

The highest point in Key West

Solares Hill

FREE

Vol. XII, No. 2

KEY

February 1984



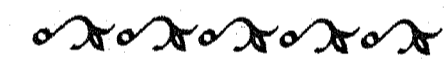
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FROM THE EDITOR

HELLO -

CITY ELECTRIC CONTINUES to plunge different areas of the city into darkness. Rumor has it that for three weeks the Stock Island plant has not been operational and this is why we've had these frequent blackouts. If this is so - and it should be investigated - then, by the actions of this utility alone, massive projects such as the Sands should be put on the back burner and not addressed until the people of Key West have adequate resources for themselves.

In the meantime, however, in a preparation for high-tension wires for this project, City Electric crews have been cutting down some beautiful old palm trees along South Street. According to Bill Hamlin of City Electric all those palms along South Street will have to come down because they interfere with power lines there now - and with the projected high tension lines to be run for the Sands - and they can not be trimmed because trimming the crown of a palm will kill it. Hamlin says that Kathy Wolfe, Landscape Co-ordinator for Key West, gave the approval for the trees to come down. Wolfe is liaison to the Tree Commission which is supposed to protect healthy trees when they are threatened. It is time this organization gained the authority necessary to insure that we keep these trees and plants that provide shade and beautification for the city.

THE SANDS, THE SANDS! By a two to one vote last week (January 24), the City Commission voted that this project had not successfully answered all the questions posed by H.U.D. in reviewing its application for the Urban Development Action Grant and, therefore, was not eligible for funding in the period just ended. But the beast slumbers not. In what appears to be a race to beat the clock on both Critical State Concern, which may be decided for Key West February 7, and the second reading of the city's 40' height ordinance. Monday, February 6 will be the date for another hearing in front of Old Restoration Commission in which this body will review the updated plans for the Sands and, then, Monday night,

the City Commission again will hear arguments that the project has answered all the questions from H.U.D.

- and, as we go to press, I read that the Mayor, Commissioners Balbontin and Cates have given the O.K. in a "straw" vote to ask H.U.D. to reconsider this grant application for the previous period, thereby reversing the city's decision of January 24. Solares Hill had been told repeatedly by H.U.D. spokesmen that the city had missed the deadline for consideration in this period. What's going on?

A **CONTROVERSIAL PROJECT** from the past is back in the headlines. Karen Coler, temporary secretary of the Lower Keys Golf Association, sent in this message which explains the problem:

It's happening at the golf course, too. We local citizens are again at the mercy of the developer.

Key West Associates have just completed a beautiful 18-hole golf course on public land, but they are charging the public much too much money to play. How often can a twosome afford \$40 a day for golf and \$15 for a golf cart?

The land for this course was leased from the City of Key West at a very nominal fee. Before the deal went through, concerned citizens were reassured **VERBALLY** that the golf course fees for local golfers would be affordable, would be reasonable. But even with a 20% discount for those who buy a block of tickets, the prices are way out of line for the local public.

So now we know, yet again. Unless one gets a specific, written contract from the developer before he builds, he will give back nothing but heartache and regrets.

And so the golf course is just another example of unfairness and greed. By buying cheap

continued on page 50

Our artist this month is Bob Lyon. He is an artist employed by Key West Aloe.

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BANKING WITH THE CONCHS: 1st Federal Savings & Loan Success Story

by BUD JACOBSON

PUTTING YOUR MONEY in a savings account, or borrowing some, buying money orders or travelers' checks, or doing any of the many things that banks now offer as customer service, has become Monroe County's leading private industry.

The reason for that is basic: more people living in the county; more development; more building; more businesses; more retired persons; more cars, more trucks - just plain more everything.

IN THE YEARS since 1952, when size and growth here and in the county were crawling along at a snail's pace, the enormous growth of banking as an industry has been a singular phenomenon that 1st Federal Savings and Loan of the Florida Keys has (forgive the pun) capitalized on shrewdly and aggressively to the point where, today, it ranks as number one - and it's still mainly under the control of native Conchs. That's the big point that management makes today to the public.

MONROE COUNTY'S OWN 1st Federal S&L is in a dominant position with upwards of \$360 million in assets in nine branches from Key West to Key Largo, covering 40,000 accounts.

ALL THIS FROM an undistinguished birth in a small shop on Southard Street (later remodeled into its handsome downtown branch) with four employees and a \$100,000 investment made by 100 depositors - along with a sturdy hand-up from St. Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church.

Perhaps one of the first examples of "art in public places" in this county can be seen in the spectacular hand-fired tile mural in the Southard Street branch. It was done over several months by Miami artist Fran Williams for the opening of the company's first main headquarters offices. Each piece, of many thousand, was hand-fired by Miss Williams, and the overall effect is a one-of-a-kind painting of all of the Keys, the stunning colors of the water around the island, birds and wildlife, shrimp boats and cigarmakers.

"We've come a long way," smiles Robert A. Dion, president and chief executive of First Federal.

DION, A CHUNKY Conch from a long family line in the Keys, isn't usually that modest when he talks about the banking firm he's been employed by for the last 30 years, come 1984. It was his father, the late Freddy Dion, who was the prime

mover behind the founding of First Federal; he was a highly regarded, very active member of the business community with a sharp sense of humor and strong ideas about the future growth of Key West and the Keys. His main line of business, then, was in real estate.

"IT WASN'T THE easiest thing in the world rounding up \$100,000, which was the amount required by the

and Dion said he'd forget his commission if the church put the money in a 1st Federal savings account.

That did it. "Fr. Joseph Maring okayed the deposit and 1st Federal had the necessary amount to open up; the charter came in January 1952, but we didn't open until May," Dion noted. The interest being paid on savings? A princely 3 1/2 percent.

THE FIRST BOARD of directors



photo by Don Pinder

At a commemoration of the late Carl Bervaldi a few years ago were: left to right, William "Billy" Freeman, John G. Parks, Jr., Allan Hampton, Jack A. Saunders, Mrs. Carl Bervaldi, (behind her) Robert Dion, William "Billy" Arnold, "Bookie" Henriquez, Munson Johnson, and Norman D. Artman.

Federal Home Loan Bank we had to have to open the doors; regulations were strict and they're just as tough today," Bob Dion said.

During 1951 the organizational effort was underway by Dion, the older, and several of his friends. They reached a point about \$38,000 short of the goal and were stuck when along came a real estate deal involving the Catholic Church and McCrory's store. The property was a huge tract along Duval Street from the LaConcha Hotel to Eaton Street and west to the end of the store's present building.

THE CHURCH OWNED the property and wanted to sell it; they listed it with Freddy Dion and Dion matched them up with McCrory's - the price was \$38,000

(Dion had the original minute book from 32 years ago taken from the vault) was composed of Armando Cobo; Fred Dion; Gene Anheir; attorney J. Y. Porter, later a judge; Dave King, then the city manager (King's Point on Stock Island is named after him); and Carl Bervaldi, assistant manager of the Lindsley Lumber Co.

Robert Garrison and his wife, originally from central Florida, managed the operation at first, and two years after it was open, Bob Dion joined up after his military service. Vice president Joy Rodriguez came in as a teller, fresh out of school, in 1956, and some months before that, Dion was upped to manager-secretary of the corporation.

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numbered 14 - those first mortgages, Dion recalled, were made at 6 percent. "Compared to today, how'd you like one of those," Dion asked, shaking his head.

After one year in business, the books showed \$320,000 outstanding in property loans and they were still paying 3 1/2 percent to their savers. More and more, however, were drawn to 1st Federal because the rate was better than they'd get in a commercial bank. Banks of that kind, regarded as the usual sort of bank with many services still not permitted, then, to the savings and loan institutions, were the old Florida First National, controlled by the legendary late Ed Ball, at Front and Duval, and in 1955, Rep. Bernie C. Papy, and his close associates, organized and chartered the Key West State Bank, at Simonton and Catherine.

THE MARATHON BANK was opened about that time, and up on Key Largo, the Upper Keys National Bank opened in the late 1950s.

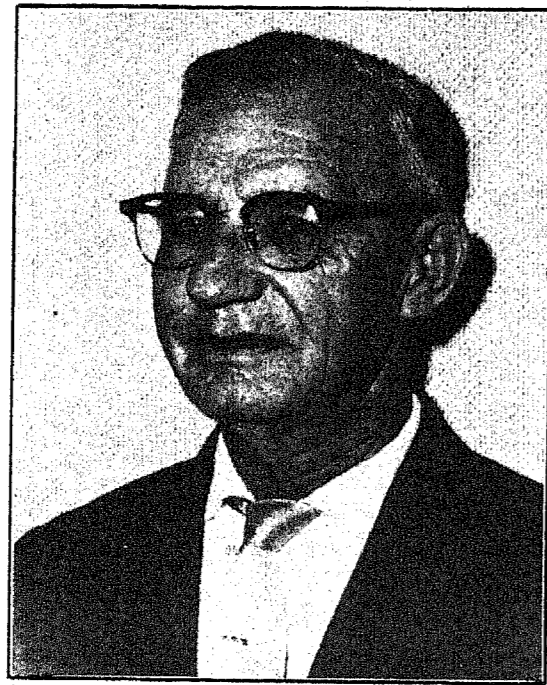
Banking as a business in those years could not even be considered an industry, as such - industry, then, was principally construction and real estate development. A lot of it was in its infancy.

"Politics might be an industry," suggested Dion slyly, remembering those years when Papy was the absolute political ruler of the Keys and there were periodic battles at the ballot box when Papy and anti-Papy troops tangled. Political lines today are more blurred.

IN 1954, THE board at 1st Federal changed somewhat as a few dropped out and new members were named - Wm. M. (Billy) Arnold, prominent in real estate; Election Supervisor Wm. Billy Freeman; and attorney Jack A. Saunders who served three terms in the state legislature. The following year there was more expansion as real estate broker

Munson Johnson, a partner of Arnold's, joined the board, along with newspaper publisher Norman D. Artman, who has since resigned from the board, and gas company executive Allan Hampton.

"THE CONCH TOUCH was there, all right," remarked one of the bank's older officers.



Fred Dion

The strong movement of 1st Federal in local banking circles and the apparent policy of ploughing back much of its surplus into the company's buildings and personnel, along with expansion of its loan portfolio, made it one of the fastest growing banks in the county in the early 1960s. It was then paying 4.25 percent interest.

IN MARATHON, DION recalled, around 1964, there was a small but

determined group of investors, led by Dr. Lloyd Damsay, who were on their way to a savings and loan charter. First Federal, however, aced them out - they opened a branch operation, with the go-ahead signal from the Federal Home Loan Bank, in July, next to the post office, and then later built the new office in Marathon Shores. Today, there's another 1st Federal branch in the older section of Marathon, as well.

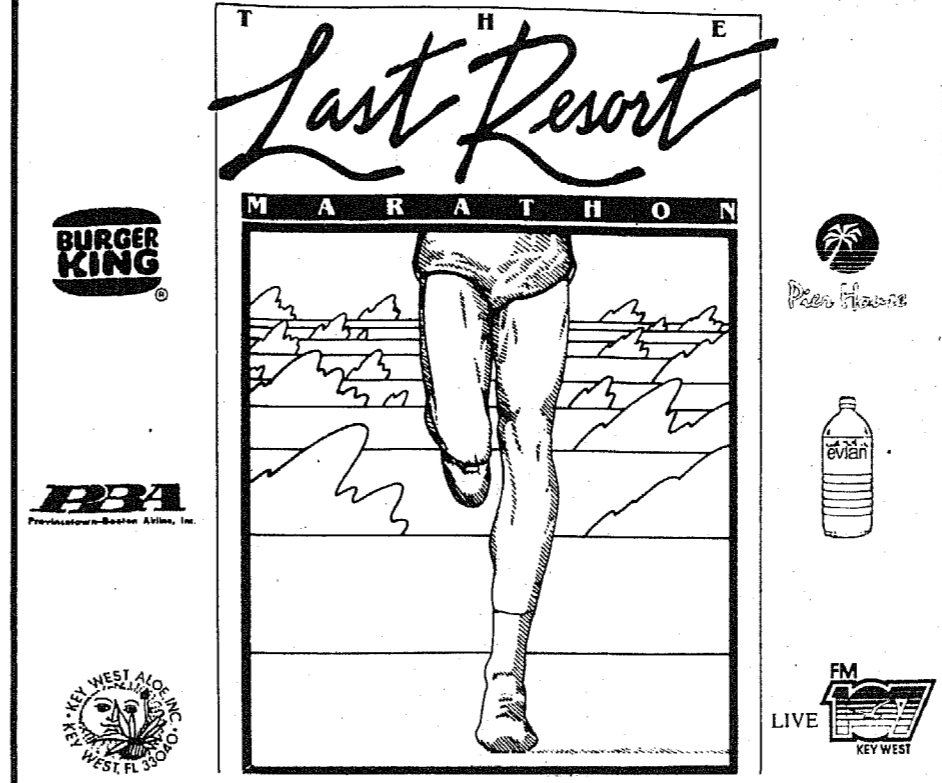
"We tried to cover the field," Dion said, "after all, it's our business to serve all the people. Joy Rodriguez and I went up there and opened the doors in a trailer office with two accounts."

NOT EVERYBODY WAS delighted with 1st Federal's speedy operations in their expansion policy, and another group of businessmen, this time in Key West, tried to put together a competing savings and loan - involved here were former County Commissioner W. L. (Billy) Osterhoudt, Dr. Herman Moore, the late Izzy Weintraub and in the background, former board member, J. Y. Porter.

THE FEDERAL HOME Loan Bank was petitioned by the competing local group and hearings were set in Washington. Officials from 1st Federal attended as did the proposed officers of the rival S&L. All of them, recalls one of 1st Federal's officials, underwent "some very heavy examination up there," but in the ruling from the Washington authority the other group was denied a charter and 1st Federal sailed ahead stronger than ever.

BY 1970, ASSETS had climbed to \$50 million and they changed the name to First Federal Savings and Loan of the Florida Keys (it had been "of Key West") and continued their inexorable march onto the Keys - the Key Largo branch was opened; the Summerland Key office opened; the Big Pine Key branch was announced; the

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6TH ANNUAL KEY WEST LAST RESORT MARATHON
26.2 MILE • 13.1 MILE • 10 K • 2 MILE RUN
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18, 1984
7:00 AM • MALLORY SQ. • KEY WEST

— A DISTANCE FOR EVERYONE —
START/FINISH—#1 DUVAL ST. AT THE PIER HOUSE RESORT HOTEL GENERAL STORE PATIO.

7:00 AM—MARATHON/1/2 MARATHON.
7:15 AM—10K (6.2 mi) DESCENTE STAR TEST RACE Runners test themselves against national standard times in their age division to earn a Gold, Silver or Bronze Medal for their accomplishment in the 10K Race.
\$7.00 entry fee (\$10.00 after Feb. 13 and race day) includes 100% cotton T-Shirt sponsored by Burger King, Finishers Ribbons, Age Division winners trophies, Key West Aloe products. Late entrants will receive T-Shirt subject to availability.
9:00 AM—2 MILE COAST TO COAST FUN RUN DOWN DUVAL ST. \$3.00 entry fee (no T-Shirts) includes Finishers Ribbons, Age Division winners trophies, Key West Aloe products. Late entrants will receive T-Shirt for \$4.00 additional. Race Day entry \$5.00.

REGISTRATION AND RACE PACKET PICK-UP—FRIDAY FEB. 17TH, 4:00-9:00 PM.
#1 Duval St.—THE GENERAL STORE PATIO AT THE PIER HOUSE HOTEL RESORT. FREE TO THE 10K, 1/2 MARATHON AND MARATHON RUNNERS. SPAGHETTI CARBO DINNER - DRAFT BEER - SOFT DRINKS served 5-8 pm. Guests of runners \$3.50 each. LIVE ISLAND MUSIC - RUNNING VIDEOS - MEET GUEST RUNNERS - COURSE AND RACE INFORMATION.

REFRESHMENTS—EVIAN WATER OF FRANCE - ERG (Energy Replacement Fluid) - ORANGES - BANANAS - SOFT DRINKS - on course and at Finish Line.
AWARDS—IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE RACE AT THE PIER HOUSE GENERAL STORE OVER 150 HANDCRAFTED AWARDS CREATED ESPECIALLY FOR THE RACE BY KEY WEST CRAFTS PEOPLE WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE TOP FINISHERS IN EACH MALE/FEMALE AGE DIVISION. 12 & under (2 mi.); 13-18; 19-24; 25-29; 30-34; 35-39; 40-49; 50+. Age groups with less than 10 entrants may be combined.

FREE DRAWING—Key West merchants have donated merchandise prizes that will be presented to finishers at the awards ceremony in a random drawing.
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In consideration of being permitted to participate in the Key West Last Resort Marathon & STAR Test program, I, the undersigned participant, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators forever release and discharge the sponsors of this event, including Monroe County, Florida, the City of Key West, Florida, the Southernmost Road Runners Club and its affiliates, its agents, any person officially connected with this event, Desconco American Incorporated and its affiliates, corporate parents, officers, directors, employees and agents, from all claims, causes of action, costs and judgments that I now or hereafter may have against such sponsors for personal injuries, including death, and damage to property, real or personal, caused by or arising out of my participation in this event. I warrant that I am aware of the risks of this type of event and that I am in good health and that I have no physical condition which would prevent me from participating in this event.

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1:30-3:00 DRUMUSIC PERCUSSION WORKSHOP	12-1:15 HEAVENLY BODIES WORKOUT	10:30-12 AFRO-MODERN DANCE	10:30-11:30 MOMS EXERCISE CLASS * BRING YOUR LITTLE ONES	10:30-12 AFRO-MODERN DANCE	12-1 TAP DANCE ADULT	12-1:15 AFRO-MODERN DANCE
4:30-5:30 TAP DANCE CHILDREN + ADULTS	3:30-4:30 KIDS JAZZ DANCE AGES 9-7	12-1 JAZZERCISE	12-1:15 HEAVENLY BODIES WORKOUT	12-1 BALLET BEGINNER ADULT	1:15-2:15 JUGGLING INTERMEDIATE	1:15-2:15 KIDS ART AGES 3 AND OVER FREE
5:45-7:15 AFRO-MODERN DANCE	4:30-5:30 KIDS JAZZ DANCE AGES 9-10	3:30-4:30 KIDS JAZZ DANCE AGES 9-7	3-4 KIDS BALLET AGES 7-11	1:15-2:15 JUGGLING INTERMEDIATE	4-5 PRE-NATAL EXERCISE	2:30-3:30 MUSIC, RHYTHM + YOGA FOR KIDS AGES 4+UP FREE
7-9 2ND SUN. LA LECHE LEAGUE (FOR NURSING MOMS)	5:30-6:45 HEAVENLY BODIES WORKOUT	4:30-5:30 KIDS JAZZ DANCE AGES 9-10	4-5 PRE-NATAL EXERCISE	2:30-3:30 STREET THEATER	5:30-6:30 HEAVENLY BODIES WORKOUT	3:30-4:30 JUGGLING BEGINNER LEVEL
8:00 POETRY GUILD (1st + 3rd SUNDAY)	7:30-9:30 YOGA *	5:30-6:45 HEAVENLY BODIES WORKOUT	5:30-6:30 HEAVENLY BODIES WORKOUT	5:30-6:45 HEAVENLY BODIES WORKOUT	5:30-7 JAZZ INTERMEDIATE ADULT	7-8:30 SHOTOKAN KARATE
	8-9:30 SHOTOKAN KARATE	7-8 STRETCH + STRENGTHEN ALL LEVELS	6:30-7:30 JAZZ BEGINNER ADULT	7-8:30 SHOTOKAN KARATE	7-8:30 SHOTOKAN KARATE	7-8:30 SHOTOKAN KARATE
		8-9:30 SHOTOKAN KARATE	7:45-8:45 BALLET BEGINNER ADULT			5:30-7:30 * SIGN LANGUAGE "FRIENDS OF THE DEAF"

*INDICATES DONATION ALL OTHER CLASSES \$3-\$5

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Kennedy Drive headquarters opened; the Islamorada branch opened; the Tavernier office opened for business.

A new member of the board was announced - John G. Parks, Jr., a CPA and member of one of the best known Conch families in town; after him, school Superintendent Armando (Bookie) Henriquez was signed on the financial team, and he was followed by Ruth Alice Campbell, of Marathon, chairman of the County School Board.

PROBLEMS FOR THE savings and loan firm, like those that nagged and nearly broke a number of savings companies around the country, started surfacing in the middle 1970s after the Oil Crisis and booming inflation sliced deeply into 1st Federal's operations.

"Those years and into the 1980s were some of the toughest we've ever had," Dion commented, "our mortgages were pegged at lower rates than were profitable and we weren't getting many at high rates, so it was dicey. There were operating losses in 1982 and up to about the middle of '83." Nationally, the S&Ls were bleeding red ink all over their books - in 1981 the total national loss was \$25.4 billion and in 1982, it dipped to a loss of \$6 billion. The entire industry seemed flooded with bad news until Congress okayed the money market account, allowing higher interest rates on insured accounts with a base investment figure - also a few other loosening of savings regulations were cautiously allowed, so that the S&Ls were able to offer checking

accounts paying better interest than passbooks, etc.

INVESTING IN THE S&Ls, in those



Robert Dion

special accounts, formed a bigger pool of money for mortgage loans and it pulled out many of the shaky institutions around the nation.

Whether by design or using some secret crystal ball, the management at 1st Federal of the Florida Keys, in 1973, started creating a financial buffer for itself when it diversified its business interests instead of

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leaning totally on the operations of a savings and loan to keep it afloat.

"WE CLEARED WITH the Home Loan Bank and found out it would be all right for us to form other corporations under the umbrella of 1st Federal; we act as a financial holding company with subsidiaries which act under their own management and executive staffs. There's no doubt in my mind they helped tide us over the rough years," Dion said.

They organized, at first, a company to sell all lines of insurance and brought in an expert, William G. Roberts, who had years of experience; he also had training as an architect and was fully conversant with the real estate business. Roberts, some years before that, had served in the state legislature, beating out Clayton Papy, the son of the late Bernie C. Papy, and in his term had passed laws reforming the City Electric System mandating an elected board of governors - also the Career Service Council law.

AFTER THAT, 1ST Federal bought out the major and oldest land title company in the county, Monroe Land Title, from Charles G. (BeBe) Roboso, well-known friend of President Nixon's.

"It was the dominant and only complete land title in all of Monroe County, at that time," Dion asserted. "It had 60 years in the business and was the place for the lawyers to go."

A few years later, the board formed the 1st Property Management and Appraisal Company, using the talents of Roberts, and Arnold and Johnson who had, by then, dissolved their own

company, Johnson and Johnson Real Estate.

THEN CAME THE formation of 1st Development Corporation of the Florida Keys, dealing in property development from one end of the county to the other; following that the Keys Development Corporation of South Carolina, working on projects in that state; then the 1st Investment Company, involved with other real estate properties in the Keys.

"These companies," Dion explained, "helped spread out our investment risks and provide, at the same time, additional capital return. We think they've performed well."

FOR SOME TIME now, Dion acknowledged, there's been talk in the city and the county about 1st Federal's "going public, that is, selling stock in the company. We're still talking."

As it stands now, 1st Federal S&L of the Florida Keys is technically owned by its account holders - that makes it a mutual company. It would, if it went public, become a stock institution and probably be listed in the NASDAQ quotes as an over-the-counter stock.

"WE EXPECT TO sell stock to our account holders first, then the public. The program has worked successfully for other savings and loans," Dion observed.

Discussion at this point, and Dion pointed out it has been only in that area, is to issue 500,000 shares at \$10 per share, initially.

"As I say, though, the board is still reviewing the situation."

