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Vol. III No. 6

Key West, Florida

June/July 1978



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From the Editor

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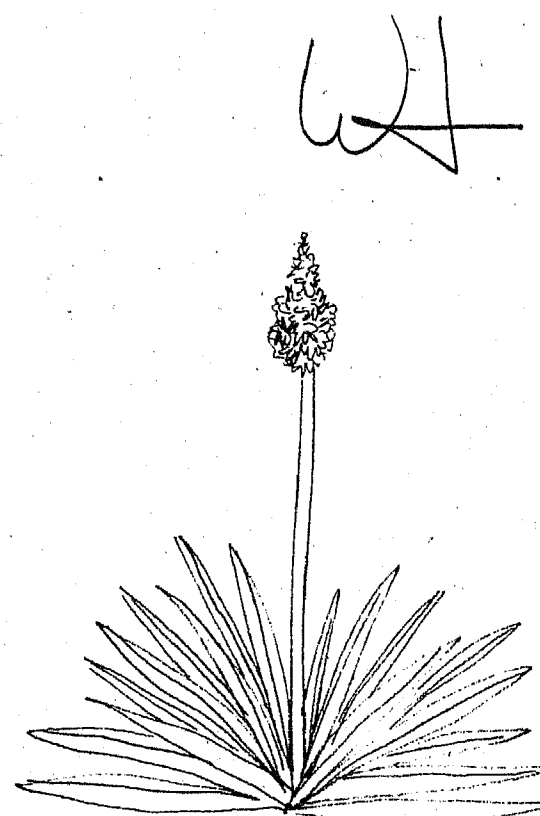
I THINK that the City Commissioners should be given a larger raise than they are getting. There has been a lot of publicity over the trifling sum that they are being given. It in no way represents the hours put in by the commissioners. They should be paid at least seven or eight thousand dollars a year.

ANOTHER TRIFLING matter that has been blown up is the issue of nepotism. This is an island in which many of the local people are related to one another through blood or through marriage and you simply can't fault a commissioner if a third cousin (once removed) of his is given a job by the city or county. A recent example of this was the announcement that a step-cousin of Commissioner Jerry Hernandez had been given a job by the County. Well, nepotism as I see it, is the practice of showing favoritism to close family: i.e., brother, uncle, mother, first cousin, etc. Hiring one's brother, putting a political crony in a position, helping one's friends unfairly to get jobs, and advancing people in jobs for reasons other than merit are the real threats to keeping a system fair. This happens a lot here and it is very wrong. However, a step-cousin getting a job seems innocent to me (assuming that he qualifies on his own merit.)

THANKS IS DUE to Bob Crane and his mother for their generous gift of the chimes for the old city hall clock tower. Apparently the idea to give them came about during a conversation with Frank Fontis when Bob looked up at the clock tower and noticed that hours were not being struck. Frank explained that there was not enough money to purchase and install the chimes in the restoration budget. Shortly thereafter, the Crane's check arrived and now we have chimes. Thank you.

SOLARES HILL could use a writer from up the Keys who could supply us with a monthly column on what's happening from Marathon north. Anyone who might be interested is invited to write us.

WE'RE TAKING our vacation after this issue, so we won't be out again until August, and we'll see you then.



Cover artist this time is Jack Doremus. His work may be seen at the Rooftop Gallery in the Harbor House Arcade on Front Street.

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With a little help from our friends ..

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JULIETTE CRESPO DELGADO

by Phoebe Coan

JULIETTE CRESPO DELGADO was born and reared here on the island. At 71 she is thankful to be in good health and able to help others in her work at St. Mary's Thrift Shop on Duval, where she has worked for the past 11 years.

She is a kind woman, always attentive to one's problems, and with an open heart most visitors have not seen inside stores in the big city. Through the years I have come to know her as a friend, advisor, and a believer...in life, people, and the Lord (for she has deep religious conviction.)

JULIETTE'S (she says you can use one "t" or two in her name) great-grandmother came here in 1813, driven from Knight's Key by Caloosa Indians. She was just six weeks old. Five little boats escaped to Key West and Sara Jane Simms was with them. She lived to be 100.

"We all got our curly hair from her," says Juliette. "She was Portuguese and English, and she'd sit in her rocker, blue-eyed and blonde, smoking a corncob."

"I was born in 1907, and she died in 1913, my mother's grandmother. My father came from Spain to Cuba with his brother, and then to Key West. The brother returned while Cecilio remained to be the only Crespo on the island. He was a cigar maker. Once I wrote a poem about being a cigar maker's daughter."

"We were very poor. As a child we lived in Gato's Village. Dad worked in the factory by the commissary. There was a row of little houses where the bank is on Simonton."

"We went to the cigar factory once in a while. Later, my husband's step-father owned Locaval (another cigar factory), and I learned to strip tobacco."

"Factory life was beautiful. My father, who was illiterate, learned to read and write both languages on his own. In the factory he had the reader to help him. That's where the romance and art came into my life. Dad loved the French because of the readers' selections. We heard about Emile Zola and many other novelists and poets this way."

A NUN calls on the phone. Juliette is close with the sisters and claims they helped mold her character as much as her mother did.

A black lady comes in and sits down on one of the folding chairs. A Spanish lady follows. "Buenos," they call out. Juliette responds. Everyone is her old friend. Everyone has a warm regard for her. Her friend Mrs. Virginia "Gena" Demeritt, 88 years old, who first helped her get the job, still comes in every day.

"DAD WASN'T a churchgoer," continues

Juliette, her eyes bright behind the glasses, "but he believed in God, loved my mother dearly and adored me. Mother was the strong character. She sewed for all the neighbors until her death, and by that time she was expert. They were real Conch pioneers."

"In the beginning we slept on 'cates' (canvas cots) that folded up during the day. Our stoves were like hibachis and we kept the coals going all day. We ate a lot of rice, beans (red, black, and white) and beef steak (10 cents a pound) when we could afford it."

"There were bananas, plantains, guava, and avocado. Cuban coffee and bread was the standard breakfast and we'd go to school with bread and guava jelly-butter when we had it. Around Christmas time, they'd sell radishes and lettuce in the streets, but very few vegetables were available. Life was too hard to get into gardening."

HERBAL MEDICINE was practiced and I have been advised on the uses of several plants and herbs and trees by

black and white. We never locked a door." I asked her about quintessential Conch characteristics. She said it was an essential concern for your neighbor. "We shared everything. The spirit of love was with all of us. People tried very hard to send their children to church even if they couldn't attend." (She, herself, is a convert to Catholicism.)

"The older people still feel this love and charity, but a lot of the island's quaintness has faded through the years. Most visitors still find us hospitable and friendly. I still think Key West is a beautiful place to live."

"Even if you're here 50 years, we still say you're a stranger if you're not born here! Everyone gets to know everyone else frontwards and backwards here." I have no secrets."

JULIETTE SAYS her work at the little thrift shop (which is packed with clothes, shoes, curios, kitchen goods, bits of lace, jewelry and odds-and-ends of all sorts), has put her in contact with peo-



Juliette in years past, especially when it came to ailments children might get (e.g. white periwinkle was boiled and used for eye infections).

"WE WERE a very close knit community then. Today my friends and I are still the same. Love existed on this island. If you were ill, everyone pitched in, brought food, helped out. There was charity and love and no problems between

ple from all walks of life.

"It has definitely been good for me. Charity is a rule to live by. You should look for Christ in everyone. Live your religion." She has countless times helped out needy people, in one way or another, who have come to the shop.

"My two daughters are social workers. They said that my mother and I

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A leisurely tour of the home and gardens of the late Nobel Prize Winner, Ernest Hemingway. The home was built in Spanish Colonial Style of native rock hewn from the grounds with furnishings, rugs, tile, chandeliers brought by the Hemingways from Spain, Africa and Cuba. Luxuriant, exotic plants and trees are from all over the world. It was here that Mr. Hemingway wrote For Whom the Bell Tolls, Green Hills of Africa, A Farewell to Arms, The Fifth Column, The Snows of Kilimanjaro, and The Mowbray Affair. Mr. Hemingway was the first important writer to discover and make Key West his home. He owned the home from 1931 to 1961.

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are social workers without a degree." Her children, Estella Maynes (now in Connecticut); Paulette Huray (Connecticut); Robert Lee Delgado (California), and Raymond Delgado (oldest, Key West), have presented her with four grandchildren. At 71 she is perky, attractive, trim, pleasant and alert to all the trends and nuances.

"I WAS NEVER interested in social clubs or things like that even though my husband (Raymond Delgado, now deceased) was. We were married 50 years and he owned and operated Chino's and Ciro's (cocktail lounges and restaurants) and made a lot of money.

"He was a hard worker and dedicated to his children and a real disciplinarian. I was the soft one. The kids didn't always agree with him, but they loved and respected him. When he got older, he became diabetic and lost everything. But, if you take marriage vows seriously, you've got to try to stick by your mate," she said.

"Our marriage was in the true Spanish style -- machismo. But he took good care of the family and I put the children first and stayed home. I personally felt that was the way. In that time most mothers stayed home. I was trained in high school in clerical skills, but my mother wouldn't babysit. 'If you make your bed hard, you lie in it,' she'd say."

"I'M ALL FOR Women's Lib," says Juliette. "Not ERA...I don't believe in one gender. My daughters don't feel the same as I did. They are more sophisticated. They want something more for themselves, as long as the children aren't neglected. It's a different generation. Today the working mother has a new way of life.

"I got to enjoy my children a great deal. It was the best part. Housework for me was a creative thing. We couldn't buy a lot of things, so we made them. I used to cut out paper prettily for shelves. Mothers today don't have the

time despite all the modern conveniences. Momma won't even sing a lullabye off key, as I used to. The children ask to be rocked.

"So, you find that the kids today, though more worldly and intelligent, grow up very much faster. In my day they had the real innocence of childhood. We had real babies then."

AS WE TALKED about who is the mother of today and her new role in these changing times, Juliette told me that she thought mothering was a gift, that many could bear, but not so many were natural mothers in their hearts.

"The role of mother is the fulfillment of a woman. It is most rewarding."

There was instant testimony as two browsers came up who had overheard our conversation. "I wanted six children," one said, "but I had just one and I thank God every day for it." The other intoned that the years had gone by so fast and hers was now 35. A common bond had been awakened.

"THE FORMATIVE YEARS are so important," said Juliette with authority. "The roots go deep and surface in adulthood."

A young woman then stopped by to say that she had found the money she thought she had lost. "I prayed to St. Anthony (San Antonio, she repeated to the Spanish lady still sitting there) for you," she said, "now I will thank him by putting some money in the poor box."

"I love my work," says Juliette. "I'm just thankful that I can get around so well."

Happy Ending

by Mack Dryden

WE'RE PLEASED to report a happy ending to a story that appeared in our April issue.

Readers will remember the story of the neighborhood dispute in which a property owner on Harris Avenue intended to open a fifth apartment on a 76-by-100-foot lot that is zoned for a single-family dwelling. The four original apartments were permitted in that zone only because they were there before the new zoning law went into effect in 1969.

NEXT-DOOR-NEIGHBOR, Dorothy Fork, already disturbed by the "intolerable congestion," trash and noise originating in the apartments, complained to city officials when owner Fred Haas began renovating a utility shed so his son could move in.

Since the property was in "non-conforming usage" to begin with, Mrs. Fork argued, how could the city allow Haas to add still another apartment? She complained, wrote letters, and asked for answers. For weeks all she got was "a runaround."

Since the shed was already there and the owner was going to put it to "personal use," city officials said a zoning variance wasn't required. "If his son lives in it for free," said Building Inspector Clem Albury, "it's legal."

SOLARES HILL reported the story April 1, and Mrs. Fork kept asking city hall for answers. On April 11, City Manager Ron Stack, City Commissioner Ralph Arnold, and Public Works Director Woodsy Niles visited Mrs. Fork and told her they were sorry but nothing could be done.

Mrs. Fork persisted. "I cannot accept these interpretations of the zoning laws as correct," she wrote Mayor

McCoy. "I expect this to be resolved in accordance with the zoning laws, and not twisted interpretations. As a tax-paying citizen I expect to be protected by such laws."

MCCOY ASSIGNED Stack to look into the matter closely, and Stack and City Clerk Jack Matthews researched the ordinance.

Stack called Mrs. Fork and asked her if owner Fred Haas lived on the property in question. She said no, he didn't.

"What?" said Stack. "We were all under the impression that Haas lived there. That's why we were allowing him to do this."

A COUPLE OF DAYS later, Stack wrote Haas: "It has just been brought to my attention that you do not reside at 2503 Harris Avenue. Therefore, it would be in violation of Section 6 of Ordinance 69-29 of the zoning laws of the City of Key West to permit a member of your family or anyone else to occupy an additional unit on these premises. To permit another family of one or more persons to reside on these premises would constitute an extension and expansion of the non-conforming use, which is prohibited."

Mrs. Fork said the outcome should be a lesson to anyone who's having trouble communicating with city hall. "If you think you're right," she said, "don't give up."

