

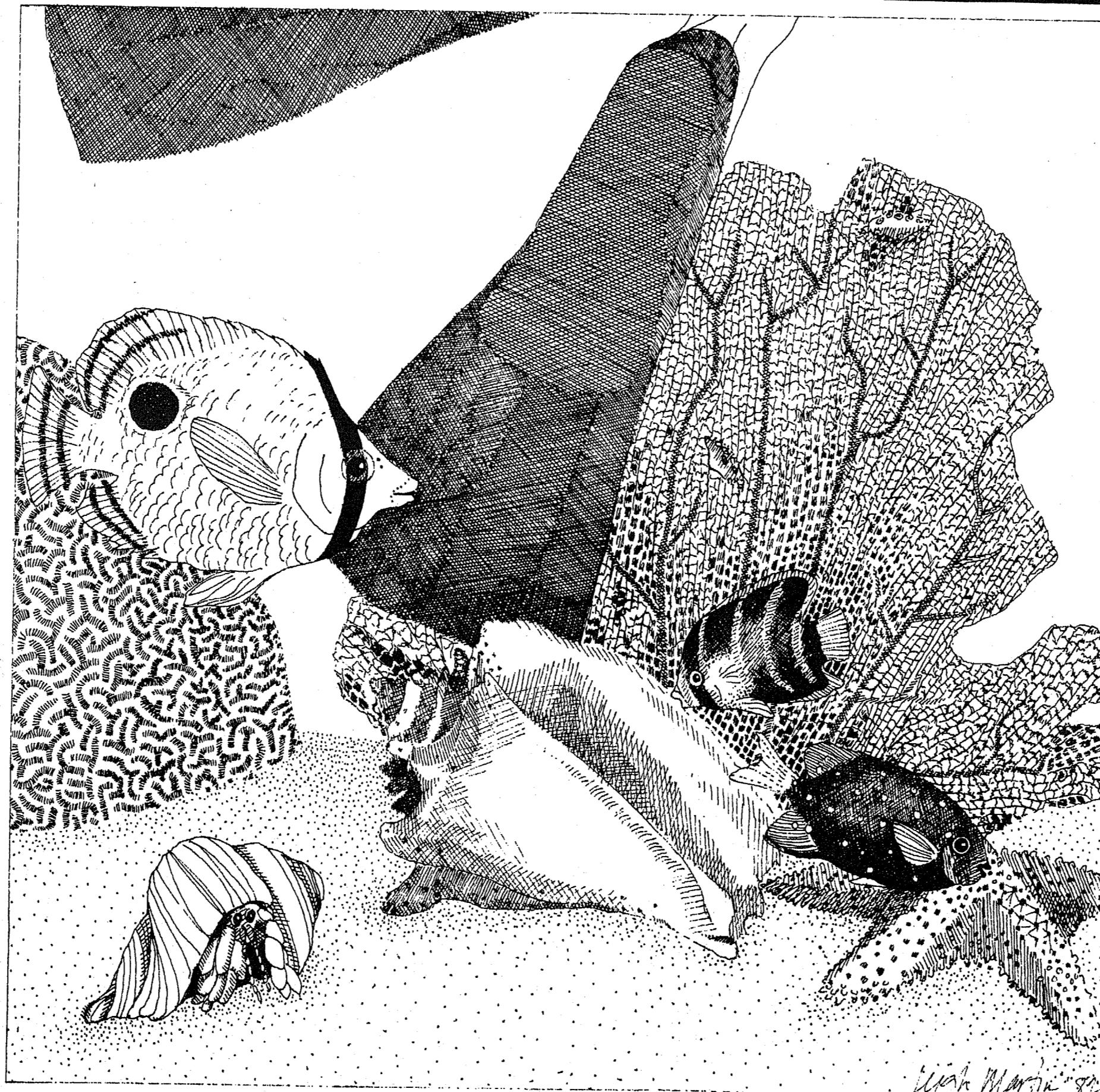
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VOL. VIII, NO. 6

KEY WEST, FL

JUNE, 1982



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June 20

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naturals for Dad.



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## FROM THE EDITOR

Hello -

DOROTHY RAYMER'S COLUMN, "Notes and Antics-Dotes," will not appear this month. Dorothy is in the hospital for some tests and could not complete it. Also Dorothy was going to review Joan and Wright Langley's marvelous new book of photos on old Key West called Key West - Images of the Past. She will have her review for our August issue but don't wait for the review to determine if you want the book - you do! It's a beautiful job and the photos reproduced splendidly.

MAYOR DENNIS WARDLOW comes in for several pokes this month. His inflexible attitude on the houseboats is the subject of John Leslie's article on Houseboat Row; his unfortunate remarks about the new people in Key West that appeared in Tropic magazine May 17th should be mentioned, also. You have to be careful when you sound off to a columnist because you run the risk of being quoted. Dennis was quoted as saying that newcomers had upset the way of life here by trying to make Key West into a Georgetown through restoration and that the wonderful hodgepodge of Key West was being lost. I believe that the primary force in restoration in Key West was the great local woman Jessie Porter Newton, born and raised a Conch. The remarks attributed to Dennis smacked of an "us against them" attitude; an attitude unsuitable for our mayor to espouse. Townsend Keiffer, in his Sunday column in the Citizen on May 23, went into this interview in depth and I recommend it to those who want to read more about it.

ON THE OTHER hand, Dennis is to be congratulated for his performance as our new "Prime Minister" of the Conch Republic. It appears that everyone in this country knows about the mock secession and the publicity thus reaped is invaluable. I felt that every aspect of this bold public relations move was handled with taste (the taking down of the American flag was just a rumor; I would have objected, also) and most people really enjoyed it. Good show, Mr. "Prime Minister" - we are behind you on this.

continued on page 32

Our cover artist this month is Leigh Martin. She works in the design department of Key West Handprints.

**RICH'S RESTAURANT**

**Nightly Specials**

Soupe - meat & veggie with toasted bread or fruit salad.....4.25  
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Spaghetti - with toasted sandwich & garlic bread.....4.95  
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Shrimp Kebab - with vegetables and rice pilaf.....5.25  
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Solares Hill is a community newspaper published every month on the slopes of Solares Hill, Key West's highest point, by Solares Hill Company, 513 Fleming, Room 3, Key West, Florida 33040.

EDITOR.....BILL HUCKEL  
EDITORIAL CONSULTANT.....BILL WESTRAY  
ART DIRECTION.....SOLARES HILL DESIGN GROUP

With a little help from our friends ...

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DOESN'T IT APPEAR improper that the engineering firm that the County hired, Post, Buckley, Schuh and Jerigan, should also do work for a private group that appears to challenge some of the basic building assumptions in the County plan? A group of N. Key Largo property developers hired this firm to write an Upper Key Largo Regional-Use Study which would permit development on a more dense and accelerated basis than the County had conceived in its Land Use Element.

DR. NEIL FRANK, Director of the National Hurricane Center, said a few days ago that recent studies show that it will take twenty hours or more to evacuate the danger coastal areas of S.E. Florida and that the best evacuation warning that can be given by the Center will be twelve hours or more to evacuate the danger coastal areas of S. E. Florida and that the best evacuation warning that can be given by the Center will be twelve hours or less. The arithmetic doesn't add up and the consequences are frightening. The problem is considerably worse in the Florida Keys with its single two lane 130 mile evacuation route.

HEY, CHECK THE Monroe Association for Retarded Citizens (M.A.R.C.) for inexpensive work crews. Yard cleaning and hauling are two services that this worthy agency offers; groups will work with a supervisor. Sounds good.

MORE PROBLEMS with the new building at the corner of Olivia and Duval have come up. It appears that someone had moved the civil engineers survey posts and the building is on someone else's property. We fought this building because it allowed the doubling from four to eight the number of units permitted under our zoning laws. We found the appearance objectionable. The city would be better off without this construction. The city has ample reason to order the work done to be removed. Commissioner Heyman, who fought this project, should be supported by other commissioners now; I hope that the building comes down and stays down.

## Bobby MENENDEZ: SPIRIT OF THE CONCHS

BY TOMMY ROBERTS

A MAN NAMED Bobby Menendez has taken over as principal at Sugarloaf Elementary School. Parents, students and teachers have found him to be a sensitive and concerned administrator.

He is also a member of the Monroe County Career Service Council, and when he isn't working he's apt to be found in the company of his nine-year-old son Bobby Jr.

WHILE THE FOREGOING gives you a brief introduction to Bobby Menendez,

up. Since he was strictly insurance, a reserve signal caller, Bobby feared he would see little actual game action.

IN EARLY SEASON games he did play on the special teams. It seemed every time the Conchs kicked off or punted Bobby made the tackle. This did not go unnoticed by the coaching staff. By the third game he was seeing action at linebacker. Before midseason he was a starting linebacker. As Bill Trout, University of Miami coach, said recent-



Bobby Menendez with Bobby, Jr.

college scholarships. Bobby was also named All-Conference and All-State, and was selected to play in the North-South All-Star Game. His 207 career tackles is a record which has stood for almost 20 years. To break the record an individual would have to play three varsity seasons and average 70 tackles a year. A difficult feat when you consider that Kenny Alston led an outstanding 1981 Conch squad with 71 tackles as a senior. The Conchs' overall record in Bobby's three years was 20-6-2.

UPON GRADUATION BOBBY entered Florida State University on a football scholarship. His college experience reads like a college football who's who. Bobby was recruited for Florida State University by Don James who is now the head coach of 1982 Rose Bowl champion Washington. He played under Bill Peterson who later was head coach of the Houston Oilers. Bobby Bowden was an FSU assistant during Bobby's period at Florida State. In 1980 and 1981 Bowden's Seminoles met Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl game.