WITHIN THE RECENT year, 1st Federal completed work and finishing touches on its fourth floor at Kennedy Drive - the result is probably the most handsome array of executive offices in Monroe County, board rooms

and suites, lavishly carpeted in deep pile; the overall color scheme in muted tones of beige, brown and white. Set off against the walls, in silver frames, are vintage photos of the famous Overseas railroad, many of them not published, showing the old station at Long Key, and Marathon and Islamorada back in the 1920s.

AS ONE OF the board members said: "If we're number one, then we should look like it."

In 1984, considering that 1st Federal has nine branches in the county, including Key West, with its locally oriented management, the other commercial banks include such "outsiders," as the Conchs love to say, as:

BARNETT BANK'S OWNERSHIP of the Boulevard Bank with its three branches; Southeast Bank's ownership of what used to be the old Florida National Bank, and its two branches; the Marine Bank's five branches; the 1st National of Marathon with its two branches; Florida Keys 1st State Bank, and its three branches; and the Islamorada Bank.

There are, then, from Key Largo to Key West, and almost all of them fronting on the highway, 25 banking facilities.

"ALL THIS GIVES you some idea of what happened around the country with the changing of banking laws and practices - it's a widespread explosion in an industry that for maybe a hundred years was hidebound in keeping up that conservative, strait-laced image.

"First Federal of the Florida Keys, we think, has kept right up to date. We offer our customers the full selection of services, and they're welcome to use our subsidiary companies," Dion concluded.

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CONCHFLASH
Franklin Day: Saturday Magazine

VALENTINE'S DAY - 1984 - KEY WEST CONCHFLASH DEEP IN THOUGHT ABOUT THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS IS INTERRUPTED BY ANOTHER SUPER HERO - Cupid

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WHI, I GUESS A NON-LOVING SOLUTION WOULDN'T BE MUCH FUN FOR ANYONE...

RIGHT! SO UP AGAINST THE WALL CONCHFLASH and Happy Valentines Day!

WHAT ADVENTURES WILL OUR HERO HAVE NOW - UNDER LOVE'S INFLUENCE? WILL KEY WEST EVER BE THE SAME? I LOVE YOU!

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A SPECTRUM of Spending

by HELEN R. CHAPMAN

RECENTLY THE TREASURY Department brought forth the idea of changing the color of our monetary notes. The theory behind this move was to discourage counterfeiting, although I doubt if anything could discourage counterfeiting. The nefarious practice could be made more difficult, but never discouraging. Thus, it seemed as if the greenback would be gone forever. However, the Treasury Department reversed itself, which is not too surprising, and found another procedure equally effective and which circumvents the necessity of changing the color. I'm sorry about that. I think it would rejuvenate our currency, especially as pink and blue were two of the colors suggested.

OTHER COUNTRIES USE various colors in printing their bills, but then other countries also have postage stamps that put a rainbow to shame. Why do we Americans have to be stuck with drab, uninteresting stamps and money? Lord knows, we pay enough for both!

I think pink is nice for one-dollar bills. Pink is a rather feminine color denoting delicacy and gentleness. Much delicacy and gentleness is required when one pulls out a buck and says, with much surprise, of course, "Oh, this is all I have! You wouldn't mind picking up the check this time, would you?" This tactic should be accompanied by a fluttering of eyelids and a shy smile. Of course, one-dollar bills get the most use; hence pink will tend to show dirt more readily. It could then be called dusty rose, a color associated with nice little old ladies who are expert at fluttering eyelids and shy smiles. So

pink should be the color of the one-dollar bill.

FOR THE FIVE, or finn, as it is affectionately known, green should be retained. Finn is an Irish name, after all, and in view of the current conflict, using orange would prove a bit of a gaffe.

Now the sawbuck, or ten, would look well in a tan shade, denoting wood shavings or sawdust. Considering how fast a ten disappears these days, it might as well be made of sawdust. One poof! and away it flies.

THE TWENTY SHOULD be discouraged altogether. I so frequently hear people say that they hate to break a twenty because once broken, it's gone. Therefore, I say make a thirty instead, so that when twenty of it is spent in fifteen minutes of grocery shopping, there will still be ten dollars left. However, since the ten is sawdust, a gentle zephyr will whisk it away into the stratosphere before you can say Alexander Hamilton. The solution to this problem is to color the thirty-dollar-bill blue so it looks like water, and water sprinkled on sawdust keeps the sawdust from blowing away. There! Now isn't that practical?

A FIFTY-DOLLAR BILL should be flaming red, an instant warning that if you spend it, you may well be in the red. Once it is broken, though, your wallet will display the cheerful aspect of an azure thirty-dollar bill, an ecru ten, a green five, and several vivid (or perhaps dusty) pinks. Isn't that pretty?

The hundred-dollar bill should stand out in a brilliant golden yellow. The splashy spender would catch everyone's eye when he shows his yellow. And frankly, anyone who walks around with a wallet full of yellow deserves to attract attention!

WHILE THE TREASURY is in the

process of changing the colors, they may as well change the pictures, too. I'm tired of those steely-eyed, dreary-visaged presidents. The same goes for non-presidents. So why not have on the pink dollar bill the queen of feminism, Gloria Steinem? And for the green fiver, Tip O'Neill would portray the epitome of Irish spirit.

On the sawdust ten, how about the Secretary of Interior - any Secretary of Interior - shown chopping down trees in the true spirit of conservation? And pouring water on him from the face of the aqueous thirty-dollar note would be the president of the Sierra Club.

IT WOULD BE fun to have Yuri Andropov on the red fifty, but I'm afraid that wouldn't be too popular with the public, so perhaps we'd do better to settle for Dolly Parton. She looks great in red! As for the golden hundred, I wouldn't accept any less a personality than Larry Flynt.

Any bills above the hundred should stay green. After all, who ever sees those except bankers and they're more concerned with the negotiability than the aestheticism of currency. Besides, any counterfeiter trying to pass a phony five-hundred-dollar bill ought to have his plates examined!

THIS WHOLE PLAN would be marvelous for the advertising industry. The buying campaign for next Christmas could be heralded with the slogan, "America! Show your true color!"



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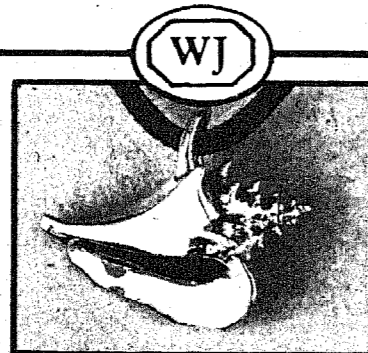
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The incredible story of the search and salvage of these shipwrecks near Key West has appeared in most major magazines, notably the "National Geographic" magazine (1976 and 1980). Mel Fisher and his crew were also the subjects of an award winning National Geographic film entitled "TREASURE", shown every hour, daily.

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world like the gold "poison cup", the twenty-three piece gold belt studded with rubies and diamonds, and the finely-etched gold serving plate. Perhaps most extraordinary of all is the priceless emerald studded cross and ring, salvaged from the sea in the silver box in which they were shipped!

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Profile: Jack Baron

by V. K. GIBSON

KEY WEST ARTIST and businessman Jack Baron's personality is a frisky mix of frivolity and shrewdness, and you get the impression he's able to crack jokes and make important decisions at the same time.

For example: Jack: "About seven years ago, Bob [Jack's partner, Bob Burton], of the Olympics coverage and ABC, went on strike. One night he dragged in, and said, 'For two cents I'd quit!' and I said, 'Here's the two cents,' and Bob Burton did quit?"

THEIR MOVE TO the Island was made a bit easier by the fact that they'd

discovered a house, a few months before, during a vacation. Jack told me what happened back then:

"We'd met Virginia Burton, and during our talks I'd mentioned that, some day, I'd like to own a 'Chinese

out, McNulty was soon in a position to sell the property.

"We had no intention of living down here," said Jack. "It was just going to be an investment. But, when Bob became fed up with his job... And, at that time, my own career was winding down."

Jack had worked for thirty years as a chief salesman, in New York City, for a company which manufactured items for department store window displays. The firm did a vast business throughout

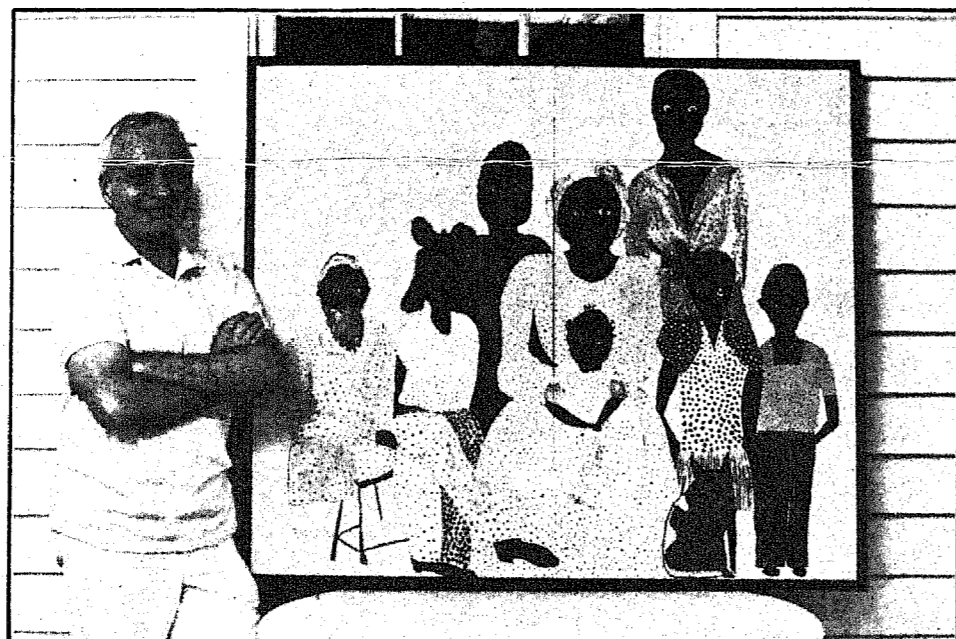


photo by Joe Smith

Jack Baron poses by his canvas, "The Christening."

laundry." When she understood what I meant - a shop in front and living quarters in back - she said, 'Get in the car!' and took us to a place on Truman Avenue."

the country, and Jack's territory was the City.

"EVER GO TO a display house in New York?" he asked me, his eyes alight. "When I was in the business there was so much glitter and old-style romance, terribly sentimental and extravagant.

IT WAS THE home and studio of sculptor Martin McNulty. As it worked

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"I'LL TELL YOU one thing," said one of Jack's chief admirers. "Jack's eventually going to be recognized as the great folk-art painter of the Twentieth Century.

Very flattering. Especially when you know that it came from Fred J. Johnston, the former curator of the great Gregman Alystne Polk Art Collection, which now resides in the Smithsonian Institution.

"SOMETIMES," MR. JOHNSTON added, "Jack does something like that." He pointed at a certain painting. "Which is bad. Now and then Jack's got to look at his fresh, early work."

At that, Jack grins ruefully. But he's no fool. He also listens.

A RECENT TRIUMPH was Jack's five-by-five foot painting, "Black Madonna and Babe," which was featured in a special exhibition hosted by Key West arts patron Marion Stevens, at her Art Unlimited gallery. Marion has long been a discoverer and promoter of new talent, and was among the first to encourage Jack Baron.

Jack is the first to admit that much of his work is not of "masterpiece quality." But, to this observer, there is something more than the "cuteness and quaintness" which may attract most of the hundreds of people who now collect his work. In the best of the paintings there is an elusive "something else" which may, in time, fulfill Fred J. Johnston's enlightened prophesy.

JACK BARON'S WORK will be featured in two upcoming exhibitions. The first, at Jordan's (on Duval Street) will begin at 7 p.m. on March 1, with an invitational reception, and will run through the 6th. The second show will take place at the Key West Art Center (on Front Street) on March 19, also with an invitational reception, and will continue through April 2.

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1984 IS A very special year for the Girl Scouts. It marks the 50th anniversary of the first sale of commercially baked Girl Scout Cookies.

This year, the sale is being conducted from February 2nd through February 19th. It's the only time during the year that you can buy these great tasting cookies like Chocolate Chunks, Thin Mints and other special varieties. Girls throughout Dade and Monroe counties will be selling cookies door to door and at various booth locations throughout the sale.

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES, baked by the Little Brownie Bakers Co., are made with 100% vegetable shortening, no preservatives and fine quality ingredients such as natural chocolate, real peppermint and toasted coconut.

Funds generated through the sale help to provide the 12,000 Girl Scouts in Dade and Monroe counties with enriching program activities that explore the worlds of science, the arts, the out-of-doors and people.

THAT'S WHY FOR 50 years, Girl Scout Cookies have helped to fulfill the dreams of many fine young girls.

KEY WEST MIDWIVES

HAVING A BABY at home isn't as simple as it was in great-grandma's day, and that's no accident. Great-grandma didn't have to contend with laws, hospitals, doctors, insurance, and the changing image of women. Grandma, with the help of midwives, had her babies at home, and that was it. It was a family experience.

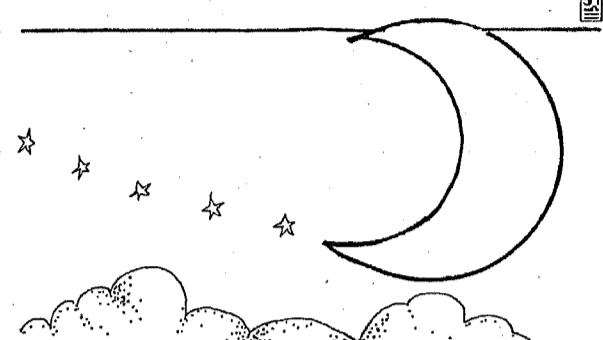
Today, midwives in the Florida Keys would like to see that women have the same choices that grandma did.

THE FLORIDA MIDWIVES' Association (FMA) of Key West is expanding their educational program in an effort to let area women know that freedom of choice in childbirth and birthing alternatives are available and are an alternative to delivery room births.

At a recent meeting, the FMA decided to reach out to the public and hold a benefit dinner to promote information about midwife-assisted births.

ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 7-10 p.m., at Poinciana School, the FMA will host a benefit dinner complete with jugglers, a belly dancer, a jazz band, and a raffle featuring a free trip to the Tortugas for all people interested in birthing alternatives.

The FMA asks that anyone interested in supporting midwifery attend. Information can be obtained by phoning 294-4536 or 294-3490.



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24TH ANNUAL HOUSE & GARDEN TOURS

by CHRISTOPHER LANE

MORE CHARMING THAN Charleston, more seductive than Savannah, Key West just seems to get better with age. Its past preserved by architectural safeguards mandated for the island's historic district, Florida's second oldest city is continuing to grow older - and better - with grace and style. And much of the island's style is locked within its sometimes funky, sometimes fancy architecture that will most likely be around longer

Yeehaw Junction or Spuds, Florida. Wasn't always this way, though. There was a time when turn-of-the-century Conch structures, many of them using not-so-rigid wooden pegs instead of nails to withstand hurricanes, were torn down with abandon for a parking lot, or for another structure fashioned from some foreign substance. Shiny tin roofs that you could see beyond were replaced by walls of concrete blocks.



The Frances Street home of the Herndons

than you or I.

GOOD THING, TOO. Perhaps it's that tangible quality that helped persuade you to move here, to visit here, to remain here. It's what helps make Key West distinct from St. Augustine,

IN 1956, THE famed Caroline Lowe house fell victim to a fire. About the same time an oil firm wanted to buy the dilapidated Geiger mansion at Greene and Whitehead Streets, only to tear it down for a gas station. Key Westers soon realized what a treasure they have

in their architecture. Then, when the Convent of Mary Immaculate, a large and handsome building constructed in 1875, was razed in the late 1960s, Key West residents shook their heads and asked, "Why?"

TODAY, THEY SHARE the wealth by generously opening their private and often historic residences to the public during a trio of House and Garden Tours, the showy centerpiece of Old Island Days, sponsored annually by the non-profit Old Island Restoration Foundation, Inc. The Foundation, dedicated to the preservation of Key West history, architecture and customs, was formed following a dinner in 1960 for native son Mitchell Wolfson, who was persuaded to buy and restore the Geiger mansion, also called the Audubon House because the famous bird painter stayed there as a houseguest. A small house tour was organized to show Wolfson what others had done in the way of restoration. More than anything, the growing movement restored a sense of pride in Key West's Bahamian-flavored architecture.

YOU CAN SEE some of Key West's finest homes, both stately Conch houses and modern island hideaways, during the daytime House and Garden Tour on Friday and Saturday, February 3 and 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Two night House and Garden Tours, with transportation furnished aboard the Conch Tour Trains, are on February 17 and 18, and on March 2 and 3 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Tour tickets are \$7 each and are available at the Hospitality House on Mallory Square, departure point for the night house tours. For more information, call 294-9501.

NAN MIRZAOFF, CHAIRMAN of the House and Garden Tours, regrets that many of the residences, by their design, are unable to accommodate wheelchairs. She adds, too, that tour tickets are available for sale at any of the houses on the daytime

tour, and at the first house on each of the night tours.

Tour proceeds are pumped back into the community in the form of restoration grants awarded by the Old Island Restoration Foundation. Last year, the historic San Carlos Opera Hall on Duval Street and two Key West Churches were assisted by grants totaling \$16,000.

HERE'S A LINE-UP of the beautiful homes and their gracious owners:

- FEB. 3-4, DAYTIME TOUR, 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
- 1 - 522 Petronia St., Francisco Carpenter and Mark Donahue
 - 2 - 410 Amelia St., Bill Halpin.
 - 3 - 1102 Washington St., Susan DeRose and Richard Lewis.
 - 4 - 1322 George St., Rod Thorne and David Cleaves.
 - 5 - 818 Sawyer Lane, David Gudekunst and Chuck Sage.
- FEB. 17-18, NIGHT TOUR, 6:30 P.M. TO 9:30 P.M.
- 1 - 816 Eaton St., Roberta and Larry Marks.
 - 2 - 1100 Flagler Ave., Perry Root.
 - 3 - 3808 Eagle Ave., Rita and Orvis Kemp.
 - 4 - 1415 Thompson St., Petronella and Lester Collins.
 - 5 - 609 Frances St., Marcia and Larry Herndon.
- MARCH 2-3, NIGHT TOUR, 6:30 P.M. TO 9:30 P.M.
- 1 - 421 Grinnell St., James Bell.
 - 2 - 1212 Varela St., Albert McCarthy and Ralph Wright.
 - 3 - 1210 Varela St., Doug Simmons and Bob Fierst.
 - 4 - 1208 Varela St., Richard Perkins and Robert Mauria.
 - 5 - 1200 Varela St., Tom Farned and George Noel.
 - 6 - 1029 Catherine St., Polly Porter, Ross Claiborne and John Fenton.
 - 7 - 525 Petronia St., Mary Goodwin.

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The Key West City Charter: Past & Present

by V. K. GIBSON

THE PROBLEM WITH our Charter is one of both politics and philosophy. It seems, to some observers, to be a clash between those who wish to ring in a new order, and those who want their own best interests cast in bronze. In any case, it's proved impossible to address the Charter without also mentioning the Civil Service. (For a specific examination of the CS, see Alden Solovy's article in this issue.) Nevertheless, let's try to keep our eyes on the bouncing Charter. In the words of Charter Commission member David Freeman:

"THE CHARTER, BASICALLY, is to the City what the Constitution is to the Nation."

A charter defines the physical entity of the city, establishes it legally, forms a philosophical but powerful tie with the state and national constitutions, and is the sturdy foundation, or frame, upon which all subsequent city laws or ordinances are supported. For example, a city charter addresses the powers of its officials; the obligations of city government to its citizens and to the state - the rights of the citizens, e.g., the right to petition, the right of input during public meetings; the

existence and nature of city departments, etc.

ANOTHER GENERAL POINT of agreement, at least at the lip-service level, is that the charter should be kept as uncluttered as possible, excluding those matters which are more properly handled by City ordinance. In this case, a special-interest group

"THE CHARTER, BASICALLY, IS TO THE CITY WHAT THE CONSTITUTION IS TO THE NATION"...

demands a rather large niche in the Charter. But more on that later.

Why do we even need a charter? And, what happened to the one we had?

After creation of a new state constitution, and the passage of the Municipal Home Rule Powers Act in 1973, all charters in the state were invalidated. After that, cities governed according to ordinances until they either reaffirmed their original charters or adopted new ones. Since 1973, Key West has been ruled by ordinance.

SO WHAT? SURELY our Town Fathers and Mothers can behave well enough without a Charter? But listen to Peter Ilchuk:

"People say, 'If the Charter passes we're going to lose all sorts of protections!' But the protections were lost ten years ago with the

passage of the Home Rule Powers Act."

Mr. Ilchuk gave an example of what can happen when a city is run by ordinance.

"THERE WAS THE sale of the golf course, done by ordinance, and people didn't even know what was going on." With the proposed charter, however, sale of public land is strictly regulated. It is far more difficult to change a charter than to vote in a new ordinance.

That was during the administration of Mayor McCoy, one of our more dynamic champions of real estate

development. During that period there was an attempt to create a new Charter, but the resulting proposal was tabled and rule by ordinance continued.

IN 1980 A new Charter Commission made its own proposal for a new Charter, which the City Commission passed and sent up for referendum vote. It failed by a narrow margin (about 150 votes) because it didn't contain enough protections for the Civil Service and that group lobbied vigorously against it.

So, the Charter Commission went back to work. Its makeup changed

Duffy, who's the Civil Service attorney. Mr. Freeman is the brother of the Sheriff. There's Mr. Eid, who does condominiums, I believe. And then there's me, a City Commissioner."

STEVE EID: "I think the capabilities of the Commission are pretty good. We're covered as well as possible."

David Freeman: "I see some value in the suggestion that the Charter Commission be expanded to be more representative. As it is, it's composed of self-employed, professional men. I don't like to close the door

Many Civil Service members want ironclad protections against any possible abuse from the current, or any future, City Commission. They want to be governed and policed by their own Board, which would be immune from outside manipulation. They will fight to defeat any Charter which, like the proposal of 1980, doesn't include the features they want.

GEORGE HALLORAN: "I did a survey of half the cities in Florida, about five hundred municipal townships altogether. Of those, I concerned myself with about fifty close to our size. And twenty-eight of those (over 50%) had their police and fire departments under Civil Service. About ninety percent of Florida cities of our size keep their department heads answerable to either their city managers or their commissions."

MR. HALLORAN IS in favor of a compromise, although he found the Civil Service demonstrations at the public meetings of the Charter Commission a bit excessive.

Halloran: "People were saying we were going to fire the police and fire chiefs, or even abolish those departments. Then we were going to

THE PRESENT CITY ADMINISTRATION IS DEDICATED TO MAKING WHAT IT CONSIDERS NECESSARY CHANGES IN THE WORKINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS DEPARTMENTS.

about two and a half years ago, when two members dropped off and two others came aboard. The current members are:

DAVID FREEMAN, PETER Ilchuk, Ron Saunders, Steve Eid, and City Commissioner Halloran (who chairs the group). The last two are the newcomers.

It's interesting to hear how the Charter Commission regards itself.

George Halloran: "Peter Ilchuk is, of course, very political. Mr. Saunders shares a law office with Bob

on public opinion."

Ron Saunders: "I think most of us saw the value in compromise."

Peter Ilchuk: "They just don't understand it when I refuse to bend on the issue of a pure Charter. I've worked very hard to convince them that the Charter Commission should be non-political and concern itself with making the most perfect Charter that's possible."