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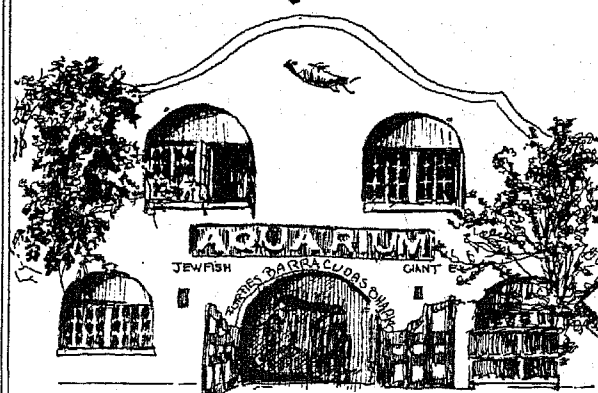
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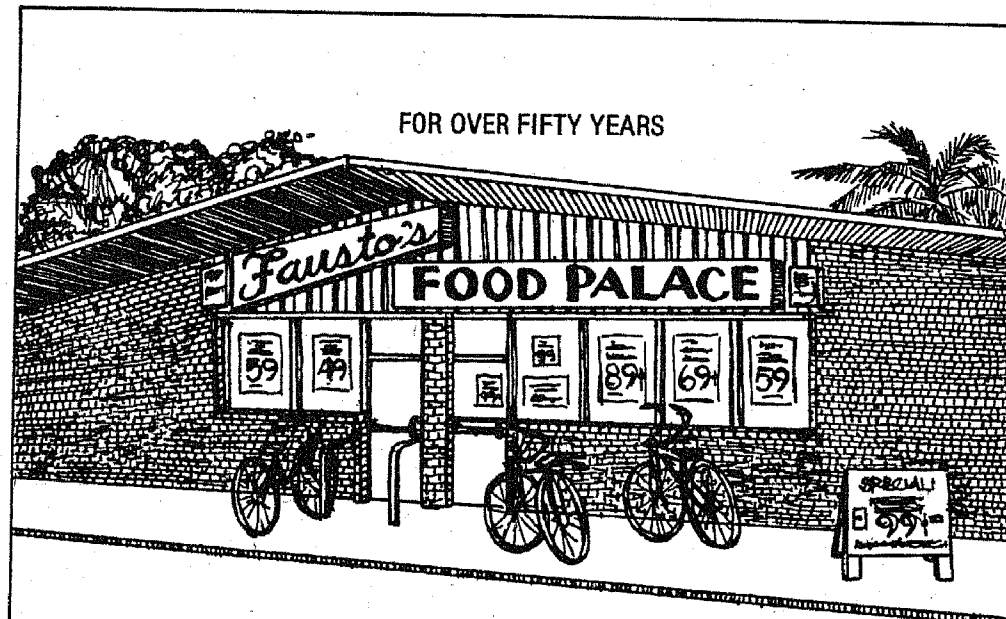


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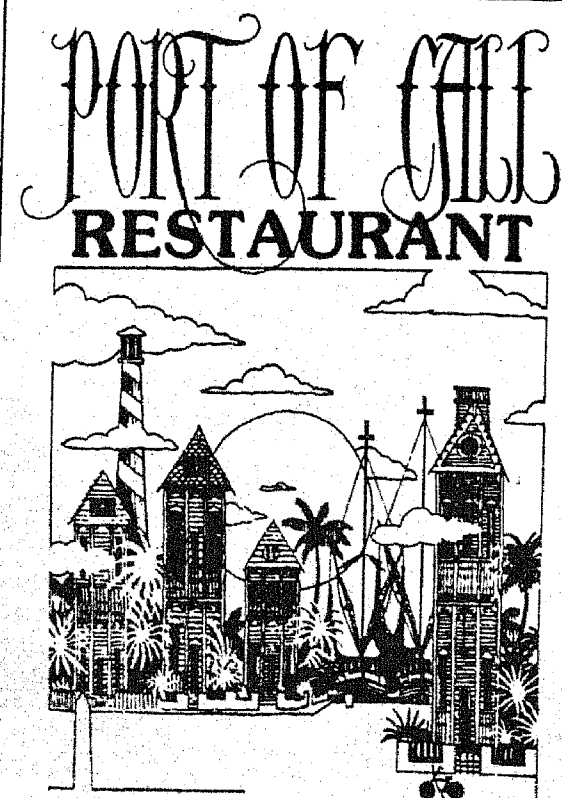


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notes and antic-dotes

by Dorothy Raymer

OLD STREAKERS never die -- they just run away -- out of sight.
But not out of memory!

A FEW YEARS AGO, the streaking craze, which meant stripping off clothing and racing naked through a community area, was popular all over the country. Key West was no exception. A favorite track for the runners was South Beach to Louie's Back Yard, right along the shoreline. One bold streaker began to dash down Duval Street from the Bull and Whistle, but he kept ducking into doorways and only made it for a block.

THE FAD didn't last long on the island, probably because current beach wear fashion bordered on the point of no return anyway.

Perhaps the early fadeout of streaking here was simply dull and repetitious since most Key Westers had already enjoyed fore-runners (now - there's a likely pun) of the streaker impulse on a much more complete, and hilarious basis.

ONE OF THE episodes, which engaged attention, involved the time when a sailor of the United States Navy was hauled into a hearing, conducted by the late Justice of the Peace Ira Albury, at his office on Duval Street adjacent to where Al and Ethel Brown now have an antique shop.

Albury was a very tall, gaunt man with a somewhat dour expression. But he had a fine sense of humor and good insight into human behavior.

This particular case was reviewed in the "J.P." chambers of Albury's domain, and when advance word got around, the room jammed with curious townspeople.

CHIEF COMPLAINTANT was a young, recently married woman who had acquired the local nickname of "Calamity Jane," because she was given to reciting woes of her existence before and after marriage.

She loved to confide in friends, and even comparative strangers whom she met while working as a waitress. I remember distinctly one of her "worrisome" recitations. It concerned her inability to choose a suitable mate from a series of suitors, mostly apparently from the source of single Navy men in the area.

In a flat tone she revealed, while serving a spaghetti dinner, "I have 13 guys writing to me and proposing. I just don't know which one to accept." Whereupon she lamented having to make a choice.

HOWEVER, she finally decided and married, not a one of the Navy enlisted list, but a civilian.

At the hearing, the wife appeared anxious to disclose what had taken place, but it was only by astute questioning on the part of Albury that what had transpired was revealed.

ACCORDING TO testimony, drawn mostly through a question and answer technique, the victim was asleep on her side of a very wide bed, also occupied by her sound asleep husband. Calamity Jane said that she was aroused from deep sleep by the feeling of strong arms about her and a nuzzling of kisses on her neck in amorous intent.

The woman admitted that she responded sluggishly and had not even opened her eyes during preliminary action.

Albury queried, "You mean you didn't wake up when the ah -- first moves were made?"

The witness shrugged and answered, "No, sir. This happens all the time with my husband so I didn't pay it no mind, at first."

ALBURY LOWERED his glasses and looked over the rims at the woman on the stand, then sighed and shook his head, while listeners exchanged glances.

Albury asked, "What made you finally come to the conclusion that the man in your embrace was not your husband?"

After a significant pause, the wife raised her hands, and in widespread gesture, measured off about two feet in span. Before she could explain in full, the spectators registered loud guffaws. Albury pounded his gavel and threatened to clear the court, but he himself engaged in a halfway grin.

CALAMITY JANE went on to explain the measurement maneuver. "I mean I could tell this man wasn't my husband by the difference in the width of his shoulders."

She went on to tell that she then noticed her spouse was asleep beside her. So she screamed and poked him until he was aroused at last. He finally responded to the commotion and sat up. The stranger began stumbling out of the bedroom.

The husband was not wearing pajamas, but he didn't stop to don any garments. He took off after the retreating prowler who was also unclothed. The two men ran out of the house and the wife, in a nightgown, followed them screaming, "Stop him!"

LIGHTS WERE switched on in the neighborhood and people emerged to witness the chase in bewilderment. Someone called the police and a squad car caught up with the disrobed men who were then grappling on a lawn several blocks away.

It took some effort on the part of the law officers and everyone concerned to sort out the facts. Spectators couldn't quite grasp the reason why two stark naked men were racing around in an otherwise quiet community. The enraged husband was finally escorted back to his domicile and there police discovered the orderly arrangement of discarded seaman's attire on the porch, along with the proper identity of the amorous prowler.

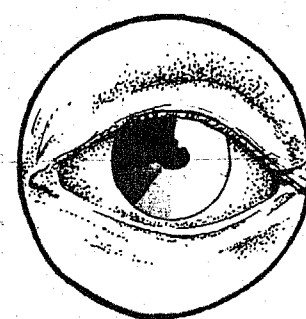
EVENTUAL OUTCOME was his arrest and a transfer to some other city, but no discharge. In fact, it was suspected that the woman in the case had known the unfortunate sailor and that he was one of her former suitors.

The compulsive, or perhaps acquired characteristic of military neatness, such as the careful placement of clothing after stripping for nocturnal adventure, had several repeated incidents that spring back in the early 1950s.

I WAS LIVING in one of the downstairs apartments in a pink building on Charles Street, with a watchdog named Claude M' Collie. Across the central hallway, there were two young girls, one employed by the Navy yard, and the other a corn-fed, unsophisticated visitor from the midwest. Upstairs above the girls, were rooms occupied by a Navy couple, Lois and Larry Dimmick.

We were all aware of the string of incidents involving trespassers and Peeping Toms which had mushroomed on the island. As a result, the girls across the way from me had developed a signal between their abode and the Dimmicks' just above them. The Dimmicks were the only ones in the four-unit structure with a telephone.

ARRANGEMENTS were made so that if a disturbance took place, the tenants downstairs were to take a broom or mop handle and pound on the ceiling in rapid succession, to indicate distress. Lois was then to call the police and also notify the shore patrol, since at that time there was a conflict of duty on arrests.



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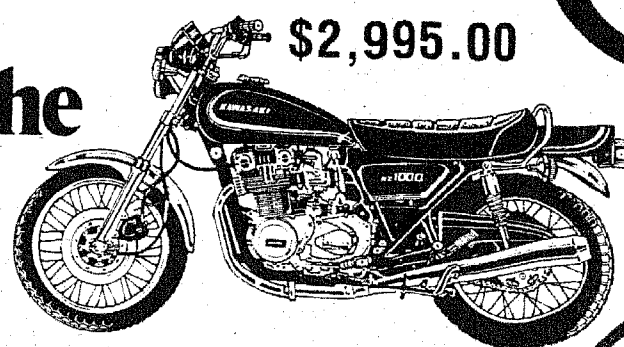
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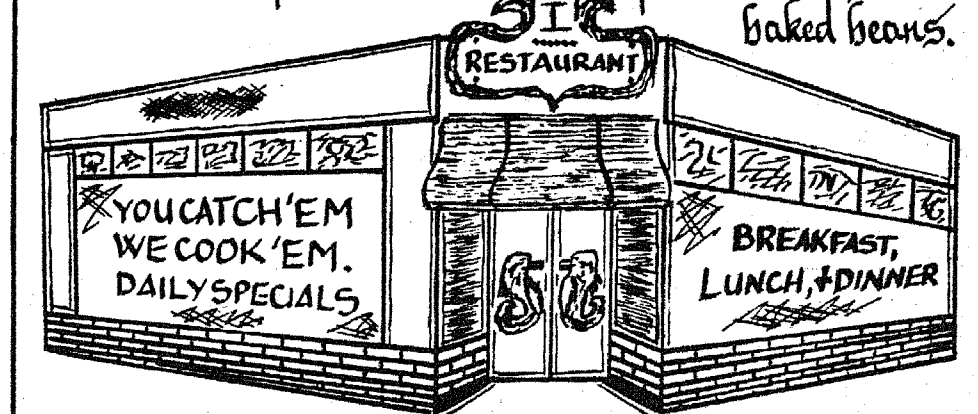
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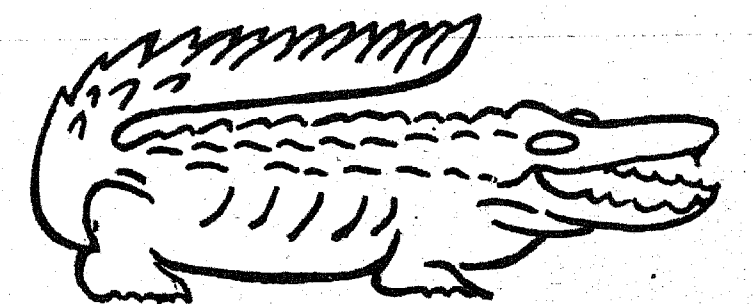
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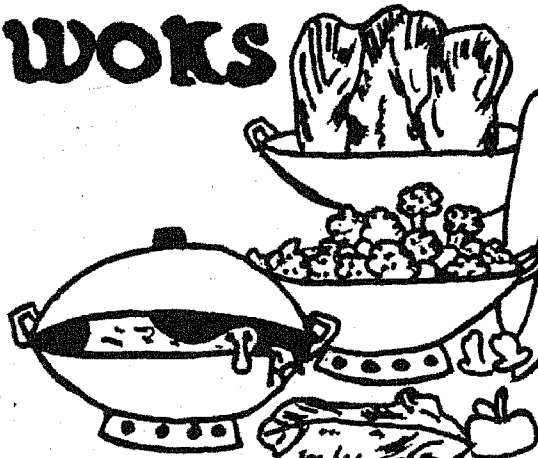
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I left my place, with Claude M'Collie on guard, and went up to cover a new show at the Overseas Lodge in the Keys, escorted by Cmdr. and Mrs. Robert Zimmerman. Gladys Zimmerman, who wrote a column called Shop Hopper, for the *Citizen*, recalls the evening vividly. She remembers that we returned shortly after midnight and home-ward bound, had discussed the rash of clothes-shedding episodes.

WHEN WE REACHED Charles Street and my dwelling, we were stopped by shore patrol officers and local police and watched while a hunched-over captive, enveloped in a blanket, was hustled into a police van.

I was questioned by law enforcement personnel and finally allowed to enter the apartment, there to be greeted by a frantic collie dog very upset with all the disturbance.

THE OTHER INMATES of the complex had been huddling on the porch. As soon as "the law" departed I began questioning occupants to find out what had really happened.

It turned out that the visiting girl returned from a date with a Navy friend at about 11 p.m. and stumbled over the neat pyramid of a Navy man's apparel on the front porch of the apartment.

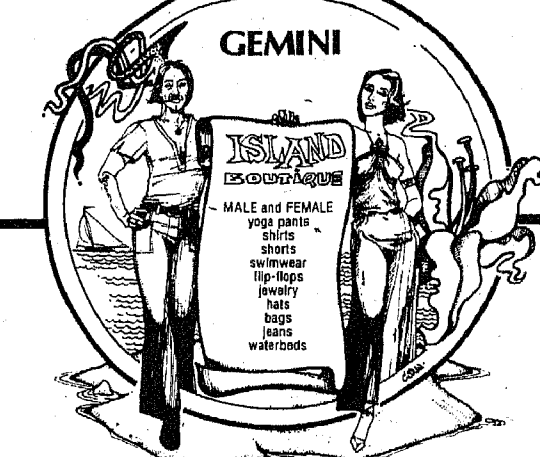
She said she simply glanced at the clothing and went on into the front cross-wise hall connecting the two sections of the apartment.

There she encountered a naked man trying the door of my apartment, my dog barking protest.

AS SHE TOLD IT, she gasped, and turned left, frantically rapping on the door to her friend's apartment and was immediately admitted.