BOBBY'S YEARS AT FSU saw the Seminoles move from obscurity to big-time college football. During his time in Tallahassee, FSU earned its first two victories over their hated rival, The Florida Gators. The Seminoles also appeared in two Gator Bowl games, and made one Sun Bowl appearance. Bobby's teammates included Fred Biletnikoff, Steve Tensi, Walt Sumner, Kim Hammond and high school teammate Mike Blatt.

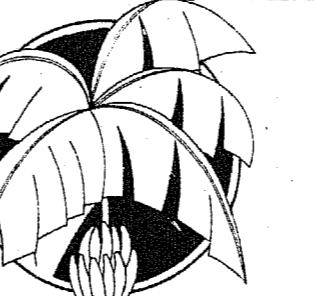
IF BOBBY'S TASK to excel in high school was difficult, it was next to impossible at FSU. As a 5'10" 190-lb. defensive end he was competing with athletes much larger and stronger. In fact, most defensive linemen at major colleges are in the range of 6'4", 250 lbs. But, determination and a commitment to excellence again made the difference. Bobby started his last two years at FSU, and captained the squad his senior year. He made the Florida College All-State team and received All South Independent recognition.

BOBBY RETURNED HOME in 1968 as a teacher and football coach at Key West High. He coached from 1968-1979, resigning from coaching after the 1979 season. When Pat Freeman took the reins as head coach before the 1981 season, he persuaded Bobby to return as coach of the defensive secondary. Under former head mentor Gene Roberts, Citizen Sports Editor Bill Bowen once remarked, the Conch coaching staff is "a well-oiled machine."

IN 1981 MENENDEZ rejoined Dave Evans on the defensive staff. In addition, the defensive staff included Menendez' former players Pat Labrada and Ralph Graves. In the last eight games the defensive unit gave up 32

there is another important aspect to his life. It concerns Key West High football. In many ways, the name Bobby Menendez and the term Conch football are synonymous. For example, in the 31-year history of modern Conch football, Key West High has won 164 games. Bobby Menendez has been a direct part of 88 of those victories. No other individual ever associated with Key West High football can make such a claim.

IN 1961 and 1962 the Conchs had two of their greatest teams. Their captain and team leader both years was Bobby Menendez. The Conchs finished 7-2 in 1961, and 8-1-1 in 1962. The Most Valuable Player on both squads was Bobby Menendez. Quite an achievement when you consider that his teammates includes six players who received major

  
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points, or an average of four per game. Menendez was back, which meant tradition and team spirit were present at Key West High School Stadium.

DURING BOBBY'S PAST four years of coaching, the Conchs have won 33 and lost 10. Overall, as a Conch coach, Bobby has seen Key West High win 68 games. Add in 20 victories as a player, and Bobby has been on the scene for 88 victories since 1960. While Bobby was at FSU the Conchs won 16 games, and they won 4 games in 1980, the year he missed. This means, Bobby has played a key role in 88 of the Conchs' last 108 wins.

WHEN YOU TAKE a trip down gridiron memory lane, and you talk offense, you think of Mira, Stickney, Blatt, Henderson, Paul and Neal. When someone mentions defense you think of Bobby Menendez and his 207 career tackles. When you mention secondary coaching in Florida grid circles, the name Menendez again comes to mind. But, Bobby's real gift to those he coaches and to Conch football is his commitment to excellence, the will to win. When he was a senior in high school, *The Key West Citizen* ran an 8x10 photograph of Bobby with the caption, "Spirit of the Conchs." In four words that says it all. Bobby Menendez is the true spirit of the crimson and gray tradition, a winner in football, a champion in life.

KEY WEST WATER COMPANY

SPARKLING, TASTY DRINKING water that meets United States pharmaceutical standards, costs 39¢ a gallon and is available in Key West? What's the catch? The only catch is that you have to bring your own containers to the Key West Water Company at 536 Fleming. Ed Orlando, owner of this new company that opened May 3rd with a 25¢-per-gallon splash, offers water that has been purified by a reverse osmosis process using Key West tap water as a basis.

"MY ORIGINAL IDEA was to open a 'Waters of the World' store where you could buy bottled water from all over the globe," he said. But prices weren't reasonable and with bottled waters you get whatever minerals are dissolved in the water at the bottling plant location. These may not be the minerals you want or need in your diet. You also may not like the way they affect the taste of your rice, spaghetti, coffee or tea.

SO, WITH COURSES in water treatment management behind him, Orlando began gathering cost and set-up data for purifying water right in Key West. Economy was as important as purity and he settled on the Millipore system, a reverse osmosis procedure.

WHEN IT CAME to bottling, however, he changed his mind. At 18.5¢ a jug, 2¢ a cap, 7¢ a label and 3¢ transportation cost per bottle, it was just too expensive. In addition Orlando would have had to rent a warehouse, buy a truck and hire employees to bring the jugs to the plant, and then truck the full bottles back to the warehouse until they were sold. He quickly switched to the idea of a self-service water store.

COMPUTER CITY

JUST WHAT DOES the Key West Water Company do to the water that comes into the plant? First they filter it to remove the undissolved particles and suspended solids. Then they remove the DISSOLVED impurities with the reverse osmosis process. It is this ability to take out dissolved minerals that provides such a pure grade of water and such a clean taste. It is comparable to distilled water in quality and is much more economical to produce, from both an energy and dollar perspective.

IF YOU WANT running water inside your home you can rent (or purchase) a pressurized holding tank. Key West Water Company will keep it topped off on a regular basis for an additional 10¢ a gallon. You can even run it directly into your refrigerator/ice maker if you have an automatic dispenser mode. A constant 30 lbs. of pressure ensures a strong flow even on the second floor.

TO GET A free sample, go by the plant on Fleming and let Ed Orlando show you the mechanics and explain the technical details. They are open every day including Saturday from 9:00 to 6:00. It's a fascinating way to learn about the water you drink.

DESKTOP COMPUTERS HAVE come to

Key West and Bob Tradup at Computer City is ready to box one up for you to take home. If you've never been to a computer store, take the time to stop by 303 Margaret and look at the machines, which range from small personal ones to full-sized business combinations.

COMPUTER CITY OPENED in February as a retail micro-computer center.

Tradup, known locally as Capt. Bob of seafood restaurant acclaim, has nearly six years' experience using computers in his business and several years' experience as a dealer and systems consultant. He was delighted to spend time explaining all the options available.

WHEN ASKED, "BUT what would I do with one if I got it home?", he listed several interesting ideas. Computer games are an obvious use, but genealogy research, mailing list file management (you know, Christmas cards) and family budgeting and taxes were other possibilities. "You could even use it to make up your grocery shopping list," he said.

IF YOU ARE curious about computers, but overwhelmed by the large number of companies, Tradup and his associate Carl LeBeau have done a lot of research and can discuss the differences with you. They primarily sell equipment that uses the CP/M operating system, the standard for the micro-computer business. With an inventory of over \$20,000 worth of software programs, Tradup and LeBeau can match you with both the equipment and the programs you need.

MEMORY CAPACITY IS a major factor in the cost of a system, with video screens, printers and keyboards adding their own share. Tradup has a wide range of equipment so you can start at very basic levels and add to your system as your needs increase. They also have service technicians and a shop equipped to do factory repair work on the premises.

THEY DON'T CARRY a few well-known brands like TRC and Apple. "Although those computers use the same computer language (basic), it is as if they spoke a 'dialect,'" Tradup said. He tries to offer a broad selection of brands with compatible operating systems, so that programs don't have to be "translated" from one system to another.

HOURS AT COMPUTER City are 10 to 5:30 weekdays or by appointment on evenings and weekends (call 294-3538). And bring the kids along. With all the computers in schools and business establishments, they may already know how to work the things.

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## NEW & DIFFERENT BY COLLEEN MCGEE

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WHEN ASKED, "BUT what would I do with one if I got it home?", he listed several interesting ideas. Computer games are an obvious use, but genealogy research, mailing list file management (you know, Christmas cards) and family budgeting and taxes were other possibilities. "You could even use it to make up your grocery shopping list," he said.

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## THE ICONOCLAST

BY JIM KOGAN

### RETURN WHAT THEY TOOK

THIS PAPER AND others have noted the growing land use density up the Keys--right now it's Key Largo. And the bus schedule is now close to five hours to Miami when it was once much less. The growing density has simply usurped a common resource--US1. As roadside business proliferates, as more subdivisions create more intersections and cross traffic, as simply more traffic is piled on the road it becomes less useful as a means of travel for us who live down the Keys.

THERE ARE SEVERAL treatments. One Northern state simply built 20 miles of unbroken guard rail through a series of towns that thus encroached on the highway. New Jersey built mile after mile of center barrier and those Jersey center barriers are for real--contoured and three feet high and solid concrete. The contour is designed to flip a car

over but not let it cross the median. They ain't kidding. And no left turns until a couple of counties down the road--go around the block and if you live on the block chosen, well it was your community that created the problem so don't beef about the traffic.

THIS IS A bit draconian but, after all, those guys up the keys did steal a common resource--the old dilemma of a "commons".

I HAVE LITTLE faith in the effectiveness of land use planning as operated by any local or county or state government I ever saw--including this one. I doubt both sincerity and expertise. So I would put little trust in it. I do not intend to review the wisdom or unwisdom of allowing more dense development up the Keys. Closer to home I might have comments but that far away it is really not my business except insofar as the communities up the Keys have stolen something that is mine--the right of convenient passage.

SO I FEEL obliged, after voicing a complaint, to suggest a treatment that will be both effective and equitable. I did not say it must be popu-

lar--much less with the ones called on to make good what they took. They'll likely invoke some shibboleth that comes out "get lost, Bud, we just take and we're stronger than you."