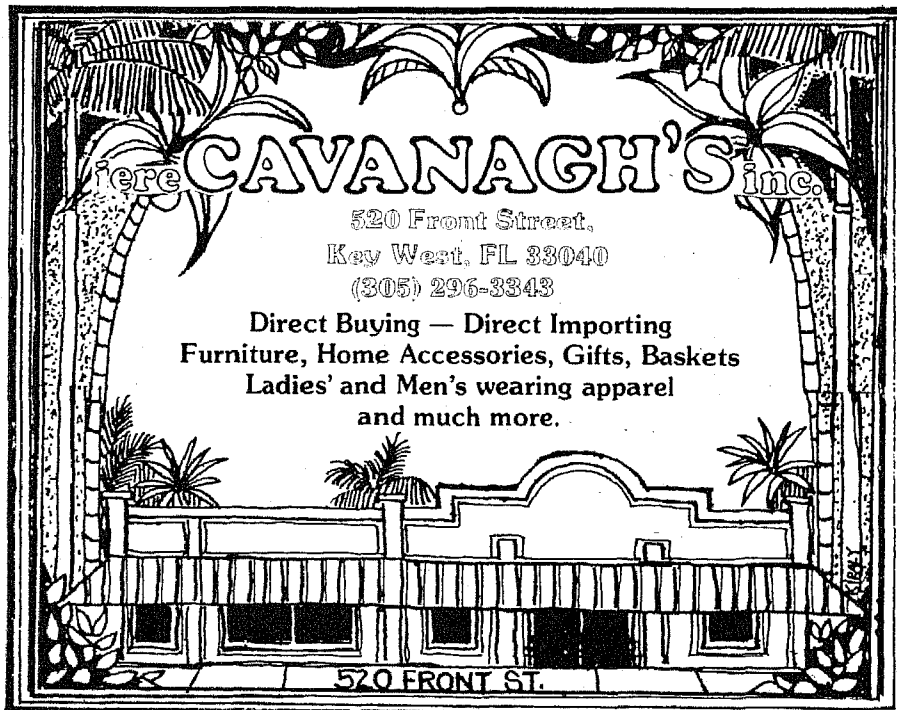
BUT, BACK TO the present kink in the Charter.

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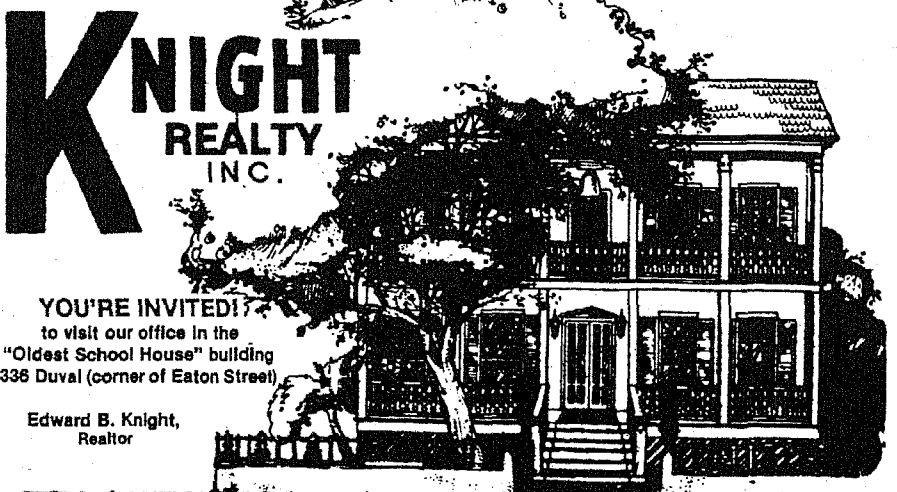


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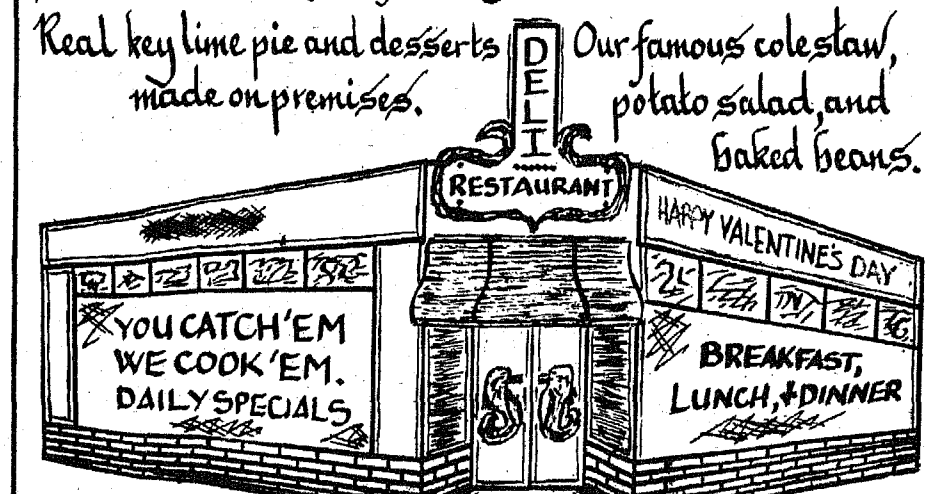
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abolish the entire Civil Service. The way they talked, we were just abolishing all of Key West! It was a lot of malarky."

STEVE EID TOLD me: "The people who showed up were overwhelmingly in favor of it [The Civil Service Board] and its position."

In order to protect itself, the Civil Service is pressing for incorporation of Chapter H of the State Constitution into the Charter.

Chapter H is composed of twenty-seven "sections," which are themselves made up of one or more paragraphs, some quite long. In fact, if Chapter H were inserted in its entirety it would almost double the bulk of the Charter.

HERE'S AN IMPORTANT chunk of Chapter H which has made it into the proposal:

ARTICLE 5.12. "No officer or employee of the City of Key West, Florida, in the civil service shall be removed, suspended, demoted, reduced, fired or discharged except for cause shown upon written charges of misconduct or violation of rules of the Civil Service Board, or applicable laws, and, after reasonable notice to the City Commission and the employee, shall be entitled to a de novo fact-finding hearing to be heard in his own defense by himself, his witnesses and counsel. Such charges shall be investigated by such hearings held by the said board."

THE ARTICLE CONTINUES to part six, which concludes:

"The findings and decisions of the board shall be certified to the City Commission and shall be enforced by the City Commission."

With that, the Civil Service will in effect be self-regulating. This alarms some people.

PETER ILCHUK SAID: "Chief Rodriguez, Assistant Chief Casamayor, Emery Major, a few others, are the spokesmen for this special interest. I don't think they represent all employees of the city. There are many others who've come to us privately, saying they've been victims of the present system, which is made to benefit those who go along with its creators. The Byzantine rules they've set up, the little fiefdoms they've created, are going to stay in place if they get their way."

ILCHUK ADDED: "A good, very interesting example of abuse in the present system, is when the Civil Service Board - supposedly the protector of the public interest - advertised for a secretary for themselves. Thirteen people applied - and a local politician's daughter got the job. She couldn't type, and finally had to give up the job because she couldn't handle it."

GEORGE HALLORAN: "I'M told that what's happened in the past is that the city managers haven't bothered to bring cases up, or haven't done their homework properly when seeking to take action against an employee. On the other side, I hear that the board leans over backwards to exonerate." He added: "I haven't come across a single example of a bad City employee yet. Sure, I get calls saying somebody's doing this, or not doing that, but nothing concrete has turned up but good employees."

THAT'S FINE, BUT if a City Commission itself may eventually "go bad" and do wrong, what's to keep an untouchable Civil Service from doing the same? As the Charter Commission moved toward compromise, it became clear that the great problem was to give the Civil Service a reasonable security, without making it immune

from correction in cases of "in-house" abuse.

That point was resolved when David Freeman suggested that all members of the Civil Service Board be elected at large, and thus be directly answerable to the voters.

RON SAUNDERS: "THE Public could then petition for recall of a board member. And they would always be able to go to the Grand Jury. That's been done before."

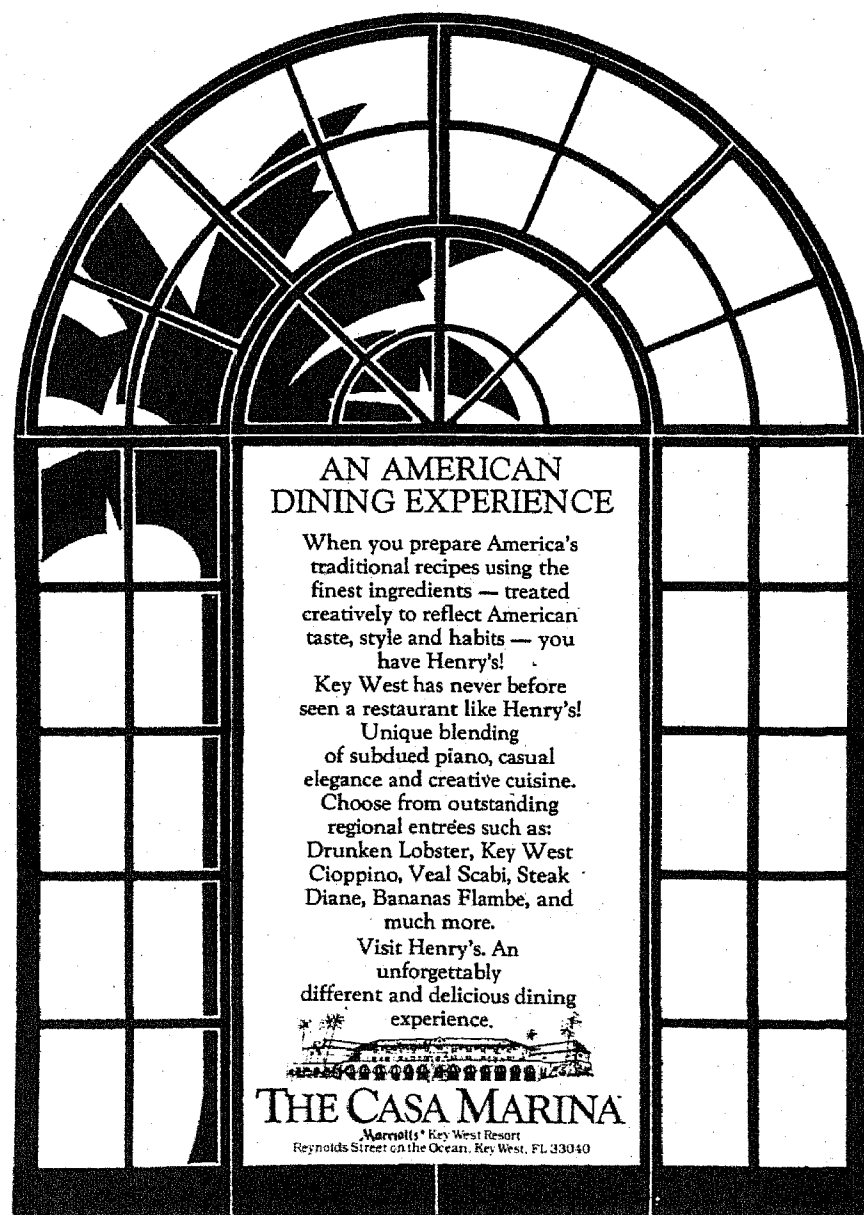
This satisfied most Commission members. There were a few other issues. Steve Eid thought the Charter should guarantee the public access to financial information concerning the City. Although the City Manager and City Attorney assured him that free access to all City information was already available to the public, Mr. Eid thought this relied on the good will of the current administration. His fellow panelists disagreed and he was out-voted.

BUT, PRIMARILY, THE Civil Service issue was the only major block to the completion of the Charter proposal. Once it was resolved to include both at-large elections for Civil Service Board members and Chapter H features, the Commission voted four to one (with Mr. Ilchuk against) to send it on to the City Commission. With that, the Charter Commission had finished its work and everything was hunky-dory, right? Wrong.

PETER ILCHUK: "THE Charter Commission is an advisory group. The City Commission will make whatever adjustments in the proposal it deems necessary, before passing it to a referendum."

The present City administration is dedicated to making what it considers necessary changes in the workings of the government and its departments. It

continued on page 44



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THERE ARE A few times when I feel that I have something very profound in common with Puddlefoots, this richy friend who came to visit. She had telephoned from her home, Snap Bean Farm, up there in the North Carolina mountains. She is not getting her greens; she seems to be one-third iced over; dirty snow is piled on top of ice blocks. I thought, listening to her giving me the full candlepower of her voice: One always begins to forgive a place as soon as it's left behind. This is a thought not given to everyone to understand. I thought, after you have been here a week, old girl, living it up, you will contentedly return to plain ole C major at your rock and glass house with that sliding, glistening, fading view of a gorge.

BEFORE PUDDLEFOOTS ARRIVES for this visit, I know just what she is after: the dazzlingness of Key West, the playful naughtiness. She has read about and heard on the tube about Key West's organ-ileptic slant (its sensory-pleasing qualities). With the smugness of a fresh-water Conch, I can hold myself tolerantly indifferent to all of that. In 23 years settled here, I have resorted to enjoying the real, little treats of life - reading, writing, thinking, eating. Puddlefoots will want to hit The Copa nightclub and all of the stellar, stylish luncheon and dining places and will want constantly to sniff the excitement of Southernmost Times Square.

SHE ARRIVES CLUTCHING her big handbag which appears to be covered in varnished chicken wire. Her things always are very smart. First thing, she eyes the bookcase which commands the room. Runs her fingers (green fingernail polish) over books by Sylvia Plath, Virginia Woolf, Kingsley Amis, Joyce Cary, Graham Greene, Lawrence Durrell, Erich Maria Remarque, Carson McCullers. "I see THREE Bibles, and there are too many books by Mary Baker Eddy." My friend, being a militant atheist, some of our most strenuous discussions have been about the egg of all activity. She possesses the meta-physical sensitivity of a tank and looks blankly at me when I expound upon this comprehending being I love, this familiar resource and companion.

PUDDLEFOOTS IS READING some Citizens. "Now, I know that surely Key West must consist not entirely of these two or three hundred persons belonging to and being constantly pictured about their 'foundations' and their restoration societies." I suggest, how about a nice art gallery opening? Nope, that is just people mousing around rooms in their big necklaces. Would you like a poetry gathering? Nothing, she says, disperses a crowd faster than poetry or a fire hose!

WE WOULD MEET for lunch at her studio room where she was staying, just off the Banyan Guest House gardens. She wants WATER, naturally, being an inlander. This leads us to lobster salad beside a rather still pond at Turtle Kraals restaurant; for breakfast at The Eatery, such a beach scene; splitting a Louie's Backyard club sandwich on that terrace confronting the sparkling Atlantic bay; for Chocolate Decadence with raspberry

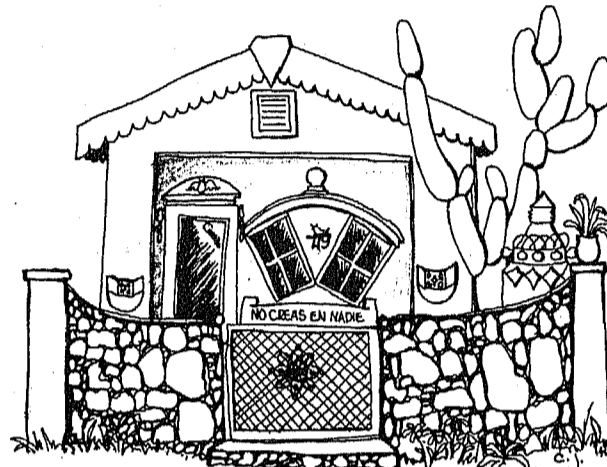
at The Pier House.

AND, I DO take her, walking around in the orbit of her perfume, to a reception at the old Cigar House, now Island City Guest House, run by Judy Frederick and owned by Miami's outstanding Dr. Jude, who discovered, perfected, cardiac-pulmonary-resuscitation. There she sees whiskey, very charming Bill Cates of City Electric fame and that ever-debonair Dr. Lance Lester.

From here on in, she is on her own-own, bouncing about Key West's glossy, seasonal spots, dancing madly the night away under the waxing moon. She may just have been notably contemptuous that my lifestyle misses being cha-cha-cha. And, she nearly DIED when I stated, "why, I don't have enough solitude, not enough God time, not enough quiet time."

MOSTLY, HER VISIT worked out as a seminar upon her life's experiences. With herself as the heroine.

It's as I said, Puddlefoots, "What you see you get."



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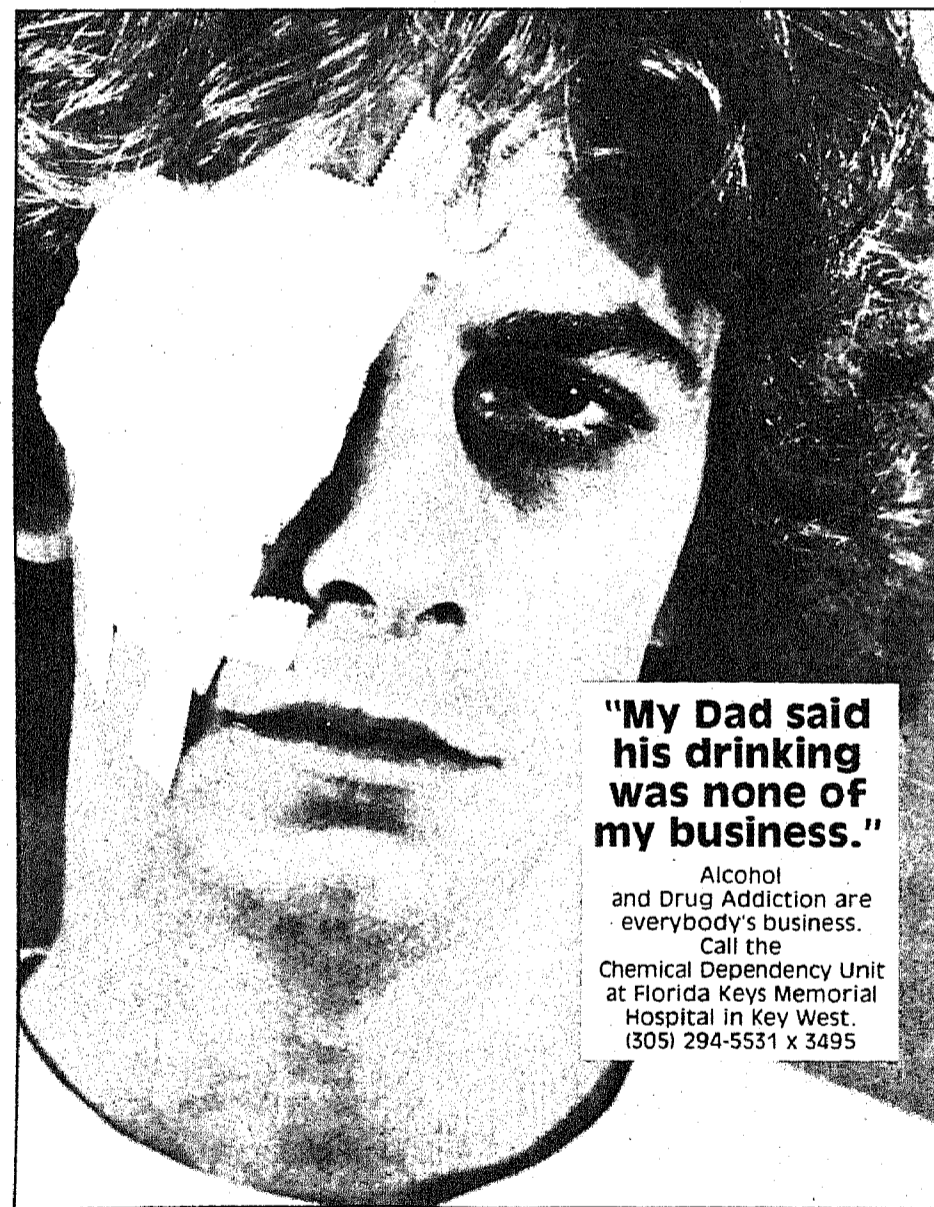
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4:30-5:30 PM TAP BEGIN-INTERMED. CHILD. & ADULTS CMCC		6:00-7:15 PM INTERMEDIATE BALLET APA		
6:00-7:15 PM BEGIN. BALLET 12 YR.-ADULT APA		7:30-8:45 PM BEGIN. BALLET CMCC		

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Thomas Albright, San Francisco Chronicle

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Thomas Albright, San Francisco Chronicle

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La Traviata
"A UNIVERSAL CLASSIC"
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by FLORENCE RECHER

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The Art Festival had its beginnings in 1965, as a Clothesline Show with a few exhibits by local artists. Since then it has developed into a national show, with most of the fifty states being represented. The increase to 125 exhibitors benefits us all, as the quality and varied styles shown would not be seen in a smaller show. Each year the competition for space available becomes keener and with it, higher quality of art is in the offering. This has led to constant increase in public interest and spectator attendance.

THE INFORMAL ATMOSPHERE of an outdoor show is conducive to full enjoyment by those who come to view the exhibits. Nowhere can one see so much in a few hours that provides as much pleasure for the young and old, for the entire family, the only cost being in time and effort put in by the show's organizers as the Festival and all it offers is FREE.

CATEGORIES REPRESENTED in the Festival include sculpture, photography, and painting in oil, watercolor, acrylic, mixed mediums plus graphics and drawings. Merit Awards totaling \$1,700.00 will be given by the Key West Art Center: five Awards of Distinction of \$100.00

each and 15 Awards of Merit of \$50.00 each in the Two-Dimensional category which includes all work except sculpture; Three-Dimensional, sculpture, one Award of Distinction and two or more of Merit to be given at the Discretion of the judges. The Best in Show will receive \$200.00. Honorable Mention ribbons will be given to all art work chosen for final judging.



Photo by Harry Recher

who support the Festival with their commitment to select paintings or sculpture for their Purchase Award. The building at 301 Front Street, the home of the Key West Art Center and Gallery, was condemned and scheduled to be razed by the city in 1960. Its rescue and restoration by the founders of the Center was the first of many in the Old Mallory Square area, setting a precedent followed throughout Key West. The City, by supporting this enterprising group of local citizens, has done much for restoration and for the advancement of art in our city and community.

IN 1983, THE Key West Art Center and Gallery was honored by the Key West Historic Preservation Board by being awarded a plaque and certificate for "significant preservation and continuing restoration" of this historical building (circa 1893). Both awards are proudly displayed at the Center.

In addition to the Festival, the Art Center promotes art in numerous ways. It holds an annual juried show for its artist members, donates funds to the Monroe County Library, paintings and time to various community causes, such as Harris and Poinciana schools, Wesley House and Martello Museum. Members contribute time as judges for art contests, lectures and demonstrations.

THE CENTER SPONSORS art workshops, lectures, slide shows, demonstrations and a school of art. All are open to the public, most are free. Telephone the Center, 294-1241 for a schedule of events.

The Art Center and Gallery is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Come in and browse. Admission is free.

THE JUDGE FOR the 1984 Festival will be Jan van der Marck, Director of the New Dade County Center for the Fine Arts. He has served as consultant and member on the panels of the National Endowment of the Arts and Art in Public Places. Dr. van der Marck is listed in Who's Who in American Art and Who's Who in America, is a member of many professional art organizations, and was instrumental and initiator for the successful Christo's pink island project in Miami.

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The Iconoclast

BY JIM KOGAN

WHOSE LAND IS IT, ANYWAY?

SOME MONTHS AGO - long enough so it is no longer a currently controversial subject - some governmental agencies imposed yet another indignity on some property owners out in Boca Chica. Enough time has passed, so I can write about the philosophy involved without getting into the details which are, essentially, trivia. Right at the start I'll point out that this is not the only similar case and the abuses are not limited to our neighborhood or even our state. But where else do we start seeking more just government than right at home?