As the dismayed visitor surged into her friend's room, she blurted, "There's a naked guy out in the hall!" The incautious room-mate started to open the door to confirm this blast of information, but the panic-stricken guest slid the

GEMINI



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bolt on the door and exclaimed, "No, no! He's still out there somewhere!"

MEANTIME, the trespasser blundered into a utility closet, staggered around upsetting buckets and mops, creating



further racket. Then he climbed the stairs to the second floor and began trying doors again.

Mrs. Dimmick sat alone, hoping her husband could get off duty early, since it was her twenty-first birthday. She glanced at the door to the livingroom-bedroom and saw it bulge inward a little. She arose and was about to open the door in anticipation of Larry's homecoming, when she heard the danger signal, knocked on the ceiling below her. Immediately aware that there was trouble lurking outside, she dialed the police department, explained the situation, and then called the shore patrol.

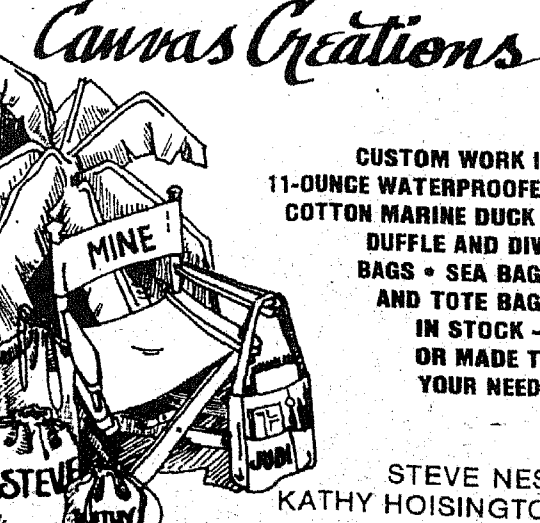
THE FRIGHTENED inmates downstairs continued to send the pre-arranged S.O.S., and the interloper persistently pushed at the Dimmick's door.

That's where the rescuing forces discovered the intrusive, unclad visitor, still trying for admittance.

Later, when I interviewed the girl who had first encountered the nude visitor, I asked, "Why didn't you yell when you found him?"

She cast down her eyes, blushed and replied, "Well, I was so embarrassed I thought I would just ignore him."


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THERE WERE EVEN a couple of women who joined this strange penchant for casting away garments during those past years, although neither of them were careful about folding up discarded garments.

ON A Thanksgiving Day a group of friends, including Leila Godfrey, Louis Strong, an artist, Viola Veidt, and myself, were invited to enjoy a turkey dinner at a home on Vernon Avenue. The host and hostess were comparatively newcomers to Key West. The wife was a former entertainment world figure who knew a long list of songs from the 1920s and 1930s especially, and she was a delight to hear.

We all trouped to the home in great anticipation of a double feast -- food and fun. At first our knock on the door was unanswered, and then, as we were beginning to wonder if the 1 p.m. time had been changed, the house door was flung open and there stood our hostess, without a stitch of raiment.

"Come right on in," she summoned, "and you can start cooking the turkey." She staggered, blew boozey kisses and weaved her way back to bed.

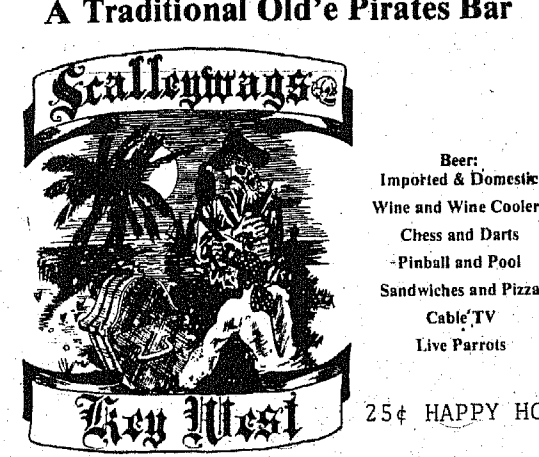
WITH THE HELP of the host, who was also pretty far gone in Thanksgiving cheer, we did manage to get dinner underway and enjoyed a holiday meal -- although it was late evening before all the food was ready to be served.

THE OTHER skinklick appearance involving a woman concerned a "socialite" from New England who was a winter resident. She had been a model in her younger era and still thought of herself as a "femme fatale."

A far-gone alcoholic, the ex-model carried a bag which was the size of an old-fashioned reticule, in which she concealed a quart of liquor, scotch or rum.

I WAS slightly reluctant to accept an invitation to bring a friend and come

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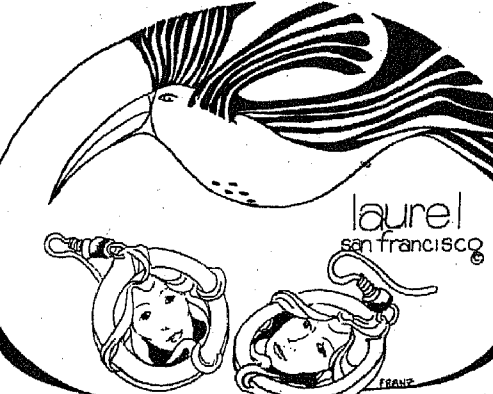
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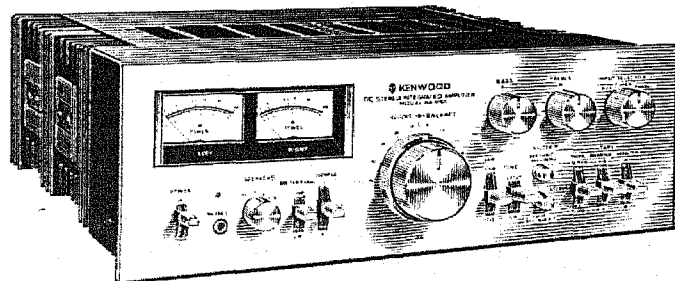
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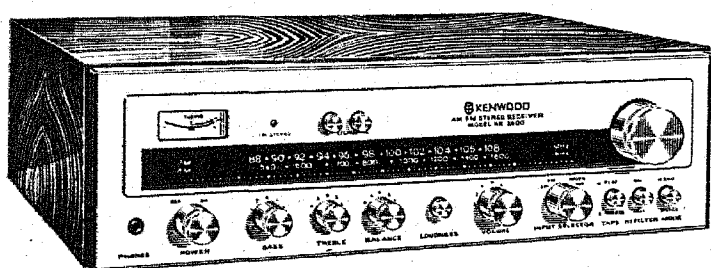
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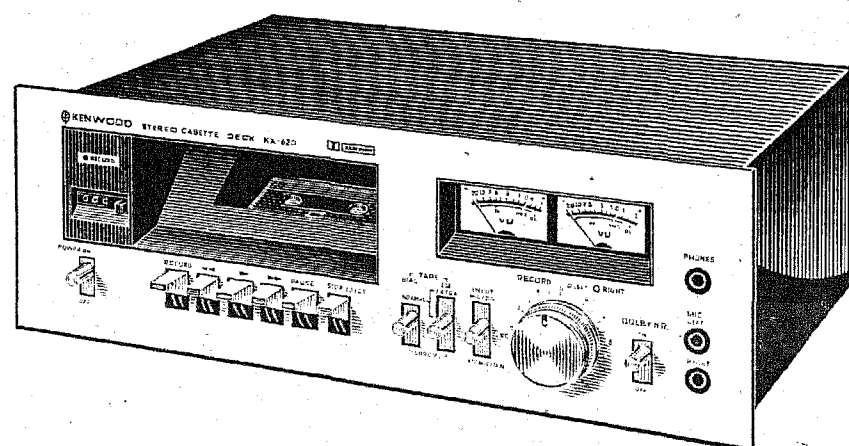
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AT SWIFT'S

423 DUVAL ST.

some remarks

SOUTH BEACH CONCESSION

I WROTE in our last issue that I'd try to bring our readers up-to-date on the South Beach concession affair. The last official word from the city was that the case for eviction against the lease holder, Island City Renovations, Inc., had been moved to the Circuit Court but, at the same time, City Attorney, Joe Allen, Jr., said that he had been given authority to conduct negotiations with this group to see if they could come up with a satisfactory proposal. He said that if such a proposal was agreed upon, he would recommend to the city Commission that they accept it.

I SPOKE WITH Walter Krayer and Bill Dorley, two of the partners of Island City Renovations, Inc. recently. They both told me pretty much the same thing. They said that they were partly to blame for the problems at the beach and that the city was partly to blame also. They said that they had a lot of money invested in this project and that they felt that they had a right to get it open. And they say they will pay up the back rent, post a performance bond, live up to the lease, etc.

IF THEY GET the occupational license, then they say they will have the restaurant open within one month from that date. Breakfast would be served all day from six in the morning. A life-guard would be on duty during the daylight hours. Thatched umbrellas would be erected. Anything else that the current lease called for would be met. Long range plans would call for getting a barge load of sand to fix up

and extend the beach, building cabanas, and putting in a swimming pool. There was talk of pursuing a beer and wine license in the future. All this, of course, would be contingent on the success of the beach concession/restaurant.

WHEN I spoke with Joe Allen, he told me that Island City Renovations, Inc. would have to live up to the terms of the lease, pay all the back rent, put up a performance bond, and stipulate by exact date when the various parts of the lease would be met. However, he said that he had not heard from them, and that he was planning to continue with the action for eviction. He added that the hearing had been postponed to allow Dorley time to find a new lawyer after his original lawyer withdrew from the case.

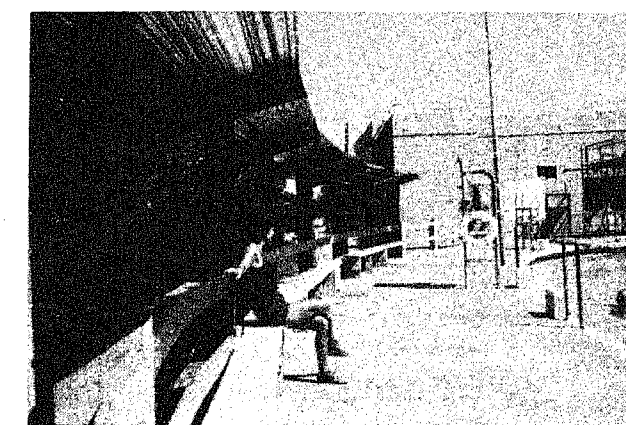
SO THERE we are. The city says it is willing to negotiate, and Island Renovations, Inc. says that it wants to negotiate and is prepared to sign a performance bond, pay the back rent, and get the concession open.

Why the stalemate?

by Bill Huckel

THE FIRST MEETING of the Key West Shell Club will take place on Monday, June 12, 1978, at 7:30 p.m., 1008 White Street.

Interested people are asked to call 294-0043 or 296-2051.



NEW SUN SHELTERS at Community Pool provide shade for resting swimmers and onlookers. The shelters were designed and built by volunteer pool manager Bill Westray and City carpenter Mingo Esquinaldo. Funds for materials were raised last Fall by a group of performers organized by June Hunzinger in a benefit show at the Greene Street Theater.

THE COMMUNITY POOL at Thomas and Catherine Streets is operated by Wesley House for the City and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is free.

BERNIE DICKSON, owner of the Hemingway House, suggested that we ought to change the name of the Key West Fishing Tournament to the Key West Ernest Hemingway Fishing Tournament. She pointed out that he came here after being influenced

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PICCADILLO, a Latin sautee of fried onions, green bell peppers, a touch of garlic, fresh tomatoes and ground sirloin, delicious olives and tasty capers. We recommend serving it over rice 6.50

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A NEW YORK STRIP STEAK, a full three quarter pound, charcoal broiled and sizzling, and served just the way you want it 9.95

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CHOPPED STEAK, freshly ground sirloin, perfectly charcoal broiled to suit your taste. 6.50

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ROAST PRIME RIB OF BEEF (full cut), served with our own homemade Yorkshire pudding or baked potato, au jus and horseradish sauce 9.95

Desserts

Homemade KEY LIME PIE, with whipped cream 1.50

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Cup 1.75
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Cup 1.50

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by Zane Grey's books on fishing in the Keys. It seems like a reasonable idea. The Cubans are having a great success with their tournament named after Hemingway and we certainly can lay equal claim to the legitimacy of using his name locally for our Key West tournament.

SOLARES HILL received this news release from Reverend Charles Truax, President of the Health Systems Agency, Monroe County Subarea Council, and feels that it should be reprinted.

The current controversy and crisis surrounding the provision of ambulance services to the Key West area requires, I believe, some clarification as to its causes and possible solutions.

Approximately one year ago the J & J Ambulance Company went before the County Commission and stated that all services to the Key West and Lower Keys area then being provided by the private ambulance company would be terminated unless the company was successful in gaining a subsidy that would allow it to continue operation. This initial presentation was the first in a number of meetings and discussions that led to the final approval of a contract between the J & J Ambulance Company and the County Commission for a \$10,000 subsidy.

The final contract granted the ambulance company \$10,000 a year and was a direct result of the Johnson presentation several months earlier. An additional provision of the contract required that the ambulance company transport county indigent and Baker Act patients that were previously being transported by the Monroe County Sheriff's Department.

At the time of approval of the contract, the HSA requested the opportunity to review the terms of the contract along with information about the number of runs and patients transported by the J & J Ambulance Company. While the contract seemed on its surface to represent the needs of the County, the HSA requested additional time to review the contract for the purpose of determining the following:

1. Whether in fact the financial status of the ambulance company warranted a county subsidy.
2. Whether the terms of the contract were in the best interest of the county, and
3. If approved, whether the ambulance company could reasonably be expected to fulfill the provisions of the contract.

the hair people
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The Commission voted 3 to 2 against having the HSA review the contract and necessary additional information upon which to make a recommendation. The HSA never recommended approval of the County's contract with J & J Ambulance Company.

One month ago, after receiving the full \$10,000 allocated by the County Commission, five months into the contract year, the J & J Ambulance Company chose to terminate the contract. Last Friday the ambulance company announced with slightly more than six hours notice that it was going to terminate operations.

As the County's health planning body, the Health Systems Agency has and still does believe that the provision of ambulance services is a community concern. As is indicated in the two attachments, we believe that the question of continuance of ambulance services in Key West cannot be answered by a single group or political entity. The future of Key West ambulance services and the solution to the current ambulance crisis needs to be determined through a joint effort including the County Commission, the Florida Keys Memorial Hospital, the Florida Keys Community College, the City of Key West, the Health Systems Agency, and the J & J Ambulance Company.

