can't stop whistling from the moment she gets up in the morning to greet her birds.

"I've got 3 parakeets and some green necked doves, plus a dog left to me," she says. "About 10 years ago there was a big blow from Cuba, and the birds came with it. We were able to rescue a few parakeets at that time."

BUT ANYWAY, at Josepha's table, there was room for everybody and plenty of good food to eat. "Always the children wanted a friend to stay and eat with them. It gave the children a good appetite to have their friends join us."

"We had a rough time, but I've always had good luck. We worked hard and made it happen. You can make anything happen that you want to," says Shorty. "I tell my children, just be willing to work for it without resentments. When I was little, I always thought I'd want to get a house for my family when I'd become a man. I've worked two jobs for a long time now, to make it happen."

"We have property, too, now," says Jo. "We don't have to worry anymore."

I WOULD DESCRIBE Shorty as "a radiant being."

And Josepha, I would call her "a woman of great sweetness and generosity of spirit, purity of heart."

"Snake," a famed local figure, calls Jo a "considerate" woman.

THE FOOD tells you such things. She brought a crab enchilada for me to try. It was reminiscent of Mexican Indian moles. A rich, dark savory sauce with little red crab claws, from which one could suck the sweet bits of meats. A little wine to flavor the conch, crab and shrimp blended into this creation. A work of art! Served with rice and bread, if you wanted. The portions are abundant, and the price is right.

"Put a little more cream in your coffee," she urged.

MOST EVERYTHING is made from scratch here. Even white navy beans are turned into the most sumptuous baked beans. Folks from Depoo Hospital request Josepha to bring some for their covered dish Christmas supper each year.

"I cook for my friends and I was cook-



Horace ("Shorty") and Josepha Mobley

Shorty, and she as Jo. "We work real good together," says Jo. "The Conch Shop has helped us raise our seven children."

JO STARTED OUT as a busy housewife trying to make a few extra dollars with a table set up by the project, selling homemade conch fritters, and with Shorty's help has created a unique business with a devoted following of food lovers.

"I cook heart and soul," says Josepha. "I don't have recipes. I don't measure the amounts, or taste the food. I just know what will be good, and I look for the expressions on people's faces to tell me. When I do use a recipe, I add my own

burgers and frankfurters. Also there are large trays of scrumptious looking pound cake at the small counter section of the take out shop, lapped with generous sweeps of creamy topping and trays of little key lime tarts waiting to be filled.

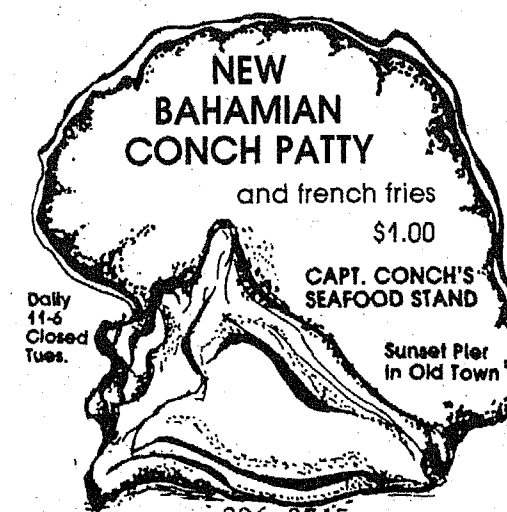
A LOVELY PATIO adjoins the shop area. Many healthy plants hang in baskets and grace the grounds: springer rye, crotons, aloe, Eureka palms, white bougainvillea, to mention a few. Josepha is a good gardener.

The restaurant has a good reputation. "The food is good," I was told by the most discerning diners. The owners of the Claire, a new gourmet restaurant, have frequented the Conch Shop, Jo re-

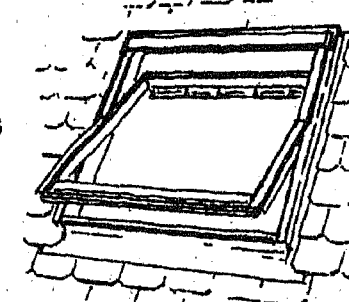
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ing for everybody long before I went in-
to business," says Jo.
Josepha sticks to herself mostly.
"But everyone comes to my house," she
says.
"I like being here with the people --
joking and teasing," says Shorty happily
of the Conch Shop. "Everyone is welcome."

WHEN SHE IS TOO TIRED, as may sometimes
happen, Josepha won't open. But generally
the hours are from about 7 p.m. 'til 1 a.m.
on weekdays, depending on the flow. On
weekends they'll go 'til 3 or 3:30 a.m.
Jo comes in to prepare the food from 12
to 1 each day. "I cook it and I come
out and I serve it," she smiles. Every-
day there is something different on the
menu.

BOTH OF THEM are a team behind the
counter. They anticipate and accommo-
date each other. One of them is packing
up orders to go. The other, dishing out
the hot sumptuous food onto big platters
from the steamy pots on the big black
stove.

There are a lot of young people and
family people in the shop. Sometimes
Jo's son's wife works with them.

"None of my kids really wanted to work
here," she says, "though one of the girls
helped out a lot and Terry did." The
children are: Betty (32), Terry (31),
Patrick (29), Rita (27), Horace (23),
Ricky (23), and Aly (21). Most are in
California now. Although she has not
often left Key West, where she was born
and raised, Josepha does go out to San
Diego now to visit her kids and cook up
some specialties.

SHE STARTED her business with a little
take-out place on Thomas Street in her
mother's front yard. "Conch kids, like
the son of Lovebloom the taxi driver,
used to bring us crates filled with fresh
conch and that got things going. In
those days, I didn't know much of cooking
and I didn't know if I could make the

bean soup, but I learned," said Jo.

After 20 years of turning out big
steamy pots of good food for everyone,
Josepha has customers who return each
year from all over to take back her
batter for fritters. She has a nice
sweet way of speaking. We talk of feed-
ing children. "Cook what they like,"
she says.

An old friend comes by and they em-
brace.

Horace takes over in the kitchen while
we sit in the very pleasant patio sipping
decaffeinated coffee. She'd been sick
that day and had a blood test, but was
gracious enough to withstand all my prob-
ing.

Son Patrick pops in and talks about
the importance of food looking good and
having an appetizing color. "That has a
lot to do with kids' appetites," he claims.
"When you cook you just have to cook
heart and soul."

"My husband" works hard here. He works
eight hours civil service and comes home
and showers and then comes here -- some-
times without hardly a rest inbetween."

"I DON'T KNOW how I manage it. I just
go along with it," he smiles. "I get a
lot of my energy from loving God and hav-
ing faith."

"Restaurant work is hard work" says
Jo, as her silver scarab ring (gift from
the eldest son) shines in the dark. "You
have to like it to stay in it."

"Saturday and Sunday mornings, Horace
and I like to go out to eat. One of my
favorite places is Eddie's Little Lunch-
eonette. I think it's changing hands
now." (It is now Sp'g Eddie's).

JOSEPHA'S FATHER, Bruce Saunders, dug
wells for the city. He died 9 years ago.
He was well known. "My childhood was al-
right," she shrugs. "I came from a good
family. We had what we needed."

"Everyone had a lot of fish, and what
people are now calling soul food is what

my mother prepared. Her red rice with
corn, you'd lick your fingers after."

(I WAS JUST doing the same with the
icing from my cake plate.)
"And, we drank water with our dinner.
My favorite food is just good food. Now
I'm on a diet for the diabetes and my
heart. I cheat all the time.
"I love music...any kind. That's why
I'm always whistling."

PEOPLE ARE in and out from off the
street using Josepha's rest room. "The
same people come at the same times to
eat," Horace says of the long evenings.
"It's very predictable. Now we get a
few when the Greene Street Theatre lets
out, too," he says. "This is mostly a
neighborhood business."

"Our secret recipe (which is no secret)
for working together is that we understand
each other. I love music also."

On 3-4 hours of sleep a night, Horace
made it through many of the early years
when they were building their business.
"This new place got paid for pretty fast,"
he says. "It is a pleasure to be able
to work."

He says that his favorite food is
conch. "It's brain food." His favorite
dish is the cracked conch -- which is
natural conch with a batter on it, dropped
in oil to puff up. It is also tenderized
(cracked).

THE LIGHTS of Christmas twinkle where
they have been tossed upon the bougainvillea.
Outside the newly bricked Petronia -- still
the most lively street in Key West --
greet me. Across from the Conch Shop,
the Community Cleaners is jumping.
I think about cooking, heart and soul,
and determine to do better.



MOTHER AT THE BAR

AFTER THE PURCHASE, we three maneuver
down Duval Street -- Mother, a tiny, aged,
inscrutable lady, flanked by grandson and
daughter, Buddy and me.

Mother follows the hum of talk, the
big laughs and the clinking glasses and
primly places her little size five shoes
under a table in the whoops-se-doodle
sidewalk bar.

With dainty aplomb, she nods regally
to right and left as though it were a
revival meeting at a brush arbor under a
West Texas summer moon about the time
that President McKinley was shot.
"It's a bar, Mother."

A WAITRESS presents herself, a well-
endowed girl with a T-shirt lettered,
"Pray for me; I pass on U.S. 1."

Mother raises her eyes like two chips
of turquoise under glass from beneath
her little, fuzzy pink net bonnet. "It's
people who don't go home because they don't
know what to do when they get there," she
comments enigmatically.

She declines refreshment and scrabbles
under a table. "Raise your foot," she
instructs a startled drinker, who com-
plies.

She triumphantly displays her find, a
colored post card, and opens one of the
two purses she always carries.

OUT COMES her collection. A rubber
band encloses her post cards. Post
cards which visitors to Key West drop
with half-written messages.

You mightn't believe that upon such a
slender premise such a passionate hobby
could persist.

"The best one came from that perfume
continued on page 7



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Article I- Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Article II- A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Article III- No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Article IV- The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Article V- No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Article VI- In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law; and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of Counsel for his defense.

Article VII- In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Article VIII- Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Article IX- The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Article X- The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Think about it.



518 DUVAL STREET / KEY WEST, FLORIDA 33040

PALMS & PELICANS continued from page 5
place. But, I found another good one in Dr. Carraway's waiting room."

She lovingly spreads out her colored bits of cards upon the table, which I have slogged.

Most of the cards are picture postcard cliches such as those famous polydactyl cats at Hemingway House. From a dark picture frame on the wall of the open bar, Hemingway looks down reproachfully.

TWO LOCALS, John, night club entertainer, and John, cigar salesman, settle onto stools and place orders.

"So I use ear plugs so as not to disturb my wife's sleep, see? I go to sleep listening to Johnnie Cash. When I wake this morning, they have stolen my record player and cut me clean loose. I still had the ear plugs in my ears."

MOTHER OFFERS for viewing a card from her collection. It reads, "Sweetheart-Darling, Jim went gone-minded and I had to..."

The plan of action and Jim's ultimate landing forever remain mysteries. But, as one can readily see, this is what is sporting in the collection of uncompleted post cards.

ANOTHER LOCAL, John, house painter, cat-foots over to join his two friends.

"What ya say, John."

"Hi, John."

"You there, John."

"Too many of the Apostle John's namesakes in this place," reproves Mother in the tone she used to hush three little students cleaning the blackboards in her one-room western country school house in 1898.

A BAREFOOT street girl enters and passes among the tables, panhandling. As she receives a contribution, she shifts a large baby she is carrying. "She rents that baby," says Mother.

holding up another card from her collection.

It reads, "Meet me at the Monster, when the moon waxes, under the fan and..." A dusty heel mark obscures further intent on this card.

"Found it on the floor of the bank," explains Mother.

My Perrier water consumed, we ready for departure, and I look about for Buddy.

"He's playing pool table," informs Mother, tenderly berthing her collection in one of her purses, like gold bars into a vault.



PHOTOGRAPH OF M STREET

High old houses smell of wood
Cash register rings authority
A light green bicycle is chained
To a black wrought iron fence
Across an alley between two brick buildings
A lady in a blue blouse
Blue triangled pattern skirt
Blonde hair
Talks with her hands
They flutter around a bit like birds

"Why strain your budget to buy the car you want?"

Asks a sign in the window
Of the bank

"Why indeed?" replies the bicycle

Chained to the fence

A tree spreads its branches

Like a green park fountain spray

Against the brown brick wall

He was watching from a cafe, coffee in his hand

While dreaming of an island where the street stops at the sand.

by Jody Adams

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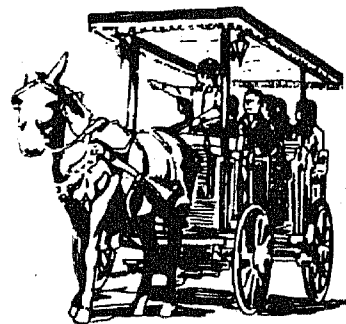


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notes and antic-dotes

by Dorothy Raymer

MOM'S TEA TOOM had a cozy sound to its title, but it wasn't everyone's cup of tea. In fact, it was one of the better known establishments for prostitution, located out on Stock Island in a grove of palm trees.

Mom's flourished for years and was a favorite hangout for the military, even though it had been declared offbounds by the powers that be. The structure looked quite sedate on the outside, like a turn-of-the-century bungalow-farmhouse with encircling porch and a backyard. There were no chickens on the grounds, however; the birds were all inside and of a more exotic kind.

TRUE OR NOT, there was a very funny legend connected with the bawdy house, which was located in the immediate vicinity of the residence of Key West's city manager, Dave King. The story went that a visiting admiral and his lady, from Washington, D.C., went out to Stock Island to pay a courtesy call on Dave King. Their official car was driven by a navy man new to the area, at least to Stock Island and environs.

He drove to Mom's Tea Room instead of the city manager's abode! He was sent to the door of the dwelling with an engraved card bearing the name of the visiting naval VIP, with instructions to give it to the maid to place in the calling card tray.

IT WAS REPORTED that the admirals' card was later shown as evidence that Mom's Tea Room was an elite and accepted place of assignment.

I was on the staff of *The Key West Citizen* when I reported for work early in the morning of January 6, 1952. Publisher Norman Artman notified me that I had an immediate assignment on Stock Island. Jokingly I asked, "No doubt I'm to go after a story about Mom's Tea Room." And much to my surprise, my boss replied, "That's right! How did you guess?"

"Then he told me," as they once kidded about those World War II educational movies. I learned fast!

THERE WAS A REPORT of a murder at Mom's, and I was to go out to Stock Island and get the story. The problem was obtaining a car. It was suggested that I get in contact with the *Miami Herald* representative, Adon Taft, and also take Lew McClain, a free-lance photographer, along. This was back in the days when the *Citizen* staff and resources for transportation were limited.

I hurried over to the Southernmost Hotel on Duval Street to rouse Taft. He came into the lobby looking disgruntled, since it was only around 7:30 a.m. and too early for his usual assignment time. But he perked up when I told him of the murder rumor.

IN THE HOTEL LOBBY was a middle-aged man, somewhat heavy-set, who wore hornrimmed glasses which did not conceal his alert eyes. He, too, perked up, all attention when he heard our conversation. He got up from his chair and introduced himself.

"Excuse me for butting in," he said, "but I am Crowell Bowan of the *New Yorker Magazine*. I write the crime section (the magazine had one at that time), and I couldn't help overhearing about your mission. I'm up early to go aboard a shrimp trawler, but I think a murder in a house of ill-fame would be much more exciting and right up my alley. Could I possibly trail along with you?"

SO WE AGREED to take Bowan with us. There was only one drawback. The writer was very lame, and he slowed us up as we rushed about. However, he was helpful with advice which offset the handicap somewhat.

We picked up McClain and his camera first, then drove out to Mom's Tea Room, located off McDonald Avenue in a quiet section of the island. The establishment, nestled in a grove of coconut palms, was shuttered and peaceful as we drove past it two or three times, and then investigated the back section of the property, which was also devoid of any sound or movement.

THE ASTUTE *New Yorker* writer advised that we seek the nearest all-night bar, Wylk's, and do a little advance query. "After all," he pointed out, "places like Mom's don't open at such early hours. They probably just closed before dawn and everyone is asleep."

The scouting trip continued with a visit to Wylk's big bar that stayed open 24 hours around the clock. Sure enough, the bartender, "Mickey Mouse" Rodriguez, had information to impart. He said the whole neighborhood knew that a girl named Rita who was employed at the "tea-room" had been taken to the hospital the night before, at about half past nine, but that she hadn't been killed by anyone.

Said Mickey Mouse, "She took an overdose of sleeping pills, they say."

WE MADE ANOTHER TRIP to Mom's and parked around in the rear of the premises. Bowan said that a woman might gain admittance easier than a man, so I was delegated to venture the approach while the men stayed in the car.

I knocked at the back entrance after opening the screen door on the frame porch. At the third attempt an answer came. A stocky, gray-haired man opened the door a few inches and peered at me. He spotted the three male occupants of the car, sized me up, and evidently assumed that I had come out to the house for a party. At least that's what Bowan said afterward.

Anyway, he did open the wooden door further and I went part way into a room that was the kitchen.

"You're a little early for action," he said.

"I'd like to speak to the ...er...ah...madame -- that is, the manager," I explained.

"She's asleep, so you can't talk to her. I'm in charge right now," the man said.

I asked him his name and he grinned.

"My name is Hi Mister. Everybody calls me that -- just Hi Mister."

HE FLASHED a huge yellow diamond on his little finger as he waved his hand airily and asked, "Just what did you have in mind? Maybe arrangements could be made for your party later on."

At that point, Taft, Bowan and McClain piled out of the automobile, and Hi Mister scrutinized them as they crossed the yard and came toward the porch. However, they never got any further. Hi Mister saw McClain's camera and suddenly realized we were a press party. He shoved me backward and nearly all the way outside. I stuck my foot in the door, though, and he couldn't quite close it.

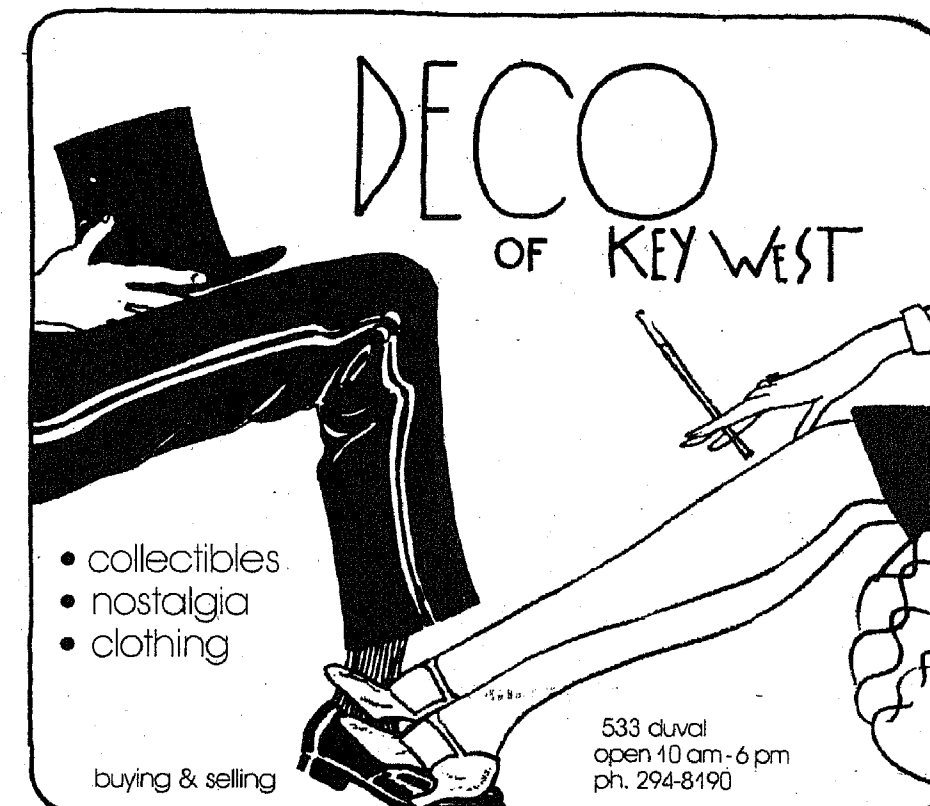
MY ESCORTS stood outside, and Taft said, "We just want to talk to you about what happened here last night. We heard there was a killing, and then we heard the death was a suicide of one of the -- ah -- employees."