WHAT HAPPENED (NO, this is not

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the last chapter)? Governments - federal, state and county and their agencies taken together, told some land owners about as follows - without all the verbiage:

We are going to use part of your land. We are going to conduct our business so the use of your land will be dangerous. If you do anything on your land that endangers us, we'll put you in prison, but that constraint does not apply to us. Eventually we'll want to buy your land but we do not find it convenient right now to pay you. And we don't want the market value of your land to increase because when we do get around to buying it we want it cheap. Protect the taxpayer, you know. So we're invoking the police power to prevent your use of your land and when we decide to pay you for it we'll let you know. Meanwhile, of course you have to pay taxes

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on it because if you do not we'll take it and not pay you. Yes, we know we've promised to pay you before and did not but some day we will.

NOW, COULD YOU get away with that? Is that right? Sure, it's legal - the guys that do it write their own laws and scatter responsibility until there is none. And a case can be made for the premise that the jokers who run governments are inherently incompetent anyway. But, again, is it right? Sure, airport zoning is everywhere and yes, it is true that most of them do endanger their neighbors and, yes, it is true that courts have ruled that they need not buy the land they render useless. Or even the land they get other government agencies to declare useless by law. But is it right? To take a man's property or the use of it and not pay for it - immediately. You and I have to postpone our projects until we find it convenient to pay for what we need. Why are our employees set above us in this way? Why not bring them down?

SURE, IT IS claimed that some owners knew of the government's plans when they bought. Follow that through and it comes out, "If you own property some government agency decides to encroach on, you can't sell it." Does it make any difference in the right vs. wrong question which owner is robbed?

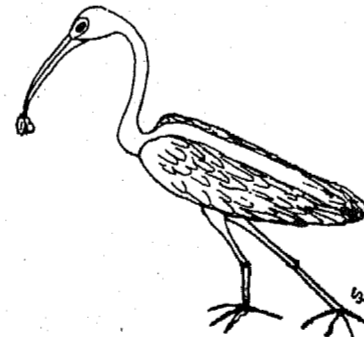
Allegedly the "greater good," etc., should prevail. But who is to say which good is greater and even if that one is resolved, does that justify de facto taking without paying?

YES, THERE HAVE been occasional successful suits for "reverse condemnation," but they are rare. And one school of "planning" holds that it is only sound strategy to "down-zone" to reduce market value before taking and paying the reduced market value. That is using the police power to confiscate. If the bandits fill out all the forms, it's "legal" but it is still theft. We have had plenty of evidence that "legal" is not a synonym for "right" and that "illegal" is not a synonym for "wrong," either.

IN THE LARGER scene, this set of attitudes - that anything anyone earns or buys with his earnings or savings must form part of the "common property" - this attitude has become deeply entrenched in our society. And, still in the larger scene, it has gone far to destroy a once-productive society.

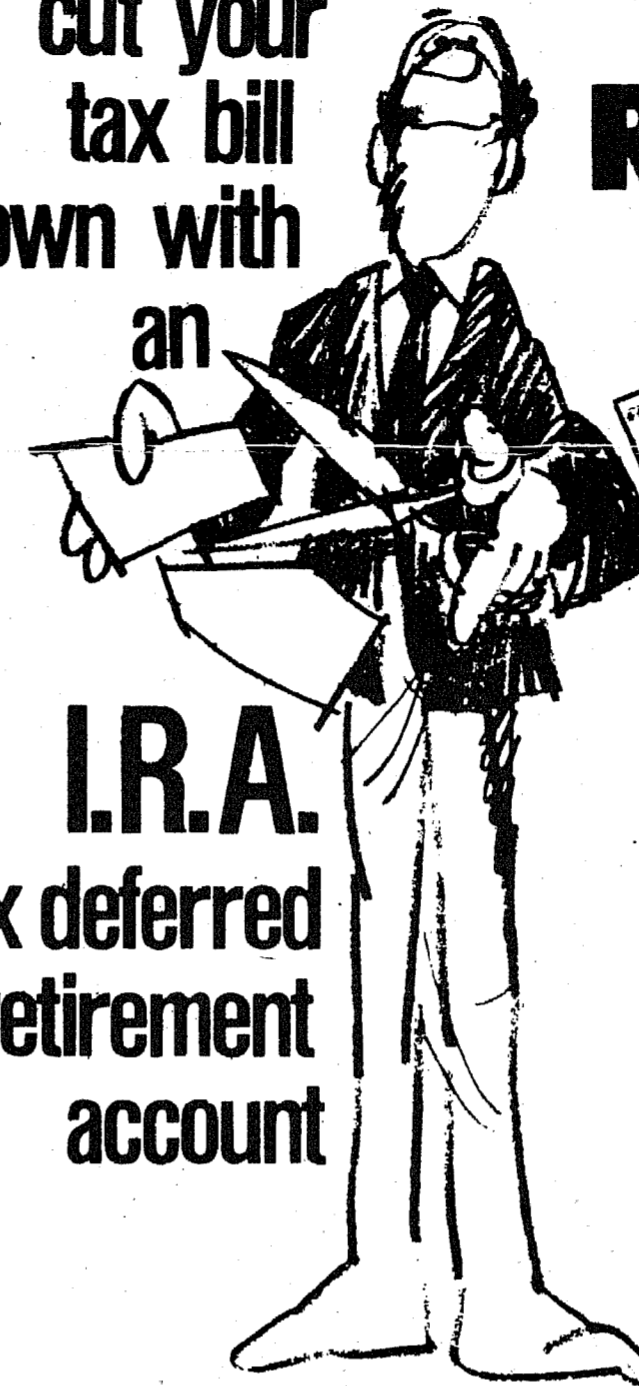
In this local paper we are less involved in that "larger scene," but we can interest ourselves in the things that happen close to home and we can avoid being led into disaster by simply assuming that what is said loudest and from the most powerful sources must not be "right." It seldom is.

(The opinions of Mr. Kogan do not necessarily reflect those of Solares Hill or its staff.)



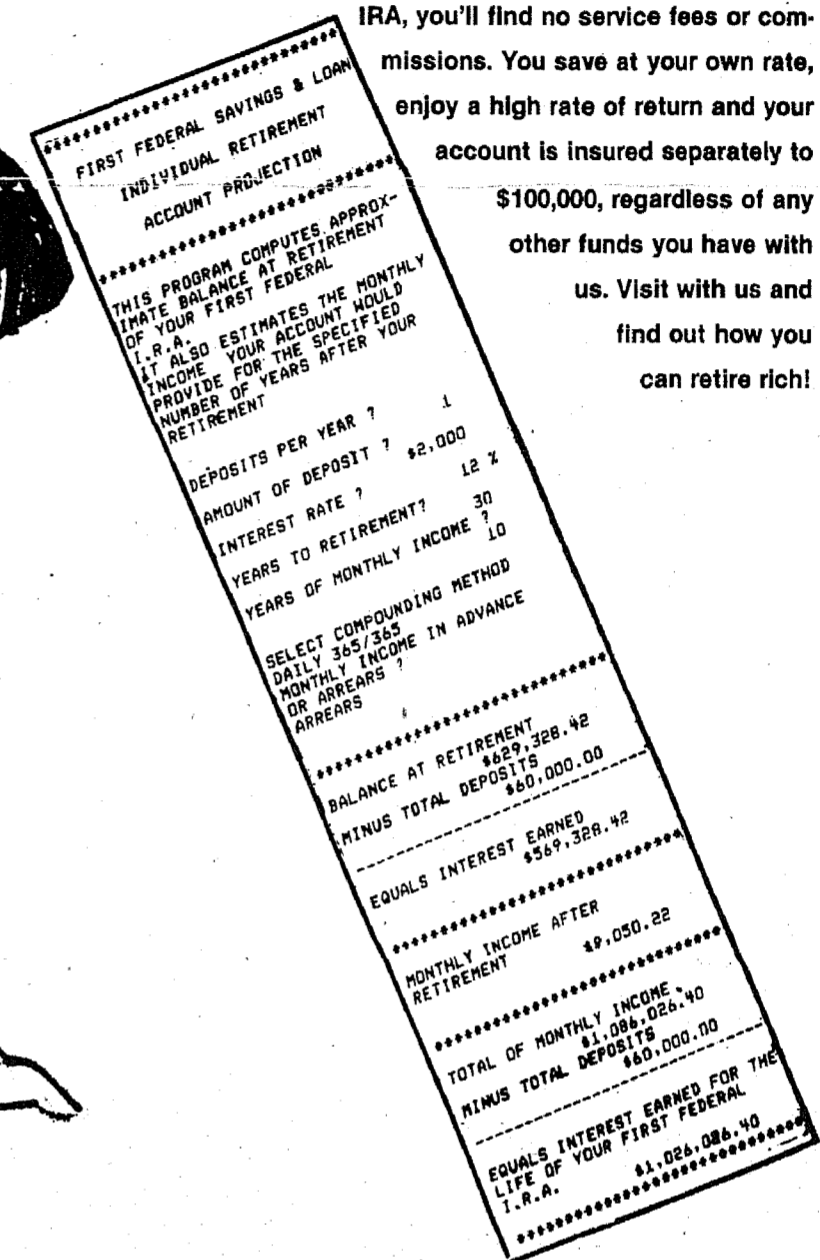
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THE LAST OF THE SANDS? FAT CHANCE!

by JOHN LESLIE

SOME DAY THEY will make another film about Key West. It will be one of those short documentary films that lie in round tin containers gathering dust on a library shelf. In the film will be some still photos of old Key West from earlier decades as well as clips from movies that have been filmed here. Interspersed will be shots of the hotels, condos, and time shares that rim our beaches, of neighborhoods that have been destroyed in order to make room for more hotels and condos. It will be a nostalgic look at the past, and when it is shown once or twice a year some older Key Westers who remember will sit teary-

are taking up so much of the commission's time.

LAWRENCE GOMEZ, AN habitual "probe" at City Hall, was recently kicked out of the office of Redevelopment Head Steve McDaniel by Paul Sher, board member, who found Gomez there questioning McDaniel on the Truman Annex development.

Mayor Heyman's new policy of having speakers sign up at commission meetings before they can speak and having them state whether they are for or against the proposal they are speaking out on is an attempt to streamline the procedures. However,

EMOTIONALISM? YES. WHO COULD THINK THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE EMOTIONALISM IN SUCH A CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE AS THE SANDS?

eyed in the back and watch what happened to their island in the span of a few short years.

EMOTIONALISM! THAT IS the charge that is being leveled at the public and various citizen groups who have attempted to fight the upsurge in development. Some city commissioners - understandably tired and nerve-frayed from the marathon regular meetings, not to mention the many special meetings that have been held the past few weeks - have made it clear that they are unhappy with the protracted questioning and exhaustive inquiry made by the public into the legality of the projects up for commission approval.

One commissioner went so far as to ask for a list of members who supported these citizens' groups and who

it also has the effect of controlling who will speak and when. If a member of the public signs up to speak on one issue, not knowing that on the agenda there is another issue he might want to address, he is restricted to the one subject.

ALL OF THIS has the effect of buttoning up the public. Public bodies, including the commission, are there to provide information, the public should be allowed to question any of the issues before the commission, provided they do so in an efficient and orderly procedure. In the past several weeks various citizens' groups have provided the commission with serious considerations, but after the January 13th Sands Beach bond hearing the *Miami Herald's*

lead sentence claimed: "The opponents of the Sands Beach Hotel project brought emotion. Developer Austin Laber and the city brought experts."

EMOTIONALISM? YES. WHO could think that there would not be emotionalism in such a controversial issue as the Sands? Within that emotionalism, however, are some very solid points. Through their vigilant efforts, Save Our Neighborhoods and Save Our Shoreline have been responsible for unearthing a multitude of inconsistencies in developer Austin Laber's paperwork and procedures.

AT THE JANUARY 13 hearing it is doubtful if either the city or Austin Laber would have seen fit to call in any experts on the bond proposal had not citizens raised serious questions about the \$10 million bond Laber wanted for

suance of the bond.

OTHER AREAS WHERE citizens' groups have found inconsistencies are with the original UDAG application for a \$1.3 million loan to help finance the \$18.5 million hotel. A qualifying letter which Mayor Heyman asked the city attorney to draw up to be signed by Laber stating that the city had some reservations about the project and that they might still reject the grant if the project were not approved - was to be included in the UDAG application.

MYSTERIOUSLY, THAT LETTER was missing from that application when it reached Washington. To date there has been no satisfactory answer as to why the letter was omitted. The only letters included were from the Mayor and City Manager Joel Koford, neither

IF (THE SANDS) IS BUILT, IT WILL BE BUILT AGAINST THE OBVIOUS WISHES OF THE NEIGHBORS AND WHAT APPEARS TO BE A MAJORITY OF THE PUBLIC.

his hotel at an earlier bond hearing. Those experts, both for Laber and the city, pointed out that citizen concerns were not only justified, but in the case of resident Harry Meline, who had raised questions about the bond at the January 4 hearing, those questions were "expert" and well deserved. As a result:

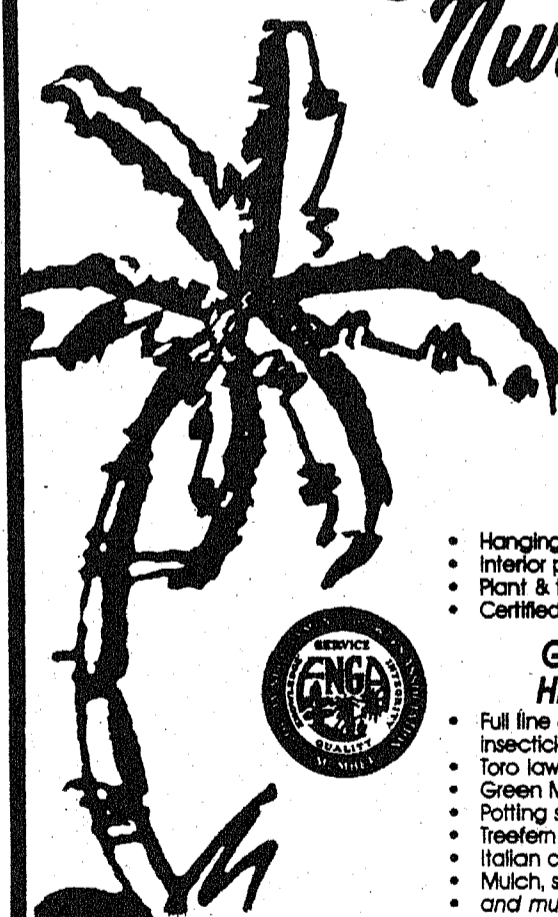
1. significant wording was changed in the bond proposal to insure that Laber was not provided with any vested rights to begin construction of his hotel.
2. the commission accepted the inducement agreement allowing Austin Laber to apply for the \$10 million, but deleted from the agenda a resolution that called for approval of the is-

of which addressed any of the problems generated by this project.

Another item not included in the various appendages to the UDAG application listed the qualifications that the Planning and Restoration Commission gave to its November '83 recommendation that the city apply for the UDAG loan.

THE PRC DENIED approval of the Sands in November but gave their okay to apply for UDAG funds with qualifications. Those qualifications did not accompany the UDAG application. Since proper procedures have not always been followed - could deliberate attempts have been made to cloud the public dissent over this project? - it is impossible for the public to get a fair input to Washington where approval of over \$11 million is about to

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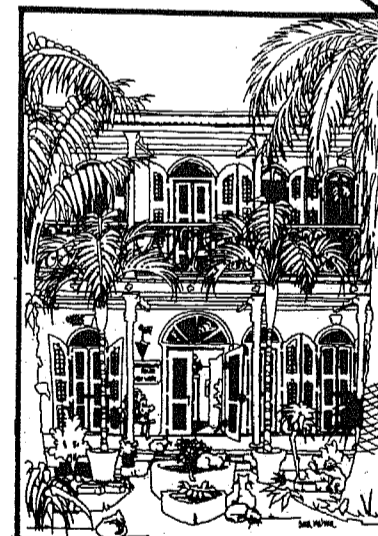
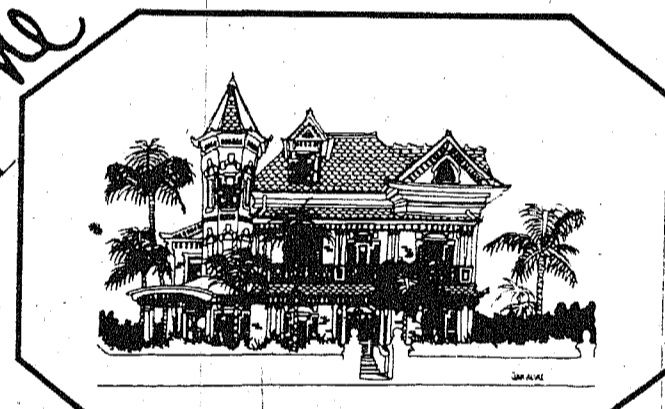
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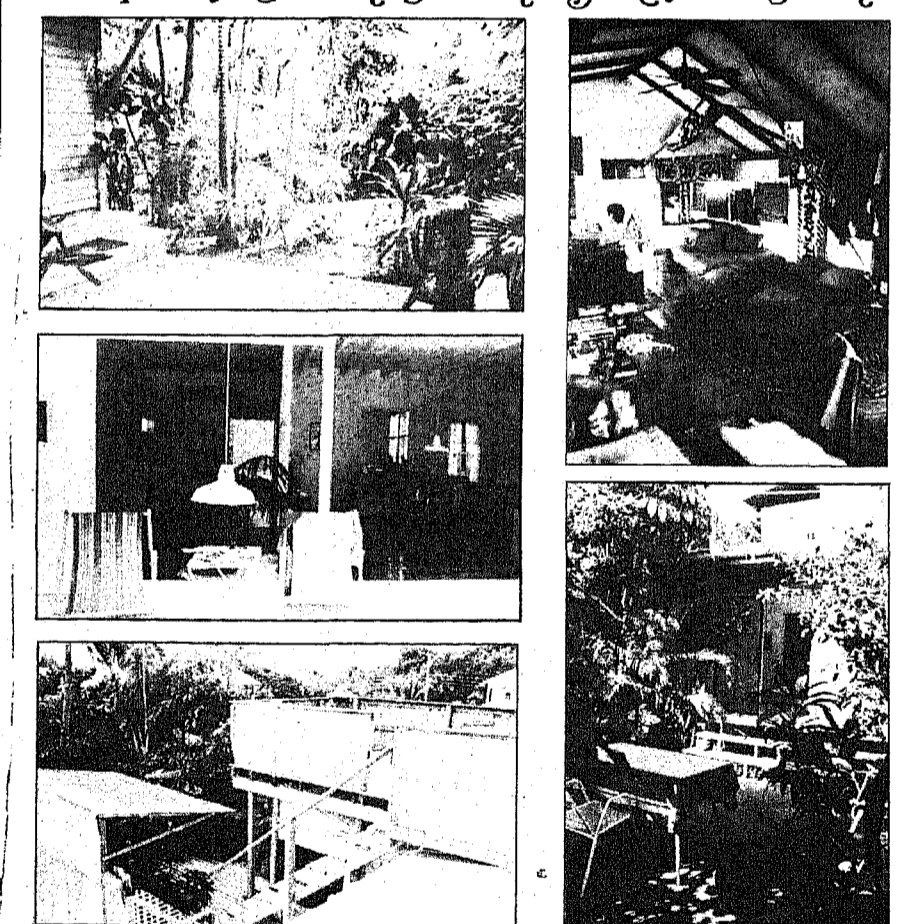
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be made on a project that as far as Washington is concerned has major acceptance by the public.

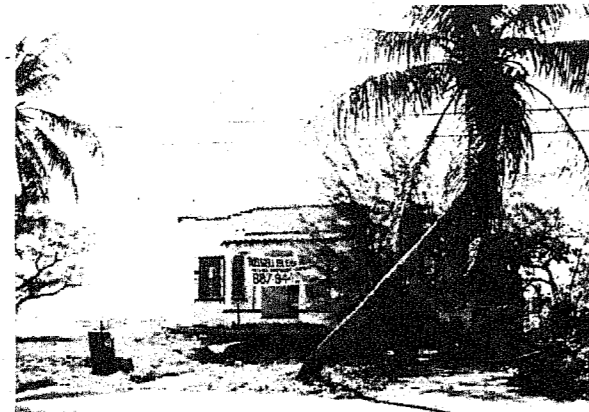
THIS SIMPLY IS not true. Commissioners who want to downplay the significance of public protest to the Sands will have a hard time doing so by suggesting there is strong counter-support. One hundred Toppino workers hardly constitute support. Toppino is not going to go broke nor will they have to lay men off because the Sands isn't built.

Another commissioner, who claimed Chamber of Commerce support for the Sands, may be unaware that that reflects the executive board and may not reflect the opinions of the general Chamber membership.

THE SIGNATURES OF 2,000 residents cannot and should not be ignored. If necessary, it may be time to go to a referendum - the people of Key West should be given the chance to determine the future of their own city, if elected officials will not represent their wishes.

Those who advocate more condos, more time shares and luxury hotels along our sparse beaches and intruding into our historic neighborhoods are

catering to the entrepreneurial whims of out-of-town developers who rely on federal loans and debt financing to rebuild Key West in the image of its mainland neighbors.



The death of a neighborhood. Vernon Avenue as it looks today.

Photo by Sharon Wells

APOLOGISTS FOR THIS position lay claim to the age-old argument that this type of construction provides a wider tax base and lower taxes. Politi-

cians are fond of this argument because it sounds good to constituents who like to know that their elected officials are working to lower taxes. But since when have taxes been lowered or even stabilized after all the construction of the past three years?

1983 saw an aggregate 15% jump in taxes city-wide over 1982 according to the tax appraiser's office; personal property taxes varied, but many single family dwellings increased as much as 40% over the preceding year.

IN 1983 ONLY 29 condo units were sold in Key West, and of that number many buyers were realtors speculating at pre-construction prices.

Time-shares, it appears, have suffered worse than the condos. According to the tax appraiser's office, time-shares are taxed much more heavily than either motels or condos and are not selling. As a result, developers concentrate on selling the same five or six units to different buyers for the maximum period of time - usually one week per year; the remaining units are then rented out on a nightly basis similar to any hotel. But with the high taxes they must pay this is hardly a profitable way to do business.

IN THE HOTEL trade, the Casa Marina reports that business is down marginally over last year, which was a

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bad year anyway, but they attribute the decline to the bad weather that has plagued the area for two winters. The Pier House is doing a little better than last year, but still nowhere near expectations. Again, the weather is blamed as the primary factor in keeping people away.

ACCORDING TO LAVENTHOL & Horwath, a market research firm hired by Austin Laber to study the need and availability of hotel rooms in Key West, we have as of 1984, 465,740 room days (figured by multiplying the number of hotel rooms by 365 days); in 1989, we will need 417,200 room days. In other words, we have 48,000 more room days available today than will be needed in 1989!

Why then do we continue to encourage further construction of this kind? The answer, as you might guess, is money. A developer comes into town with a few million dollars, most of it his own, most borrowed, and the promise of various government grants for the city, making it hard for commissioners to say no when city finances are weak.

SO THE TUG-OF-WAR begins - reviewing agencies such as the Old Island Restoration Commission, where today's majority vote is made up of an architect, a realtor and a construction engineer, who allow such projects as Reflections, The Galleon, and the Sands Hotel.

Citizens' groups like SOS and SON monitor these sessions, as well as City Hall, in an attempt to argue the public position as well as inconsistencies of procedure and guidelines, when they occur. Difficulties for these groups arise from the fact that most are amateurs working part time against skilled attorneys and bureaucratic entanglements.