ONE WAY IS a 50-mile guard rail--let the guy who wants to be on the other side of the road be born there. But there is a better way.

BULLDOZE A SWATH through their communities--the usual 300-400 feet wide and build a freeway from about Long Key or thereabouts--the other side of Marathon--to the U.S. Border at Florida City, 60 or so miles. This is what was eventually done on Cape Cod under similar conditions and the "main street" was de facto abandoned as a means of travel.

THE NEW ROAD can use the same bridges or it can be all new. If all-new it needs no interchanges for its function is to enable us to bypass the mass of roadside blight--let them keep the road they stole and get along with it. If it uses the same bridges, U.S.1 gets to be a series of frontage roads and local traffic congestion would likely call for adding a lane each way.

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Or a signal system that rations entry (like in other similar situations elsewhere) so that through traffic is not interrupted by drivers going from one key to the next--let them wait for those additional lanes on busy days.

WHAT ABOUT THE people who live in the swath? It is their community that is getting the new taxes from all that development is it not? And no nonsense bird watchers, either--that decision was made when the congestion was created and they can't have it both ways.

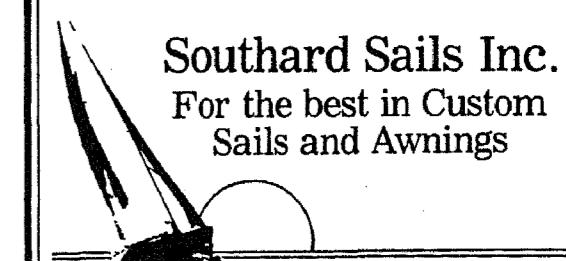
WHO SHOULD PAY for all this? Residents, developers, property owners, etc. of the area traversed of course. No, not user fees, not county-wide, State-wide or Federal money. We who will use the road did not create the need--we paid our share of US 1 and they stole it--like the old rhyme goes--they "stole the commons from the goose."

THERE IS AN alternative that might detour some opportunities for theft--always a consideration in public business. Lower our tax assessments in the Lower Keys 15% a year until they are down to zero and raise the assessments up the Keys correspondingly--their theft of our common highway reduced the utility and hence value of our property and enriched them.

BUT THE BEST way is to just bulldoze that freeway and levy its cost on the ones who made it necessary. No, I'm not a freeway freak but, even those things do have occasional proper applications. This time....

(The opinions of Jim Kogan are not necessarily those of Solares Hill)

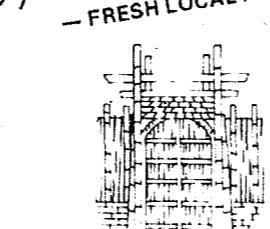
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## The Coming of Bahama Village

BY PHOEBE REDNER COAN

"I SAW A seriously dilapidated and blighted area--the rest of the world just walking by. This particular segment of the community was not tying into the mainstream of business life. Realizing this, motivated me. It presented to my mind the opportunity for change," says the sincere Roy Grant, director for the Bahama Village project and president of the NIA (Neighborhood Improvement Association).

THE IDEA FOR Bahama Village arose from a group of like-minded people over a year ago. Since that inception, there has been an actual four or five months of planning involved. Now Roy says the first phase as such is complete.

The next part of the idealistic project is making a shopping mall of a one-block area of Petronia Street. Roy hopes for assistance from business, and community agencies on the city, state, county and federal levels. He speaks in terms of changing tomorrow by making today different.

SO FAR, SUPPORT has been encourag-

ing and the idea has been well received. He feels the time for monies to be available is NOW. If not, it would probably be a good 20 years before such an ambitious plan could go into effect.



Looking down Petronia from Duval

Photo by JO ANN SAVIO

BEGINNING WITH A permanent masonry and wrought iron arch to be installed from the west side of Duval leading onto Petronia, the first part of the project will involve a half block from the top of Petronia at Duval, down to the taxi stand.

The \$2,000 archway monies were donated by Margo Golan and Ed and Joan Knight. Summer volunteer programs to create a self-involvement in this area are formulating with a clean-up campaign. The area is already cleaner looking.

THE OFFICIAL SEAL of the Bahamas will be affixed to the center of the archway inscribed with: "Forward, onward, upward." It will be dedicated during Bahama Village Festival, part of Fantasy Fest in October.

Visualized, the tree-lined street-scape would include a completely regenerated area with no vehicular traffic. One would notice a park-like atmosphere with a mall, eating places (with Bahamian flavor), a plaza, crafts area, farmer's market or straw market, a pavilion and other integrated business activities.

THE LOCAL PEOPLE are reported to be enthusiastic and positive-minded. Bar owners would be cooperating. The

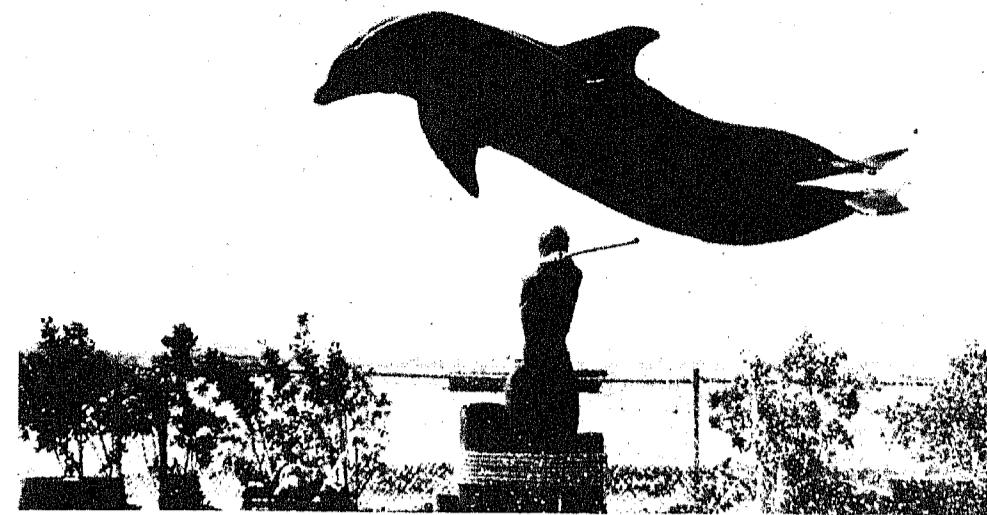
street of broken bottles and broken dreams has the chance to be transformed like Cinderella.

Money collected above administrative costs will be placed in a revolving small business loan fund with low-interest rates for those businesses needing assistance. Roy Grant is also hoping for grants for the new non-profit Bahama Village, Incorporated.

ASIDE FROM THE beautifying and revitalization, the project should help reduce crime, increase tourism and diminish the 50-year depression that has lingered there. Local people will be involved in the many new small businesses.

At a recent County Commission meeting, the vote was unanimous to back the development planning with a promise offered for \$25,000 "in kind" aid--free office space, furniture, supplies, etc.

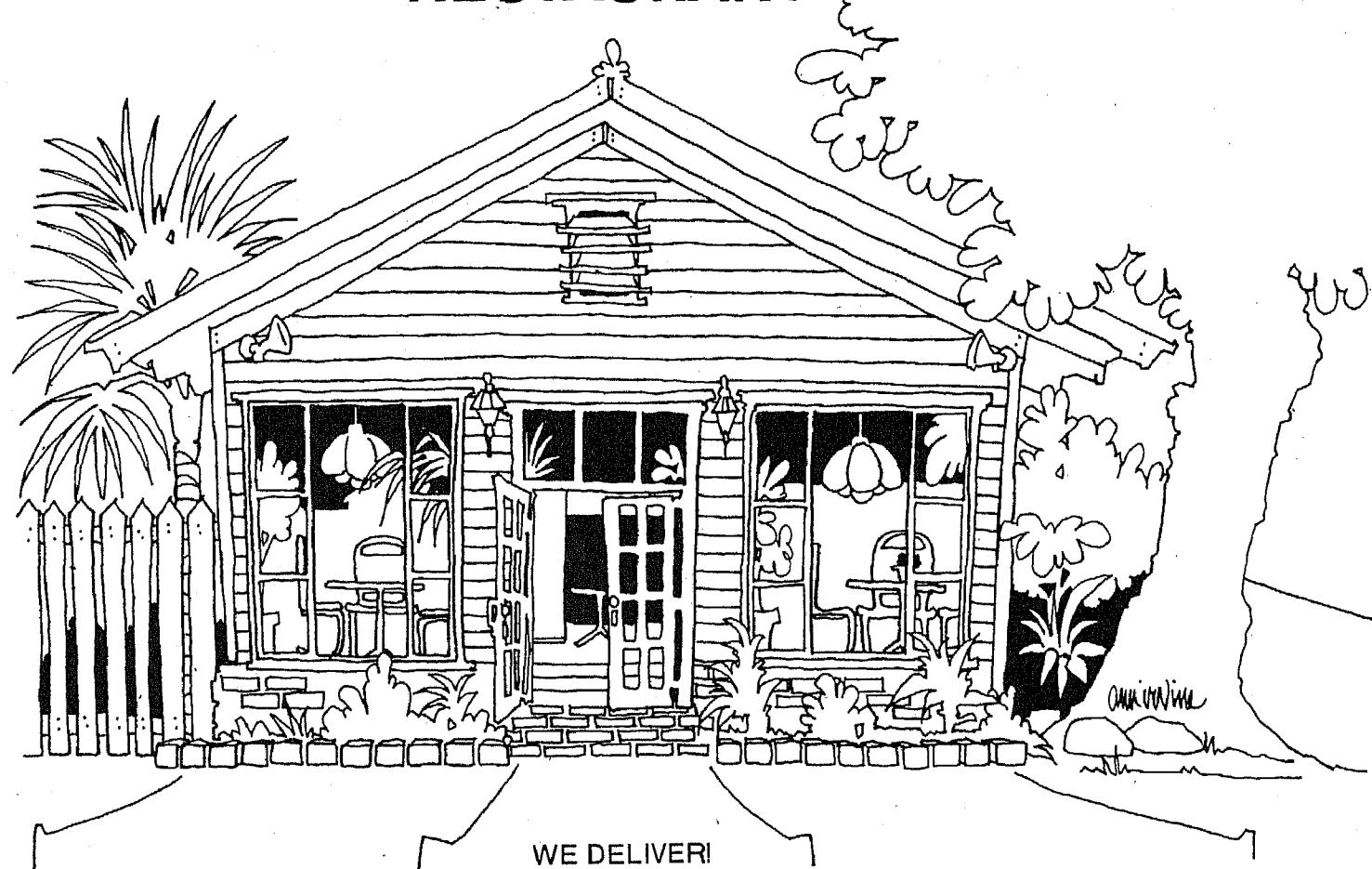
MAYOR WARDLOW HAS said that he sees Bahama Village as a part of a "bright future." We hope he's right!