Bowan began the buttering up. "You look like an intelligent fellow. You can help us. Why don't you come out on the porch and give us some information?"

Hi Mister responded and walked out, closing the door firmly behind him. "Okay," he said, "but I really don't know much about the girl. Her name was Rita Rogers, but I guess that was not her real moniker because she was Portuguese. All I know for sure is that she is dead. They didn't take her to



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the hospital in an ambulance. When she was found about 9:30 p.m., somebody, never mind who, rushed her off to the hospital in a car. I didn't know if she was dead then or not."

HI MISTER turned out to be very talkative once he got started. "Rita was a nervous type. Quiet and sort of timid. You must remember she wasn't living a normal life." At this statement Crosswell Bowan snorted and commented, "That's an understatement, you can bet!"

"Well, Rita just got back from Miami about two days ago, and she kept moaning around that she wanted to die. She didn't really like men. She was a Thesbian."

"Don't you mean a lesbian?" I asked.

THE DIAMOND GLITTERED in the morning sun as Hi Mister gestured and shrugged. "Whatever she was, she had a fight with her girl friend here, and she was fed up with life. You see, she had to work here, too, if she wanted to be with her girl friend. And since she didn't go for men at all, it got to be too much for her, I guess."

He gave some final valuable information, revealing the name of the doctor the girl had called in the afternoon on Sunday. He said that Rita was now at a local funeral parlor, where we could also find the ambulance driver who had brought her from the hospital.

AT THE FUNERAL HOME, the ambulance driver said his knowledge was limited and that the girl was already dead when admitted to the emergency room, where a stomach pump had been used to no avail.

Calling from the funeral parlor to the hospital was frustrating. The nurse said, "The girl you speak of was not a patient here really. She was dead when brought in. Check with the funeral home." Which was where my call was being made!

HOWEVER, the undertaker was more cooperative. "The body was brought here

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around 11:30 last night. When I talked to the coroner, he said to just keep the corpse and not do anything until the death certificate has been signed, and that he would let me know when it was. So about midnight the call came through, and the coroner told me to go ahead and embalm. I didn't even know the victim's name or what funeral arrangements were to be made. Somebody said the woman's folks were in Portland, Maine. I have the body ready for shipment."

He asked if we would like to view the body, and we were escorted into a room where there was a wheeled table bearing a sheet-covered form. The attendant stripped down the sheet. The unclad woman lay in repose with arms folded across her chest. Her features were aquiline and rather severe-looking. The mouth was firm even in the finality of death. The figure was trim and well-modeled, about five feet, four inches in length. The dark brown hair was cut in a mannish bob.

As we grouped around the table, somebody murmured, "Pretty good-looking babe, wasn't she?"

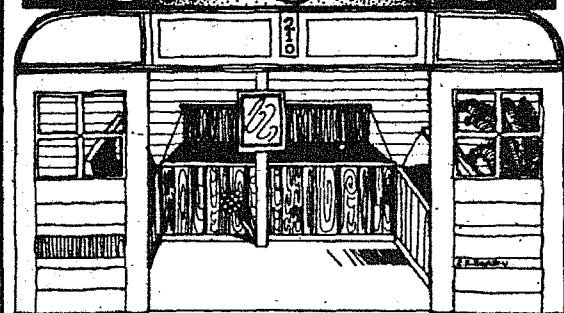
WE DROVE OVER to Whitehead Street from the funeral home to discuss the case with the coroner. He was on the telephone when the press unit paraded in, and from the tail-end of the one-sided conversation we learned that he was in touch with the funeral home and had been alerted to our arrival.

The coroner began on a defensive note. "I don't know much about the affair. You'll have to talk to her physician. He was taking care of this woman, and he signed the death certificate. If this is deemed a suspicious death, then we turn the case over to the sheriff's office. Otherwise, it's just routine."

I WAS BOLD ENOUGH to question this. "Don't you consider a suicide a suspicious death, not routine?"

The coroner, Roy Hamlin, hedged. "Can't say whether this death is a sui-

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GALLERY 419

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Cliff & Isabel Adams

hide or not. Whatever she died of is on the death certificate. I haven't seen it. Now look, I am a busy man. Better talk to her physician, Dr. Aubrey Hamilton."

At this stage of the game I was certain we were getting the run-around. But I had to get back to the *Citizen* to write the story. My deadline was at noon, and it was nearing 11 a.m.

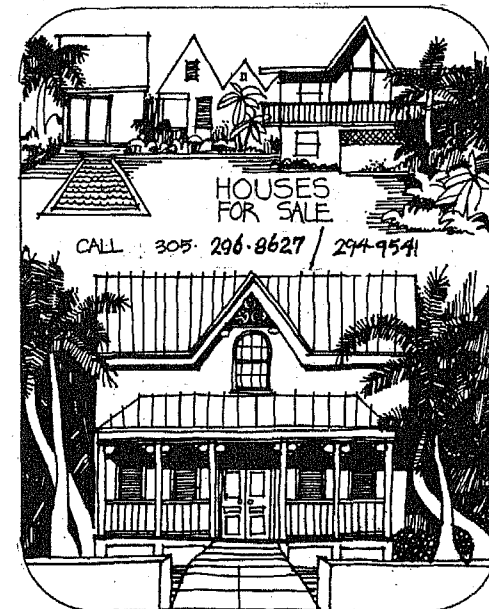
FINALLY, just before noon after many tries, I did reach Dr. Hamilton at his office.

He had been a physician in the Chinese army, came from Upper New York State, and spoke with a British accent. In clipped, precise tones he said, "Yes, I signed the death certificate. The girl, known as Rita Rogers, died of an overdose of barbituates. I treated her for a boil several weeks ago when she came in for her regular checkup required in her line of business. She was very despondent, and I advised her to get away from her scene of employment for awhile."

He paused, then continued calmly. "I gave her a few sleeping pills to quiet her nerves, but certainly not enough to harm her! I suspect, however, that when she went to Miami, she manipulated the prescription over and over again somehow, and obtained more barbituates until she had enough for the fatal dose. I also learned, too late, that she frequently had expressed a death wish. She went on a vacation, the other girls reported, but she did not come back to see me at this office."

THE DOCTOR EXPLAINED that he had warned Rita she was going to have to undergo surgery for a bilateral ovarian operation eventually. The last time she was in his office was on December 21 (1951), and he had dressed the lanced boil.

On January 6, 1952, the day Rita died, she called the doctor and said she was



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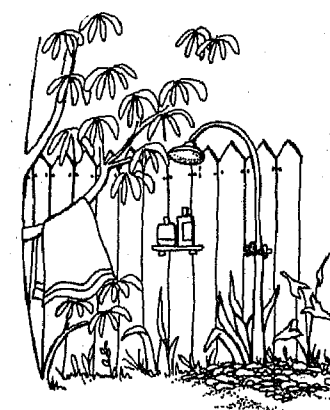
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feeling badly after taking some sleeping pills. She did not say she had taken a great many, and the doctor assumed she just felt "dozey."

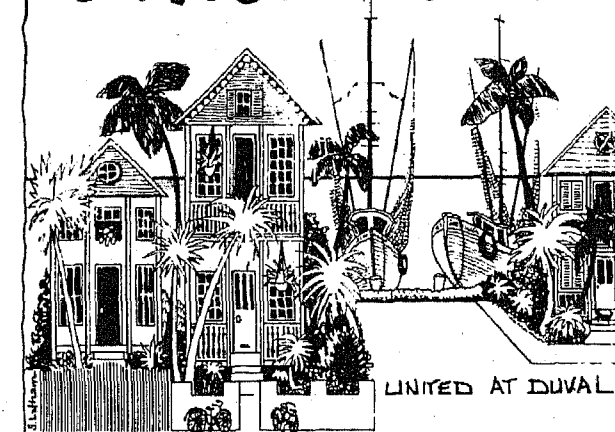
"After all, I had prescribed lightly. So I told her to take a taxi and come in to the office and I would give her a benzedrine shot. This was around 2 p.m., and I was entertaining guests for Sunday dinner. It wasn't until ten o'clock that night that I was informed of her death. It seems she had collapsed right at the telephone, and nobody was up and stirring at the, ah, establishment at that time of day. Nobody found her until around 9:30 p.m., and it was too late."

FIVE DAYS PASSED before Rita's parents came to Key West and claimed their daughter's body. It was learned then that she was 29 years old.

As a result of the newspaper expose, the navy authorities really clamped down and closed Mom's Tea Room. The building later burned to the ground.



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editorial

by Bill Westray

FKAA PIPELINE CONTINUED

JUST BEFORE Christmas the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority (FKAA) confirmed by resolution its intent to conduct a referendum election on Tuesday, February 6, 1979, to secure approval of Monroe County voters for a \$53,225,000 loan and revenue bond issue to finance a new 130-mile pipeline from Florida City to Key West. The 5 percent loan has been approved by the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture but requires voter approval before implementation.

In its editorial in December, *Solaris Hill* gave many of the financial and physical facts concerning this proposal, and expressed some concerns about the philosophy for development of new pipeline capacity, as well as raising questions about the projected costs and income estimates involved in paying off the loan. Our concerns and questions persist and have not been resolved, and as we delved deeper into the subject, additional concerns and questions arose.

WE NOW BELIEVE that the pipeline as planned would have significantly greater capacity than required, which would add to the construction and loan cost, and which would become the primary catalyst for accelerated, poorly controlled development of the entire Florida Keys.

WE ARE CONCERNED that a lateral 12"-16" pipeline, part of the main project, northward from the junction of U.S. 1 and Card Sound Road through Key Largo to Ocean Reef, is being contrived to permit explosive development of the extensive and sensitive hardwood hammocks of Key Largo.

WE ARE CONCERNED that projected sav-

ings and operating budget estimates with the new pipeline are not realistic, and that the project will in fact cause a substantial increase in water rates.

WE ARE CONCERNED that the pipeline project does nothing to correct problems of zero water pressure at many of the cluster developments along the length of the Keys, which is caused by lack of storage capacity and old, deteriorated and inadequate distribution lines.

WE ARE CONCERNED that alternate plans have not been developed for a wellfield source other than Florida City in view of the highly questionable ability of the Biscayne Aquifer at that location to continue to provide potable water.

WE ARE CONCERNED that no consideration has been given to the impact of the possible new 4 MGD (million gallons per day) desalination plant being considered for Key West by the U.S. Department of Interior, utilizing waste heat from the City Electric System (CES) 37 megawatt generating plant at Stock Island.

IF THE EXPLOSIVE development we visualize should occur as a result of essentially unlimited amounts of water from the new pipeline, we believe that the cost of expanding other essential services would become catastrophically expensive to present taxpayers.

WE ARE CONCERNED that the referendum language will be too general and insufficiently restrictive, so that once approved, the voters would exercise no further control over future development.

IN THE FOLLOWING, we will elaborate on the factors enumerated above.

THE PIPELINE size which FKAA is planning to build with the \$53 million FmHA loan is 36-inch diameter from Florida

City to Tavernier, 30-inch from Tavernier to Marathon, and 24-inch the rest of the way to Key West, altogether about 630,000 linear feet, not counting 69,400 feet of bridge crossings. FKAA Executive Director Claude Gehman has said that he expects to pump 10.17 MGD of water out of Florida City during the first year of operation in 1982, and that with the planned 36"-30"-24" configuration he could pump 13.5 MGD from Florida City to Tavernier and deliver 6 MGD to Key West at 30 pounds per square inch (PSI) without an intermediate pumping station. 13.5 MGD is the maximum production presently allowed to FKAA by the South Florida Water Management District.

However, the 36"-30"-24" pipeline was designed by the engineering firm of Black, Cross and Eidness (BC&E) to carry about 19.5 MGD using two intermediate pumping stations as originally planned. It could carry about 30 MGD in the largest segment if operated at the pressures (300 PSI) and flow rate (7 feet per second - FPS) that the old 18-inch line is being used at today.

The normal usage of water in the Florida Keys is about 100 gallons per day per person. Thus 10 MGD is the nominal average requirement for 100,000 people. 13.5 MGD would support about 135,000 persons, about double the present population, and 19.5 MGD would support nearly 200,000.

If the proposed 36"-30"-24" line were built, the larger capacities suggested could be achieved by the simple addition of, or activation and modification of existing pumping stations. Other than their right to elect members to the Aqueduct Authority, the voters of Monroe County, after approving the upcoming referendum, would have no further control or say in the matter.

INCLUDED IN the overall plan is a plan to build a new 16"-12" diameter line northward through Key Largo to

Ocean Reef. The present population of this area is about 1850 persons, and a requirement is projected by BC&E at 250 gallons per day for each of 800 dwelling units or 200,000 gallons per day. However, the line proposed could handle 2 MGD through the 12-inch section and over 3.5 MGD per day through the 16-inch section at nominal flow rates (4 FPS). Director Gehman talks of selling 1 MGD of water in 1982, five times the average demand today.

This area contains most of the remaining hardwood hammocks in the Florida Keys. We have seen a number of attempts to exploit this beautiful land by large, well-financed developers, and we are frightened and shocked that someone is contemplating a population explosion to 10,000, 20,000 and even 35,000 persons in Key Largo alone.

IN ALL ITS public presentations, FKAA talks about savings of \$3,499,000 per year from the new pipeline as follows:

Desal shutdown	\$1,718,000
R.O. shutdown	319,000
Pump stations shutdown	681,000
Bond savings	781,000
TOTAL ANNUAL SAVINGS	\$3,499,000

THESE SAVINGS, balanced against the \$53.2 million loan repayment cost of \$3,155,403 annually for 38 years, should produce net annual savings of \$343,597, according to FKAA. We feel that FKAA has oversimplified the arithmetic of the problem.

We first compared the theoretical Initial Operating Budget for 1979 which FKAA submitted to FmHA in July 1978, with the actual 1979 budget which the FKAA board approved at the same time. The first submitted to FmHA showed income of \$7,725,303 versus expenses of \$7,136,793 for a surplus of \$588,510. The actual budget showed income of \$9,030,666 versus expenses totalling \$9,915,207 for a defi-

cit of \$884,541 to be made up from the Reserve maintenance fund. This was a difference of almost \$1.5 million between the 1979 theoretical and actual budgets.

Because of this variance, we did a detailed analysis of the 1982 (planned first year of new pipeline operation) budget estimate submitted to FmHA versus our own budget estimate prepared from FKAA 1978 financial reports, 1978 and 1979 budgets, and other available financial data. In its submission to FmHA, FKAA estimated 1982 income at \$8,084,388 and expenses at \$7,533,490 for a surplus or profit of \$555,890. Presumably, this projected surplus is the basis for a promised rate reduction. We calculated that the FKAA budget was based on sales of 7.2 MGD of water. This might seem to allow a reduction of about \$0.26/M (per thousand gallons) to a rate of about \$3.30/M with no fuel adjustment. However, when we prepared our 1982 budget for sales of 7 MGD, we calculated expenses at \$11,517,978, which resulted in a break even water rate of \$5.22/M, an increase of \$1.66/M.

We felt projected sales of 7 MGD might be too high, so we calculated costs for sales of 6.5 MGD, which we felt was more realistic. For this, expenses were \$11,332,500, and the required water rate was \$5.63/M. We calculated that to sell 8 MGD would cost \$1,888,935 for a rate of \$4.58/M.

During our meeting with Gehman and his Comptroller, Jim Baker, on November 28th, we asked if they could explain the difference between their 1982 estimate and ours. They asked for time to analyze our estimate, and we provided them a copy of our first draft. When we checked with Comptroller Baker on December 21st, he advised that he had not had time to complete a comparison.

Out of curiosity, we calculated what effect the loss of the \$1300 per meter development charge might have on water rates. We calculated that loss of de-

velopment charge revenue would increase rates by \$0.16 to \$0.20 per thousand gallons.

DURING A PRESENTATION by Director Gehman on November 11, 1978, many questions were asked about low or zero water pressure at many intermediate housing developments along the Keys between Key Largo and Key West. Gehman explained that these problems were mainly caused, not by the pipeline, but by the many old, inadequate distribution lines. Gehman described the many miles of rusted, bent, two-inch galvanized pipe which lay above ground, paralleling roads and bridging ditches. "We have two 7-man crews working on distribution line replacement, continuously," he related.

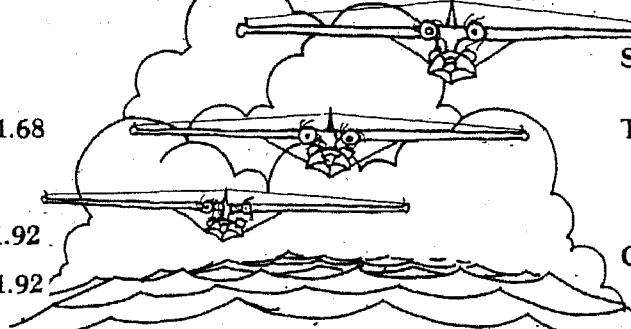
FKAA spends about \$750,000 per year on this effort, which includes the approximately \$450,000 collected in development fees. The new pipeline will not correct the Middle and Lower Keys water pressure problems, Gehman admitted.

In addition to the need for new distribution lines, more storage tanks in more strategic locations, and more constant pressure distribution pumps are needed. These facilities are also not included in the \$53.2 million pipeline project.

IN A CUSTOMER newsletter mailed to water users in February 1977, FKAA wrote, "But the biggest gamble is that no one knows whether the aquifer will stand the pumping of 13 MGD and a great deal more by the year 2000. If salt water intrusion occurs, this entire investment will be wasted and we still have to pay off the bond indebtedness."

In a meeting with Claude Gehman in mid-November, the writer asked, "What studies have been done about alternate sources to Florida City for the FKAA wellfield?" The reply was that none had been done by or on behalf of FKAA. Gehman said that he watched the salt water

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intrusion line, and that it seemed to be no further inland toward Florida City today than it was a few years ago.

We have studied the problem of South Florida potable water supplies for a number of years. While expert opinion is divided on this subject, it is not a problem to be ignored. The severe droughts of 1972 and 1973 caused a number of well failures at Homestead Air Force Base nearby, and these wells have not recovered. Up to 25 years is the estimated time for a salt water contaminated well to recover as a source of fresh water. Numerous other South Florida communities have experienced salt water and had to abandon wells.

We are now pumping about 6 MGD plus service water out of our wellfield. We propose to double, then triple this, which will cause the cone of influence to expand horizontally in all directions including seaward. We do not believe that this problem can be dismissed without serious and continuing study, including location, cost and feasibility of alternate wellfield sites.

ACCORDING TO GEHMAN, FKAA expected a decision on the site selection for a new demonstration desalination plant on December 12th. However, the decision on this will be made by Secretary of Interior Cecil Andrus and will probably not be forthcoming until about January 1st.

Few details have been made public about this project. Presumably, it is a pilot demonstration plant, utilizing waste heat from the condenser element of the CES steam turbine plant on Stock Island. It should produce about 4 MGD of fresh water from seawater by the distillation process. Cost of construction would presumably be borne by the Department of Interior. Presumably, FKAA would pay operating costs, but fuel costs for evaporation would be eliminated.