WHEN ATTORNEYS ARE necessary, as they sometimes are, their services are not cheap. SON is currently indebted to attorney Diane Curtis for over \$5,000. The only way that she can be paid is through time-consuming membership drives and contributions - valuable time away from the demands of monitoring the project as well as their own jobs.

Curtis has come before the commission a number of times on behalf

of SON. Most recently she argued in court the right of her three clients to keep open what they considered a city-owned alley parallel to Vernon Avenue over which Austin Laber wanted to build his 150-room hotel. Curtis, making her first courtroom appearance, was pitted against experienced trial attorney Elizabeth Du Fresne from Miami, representing Laber.

THE DAY-LONG PROCEEDING had the fascination of serious theater; what might have been a routine legal question of land title became a drama of significance as the two women attorneys battled over the right of citizens to maintain a ten-foot strip of land that had been open for as long as anyone could remember. In the end Curtis lost. The alley would go to Laber and a hotel would replace what for years had been an attractive neighborhood.

IT SEEMED THE nine-month long struggle to stop the hotel's encroachment was coming to a close. A disappointed Curtis remarked that "three citizens have a hard time proving what they needed to prove when it is the city's rights that are in question. The city should have defended this property from the beginning."

Once the alley question had been decided it only remained for the Planning and Restoration Commission to approve the project. They had denied approval on the grounds that it was out of keeping with the city's Comprehensive Plan at an earlier session. Since then, the plans have been revised.

ON MONDAY, FOLLOWING the court decision, a special meeting of the PRC, to consider the revised plans, was called by Sands advocate and PRC vice-chairman, Sandra Houston. Houston was the only person to appear for the board and the meeting was cancelled.

Since both the mayor and HUD had requested a resolution of this problem by the PRC, it left the Tuesday evening meeting of the city commission in jeopardy. HUD had raised eleven points that they wanted clarified before processing the application - among them, the question of the alley and PRC approval. The commission was to meet to determine if these questions were satisfactorily answered.

THE IRONY, AFTER all the hurried

meetings were called, was that the funding period for the quarter had ended on Friday, January 20 - the day before the court heard the alley dispute! According to Jack Flynn, Public Affairs Officer for HUD, Laber had missed the deadline and was not granted an extension. Laber himself had told the mayor that he had an extension until January 27, apparently in an effort to rush through approvals for the following third quarter funding cycle.

The commission met on Tuesday with Commissioners Mira and Balbontin absent. Heyman, Halloran and Cates were told by the city attorney, Joe Allen, that PRC approval of the Sands project was not a legal requirement for the UDAG application and that the commission could determine if they wanted to give its non-binding approval for the purpose of the application. In a 2-1 vote, Cates casting the lone yes vote, the commission decided that HUD's questions had not been answered satisfactorily and denied approval.

WILL LABER REAPPLY for the third time for UDAG financing? If so, will his application be accepted, signifying a third round of public hearings and debates over this issue?

Everyone is tired. Many are bored with the entire question of the Sands Beach Hotel. If built, it will be built against the obvious wishes of the neighbors and what appears to be a majority of the public. And that, as we are so fond of saying, may be the bottom line - a neighborhood destroyed, the public's wishes denied.

LEON WILTSEY, A local businessman speaking before the commission, said that "anything that will bring more people to our town [justifies projects such as these]." The word "anything" looms uneasily in this statement, especially when followed by Wiltsey's definition of progress - "people pushing others out of areas to make room for airports and highways" (and presumably luxury hotels). "Those people who have been pushed out will find a place to live, like Stock Island or Big Coppitt."

This is not what Key West is all about. To recreate the island according to a New York developer's dream has the potential of spelling disaster for everything that generations of Key Westers have stood for and multitudes of tourists have flocked here to see.

PROGRESS, AS ANOTHER local businessman recently said, may be nothing more complex than keeping one's lawn mowed and house painted!

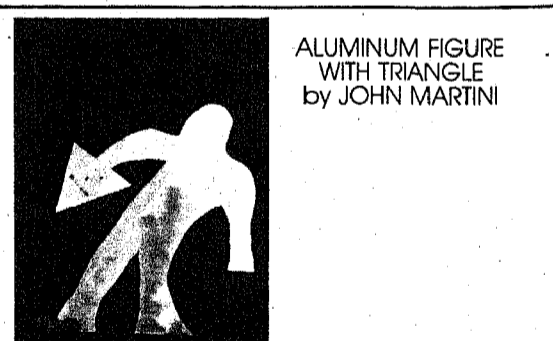
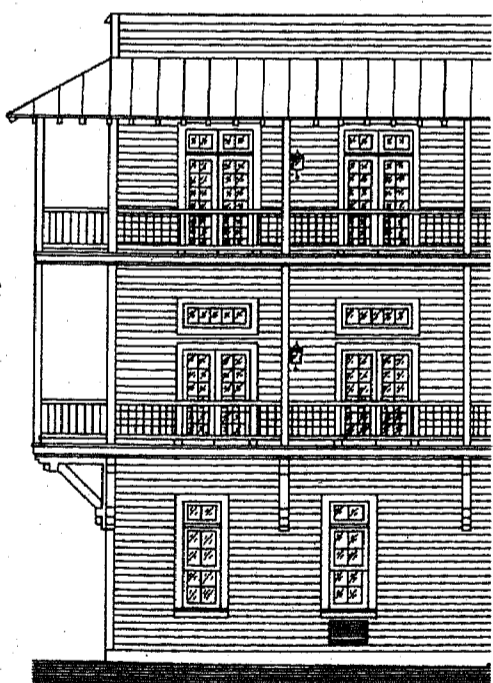
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The Key West Civil Service Board

by ALDEN SOLOVY

OUTSIDE OF CITY Hall, two city workers slowly empty trash cans into the large metal dumpster behind the building. They are emptying the cans by hand, grabbing hands full of waste-paper and placing them into the green dumpster. Occasionally, one of the men found an item that interested him, so he would stop to look at it. It took two men one-half hour to empty two trash cans.

The incident is one small example of a problem which some city workers feel is rampant: loafing on the job.

"I see it all the time," said one city employee who asked not to be identified. The hour-long coffee breaks, the chatting at work instead of accomplishing tasks, and the outright ignoring of certain responsibilities.

"I CARRY THE load for two other people," said another city employee. "These people feel they can get away with anything because they can't be fired. All they have to do is appeal to the Civil Service Board and they'll get their jobs back."

A third city worker, who also asked not to be named, said, "It's definitely a small minority of people who are loafing, but they're there and they're making it hard on everyone."

THERE IS A small irony in the fact that city employees who want to expose loafing on the job - which is equivalent to wasting the taxpayer's money - consistently request anonymity. Each explains that there would be reprisals on the job. "There are certain pressures not to rock the boat," said one employee. They said they fear losing their jobs if they

speak out openly. And they said the Civil Service Board would not protect someone who shed light on the waste.

There is irony in the fact that the board which so vehemently claims to protect the "vested rights" of the workers is seen as a board which would not protect their right to speak nor tolerate an honest effort at improving the quality of work in city departments.

"WHO ARE THESE people and why don't they come forward?" said Emery Major, chairman of the Civil Service Board. "If they don't come forward they are as guilty as the employee who's not doing his job."

IN TRUTH, THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF DEPARTMENT HEADS UNDER CIVIL SERVICE PROTECTS THE OLD BUBBA SYSTEM.

Allegations of lax work by certain city employees, and the board's willingness to allow it, are not new to Emery Major. He has heard them again and again in his six terms (terms last 1/2 year) as board chairman. But while some call the Civil Service Board a protection racket for selected employees, Major staunchly defends the board's posture of defending city workers.

"Our job is to protect the vested rights of the employees," said Major. Those vested rights, Major says, are to receive due process in matters of grievances, hiring and firing, and to be assured that rules governing civil service will not be changed willy-nilly without a referendum.

"CITY EMPLOYEES HAVE the right to due process of law. They have the right to a fair hearing," he said. But detractors argue that Civil

Service Board members have taken the right of due process too far, that certain employees are virtually guaranteed of their job status, no matter their performance.

THERE WAS THE case of a city cemetery worker who bothered to show up for work only about half the time. At work, he was often drunk. The situation was becoming intolerable for the sexton, and the cemetery worker was fired. The Civil Service Board, however, reinstated the worker, claiming a technical error in the way the worker was fired. In other words, the employee's right to a technically correct hearing was more important than the public's right to competent workers and even more important than another city worker's rights - the sexton - to have competent and reliable co-workers. The sexton quit.

"WHOSE FAULT IS that? Civil service or management?" asked Major rhetorically. "We have a very intelligent city manager. If he wants to get rid of an employee, he knows what to do. The personnel files have to justify a termination. Management does not build a case and document what the employee has done."

But according to several managers in city government, it can be almost impossible to fire an incompetent employee even when there is a full personnel file with both verbal and written reprimands. The result is that many employees are not fired in anticipation of the civil service system reinstating them anyway. "It's just not worth the effort in most cases," said one department head.

AT THE REQUEST of city manager Joel Koford, Margaret Foresman, city director of administration, investi-

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gated civil service minutes to see how grievances have been handled over the past two years. Of 14 cases listed in her memo, only one ruling was found against an employee, and even that ruling held a lesser penalty than that first imposed by the city administration. A fireman was terminated for abuse of sick leave. The Civil Service Board changed that to a 60-day suspension, with the loss of pay and a warning.

IN 10 OTHER cases, the board ruled in favor of employees. Two employees arrested for theft were suspended by the administration for 30 days with termination recommended at the end of the 30 days. The board found no cause to terminate them, ordered their reinstatement with back pay and files expunged. A fireman was suspended by the administration for the abuse of sick leave. The civil service hearing resulted in his reinstatement with back pay and files expunged. Two public service employees were suspended for unauthorized leave. The board dropped the charges and ordered their reinstatement with back pay. They both had been in trouble once before on the same charges.

IN THE THREE remaining cases, no disposition could be found in board minutes. "My research indicated that civil service is inclined to favor workers over management, but I can't say that management shows up as brilliant in some of these cases," wrote Foresman in her memo. She added, "I should note that there appears to be a need for a more systematic procedure to be followed by department heads and supervisors in handling of disciplinary matters for employees."

KOFORD SAID THE history of civil service actions proves that it is "a protection agency for many incompetent people in city government today." He noted that it is the board itself which outlines procedures which manage-

ment must follow. "They are the ones who draw up the technicalities to protect people. They have made it very difficult to remove an incompetent person."

ALTHOUGH BOARD MEMBERS have a history of trying to make the administration jump through hoops to meet its technicalities, the board appears willing to ignore those technicalities when it suits them. One example came recently when a department head wanted to promote a file clerk to secretary, a substantial increase in pay. Although she could neither type nor speak English, the board waived the typing test for a secretarial post on the recommendation of the department head. The board also has a rule limiting the number of accrued sick leave hours which can be credited to any one employee. Yet for some employees, those hours are carried over by the Civil Service Board, allowing them more sick leave days than other city staffers.

MAJOR COMPARED THE Civil Service Board to the judicial branch of the federal government. "In any history book you'll find the separation of powers," he said. He said that using this analogy, the city manager's office would be the executive branch and the commission would be the legislative branch. "In courts you have people getting off all the time on technicalities. Murderers go free. It's part of the process," he said.

Koford agreed that the Civil Service Board is a quasi-judicial body, but he said the board has extended its powers into the legislative arena. "My problem with the Civil Service Board is that they get involved in areas that are none of their business," Koford said. One example is the board's penchant to carry over accrued sick leave time for selected city employees. "We must maintain an accumulated liability for those hours," Koford said, adding, "that's a fiscal liability on

the part of the city which is clearly a legislative function. They are not a legislative branch of city government." The simple fact that civil service rules set the amount of accrued leave which can be kept on the books hinders negotiations with the city's four unions, Koford added. "Because this is in the rules, I can't negotiate those points," he said. The effectiveness of collective bargaining, from the management point of view, is severely hampered by the civil service rules. "The Civil Service Board should not be involved in matters that affect the fiscal policy of this city," Koford said.

THE CIVIL SERVICE Board is currently embroiled in two controversies: how civil service should be organized under proposed revisions in the city charter and the appointment of Joan Dwyer to the board to replace

BUT ACCORDING TO SEVERAL MANAGERS IN CITY GOVERNMENT, IT CAN BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO FIRE AN INCOMPETENT EMPLOYEE, EVEN WHEN THERE IS A FULL PERSONNEL FILE WITH BOTH VERBAL AND WRITTEN REPRIMANDS.

Willie Ward. In the debate over civil service organization, Mayor Richard Heyman argued for an abbreviated version of civil service in the charter with most of the rules being adopted by the city commission in ordinance form. He barred removing department heads from civil service and electing all five members of the Civil Service Board in a public election. Currently, two members are elected by the public, two by the city employees, and one is appointed by the city commission.

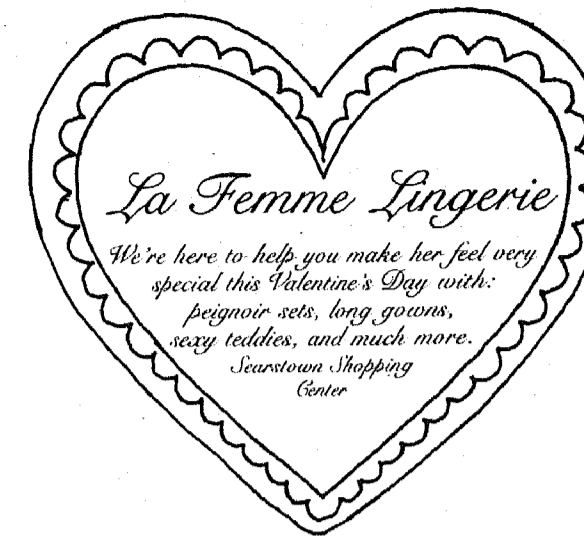
MAJOR ARGUED THAT the public has its representation on the Civil Service Board with its two elected members. He said that the employees also have a right to representation. Major also argued that city department heads should be under civil service so they can be protected against indiscriminate

firings by the city manager or the commission. During a heated city commission meeting, revisions in the proposed city charter covering civil service were adopted. Department heads would still be covered by civil service, but board members would be selected through general election. The debate rages on in anticipation of a March referendum vote on the proposed charter.

AT THE BOTTOM of the controversy comes the ever-present question of political power. Heyman argued that the city commission is the final elected authority of the city and therefore has the duty and obligation to oversee the Civil Service Board by ordinance. Major argued that the power must be separated from the commission to prevent politicians from controlling civil service jobs. Unfortunately, Major fought the battle mostly with

political mudslinging and scare tactics. He accused Heyman of trying to create a new form of Bubbaism with, presumably, new Bubbas. Rumors were inculcated that the mayor and city manager wanted to eliminate the police and fire departments, a prospect which Koford calls ridiculous. Some civil servants were told of the possibility of indiscriminate firings in order to allow Mayor Heyman to fill those posts with his own people. Major pointed to Peter Ilchuk, a friend and political appointee of Heyman, as evidence of the new Bubbaism. Ilchuk stole his thunder, however, by resigning from all political positions.

IN TRUTH, THE current system of department heads under civil service protects the old Bubba system. Under current rules governing civil service, department heads have the final author-



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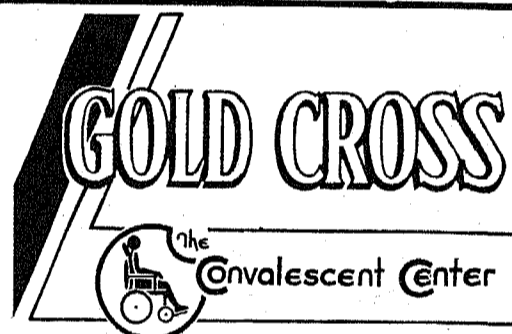
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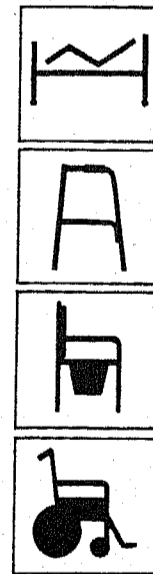
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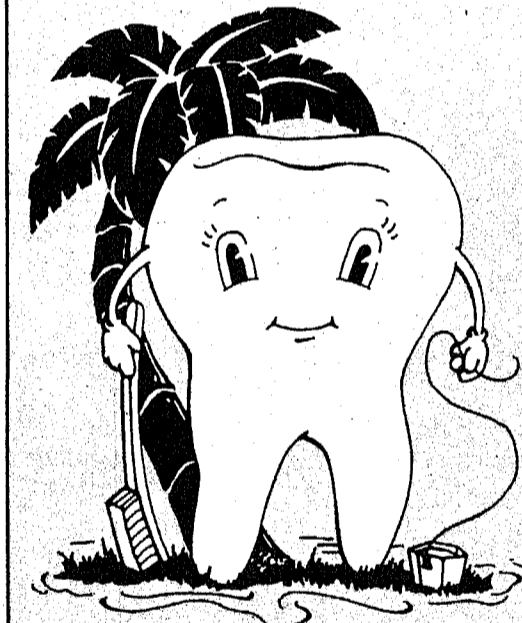
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ity to select new employees from a civil service roster. Since the department heads are protected by civil service, they can ignore the wishes of the city manager or the city commission in making those appointments. And since the Civil Service Board has the final say on terminations and grievances, the manager and the commission cannot get rid of nonproductive or counter-productive employees. Civil service establishes who can be hired, then protects those who do the hiring as well as those hired. The whole process can take place against the will of the city's top elected and administrative officials.

BEHIND THE ACCUSATIONS against Heyman, came the obvious fear that political power was shifting from the old guard to the new. Major said that proposed revisions in the charter were a political power play by Heyman and the new commission to control as much of the government as possible. Charges of cronyism, something that Heyman worked against as a city commissioner and something he campaigned against, were leveled at him by Major. Major questioned whether Heyman could be loyal to current city employees.

"My loyalty is to the people of Key West and the best interests of the city," Heyman said, adding, "anyone who's a hard city worker and does his job is in no danger of losing that job."

THE QUESTION OF Major's loyalty as a member of the Civil Service Board is clear, however. Both Major and Peter Montero - Commissioner Joe Balbontin's son-in-law - filed nominating petitions for the board posts elected by civil servants. No one opposed them, however, so no election was held. In effect, the five people who signed each of the nominating petitions placed them in office.

Many of the signatures came from department heads or high ranking officials. Those nominating Major were: Larry Rodriguez, police chief; Gibby Gates, fire chief; Raymond Casamayor, deputy police chief; and two other policemen, Sgt. Louis Cuervo and dispatcher Kenny Knowles. Those nominating Montero were: Nestor Milian, supervisor of streets and sidewalks; three ranking policemen, Capt. Albert Albury, Lt. Russell Barker, and Sgt. Richard Howard; and police records clerk Dania Atwell.

THE CONTROVERSY OVER the appointment of Joan Dwyer is also rooted in political dealings. Dwyer replaced Willie Ward, a favorite of the black community. Ward apparently fell from grace with his benefactors on the city commission. He held the seat appointed by the commission, but when the time came for a reappointment Balbontin nominated someone else: Alexis Rivera. Balbontin withdrew the name after discovering he did not have the needed votes and switched his support to Ward. Ward simply got caught in the political crossfire, with the new commission members wishing to install their own appointee. Now, being replaced by Dwyer, Ward is suing the city to be reinstated, saying that he was improperly replaced. Many members of the Black community are up in arms, feeling that they were slighted by the city commission.

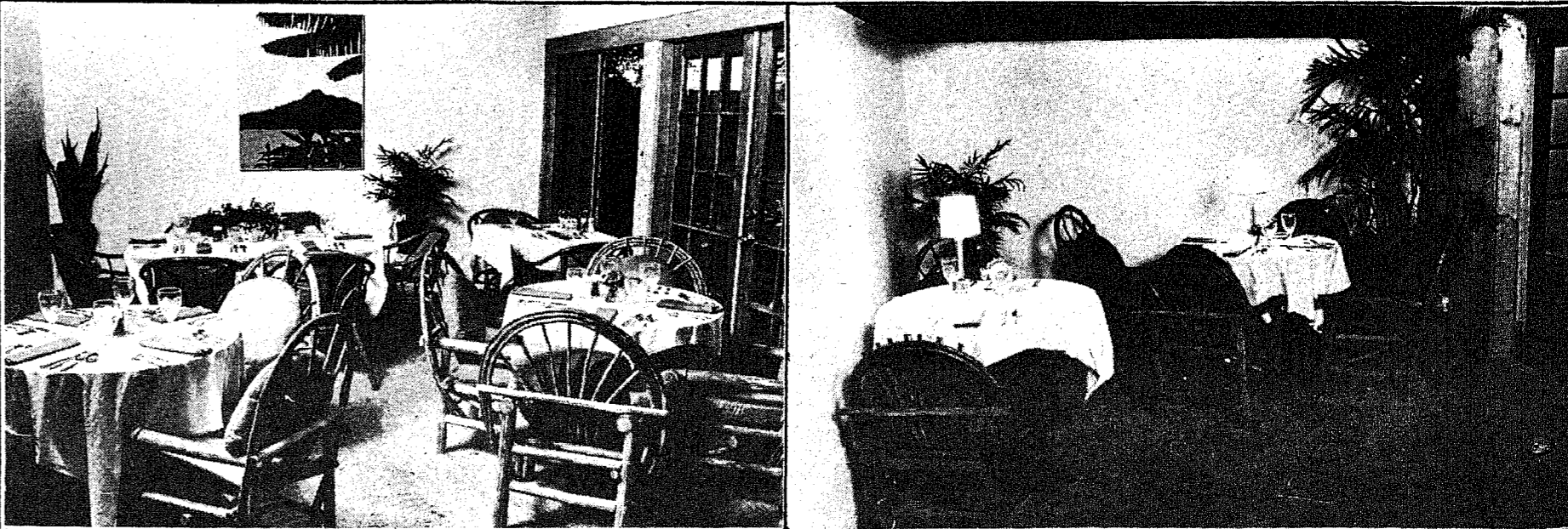
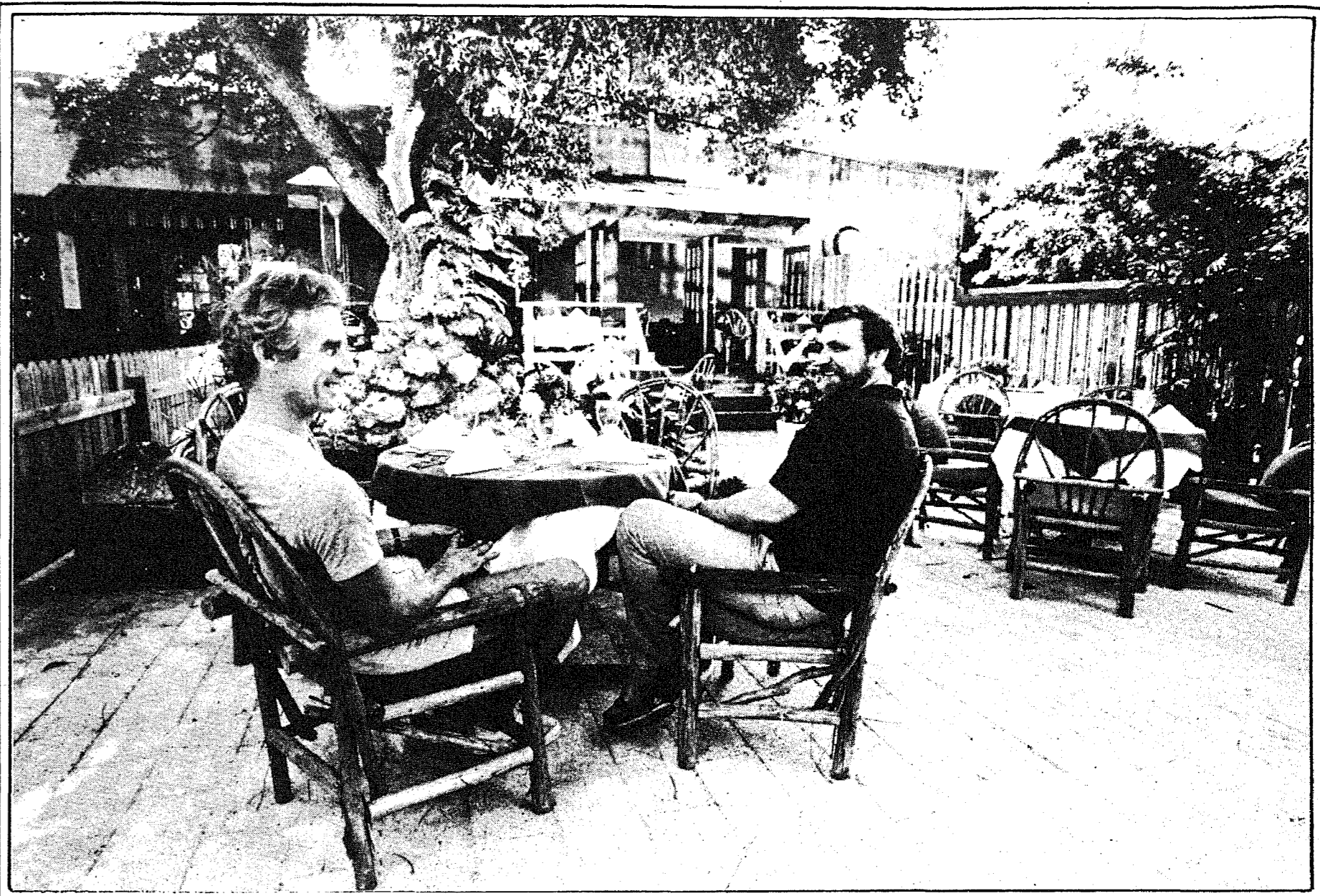
CONTROVERSY IS PRACTICALLY synonymous with civil service in Key West. The Monroe County Grand Jury criticized the Civil Service Board in its Interim Report of the Fall Term 1982. The report chided the board for testing procedures used in promotional exams which resulted in police officers seeking the same promotion taking different tests on different days. The grand jury recommended retesting and said the board

disregarded provisions of Florida's Sunshine Law in failing to approve the early exam in a public meeting. The jury urged revision of the board's testing procedures.