ALSO, MEMORIAL DAY will mark Flipper's introduction to the arts with an on-going art and craft show where our guests can watch skilled artists and craftsmen and purchase their work.

FLIPPER'S KEY WEST is a division of the Institute for Delphinid Research. This theme park was created to offer the public the opportunity to see and learn about dolphins and to raise money for our ongoing research into dolphin intelligence.

## FLEET AIR WING RESTAURANT



JOIN IN WITH CLARE KELLY  
AND FRIENDS AT  
THE PIANO BAR NIGHTLY  
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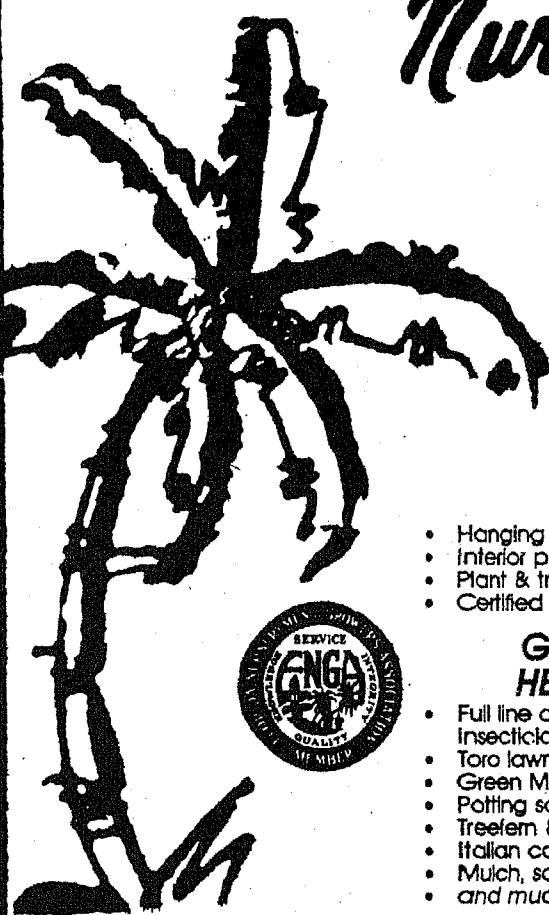
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## FRENCH WEEK

FRENCH WEEK IN Key West may be becoming an annual event on this colorful island. The first French celebration, last year, was highlighted by a Bastille Night in aid of the East Martello Museum. It will go down in history as the night that the old fortress was packed with citizens in historic costume, with such characters as B. Franklin, Ms. J. d'Arc and Madame M. Antoinette mingling with the crowd.

1982 FRENCH WEEK will be celebrated the weekend of June 4, 5 and 6 in honor of the official visit to the port of Key West of the French Ship "Canopus". As last year, French Week will be under the patronage of the Consul of France in Miami, Mr. Jacques Turner. Many of the events will be in aid of the Children's School of Key West.

KEY WEST'S MAIN thoroughfare which runs from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic, will be decorated red, white, and blue. On Friday June 4 and Saturday June 5 from 6 pm to 10 pm Duval will be closed to traffic from Truman down to Front and will be transformed into a Promenade Mall and Street Fair. Stores will be remaining open late those two evenings and there will be music and dancing. Restaurants will feature special French menus and French wines and cheeses. Even Sloppy Joe's will serve Beaujolais at the bar just as they do in Beaujolais.

On Wednesday night, May 26, Mayor Dennis Wardlow was serenaded by the Key West High School choir and made an honorary choir member at their banquet. Choir director Joe Wilt wrote the words to the amusing song used for the serenade.

PRIME MINISTER WARDLOW (to the tune of: JUBILATION T. CORNPONE  
from L'IL ABNER)

1) When George Bush said, "Things down there were getting out of hand"  
Who stood up and quickly said, "I don't like your plan."

Chorus: Why it was Prime Minister Wardlow  
He made Key West grow  
Prime Minister Wardlow  
He really saved the day.

2) When they set the road block up and really slowed the flow  
Who was it that said that blockade really had to go?

Chorus: repeat

3) One road block and 19 miles of tourists waitin' to get in  
"We'll secede from the USA" he said with a wink and a grin.

Chorus: repeat

4) When Dan Rather told our story on the national news  
Who's the man who brought us back and kept us from singing the blues?

All: Why it was Prime Minister Wardlow  
Solo: He's a one-man-show Ho

All: Prime Minister Wardlow - He really saved the day.

5) When the Army of the Conchs were ready for a raid  
Who was it who said "No don't! We'll ask for foreign aid!"

All: Don't have to tell us it was Prime Minister Wardlow  
Solo: He'll stick to his guns, Joe

All: Prime Minister Wardlow, he really saved the day.

6) The moral of our story is...  
If you believe in what's right - YES!  
Sometimes you must run away  
But sometimes you gotta fight

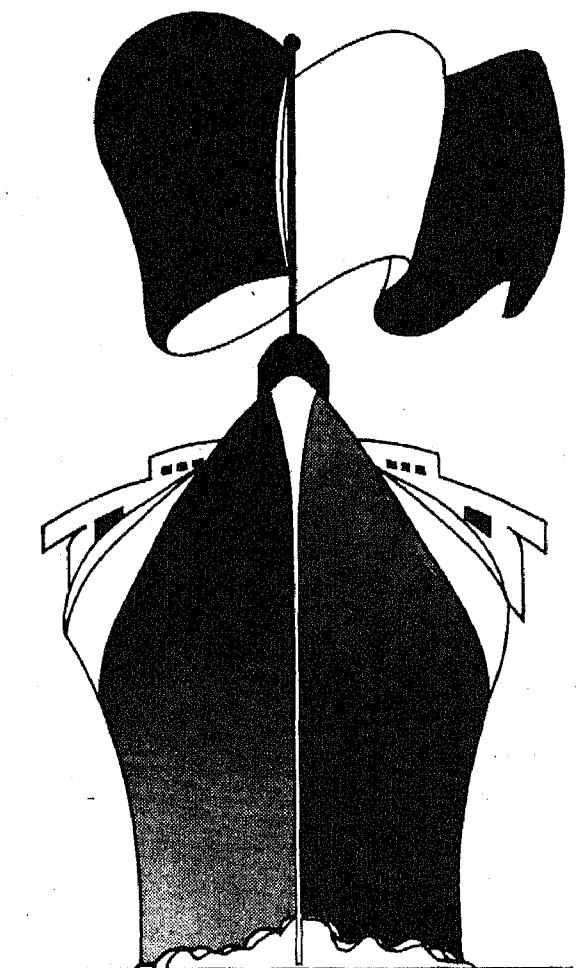
Because of Prime Minister Wardlow  
He made Key West grow  
Prime Minister Wardlow  
He really saved the day!



UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF  
THE CONSUL OF FRANCE IN MIAMI, M. JACQUES TURNER,  
AND IN AID OF THE CHILDREN'S SCHOOL OF KEY WEST

LE WEEKEND  
IN KEY WEST • JUNE 4,5,6 1982

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BURGUNDY • ALSACE • CHAMPAGNE  
AND  
EVIAN WATERS OF FRANCE

ARTISTIC DIRECTION: MICHAEL BULLER

WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF BORDEAUX • ST. EMILION  
• BEAUJOLAIS • BURGUNDY • ALSACE • CHAMPAGNE  
AND EVIAN WATERS OF FRANCE

### FRIDAY JUNE 4

- ARRIVAL OF FRENCH NAVY SHIP CANOPUS  
on official visit to Key West
- 6 PM TO 10 PM  
DUVAL STREET PROMENADE  
(Closed to traffic from Truman to Front)  
STORES OPEN LATE - FRENCH AMBIANCE

### SATURDAY JUNE 5

- 2 PM TO 5 PM  
FRENCH NAVY SHIP CANOPUS Open to the  
Public at Truman Annex, Greene Street  
Entrance
- 6 PM TO 10 PM  
DUVAL STREET PROMENADE  
(Closed to traffic from Truman to Front)  
STORES OPEN LATE - FRENCH AMBIANCE
- 7 PM  
BAHAMA VILLAGE STREET DANCE In aid of  
Bahama Village (entrance Duval at Petronia)

### SUNDAY JUNE 6

- 2 PM TO 5 PM  
FRENCH NAVY SHIP CANOPUS Open to the  
Public at Truman Annex, Greene Street  
Entrance

Keep your body at its peak

evian

Pure non-carbonated mineral water from the French Alps



## KEY WEST, 1898

BY GERALD SEMLER

THE "GIBRALTAR OF THE CARIBBEAN," that's how the island of Key West has been described from the time it was first used as a base by the U.S. Navy and Commodore David Porter to rid the waters of menacing pirates over 150 years ago. Since then, this small island, although seemingly insignificant to many, has performed an important part in historic affairs.