If the desal plant provided a reliable source of 4 MGD of fresh water, the pipeline would not need to transport 6 MGD from Florida City to Key West. Quite possibly the 24-inch line from

Marathon to Key West could be reduced in size or eliminated altogether, with funds thus saved being partially used to rehabilitate that portion of the old 18-inch line. Certainly, no intelligent decision on the Lower and Middle Keys portions of the new pipeline could be made until the desal plant decision is made.

MANY OF US in the conservation movement have long held the opinion that the unlimited availability of fresh water in the Keys would spark rapid overdevelopment and a population explosion. This opinion is known to be shared by urban and regional planners in the South Florida Regional Planning Council and many others. The FKAA pipeline engineers (BC&E) stated in their report, "We anticipate the availability of water will be a catalyst to the growth for 1978-1988."

It has become well-established by studies by the Miami University Institute of Urban Studies and others that rapid development, with its attendant population growth, quickly overloads and overtakes existing services and causes quantum jumps in tax or service rates to provide the essential services.

For example, according to the Monroe County Planning Department, because of relatively recent poor planning and controls, septic tank sewage disposal has become extensively inadequate, and we now need \$66,000,000 worth of new sewers at public expense, which should have been provided by developers. The City of Key West needs an additional \$36,000,000 in sewage collection and treatment facilities, for a total of over \$100,000,000 to meet today's needs.

If we double our water consumption, will that double our sewer needs?

We have been talking about \$33 million in CES system expansion. Solid waste disposal is another multi-million dollar problem. Then there are roads, bridges, schools, parks, telephones, fire and police protection, health services, and on and on. *Who pays?*

A short while ago, the Department of

Interior completed computer simulation models for the cost of essential services for the Florida Keys. We have access to these studies and had hoped to be able to quantify service cost increases by computer simulation for this edition. It now appears that it will be mid-January before the results are available. We expect to have them for our February edition.

CONCLUSIONS

WE BELIEVE that the pipeline project should be scaled down by one pipe size (36" to 30") between Florida City and Tavernier, and that the Key Largo lateral should be reduced or dropped.

If the pilot desal plant is decided for Key West, the Tavernier to Key West pipeline segments should be restudied. Regardless of the desal plant decision, we believe that the ultimate capacity of the pipeline should be reduced to minimize the catalytic effect of an over abundance of water.

We believe that the savings achieved through pipeline size reduction, which could be as much as \$11-\$12 million, should be partially applied to a more rapid rehabilitation of the distribution system and expansion of the storage and pumping systems, and made part of the loan plan.

We believe that the possibility of salt water intrusion to the Florida City wellfield should be studied, and definite contingency plans made for re-locating the wellfield.

We believe that the projected operating cost of the new pipeline and facilities should be carefully gone over and the results well publicized.

We believe that, if necessary, the referendum election should be delayed until all the restudy and decisions have been made. When the referendum is offered to the voters for approval, it should state definitely what is to be built and what the maximum capacity of the pipeline might be.

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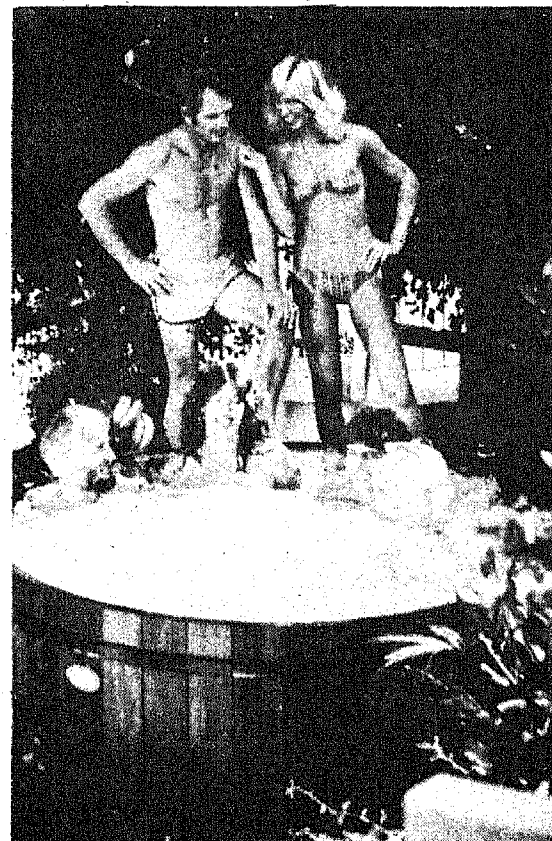
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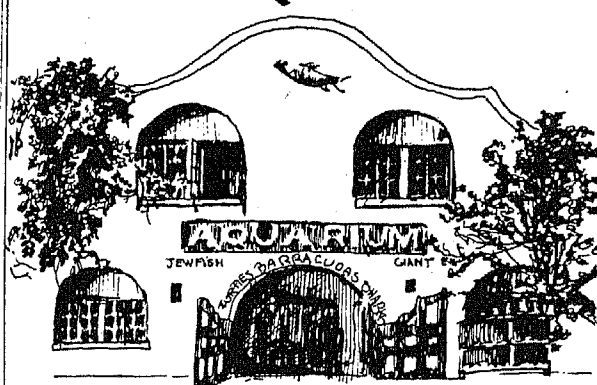
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Chamber Squabble

by Mack Dryden

TIM MILLER is the president of the Key West Chamber of Commerce.

DAVID HORAN is the president of the Key West Chamber of Commerce.

EACH ACCUSES the other of lying, flagrantly violating chamber by-laws, and dictatorial power tactics. Neither believes the other's organization represents the island's business community.

As you read this, a very intense white-collar war is being waged in the streets, courts and living rooms of Key West. Unlike many inter-organizational disputes, this one is particularly interesting because it is a fight to the death. It appears inevitable that the flag of one of the Key West Chambers of Commerce is going to be trampled by the victorious side. Miller and Horan agree that there can be only one organization with that name.

THE SITUATION -- A large percentage of the membership of the chamber expressed their dissatisfaction with the way things were being run about a year ago. A group of board members secretly placed an ad in the *Wall Street Journal* soliciting applications for the job of executive vice president, a position then and now held by Larry Rogers.

After the beans had been spilled the swords rattled, the Board of Directors voted 11-7 to fire Rogers. The decision was put to referendum (illegally, Horan claims), and the membership reinstated him 123-106.

The vote graphically illustrated the deep division within the chamber. Then came the Resort Tax issue, which polarized the two groups even more. The arguments for and against became bitter personal attacks. The chamber was tearing

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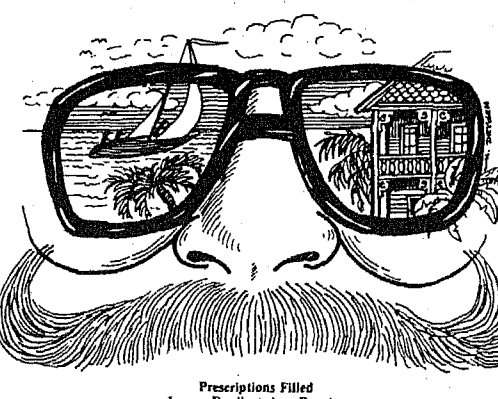
THE DEATH of chamber president Billy Appelrouth in late September was a turning point. Tim Miller (general manager of the Conch Train) ascended to the presidency and, according to Horan, immediately dissolved every committee Appelrouth had appointed, including the officers' nominating committee chaired by Horan. Miller's next major move was to dismiss six directors -- Horan included -- from the board on the grounds that their attendance records constituted resignation. He gave them no avenue of appeal.

Horan, a well-known attorney whose clients include Treasure Salvors, Inc., and several large shrimping firms, sued Miller and Rogers for reinstatement. Their attorney asked for dismissal of the suit because the chamber is an "unincorporated association," just like the Knitting Club and the Eaton Street Sluggers. Suit dismissed.

THE NEXT EPISODE is a delicate one around which many future court arguments will revolve. Horan and 13 others in his camp signed incorporation papers, processed them at the state level, and officially became the Key West Chamber of Commerce, and -- just to be sure -- the Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce. They have now begun soliciting members under the latter name, infuriating Miller, Rogers, et al.

Less than three months earlier, Horan had told the board at a meeting that although the Key West Chamber of Commerce had been operating under that name since 1918, a 1959 law required that all non-profit corporations be registered with the state to retain their corporate identity. The chamber had incorporated under the

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county only. A motion was passed to file the papers, and Horan volunteered to do it. "I am not making this into a pressing matter," Appelrouth told Horan. "Do it at your convenience."

It became convenient after the "mid-night massacre" of six board members slashed the few threads holding the two factions together.

MILLER'S CAMP is now accusing Horan of malfeasance and said there's a chance he'll be stripped of his license to practice law. Horan said Appelrouth called him at 4:30 p.m. the day he died and asked Horan to be the head of the officers' selection committee, Horan said Appelrouth had also "been privy to conversations" concerning the possibility of forming a new chamber, and had told him to "hold off" on incorporating the chamber as early as July and August.

Many people don't believe Horan. "If there's one thing Billy Appelrouth never was," said Miller, "it's a quitter. He would never give up."

The "new" chamber is at this writing a paper organization consisting of 14 original incorporators with big plans. The "old" chamber has a building and paid employees, is recognized by the county, state and nation as The Key West Chamber of Commerce, and its executive vice president Larry Rogers is on the state chamber of commerce board of directors. It also has 350 members.

ON THE SURFACE, it would appear that the "splinter" group is doomed by the sheer magnitude of its rival. But when one considers the people who joined the rebel group, the adage about killing the head and the body dying comes to mind.

Eleven of the 14 incorporators of the "new" chamber were on the 21-member board of directors of the "old" chamber in 1978. Five of them were past presidents. They were leaders, elected at large by the membership.

THE GROUP includes John Koenig of the

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Key West State Bank (an institution that never joined the "old" chamber); Robert Dion and Tom Sawyer of the First Federal Savings and Loan Association of the Florida Keys; Utility Board chairman and president of the Florida Keys Broadcasting Company, Gayle Swofford; Frank Toppino and Joe Pinder of Charles Toppino and Sons, Inc., the largest construction company south of Miami; Bill Johnson of Key West Hand Print Fabrics; Margo Golan, manager of the Key West Holiday Inn; Dr. J.J. Scarlett and Dr. Phil Dobert; well-known merchants Jack Smith, Al Brown, and Bernie Traub; and Horan, who is president.

CAN THE NEW GROUP survive? "We have the backing of the backbone of the community," said Joe Pinder. "We weren't wanted in the other one so we're going to work for the new one."

"The new one is coming from the old one, so it has a pretty large foothold," said Swofford. "We have a substantial, good start. I definitely think most of the business community realizes we need a dynamic chamber. We can't just sit here as a chamber of commerce and answer mail. I think two organizations could survive, but I think ours will grow as a chamber and the other one could get into just promoting tourism."

MILLER BEGS to differ. "The chamber of commerce should be the best-run business in the community because you have the top business people running it," he said. "We'll out-perform them, we'll out-recruit them, we'll just have to out-do them at everything. We're working for the community, and if it benefits the community it benefits us. Selfishness never benefits a chamber."

A PAST CHAMBER PRESIDENT who declined to be identified said of Horan's group, "They won't make it. They'll have to hire somebody, set up an office, get a lot of stuff printed. I think when pinch

continued on page 42

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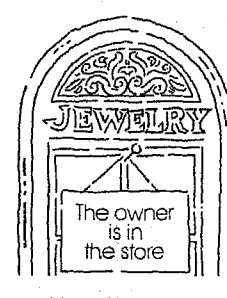
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Snow Joke

THERE IS SOMETHING very appealing about the cool side of a house. Growing up in Key West is quite unique, if not for the location, then for the way houses must be built so close together because of the lack of space and for protection against hurricanes. The cool side of our house on Dey Street was always my favorite spot to play when I was six years old. If one faced the house from the street, then the small path on the left was the side that received only the morning sunshine, and for the rest of the day it would remain forever shaded, damp and mystically alluring. There were quite a few large snow-on-the-mountain bushes growing there, the ones with the oval-shaped leaves with pure white blotches that looked exactly like real snow had fallen on them.

FOR SOME STRANGE REASON, a particular kind of caterpillar -- the inch-worm -- seemed to prefer these bushes and never set foot on the neighboring aralias, hibiscus or Turk's caps, a fact that always puzzled me as a child. I would capture these innocuous worms and make them start at the bottom of the snow-on-the-mountain bush and pretend they were climbing expeditions making their way up the Matterhorn or some other steep climb like Solares Hill or the courthouse steps.

Along towards the back of the house there was a small spigot and table where my mother washed out the kitchen mop. It was here that I had the most fun pretending to cook and play house as most little girls do. I was quite the serious cook and very well-behaved for such an energetic six year old!

ONE SATURDAY MORNING in late spring I was, as usual, setting up my mock kitchen on the rickety little table, assembling whatever cast off pans and utensils my mother would give me and deciding what

written and illustrated by Amy Lee de Poo

delicacy I could conjure up with the vegetation at hand. Having tired of the same old palm-frond salad and marl soup with papaya blossoms, I decided to scout around the kitchen and see if there might



be something lying around that would lend a little authenticity to my scheduled grand dessert.

MY MOTHER was always busy painting in the morning, so I had a pretty easy time of taking what I wanted without having to explain to her my needs or intentions. As it happened, there was no cornmeal or sugar lying about, which would have pretty well sufficed as an exotic addition to any recipe. But there on the counter was a large, brand new bottle of Ivory Liquid Dishwashing Soap. Knowing how much lather could be worked up from just a plain old bar of Ivory, I immediately deduced that a frothy substitute for whipped cream could be made with the help of an egg beater.

How luscious that would look on a pine cone cake!

FIRST MAKING SURE my mother was hard at work with at least two paint brushes in her mouth and a few in her hand (being the considerate child that I was) I grabbed the bottle of Ivory, the egg beater and a small, deep bowl and returned to my kitchen, wild with anticipation of the incipient culinary glory.

I squeezed about a quarter of a cup into the bowl and looked at it for a moment. Oh heck, I thought, just a dab more, and with that, gave a good long healthy squeeze. I began to vigorously beat the contents of the bowl and to my unmitigated ecstasy the Ivory Liquid began to transform into the purest, creamiest, whitest, fluffiest concoction this side of Howard Johnson's. It was more than my frail heart could stand!

While I was standing in deep rapture at the sight of this marvelous creation I noticed a pounding noise coming from the bricks in front of the house. That could only mean one thing -- my year younger sister Martha was driving nails again. Imagine, occupying yourself for hours with just a hammer and a box of penny nails. Well, being a most charitable person at heart, and wanting to share my new discovery with her, I walked out to the front bricks to invite her to my kitchen.

"SAY, MARTHA, how would you like to

see what I just made?"

"Nope."

"Listen, you won't believe it. Come quick."

"Nope."

(She never was big on conversation.)

I continued, "Come on girl, this is your chance in a lifetime. Put down that hammer and come with me. I've got to show you something."

"No. I'm busy."

WELL, AT THIS MOMENT, I just can't say what possessed me to do this, but, as I recall, the frustration of such a blanket rejection must have gotten the better of my Christian soul.

"Martha, you'll never guess what Belle just brought over! (Belle is our grandmother.) A whole bowl of whipped cream!"

Martha stopped hammering and looked up. Her dirty chin was set, but I could see a glimmer of interest in her eyes, food being her other preoccupation. I began to get into the spirit of it now.

"That's right, she made strawberry shortcake last night and had all this whipped cream left over and decided to give it to us. Isn't that great?"

Martha put the hammer down and started to get up. I helped her, since her grimy underwear were always loose and falling down, which made moving with any swift-ness out of the question.

"Well," she said, "let me see it."

THIS IS WHEN I led my dear gullible little sister down the garden path, so to speak. I hurried in front of her, the bushes hitting me in the face as I rushed to pick up the bowl before she could inspect it too carefully or get an identifying whiff of the contents. Ah, my first taste test, I gleefully thought.

AS I THINK BACK, I could only have gotten carried away by my own feverish sales pitch to have gone through with what I was about to do. You see, a naughty thought hardly ever crossed my mind; much less did I have the actual gall to do something reproachable.

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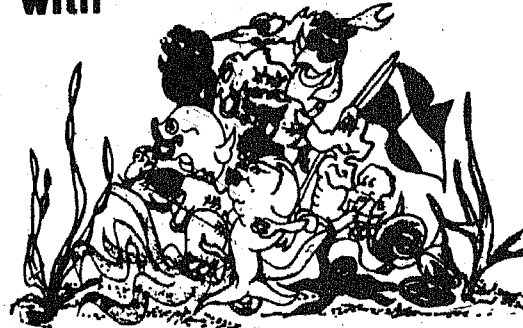
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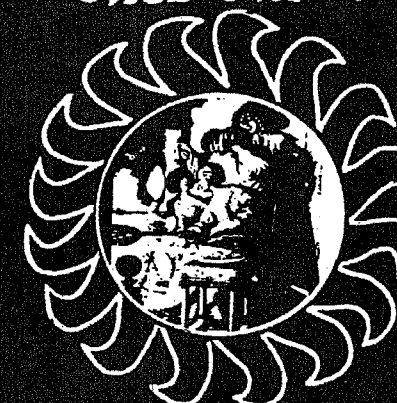
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"Are you sure you want some?"

HER EYES OPENED WIDE at the sight of all that whipped cream and her mouth began to twitch.

ninety-nine-and-forty-four-one-hundredths percent pure soap reacted with the highly sensitive palate of a five year old pabulum gourmet. Then the screaming started and was it ever bloodcurdling!

MARTHA TOOK OFF in the direction of my mother's studio, and I was reasonably astute in the assumption that I had only seconds to wash away the evidence of my sin. What I failed to take into account was the fact that my mother has an unusually over-developed maternal instinct,



"You really want to taste it?"

By now the gaping motions of her mouth assured me that she did. I dutifully fed my sister what she was so obviously hungry for, but I was not prepared for the ensuing spray I got right in the face when the

and at the first shriek out of Martha's mouth she was already on her way towards the origin of her distressed cries.

"Amy! What have you done to your sister? Why is she drooling like that?"