ANOTHER CONTROVERSY CAME up recently when Major said he would not seek reelection as board chairman. However, he changed his mind and was elected by a 3-to-2 vote of the board. Montero, Ward, and Major voted to keep Major as chairman. They also made Montero vice-chairman, although at that time he had only served on the board for three meetings. Voting against Major and Montero were those board members elected by the public: Theresa Ludwig and Dr. Steve Atwood.

IN THE MIDST of all the allegations, one thing is certain: the controversies surrounding the Civil Service Board are not over. The police chief and other city officials are lashing out at the proposed civil service section of the new charter. Ward is suing the city and civil service testing procedures remain a thorn in the side of the board. Meanwhile, the trash is still emptied by hand behind city hall. One-hour coffee-breaks are still common. And some civil servants are still afraid to speak out for fear of losing their jobs.

THERE WILL BE a fund raiser for Save Our Neighborhoods, Sunday, March 4, 6-10, at East Martello. Members and interested parties are urged to attend. For information, call 294-1073.

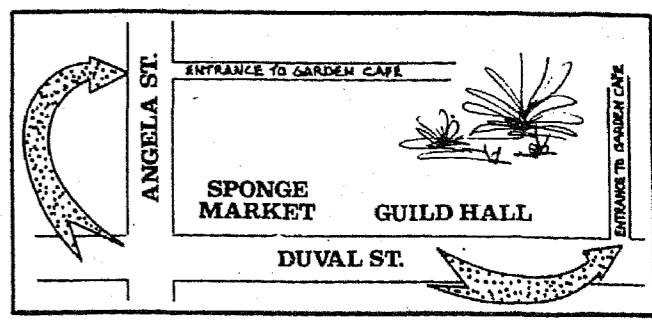


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SEANCE: A SHORT STORY

by JOHN LESLIE

WE WERE AN unhappy family, Kay thinks, though she can never remember thinking so when they were all alive. Death, she supposes, slipping some leftover casserole into the microwave for her lunch, has served to deprive her of whatever happiness she should have achieved by the age of 6. First, Jimmy, nearly 30 years ago, and from then on it seems that every five years there has been a death in the family.

Now she is virtually alone except for a daughter who has hinted at moving back in with her if Kay had shown any enthusiasm. She hadn't. She wonders if she is getting any radiation from this microwave. People with pace-makers were warned about them. What would they do to living tissue? Jimmy's brother, Hal, had had a pace-maker. I'll be here forever, she decides, the least able to cope of any of them. She hardly feels like a survivor. She doesn't play bridge and she isn't a drinker. The few women her age that she knows either live around a card table or a kitchen cabinet where they drink alone and furtively throughout the day.

SHE HAD NEVER been a drinker. Even when they had gathered for the summer around the lake or up in Hal's mountain cabin for the weekend she would have no more than one highball in the evening. Hal was the drinker, but she never remembered seeing him actually drunk - just amorous. Jimmy drank but not so much as Hal. Though Hal told some stories about Jimmy when they were boys that made her laugh. Getting married must have settled Jimmy down. She hoped so. She liked the notion that she might have been an influence on him.

KAY HAS AGED gracefully. At 62 she wears her hair short and tinted a dark mahogany. Gray streaks protrude, giving a confident matriarchal appearance; it is an appearance that she fosters, knowing that it is false. It is her only source of order. Without it she believes that her world would crumble. What is left of it.

Kay turns the TV on before sitting down to eat her warmed-over casserole.

It is the local station and a

smiling blonde woman is discussing the transmigration of souls. Kay adjusts the volume. TV occupies a very small portion of her time. In her precarious reasoning she assumes that one addiction might lead to others and so she avoids the tube with the same zeal that keeps her away from the bottle.

THE BLONDE SPIRITUALIST is laughing. She is an attractive woman, robust, maybe in her early 40s. Kay is drawn to her. She seems so confident, so sure. She speaks with an authority and excitement that Kay lacks.

Kay has no interests. She has worked as a desk clerk in a motel most of her life - since Jimmy's death. She has raised their daughter. Now she is drawing social security and she only has to work part time. She has no close friends and seldom goes out. Her small apartment is only fractionally larger than the motel rooms she rents out. It is furnished practically and everything is neat and clean; it looks as if it's waiting for another guest. Kay feels comfortable in this kind of order.

"WHEN DID YOU first get interested in spiritualism?" the TV interviewer - a woman, whose face Kay is distantly familiar with, asks. The

camera pulls in tight on the blonde spiritualist. She smiles. Her make-up is more apparent in the close-up. Kay can see the lines around her mouth more clearly now. Perhaps she is older than 40. Kay doesn't mind. She is drawn to what the woman has to say. She feels a kind of excitement building in her.

"Well, first of all, I've got to tell you that I was a total skeptic. If anyone talked about reincarnation or seances in a serious way I listened politely, but secretly I thought they were fools." She giggles.

"YES," Kay hears herself say, a little breathlessly.

"Until ten years ago when my husband and son were killed in a car accident." The smile on her face remains, but the camera pulls back to take in the interviewer whose youthful expression is impressive. She crosses one leg over the other and smooths her skirt while the spiritualist pauses.

"I thought my life was over. I didn't see how I could go on," Joanne Kieter says. Her name has just flashed on the bottom of the screen along with the telephone number on the TV station.

KAY ABSENTLY PICKS out a pencil from several sticking up from a porcelain container meant to look like a porcupine. She writes the number on a magazine lying on the table.

"Then my son made contact with me," Joanne says, and the smile becomes a toothy beam again.

"When you say 'contact,'" the interviewer says, "do you mean that you actually saw your son in the flesh?" The camera which has been on the interviewer during the question fades and another camera, from a different angle, comes in tight again on Joanne in profile, as if accusing her of something. Joanne seems caught un-

aware and turns, too suddenly, to face the camera, the smile momentarily vanished.

"GOOD QUESTION," SHE says, quickly regaining her self-possession. "A lot of people ask me that and the truth is I don't know."

"You mean you don't know if he was there or not?" The interviewer's question comes over caustically from off camera.

Kay bristles at this. What would that youngster know about tragedy, she wonders.

"OH, HE WAS there, all right," Joanne goes on, seemingly unaffected by the tone of the question. "His presence was palpable. I'm just not sure if he was 'actually' standing there, in the flesh, as you say, or if because of the strength of his presence I was able to imagine him being there."

There is an audible silence in the studio and then the camera switches to the interviewer. Her lip curls slightly upward at one corner. "But he did speak to you?" she asks.

Back to Joanne. "He spoke to me." There is another pause. "He speaks to me often."

The camera pulls back, taking in both women. The interviewer is smiling broadly now. So is Joanne.

"WE ARE SPEAKING with Mrs. Joanne Kieter, spiritualist, and author of the recent book, 'Seances Are Not For Everyone.' We'll be right back."

Kay goes to her bedroom where the telephone rests on a round bedside table. A picture of Jimmy is framed, resting beside it. She dials the TV station. She tells the switchboard operator what she wants; there is a click and a distant hum before a receiver is picked up. Kay thinks

she recognizes the voice of the interviewer.

"I WOULD LIKE to get in touch with Mrs. Kieter after the show," Kay says. "Can you tell me where she is staying?"

After a short delay Joanne Kieter's voice says, though Kay doesn't hear the phone being passed, "I would be glad to talk to you. I am in town for three days and I will be doing consultations. You may call me at the Allison-Chambers Hotel, Room 320."

"Thank you," Kay says and hangs up. She is surprised by her actions and a little apprehensive, but later that afternoon she calls the Allison-Chambers and makes an appointment with Joanne who agrees to come to her home, that evening at eight. Kay agrees to the \$25 consultation fee that Joanne says she charges.

KAY HANGS UP, feeling buoyed. It is the first time in 30 years that she has felt such a rush of excitement.

She has never remarried. She would have liked to, but after 12 years of marriage she is uncomfortable around strange men. She had been taken in by Jimmy's family; they treated her very well, considering she was an outsider. As a clan they had a certain partiality to their own kind. Kay was adopted, so to speak, by this incestuously flawed family. Nothing was expected. Consequently, she provided nothing other than her own servile beauty. "They love you," Jimmy had told her. Indeed. They called her 'Katy Sue' and touched her the way they might a foreign doll. She responded, appropriately flattered, by wearing her hair loose. And around the lake she was the first woman to be seen in a two-piece bathing suit. The old woman, her mother-in-law, maintained her silence, sitting in a lawn chair,



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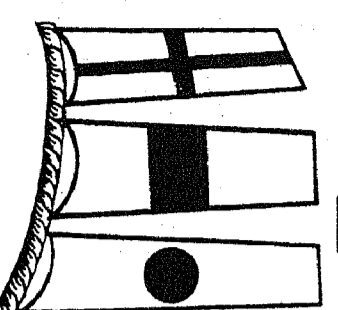
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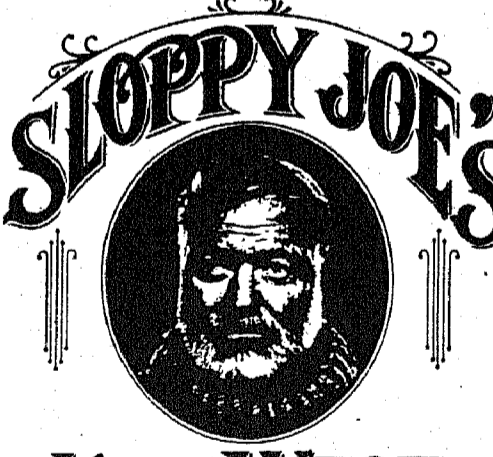


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a floppy straw hat shading her eyes while she crocheted. Hal was delighted. He rubbed cream into her bare skin while his own wife, in pedal-pushers, her hair tightly curled against her ears, laid out the picnic on the coarse Indian blanket. Jimmy built a fire to cook the hot dogs. The children (their daughter was not born yet) were swimming in the lake. Hal was having an affair, everyone knew about it, but only she and Jimmy discussed it when they were alone. Jimmy didn't defend his brother as Kay expected him to. "It's too small a town for that sort of thing," he said. Kay said nothing. Her opinions on the family were unsolicited.

THE PHONE RINGS. It is Sarah, her daughter, named after Jimmy's mother who had insisted on the name. Kay wanted another name, she has forgotten now exactly what. Sarah seemed too formal.

"Do you want to go out to dinner tonight, Mom?"
"I'm having company," Sarah hardly knew her father before he died. Perhaps she should invite her to come over. But Kay wants this just for herself. She feels a certain selfishness, and Sarah hasn't much imagination anyway. Neither has she, Kay thinks, so desperation must encourage imagination.

"ANYBODY I KNOW?" She is unaccustomed to her mother having company.

"No, dear." She hesitates, wondering again if she should tell Sarah what she is doing. She decides against it, waiting for Sarah to speak.

"Well, maybe I'll drop by tomorrow," Sarah says a little awkwardly.

"All right," Kay says and hangs up more abruptly than she feels she should.

THERE HAVE BEEN moments when the idea that she might talk to Jimmy flitted across her mind like the buzz of an insect around her ear. She

wonders if she should get out some candles or prepare any special place for the spiritualist. She has read of groups sitting around a table with their palms down. Perhaps she should bring out Jimmy's picture and put it on the coffee table. She does that. Deciding to let Joanne tell her what further preparations to make she goes about straightening and cleaning. At six o'clock she eats some cottage cheese topped with canned pineapple chunks. Then she bathes and dresses in a chartreuse pantsuit she has owned for 20 years. Finally she lies down on the couch and tries to relax before her guest arrives.

A FEW MINUTES past eight the door buzzer sounds. Kay opens the door. Joanne is standing there, fatter, not quite so tall as Kay had pictured her. She wears less make-up. Her face is still quite pretty and Kay feels good in her presence.

"Sorry I'm late. A little difficulty finding you." Her smile is open, direct, the way it was on TV. She bounces into the room and takes a seat on the couch. She bypasses any preliminaries and gets right to the subject. Kay, who has always found it easier to defer to stronger wills than her own, is pleased.

"NOW, I ASSUME that you want me to contact someone who is dead."

Kay inclines her head forward, feeling rather embarrassed.

"First of all I must tell you that I don't have enough time to conduct a full seance, but I've brought you a copy of my book which you may want to buy and if after reading it you want to go ahead with a seance I'll leave you the name of a person here who uses my method. Well, now, come and sit down. Who is it you wish to contact?"

"SHALL I TURN the lights down?" Kay feels more foolish, but she is already at the floor lamp; she clicks it twice to its dimmest setting. The room is washed in pale yellow light



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with shadows hanging in the corners; rather ghostly, really, Kay thinks, but she is too nervous to be amused. She sits on the couch. Joanne pats the spot next to her. Kay moves over. "Now don't be nervous," Joanne tells her, smiling warmly. "Is this your husband?" She picks up the framed photo of Jimmy.

"Yes. That's Jimmy." She is unsure how much she should tell a spiritualist.

"WHEN DID HE die?" Joanne holds the picture in her right hand and takes Kay's hand in her left.

"Thirty years ago."

"Hmmm. Have you ever attempted to call him before?"
Kay is unsure. She has often "talked" to Jimmy when she is alone, but she has never gone through a medium and, to tell the truth, she never had the feeling that he had ever heard her, so she says, "No."

JOANNE IS SILENT. Kay feels her hand warm, yet relaxed, firmly grasping her own. Kay closes her eyes.

"Jimmy?" Joanne's voice is strong, the question nevertheless tentative. "Are you there?"
Silence.

"Kay is here." Kay feels herself gripping Joanne's hand more tightly.

"Yes?" It is Joanne's voice. Kay holds her breath. "Jimmy, Kay wants to speak to you." Joanne squeezes Kay's hand.

A VOICE SAYS something that Kay can't understand. She opens her eyes. The light seems dimmer. She feels a kind of tension in the room. Joanne's body is rigid. Quickly, she closes her eyes again.

"Kay...Katy Sue." The words are slurred over lightly as if the speaker had been drinking. It isn't Joanne's voice. It is coming from much further away - behind a door, maybe. She breathes out.


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"HAL!" THERE IS the sweetish smell of alcohol in the room. Kay opens her eyes cautiously, rather expecting to see Hal standing in front of her. A wisp of laughter, unmistakably Hal's, floats across the room on the alcohol. She sees no one. But an image of Hal and her in the cabin one day when Jimmy and the others had gone back into town in the jeep to pick up something forgotten comes to mind. She closes her eyes against the intrusive memory.

"No, Hal."
"It's all right. Jimmy knows."
"I didn't want this," Kay says.
"It's all right. We love you,"
Hal's voice is receding.

KAY FEELS JOANNE'S body relax beside her.

"Are you there?"
There is no answer. Joanne releases Kay's hand. "Well," she says, after a moment, "it can be difficult the first time when they've been dead so long. When did Hal die?"


"TEN YEARS AGO," Kay says lamely. "You see?"
Kay merely nods and goes into the bedroom to get her checkbook.

Sarah drops by the following day. "Who was your company, Mom?" She drops down on the couch while Kay busies herself in the kitchen.

"Just some old friends from the past," Kay calls in.

"Hey, what's this?"
Kay comes into the living room. Sarah is holding Joanne Kieter's book, 'Seances Are Not For Everyone.' "Are you getting into this stuff, Mom?"

"NO!" KAY SAYS. She sniffs the air for any trace of alcohol and an urge for a drink comes over her. "I've lived with the dead long enough," she adds, angrily.



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Fighting Goliath

by ALDEN SOLOVY

AT FIRST, THE Old Town Merchants Association envisioned their struggle like that of David and Goliath. Ed Swift - Giant, Business Mogul, Wheeler-Dealer, Politician, Power Broker, Tycoon. Each merchant brought a different perception of Swift to the first meetings of the Association, yet many had a common bond: anger. They called him a monopolist, ready - but more important, able - to do anything to build wealth and power in Key West. They came together to cast the Giant on his ear in shame and to repossess one small part of the great monopoly.

EACH OF THE old town merchants who organized the fledgling group saw himself as somewhat of a David next to Goliath Swift. "We are just the little people. What can we do to him?" asked one woman at an association meeting. They could take their anger, came the response, and hurl it collectively at the Giant as one great army of Davids and slay him. Power in numbers; power in protest. The anger against the Swift empire quite obviously brewed long and hot for some time. It boiled over when merchants began to notice a decline in the number of cruise ship passengers who came into their shops. "We don't see them on the streets anymore," said Jiri Dolezal of Sparkles. "I've got to work another job to run my restaurant," said the owner of the Key West Fun Bun, adding, "we've got a right to run businesses, too." "This is a war," said Don Lange, owner of a fleet of dive boats.

MEMBERS OF THE merchants associa-

tion, which has been meeting since mid-December, blamed the Old Town Trolley for taking cruise ship passengers off the street. By contract with the Norwegian Caribbean Lines, the trolley picks up passengers at the Skyward for tour and shuttle bus service. The merchants were angered that the trolley picked up and dropped off its passengers dockside in Truman Annex, short-circuiting walks to and from the depot and, therefore, possible shopping stops downtown. Association members blamed Swift - a controlling partner of the trolley through the parent company, Old Town Key West Development, Ltd. - for engineering exclusive rights to shuttle cruise ship passengers to hand-picked locations and to provide a tour highlighting his own shops and attractions.

CHRIS BELLAND, A business partner with Swift, called the issue a knee-jerk reaction on the part of the merchants association. He said there was a decline in the number of passengers from the ships coming to Key West for about one and one-half months starting in mid-December. Because of the drop in passenger loads, and some cancellations on the part of the Britannis due to bad weather, there were fewer passengers and therefore fewer customers in the merchants' stores. "A lot of the problem was based on perception, not reality," Belland said.

For some of the merchants the image of David against Goliath never faded. Swift would always be someone to be fought, not to be dealt with. Yet, for other members, the perception of Swift changed. He began to appear as a man willing, at least in part, to help find a compromise that benefited all parties involved. Representatives of the

merchants met with Swift, who in turn arranged a meeting with cruise ship representatives. Finally, a compromise was reached: for tours, the trolley would pick up passengers at the cruise ships, but would drop them off downtown to walk back; the merchants group could open three information booths, two at trolley depots and one at the pier; and general promotional information about Old Town would be given to trolley and Conch Tour Train passengers.

LEADERS OF THE association, given a directive of no compromise in the heat of anger, were then faced with convincing the membership that a compromise would be in their own best interests. The inflexible position adopted only about a week earlier - no pick-ups or drop-offs for passengers dockside - faced possible change and a definite debate by members. Some members said that compromising with Swift would be the same as surrendering to him. Join the battle! Fight Goliath! But others argued for compromise, stressing that a fight would not bring customers into their stores now, in the midst of season. The discussion broke down into debates and shouting matches at several points. After the discourse, the majority of the members approved the compromise, adding that if they did not see change, further action would follow.

IN THE END, most of the accommodations were made by Swift and Belland. They offered space at two depots for information booths run by the merchants group. They agreed to drop passengers off downtown and allowed the merchants group to help select the drop-off points. The cruise ship line also relented, allowing passengers to be dropped off away from the pier. The only adjustment made by the merchants association came in their bargaining

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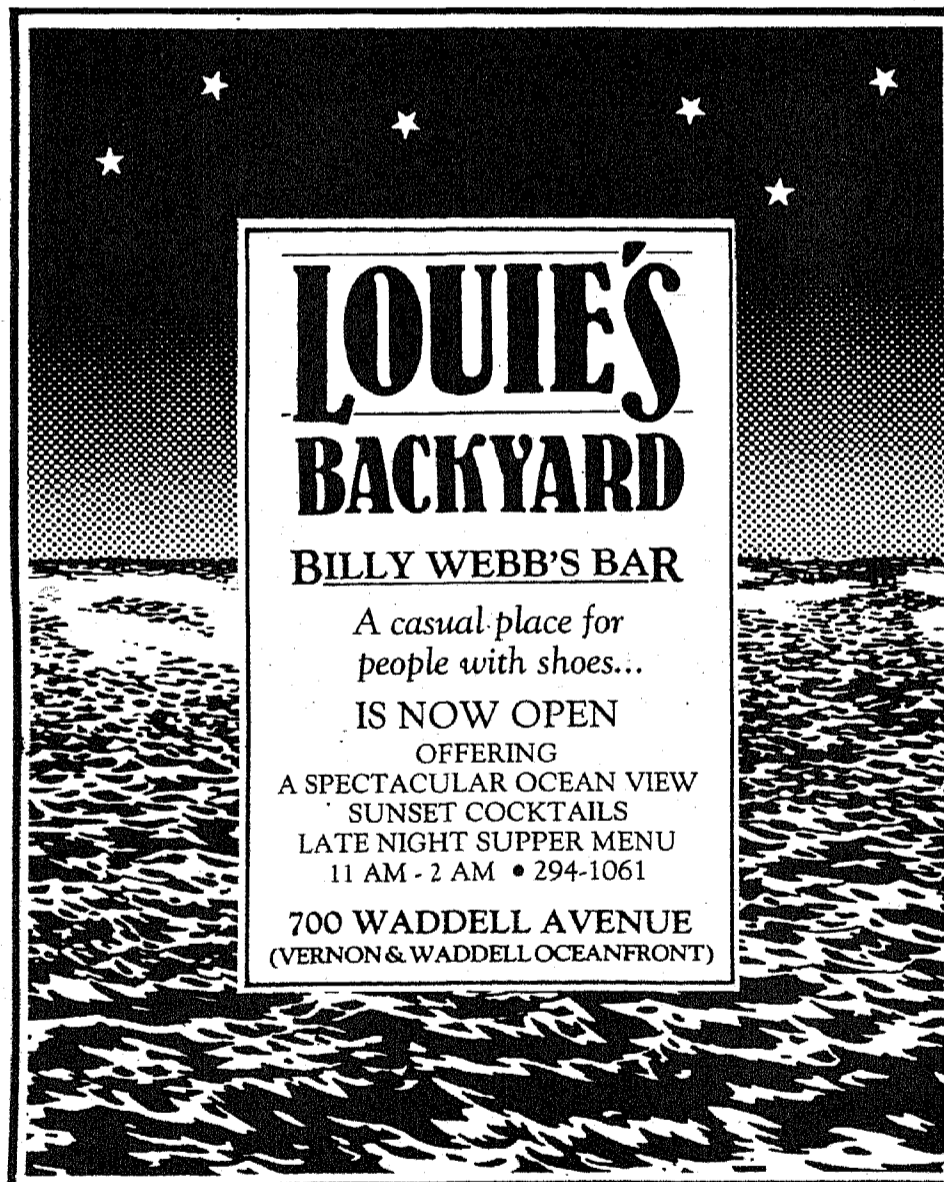
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Legends has been replaced with *Side By Side* By Sondheim.