We continue to believe that any decision made on behalf of the local ambulance services will continue to be only stop-gap measures until the above named groups come together to resolve the questions of training, funding, and operation of Key West area ambulances.

The HSA continues to believe that the County Commission is the most logical group to initiate such a "meeting of the minds." I would appreciate it if your newspaper would record publicly the HSA's position on this matter.

In our August issue, *Solares Hill* will look into this problem.

The Key West Chemical Company is conducting a swimming pool seminar open to all pool owners, private and commercial, at the Key West High School auditorium, June 3, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In a broad new effort to make the Waterfront Playhouse a focus for community summer activity, the Key West Players continued on page 23

SAKE OLE WOOD SHOP

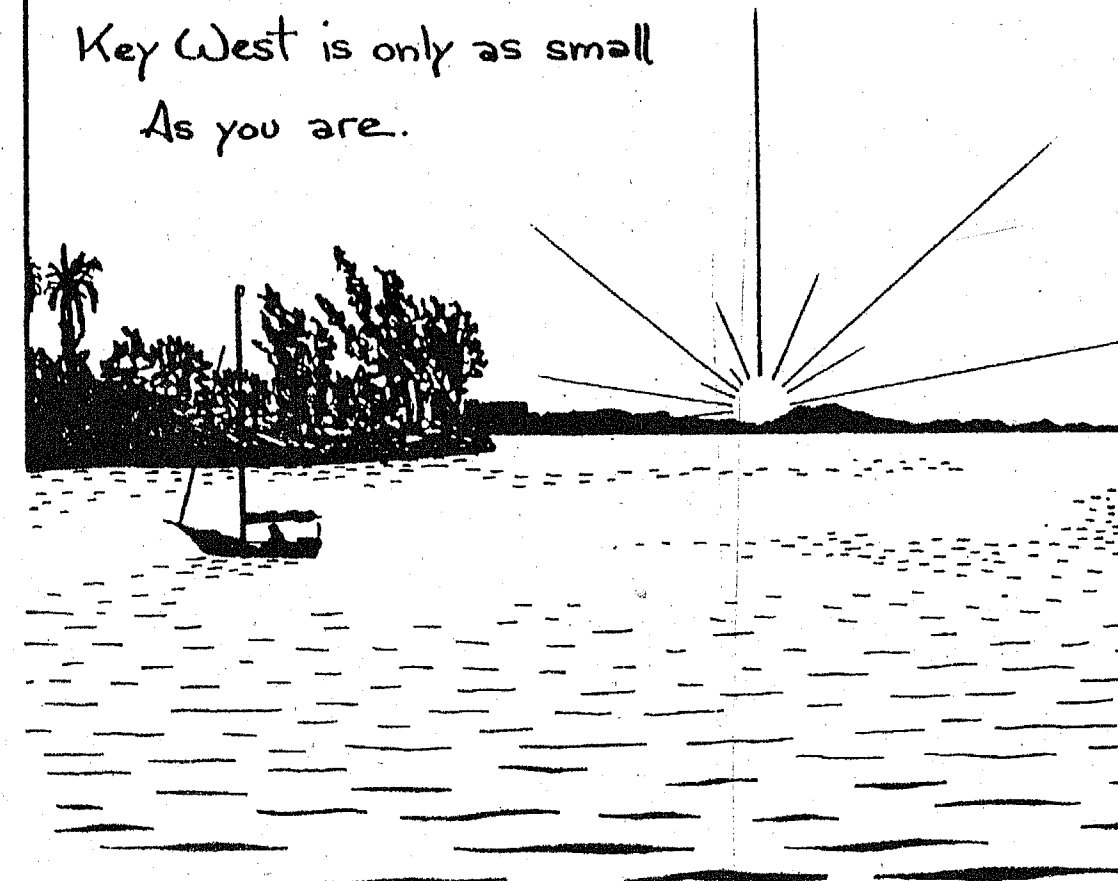
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by Jody Adams inkwork Alison Shepard

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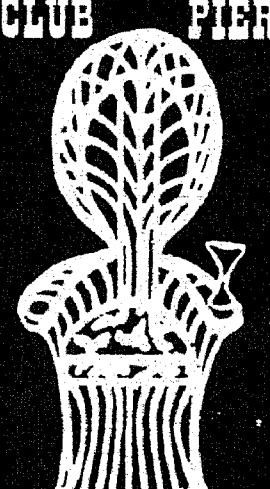
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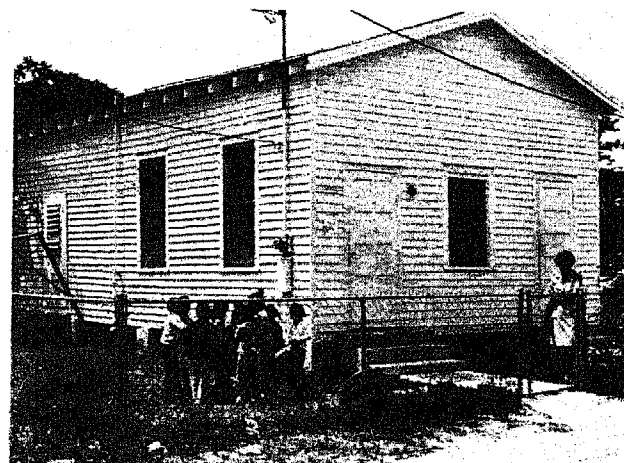
296-2321

A NICE THING

by Bill Huckel photos by Kim Wise

A VERY NICE THING happened the other day to a very nice person.

A while ago, the daughter of Mrs. Alfridina Butler came in the house to tell her mother that some people were painting the building where Mrs. Butler teaches kindergarten. She, not having sanctioned any work to be done on the building, sent her daughter over to ask



The newly painted building

Mr. Oscar Gunn, an Elder of the Seventh Day Adventist Church (the church owns the building the kindergarten is in), if he knew what was happening. Mr. Gunn laughed and said that he had just seen them painting on the building, too, but he hadn't asked that it be done.

What happened was this.

A COUPLE OF MEN, John Uberti and "Rabbi" Williams, were passing by the school one day and they dropped in to see it. They liked what they saw and saw where they could be of service to it.

Without telling Mrs. Butler, they rounded up some paint, got together some

people and materials, and began to scrape and paint the building. Uberti, along with Susan Rafferty, came regularly every Sunday until the job was completed. They were helped by "Rabbi" Williams, Chance Harrell, Neal Birmingham, Michael McMann, John O'Connor, Celeste Frazier, and others.

NOW THAT the main part of the building is done, John and Susan plan to get some people together and caulk the windows and paint the outside swing set. By the time that this is finished, the kindergarten should really look good.

This is not the first time that volunteers have helped out here. Mrs. Butler mentioned that the volunteer Navy group T.Y.M.E. (Teaching Young Minds Early) had given them an air conditioner and that the father of one of her pupils, Louis Smith, had recently painted the inside of the building in his spare time.

MRS. BUTLER has been teaching for some twelve years at the kindergarten, which was first behind the Seventh Day Adventist Church; it later moved to its present address of 207 Angela Street.

State regulations have stiffened up in the past twelve years, but the school has kept up with the increasingly more difficult standards that are required. Mrs. Butler has had to take some courses at the college to keep up and often finds herself in the position of having already put into teaching practice all the theory that is in the books!

SHE SAID that the school didn't need much at this point; however, they could use some more children's books. Skip Horne of the Tape Ape is donating some children's records and anyone who has anything that he thinks a kindergarten

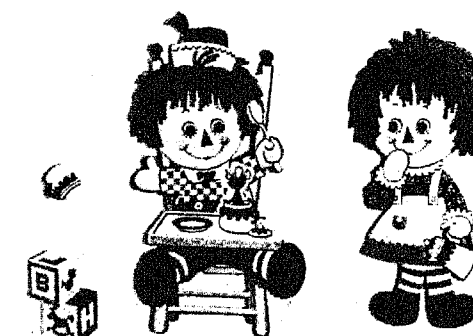
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TOYS and THINGS



Upstairs
At the Harbor House Arcade
Front Street, Key West



Mrs. Butler and some happy kindergarten children

could use, is invited to bring it by.

In parting, Mrs. Butler stressed that she and the children enjoy people who can sing, or teach, or tell stories

or who have something nice to show the kids. She invited them to drop by. And she again expressed her thanks to John Uberti and his friends.

HERE NOW!

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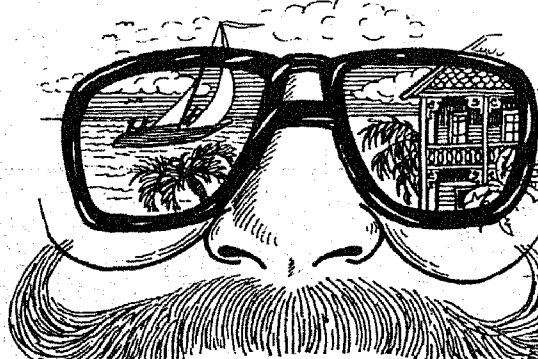
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from "Vegetarian World" No. 12

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WHO IS ROBERT WATSON?

written and illustrated by Malcolm Ross

THE FOLLOWING is the third installment of Robert Watson's journal of his military service for the Confederate States of America at the time of the American Civil War. The diary begins in Key West in September 1861, describing the conditions which prompted the man to enlist in the service of the Confederacy (Key West was occupied by northern forces for virtually the entire war) and spans about four years ending in April 1865 at the time of Lee's surrender and Lincoln's assassination. The first installment dealt with Watson's enlistment in the Coast Guard, his subsequent transfer to the First Florida Infantry Regiment and his activities on the front, particularly in the area around Knoxville, Tennessee. The second installment was concerned primarily with Watson's involvement in one of the major confrontations of the war, the Battle of Chickamauga.

(ALTHOUGH HIS detachment has suffered heavy casualties, Robert Watson and his friend from Key West, Alfred Lowe, have survived the battle of Chickamauga and retreated with the remnants of the southern forces into Georgia. The remaining men of the First Florida Infantry Regiment reconnoiter in the vicinity of Dalton, Georgia, but Captain Smith of Watson's outfit, Company K is among the wounded. Watson is reduced to a diet of corn bread and is barefoot as the year 1864 begins. The southern forces make an attempt to rally, those who have seen combat are given a short breathing spell and some of the men of the company even go home on furlough.

His diary continues:)

FEBRUARY 7: Rumors in camp that we are to go to the front or to Mobile, Alabama. At dress parade many orders were read, which we were sorry for as it was bitter cold and it took over an hour to read them. The most of the orders were respecting the proceedings of Court Martials in the cases of men from different commands for desertion, stealing, etc. Some of them were to have half of their heads shaved and the letter D pricked on their left hip, others to wear a barrel shirt, etc.

(Watson's future is outlined for him for the duration of the war and the emotional fervor which impelled many a son of the South to take up arms to defend a threatened homeland is vividly expressed in the following entry:)

FEBRUARY 8: Our regiment held a meeting this afternoon for the purpose of reenlisting for the war, although our terms of enlistment will not be out for over a year. The following preamble and resolutions, having been presented by the committee, they were adopted unanimously with great enthusiasm.

Whereas our once peaceful country is being overrun by the invading minions of despotic government actuated by the power of usurpation, and led on in the prosecution of this war by desires more corrupt and accursed than ever, actuated the minds of the most tyrannical nations making any claims to civilization and

Whereas, in many portions of our beloved Confederacy lands are laid waste, cities, towns, and villages are destroyed, our citizens imprisoned, their property violently wrested from them, and their wives, mothers, sisters and daughters suffering the most shameful abuses and intolerable insults and

Whereas, the eyes of the oppressed ones are imploringly turned to us as their natural protectors and

Whereas, even at this moment Charles-ton is fiercely assailed with the avowed object of total destruction, Mobile is threatened, and General Grant's army stands ready with fire and sword to enter the very heart of our young republic and

Whereas there is no avocation more

honorable or praiseworthy than that of a soldier battling for his rights against the oppressors of his country, the enemies of Constitutional liberty, therefore be it Resolved that we do reenlist for the war,

Resolved that we despise Lincoln's amnesty proclamation as heartily as Butler's beastly "order," and would as soon think of giving our wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters to one as accepting the other, both bring dishonor of the deepest dye,

Resolved that the red smoke of battle shall be to us as a pleasant summer sky and the cannon's booming chorus as sweetest music until the last inch of territory wrested from us by the vandal foe shall be restored and the wronged and outraged South shall be recognized as a peer amongst the nations of the earth,

Resolved, that while we have the utmost and unequivocal confidence in the fidelity and wisdom of our legislators and while we shall cheerfully abide every will and obey all laws made by them, we do most respectfully ask that we, as a Regt. of volunteers, may be permitted to reelect our own regimental and company officers claiming it as a right belonging to all volunteers.

Resolved, that in Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States, and Joseph E. Johnston, the great war chief of the West, we recognize the greatest statesman and gallant warrior, and pledge ourselves to follow the dictates of the one and the leadership of the other, wherever in their judgement the best interest of our country demands.

Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be forwarded through the proper channels to His Excellency President Davis, Gen'l Joseph E. Johnston and His Excellency Gov. Milton of Florida and that they be also published in the Gainesville Cotton States, Tallahassee Floridian and Journal and Atlanta Register.

AFTER THE resolutions had been passed, Capt. R.B. Smith who has just recovered from a severe wound received at Missionary Ridge, was called upon for a speech and he spoke at some length with such fire and pathos that it had a telling effect upon the command.

The 7th Fla. Regt. may now be looked upon as one of the best regiments in the army. At night our company serenaded Capt. Smith who came out of his hut and made some very complimentary remarks to us.

(Watson and his detachment may not be involved in any direct combat, but the war progresses on other fronts and his very home state is threatened:)

FEBRUARY 10: I see in the papers that 18 Yankee gun boats and transports have arrived at Jacksonville, Fla., and have landed a large force at that place. I suppose they intend to overrun the state.

FEBRUARY 12: The papers state that the Yankees have advanced as far as Baldwin, Fla.