I looked, and Martha indeed was not a

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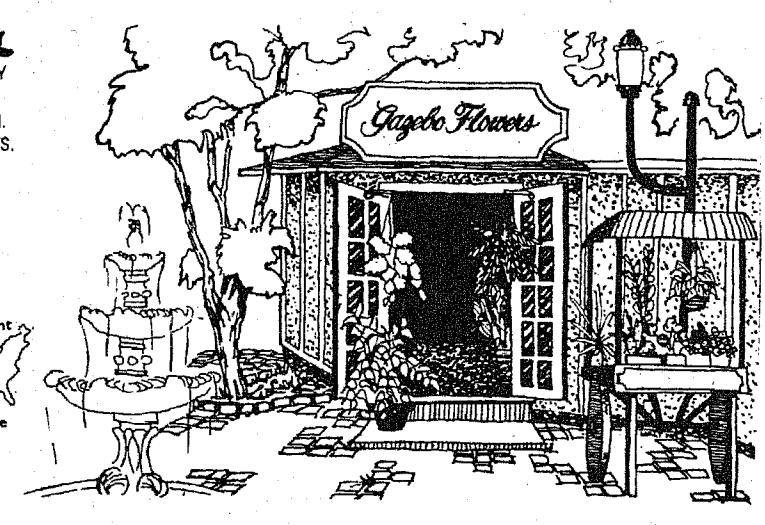
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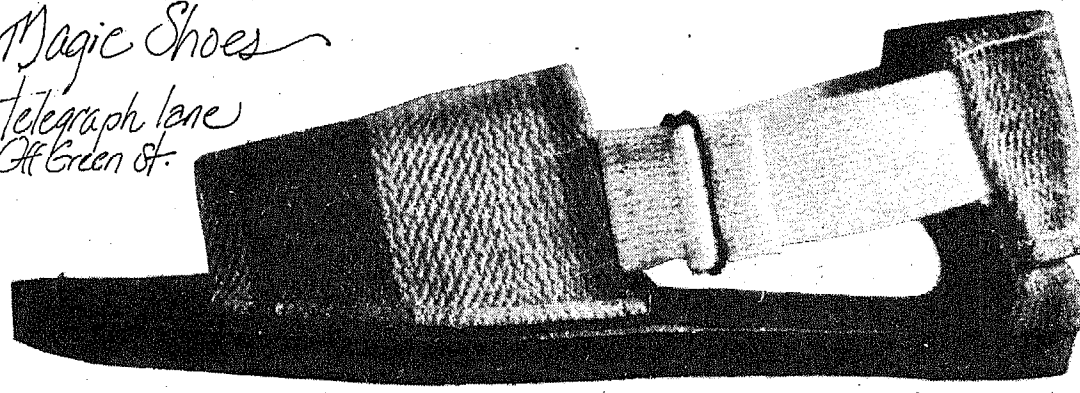
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pretty sight. Her face was all red and swollen from crying and she was salivating all over the place due to the unsavory properties of Ivory Soap. There was no point in denying it. I confessed.

I GOT two good sound whacks and was made to stand in the corner with my nose



*Dust and wind and pelican
Poet's kin are fishermen
Coffee's hot and work is hard
Jewfish frying in the lard.
Fish don't come out and men keep trying
Mend net and keep their hopes from dying
Sun is hidden, wind is cold
Those once young are growing old.*

*Dust and wind and pelican
Poet's kin are fishermen
Boat like a horse held high goes prancing
Sunlight on the waves is dancing
Bank of gulls swarm in the sky
Like an airborne school of fish swim by.*

*Dust and wind and pelican
Poet's kin are fishermen
Sun bakes down as nets lie piled
Lobster traps stacked pile on pile
Paydays only when we catch 'em
Pull those nets on back and patch 'em.*

*Sun and wind and pelican
Poet's kin are fishermen
Women wonder where their men are
Empty arms that close on thin air
Keep your faith because you have to
How'd one start on this long path to
Sun and wind and pelican
Poet's kin to fishermen.*

by Jody Adams

in the crack for one whole hour.

However, it was not all that bad. I could still sneak looks out the window and see the inch-worms making their way delicately through the leaves of the beautiful snow-on-the-mountain bushes, close my eyes, and dream of the Himalayas....or the Matterhorn....or....Solares Hill.

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105 Fleming St.
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Landlords Speak

by Sheldon Ramsdell
& Jean-Louis d'Heilly

IN "AN OPEN LETTER TO THE Business Community of Greater Key West" advertised in *The Key West Citizen* of 24 December, 1978, by the incorporators of the Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce, Inc., one of the questions posed is: "Where are you going to find competent employees for your business if they can't afford the rent on this island?" Some Key West landlords respond to this dilemma by saying, "It's the renter's responsibility to set the prices. When he (the renter) takes out his wallet and pays the asking price, he sets a precedent."

And so it goes.

OF COURSE landlords experience problems with tenants. There are two groups of tenants -- those that rent seasonally and those that rent year round. Seasonal apartments are usually rented furnished. Landlords report that many tenants give the property no consideration whatsoever. "Some people even want maid service." Damages and clean-up cost landlords their profits. Many owners try to get the maximum amount of return on their apartments and furnishings.

There is the additional problem of seasonal tenants crash padding. John Thomson, a Key West landlord for some 30 years, said, "I've had some fine, fine tenants, but nevertheless one tenant turned his apartment into a crash pad. People sleeping on the porch, on the lawn and in vans. It's wear and tear on the property; they never seem to think of that. One morning I got up on my tin roof at 9 a.m. I started to hammer away. Well, some guy in a sleeping bag yells at me to shut up. I gave him and all of the others just one-half hour to get out!"

EMERGENCIES SEEM to be always sprung on landlords. Thomson reported an experience with an apartment fire. "It was a cold

Christmas, and the tenants turned on the electric oven and all four top burners full blast to get warm. The resulting heat melted the plastic fuse holders and everything went off. The fuse box started to smoke, so the tenants called the fire department. Then the tenants came to see me where I was eating breakfast at a nearby restaurant to tell me that they had no electricity!"

Thomson believes all utilities should be on separate meters. The installation is an expensive proposition, especially water, but it is believed that tenants will be more prudent in the use of their utilities if they are paying the bills.

ABSENTEE LANDLORDS find seasonal renting very popular, reports Sara Cook of Old Town Realty. Furnished seasonal apartments are high priced during one part of the year and inexpensive during the off season. This results in people moving in and out. And the landlord usually loses several months rent at both the end and the beginning of the season.

One landlord who rents to seasonal working people claims that they are more apt to rip an apartment off. The landlord, who wishes to remain anonymous, said, "I used to rent furnished apartments, but now I have stopped the practice, except for people I know and trust." When the Goodwill store was open he could cheaply furnish his apartments. "I can't do it anymore," he found. This landlord claims that he was not interested in profit from rentals. He made a return on the sale of property. "If it (the rental) pays my taxes, insurance and payments on the building I'm happy."

ANOTHER LANDLORD pointed out that people have become aware of the value of living in Key West, and the resulting demand for housing has pushed rents up. He felt that other major considerations for rising rents were the increased ex-

penses of water, electricity, materials (for repair and maintenance of buildings), high mortgage payments and the hefty boost in taxes -- all this coupled with the dollar's decline in value.

One landlord said, "With this new assessment my taxes doubled!" Prior to the new assessment, taxes on his property were equal to one and one-half the gross monthly rental income. He said, "It now means it takes three months rent to equal my taxes. It doesn't mean I am going to increase my rents. I am going to absorb it." Many landlords will look at the taxes versus rent and double the rent."

ALMOST ALL of those interviewed felt that rents had gone beyond reason. John Thomson said, "I think that rents are very high now." Jillian Springstead of the Old Island Realty said, "The wage system does not support the high rents that are asked." Sara Cook sometimes found that she "felt like an emotional punching bag" between the landlords and tenants. As property managers for rentals at Old Town Realty, Sara and Jill are in the middle dealing with both parties. They try to accommodate everyone, but find it a "damned if you do and damned if you don't" situation. They try to bring the two parties together to agree on a fair rent price. When the owner asks too much, "We'll talk him down," says Sara.

HIGH RENTALS increase the number of evictions and tension between landlord and tenant. Most Key West landlords do not go through the legal eviction process. As there are few leases in effect, most evictions are informal in nature. One landlord said that he has never legally evicted tenants. "I've told people to get out and they did. A legal eviction is so difficult. My lawyer told me not to try it."

The landlord starts the process by filing for eviction with the county court and pays a filing fee of \$35 and a \$12 service charge if the sheriff serves the

notice. The landlord can serve the notice himself with a witness.

SECURITY DEPOSITS also cause friction between landlord and tenant. Many times the security deposit is misunderstood. A security deposit is not applicable towards rent. It is used for repairs of damage and clean-up costs.

"I get first and last month's rent and a \$100 security deposit," says Don Sparks, a landlord for seventeen years in Key West and Philadelphia.

WITH MANY ABSENTEE OWNERS Sara and Jill are called upon to check out rental properties and make final judgments regarding security deposits. They then hold a portion of the security because of damages. "People do not realize about security deposits, and they don't realize the damage that can be done to a dwelling." The security deposit is not the last month's rent.

VARIOUS SOLUTIONS are proposed by different landlords. John Thomson believes, "We need a 'bedroom' community for Key West, like Stock Island or Big Coppitt Key." Others feel that good year round tenants are the best bet. "Give us a good solid year round tenant and we are happy," say Sara and Jill. "You have to be strict or a tenant will walk all over you, and you have to be a good judge of character," finds Don Sparks.

But as some landlords say, "There are landlords and there are landlords." And so, in many cases there are tenants and then there are tenants. Many landlords find themselves in no win situations. They are caught in the squeeze of higher taxes, materials, labor and general inflation.

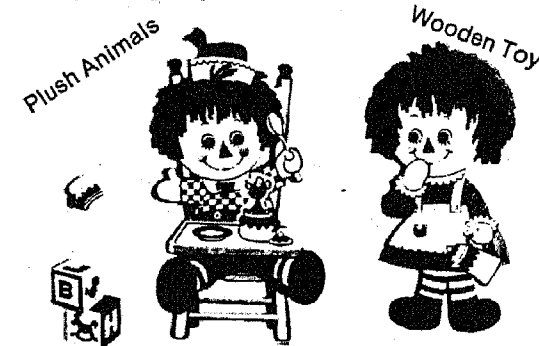
Last month, Solares Hill presented the tenants' point of view. Next month, we'll explore possible solutions to the renting crisis.

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An Orange Bowl Excursion

by John Hellen

illustrated by Walt Hyla

WE WAITED until later in the season this year to make our annual excursion to the home turf of the Dolphins. For the past few years four of us have gone up the road at least once a season to see our brutish pitted against one of their twenty-seven adversaries in the National Football League. Going by car to Miami is never a picnic, but on an early Sunday morning, with the expectation of a well played game and the palpable electricity engendered by biased crowds, we headed north.

The four hour journey was whiled away by discussions about the upcoming game and by observing the changing face of the Keys. Every year there are new ad-



ditions to the cluttered roadside of U.S. 1. None of us makes the drive very often, so new condominiums were pointed out with grunts of dissent and disbelieving scowls worthy of four ten-year residents who have seen the Keys become as elbow-to-elbow as the seats we would soon squeeze into at the O.B.

HAVING DEVELOPED somewhat of an unstated ritual in our yearly visit to Miami, we reached the looming presence of the O.B. well ahead of game time and spent the obligatory fifteen minutes scouring the largely residential neighborhoods surrounding the stadium for a free parking space. Thoroughly thwarted at each possible space by signs warning, "No parking during O.B. events -- cars towed at owner's expense," we opted for a safe spot on the lawn of a fifty thousand dollar home whose owner, as all owners of homes with groomed lawns around the Bowl do, was hawking stationary space for a quoted price of three dollars a car. Having gone to school in previous years on the point of parking, we wisely paid four dollars to the Cuban grandmother who waved us onto her lawn with a conductor's arm motion and assured us, "No blockee." No blockee, as we know well, meant that after the game the absolutely last fan out of the O.B. would not have his car blocking ours from exiting. Some fans, whether they be avid or drunk, feel a need to stay after the game and watch as the en-

tire stadium is swept and hosed down. Twice these fans' cars have been in front of our own. No blockee was certainly worth an extra dollar.

WITH OUR CAR safely set in a pole position, we walked several blocks to the second part of our ritual which was to take on some fuel at the Bowl Bar to make us feisty rooters. The Bowl Bar is pre-game headquarters for the more headstrong Dolphin fans. It is situated across the street from the stadium and sells beer and hot dogs and provides two televisions. It is crowded with a sis-boom-bah noisy camaraderie that marks the majority of its clientele as super fans; fans who know every fact and statistic about football much better than perhaps they ever knew their multiplication tables. An hour before game time at least a thousand beers are sold to the two hundred fans able to crush into the bar. Talk runs fast and loud, expectations are high, bets are taken and given, and a kind of elevation of consciousness permeates the throng.

NONE OF US four could be said to be super fans; however, as game time neared all of us were quite primed to yell encouragement as loudly as possible to our regional favorites and hurl unlettered invectives at the foe, who on this afternoon was the much despised Oakland Raiders. This alternation of crazed hoorays and prejudiced boos is what is said to give a team a home-field advantage. One man, alone in an empty stadium, who might let loose with the much vaunted primal scream, can easily bounce resounding echoes off the stacks of bleachers. Seventy-five thousand people completely filling those bleachers and giving off a simultaneous shout can literally send shivers through the stadium's concrete floors.

We headed over to the Orange Bowl about a half hour before game time and found our seats with no difficulty. The O.B. is not a pretty stadium, nor is it comfortable. From the outside it resembles an unfinished storage tank for fuel oil. Its corridors and spiralling entry ramps convey the spectator past exposed I-beams and deep dusty canyons of dead space beneath the stands. Inside, the O.B. is truly orange but it is a lack-luster shade similar to a pumpkin gone punk. Of course, once inside no one notices the color of the stadium, for the lush green expanse of the playing surface dominates the eye.

UPON FIRST GETTING into the stadium one is overwhelmed at what to look at. Suddenly, spread in two great arcs to one's left and right, are the high walled tiers of bleachers rapidly filling with, as Ring Lardner so aptly described fans, "the bees." The stadium is a great horse shoe that offers hard, backless boards as seats and allows eighteen inches per patron as marked off by black lines and unmistakably numbered. One is forced to sit in the prim straight-backed fashion of a Victorian lady to keep from kneeling the back of the person in front and from being kneed by the person behind. There is no leg room. The rows of seats are long between aisles, and inevitably those having tickets in the center of the rows must straddle out over legs and backs to answer nature or retrieve refreshments. To exit the center of a row requires such intimacy with those in the same row that it is estimated that four children per game are conceived.

OUR SEATS were on the ten yard line about fifteen rows from the field on the Oakland side. We arrived just as the Raiders were exiting the field to a jeering chorus of boos after their warm-up session. True professionals, the Oakland boys, helmets in hand, trotted into the

exit tunnel with impassive faces and eager concentration. What is so impressive about these players in person is their hugeness. On television the only



size comparisons that can be made are between the players themselves, and they are all of similar bulk. But on the field, as they hustled past the battery of photographers taking their pictures, one could compare these giants to the more average size of the photographers. Of course the extensive protective padding worn by the players exaggerates even their great girth, but in civilian garb these men stand out as giants.

I REMEMBER in early October when the Yankees and the Red Sox had their tie-breaking playoff game on a Monday afternoon. I was watching it at the Chart Room when the largest person I have ever seen came in and stood at the bar. I asked him if he played football. "Yeah," he said, "Miami." "Shula gives you Mondays off?" I inquired. "Usually, unless we play Monday night." This player, Bob Baumhower, when standing beside Otis Sistrunk of the Raiders looked much smaller. Suffice it to conclude, Otis is no fictional giant.

ANOTHER PLEASANT FACTOR we noted about the seats we had was that for four rows in front of us the fans were older couples which meant that we could actually sit down a lot of the time while watching the game. We had noted in previous years that when super fans populated the rows below our own their chronic enthusiasm precluded being seated. Every play, when the first row would jump up to cheer thus blocking the view of the second row, the second row would jump up not only to cheer but to see. Thus a kind of uphill domino effect would have everyone in the section on his feet. The niggardly allotments of seating space were probably aware of this aspect of human nature in allowing only a foot and a half width to each seated ticket holder. Also, surprisingly but happily lacking in our section were an air horn or a fog-horn-voiced super fan with a particular vendetta against one player.

ONE INESCAPABLE phenomenon of big league sports is the summons to chauvinistic identity dubiously set to music known as the National Anthem. This nearly unsingable composition served not only as a reminder of our democratic freedom -- the freedom resulting from our many wars which have allowed our nation peace and security -- but also the Anthem is symbolic of the meditative moment all warriors through the ages have taken prior to locking horns in battle. The fact that all persons in attendance at the event stand quietly for two minutes during the Anthem also settles the crowd down and focuses their attention on the upcoming game.

IF TO REFUTE the final statement of the above paragraph would take a metaphor, then a sudden downpour in June would be appropriate to describe the unsettling effect produced upon the settled ready crowd by the appearance of the Star Brites. The Star Brites, it will be pointed out, are human beings! They are twenty-two human beings of the fe-

male gender who are billed as "cheer leaders" but in effect are a happy (some might say lascivious) diversion from the toss of the coin taking place at center-field.

In previous years Dolphin cheerleaders were culled from local high schools and provided ample, suitable cheers in leading hoorays for the home boys. But since the Dallas Cowboys several years ago felt the necessity of offsetting the physical superiority and sheer bulk of their players with a corresponding physical superiority and sensuously stacked team of cheerleaders, all N.F.L. teams have shunned the girl-next-door image and adopted the sex-object look in cheerleaders.

The Star Brites are perhaps twenty-two of the best looking girls in South Florida, but by and large the cheers they elicit from the largely male audience are directed towards them rather than the team. They are an array of God's most gorgeous efforts clothed in scant body suits that leave to the imagination only the nagging question, "Given the chance, where would I begin?" Beyond the sculpted smiles, the Star Brites do have many clever dance routines and kaleidoscopic leg-kick effects as taught them by the famous June Taylor.

THE REAL DOLPHIN CHEERLEADER and undoubtedly the most effective is their number one fan, Dol-Fan Denny. Resembling a taller, fatter Yosemite Sam, Dol-Fan Denny is dressed in orange and aqua blue baggy shorts and knee socks, and he wears a cloth sandwich board proclaiming the Dolphins #1. His fifty year old face features oversized jowls, a greyish mus-



tache, and a usually unlit cigar. His old geezer's hat is rolled at the edges, and he carries with him several large scrolls on long sticks that contain various cheers which he bullies the crowd into chanting over and over and louder and louder, until he grunts limited approval like a Marine drill instructor. He has complete run of the stadium, and it is not uncommon to hear a thundering chorus from some distant wing of the stadium with Denny in among the highest rows chiding and urging the crowd to passion. He doesn't cross trails too often with the Star Brites but when he does, the girls revert to one-kneed kneeling out of deference to his superior ability to incite the crowd to cadence.

THE OPENING KICKOFF is a moment of

high tension not only for the steadily wailing crowd but especially for the butterfly riddled players. Squared off like opposing Revolutionary Armies -- the kicking team aligned in one straight line like British regulars and the receiving team spaced over their own zone in irregular Colonial fashion having only their own strength and speed to use as stone walls. A drum beat of preparation accompanies the kicker's slow gait to the ball.

Boom! The first cannonball is fired and a streamlined cowhide sails in a high end-over-end arc fifty yards into the nervous but sure cradle of rookie Jimmy Cefalo's arms. The battle is on as twenty-two bruising warriors surge at full speed towards each other like lightless locomotives. Grunts and crunching of pads seem audible above the restless din of the civilian bystanders who are safely away from the melee on the tiered hillsides. The first series of downs is safely defended against and the fourth down punt puts the ball into the enemy's zone. Their series fails and the ball is booted back to the Dolphins.

SEVERAL DESULTORY attacks by both teams result in Miami finally attempting a field goal from thirty-five yards away. The ball is expertly snapped by Jim Lang-er to Don Strock, who sets it vertically on the turf at a slight backward angle a split second before the pool-cue accurate toe of Garo Yepremian launches the ball up over the agonized outstretched hands of the gang from Oakland. The ball sails freely between the uprights and even clears the retaining screen behind them to give a fan a Wilson souvenir and the Dolphins a three point edge and first blood. The teams again align in Revolutionary formation, only this time reversing roles.

The second kickoff is fired, and the bulls again gallop full speed into each other's brick walls. More punt turnovers, an interception, a missed pass, good submarine penetration by both fours. Neither team can set a runner free, neither can connect on the bomb that the crowd so dearly loves and so willingly pays ten dollars a ticket to see. The Dolphins threaten but are stymied. Again the smallest player in the league, Garo, is called upon to pretend he has a free shot at a soccer goal. The snap, the set, the angled approach -- boot -- it's good from twenty-seven yards! Garo is swallowed by congratulations from his over-towering comrades. Dolphins lead six nothing! The crowd unleashes limitless approval.