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position, first rejecting pick-ups dockside, then agreeing to the pick-ups. Still, Swift and Belland benefit from the changes. The drop-off points - Angela Street at Duval and the Foot of Duval - place passengers by their shops.

WHAT'S AT STAKE is an estimated \$50 per passenger spent in a port of call during a visit. With about 2,100 passengers arriving on three ships weekly, what is at stake is simply a lot of money. Members of the merchants group anticipate harsh protests if the compromise solution does not work out. Many members feel that the compromise is doomed to fail because picking up cruise ship passengers at the ship still gives Swift the first crack at promoting his businesses and attractions. Should the compromise fall through, the merchants have considered asking the aid of the city commission, picketing the trolley, or closing their shops all day for cruise ship visits.

YET, IN THE midst of arguments for protests and the threats of further action, the merchants themselves refused to make Old Town more appealing to tourists on foot by opening their shops earlier. One merchant argued that a business has the right to choose its hours. Another said the city would lose its "laid back" atmosphere if businesses agreed collectively to open earlier. Those tourists, from the cruise ship or not, the merchants seemed to say, should wait for Old Town to open if they want to shop. Yet, while the merchants sleep, Swift should not pick up or drop off cruise ship passengers dockside.

PARADOXICALLY, SWIFT AND Belland have been instrumental in making Key West an attractive port to cruise ship lines, travel agents and passengers. Their firm has contributed

much time and money to attracting the ships. Several members of the Tourist Development Council and the Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce said Swift and Belland got the city moving to lure cruise ships and were instrumental in getting the first ship to stop in Key West regularly, the Vera Cruz. Their company donates \$150 per week so that the Junkanoo can perform dockside when the ship arrives. Belland said that it bothers him that many of the people shouting about the trolley tours "are not putting up any money to support this and they are not being cooperative."

MEANWHILE, THE NEW association is working on an agenda of other issues to address: garbage removal, lighting, providing a free downtown shuttle, and reviewing proposed development in the Annex. "This group will be helpful in making Key West better for everybody, including tourists," said Manuel Marcial, president pro tem. As for the anger launched at Swift by members of the association, Marcial said that is best forgotten. "The idea is to eliminate any idea of conflict," Marcial said, adding that Belland has inquired about joining the association. But for some members of the group, the possibility of fighting Goliath has not yet vanished.

continued from page 18
feels that the public is amply protected from potential Commission abuses, by petition and recall powers.

THE CIVIL SERVICE is equally dedicated to what they regard as the protection of their jobs from unforeseeable actions by present and future administrations.

When the latest Charter proposal is taken up by the City Commission, we will see lots of fireworks go up with it.

(We did! ...Ed.)

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Editorial

BY BILL WESTRAY

WHILE THE SANDS Beach Hotel project weaves and smolders through various courts, agencies, boards and commissions, without either bursting into flame or being extinguished, the City Commission, under the leadership of Mayor Richard Heyman, and with valuable input and debate from ALL the other city commissioners, has taken a number of positive steps to plug some of the loopholes in our Comprehensive Plan, our Building Code and other related laws and regulations. These loopholes have permitted some of the practices that have led to such developments as the out-sized Pelican Landing, 1800 Atlantic Condominiums, The Galleon, Reflections, and other large projects.

FIRST OF ALL, the Commission adopted an ordinance directing studies of our infrastructure, to determine the capacity of our electric system, solid and liquid waste disposal systems, street and highway network, police and fire services, and other related community services and facilities. The purpose of these studies is to determine the city's ability to support the existing population, and more importantly, to determine the capacity for additional growth, along with the needs and costs of additional facilities to support that growth.

THE SECOND THING the City did was to remove submerged land (land below the mean high water line) from computation as "project area" in calculating density, percentage of lot coverage, and floor-area/lot-area ratio for new development. Several recent projects have counted ocean bay bottom holdings in calculating their project areas. These included 1800 Atlantic Condominiums, Reflections, the proposed Anchorage Hotel, and

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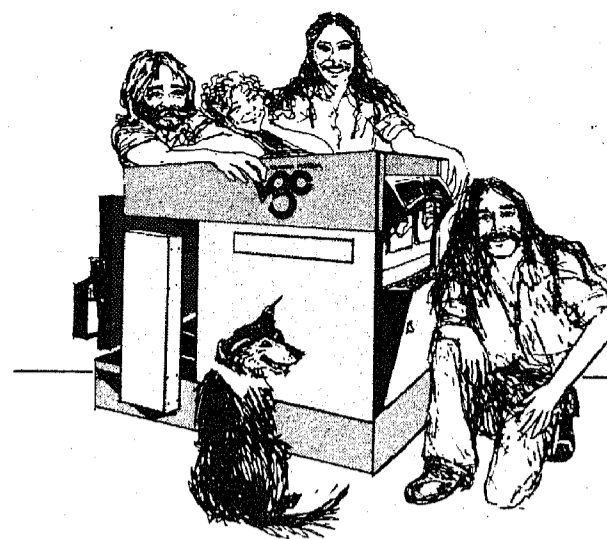
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various proposed projects on the Truman Annex. These were never intended by the Comprehensive Plan but were allowed under an unintended definition of "gross acres." This interpretation will now be prohibited.

A 90-DAY MORATORIUM on all new projects of more than 20 living units to allow time to complete the infrastructure studies described above was adopted in January. It applies to all projects that do not have complete applications for building permits on file with the City, and "complete" has been interpreted as having all necessary reviews and other data completed as of January 16, 1984, the day the ordinance was adopted.

THE CITY ALSO passed on first reading a 120-day moratorium on buildings over 25 feet in height in zoning districts R-1, R-1A and R-1B, and over 40 feet in height in all other zoning districts; under this rule, "building height shall be measured from the crown of the nearest adjacent street to the highest point of the proposed building." During these 120 days the City expects to amend the Comprehensive Plan which allowed the "Mickey Mouse" definition of height that excluded flood elevation, parking garages, and most of the roof and sundeck areas from the height calculation.

COMMENCING ON FEBRUARY 6, the City Planner, Art Mosley, with substantial assistance from the Florida Department of Transportation, as well as the City Police and other city

staff, will initiate a comprehensive traffic survey and analysis of our street and traffic-circulation problems. Around-the-clock vehicle counts will be taken at 28 different locations. Some will be completed in one week, other control points will be continued for up to 90 days. Data will be collected on traffic, turning traffic, and types of vehicles. It is expected that results can be applied in two phases: short-term, low-cost actions that can be implemented within 3 to 6 months such as changes in traffic signals, parking patterns, lane control, turning radii at corners, etc. The other will be low-cost, long-range corrective measures such as street-widening, building or rebuilding, off-street parking areas or structures, intersection redesign and control, etc. This plan may take 18 months to formulate and a number of years to implement. It will be dependent upon funds and the desire of the City Commission to preserve the historical character of our city or allow the "progress" of radical change.

OF COURSE, SOME of the actions indicated above may require large expenditures of capital funds. Additional funding sources must be explored. It isn't fair to finance new facilities entirely by raising sewer rates, garbage fees, electric rates, water rates, and ad valorem tax increases as has been the practice in the recent past. Serious inquiries are being made into the feasibility of substantial "impact fees" on all new development. If it costs the local government "x" number of dollars to

provide facilities and services for new development, shouldn't the builder be required to pay this "X AMOUNT" instead of increasing the monthly utility bills and annual tax bills of the old residents; we think so and support the impact fee concept.

IN ANY CASE, we are encouraged at the enlightened and progressive concepts that the new City Commission has been pursuing and urge them to continue these ideas for the greater benefit of the average resident of Key West.



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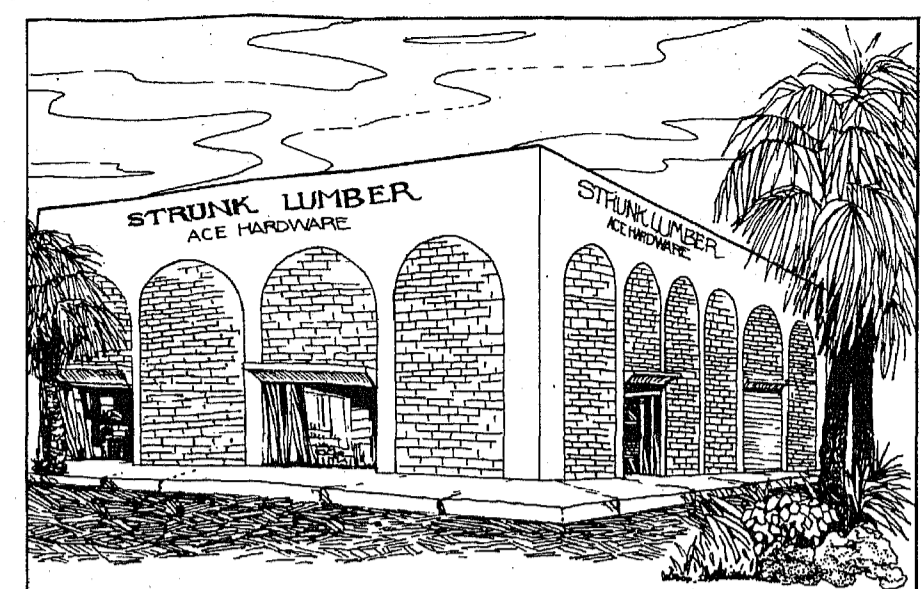
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Key West Dance Theatre is performing on February 11th and 12th at the TWAC. Tickets: 294-6732. Pictured above, standing right to left: Lauren Christos, Penny Mollot, Allison Tradup, Martha DeBoo, Francine Kreinces, Tom Eversole, Gary Gonzalez and Denise Plouffe.

photo by Evelyn Barnes



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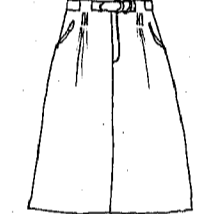


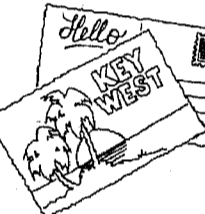

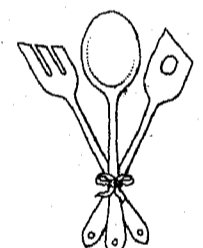

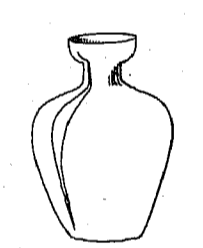
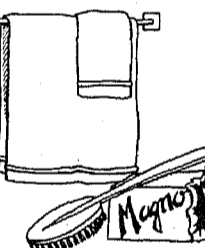
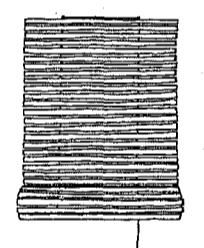


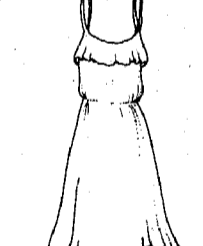




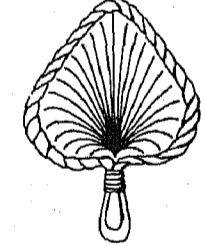

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continued from page 2

and selling dear, the developers of Key West Resort Golf Course have managed to obtain a huge tract of public land for their own private use, even though it is technically "open to the public."

Like our shoreline and our neighborhoods, our recreational lands are being fenced off and priced out of range of the tax-paying citizen.

I hope that the City Commission puts the necessary pressure on those developers to give local golfers a much better deal. Remember, however, beware of the verbal agreement; put it in writing!

THERE IS ANOTHER action that needs to be in writing. The City Commission voted to seek funds to upgrade Mallory Square so that cruise ships can dock there. Voices of concern were heard that these ten-story ships would block sunset, but they were assured VERBALLY that these ships would leave at 4 in the afternoon. GET IT IN WRITING. It will be fun to have these ships here, but I can see them deciding to stay longer and there will be pressure to permit them to stay. Sunset at Mallory is the equal of any attraction offered here and it must not be violated. GET IT IN WRITING THAT THEY CAN NOT STAY AFTER FOUR IN THE AFTERNOON.

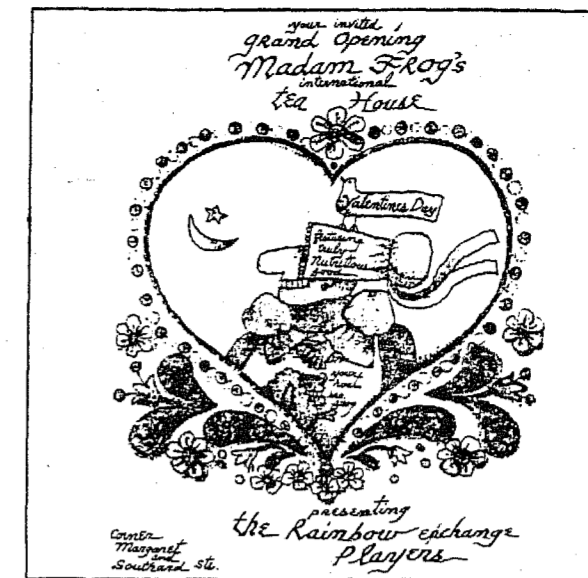
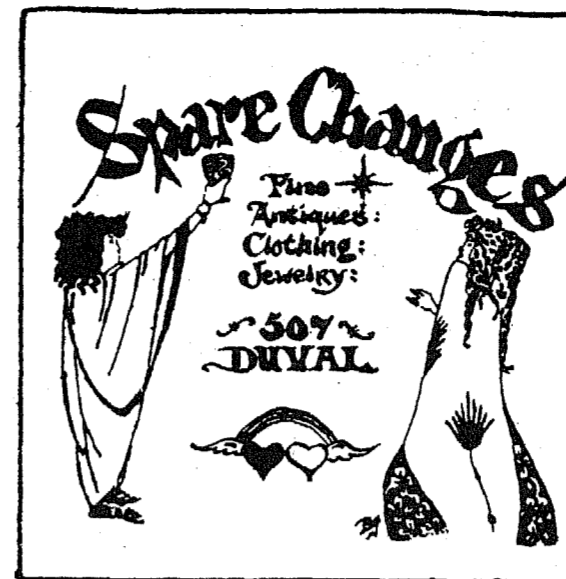
THE LATEST NEWS from Save Our Shoreline on the progress of the N. Simonton Beach Public Park and Boat Ramp area is that both the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Regulation have given their go-aheads to this project. Coordinator Woody Bescher reported that Phillips and Trice will be surveying the property immediately and on receipt of their survey, specs will be made up for putting this out to bid. Next month I hope that we will have a write-up on this beach-front undertaking that promises to be so good for the city.

IN LAST MONTH'S Solares Hill we wrote that Murray Singer was a partner with George Key in the old Tradewinds. Murray called in to say that that was not so. Sorry for the mistake.

MAYOR RICHARD HEYMAN campaigned on a promise to get before the people of Key West a revised City Charter so that they could vote on it in referendum. The most controversial part of this charter was the extreme paring down of the language that applied to Civil Service. After a stormy meeting, by a three to two vote (Commissioners Balbontin and Mira dissenting) the revised document passed and will go before the public on the March referendum. Heyman compromised and permitted department heads to stay under Civil Service protection, but many members of the police and fire departments, along with city workers, indicated that they wanted greater protections for Civil Service written in the charter (read Vaughan Gibson on the City Charter and Alden Solovy on the Civil Service Commission in this issue).

FORMER CIVIL SERVICE Commissioner Willie Ward has decided to sue the city to get his position back on the board. Willie Ward is one of the most popular men in our community and deservedly so, but it is also the right of a new commission to put their person in when there is a vacancy. Joan Dwyer, the new commissioner, is very qualified for this job, and I would hope that Willie would reconsider his lawsuit which is based on technicalities and does not serve him nor the city well.

SEE YOU NEXT MONTH. WJ



KEY WEST'S HOROSCOPE

BY EMMA CATES

Sun in Aquarius, after 18 in Pisces. Venus in Capricorn, after 18 in Aquarius. Mercury in Capricorn, after 8 in Aquarius. Saturn in Scorpio, turning retrograde February 24.

Jupiter in Capricorn. Mars in Scorpio. Uranus in Sagittarius. Neptune in Capricorn. Pluto in Scorpio, turning retrograde on the 4th. North Node in 12 degrees of Gemini.

THE NEW MOON on February 1, in Aquarius, aspects the 9th house sector of the Key West chart which stimulates travel; in particular, air travel from foreign countries.

THE FULL MOON on February 17 in Leo aspects the nadir of the chart of Key West. This is a time of new starts and new beginnings.

OUR PLANETARY RULER, Saturn, is in its long transit of the sign Scorpio. It turns retrograde on the 24th at 16 degrees of Scorpio. Mars will be in conjunction. This is a very active time, with the possibilities of arguments and disagreements in a stressful aspect. The sixth house that rules employment, services and also the health area of the chart is the strongest area of activity.

PLUTO WILL ALSO take retrograde motion on February 4 in Scorpio also. This accents the aforementioned aspects.

THE POSITIVE AREA of the Key West horoscope at this time is the placement of Jupiter, the Great Benefic in Capricorn. Key West has a stellium

of planets in Capricorn in the 8th house. This is a time of change and transition for the city, but in a very positive vein, in particular, financial. Our financial prospects are in a very favorable position through the remainder of 1984.



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Ed. Note: We heard recently from Genevieve Lear, the daughter of Liz Lear, about her experiences in Harrod's department store in London the day the car bomb exploded outside, killing several persons and damaging the store. Following is an excerpt from her letter:

"I STOPPED IN London to finish my Christmas shopping -- that was the 17th December -- yes, I went straight to Harrod's and, of course, I was in the men's department. In fact, I bought the last pair of socks the store sold that day. Anyway, after hearing an incredibly loud boom, people screaming and seeing the window fly away, I moved faster than Superman across the store, nearly leaping on a young couple who were selecting a tie -- half a minute later I was out the door and up the block. I never knew I could move so fast.

"AFTER MY STOMACH returned to its proper place, and my head cleared a bit, I realized that very few people had followed me, and that people were moving in and out of the doors of the food floor in a perfectly normal way. I had half an hour left to catch the Norwich train from Liverpool Street station, but first I had to collect my luggage which I had left at the parcel/coat desk on the fourth floor.

"I WENT INTO the food section, spoke to a few salespeople, then the loudspeaker repeated instructions that had missed out on the street, to the

effect that 'no one is to leave the store, to move to the center, stay away from the windows and doors and stay calm.'
 "Calm! Well, I did my best. Grabbed a cart and started loading it with champagne, foie gras and God knows what else. The next announcement was for everyone to leave the store, calmly and slowly. The police herded us a block away and cordoned off the street. They handled things magnificently.

"WORD WAS AROUND by now that it was a car bomb and that the police were looking for more. Many of the several hundred people in our group had bigger problems than a suitcase on the 4th floor and a train to catch.

"One man was standing with his baby, asking how he could find his wife and son. Many had cars parked in the closed-off area. An elderly woman next to me was terrified for her little brown poodle that was in the kennel next to a large Alsatian. She said the dog enclosures would be easy to open by a large, panicky dog and that the kennel was full with only a little old crippled man to oversee it.

"SHE, LIKE EVERYONE else, damned the IRA; being a Londoner all her life she knew what bombs were like, but said it was totally different when you're at war. A man I spoke to later, after discovering I was American, asked why 'we' supported the IRA.
 "Some of the brownstone dwellers

came out to see why their quiet residential street was packed with Harrod's salespeople, kitchen staff, waitresses, elves, bunny rabbits, all of them shivering in their indoor uniforms; shoppers and police, with ambulances screaming by. Special Army groups (bomb squad, I was told) were there.

"ABOUT AN HOUR passed when we were directed to another street; there was some confusion; police had a lousy communications system. Hundreds of people were looking for their families, trying to get their cars, and as the cordoned area grew, many people wanted to get to their homes. Then word came that everyone was to go home and that there would be bulletins on TV and radio.

"SUNDAY, I FINALLY got through to Harrod's and was told they could do nothing (about luggage checked there) but to check with their security people. At last I got my bag (the contents rearranged, but everything there) and caught the train.
 "Needless to say, every time I hear a loud noise I leap. I look forward to leaving (London), not that France is much better.

"I'd rather be in Key West. It's a sane place."

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AMUSEMENTS

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FEBRUARY IS HERE and though it is the shortest month of the year, it brings with it an abundance of tourists, the returning snowbirds and a very busy schedule where LIVE entertainment is concerned.

The Red Barn Theatre begins February with the musical revue, "Cole." Co-directed by Joy Hawkins and Susan Hawkins, "Cole" will open February 1st and run through February 25th, and will play Wednesday through Sunday.

AUDITIONS FOR THE Red Barn's March show, "The Dining Room," which will be directed by Richard Magesis, are slated for February 2nd and February 3rd. The Red Barn will also premiere a new show this month, called "Hot Green and Cold Red." Written by Patricia Sears and David Rockwell, "Hot Green, etc.," will play at midnight on February 10th and 11th (Friday and Saturday) and at 8:30 p.m. on February 13th and 14th (Monday and Tuesday).

For ticket prices, show times and "The Dining Room" audition times,

please call the Red Barn Box Office at 296-9911.

THE TENNESSEE WILLIAMS Fine Arts Center (TWAC), out on Stock Island, is also quite busy this month. "True West," by playwright and movie star, Sam Shepard, will have its last three performances on February 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

The jazz music of the great Chico Hamilton Sextette will arrive for one night only on February 9th, and on February 11th and 12th, Key West's own Key West Dance Theater will take to the TWAC stage. February 17th marks the inauguration of the Tennessee Williams New Plays Festival. Five new plays (not those of Tennessee Williams) will be given staged readings on February 17th at 8:00 p.m. and on February 18th and 19th at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Actors and actresses wishing to audition for these plays should call the TWAC box office for dates and times. Also, the musical, "Side by Side by Sondheim," which is being substituted for James Kirkwood's "Legends," is in rehearsal this month and will have a Founders Preview on February 29th. For further information on tickets, show times and transportation, call the TWAC Box Office at 294-6232.