FEBRUARY 13: The most of our Regiment went to town and serenaded Gen'l Breckenridge who is about to leave for Virginia to take command of some troops in that state. He made a splendid speech in which he said that he regretted very much that he had to part with his old friends the Florida troops. He complimented them highly for their bravery, etc.

(Watson's brief respite is about to end:)

FEBRUARY 15: The Yankees appear to be advancing for we have a strong picket guard on the Knoxville R.Road. At Dalton they are exchanging prisoners. Among

them is a Yankee woman who is wounded in the thigh. She is dressed in men's clothing and goes by the name of "Tom." Some of our boys asked her why she was in the army in men's clothing. She said that the "Rebels" had killed her brother and beau and that she wanted revenge. She was wounded at the battle of Chickamauga..

FEBRUARY 21: Cleburn's division passed here today enroute for Mobile. The papers state that the Yankees have done a great deal of damage in Florida.

William Keane of the 3rd Florida Regiment is to be shot for desertion on the 26th of this month. He stayed at home 15 months and made his brags that he could not be taken, for he carried a double barreled gun wherever he went. But Gov. Brown of Georgia had him taken and sent to his command. Keane lived in Georgia, but joined the Florida troops after deserting from a Ga. Regt. One of our company talked with him today and he said that as soon as he was out of the guard house he intended to run away again. Unfortunate man, he did not know at the time that he was condemned to death. He is quite a young man, about 24 years of age, a fine specimen of a man and looks well.

FEBRUARY 23: At 3 p.m. we fell in and marched to the front, formed line of battle on a high hill near Buzzard's Nest and about 5 miles from Dalton. Our whole division is here guarding Taylor's Gap. We formed line of battle at dark.

FEBRUARY 24: At sunrise our Co. and Co. C were ordered out as skirmishers. We marched to the front and deployed on a bridge about 500 yds. in front of our Div. All quiet until 1 p.m. when cannonading commenced in front and on our right.

At 4 p.m. Wheeler's cavalry, about 2,000 strong, and 4 pieces of artillery came in from the front and formed in 4 lines on a hill in front of us. They had been skirmishing hard all the forenoon but sustained no loss. Heavy firing with small arms on our right at 5 p.m. At 5 1/2 p.m., the enemy advanced on us and our cavalry fired one round at them when about 1,000 yds. off and retreated shamefully. We had to get behind trees and stumps to keep from being run over by them.

I have often heard that the cavalry would not fight, but this is the first time that I have seen them in battle and hope it will be the last if this is a sample of their fighting. The enemy then directed their fire, all small arms, at us, but did not hurt any of us. We



THERE - A BULLET HAS JUST GRAZED MY HEAD SO I MUST STOP WRITING AND GO TO SHOOTING.

were not slow in returning it but with what effect I cannot say. A few pieces of our artillery opened on them and drove them behind a hill.

About sunset their sharpshooters opened on us and are at it now and the

bullets are flying around me in fine style -- there -- a bullet has just grazed my head so I must stop writing and go to shooting. Firing ceased at dark but we were on the lookout all night and did not get a wink of sleep. It was very cold all night and no fire allowed.

FEBRUARY 25: At sunrise commenced fighting and continued until 4 1/2 p.m., when our ammunition gave out, and as the enemy had a cross fire on us of musketry, grape, shell, and cannister, we fell back in good order amid a shower of grape and cannister to our brigade.

We lost 4 men killed and 10 wounded; our company was very lucky having but one man wounded. This was a heavy loss for the number engaged for we had but 120 men and this a great deal more than the average in a large battle. Our artillery then opened on the enemy's batteries and there was continual roar for the balance of the day.

About 5 p.m. the Yankees charged a high hill on our right but our boys repulsed them handsomely with great slaughter. Tired and worn out as I was, it made my heart leap for joy to see the blue coated devils run, and I felt as though I could pursue them for miles without feeling tired, but they were not pursued.

After dark our Co. and 2 more companies went to work building breastworks in front of us for we expected that the Yankees would attack us in the morning. We turned to with a will, and a hard job we had, for we had but one old dull axe to work with. But we got through about midnight and are quite satisfied with our work for we have the best breastworks on the line...

FEBRUARY 26: The woods on our left, right, and front were on fire and burned furiously all night. Some of our wounded men that we could not get in, on account of the Yankee sharpshooters, were burned up.

(The battle quiets again and the Yankees withdraw to lick their wounds:)

FEBRUARY 28: At 9 a.m. we were ordered to fall in and we marched back to our old camps with light hearts and hooting at every cavalryman that we met, calling them cowards, etc. Our battle ground was at Taylor's Ridge, Comdg. Taylor's Gap, a splendid position, very strong. Everything that we left at camps was stolen.

(As a lull comes in the battle Watson's long awaited transfer to the Navy comes through:)

MARCH 2: In the afternoon a transfer for 17 of us came to go to the Navy and there was never such a joyful lot of fellows as we were since the war began. I sent a petition to the Secretary of Navy about a month ago asking to be transferred. In fact I, and many more, have been trying to get transferred for over two years and thank God have at last succeeded. Capt. Smith was greatly put out at it, for it leaves him with but a remnant of a company.

(Watson and his friend Alfred Lowe make preparations to leave but they have a few parting shots for the army:)

MARCH 5: It is just two years today that we've been in the Confederate Army and it has been two hard years for us for we have had nothing but starvation, hard marching and fighting and barefooted and ragged half the time...

(Watson, Captain Smith, and his friend Alfred Lowe head through Georgia noting the heavy fortifications along the way and stopping here and there for such amenities as whiskey at \$35 and \$25 a quart. They stop at Social Circle, Georgia, and his entry of March 7 reads:)

It is a small village and a very pretty place. We took dinner with Capt. Smith at his sister's house. Her name is Mrs. Nebhut. We had a splendid dinner after which quite a number of young ladies came and played on the piano and sang songs for us. It was the pleasantest and happiest day that I have spent since I left my happy home. The ladies were of the first families in the place, very pretty and accomplished, and very agreeable. Mrs. Nebhut is one of the finest women that I ever saw.

(The men arrive in Savannah but take their time reporting for duty at the ship to which they are assigned:)

MARCH 8: Took a long cruise about the city and had a fine time for the small sun of \$50 per man. Captain Smith was one of the party and of course we slept somewhere else and not at the Way Side Home (apparently the equivalent of the modern day U.S.O.).

MARCH 9: Spent the forenoon in walking about, drinking brandy and looking for a good sword we wished to present to Capt. Smith. We never told him a word about our intentions until I met and addressed him as follows: "Capt. Smith, we the 16 former members of your company now transferred to the Navy, have tried in vain to purchase a sword for you as a token of respect and esteem that we have for you as a friend, a gentleman, and as a gallant and efficient officer, and should the present amount \$160.00 be insufficient to purchase a good one, for we want you to have as good a sword as can be bought in the Confederacy, we request it as a right to let us know what the balance is and we will forward it to you."

Capt. Smith made a few appropriate remarks thanking us for the honor that we had conferred on him, etc., and assured us that he would do as requested and that he would always wear it with pride, etc. We then went to a bar room and took several drinks together and many toasts were drank and we had a very pleasant time generally.

(The transferred men report to their ship, the C.S. Ram Savannah, which is in the Savannah River, and bid farewell to Capt. Smith. Thus begins a daily routine of deck scrubbing and other menial chores such as 'holystoning' (a technique whereby the wooden decks of vessels are rubbed smooth with a large flat sandstone slab.) The food in the Confederate Navy is far superior to that of the Army and conditions in general are much better for the men. There are even certain comforts that are not available at the front:)

(Watson dances:)

MARCH 16: I and my chum, Alfred Lowe, went on shore after quarters and am sorry to say we got most gloriously drunk. We met our 1st Boatswain's Mate and our Yeoman, both very fine men, and we went to a bar room and took several drinks together, each treating several times, then we took a cruise about the city, went into several houses of doubtful character and then got to drinking again. I spent \$55.00 which was all the money I had and the others each spent as much or more than I did, for liquor is \$2.00 per drink, measured out at that, a little over half a gill to a drink.

(Watson pays the piper:)

MARCH 17: Felt very sick all day from the effects of the bad liquor that I drank yesterday and must certainly say that I feel heartily ashamed of myself for making such an ass of myself. Luckily for me I had sense enough left in me to go on board in time and turn in.

(Watson decides to reform and makes a resolution which may be difficult to

keep:)

MARCH 18: I feel much better today and have made up my mind to go on no more spree during the war.

(The routine of ship maintenance and drill are interrupted only by an occasional rainstorm or other matters:)

MARCH 20: In the afternoon all hands were mustered on the spar-deck to hear the sentence of Harry Burns read. He had been court martialed for striking an officer on Christmas night last and was sentenced by court martial to be shot to death with musketry, but the president had reprieved him and reduced him to the rate of landsman. He was a quartermaster at the time of the fuss.

MARCH 26: In the afternoon all hands were mustered on the spar-deck to hear the sentence of Harry Burns read. He had been court martialed for striking an officer on Christmas night last and was sentenced by court martial to be shot to death with musketry, but the president had reprieved him and reduced him to the rate of landsman. He was a quartermaster at the time of the fuss.

It appears that he and others-on board on Christmas night broke into the spirit room and got a lot of liquor and got drunk and were very noisy. The officers armed themselves and came among them and ordered them to stop their noise, but this made them worse, and Burns struck one of the officers and cursed them all. They were all put in irons and kept on the spar-deck for several days and nights, and it was bitter cold. They had to sit on the cold iron which nearly killed them. At the last the doctor interfered and told the Captain that it would kill them if they were kept there any longer. They were then sent on shore to jail.

(The following entry is partly torn away, but apparently the war has caused some breakdown in the quality of the Navy's food:)

MARCH 31: we get--for there is none in Savannah--but rice instead which is not half cooked and no salt in it, but this is no fault of the cooks. Nearly all hands are growling and saying that the rice is making them blind but I say nothing for I have not yet forgotten the hard times that I've seen in the Army.

(Infractions in military decorum are some of the few diversions from the daily routine of the Navy:)

APRIL 3: The captain had a man put in double irons for walking in a swaggering manner, but he is a bad man and all the officers are down on him. He was one of the men that got drunk and abused the officers on Christmas night and is one of the most disagreeable men that I ever saw.

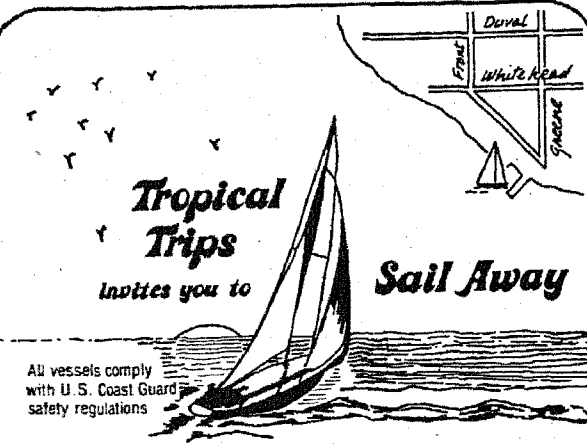
(Watson was to open a carpenter shop in Key West after his return from the war and his talents are discovered and put to use despite his grumbling. The following entry is also torn:)

APRIL 6: I did some carpenters work but I don't know how they have found...I am a carpenter. But I do not intend to...for them for I did not ship for carpenter...ordinary seamen.

(Watson continues to grumble:)

APRIL 11: In the afternoon manned two boats and took in a lot of ladies and officers and pulled (rowed) about harbor and down to the floating battery. Got back to the Ram at 7 1/2 p.m. feeling very tired for we were pulling from 2 p.m. till 7 p.m. It may be very fine sport for them to be

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pulled about but not very pleasant to us.

(Watson learns that his former Army company, Company K has dwindled down to three men because of transfers, but the ship to which Watson is attached becomes crowded as more and more men are deployed into the Savannah area. The Yankees are not too far away for men to desert.)

APRIL 19: One of our boats went down the river in the morning after oysters, two midshipmen and four men went in her. They got a boat load and went on shore and built a fire and while they were opening and eating, Robert Bryson and another man sneaked off and deserted and have gone to Fort Pulaski to the Yankees. The boat did not get back to the ship till next morning.

APRIL 20: At daylight our boat came back to the ship and confirmed the report about the two men deserting. They had remained with the boat and searched all about for the two men thinking that they may have got lost in the swamp, but after waiting until nearly daylight, they were satisfied that they had deserted.

Bryson was transferred from our company with me, am greatly surprised at his deserting from the navy where he had plenty to eat and little to do.

(The following is also torn)

....of a chance to desert while in the army, starved, half naked and marched nearly to...

(The weather seems to be on Watson's side but he continues to grumble.)

APRIL 28: In the afternoon our two boats were manned and took a lot of ladies out pulling. It began to rain soon after we started and all hands got a good ducking. I was glad of it and hope it will sicken the ladies of boat-

ing for a while at least. It is very fine sport for them to be pulled about for miles but very hard work for us. Rained all day.

(Watson is reminded of Key West and becomes homesick for his island.)

MAY 1: Some fine flowers were brought aboard today, a sure sign that cold weather is over and oh! how it made me long to see my dear sunny home where we have flowers all the year.

(Life in the navy may have its advantages over the army, but Watson exposes a few details about the Confederate navy.)

MAY 10: Issued bacon, beef and vegetables today. It is the first meat that we have drawn since I have been on board. The crew was paid off during the day, but I got no money and don't expect to get any for the next six months, for it takes nearly all my wages to pay for soap and tobacco. Soap is \$7.30 a bar and tobacco is \$3.00 per lb. Some of the men have been on board over a year and this is the first time they have drawn any money and none of them drew over \$30.00. Some did not draw a cent.

(Watson receives news that the southern forces are winning many victories in the state of Virginia and the men from the ship decide to attack and take a Yankee gunboat that is blockading one of the channels to Savannah.)

JUNE 3: Received a dispatch stating that our men had attacked the U.S. Steamer Water Witch and that the Yankees had killed and wounded all our men except 30 who had made their escape. When I heard the news I felt as if I had lost every friend that I had for I never

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felt so bad in my life. All the officers and men on board of our ship looked down in the mouth, but thank God, in about an hour a dispatch was received from one of our officers that went on the expedition stating that our men had captured the Water Witch with small loss on our side. This made us all feel much better.

(Part of this entry is also torn)

...Slowly and continuously until about 1 a.m.