BUT OAKLAND is not to be denied. Ken Stabler, the bearded guru of the Raiders, quickly marches his squad the length of the field with several fifteen-yard gains via his sweeter-than-Tupelo-honey south-paw passing. His last hurl of the drive is snagged expertly by Freddie Biletnikoff a mere yard inside the end line of the goal and the Raiders tie it up. They will go ahead if they convert the extra point. Erroll Mann, the veteran and one of the last of the vertical approach kickers, is faced with kicking into the ungodly din at the curve of the stadium's horse shoe. Linebacker Larry Gordon, playing the best game of his outstanding career, is transmogrified into a pole vaulter and clambers up the backs of his comrades to divert the kick and preserve the tie. Further on into the game Gordon will mortify the confident Stabler by picking off three of his passes.

THE CLOCK EXPIRES and the players exit the field for fifteen minutes of rest in the locker room and strategy sessions for the second half. The Star Brites, having changed outfits, lock arms in a pulchritudinous dance chain to kick and sashay their way across the east end of the field. All binoculars in the stadium are pointed at them. Flipper, a dolphin from Sea World and the Dolphins' aquatic mascot, performs his amazing dance routine

in a large tank at the end of the field where bleachers no longer exist. Interminable lines form at concession stands and bath rooms. A purple clad drum and bugle corps smartly covers the six thousand square yard playing field with deft patterns in a musical tribute to, of all places, Broward County. Several Broward County officials are presented commemorative plaques for a reason which we never learned. The stands are quiet except for the bark of hawks. Dol-Fan Denny rests on the Dolphin bench and lights his cigar.

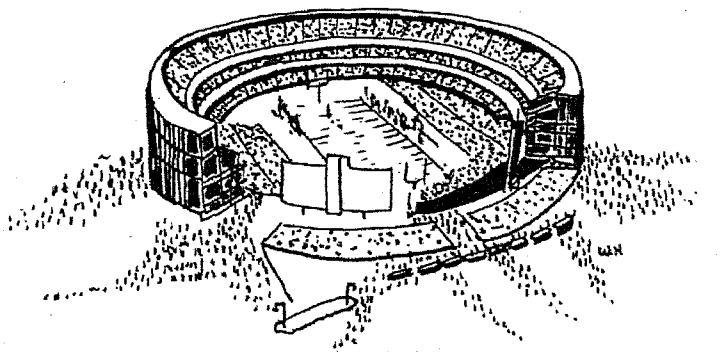
The teams come back. An official blows his whistle and again the gladiators surge madly at each other. The second half, much to the joy of everyone except John Madden and his grey suited team, is all Dolphins. Miami's mastermind Bob Griese wastes no time in capitalizing on one of Larry Gordon's interceptions and he moves the only pro team from Miami to the five yard line of Oakland. Time out. Conference with Shula. Time in. The Dolphins approach the ball. Griese and Langer both wave quiet to their roaring partisans. Oakland lines up defensively man for man over Miami's veteran line.

Larry Little and Mike Currant ask each other, "You or me?" "Me," says Currant. At the snap Currant takes a step to his right then heads four steps up field to roll over Phil Villapiano. John Matuszak is fooled into thinking the play is a sweep right. Left guard Kuchenberg pulls right from his guard slot to barrel over Matuszak and continue the fooled player's journey to the sideline. Meanwhile Griese fakes a pitch to Gary Davis, who has bolted right, then Griese safely tucks the pig into Norm Bulaich's stomach. Bulaich bullets off tackle into the space previously held down by Villapiano and Matuszak. Untouched, Bulaich scores. The crowd roars Bu, Bu, Bu, (not boo).

THE GAME IS LATER iced by another Garo kick and a forty-six yard interception scoot by cornerback Gerald Small. Miami wins 23-6 and clinches a playoff berth. Also, sweetly, they deny Oakland playoff status in retaliation for the two times the Raiders have done that to them.

By now, hoarse with joy, the crowd clogs the exitways. Most of the same group will return the following Monday night to re-live the drama against arch rival New England. Football is a way of life for many of the throng.

WE WERE SWEEPED out of the Orange Bowl



and caught in the scream of happy fans that flowed in every direction away from the site of victory. We reached the fifty thousand dollar parking lot, quite pleased with the afternoon but not quite anticipating the long drive home. At least some good bar stops would ease the monotony of the long journey. Our discussion centered on the bars we would stop at, the well choreographed Star Brites, and the well played game, especially the blocking. Our car, unlike the Raiders, was not blocked at all.



RUN FOR FUN

Mayor Charles McCay signed a Proclamation declaring March 4, 1979 "Last Resort Marathon" Day. The Last Resort Marathon will be run in conjunction with "Old Island Days" with the proceeds to go to the Florida Keys Marine Institute and the Local Y.M.C.A. Four different Distances will be featured to appeal to all runners. For the serious runner there will be both a full marathon (26 miles) and a half marathon (13 miles). The mini-marathon of 10,000 meters (6 miles) will interest physical fitness people. For the sheer joy of running and participating there is the Fun Run, a non-competitive 2 mile run around "Old Town." The Fun Run category will welcome all comers including children and senior citizens. All participants in every category will be awarded a marathon T-shirt.

We encourage everyone to mail in the attached application and to come out to Mallory Square on March 4, 1979 to run for fun, health and charity!

A.A.U. Certification Pending

Free Training Instructions by the Southernmost Runners Club every Sunday morning at 8:00 A.M. at the Key West High School, come on out!

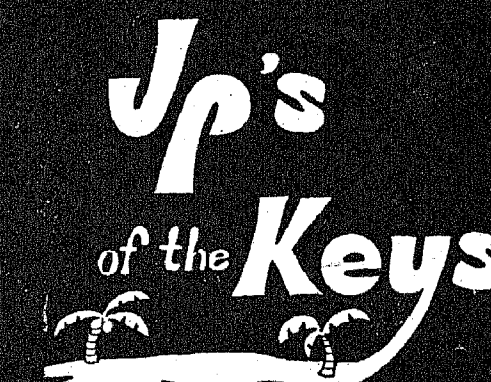
For more information Call 296-5260.

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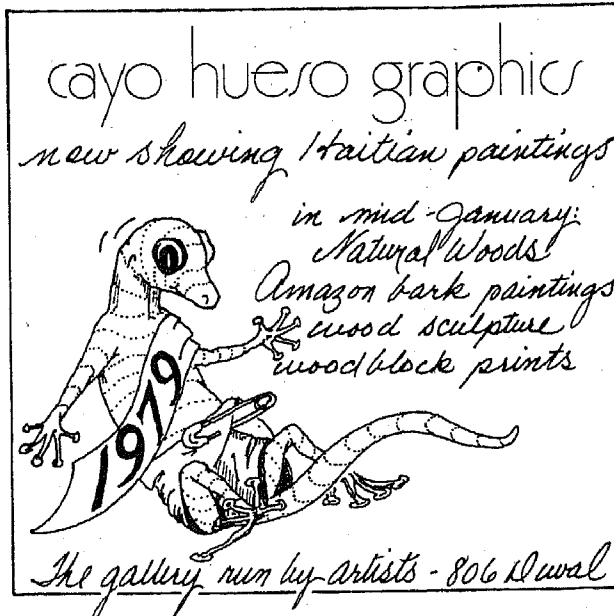
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Bike Thefts

by Ray Daniels

I CAN STEAL YOUR BICYCLE --- BUT YOU CAN STOP ME

BAD NEWS! My bike has been stolen. It was the third one this year. Oh well, I won't bother reporting it -- the police can't do anything anyway. If I don't find it in a week I'll pick up a clunker and start over again.

Sounds familiar, happens daily, perhaps many times a day. But does it have to keep on happening? I don't think so, and I consider myself qualified to say. My father and brother are locksmiths, and I own Ray's Bike Shop.

No, I am not into stealing your bicycle, but I have had access to information as to how thieves work and what simple tools they use. I will show you how simple it really is to rip-off a bicycle and how hard to get caught. Perhaps with your help we can slow them down or stop them eventually.

BIKE THIEVES:
Usually they are aged from 11-20 years old.

Most operate singly and between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m.

Most operate near shopping centers, stores, bars, theaters, and restaurants.

Most thefts are on the spur of the moment.

Most thieves ride a bike and cruise these hot spots, leave their bike a block away and either abandon it or come back later.

Most thieves use no tools. Pro thieves steal bikes using vans or campers.

Pros operate two to the van, dropping off one and picking him and the bike up a block or two away.

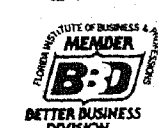
Bike thieves are successful because the merchandise is hard to identify after removal or addition of a few items. If there is something identifiable the part

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Interiors
By Wanda

LA TWEET

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will end up ditched.

Serial numbers are hard to find even under ideal circumstances, impossible after a coat of paint. But most stolen bikes are not painted; they are ridden until broken and beat up, abandoned and then replaced.

BIKE LOSERS:

Most people think bicycles are toys, an annoyance if broken or lost, but replaced with a feeling of loss soon to be relieved with a bright shiny new toy.

Many people help the bike thieves by not locking their bikes or using cheap locks or improperly locking them.

Laws handcuff the authorities. Identification creates confusion. Lack of computer registration creates an impossible owner identification for those bikes recovered.

Most bicycle thefts are misdemeanors (value under \$100).

Most people losing a bike share a defeatist attitude.

Bike losers are often at fault for inviting the theft, or at least not making it more difficult for the thief.

BIKE THEFT PREVENTION

Purchasing used bikes:
1) Buy a bike only from a known source, making sure the bike is registered or getting the seller to register the bicycle.

2) Obtain a proper bill of sale with the person's name and address from a drivers license.

3) When offered a suspicious bicycle, report the person and make of bike to the police.

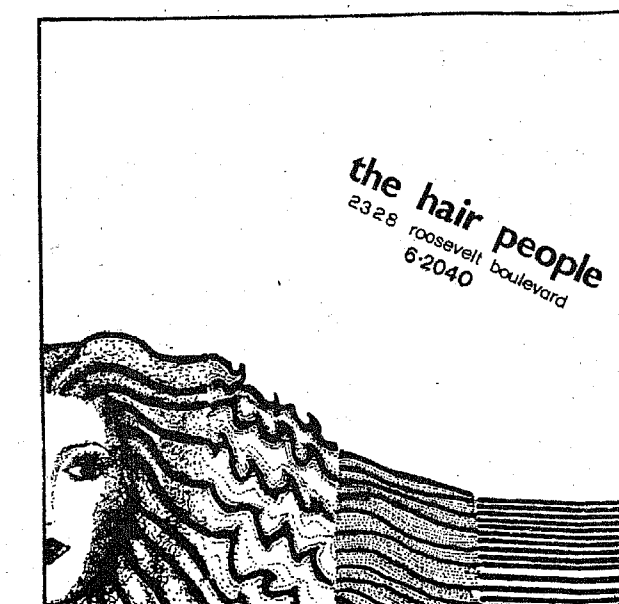
4) If bike looks freshly painted or too good a bargain, be suspicious.

5) Something for nothing will certainly prove to be trouble.

BIKE THEFT PREVENTION

How to stop thieves:

1) It is against the law to possess



HAVE A GREAT 1979 601 Duval Street

stolen property, but property must be identifiable as stolen.

I propose to have all bicycles numbered with the owner's social security number and all removable parts numbered with the owner's social security number. If the bicycle is stolen and dismembered, then each part must be cleaned of the social security numbers. Unless the whole bicycle -- handlebars, wheels, cranks, brakes, etc. -- is painted heavily, then it can still be easily identified.

A person riding a bicycle numbered visibly will be in possession of stolen property and will know he is in the wrong.

If the bike is taken away from Key West it could be traced back here via the social security numbers.

2) Locks, cables, chains -- 3/8" - 9/16" cables are very effective against bolt cutters, but slice like butter with a \$200 pair of cable cutters.

Large locks (Master 12D or similar ones) with case-hardened shackles stop most bolt cutters except pro cutters.

Super chains like Master's best case-hardened alloy welded chains stop most bolt cutters except pro cutters.

These are effective for most bikes under \$100 value.

Citadel, kryptonite or similar locks are best for bikes over \$100. Garalok is another of these good locks.

These locks only work when used and properly anchored to something permanent.

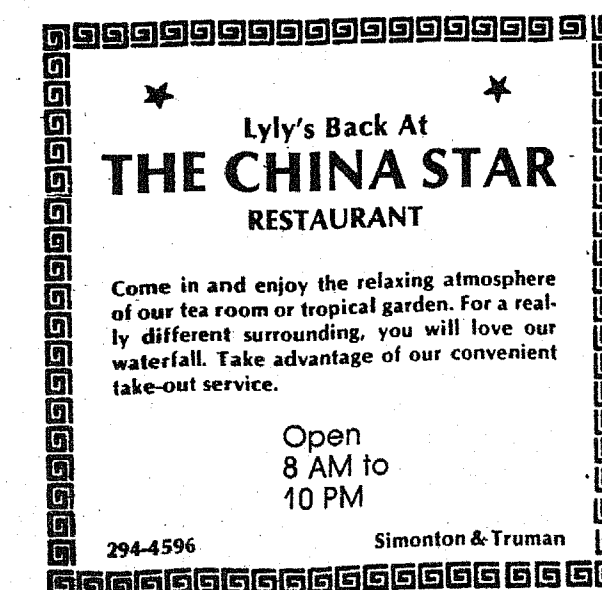
One man I know lost his bike when the thieves sawed a full grown coconut tree down.

3) We must have a special registration program.

Bikes registered must have social security numbers engraved or stamped on all parts of the bike.

Bikes being registered must meet safety requirements.

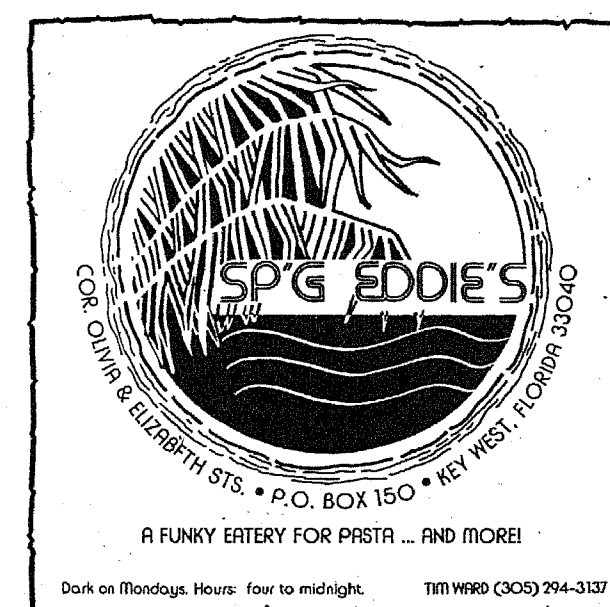
A registration card with the social



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security numbers, serial numbers, full description would be necessary.

If an alert was posted for a certain registered bicycle, and a person were stopped on a similar bike, then that person could prove ownership immediately. If not, then the social security number could be called in and soon determine if the bike was stolen almost immediately.

4. Don't leave your bike in a dark area or unlocked in the backyard. Put it in a shed or in the house.

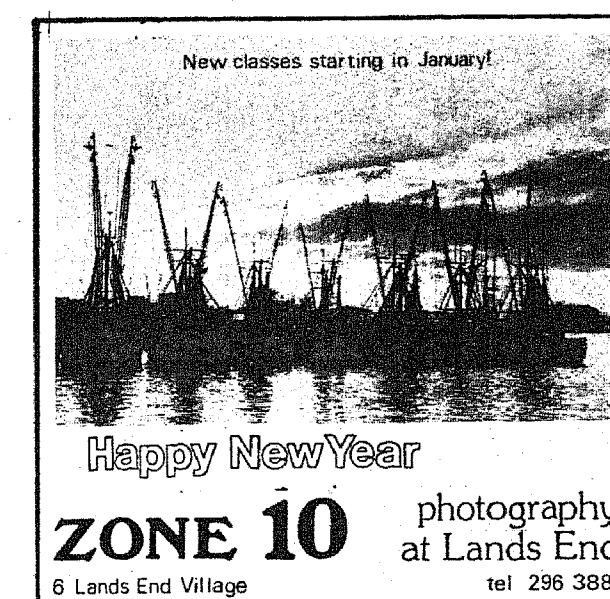
5. Lock both wheels to something secure.

6. Put your lock around the bike's frame or through the crank. At least if the thief cuts the cable or chain he won't be able to ride the bike off until he hacksaws the lock.

7. We need regulated bicycle registration. Are you willing to invest 40-60 minutes of your time engraving or stamping your social security number on the removable parts of your bicycle? When the thief sees that a bike has the new sticker, then he will know he has several hours of work to remove or cover up the social security numbers, and he will probably steal an unregistered bike instead.

IF YOU WANT your bike, spend money on a great lock and chain, and support the bike registration program. If you are interested in bike registration, write pro or con to:

Ray
c/o Ray's Bike Shop
906 Truman Avenue
Key West, FL 33040



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will send it, and then your special creation, directly
to you.

PHOTO QUIZ

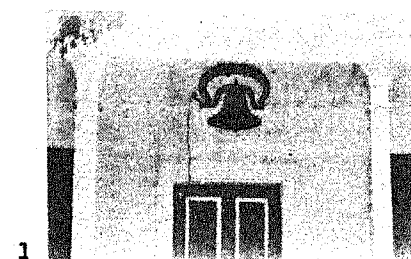
photos by Richard Marsh

The first person to correctly identify all ten of these
photos will win \$25. Identification must be specific; that is,
name or address of building or intersection nearest to the ob-
ject pictured, or an otherwise definite description of the ob-
ject and where it is located.
All of these objects are in the Old Town area and can be
seen (and were photographed) on or from public property.

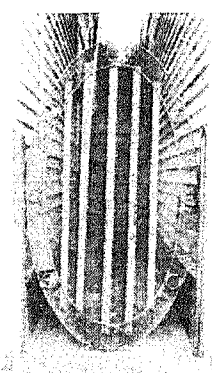
All entries must be mailed to:

PHOTO QUIZ
Solares Hill
821 Duval St.
Key West, FL 33040

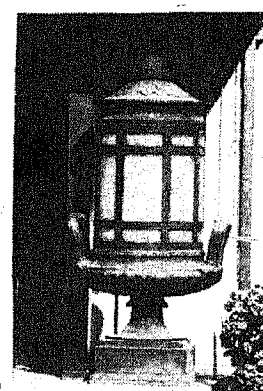
The winner will be the entry with the earliest postmark
having all ten photos correctly identified. In case of a tie,
a drawing will be held to determine the winner.
Solares Hill staff members and their families are not
eligible.