OVER AT THE Waterfront Playhouse on Mallory Square, the Key West Players

will present Neil Simon's comedy, "The Prisoner of Second Avenue." Directed by Jerry Carr, "Prisoner, etc." will open February 6th and play through February 11th, with a benefit performance on Sunday, February 12th, for the Monroe County Fine Arts Council, Lower Keys Associates. Curtain is at 8:30 p.m. and the box office will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., starting January 30th.

IN REHEARSAL, FOR a March opening, is "Lu Ann Hampton Laverly Oberlander." Directed by June Hunzinger, "Lu Ann, etc." is one of the Texas Trilogy plays written by Preston Jones. Also, in the early part of February, the Key West Players will be holding auditions for their musical, "Chicago." Director/choreographer, Charles Karp, will announce audition dates and times, as soon as possible. For any further information, please call the Waterfront Box Office at 294-5015.

CABARET ENTERTAINMENT IS back in town this month. The Rooftop Cafe's Lounge will feature "Broadway at the Rooftop," starring Ruth Hastings and Company. Fresh from San Francisco, where they were a smash hit, "Broadway at the Rooftop" will play February 9th and 10th, and February 16th and 17th, showtime at 11:00 p.m. For further info, call the Rooftop Cafe at


294-2042. Miss Hastings and co. will also be appearing at the Red Barn Theatre February 20 and 21 at 8:30, and at Michael's February 8 and 9, and 15 and 16 at 10 p.m.

THE NEWLY FORMED Monroe County Fine Arts Council, Lower Keys Associates, will present "Gala '84" at the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center on Sunday, February 5th. Organized by Judd Aronson, Rae Coates and Richard Reinker, "Gala '84" is a celebration of the Southernmost Arts and will feature performances by quite a few of Key West's performing artists. There will be a pre-show reception in the theater lobby at 7:00 p.m. and the show will be at 8:00 p.m. For ticket information, please call the TWAC Box Office at 294-6232. "Gala '84" is only one part of a week full of events which will benefit the Monroe County Fine Arts Council, Lower Keys Associates. For further information on these events, please contact Judd Aronson.

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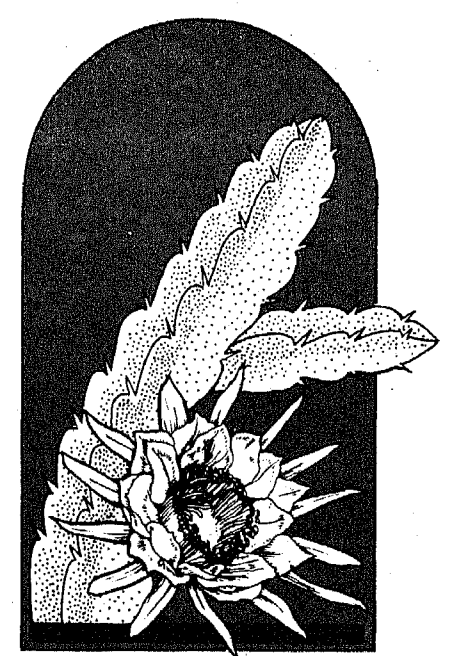
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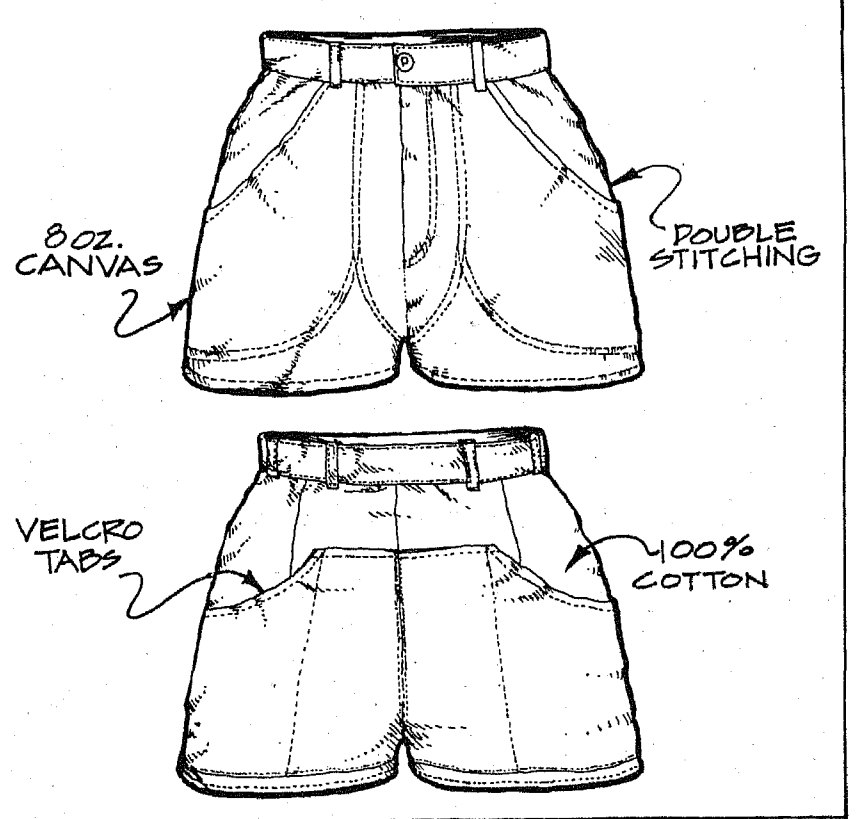
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 No home or boat in Key West should be without fire safety equipment!
 705 Caroline St.
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SOUTHSIDE PRODUCE CO.
 Purveyors of QUALITY FRUITS & VEGETABLES
 Wholesale - Retail
 9:30 to 5:00
 With deliveries 6 days a week
 SERVING BIG PINE TO KEY WEST
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 404 Southard St.
 Come on in and see us!

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 All rooms have TV, air conditioning & private bath

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IS IT TRUE YOU CAN BUY JEEPS FOR \$44 THROUGH THE U.S. GOV'T? GET THE FACTS TODAY!
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FOR THE NEWEST AND MOST EXCITING CLOTHES IN TOWN ... it's APPEL'S
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The finest selection of table and floor lamps, track lighting, ceiling fixtures, yard lighting, outdoor fixtures & chandeliers in the Florida Keys.
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PRINT IT AT THE TOP SHOP IN THE KEYS
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 NEW LOCATION:
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RENT-A-CAR Tropical
DAILY RENTALS FROM \$12.00
 Special rates, weekly/monthly
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 No credit card required
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PATTY DOE'S POOL CLEANING SERVICE
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RENTAL CARS

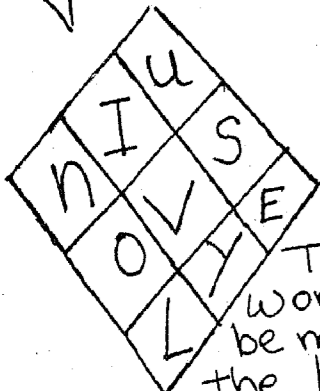
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DAILY RENTALS FROM \$12.00

Feb. 1994

Especially For Kids



There are 31 words that can be made by combing the letters in the Diamond at right. Can you find them?

with love from the folks at Spectrum School



Spectrum School Survey:

Love is... "sharing something with someone who enjoys sharing back" by Tophier Flockelman

Love is... "Caring about somebody" by Paula Wachob

Love is... "caring, sharing, and being nice." by Paul Alfonso

Love is... "affection" by Paul

Love is... "special" by Deirdre

Love is... "I don't know, a good question" by Bobby Santomartino

Love is... "a good feeling" by Eli Harvey

Love is... "helping people" by Ricky Simpson

Love is... "giving" by Sara Mishara

Love is... "friendship"

Love is... "What is love to you?"

I've heard that:

There are 3 groups of people in the world:

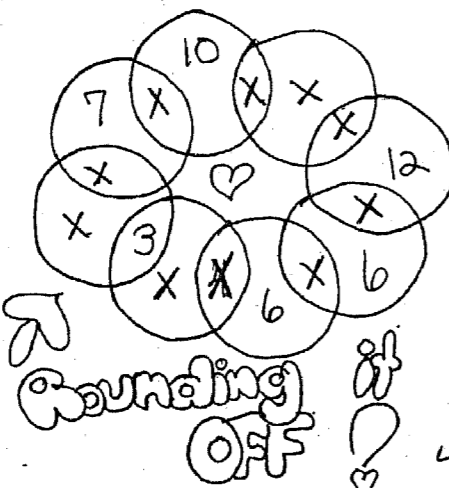
Those who make things happen, Those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what's happening.

How Many Heart shapes can you find in this section?



Add the numbers around each of the 3 circles. Then add the numbers on each of the straight lines. Your answers should be the same.

Place the figures 1-14 in the spots marked by x's in the figure above so that each small circle of 3 figures will total 21. Some of the numbers have been already inserted.



There are 5 words with the rmy sequence- can you think of them?

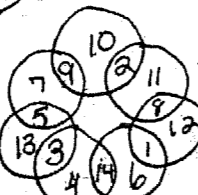
Answers

3 circles - 57

Sequence may: Army, farmyard, swarmy, stormy, wormy

Rounding Off

Hearts = 52 or 50



You know quiet well that there is only a single magic, a single power, a single salvation and that is called Loving.

Little Torch Key Key Bee Apiaries

MANGROVE MAMA'S RESTAURANT
Specializing in Seafood
Homemade breads, pastries, soups and chowders
Natural foods served in an Old-Time Keys Atmosphere
11:30-10PM
closed Thursday
Sugarloaf Key Mile Marker 20
745-3030

If you see someone with out a smile give them one of yours

Valentine
How many words can you make from Valentine?
We came up with 89 possibilities.
Friendship means... trust, understanding, love, sharing, honesty. (Jennifer Kerine)

To love is the greatest thing in life, not just sexual love, but the love of God, but just love - simple love - really gentle in one's whole approach to all things.

Thank you, Shel Silverstein for being you. We're glad you're still a kid at heart. We love all your books. xxoo

How Old Are You?
Try this on your friends?

1. Write down the number of the month in which you were born.
2. Multiply it by 2
3. Add 5
4. Multiply the total by 50
5. Add the magic number (number varies from year to year in 1982 it was 1432 1983 it was 1433 1984 it is 1434 1985 will be 1435 (and so on))
6. Deduct year you were born.

EXAMPLE

1. Birth month Feb... 2
2. Multiply by 2... 4
3. Add 5... 9
4. Multiply by 50... 450
5. Add magic number 1434... 1884
6. Deduct year you were born... 1973 = 13 age

You might change your mind. Is there some one you don't like? Try finding one good quality they have. We all have that nice.

The birds are yours, the cats are mine, if you are willing please be my Valentine. by Sara this name age 7

If the mushroom is the smallest room in the world, what is the largest room in the world? The room for improvement.

Hello to John Rotolo, Danny Hardiman, Wendy & Geoff & Jan Hubbs (Walker's boy), Gus at 801 bar that called Sara & Max Myers, Marie & Jim, Tony & Solares. Please send us some letters, poems, stories, school drawings, songs, etc. Big Coppitt

A friend is someone who knows everything about you... and loves you just the same.

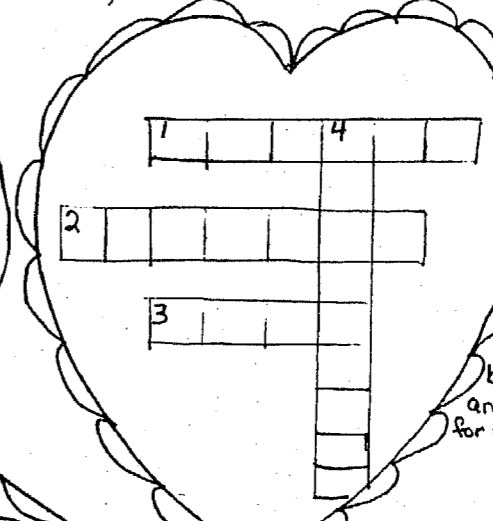
Magic Square

	2	3	13
5	11	10	
9		6	
	14	15	

find the equal total for each row in this magic square.

The Valentine Man

Once upon a time in a land far away there was a heart man named Valentine. Valentine was a loving man. He loves little children. He would help them if they got hurt or if they needed help. One day he decided to have a holiday where people could love each other and they named it after the man, Valentine.



Across
1. A soft, smooth type of cloth.
2. A small town in the country.
3. A sleeveless jacket worn by men.

Down
4. A plant that is used for feeding bees, carrots, and beets for example.

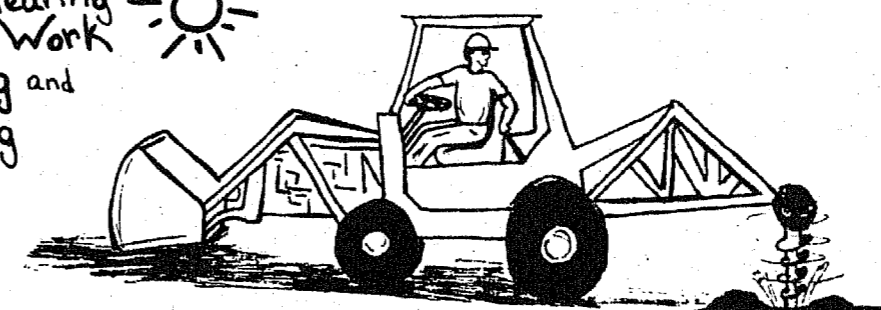
Magic Square
Hint start by adding 301
Column #12
#91
HEP

Fish Facts

More people are wounded by sting rays than by all other fish.
The biggest groupers are about 12 feet long and weigh 1,000 lbs. They have been reported to swallow a man in one gulp.
Giant jellyfish measure 8 feet across, has 80 tentacles and they hang down into the water as far as 200 feet - making it the longest animal on earth.

General Construction and Hole Drilling

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Boca Chica Bill 294-7996

296-3252 Spectrum School, inc. 770 Ave. F Big Coppitt Key

a happy place to learn Alternative education for children ages 5-14
Monday - Friday 9am - 2pm

EVENTS

Special Events

St. Pauls Parish Hall: A solo reading by Phillip Burton of his play, "Storm in Summer", Mon. Feb. 13 & Feb. 20, 7:30 pm benefit St. Pauls Church. Tickets available in Parish Hall or at the door.

Galleries & Museums

Artists Unlimited, 221 Duval St., 296-5625. Hours 12 to 5 p.m. or by appointment. A delightful gallery in a Conch-style setting with an international reputation.

Artist Warehouse, 8 Charles St. (in Sponge House off Duval St.) Mon. thru Sat., 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and by appointment. A unique "work" gallery represents East Martello Gallery & Museum, 3500 S. Roosevelt Blvd., 296-3919. A "fort-museum" with some of the most interesting facts of Key West history and lore. Art Show 2/8 - 3/4

Farrington Galleries, 711 Duval St., 294-6911. An artist-supply gallery featuring new work by Mario Sanchez, including his woodcarving "Bucket of Fish" and the new biography on him by Kathryn Proby.

Fred Gros Gallery: 901 Duval, 294-0545 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Daily. Contemporary Art and Tribal Art.

Gingerbread Square Gallery, 910 Duval St., information 296-8900. Appointments 294-2165. 2/8 - 2/20 Poochie Fashions in Art & Needlepoint. 2/22-3/5 Robert Franke Oil Painting.

Guild Hall, 614 Duval St., 296-6076. Open 9:30 to 5:30 daily. Exhibiting an outstanding array of original art by Key West professionals Walter Ashe, Barbara Bauer, John Cryer, Joan Howe, Ann Irvine, Fran Kebschull, Maxine McMullen, Irma Quigley, Norma Renner, Naya Rydzewski, Bee Sackett, and Carolyn Seiler. Featuring oils, acrylics, watercolors, drawings, prints, porcelain, burnished sawdust-fired pottery stoneware and other media.

Haitian Art Co., 600 Frances St., 296-8932. Renowned Haitian artists painting at the gallery. Ezene Domond, Jackson Lovinsky. Open 7 days 10-6

Jordan's Cafe & Art Gallery, 808 Duval, 296-5858 Open 7 evenings a week.

Key West Art Center, 301 Front St., 294-1241. Open 10 to 5 daily. Exhibiting works of 90 artist members throughout the Keys. 1/7 - 1/21, 1-person show by Ruth Davis. 1/22-2/4, 1-person show by Ferron Bell.

Lighthouse and Military Museum, 938 Whitehead, 294-0012. The highest view of Key West can be had here, along with a survey of aircraft and wartime memorabilia.

Lucky Street Gallery: 322 Margaret St. 294-3973 11 am to 7 pm Daily. Contemporary Art. Group show for February.

Moir, the art gallery at 11 Key Lime Sq., 294-1254. Original art and framing. Open 10 to 5 p.m.

Perkins Chandlery, 901 Fleming Street, 294-7635. Showing the following artists: Rollin Barker, A.S.M.A.; Commander J. A. Cryer.

Oldest House Museum, 322 Duval St., 294-9502. Antique lovers will enjoy this excursion into the furniture, housewares and decorations of Old Island interiors "way back when." Be sure to visit the kitchen out back.

Films & Library Events

Monroe County Public Library, Fleming Street, 294-8488

Special presentations this month as a part of Florida Folk Life Festival are at 7 pm on the following dates:

2/6 Hardwoods of the Keys, by Bill Ford of the Sea Store; 2/8 Aviation History of the Keys, by George Feraldo; 2/27 Anglo-Bahamian Keys Folk Music, talk and sing by Russ Stevralia and local singers.

Adult movies: 2/15 The Ghost of Cape Horn. 2/22 The Everglades. Prowlers of the Everglades, 2/29 Shane

Children's Movies: 2/4 The Devil and Daniel Mouse, Kick Me, Straega Nona; 2/11 Nikkolina, The Magic Pipes, Phylliss Pope's Valentine Puppet Show; 2/18 Rapunzel, A Chairy Tale; 2/25 Charlie Needs a Cloak, Tikki Tikki Tembo, Creative Dramatics 3 pm for grades 4 and up.

Also new at the library on Mondays at 10 am Book Reviews. 2/6 David Kaufelt, Souvenir; 2/13 Love in Literature, A Collage in Prose and Poetry, by Elizabeth Hamel; 2/20 Closed; 2/27 Mona Kent Eddy, reviews The Name of the Roses, by Umberto Eco.

SOME NEW EVENTS

Florida Keys Chapter, AARP, No. 1351 Located in Armory, Southard and White St., 294-4641 Ext. 361. Meetings 2nd Monday every month, 7:30 p.m.; Blood count from 6:15 to 7:15; Bingo Wednesday, 2 to 4 p.m.; duplicate bridge, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday; Thursday, 1:30 p.m.; Saturday, party bridge 1 p.m. Bingo, starting 7:15 p.m. Thursday nights at Sugarloaf firehouse at mile marker 17.

AL-ANON, Mondays, 7:00 p.m., St. Ann's Hall, St. Mary, Star of the Sea; Tuesday and Friday, 8:30 p.m., Sigsbee YMCA.

AL-ATEEN: Friday, 8:30 p.m., Sigsbee YMCA.

Narcotics Anonymous: Friday night, 7:00 p.m., 2318 Fogarty Avenue, 5th Street Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. If you have a drug problem, come to us.

Coffee Mill, Fall Classes: Sat, 1:15-2:15 Kids art (3 years & up); Sat. 2:30-3:30. Music, rythum, yoga for kids (4 years & up). Poetry; 8:00 pm 1st & 3rd Sundays.

K.W. Poetry Guild 1st Sunday each month, 1120 Washington St. 8p.m. 3rd Sunday each month 1125 United St. 2p.m. Poets and lovers of poetry are welcome.

REGULAR EVENTS

City Electric Utility Board, meetings 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 5 p.m., Board Room, 930 Caroline.

Big Coppitt Key Firehouse, bingo, Fri. nights, 8:00 p.m.

Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority: 2/17 Key West Lion's Club 10 am.

VFW AUXILIARY #6021, 2nd & 4th Sundays, Post Hall, 803 Emma St., 8:00 p.m.

Viet Nam Vets, Thursdays, 6-6843.

Friends Worship Group (Quakers), inquiries, Sheridan Crumlish, 294-1523.

Key West City Commission, meetings 1st and 3rd Mondays at 8 p.m., City Hall, corner Simonton and Angela streets. Child Abuse: Questions, referrals, reporting information and general information. Call Barbara Hunt at F.K.M.H., 294-5531.

The Movement of Spiritual Inner Awareness, Tuesday nights, 8 p.m., 1005 Seminary Street. Tune in to your true self. Join us for one of the positive things happening in Key West. Call 294-6739.

Key West Woman's Club, regular meeting 1st Tuesday of each month, 2:30 p.m., 319 Duval St.

Marathon Lions Club, dinner meetings 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, Indies Resort, Duck Key, 7:30 p.m.

Marathon Shrine Club, luncheons every Friday, at high noon. All Shriners welcome.

Monroe County Commission: 2/24 Marathon Courthouse 10 am.

The Lower Keys Property Owners Association: Located at the west end of the No Name Key bridge on Big Pine Key, bingo, every Wednesday, 6:00. Call 745-3613.

United Humanitarians, low-cost spay program now in effect; please call 296-5106 for information.

Wesley House Board of Directors, meetings second Tuesday of the month, 5 p.m., 1100 Varela St., 296-5231.

Key West Singles: For information call 296-3423.

Group Meditation for TM or other: Non-sectarian. We meet the last Sunday of each month at 8p.m. For information call 296-3423.

Self Help

Alcoholics Anonymous: 404 Virginia St. Clubroom open 10 A.M. - 11 P.M. daily. Meetings: 8:30 P.M. nightly; 7 P.M. Sun., Wed., Fri.; noon Mon.-Sat.; 10:30 A.M. Sun.; 11 P.M. Fri., Sat.

Domestic Abuse Shelter, Inc., call 6-HELP, 4-LINE.

AL-ANON: Family group, Wednesday evenings, 8:30 p.m., F.K.M.H., 6-4157 (evenings).

Mail-a-Book Program, costs you only 29 cents, for mailing. Library, 294-8488.

Zonta Help Line: 296-HELP. Call any time when you need help or referral service. (296-4357.)

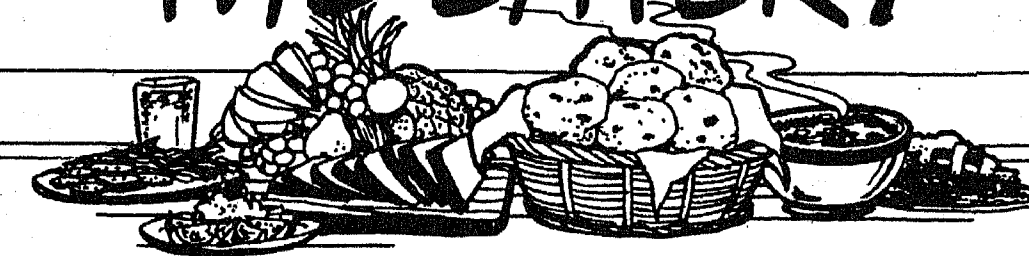
The new Chemical Dependency Treatment Program (for alcohol/drug abuse) opened June 1 at Florida Keys Memorial Hospital. For information call: 294-5531, ext. 3496

La Leche League: Every 3rd Tuesday, M.M. 24.2, Summerland Key, 10:00 a.m. Call 745-2274.

Classes on The Ovulation Method of Fertility Awareness: Avoid or achieve pregnancy naturally. Instructor Registered Nurse certified by The Ovulation Method Teachers Association. For information, call: 296-7214.

Overeaters Anonymous: YMCA, Sigsbee Park Thursdays 8:30 pm.

THE EATERY



LUNCHEON BUFFET

MON.-SAT.
11:30-2

All you can eat
\$6.99!

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TWO SOUPS AND THREE VEGETABLES
HOT BREADS
18-ITEM SALAD BAR WITH DESSERTS

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