JUNE 3: They were then within about 150 yds. of the steamer when the boats were hailed by the Yankees, they received the defiant answer of "Rebels, give way boys!" They then gave way on their oars with a regular Confederate yell. The Yankees then opened fire on them with small arms, they being too near for their cannon to bear on the boats, who were soon alongside.

They boarded her on the starboard and port bow and on the starboard and port quarters. The boarding nettings being up and our cutlasses being very dull they had considerable trouble in getting on board, but they soon succeeded in gaining the decks, but not until several of our men were killed and wounded.

A desperate hand to hand fight then took place, our men yelling like fiends all the time. The fight only lasted about five minutes after our boys gained the decks when the Yankees surrendered.

(Watson learns that the casualties are four men wounded and four men killed including the Lieutenant who commanded the expedition. He participates in the Lieutenant's funeral.)

JUNE 4: During the day, his

remains, together with those of the others killed, were brought to the city and in the afternoon all the men were (torn) to the funeral of Lieutenant Pelot. As the rain continued to fall in torrents, we marched with the corpse, through mud and water ankle deep, to the Episcopal Church where the funeral service was read over him, then marched to the Laurel Grove Cemetery, about three miles from the city, and buried him with military honors.

Laurel Grove is the prettiest cemetery I have ever seen. Marched back to the ship through mud and rain and arrived at 7 1/2 p.m., all hands wet to the skin and our clothes full of mud.

JUNE 7: Twenty-one of our men came back to the ship in the afternoon, the rest of them are still on board the prize. ...The expedition consisted of 7 boats and 120 men and officers.

(Watson is detailed to remove the guns from the captured ship. The heat of the Georgia summer makes it impossible for the men to sleep aboard ship and the men relocate with provisions in a nearby warehouse.)

JUNE 22: Carpenters at work building a shed to cook in for it is so very warm on board that the cooks cannot stand it.

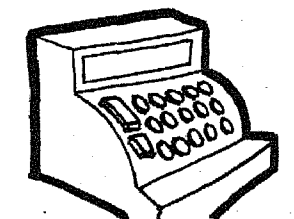
Received a letter from my old friend Mr. Crusoe in Tampa, Fla. It is the first letter that I have received from him since I've been in the navy. He says that he wrote several. He is suffering very much, poor man, his family is sick and he can't hire a servant in the place, consequently he has to wash, cook and do everything himself. When the Yankees took Tampa they kept him a prisoner under guard all the time

continued on page 26

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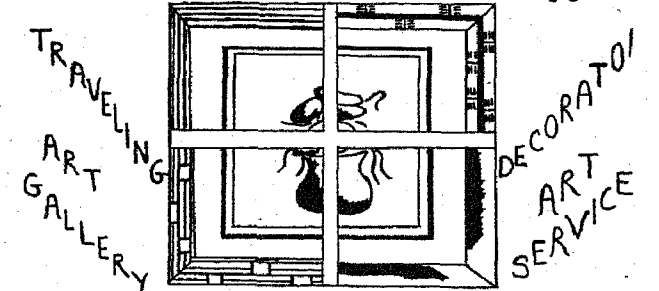
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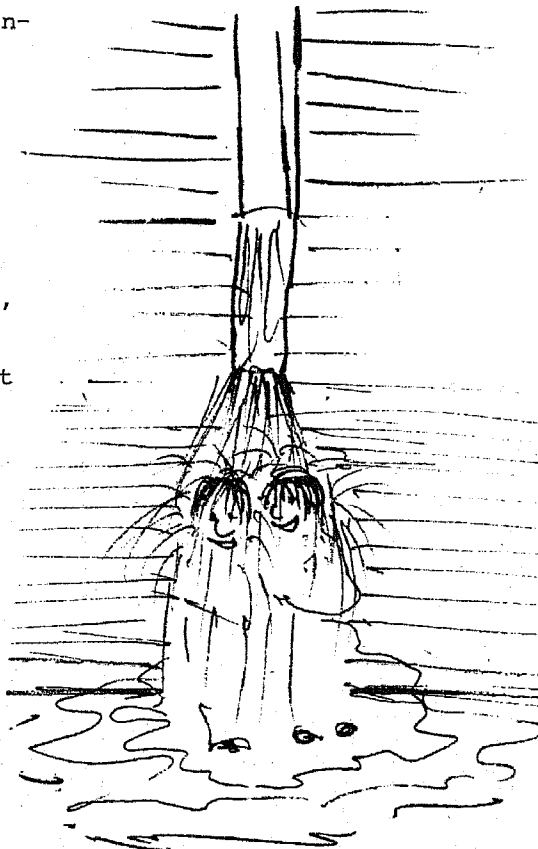
LAST WEDNESDAY I watched a heavy rain running in the streets and I began reminiscing. My mother bought me a bright yellow raincoat and a new pair of black rubber boots. The raincoat had strong metal snaps and a hood. She helped me into the raincoat and boots, then sent me out of the house with a motherly admonition -- "Stay out of puddles and don't get wet." Well, she knew this was impossible, as I was going outside to play in the rain. I said I would do my best and ran outside. (Actually I sort of waddled out of the house. Those yellow raincoats were as stiff as a double starched shirt, and we looked like yellow robots trying to be casual.)

OUT OF THE house and into the rain I headed in my new yellow raincoat, hood, and black rubber boots. I felt completely safe from the rain. Suddenly, I lost this safe feeling, as a trickle of water ran down my neck and onto my back. Those of you who had similar raincoats have noted this defect of manufacture. Also I noticed that there was a 6 inch gap between the bottom of my raincoat and my boots. This soon led to soaked pants and water sloshing in my boots. Another defect of these raincoats is that you cannot get to your pants pocket without unsnapping a few snaps, and no 5 or 7 year old kid could do so without a tool. I always had this vague fear of being snapped in permanently and never being free of my yellow raincoat. As I remember, these raincoats always came in "too" sizes, either too big or too small, not unlike military clothing.

WELL, I was outside and wet and noticed that whatever my yellow raincoat touched it left a mark or stain. I felt that if I removed the raincoat, I could save it from harm (after all it was brand new), so off came the yellow raincoat and off came the boots. I carefully rolled my shoes, socks, boots and all into the raincoat turned inside out to prevent further stains. I rolled up my pants and ran to the nearest puddle and waded in. My figuring was I was wet already and I might as well be punished for a little wet as a lot of wet. Guess what my punishment was when I went home? Yep, I had to go take a hot bath. Funny how baths aren't nearly the fun puddle wading was.

Puddle splashing and wading were great fun, but as I grew older and graduated to men's grey raincoats, splashing and wading became children's games.

I graduated to "Rainspout Water Dodging" and other water sports. In order to rainspout water dodge, you must first know the fundamentals.



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YOU FIND a tall 2 1/2 story house with an A-frame roof, as on old Conch houses; then there has to be rain gutters to catch the water and finally the down spout or pipe leading to the cistern has to be broken off at least 15 feet from the ground. You want some pipe coming from the roof to help build up the volume of water, thus increasing the velocity of the falling water. Once found you can begin "rainspout water dodging."

Ordinarily adults and generally sane people avoid these torrents of splashing water, thus the dodging. As kids we would run back and forth under the downspout as fast as we could, trying at first not to get too wet, and soon one of us would stand under the torrent of water and dare the others to do the same. We would push and shove, each trying to remain in the center, getting the water to bounce off the top of our heads and shout like crazy. But soon the owner of the house would notice us and chase us home with threats to tell our fathers and shouting, "we would catch our deaths of cold" and "crazy kids today."

I REMEMBER only one bad thing happened while pursuing this sport, and I repeat the story here for you would-be "rainspout water dodgers."

A friend and I had just completed a successful run of dodging on this house where most kids were afraid to go (there was a big dog inside the house, and sometimes he was able to get out), when my friend said he knew a great place where no one had gone before, so soon we were on our way. In our neighborhood were many tall Conch-houses and all had gutters, and most were broken at the downspout as no one bothered with cistern water.

THE HOUSE we went to had a covered cistern (boards were placed over the cistern to prevent dogs, cats, or kids from falling in), and the downspout drained right on the boards as it had for years. We ran for the falling water, each trying to be first. I was slower, fat can slow even the best of us, and that created a problem for my friend (I was more cautious than he, and if other circumstances had put me first I would have checked the boards first). He jumped right under the waterfall at the rear of the cistern and then froze as if struck. He began slowly sinking down a few inches at a time, and he was too surprised to move. I thought he was stuck or something, so I ran over to help him and we both sank a few more inches. At last the boards reached a spot where they held and my friend and I were only inches deep in cistern water. As this cistern was over 6 feet deep and filled with water, I was worried that I should be submerged, as neither my friend nor I were good swimmers then. Also, this cistern was filled with smelly stagnant water, as it had lain unused for years.

MY FRIEND gave a leap and cleared the cistern ledge by a foot, leaving me standing there. I tried moving, the boards gave a little, another move -- another give. Finally, desperate, I jumped to the near end of the cistern wall and clung to safety; we started laughing, and I rolled off the wall and right into a small muddy lily pond. Well, I know a cure for mud and headed back for the old faithful rainspout to clean off the muck.

I still like rainy days, not gentle showers, but the kind they call "gully washers" -- watch out rainspouts, here I come.

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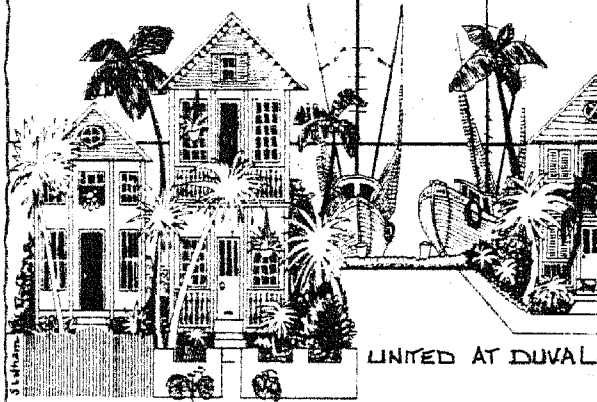
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editorial

by Bill Huckel

I THOUGHT that I would address this editorial to some of the areas that we wish to get into in the coming months.

RECENTLY the County Commission in a 3-2 vote decided to accept the Toppino bid to work on Northside Drive, even though their bid price came in way over the estimate that the county consulting engineers had prepared for the job. We will want to find out why this bid was not put out for re-bid, how widely the job was advertised, what the general practices are in other counties when the sole bid is way out of line with estimates, etc. We realize that we are an isolated county, that not that many contractors locally can handle this sort of work, and that there is a schedule to keep, but when the costs seem to be so out of line (several hundred thousand dollars) then we want to see if there isn't another way to get this done more cheaply.

IN OUR *Some Remarks* column this issue, we reprint a letter from the Health Services Agency for Monroe County in which they unequivocally stated that they never recommended approval of the County's \$10,000 subsidy contract with the J & J Ambulance Company. The reason that they did not approve this contract (or disapprove, for that matter) was that they were unable to make any judgments about the advisability of entering into it, because they said that they were unable to receive adequate financial and run data information from the ambulance company. What is particularly bothersome here is that it is a function of the H.S.A. to conduct reviews for the citizens of Monroe County in matters of health planning. We did not get such a review, and after only five months into the contract

year, the J & J Ambulance Company chose to terminate its contract. We are not passing judgment at this point on whether or not the Ambulance Company was justified in terminating the contract, but we are saying that we are going to take a close-up look at what transpired during this period.

THE COUNTY COMMISSION has been accused of being dominated by the "Key West Three" to the detriment of the Upper Keys. Charges of "Bubba-ism" echo in the halls during the often rancorous meetings. What is happening? Is there really a gang-up against Commissioners Shipley and Schloesser? We think so, and we would like to provide our readers with our reasons why we feel that this is so.

WE FEEL that we were badly let down by the County Commission and the City Commission in their efforts to save Rest Beach from the developers. During the election for their seats, City Commissioners Esquinaldo and Weekley both stated that they wanted this area saved from development but, with the exception of Commissioner Mary Graham's efforts, the city has not shown much interest in saving it. The County Commissioners made sounds like they were going to try to save this beach, but nothing happened. This is another area that we want to look into.

WE WILL CONTINUE to monitor the activities at the salt ponds. Bill Westray and Richard Marsh wrote excellent articles on why this valuable area should be kept from the developers. We felt that the County Commission, voting 3-2, was wrong to insist on the salt ponds as the site for the new weather facility.

BILL WESTRAY will continue his examination of our utilities which began in this issue with his report on the City Electric system. Up-coming articles will deal with the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority and our solid waste solutions.

OF COURSE, we will continue to present our readers with the results of the questionnaires that we will send out to all candidates seeking election this Fall. And, naturally, we will continue to endorse the candidates who we feel are the best qualified for the job.

FINALLY, we can use all the reader input available. If you are aware of something very wrong (or very right, for that matter!) that you feel should be reported on, please write or call us.

Thank you.

Some Remarks continued from page 12

have announced a nine-week Creative Theatre Workshop, starting June 19. Everyone is invited, experience not important. There will be a real stage production at the end of each week, and you will be a part of it.

The program will include classes in acting, dramatic writing, dance and choreography, musical comedy, scenic design. Instructors chosen so far are Sam Carleton, June Hunzinger, Wayne Pelke, Billy Sumner and Edward Lee. The latter will also serve as overall director in charge of results.

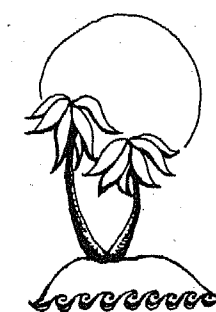
During the nine weeks, June 19-August 19, sessions will be held mornings, afternoons and evenings Monday through Thursday, with performances on Saturday. Registration for courses will take place at the Waterfront Playhouse June 9-10 and 16-17, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., entry fee one dollar for each series of classes.

Those interested can phone on the days noted, but more information is available if you stop by personally.

THOSE WHO were fortunate enough to receive invitations were treated to a recent evening of champagne and piano music which was held in this city on Monday, May 15th. The recital was hosted by Messrs. Maltais and Bloomquist of Five Go Lane and performed by Mr. Maltais amid attractive surroundings and spanned a 200 year period of music history.