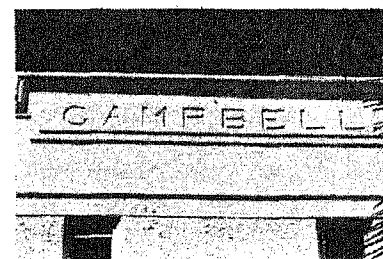
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3



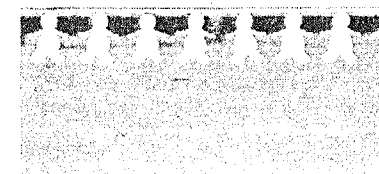
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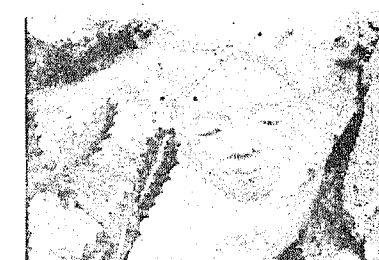
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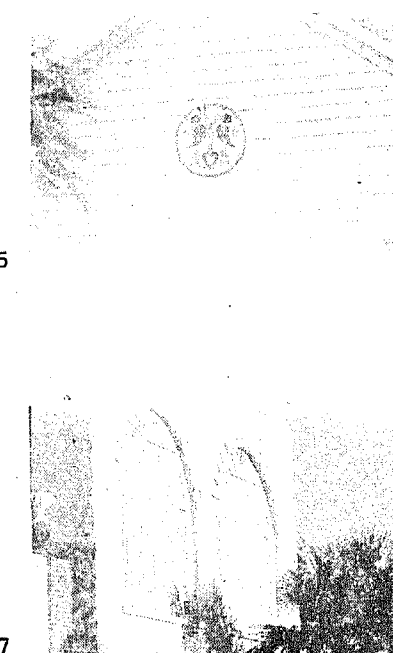
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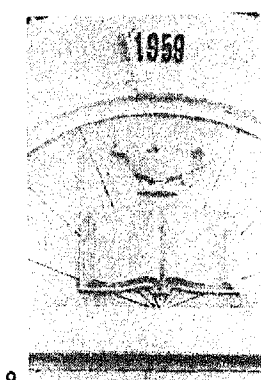
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8



7



9

LAST MONTH'S PHOTO QUIZ

The winner of the December Photo Quiz was Kevin C. Werdann.
Here are the answers:

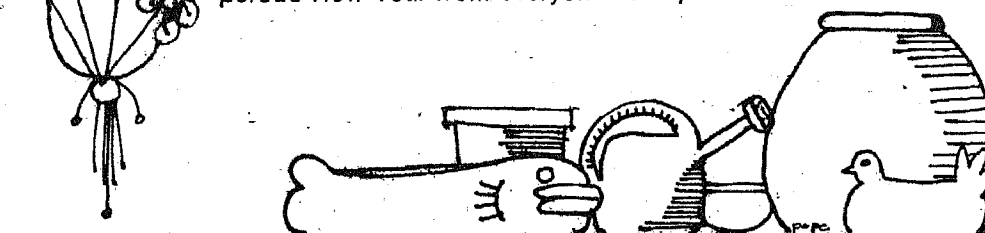
- 1) J & J Steak House, Duval and Southard
- 2) Amelia Street side of house at 1111 Duval
- 3) Cable building at Mallory Dock
- 4) Angel on grave at City Cemetery
- 5) Balcony at Harbor House
- 6) Cuban refugee boat at entrance to Key Lime Square, 600
block of Duval
- 7) Strand Theater, 500 block of Duval
- 8) Roy Auto Parts roof, 121 Duval
- 9) Pace Building (Key West Taco Company), Duval and Fleming
- 10) Telemedia's satellite receiver, off Duval between South
and United

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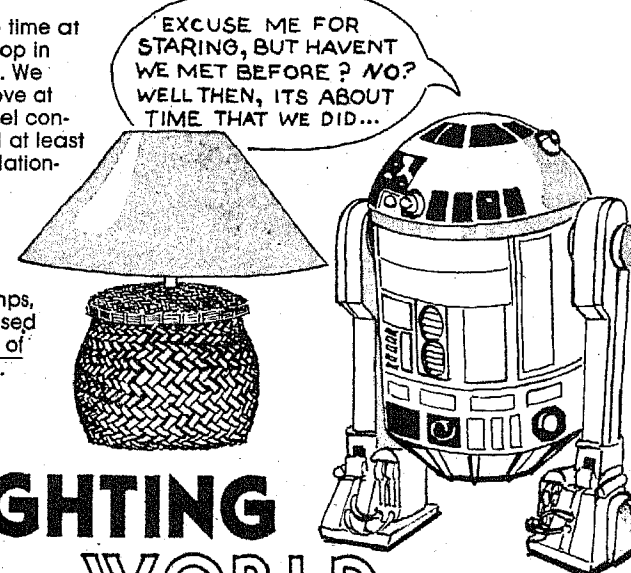
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21 JAN. 6-8PM
CHOCOLATE, CHOCOLATE
24 JAN. 7-9PM
WHAT TO DO WITH A WOK
28 JAN. 6-8PM
INDIAN CURRIES
4 FEB. 6-8PM

Reviewing Stand

by Dorothy Raymer

YEARS AGO, I stood at the corner of Duval and Eaton Streets with the late artist, Gene Otto, and watched the demolition of what was known as the old Cash Hotel.

It had been a private mansion in the past and was one of the most beautiful examples of Key West's classic architecture. Then, back in the 1950's, the property was sold and the building torn down to make way for a modern store of the so-called "five-and-ten" type to be erected.

AS THE MAGNIFICENT but neglected frame structure was brought crashing down in segments, Gene's eyes misted over as he lamented the destruction. He said, "And to think there isn't even a photographic or pictorial record of the place."

Now that there is control over restoration and preservation of Key West's architectural heritage, another constructive factor has been added: pictures and literature concerning the movement. One of the latest publications is *Balustrades and Gingerbread*, published by Banyan Books, Inc. The elegant collection is devoted to Key West's "Handcrafted homes and buildings," with beautiful color photography by Marion Bentley Wall and Roland James Dack. Research and writing is skillfully handled by James R. Warnke.

THIS IS NO casual work done in haste. A number of years went into the creation of the contents. In fact, it has been several years since I talked with Warnke, who queried me on source material. And I was only one of many people he made contact with in his careful, thorough research.

All of the illustrations are in color and encompass more than 70 points of interest of interior and exterior views,

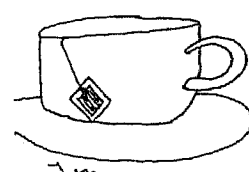
the details of style, such as cupolas, widow's or captain's walks, dormer windows, various kinds of roofing, and of course the trimming work from which the book derives its title.

Patios, yards, walls, fences, gates, porches, doorways with fanlights, and some glimpses of landscaping in tropical settings are captured for the delight and enlightenment of readers and viewers through picture captions and accompanying brief descriptions explaining the origins, structure and brief history of the enchanting places.

BALUSTRADES AND GINGERBREAD is the perfect gift for visitors to Key West, and also one of the most engaging books for any household. It serves as a guide to the inherent charm of the island and is a marvelous conversation piece.

A glossary of terms pertaining to the unique architecture, an index, and a map of the historical district are included.

After the preface and acknowledgments of local people who contributed toward the gleaning of facts, there is a singularly striking quotation by Tennessee Williams, which expresses the spirit of the book: "Time passed has a lovely habit of remaining time present."



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some remarks

THE 14th ANNUAL Old Island Days Sidewalk Art Festival is set for Saturday and Sunday, February 3 and 4, with rain date February 5, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clinton Square from Front Street to Greene including Whitehead Street will be alive with color and festivity. The Art Festival has been a delight to all who view the displays and a continuing pleasure to those who purchase a work of art.

APPROXIMATELY 100 ARTISTS from Key West to Canada and California to Virginia will participate in this event. Purchase Awards and Merit Awards totaling \$6,000 will encourage all exhibitors to show their best work. Thirty-two artists chosen by participating merchants and businessmen will be recipients of the Purchase Awards of \$150 each. The Merit Awards will be selected from a variety of original art in four categories -- oil or acrylic, watercolor, sculpture, and mixed media, which includes drawing, original prints, collage, etc.

In each category Merit Award ribbons will be given to the five best in that medium. In addition, \$125 for First, \$75 for Second and \$50 for Third place winners will be given. The Best in Show will be selected from the four first place winners and will receive a special ribbon plus \$150. The Merit Awards are contributed by the Key West Art Center.

THE SPONSOR and organizer of the Old Island Days Sidewalk Art Festival, the Key West Art Center, is a group of artists dedicated to the promotion of art. In 1960, a small group of artists and businessmen persuaded city officials to give them the use of the then condemned building at 301 Front Street. More than \$10,000 was raised, and it became the first building to be restored in the Mallory Square area.

By providing the community with various and frequently changed painting exhibitions, the Art Center constantly serves the community of the Keys. The Center is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. and admission is free.

VARIEDADES DE 1979

"Varieties of 1979," a musical revue featuring local musicians, singers, and dancers, was video-taped at Florida Keys Community College last month for broadcast over Telemedia's local Channel 8 in the near future. The Hispanic Club of FKCC organized the program. Dr. David Russo is the faculty sponsor.



Saxophonist Hector Barroso strikes a pose familiar to his many local fans. Members of the Buddy Chavez Combo visible in the background are (left to right) Evaristo Morales, Julito Diaz, Buddy Chavez, Danny Acosta, and Danny's father, Alberto Acosta.

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SHOW TIME 9:00 P.M.
JANUARY 620 DUVAL

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ADMISSION \$2.50



Mori (left) and Marta Rosa Menendez dance to the music of the Buddy Chavez Combo. Seen to the right of the photo are song-writer Pepe Delgado at the piano and a member of the studio audience, Mrs. Leslie Strickland, Head Librarian at the Monroe County Public Library.

WHAT IS THE INDIGENOUS PARK?

FOR A LONG TIME a sign identified seven acres of dirt, scrubby grass, and Australian pines at the corner of White Street and Atlantic Boulevard as an "indigenous park."

It was an appropriate label, since nothing is indigenous to Key West. Everything that grows here hitchhiked with ocean currents, storms, birds, or people. Then a wooden structure was erected and an asphalt parking lot was spread. Kids with cars and nothing to do expanded their habitat from the White Street Pier to the "indigenous parking lot," as it came to be called.

The area behind the wooden structures was fenced in and began to collect tree stumps and branches. Last summer at a City Commission meeting Gil Ryder asked Mayor Sonny McCoy what the tree stumps were doing there and what was the whole project about anyway.

MCCOY GROANED and said that the tree stumps were a misunderstanding and they would be removed soon or shredded for compost. But the question of what the "indigenous park" meant was not answered.

IN DISCUSSIONS with several Key West-ers, we found that no one knew what it was all about. Many seemed to assume that everyone else knew about it except them, and that it was probably some silly government project that was relatively harmless. Anything would be an improvement at the site, and it didn't much matter what happened. Some assumed that Solares Hill was keeping an eye on the proceedings, and since we were not making adverse noises it was alright.

We were as much in the dark as anyone, so we asked the Mayor about it. It turns out that it is a pet project of McCoy's that somehow has failed to receive the fanfare of "Downtown '76," the sewer and liquid and solid waste projects, the sidewalk construction, low cost loans, and many other improvements that McCoy's seven-year administration has wrought or initiated.

INSIDE THE FENCED AREA, behind the pavilion, will be a camping facility for very young children of the Brownie and Cub Scout age. This campground will resemble the primeval Keys, but will include modern plumbing and other conveniences. Heavy landscaping around the fence will give the impression of being in the wilderness.

Outside the fenced area will be "perches" for the elderly and others to sit and play dominoes or "cuss out government in general, which is a great pastime, and I believe in it strongly," McCoy said.

Around the camping area an "indigenous trail park" is planned, including a reconstructed Indian mound salted with genuine artifacts that were found in the vicinity when Indian mounds were destroyed with the incursion of the White settlers. Essentially, the project will put things back the way they were, at least in one small portion of the island, before civilization took over Key West.

Continued on page 38

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Why Trees Rustle at Night

A cloud descends from the patched night
to leave the sky black,
the grass white,
While families of trees gather about,
between the shadows of twig and bough;
And under the moon,
the story is told
of a shy young miss and her lad
so bold;
A fellow he, who loved a book,
or a bit of flower, a young girl's look,
And starry thoughts both broad and bright,
And deep cool walks into the night,
A lad who loved soil, sea, sky,
secret aches and wonderings "why?";
Loved his mother, loved his home,
Loved the valley, and his freedom to roam.

Loved his lady, most of all,
And she, shy thing, dainty and small,
Loved the echo of his call.
And, when they danced to the fiddle's string,
the folks all thought them a lovely thing;
With him so tall and dark and true,
And she, so sweet with plum cheeks too,



And when they laughed, the stars fell down,
upon his brow and her dove grey gown;
And when they talked, the birds shushed all,
Unless to chorus with the sweetest call.

But a cloud descended late one night,
bewitching the moon to the grass's fright;
Staining all in the silver light, to a very strange,
very careful light.

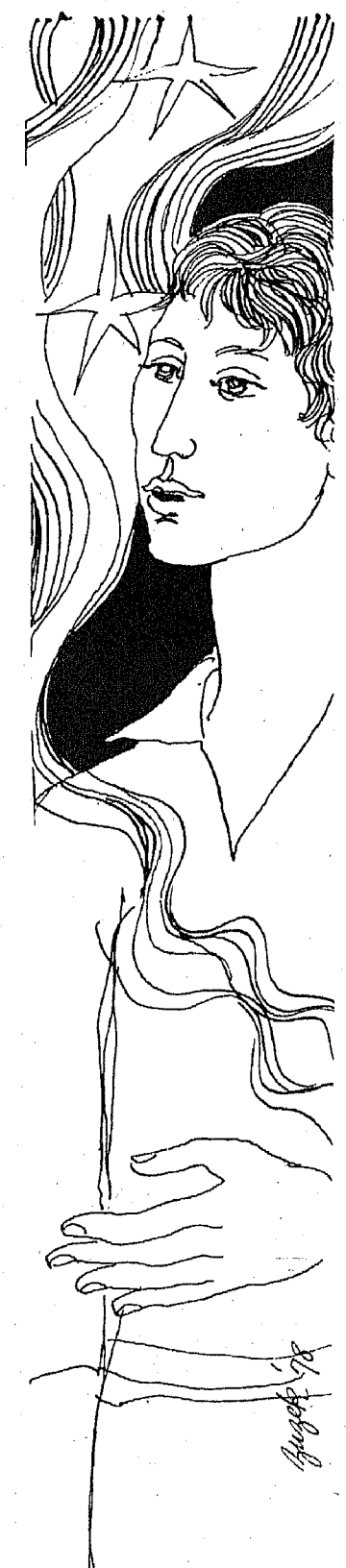
And when the two, we just spoke of them,
came dancing to their home again,
Little fingers guided the way
to the biggest trees with thorns of prey;
Thorns so sharp, a knife seemed dull,
to prick fingers, hearts as well.

When each awoke alone, but free,
She looked for him, he searched for she,
And far and wide above the plain,
Their voices rise together again --

So sings the wind up through the trees,
Many, ah yes many a lonesome eve;
Two lost voices rushing far, between the clouds
to a shimmering star.

Poem by Phoebe Coan

Illustrated by Suzie dePoo



CALVIN KLEIN MEN

Old Key West

House
of
Burgess

Old Key West

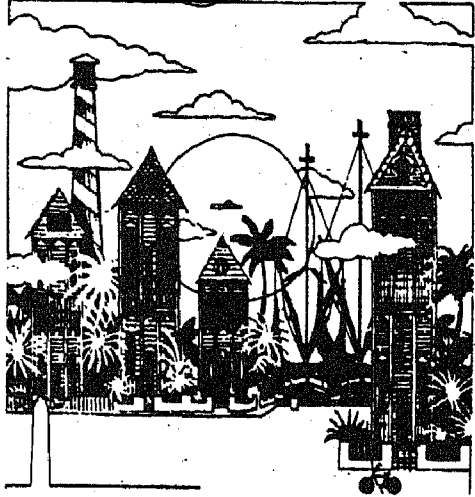
CALVIN KLEIN WOMEN

Old Key West

House
of
Burgess

Old Key West

PORT OF CALL RESTAURANT

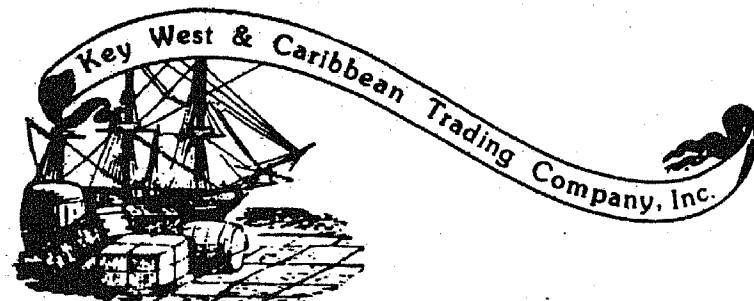


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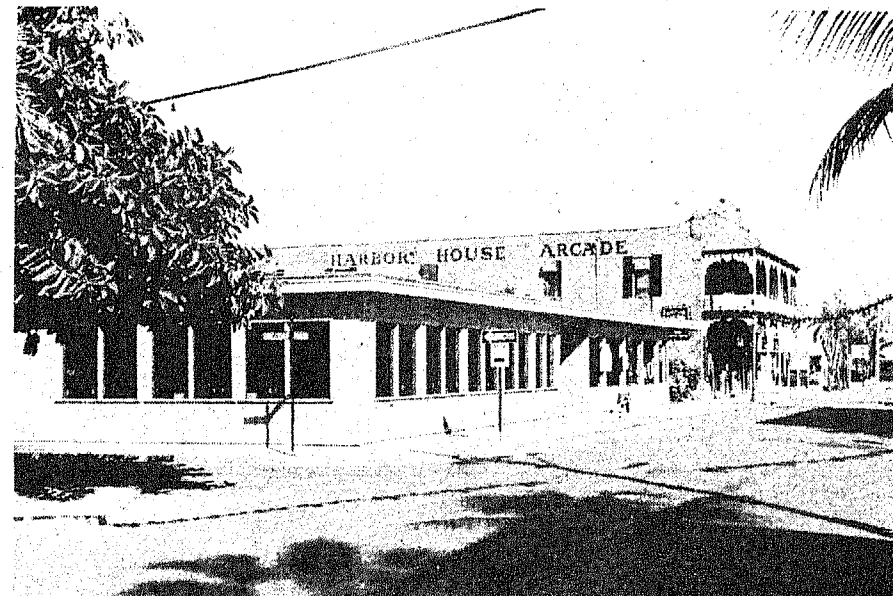
OIRC: Paper Tiger?

article and photo
by Richard Marsh

WHAT BEGAN AS an apparently routine request for a zoning variance has developed into a series of revelations and accusations that seriously question the effectiveness of the ability of the Old Island Restoration Commission (OIRC) to maintain the integrity of the historic atmosphere of Old Town Key West.

WILLIAM RUPP, owner of Green Keys Nursery and Billie's Restaurant, applied to the City Commission for a variance to allow his restaurant at 407 Front Street to cover 70% of the lot. Normally, a coverage of 50% is allowed in that zoning district, which is HP-2, Commercial Historic Preservation District. The variance was passed on the first reading, with only Commissioner Alton Weekley opposed. Commissioner Mary Graham was absent.

Jim Wells, who operates Jim's Junktiques in the Harbor House, objected to the variance on behalf of the Harbor House on several grounds. (The Harbor House is separated from Billie's Restaurant by a thoroughfare that is described as an eight foot



Billie's

city easement on the county plat map, and as a fifteen foot alley in the variance ordinance.)

Wells said that a foundation for a "patio" had been poured to the rear of Billie's, and that studs for base plates and plumbing stubbed into the concrete seemed to indicate that the "patio" could easily be made into a walled and covered addition to the restaurant.

MOREOVER, Wells said, the restaurant exterior does not conform to OIRC standards for buildings in the historic district. The exterior is pecky cypress, not unattractive to some observers, but not in line with traditional Key West construction practices.