IT WAS DURING this period of revolution in Cuba that the famed Cuban patriot, Jose Marti (whose memorial stands in Key West's Bayview Park) began to organize political clubs in the U.S. in order to gain sympathy and aid for the rebel cause. A few years earlier, Marti came to Key West and persuaded the 3,000 Cuban cigar workers here to join in and contribute part of their salaries to purchase arms for the rebels. There was also a considerable number of Spanish sympathizers here and this led to accusations of spying by both groups and confrontations between the two sides often interrupted the peaceful life on the island.

THEN, ON JANUARY 24, 1898, the Maine's commander, Captain Charles D. Sigsbee (Key West's Sigsbee Park Naval Housing) was ordered by the President to depart Key West and proceed to Havana. Now, as the big ship weighed anchor and quietly slipped out of Key West's harbor on its final voyage, the stage was being set for a tragic event that would lead to final collapse of Spain as a once great European nation, the beginning of freedom for Cuba as a new country and most importantly the rise of a still young and energetic America to the status of a world power.

KEY WEST, BECAUSE of its strategic position with the Gulf of Mexico on one side, the Atlantic Ocean on the other and the Caribbean and the countries of Latin America directly south, would be compelled to play a crucial role in America's thrust away from isolationism and into the arena of international affairs.

FOR MORE THAN 30 years the struggle of Cubans for independence from Spain had been going on with much blood and hatred flowing on both sides, but still Spain refused to loosen her grip on Cuba, a last remnant of her American Empire.

EVEN THOUGH THE United States had commercial interests in Cuba it had previously ignored or tried to avoid entanglement in the revolution there, but in 1898 American sentiment changed.

STORIES COMING OUT of Cuba telling of Spain's harsh treatment of the Cubans began to make their way in the press to a receptive America. Although the

American people now leaned toward some action that would lead to a conflict, but increasing incidents of violence and bloodshed in Havana started to show signs of open rebellion in that city. At the same time the American Consul there cabled the President advising him that he was concerned for the safety of Americans in Cuba. McKinley, fearing that further outbreaks might lead to a war that would eventually involve the U.S., believed that a show of the U.S. flag and a Naval force in Havana would calm war nerves and actually maintain peace.

IT WAS DURING this period of revolution in Cuba that the famed Cuban patriot, Jose Marti (whose memorial stands in Key West's Bayview Park) began to organize political clubs in the U.S. in order to gain sympathy and aid for the rebel cause. A few years earlier, Marti came to Key West and persuaded the 3,000 Cuban cigar workers here to join in and contribute part of their salaries to purchase arms for the rebels. There was also a considerable number of Spanish sympathizers here and this led to accusations of spying by both groups and confrontations between the two sides often interrupted the peaceful life on the island.

AT RALLYS IN Key West, public speakers hurled fiery speeches about the revolution, local newspapers wrote intriguing stories about it and the people of the island followed the troubled situation in Cuba with increasing interest.

AT 9:40 P.M., ACROSS the blue current of the Gulf Stream in the warm waters of Havana harbor on the evening of February 15, 1898, a tremendous explosion ripped open the hull of the Maine and the battleship went down with over 260 of her crew.

IN THE HASTY inquiry that followed, the government sought out possible explanations for the explosion. The Maine had taken on almost 300 tons of coal at the Naval Station before it left Key West and the Naval Commander here received orders to search the coal piles for some indication of sabotage. For three days, under close inspection, the coal was removed shovel by shovel but no evidence of anything suspicious was uncovered.

THE GUILTY FINGER pointed at Spain, and if indeed she was, it was never thoroughly proven, for to this day, the actual cause of the explosion remains a mystery. There are some who blame the Maine disaster on Cuban rebels, believing they might have planted a bomb in order to gain assistance from America in their fight for freedom. Another possible explanation for the explosion deals with the powder that had been stored in the ship's magazine. That particular type of explosive, used

for years in sailing craft with wooden hulls was said to be obsolete and unsafe for steel ships powered with coal and had actually been known to ignite spontaneously under certain conditions. Certainly, with the Maine sitting idle for such a long period in tropical waters those conditions might have been present. In any case, at that time, these theories did not matter. In the U.S. tempers flared and Spain was accused of purposely setting a mine against the bow of the American ship.

IT WAS AN act of aggression and war would soon follow. (A few years after the sinking, the Maine was raised from the mud of the harbor and towed out to open sea where it was sunk with full military honors. Today, probably the only thing that remains of the historic ship is the cover of a gun turret that sits almost unnoticed on the grounds of Harris School at the corner of Margaret and Southard Streets. Another relic of the Maine is the ship's flag which is housed in the museum at East Martello Towers.)

THE MORNING FOLLOWING the Maine tragedy, after Captain Sigsbee had already sent for the lighthouse tenders in Key West to retrieve the dead and the wounded, the passenger ship *Olivette* brought the news of the Maine disaster to the people of Key West. On board the *Olivette* were a large number of news correspondents who were unable to send their stories out of Havana because the Spanish censored all news about the sinking except official U.S. military reports. The newsmen immediately made their way to the small telegraph office here where they crammed inside, each anxiously waiting their turn at the wire while the operator hurriedly tapped out the reports to the rest of the country.

TO THE PEOPLE around the world it was a spectacular news event, but to Key Westers who would bury the Maine dead in a plot in the city cemetery it was a sad and personal tragedy. The surviving wounded were taken to the Convent of Mary Immaculate, still situated on the same site behind its rock walls on Truman Avenue, where the Sisters living there volunteered to care for them.

IT WASN'T VERY long before the island began to overflow with activity. Throngs of news correspondents rushed here to be close to the action. Almost every item of news that was to reach the rest of the world concerning the war would pass through Key West, either by telegraph or "news boats". Operating from here, these sailing craft would cruise close to any action, some even landing on the Cuban coast and then returning to Key West with their exciting, often exaggerated stories. Some of these boats would sail directly to Miami, where their sealed dispatches were taken north

by train to an America anxious for news.

BY NOW THE harbor and docks around Key West were already jammed as the big military buildup began to make itself evident. The Navy's Atlantic Fleet sailed in with three battleships, seven cruisers and over a dozen other warships. A contingent of marines with the fleet disembarked on the island. Freighters and troop transports were arriving and departing as coal barges ran back and forth to the larger ships. Before it was all over 34 Spanish ships captured at sea were anchored here as prizes of war and their passengers and crews, held as prisoners of war, were confined to their ships or held in Fort Taylor.

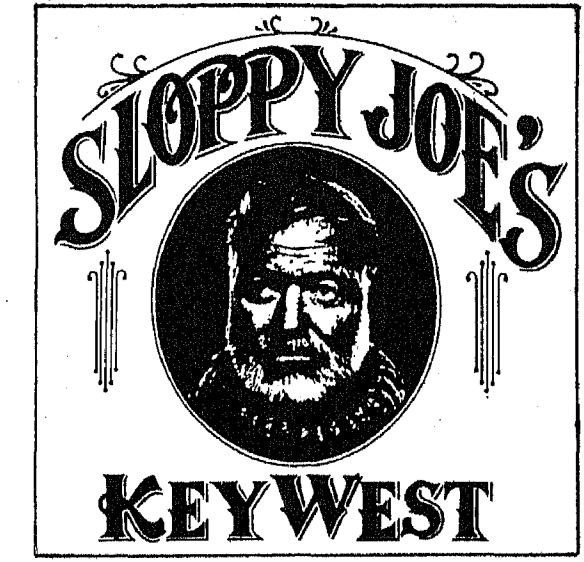
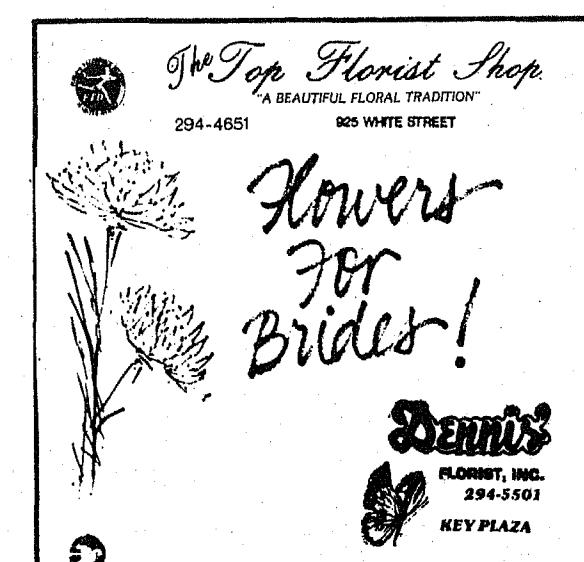
IN THE HARBOR, on the Red Cross ship "State of Texas", Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, who was on a mission of mercy to aid Cuban peasants, turned her attention to the plight of the Spaniards held here. She asked the people of Key West to donate food and money to purchase personal items for the Spanish captives and the residents responded.

ON LAND A regiment of soldiers arrived from Jacksonville, New Orleans and Mobile came construction workers who began to erect buildings to store an ever increasing abundance of supplies and ammunition. Small machine shops were enlarged and workers from Philadelphia were brought in to help in ship repair.

NEW COAL SHEDS were added and larger and newer defense guns were set up on Forts Taylor and Jefferson. In town, overcrowded hotels and rooming houses turned people away. With all this came a series of difficulties.