The first selection, a sonata by Alessandro Scarlatti might have been enough to send serious music lovers scrambling for the exits, but as Mr. Maltais later stated the piece was originally intended for the harpsichord and something was lost in the translation to the modern keyboard instrument. The second selection, a difficult Mozart sonata amply restored the audience's confidence in the artist and it was performed with brilliant dexterity. Twentieth century French works by Ravel, et al. were also attacked with great professional zeal and sensitivity. Mr. Maltais, whose bearded countenance belies his twenty three years is relatively new to Key West, having relocated of late from the Boston area where he received his professional training and was quite active artistically. It is his wish to establish himself musically in this locality and to avail himself to those local residents who desire piano instruction.

Malcolm Ross



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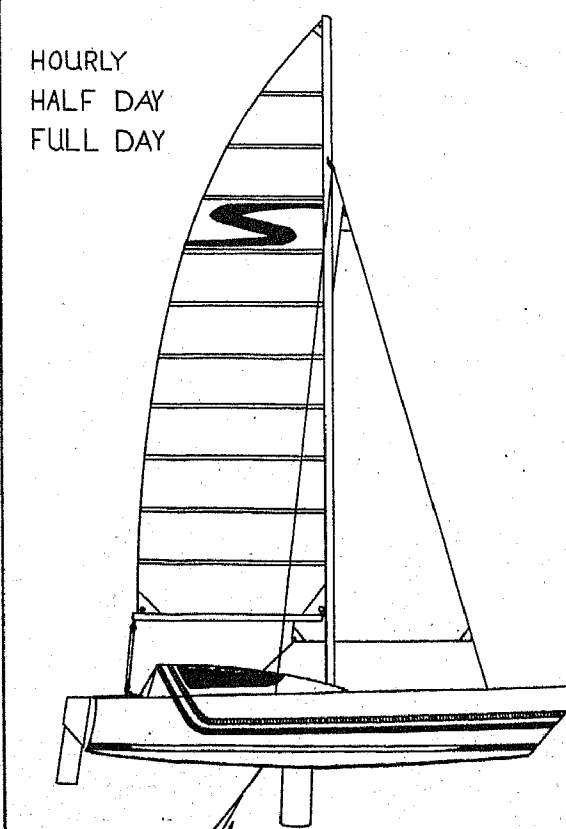
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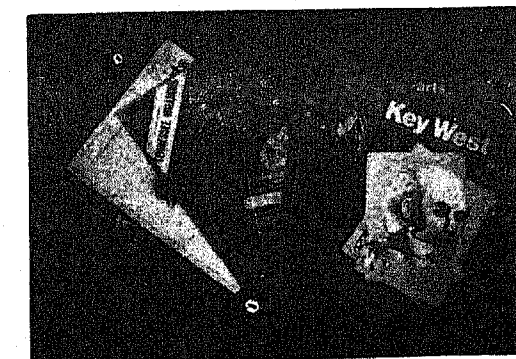
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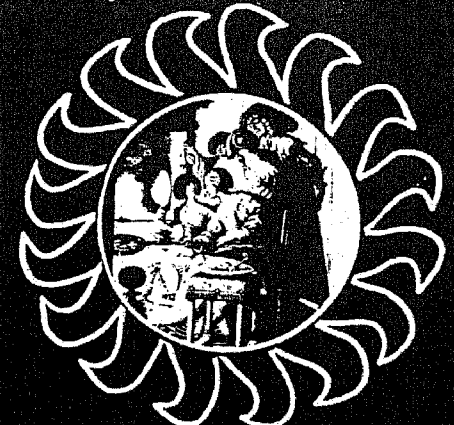
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*** Chez Emile ***

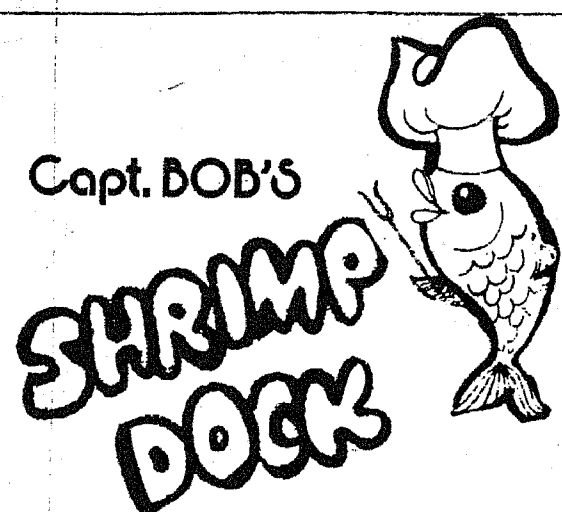


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COMMENT

by Bill Westray

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CITY ELECTRIC SYSTEM

DURING THE FIRST WEEK of May, Key West and the Lower Keys experienced a series of electrical power interruptions, of an hour or so in duration, when the demand load exceeded the electrical supply from the city-owned City Electric System (CES).

The basic reason for the interruption was that the large steam turbine generating plant at Stock Island, with a capacity of 37 megawatts (million watts), had to be shut down unexpectedly for repairs. The remainder of the system, consisting mainly of five smaller, older, steam generators at the Grinnell Street plant, and a few Diesel units at Stock Island and Cudjoe Key, was unable to generate enough electricity to meet the peak demand loads, because one of the 16.5 megawatt units at Grinnell was undergoing planned major overhaul.

IN LATE 1977, the Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce released an economic treatise prepared by Phillip Dolbert, M.D., Chairman of its Economic Development Committee, which purported to show that CES had a vast surplus of electrical power. Dr. Dolbert quoted consumption figures of about 300 million kilowatt hours (KWH) per year for the past several years, and went on to state that CES was capable of generating and selling over 558 million KWH based on 85 per cent of the Grinnell Street capacity alone -- that is, with the 37 megawatt plant at Stock Island completely out of service. This would amount to about 86 per cent more production than the system has produced annually in the last three years.

NEVERTHELESS, the May blackouts were a fact, as were the blackouts ear-

lier this year and last year. If we have such a surplus, why the blackouts? Well, the presumed surplus seems to involve a concept called Firm Generation Capacity. This may be defined simply as the amount of electrical supply that the utility system could generate with its largest single generating unit out of service.

The largest single unit at CES is the 37 megawatt Stock Island generator. The Grinnell plant has three 16.5 megawatt units, and two 5 megawatt units, for a total of about 59.5 megawatts. The Diesel units total about 11 megawatts for a grand total of about 107.5 megawatts.

NOW, subtract the 37 megawatt Stock Island plant and we have slightly over 70 megawatts left. We must reduce this a little more to take care of the service load, electricity used in the plant to run pumps, fans and blowers, so we end up with a Firm Generation Capacity of 68 to 70 megawatts.

But on Friday, May 5, during the last blackout, Tom Kelly, CES Chief Engineer and Assistant Manager, was quoted in another paper as saying, "The maximum safe output of the Grinnell Street Plant is 48 megawatts. When the demand exceeds that...we start pulling switches."

THE PEAK DEMAND on that Friday reached 57 megawatts and CES had to "pull" six feeder lines at once, blacking out a large part of downtown Key West.

WHAT IS THE true answer regarding the capacity of CES to meet customer demands? Unfortunately it isn't neat

and finite. Firm Generation Capacity is really only an arbitrary figure. To say that such capacity is 68 to 70 megawatts is meaningless if two of the systems largest units, totalling 54 megawatts, are out of service at the same time.

Furthermore, since the electrical energy of a utility system can't be stored in tanks like water, the amount of energy that can be generated in a 24-hour period is rather meaningless, too.

FROM THE customer viewpoint, the only capacity that has any real meaning is the capacity of the system to deliver electrical energy on demand when a switch is turned on! During the blackouts in May the system could not meet this demand for all its customers.

A CES engineering spokesman, asked whether he felt that the present system was adequate to meet current demands, answered in a strong affirmative. In the last year the system has generated and sold about 303 million kilowatt hours of electricity, with only two or three periods of blackouts or brownouts caused by failure of the 37 megawatt generator and one other. Peak demand during this period was about 62 megawatts, usually in the early evening. This could be met comfortably with only the 37 megawatt unit out of service, but with it and one other out of service, brownouts occurred.

ASKED WHETHER the present system could produce the 558 million kilowatt hours per year that the Chamber of Commerce suggested in the Dolbert report, the engineer laughed and replied, "Only in theory under 'utopian' demand patterns." He went on to say that he felt the system could absorb a 25 per cent increase to, say, 375 million kilowatt hours per year.

The writer did some simple arithmetic based on past yearly consumption and peak demand patterns, and concluded that the present system could probably meet all demands without brownout, with the 37 megawatt Stock Island generator out of service, and all others operating at maximum capacity, while producing 335 to 340 million kilowatt hours per year and meeting peak demands of 68 to 70 megawatts. This amounts to about a 10 per cent increase over present system production.

THE ENGINEER then discussed future demands and plans to meet them. He foresees a demand for about 400 million KWH per year by 1985. This will require some system expansion either by tieline to Florida Power and Light (FPL) on the mainland, or by installation of large gas turbine peaking units in the Key West area.

"I favor the tieline," he declared. "We're talking about a 50 megawatt tieline capacity from the mainland all the way to Key West...more in the Upper Keys to service the co-op. It would be a joint venture with Florida Keys Cooperative from Jewfish Creek to Marathon, and a CES line from Marathon on down. For CES we're talking in the neighborhood of \$15 million capital investment."

ASKED ABOUT the reservations expressed by FPL about supplying power beyond 1985, the engineer replied, "If we have the tieline, I'm confident the power will be there...50 megawatts is a drop in the bucket to FPL."

He continued, "If we can't get the tieline, we'll have to go to a large peaking unit, probably a combined-cycle, gas-turbine unit of about 20 to 25 megawatts. The first stage of these units is like a jet engine and you can get 10 to 12 megawatts in a few seconds. The second stage recovers the waste ex-

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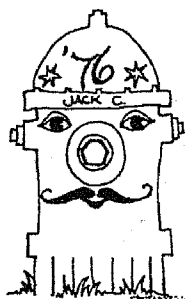
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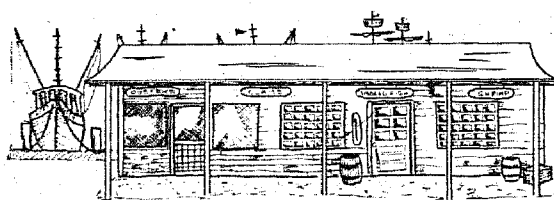
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haust heat from the first cycle to approximately double the generating capacity."

ASKED WHAT effect he thought the possible Navy pull-out might have on the system, the engineer answered that, up to now, the Navy phase-down has been about matched by increased civilian demand, and he felt that this might hold for the future.

TO SUMMARIZE our findings, we conclude that:

Our recent "brownouts" and "black-outs" were caused by the loss of two large generating units at the same time.

The system capacity is adequate for present needs and could probably accept a ten per cent increase in loading without noticeable degradation in service.

A 25 per cent increase in loading might be feasible but some degradation in service would occur unless the system were expanded to meet peak demands.

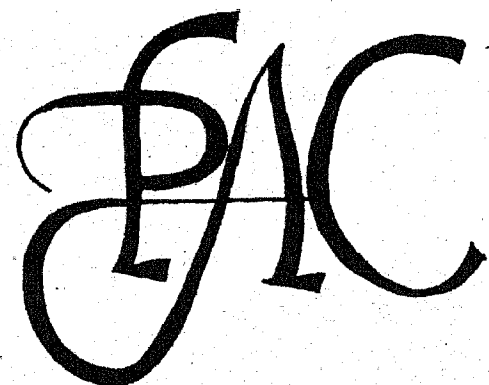
Under no circumstances could the system accept the 86 per cent increase in loading suggested by the Chamber of Commerce report without major increased capacity or unacceptable degradation in service.

To meet future demands in the mid-eighties, the system should be provided with a tie-line to electrical energy sources on the mainland.

Robert Watson continued from page 19 they remained there. They would not even allow him a drink of water.

(Summer also brings back Watson's old illness and he is taken with violent headaches, cough and fever. Despite his poor health he is able to engage in evening diversions in Savannah. He also has a few comments about the state of culture during wartime.)

JULY 4: I went to the theatre at night, a miserable affair, but does



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JULY 11: I went to the theatre at night. While there a fire broke out and nearly everybody started for the fire, but I did not leave until the performance was ended and then took my time in going to the fire which proved to be a house of ill fame that was on fire and it burnt to the ground.

(Watson philosophizes about work:)

JULY 19: I love to be at work for it keeps my mind occupied. When I am idle I am always thinking of home, which makes me feel sad for I don't know anything about my family, whether they are dead or alive, as I have not heard from them since Jan. 1, 1864.

(Watson's health does not improve during the summer even with the addition of quinine. Many citizens of Savannah and soldiers desert to the northern forces and the city becomes a repository for six hundred Yankee officers brought here as prisoners of war. Watson finally receives word about his family from a Captain Coate who has come to Savannah:)

AUGUST 20: He tells me that he saw my brother, William, in Havana two weeks ago, and he says that they have heard that I was dead, that they wrote me often and received no answer.

Strange, for I have wrote many letters home since I've been here and have not heard a word from them. My brother George (apparently still in Key West) is in partnership with J.F. Parker and doing well, so he says. George sent his photograph and he was kind enough to give it to me. We drank a bottle of fine old Cognac brandy.

(Watson naturally suffers the

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effects of the alcohol the next day, but before the Captain leaves he gives him some letters to deliver to Key West via Havana. Fever and chills and quinine pills fill the days right up to his birthday:)

SEPTEMBER 9: My birthday, 29 years old today, not a cent in my pocket, my health gone forever, far away from home and but slim prospects of ever getting there again. This is encouraging, certainly.