Wells said also that Billie's foundation for the front part of the addition was originally laid out to intrude four feet into the city easement, bringing it to within four feet, five-eighths of an inch from the wall of the Harbor House, which stands five-eighths of an inch inside its own property line. Wells convinced the contractor, Bill Vannie, that it would not be wise to intrude onto the city easement. The distance of Billie's from the Harbor House is not now an issue, although the Harbor House would obviously prefer that its main entrance on the city easement was not partially masked by Billie's new addition.

THE MAJOR CONTENTION between Billie's and the Harbor House and other commercial neighbors is the exterior decor, although the "patio" that looks like the beginning of another room at the back of Billie's is being watched carefully.

John Mercer, chairman of the OIRC, said that Rupp showed him a drawing of the proposed improvements and alterations last summer. The drawing shows a sloping mansard roof and planters below the windows running along Front Street and around the corner on Tift's Alley. As finished, the roof is starkly straight, and there is no room for planters, since the building abuts on the sidewalk. Also, the drawing makes no mention of the type of facade to be used. Mercer said that the OIRC would never have approved Billie's as it now stands.

BUT DID THE OIRC approve the building based on the drawing? Yes and no. Mercer said that the members of the OIRC -- Mercer, Florence Rabon, Joe Pinder, Dick McGarry, and Bill Ford -- have agreed to portion out applications for OIRC approval to individual OIRC members. That is, each member gets a handful of projects to decide on individually, rather than the whole board reviewing all applications. It is more expedient that way. It has been agreed that the other four members will rubber-stamp each member's independent assessment of the projects assigned to him.

In this way, yes, the OIRC did approve Billie's. Mercer approved the alterations on the basis of the drawing submitted to him by Rupp, and the rest of the OIRC went along with his

decision. Then Mercer went away on vacation, and when he came back he was shocked to see how different Billie's looks now compared to the drawing he approved then. Mercer said that he feels betrayed by Rupp's saying one thing and doing another. Wells characterized Rupp's dealings similarly.

When we contacted William Rupp to discuss the controversy, he said, "I have no intention of talking to anybody about it," and refused to comment further.

NOW WE COME to a familiar point in construction projects in the Keys. The deed is done, interested observers are wringing their hands in dismay, fingers are pointed, bucks are being passed, concerned citizens demand that something be done.

Little has been done so far, and it is a matter of opinion what can be done now. Wells said that his neighbors supported him until it came time to appear before the City Commission, then he stood alone. At the first reading of the variance November 20, when Wells presented a well-ordered, logical argument, Commissioner Weekley voted against the variance. At the second reading December 4, when Wells found that no one was willing to stand up with him and buck the 3-1 vote, he decided that it would serve no purpose to argue further, and he did not attend the meeting. Weekley voted with the majority for the variance this time, since there was no opposition.

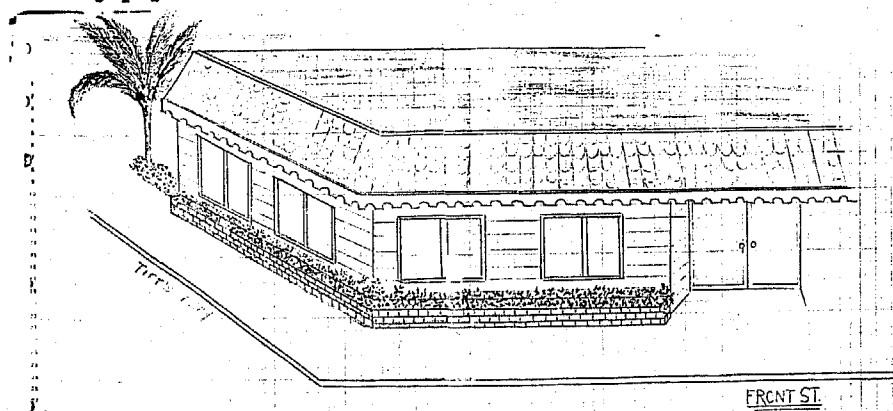
So the variance is passed to allow Billie's to cover 70% of the property, and what becomes of the "patio" with the studs for walls remains to be seen.

THE MATTER AT ISSUE, then, is whether or not the facade of pecky cypress, the stark roof line, and the unadorned windows will be allowed to remain as they are -- an arrogant gesture of refusal to maintain Old Town decor according to the City Code.

There are two ways by which Rupp can be made to bring his restaurant into something more closely resembling conformity with Old Town architecture: the OIRC can flex the muscle granted to it in the City Charter by having the Public Service Director order work stopped that does not conform to the permit, or the City building inspector can withhold a Certificate of Occupancy until the building conforms to the Building Code.

THE OIRC is not without blame in this instance. The method of appointing one member to oversee a project and approving his decision without further review by other members violates the public's right to have a majority approve a project with full knowledge of what the project entails. Each project should be studied by the whole Commission. Those who serve on the Commission who feel that this would take too much of their time should resign in favor of someone who has time to do the job properly. Billie's was brought to its present state of completion while the OIRC member in charge of the project -- John Mercer -- was out of town. If all of the OIRC members shared equal responsibility for the project, would it have gotten that far?

ACCORDING TO OIRC'S RULES, Rupp was supposed to have submitted an application accompanied by plans and specifications that would fully describe the "proposed appearance, color, texture or materials and architectural design of the exterior." Apparently, Mercer accepted a hasty sketch on a sheet of accounting paper that did not indicate the material to be used

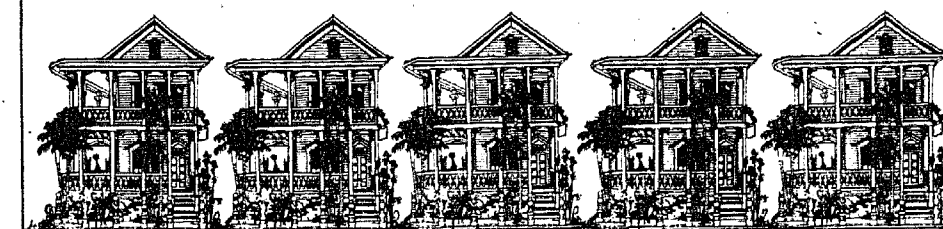


Sketch of alterations submitted to OIRC by Rupp

on the facade. It is questionable whether that sketch even conforms to Old Town decor, but it certainly fits in with the surroundings better than the present structure.

Mercer appears to have acted in good faith, although relying perhaps too much on Key West informality and gentlemanly trust, and the OIRC seems to have become lax through a desire for expediency, not an intent to compromise the historic appearance of Old Town. The OIRC should welcome the opportunity to recover the credibility lost when Billie's was erected in its present form with apparent OIRC approval. It can do this by forcing Billie's into conformity with the Old Town atmosphere.

But if Billie's is allowed to flout the law and stick out like a pagan in church, what is the use of the OIRC?



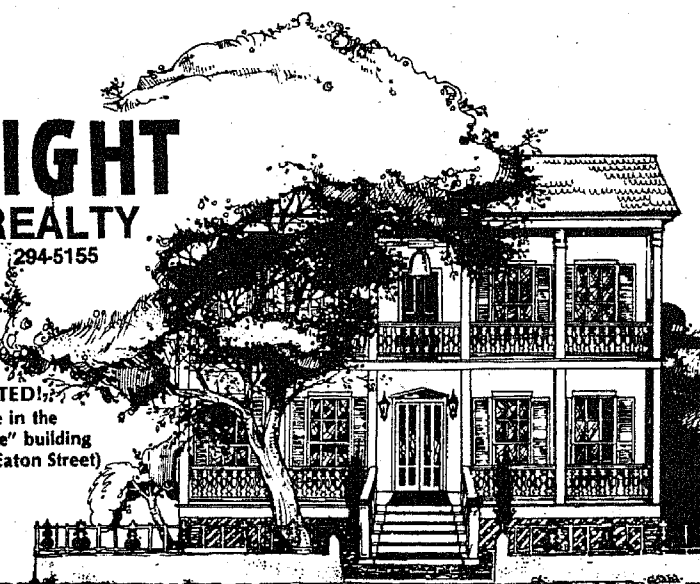
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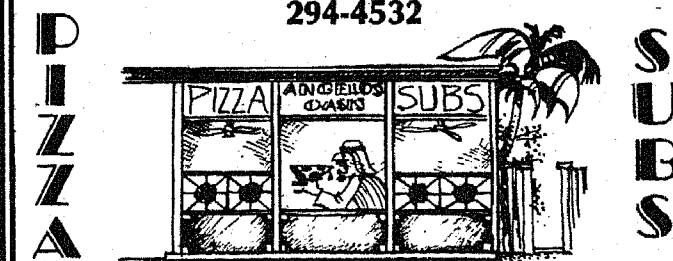
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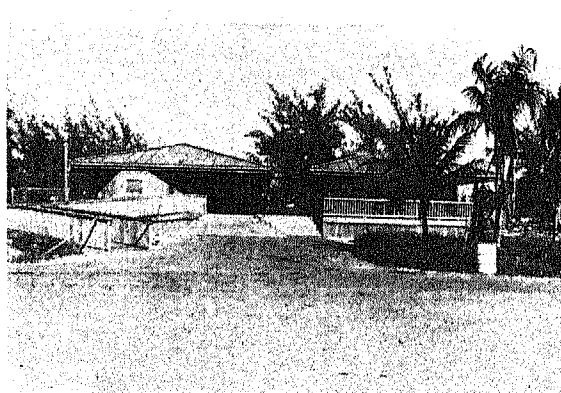
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SOME REMARKS continued from page 33

ABSOLUTE TITLE to the "indigenous park" property was granted to the City by the Navy. A grant of \$150,000 from the Economic Development Administration has paid for the pavilion and parking lot.

Local clubs and groups are being asked to contribute funds or other aid to com-



Pavilion at "indigenous park."

plete the project. The immediate need is for fill before any planting can be done, then a variety of trees and plants will be welcomed from the community. Public Works Director Mario Davila will handle all offers of trees for the park.

The entire project will take about five years to complete, but portions will be ready for use sooner.

A NEW HOME CARE program to keep the elderly out of institutions and with their families is now available to people in Dade and Monroe Counties, local officials of the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services announced recently. The program can pay subsidies of up to \$272 for room and board, incidentals, medical services and other

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"Over two hundred of our senior citizens will be able to live in their own communities through this program," said Max B. Rothman, HRS district administrator. "We're talking about people who otherwise would be forced to enter or remain in nursing homes and state hospitals."

TO BE ELIGIBLE for the home care program, a person must be at least 65 years old, a resident of Florida, certified by a physician to be in need of program services, and have a maximum monthly income of \$515.

"We're also going to look at the type of home this elderly person will be living in," said Rothman. "We want to be sure that the home care provider, preferably a relative, is interested in the welfare of that individual and can give the kind of quality care needed."

While HRS anticipates that many referrals for the program will be coming from nursing homes, hospitals and other care facilities, referrals from the community and families of prospective clients are being encouraged. Anyone interested in additional information can call 325-3111 in Miami.

THE FLORIDA COOPERATIVE Extension Service is seeking owners of various farm animals such as cows, chickens, pigs, ducks, turkeys, goats and sheep who might be interested in displaying their animals at the upcoming Monroe County Fair from February 23rd to March 4th, 1979.

Feed and care will be provided for the animals while they are on exhibit. The purpose of the exhibit is to provide an opportunity for area youth to view first hand farm animals that are so rarely seen in day to day contact in the Keys, that many children are acquainted

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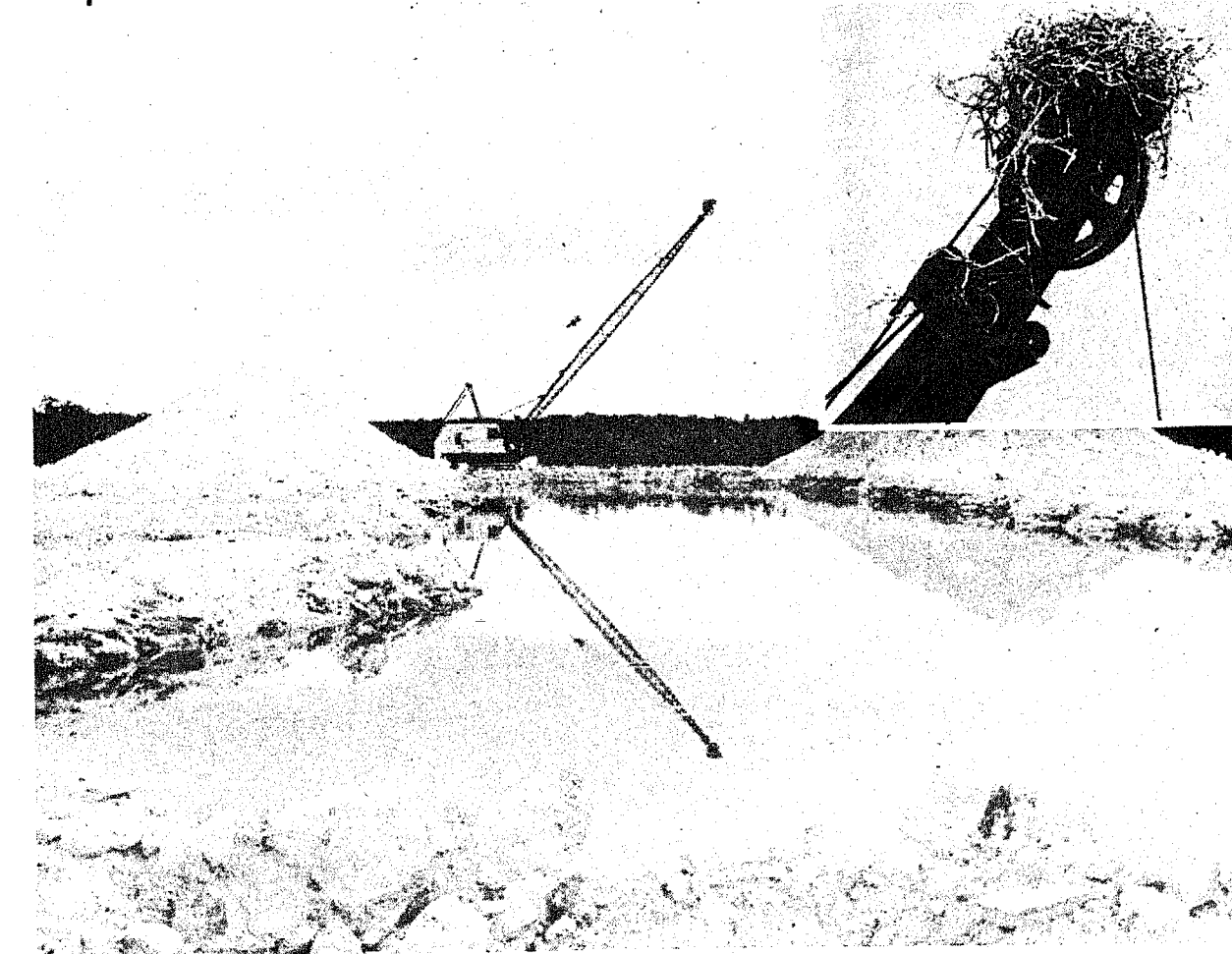
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A pair of ospreys put their own "stop-work order" into effect by stuffing nesting material into the pulley of a crane that has been digging fill from a marl pit on the ocean side of Sugarloaf Key.

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GANG VIOLENCE by Kathleen Hargreaves

COMMUNITY UP IN ARMS OVER GANG ASSAULTS

IF YOU BELIEVE what you read in the papers, there's trouble in paradise. If you talk to local residents Tommy Anderson and Dale Newton, you'll get the story first hand. And if you talk to Key West's Chief of Police, Winston "Jimmy" James, he'll tell you that there's always been a certain amount of trouble in Key West.

According to James, the island has always had its share of crime: robberies, muggings and fist-fights (or worse) arising from differences of opinion that originate in barrooms and spill over on to the street. But the nature of today's problem doesn't involve arguments between shrimpers, navy personnel or local residents.

Instead, it deals with unprovoked attacks on unarmed, unassuming and often defenseless island residents and visitors by not-so-roving bands of teenaged thugs.

TOMMY ANDERSON has lived in Key West all his life. Until recently, the only knowledge he had of violence on the island was acquired through second hand reports. A few weeks ago, Tommy was walking alone to his house on Margaret Street when he was attacked from behind by six teenaged boys at seven o'clock in the evening.

"I saw them coming down the street, but because I lived in the neighborhood and because they had seen me in the area before, I thought they wouldn't bother me. All of a sudden they were all around and beating me. Luckily, my sister and her boyfriend lived right down the street, and I was able to run to their house for help. Otherwise, I'd probably be in the hospital today. I had a couple of bad bruises on my jaw and was forced to drink liquids for a while," he recalled.

SINCE THAT TIME, Anderson says he

thinks twice before leaving the house alone and refuses to park his car anywhere but right in front of the house. "As of now, my family and I, who have been on this island for the past twenty-some years, cannot walk around the corner at night by ourselves for fear of running into these kids again," he added.

Anderson, who was carrying a wallet and other belongings, is convinced that the attack was not robbery-motivated. "They didn't go for my wallet. You could half understand if they did it because they needed to eat. But to attack someone for the sole purpose of hurting them is really frightening," he observed.

Anderson says he has heard of at least 20 cases of assault or harassment in his neighborhood in the last six months. Many of these have gone unreported because victims are unable to identify assailants by name and feel "they would be wasting their time to file a report on an incident no one else witnessed and one perpetrated by people no one can identify."

NOT ALL ATTACKS are similar to that which happened to Tommy. Other victims report general harassment such as verbal abuses levelled against gays, and intimidations that range from forcing pedestrians to walk another direction in order to avoid passing the gangs to threats, bottles, beer cans and bricks hurled at homes, businesses -- and heads -- of unfortunate citizens.

Some attacks, such as that on Dale Newton, begin as verbal taunting and end up in assault and battery. Newton was left bloodied and unconscious in front of the White House Restaurant and Boutique on Duval Street. Charges were later filed against his assailants -- local youths.

THE GANG that attacked Tommy is not new to the neighborhood. More than two months ago he called a local newspaper and requested their assistance in publicizing the problem.

"I said, 'It hasn't happened to me, but there are so many people who have been jumped in this neighborhood that I know something bad is going to happen one day,'" he explained. Anderson was told there was nothing the paper could do without a police report or witnesses. The official police reaction has been much the same.

IN RESPONSE TO the rise in assault and battery cases (reported complaints have risen more than 200 per cent for the October to mid-December period during the last two years), the local Business Guild, a 70 member coalition of many of the newer merchants and tourist home owners, have met with Chief James to discuss and emphasize the problem, one which they feel is not restricted to the gay community. Jim Camp, President and spokesman for the Guild, told reporters that the crux of the matter is not the unwillingness of police to respond to complaints from the gay community, but rather the inability of police to deal with rising crime in the face of a small, underpaid and relatively inexperienced police force.

CHIEF JAMES echoed Camp's sentiment in a recent interview. "We've got a little over 30 officers to control an island population that approaches 60,000 people in the winter months. Many of our men are so new that they have to ride around in a squad car with a map of Key West next to them on the seat. We tell them to answer a call at a certain address, and they've got to look at the map before they know how to get there."

"I feel sorry for these new businessmen. They've invested in Key West, they love it here and we love to have them. But most of the time we can only afford to run from one call to the next. Investigate complaints? Sure, we'd love to. When do we do that with only 30 some police split up into three daily shifts?"

"For us, it's a matter of doing a little for everyone rather than a lot for one particular group. We tried to explain that to the Business Guild and I think

they understood our problem. How do you control an island with 32 policemen? Miami Beach is a fraction of the size of Key West and they've got ten times the number of police!" exclaimed James.