Almost immediately one of Key West's eternal problems presented itself, a shortage of water. The island, with a population of 18,000 before the surge of activity, managed to accumulate sufficient water to satisfy their daily needs by collecting rain water in large stone cisterns, but the previous rainy season and winter were drier than usual and with the sudden increase of population the supply of water in the cisterns fell dangerously low. The only solution was to regularly barge water in from St. Petersburg until the heavy summer rains, which came that July, alleviated the problem.

THE CITY CONTINUED to have other troubles. In that part of town where many of the taverns were located, brawls occurred nightly. The local police force, consisting of three men, added a fourth, but they were unable to cope. The city asked the military officials for assistance to control the outbreaks and they agreed to clamp down by restricting different units to



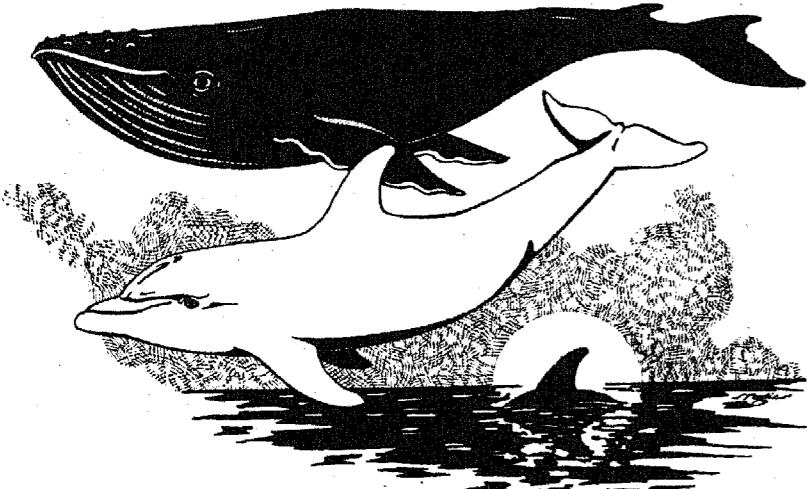
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base at different times and threatening civilians working for the government with loss of jobs if they were involved in disturbances. Eventually, with an increase in military and civilian patrols, peace was restored.

WITH HARMONY RENEWED, the military entrenched, Key West began to sail into a brief period of prosperity. Then, unexpectedly, the Navy ordered all personnel aboard ship. Civilian workers began to pack up. The Marines and the Army quickly pulled out. The reason for this sudden turnaround was caused by something the government feared more than the Spanish; yellow fever. This dreaded disease had swept throughout Florida in the late 1890's and naval doctors stationed here believed they had discovered several cases and fearing an epidemic, was about to have the island quarantined.

YELLOW FEVER WAS no stranger to Key West. Several years earlier, a Lieutenant Robert E. Peary, (Peary Court ballpark), had contacted yellow fever when he was sent to Key West to inspect the harbor and naval construction for the government, but fortunately he recovered and later in life became the first man to reach the North Pole.

ALTHOUGH THE MILITARY continued to evacuate Key West, there was no panic among the islanders. During that period, a native Key Wester, Dr. Joseph Y. Porter (his house still stands at the corner of Caroline and Duval Streets and whose name was given to the Porter Place Housing project) was head of the Florida State Health Department. Dr. Porter had earlier taken steps to combat the disease and was thoroughly familiar with its symptoms. The doctor personally examined the patients and assured military officials that the stricken had contacted dengue, a

non-fatal illness. The Navy argued and disagreed with his diagnosis, but in time, Dr. Porter was proven correct. In a few weeks all the patients had recovered completely and shortly after the incident, the Navy, Marines, and Army were returning to their posts on the island.

TO THE ARMY, it was quite obvious that Key West, with its extensive areas of submerged swamp land, was not well suited as a camp to house large numbers of infantry troops. Although there were thousands of troops already here, a plan was developed to send thousands more to Key West and Fort Jefferson on Dry Tortugas, but fortunately this idea was abandoned.

THE ARMY SETTLED for the open pine land around Tampa to set up their temporary camps and to plan their operations. So it was from the Port of Tampa that the Army's units of infantry and cavalry, including Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders, embarked for Santiago, Cuba. They would have to go by sea and the sea was controlled from Key West. As the invasion force neared the Florida Keys, it was joined by ships of the Atlantic Fleet based here. Warships from Key West's harbor had seized control of the waters of the northern Caribbean from Spain and with the Key West bastion nearby, ships of the American Navy had ready access to important communications, necessary ship repairs, coal, munitions, and other essential war supplies, thus enabling the fleet to perform its duties in the area swiftly and with ease.

BEFORE THE SUMMER of that year had past, Spain surrendered, the Spanish-American War was over. The island gradually faded back into its quiet way of life and Key West would have to wait for Henry Flagler's railroad to arrive in 1912 before such excitement would

bring the island to life again. But during the conflict in 1898, the U.S. Government and military leaders considered Key West to be of greater strategic value than any other base from Charleston to New Orleans, from Pensacola to even San Juan, Puerto Rico, where a U.S. military expedition had taken control of that Spanish possession before hostilities had ended.

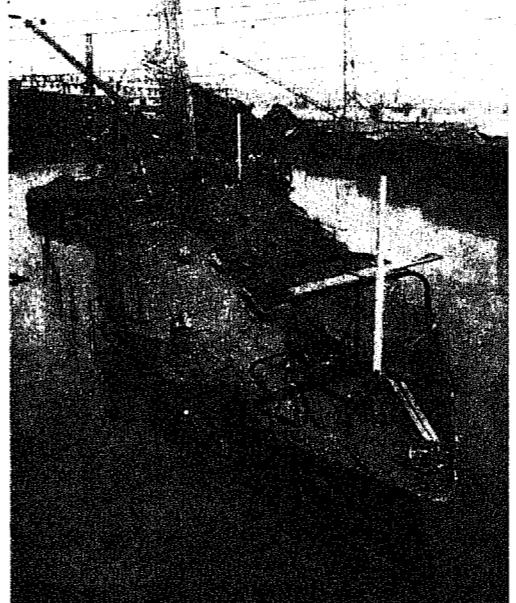
press of the 30's the base was deserted, W.P.A. workers took over its maintenance. Then in September, 1939, with the threat of another world war on the horizon, the Naval Station, which was being used by private yachts was closed to the public and President Franklin Roosevelt gave the order for the base to commence operations once again. In 1942 the island became Headquarters for the Seventh Naval District and, as in the past, its forces were used to rid the area of menacing craft, not pirates ships this time but German U-boats that stalked shipping off the coast of Florida.

AFTER WWII AND during the 1950's activity was scaled down somewhat but because of the favorable weather here, the base was used as a training facility for submarine warfare.

IN OCTOBER, 1962, Key West was asked for its services for a third time this century when President John Kennedy placed a naval blockade around Cuba during the Missile Crisis.

AT PRESENT, THE Naval Station sits idle, the streets of Key West are full of tourists, not men in uniform and there is much debate and political haggling over what is to be done with the abandoned facility.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, once willing to relinquish its hold, seems hesitant now. With the threat of Communism spreading in the Caribbean and Central America, President Reagan may have second thoughts about releasing the base when he scans a map of the area. Could it be that in the near future, this tiny island will be called upon once more to play out its natural roll of national and strategic importance as it did that fateful year of 1898?



The Maine after it was raised in Havana harbor

AFTERWARD, AN APPARENT sequence of rebuild and abandon of the Key West base would emerge at almost 20 year intervals. It was in 1917, during WWI, that another buildup began followed by a dismantling of facilities with that war's end. From 1920 through the de-

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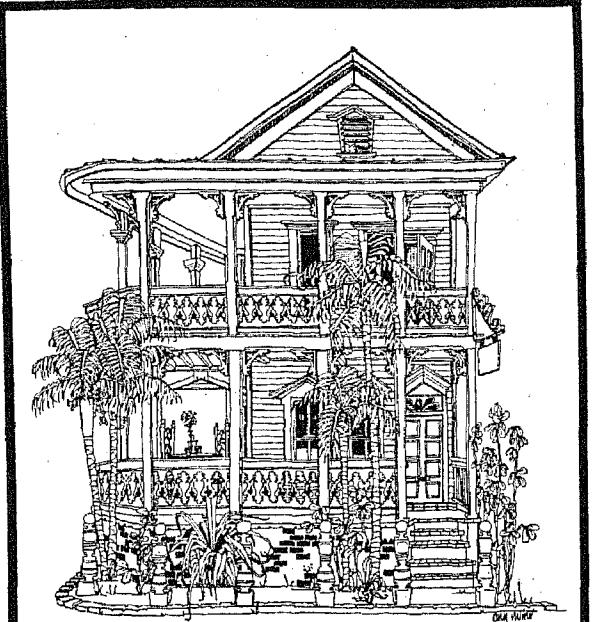
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Ring... a band of diamonds  
that says you'd  
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all over again.

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## M.A.R.C. & US

By B. G. CARTER

KEY WEST is about to be educated and energized by the new local director of M.A.R.C. (Monroe Association for Retarded Citizens). Her own apt name, Sherrie Marcus, points the new direction--bringing MARC to us.

HAILING MOST RECENTLY from Dade County, Ms. Marcus worked there for 3 years, completing her tour as co-ordinator of leisure activities in Dade's Association. Already she has begun to show that experience in fashioning close links to our community.

ONE OF THE first links is to prove, both to residents of MARC's Group Home as well as to outsiders, just how much the 15 male residents can do. Each working day they're up early and riding Key West's own public transportation to the job. Just like the rest of us, they have their breaks

from work but also their own work.