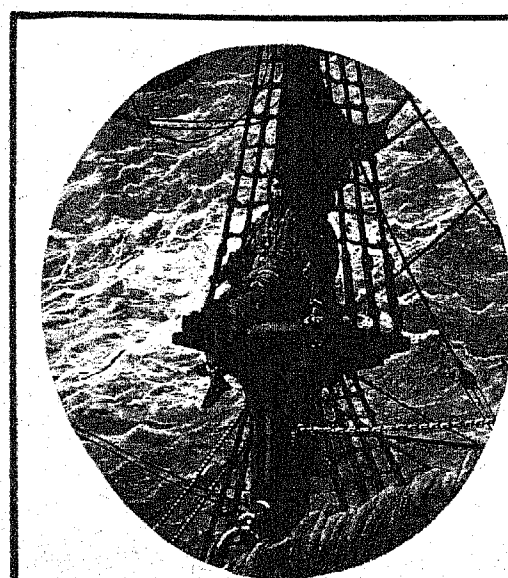
(More Yankee prisoners arrive in Savannah:)

SEPTEMBER 10: Forty two of our men from the different vessels, to the amt. of 100 men, were sent up town to guard a lot of Yankee prisoners. I expect they will have to guard them until they are exchanged and I fear that they never will be, for the Yankee government refuses to exchange privates but will exchange officers. I have not seen the prisoners, but all who have say it is an awful sight.

SEPTEMBER 27: ... I was busy all day mending my old clothes and blanket, the latter had twenty three holes in it made by bullets at the battle of Missionary Ridge (see Solares Hill, May 1978) ...

SEPTEMBER 28: 1000 more prisoners came in by the train. Jacob Mail, a young fellow, who deserted from the Yankees in Key West in 1862, and came to Tampa and joined our company, is among the prisoners. He deserted from our company while in Kentucky in 1862 and joined the Yankees again. We would never have known that the fellow was there but the fool made himself known and wanted to join our service again...I expect he will be shot, he certainly deserves it.

(Watson receives another letter from



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Mr. Crusoe in Tampa which describes some-what the wartime conditions in Florida:)

OCTOBER 4: My poor friend sees pretty hard times of it. Can't buy anything for Confederate money and has to live on corn meal and water. His family has lately been increased by the birth of a son.

(Many of the Yankee prisoners in Savannah take an oath of parole and go to work for the Confederate government, particularly those who are mechanics. Most are sick or in poor health and an exchange of 3200 northern men for a like number of southern prisoners in similar state of health is only the beginning of massive movements of prisoners between the two sides. General Sherman's devastating march to the sea is in full swing and every able bodied man is mustered to the front.)

DECEMBER 9: Great excitement in the city, the Yankees reported near the place, expect an attack on the city in the morning...

DECEMBER 10: Fighting near the city all day.

(Skirmishing near Savannah and heavy cannonading continues, and the men make preparations to fight at a moment's notice.)

DECEMBER 14: Received the unpleasant intelligence that Fort McAllister was taken by the Yankees.

DECEMBER 17: General Beauregard came to Screven's Ferry where we are lying and one of our four boats took him up to the city.

(It is only a matter of time before the city of Savannah falls to Sherman's forces and the men realize they may have to destroy the ship.)

DECEMBER 21: At 3 a.m. the Navy Yards and Fort Jackson were set on fire, also the gunboat Isendigger was

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fired at 7 a.m. The Yankee flag was hoisted on the Marine Barracks at 7 a.m. and shortly afterwards they hoisted one on Fort Jackson.

At 9 a.m. the steamer Swan was fired. At 10 1/2 a.m. the Yankees opened fire on us from the city. We were not slow in returning the compliment, but with what effect I cannot say.

The Yankees made excellent shots, early every one struck our sides or or smoke stack. One shell went down the smoke stack and rested on the grating but did not explode. They ceased fire at 11 1/2 a.m. but commenced shelling again at 4 p.m. and continued till after dark.

We got the Ram ready for firing during the afternoon. Coffee, sugar, bread, etc. were given to the men by the wholesale. At dark the crew were armed with rifles and all the guns loaded, run in, depressed and spiked. The crew then left in boats by divisions and landed at Scriven's Ferry, S. Carolina. The Ram was then set on fire.

The Capt. and the 1st Lieut. were the last to leave her. I was in the boat that took them on shore. The steamer Firefly was then fired and we took up our lines of march and camped at midnight, all hands very tired.

The Ram blew up at 20 minutes after 11 p.m. We were about 8 miles from the ferry when we heard the explosion, it was terrific, it lit the heavens for miles, we could see to pick up a pin where we were and the noise was awful. She had in 7 1/2 tons of powder and several hundred shells. The roads were lit up for miles by the fires from the burning vessels and houses. All the troops left Savannah 24 hours before we did. Met a few cavalry on the road.

To be continued

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Reviewing Stand by Dorothy Raymer

NOVELIST EVAN H. RHODES is a modern mystic.

In an interview at his secluded Key West house, he said that his latest book, "An Army of Children," had been inspired by a dream.

"In my sleep I saw a vision of thousands upon thousands of children marching in endless procession." Rhodes associated the dream sequence with the Children's Crusade which took place in the year A.D. 1212.

THE WRITER began research at the Monroe County Public Library here. "The service and the library are wonderful. They even sent away to get needed books for me," he praised.

Not all of the volume was written in Key West, nor was all the extensive research done here, of course. Rhodes not only examined historical resources in New York and London, as well as other European locations, but actually traveled the route of the crusaders, much of it on foot, except for brief stretch near the end of the pilgrimage.

HANDSOME, dark-haired, deep-eyed Rhodes says his name was changed to what is it now from Russian-Lithuanian heritage. He lives and works in both New York and Key West. The cottage retreat here was built more than three years ago and Rhodes put in his own floor and the ceiling. His favorite place for writing is on the back patio which is roofed, but open-sided and which overlooks a garden and lawn.

THE LITTLE RESIDENCE is surrounded by luxurious tropic plants, shrubs, trees, flowers and vines. Crimson bougainvillea embowers the front porch.

For physical activity, the author likes to swim. He is trim and lean.

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He revealed that he used to be on a track team at school and his special field was in high and low hurdling.

"AN ARMY OF CHILDREN" will appear on syndicated TV, PBS, first in Washington and New York. Regular movie rights are also under consideration. Meanwhile, the young writer is off on a strenuous promotional tour that is a test of stamina, taking in personal appearances and autographing sessions in New York, Boston, Cleveland, Nashville, Houston, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco and Seattle, before returning to Miami.

ANOTHER BOOK is also in the making, a non-fiction one. Like most professionals, Rhodes declines to talk about it in advance. He has also written "The Prince of Central Park," "The Carrion Eaters," and "Only You, Dick Daring."

A sense of adventure pervades all of his books, plus a deep appreciation and understanding of young persons. These factors are especially accented in "An Army of Children," with the main characters being adolescents. But the analysis presentation of the theme is adult. The plot is complex, like a rich tapestry of medieval times.

THE OPENING SCENES are in London where Baron Thorne, and Roger and Jonathan, the two young heroes, first meet. Roger is to go to school in Paris under the watchful eye of Harold, a tutor who wishes to become a monk and make a pilgrimage to Rome.

Jonathan is the precocious son of a Jewish physician living in London. His parents are killed in a riot in the Jewish quarter, but the young boy is saved from death by Baron Thorne, father of Roger.

ALL OF THEM embark for France, and there the main adventure begins, and other characters enter the panoramic setting that covers the tortuous route

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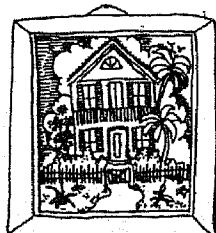
through France, Germany, Italy, with two different routes taken, on to Jerusalem.

Religious fervor instigated the Children's Crusade. Some 20,000 children, ranging from youngsters of six on through teenagers to the twenty-year old span, took part. Recruits joined as the mass surge to seek to "free" the Holy Land from the infidels by sheer force of numbers and faith.

IN TERMS of psychology, I suppose the movement might be described as mass hysteria, but certainly spiritual inspiration was the force which kept this band of young people and children attempting to achieve the impossible dream... belief that love would restore the kingdom of heaven on earth.

A LITTLE CALICO cat names Tanis, or Patches, is introduced to the tale, and thereby twitches the tail of a real cat. Patches belongs to Fred and Jan Belland who live across the street from Rhodes. While Rhodes was struggling and discouraged at times, the cat used to come to his patio and quietly keep the author company. Just the presence of the friendly feline often gave him the incentive needed to keep going.

DESPITE THE TRAGEDY of the crusade, in which only a handful of children survived, this is not a black-clouded book, because Evan Rhodes is able to "inject" the valiant spirit of adventure and keep the reader fascinated.



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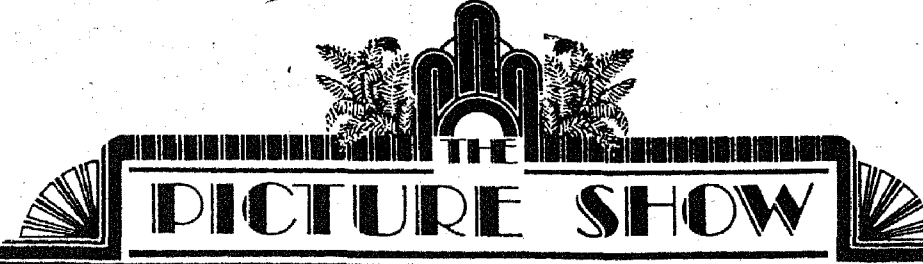
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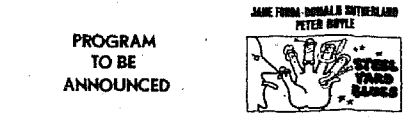


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KEY WEST'S HOROSCOPE

BY EMMA CATES

Sun in Gemini; June 22 in Cancer; July 23 in Leo
 Venus in Cancer; June 16 in Leo; July 12 in Virgo
 Mercury in Gemini; June 18 in Cancer; July 3 in Leo
 Saturn in Leo; July 26 enters Virgo
 Jupiter in Cancer
 Mars in Leo; June 14 in Virgo
 Uranus in Scorpio, retrograde, turns direct on July 21
 Neptune in Sagittarius, retrograde
 Pluto in Libra, retrograde, turns direct on June 24
 North Node Libra 2 degrees

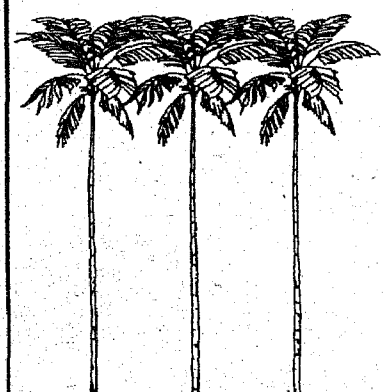
June/July

Venus and Jupiter, the two benefics conjoin in Cancer in June transiting the 2nd house of money in the chart of Key West. This aspects a grand trine in water signs in the city's chart. This is the most favorable aspect in astrology -- so the money picture for Key West is very good. More jobs than usual will be available this summer, and summer business should be more active than it has been in the past.

The full moon in July will be in 27 degrees of Capricorn, the exact degree of the sun sign of Key West's chart. This will bring a culmination in any legal areas that the city has been involved in lately. A clearing of the decks in this area will be refreshing in city matters.

The most important aspect will be the move of Saturn into the sign of Virgo, after a 24 year transit of Leo. Saturn is the ruling planet of Key West, and it will have a favorable aspect for the future 2 1/2 years. Another positive sign especially in the home and building trades departments.

Uranus will also turn direct in July in Scorpio. This bodes good for the military involvement in Key West. I do not see the military completely leaving our area. This problem will be resolved favorable to the city's interests.




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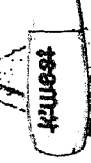
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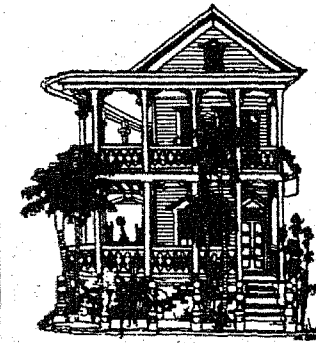
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A PERFECT ANALYSIS GIVEN BY A PARROT by Tennessee Williams

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Wednesday, June 28 & July 5

WHY I LIVE AT THE POST OFFICE by Eudora Welty




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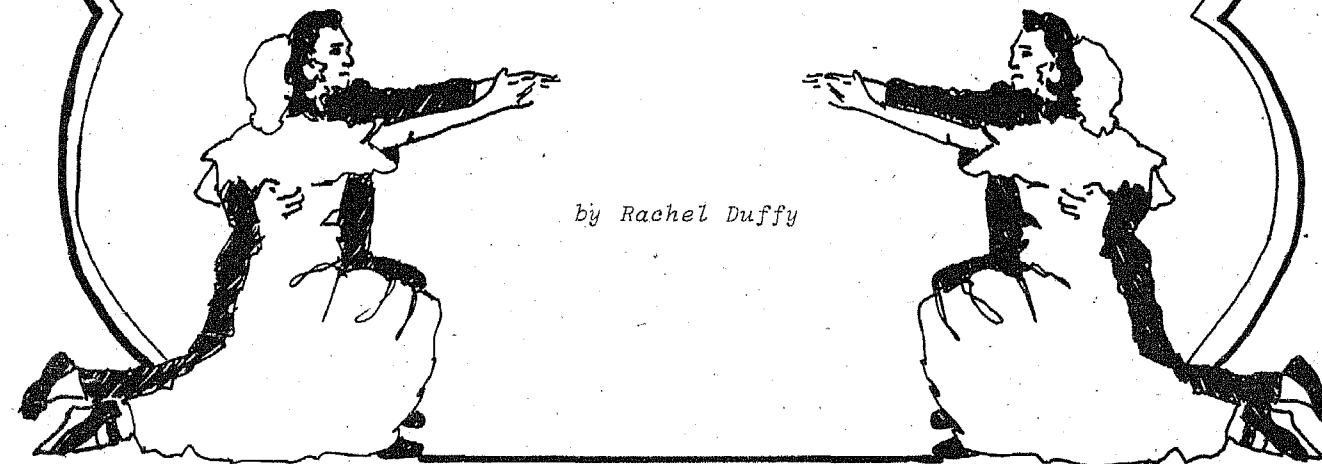
All the silk dresses, the three piece suits
 The music is disco, soul, and mellow flutes
 All the gold jewelry flashing with the lights
 That fever is high on Saturday nights.

So many couples sitting in candlelight
 Yes Fitz is packed on Saturday night
 Sophisticated bands from everywhere
 Will play for you when you go there.

The bouncer and doorman
 Seem so debonair
 The waitresses are attractive and all have flair.

People with class dancing under flashing lights
 Yes, Fitzgerald's is packed on Saturday nights.

by Rachel Duffy



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