WHILE IT MIGHT be that gays are more vocal about the incidence of assaults, the problem is definitely not restricted to them. This reporter recently observed a broken-bottle assault by a youth on an elderly man sitting at the corner of Simonton and Truman during midday.

Because Key West is such a close-knit community, news of the assaults travels fast. Members of the community -- both gay and straight -- have expressed deep concern over the problem. A number of these people, who have asked that their identities not be revealed, are presently talking about handling the matter "on the street."

"There's no question what I'd do if I saw some of those punks beating on an innocent person. I'd fight fire with fire," remarked one Duval Street local.

BEHAVIOR SUCH AS THIS is exactly what Chief James wants to avoid. "They leave me no recourse but to treat them the same as I would the gang offender," James said, adding, "The days of taking law and order into your own hands are long gone -- even in Key West."

James said that the major problem faced by the police force in cracking down on this type of crime has been a lack of evidence, witnesses and proper identification of gang members.

RECENT EVIDENCE suggests that growing and widespread community cooperation will soon eliminate the present stumbling blocks to prosecution. High school yearbooks are being studied in hopes of identifying faces which at this point are well known to neighborhood residents, victims and the police force. Community and business members are banding together in order to keep a watchful eye on vacant properties (where the gangs tend to congregate). Photographs are being discreetly taken of gang members for future



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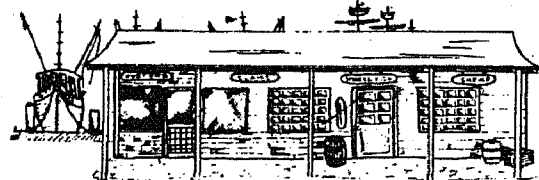
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identification, and phone calls are being placed to the police as soon as residents see the youths gathering at familiar hang-outs.

SAID ONE CONCERNED member of the community, "This island is too beautiful and too perfect to sit back and allow it, us and the tourists to be intimidated by a small gang of hoodlums. This is Key West, not New York, and we're going to make damned sure it stays that way!"

Anyone with information leading to the identification and subsequent prosecution of these individuals is encouraged to contact the police department or *Solares Hill*.



CHAMBER SQUABBLE continued from page 17

comes to squeeze they'll have to go into their own pockets, and that won't go over too well. Two of them have already told me they wish they hadn't started this thing. I'll make a prediction. Within three months every one of them will be pointing their fingers at David Horan and accusing him of having a bad idea."

THE CORE of the controversy -- the real reason grown men and women are tearing at each other's throats for control of the chamber -- is almost impossible to define.

Horan's camp explains that the old chamber was not responsive to its members the way a chamber should be. They say it has become a tourism promotion agency and doesn't address itself to problems like low-cost housing for workers, road and bridge improvements, workman's compensation, and property taxes. The final split, Horan says, was triggered by the "midnight massacre" and Tim Miller "setting himself up as king."

TIM MILLER says damaged egos caused some of the friction. But he said the

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wedge was driven primarily between old-time Key West thinking and the progressive philosophies of many newcomers. "They were using 1950's management techniques in the 1970's," he said. "A business person would move here from Chicago or Providence or another place where the chambers are run as they should be, and they would make suggestions for change. They were treated as 'outsiders' because they weren't part of the Good Ole School and didn't conform to the Old School's idea of what a member should be. Our way of thinking is essentially in opposition to the Old Guard. It's a difference in management philosophies."

Miller also hinted rather broadly that Horan's group wants to have influence over what happens on the newly surplussed Navy Base property. "Look at the Lower Keys and Key West Development Corporation (Devcorp) and Horan's group," he said. "They're the same people."

MAYBE THAT'S AN overbroad statement, because only Dobert, D' and Horan are on both boards. But Smith, Horan and Pinder are on the Military Affairs Committee, which Miller claims is more evidence to support his theory.

The unidentified past chamber president also said, "I think the basis of the fight is financial. Devcorp is going to run out of money in June and disappear. This new chamber wants to step in and take its place. In every other sensible community the chamber of commerce is the big noise. They'll have bigger input into what goes on at the base."



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BY EMMA CATES

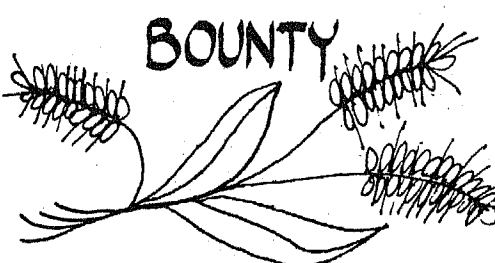
January is the City of Key West's birth month. I see the aspects for the year 1979 as follows:

THERE WILL BE much activity and contention in the area of homes, houses, buildings, builders, and the construction industry. Real estate is very strongly expected. There will be polarization from the "home folk" and the "new" residents in Key West. There will be much active resistance to change. Changes already underway, and changes that are contemplated.

The home department will be expected by Saturn, the ruler of the chart of Key West. This implies status quo. In the area of work, jobs, employees, health related businesses, accentuation will continue on a new and different approach to the employment picture in this city. Definite changes will come about with a lot of ballyhoo and differing viewpoints, but the changes will definitely be for the betterment of the employment picture of this city. Stability and steadiness in the financial area of the city will be the outcome -- after a period of much dissension. The Full Moon on May 12 of 1979 will bring to a head definite and positive results to some of these problems.

THE KEY will be found to "cooperation." The old and the new can work together by both becoming aware of the opposite point of view, and choosing what is best for all concerned rather than attacking each other on single issues.

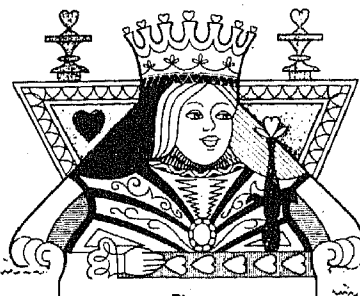
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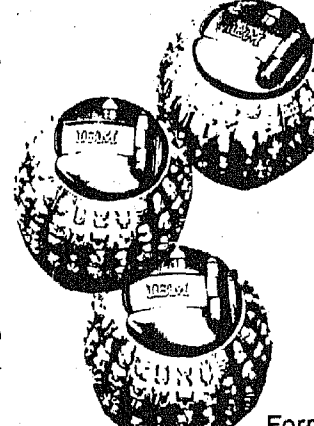


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"You Oughta Be In Pictures..."

Text and photos by Richard Marsh

THE LONG-AWAITED movie about Key West's bare-foot philosopher and retired adventurer, Captain Tony Tarracino, was filmed here during November and December.

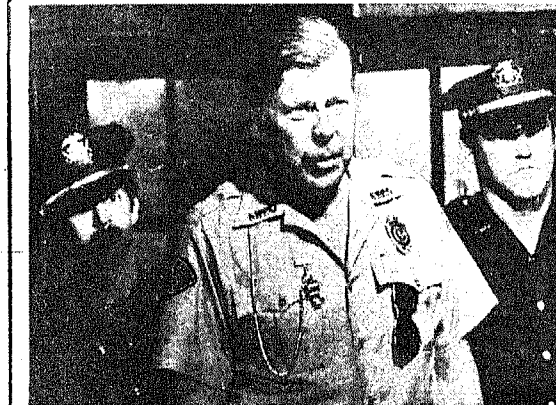
Stuart Whitman, shown in the photo at left with Captain Tony in front of Captain Tony's Saloon surrounded by busy film crew members, played the part of the Captain.

The romance-adventure takes place in Key West in 1962, and includes a CIA and Mafia plot to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, with Captain Tony transporting trained commandos to Cuba on his charter fishing boat, the Greyhound II.

Key West resident Chris Stone assembled local talent for bit parts and extras, some of whom are shown in photos at right. Kermit "Shinola" Forbes, who played a bit part, can be seen in the photo at left on the sidewalk behind Captain Tony.



Michael Corritore, who lives on Stock Island, played a commando.



Key Wester Jason Gaskin in a scene with female lead Caren Kaye

Genuine Key West police officers, Patrolman Robert Herrera (left) and Sergeant David Laris (right) flank Los Angeles actor Albert Salmi in a scene in Captain Tony's Saloon.



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and good FM reception (providing, of course, you have an FM antenna). Unusual in smaller receivers, Kenwood has put a lot of fancy features in this model, like microphone mixing. If you get the urge to sing along, you simply plug in your microphone, turn the mike mixing gain control and start wailing.

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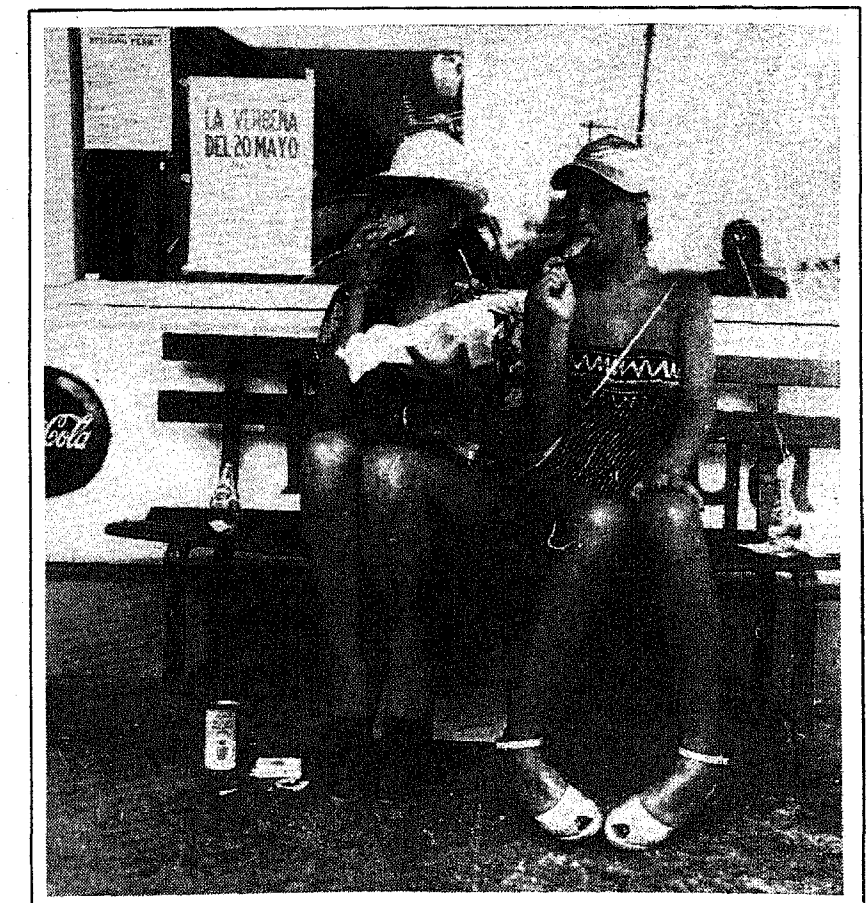
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Back Door To Big Pine

A CANOE/HIKING tour of Big Pine Key with Stan Becker starts with zig-zagging tyro paddlers learning how to propel a canoe in a straight line from Little Torch Key across the Big Pine Channel to Big Pine Key. By the time they arrive,



Stan Becker (right) leads canoeists across Big Pine Channel.

they are expert canoeists. By the time they make the return crossing, they have seen and learned more about the natural life of the Keys than they can easily absorb in a day. They paddle back in a daze, stuffed with observation enriched by Becker's scholarly but practical commentary. For weeks, months, probably the rest of their lives, items will surface at random or be called up by association.

HEARTS OF PALM -- there is a local band by that name -- come from the cabbage palm or sabal palmetto, the Florida

state tree, and are an eating delicacy.

Jamaica dogwood is also called the fish poison tree. Crushed leaves and root bark once were used to stun fishes. We stopped to eat lunch (provided by Becker) under a gumbo-limbo tree.

Stakes cut from gumbo-limbo branches and planted along a fence line will root and grow into a living fence. Tea from the green underbark of the gumbo-limbo -- called gumelaka -- is soothing to the stomach.

The pigeon plum is edible; so is the strangler fig and the satin leaf, which is identified by its green-on-top and reddish-brown-on-bottom leaves.

The tallwood plum, popularly called the purge nut, has a seed that is a powerful purgative. Usually growing nearby is the white stopper, the purge nut's

antidote.

We saw the notorious manchineel, malefic but pleasantly fragrant, the poisonous tree of horrific reputation. Indians used to torture captives to death by tying them naked to the tree. Poisons exuded by the tree would slowly -- in a week or so -- flay the skin from the victim, and he would die in agony from loss of blood.

Becker explained the changes in vegetation after we tied the canoes to the red mangroves on the north side of Big Pine Key. Red and black mangroves predominate from the water line to an elevation of eight inches. Next comes the transition forest, characterized by buttonwood, white mangrove, and manchineel, to one foot above sea level.

THEN WE ARRIVED at Watson's Hammock (from the Creek Indian *hammock*, "garden place"). People used to live there until the Depression, when sources of income like commercial fishing dried up for lack of buyers. Mizpah Saunders -- a memorable poetic name -- used to live there.

It took the whole day from nine to five to complete the trek. Tiring? Not too. The youngest companion, a seven-year-old girl, was subdued but far from exhausted at the end of the day, but then she did not paddle. The pace is leisurely and the discussion stops are frequent, but you want to be in reasonably good condition to enjoy the trip through to the end.

YOU WILL WANT to read a book or two on Keys ecology and go back again. There is more than can be grasped in a short time, and repeat visits only increase the desire to learn more about the unique environment of the Florida Keys.

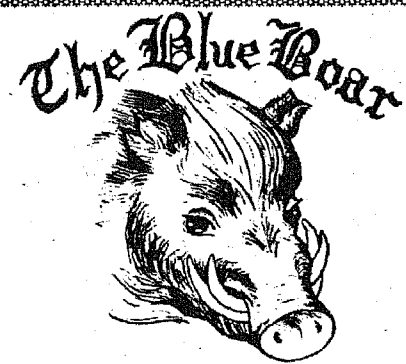
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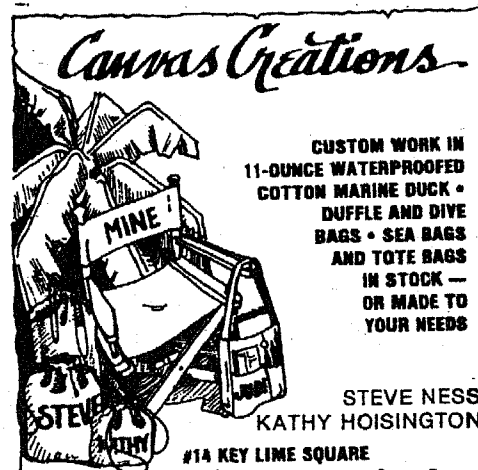
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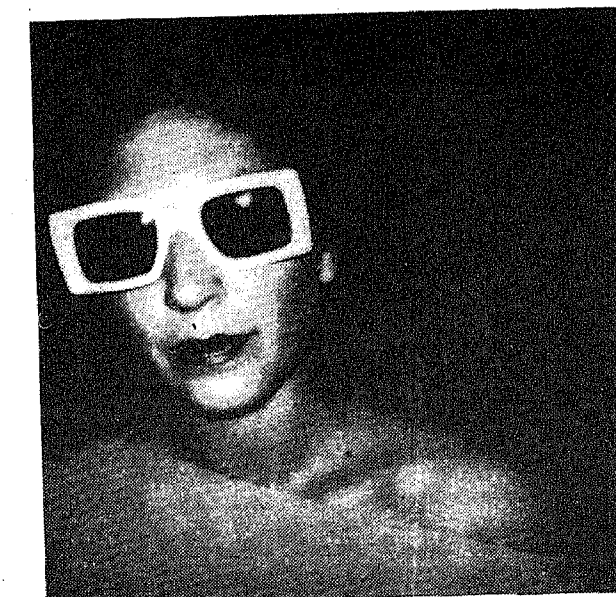
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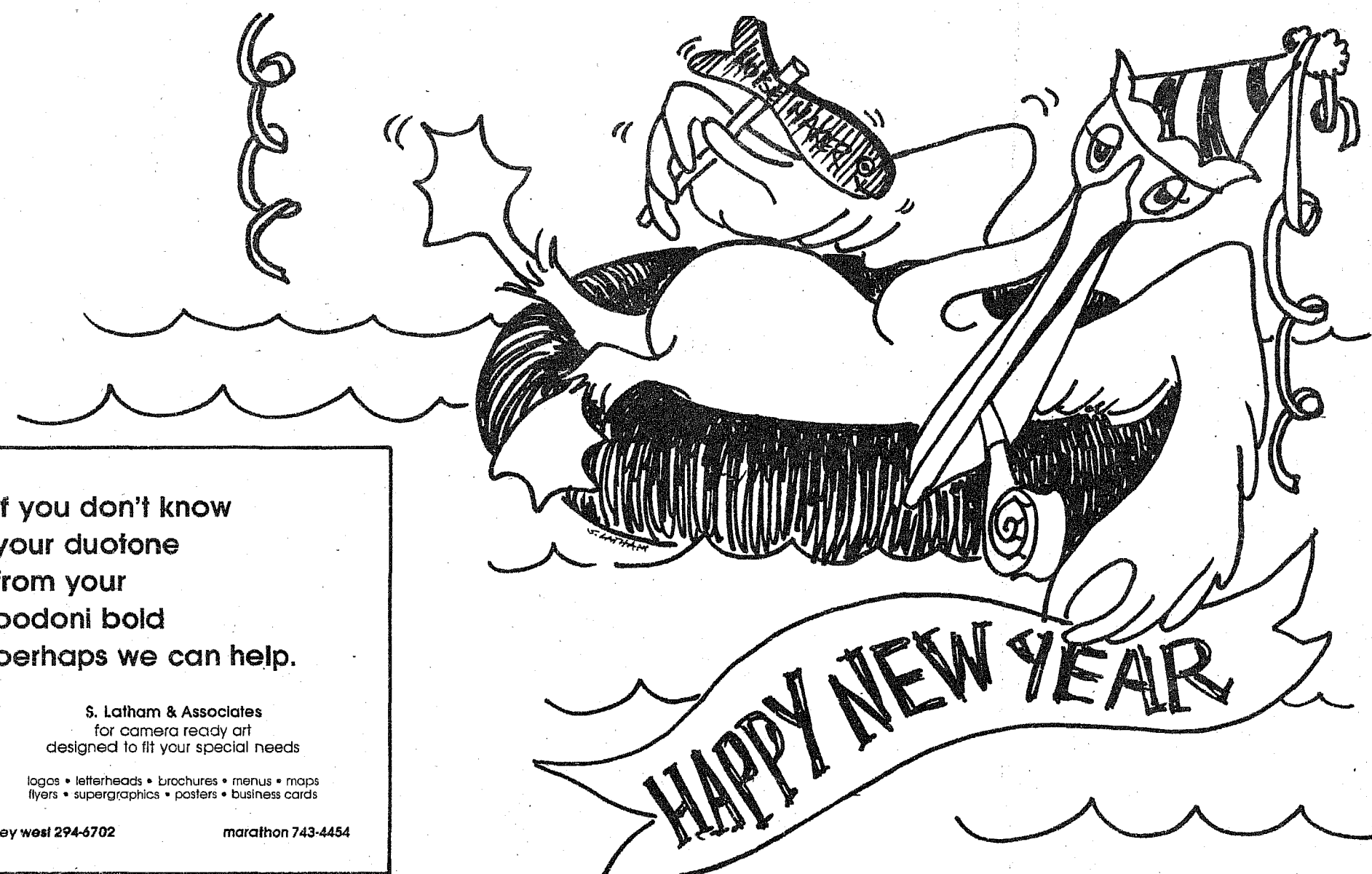
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