ANOTHER IS TO develop residents' skills. Some of their crafts were on display and for sale at MARC's booth in this year's county fair. Other and different crafts soon will be evident as the new training on woodworking progresses.

A THIRD LINK will associate local business to MARC. Several avenues are being explored--from removal of debris at sites after construction to regular maintenance of lawns and landscaping.

THIS PARTNERSHIP IN business aims to bolster MARC's own limited budget. Approximately 90% of operating funds comes from Florida's Health and Rehabilitative Services. The remaining 10% comes from Monroe County (8%), United Way (1%), and private donations (1%).

MS. MARCUS CONSIDERS this partnership essential. "As we derive income from our work, we can purchase tools and equipment. Then the range of

skills and their degree of development can be increased. The men will benefit directly."

IN EXTENDING MARC'S links to Key West and to the County, there is but simple recognition of a major fact. Having MARC in our own community offers some of our handicapped their only chance to continue to live and to work here with us.

HOW THEN CAN we outsiders help? We can show interest, even let ourselves be educated. We can give MARC a trial and use their work. Another way is to donate no longer used tools. For the classes in woodworking, most any small hand tool (circular saws, saber saws, sanders) would be welcomed. Some larger tools (a band saw, a planer) also are needed.

BIDS, TOOLS, DONATIONS, sugges-

tions--choose your way to help. All are invited. And, for the man of business who also has a tight budget but still a job to do, there is the special invitation to discuss his job. MARC's skills and manpower can benefit both the local entrepreneur and its own residents.

SH

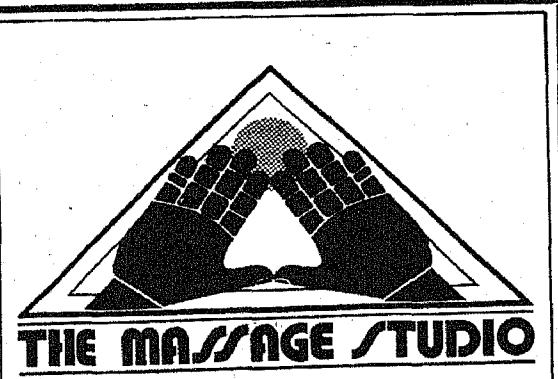
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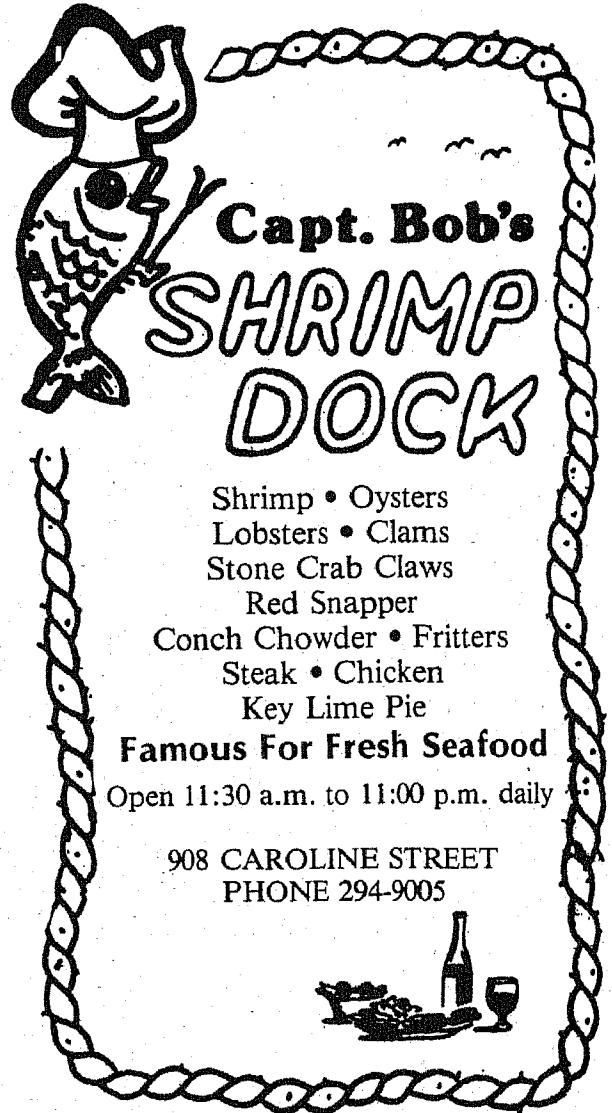
Tom Born, R.M.T.  
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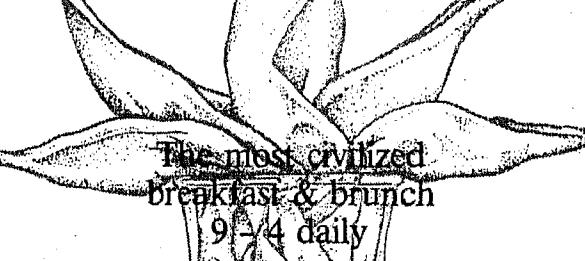


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## SIMONTON STREET: SWAP OR SCAM?

By JOHN LESLIE

THE SIMONTON STREET land-swap controversy rages on.

IN THE MAY issue of *Solares Hill*, it was reported that there were inconsistencies within the framework of the original city application for Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) funds made available to the Pier House for remodelling and expansion. Chief among those inconsistencies has been the accepted idea that the city was somehow contractually obligated to the Pier House to sell them land for purposes of the expansion.

THAT IDEA WAS fostered by various Pier House representatives and the city manager at city commission meetings ranging back to October 1981.

IN THE COMMISSION meeting on October 19, 1981, City Manager Robert Bensko stated: "...city currently had a contractual agreement with HUD and the Pier House to construct approximately 200 units on the waterfront in Key West. This [Simonton Street land] purchase would allow the construction of approximately 50 units...and would allow the city to complete their UDAG obligations."

COMMISSIONER HEYMAN INQUIRED at that time if the city's UDAG project with the Pier House would fail or be hindered if they did not sell the Simonton Street property, and Bensko

replied, "it could fail if they were not able to complete the expansion."

ON APRIL 5, 1982, Michael Halpern, local attorney representing the Pier House expressed a similar urgency at that commission meeting. "They [city] had to go forward some way [with the land swap] because they had the whole UDAG grant being held up for the Pier House expansion." Halpern further

IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION TO HUD OFFICIALS IT WAS DETERMINED LAST WEEK THAT THE CITY IS IN NO WAY OBLIGED TO GIVE UP ANY OF ITS LAND IN ORDER TO SATISFY THE AGREEMENT TO HELP THE PIER HOUSE EXPAND

claimed that, "Save Our Shoreline, [S.O.S. the civic group organized to protect the Simonton Street waterfront property] couldn't replace the million dollars that would be lost to the city if the UDAG program went down the drain, because they [the Pier House] couldn't expand the Pier House as they had agreed." Halpern went on in a continued commission meeting on April 6, to say that: "...the land swap would benefit the city in the following ways: They [the city and Pier House] would be able to finish the UDAG program...etc."

AFTER A CAREFUL probe into the original grant it appears that the public (and perhaps public officials) have been deliberately misled by Pier House representatives and City Manager Robert Bensko.

IN A TELEPHONE conversation to HUD officials it was determined last week that the city is in no way obliged to give up ANY of its land in order to satisfy the agreement to help the Pier House expand, according to Jack Flynn, Public Affairs Officer for HUD.

BESIDES THE SEEMING misrepresentation before the city commission, omissions have occurred in the quarterly reports that were required by HUD. One of those requirements is to "...summarize the status of the contract...if a civic group or some other problem is causing the developers to hesitate in their

commitment to the project, we would need a complete explanation of the problems and proposed solutions."

WITH APPARENT DISREGARD for HUD procedures, in the quarterly report for December 12, 1981, signed by the city manager, there is no mention of any civic opposition; despite a petition drive by S.O.S. that netted 5,000 signatures protesting the proposed land-swap. And, in November (a month before Bensko's quarterly report went to HUD officials in Washington), the head of Florida's Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Dr. Elton Gissendanner, held a public hearing in Key West that packed the Mallory Square Convention Center in an overwhelming demonstration of the public's opposition to the city land-swap proposal. Again, there was no mention of the demonstration in that

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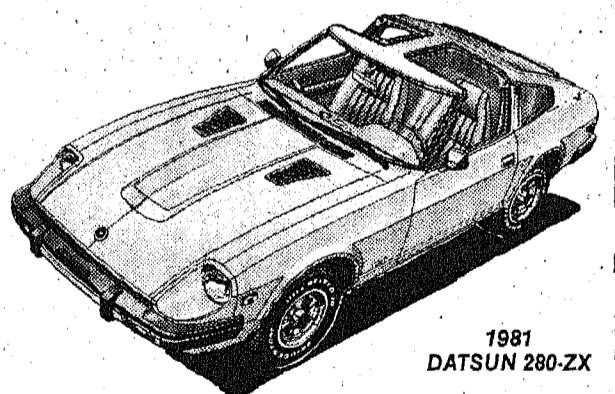
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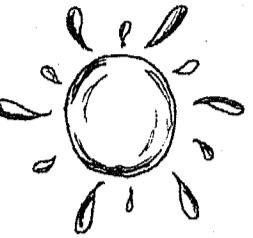
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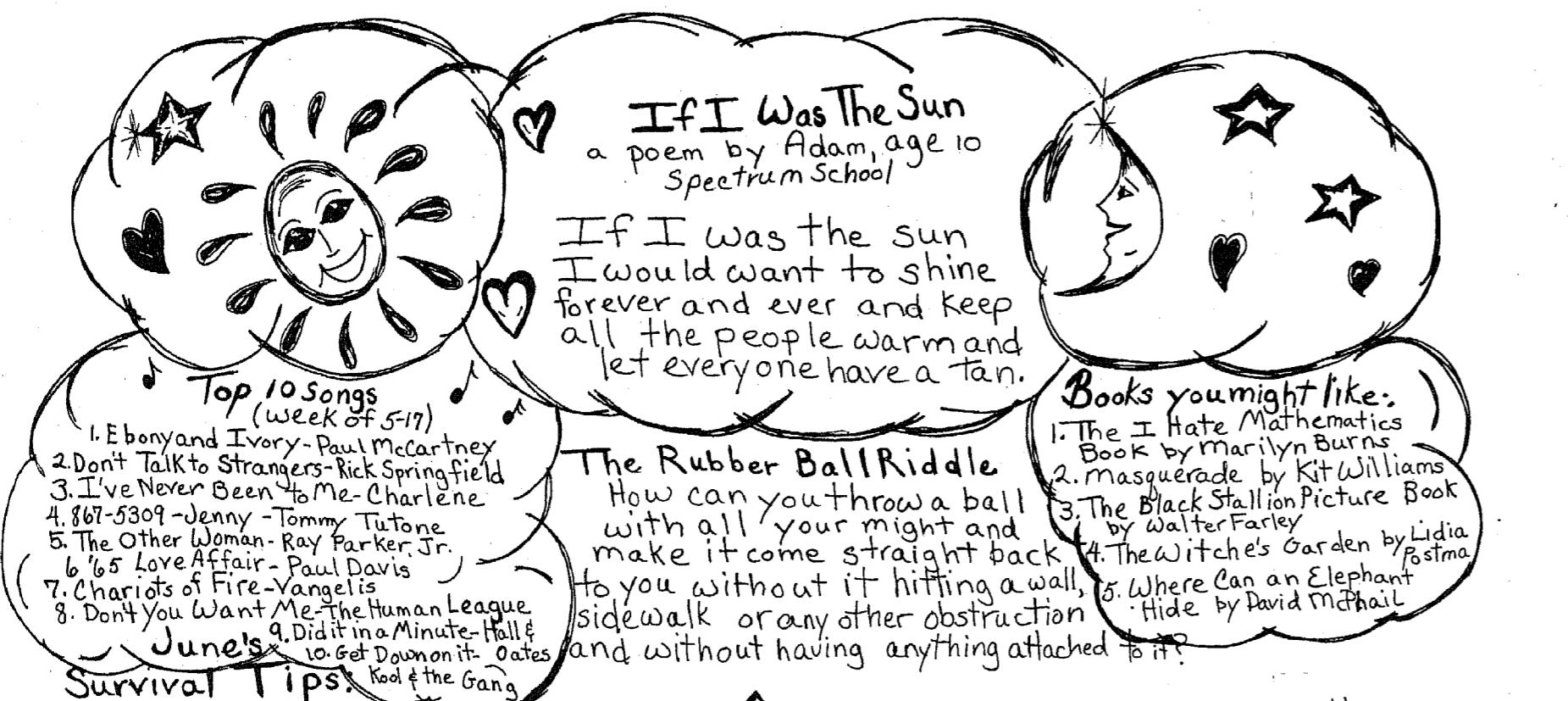
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**Get this:**  
In 1875 the man in charge of the U. S. Patent Office quit his job and advised the department to be closed. He claimed there was nothing left to invent!!

**The Bearded Clown**  
by Gwen Hubbs, Spectrum School

Try to trace the lines in this picture without lifting the pen from the paper - do not retrace any line. You may begin anywhere.

**Success**  
I want to write a poem so pretty, I want to write it so it rhymes. I cannot seem to make it happen, Tho I try time after time after time. by Nina S. Forrest (a friend)

Did you know it takes 17 muscles to smile and 43 muscles to frown?

**Sea" and "See" are Homonyms - they sound the same but are spelled differently and have different meanings. How many homonyms do you know? (no?)**

Hi! High?

**Answers to Puzzles:**

1. **Scramble - mathmatical**  
Pie, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1

2. **Hi! High!**  
Hi! High! through straight up.

3. **Only one line**  
The number is 22.

4. **Over 30 things**  
in the room.

5. **Shoes, pillows, our chairs and desks, socks, stockings, skates, balls, and shoes.**

6. **Scrabble - mathmatical**  
Pie, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1

7. **Scrabble - mathmatical**  
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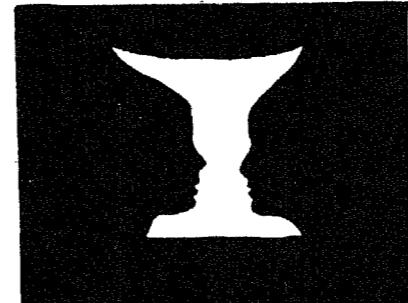
## A Man Named Willis

by Danny Hardiman, age 12  
Spectrum School

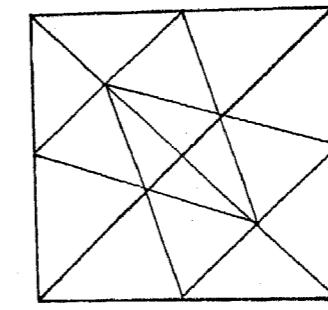
Once upon a time there was a man named Willis who worked in a saw mill. He built chairs mostly. He decided to build a real good chair for himself to use at meetings. It was a real good chair until one day Willis got mad at one of his meetings and beat on the arm of the chair and it fell off. The chair was stored in the attic of the saw mill for 47 long, cold winters. Willis finally threw it out at the dump. After a very long time of baking in the sun, Willis's great-great grandson picked it up at the dump. He glued it all back together and stained and waxed it. Now the chair lives happily with Willis's great-great grandson, who is also named Willis. The End



## Seeing Double?



Is it a vase or two people facing each other? See if you can "see" anything else.



Without using a ruler can you tell which line is longer? Take a guess. Oh alright, go ahead and measure! Were you right?

How many times can you subtract the number 2 from the number 24???

How many words can you make out of the word Creativity?

Try to unscramble the letters in this word!

CTMIA ALMTAEH

Try to fill in the boxes with the numbers 1-9. Try to arrange them so each row of numbers going down, across and diagonally will add up to 15.

How can you cut the pie into eleven parts, not the same size, by making 4 straight lines?

cherry pie

NEITHER IS IT simply a local issue concerning a land-swap. The UDAG loan itself has been questioned. Richard Reeves, a syndicated columnist has asked, "What the hell was going on?" when he learned of the \$1.1 million HUD grant to Key West. He went on, "I know the Pier House very well; it is one of my favorite places in America and I have stayed there several times - that was before the cost of rooms went up to \$63 to \$175 per night. Why was the federal government using taxpayers' money, my money, to build more \$175 rooms?" He called it "welfare for the rich", finding it unbelievable that people who can raise \$10 million to buy a hotel and another \$4.8 million to expand it could receive a favorable loan from HUD in the first place.

THE PIER HOUSE has been handed a significant sum of money, with favorable interest rates (7%) through the UDAG program. Let's leave it at that. The city is not bound by the UDAG agreement to hand Pier House by means of selling, trading, or swapping any of its valuable and publicly useful land unless it's done in an exchange that is beneficial and in accordance with public wishes.

IF THE CITY continues in its efforts to deal with the Pier House over the land issue in any other way, then it totally sacrifices the public trust handed them in the past election. To do so would mean a loss of credibility that would hopefully manifest itself at the next election. This battle has gone on too long to be forgotten quickly - especially if the people of Key West lose their waterfront.

ENOUGH IS STILL ENOUGH!

Pier House doesn't have to have the land for expansion as a contractual obligation to satisfy UDAG requirements, but he added, "From a resort stand point, in order to charge what they charge, they would have to retain (sic) additional facilities..." And, he claimed, that although within the UDAG agreement the expansion is not fixed, "missing problems", such as additional land requirements, are to be taken care of by the redevelopment agency in this case the city commission. "There is going to have to be a change as far as the contract is concerned. There is no short term way of resolving that land dispute."

IN THE QUARTERLY report for March 31, 1982, Bensko noted: "...plans for 18 new luxury suites have been approved by the Old Island Restoration Commission (OIRC) and construction drawings are currently being prepared...However, it is becoming apparent because of site problems and other local considerations that the full 125 unit expansion may not be possible..."

NOW WHAT? IS this a hedge against future failure to secure the desired city parcel? The City-Pier House-UDAG agreement originally called for a 200 unit expansion that was later narrowed down to 125 new units. Now for the first time there is mention in a quarterly report of a reduction to 18 new units to be constructed. Pier House General Manager, Peter Henry, said that the 19 units were going to be built on Pier House land in hope that they would satisfy the UDAG agreement. He noted that they, the Pier House, were not necessarily giving up the 125 unit expansion idea, they were simply responding to the urgency of the contract. He added, "Even if there is no contractual obligation on the part of the city to provide land [for expansion], we are still interested in buying the city parcel."

STAKES NOW MARK an area of land around the Pier House swimming pool, designating where the 18 new units will be constructed. City Manager Bensko stated that due to economic considerations, that may be where the expansion will have to stop for the present. He admitted that the

BUT, REGARDLESS OF what the Pier House wants, and what excuses can be concocted around this long-standing conflict, what is important is the seeming duplicity on the part of those representing the city and Pier House interests to HUD officials in Washington over an issue that has had the public and the city at loggerheads for a year and a half now.

Not fair to whom? To the Pier House? What about the public?

BUT, REGARDLESS OF what the Pier

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### PUSHING THE BUTTON

BY ATHENA D. TERRY

IN ORDER TO catch a bus in Bermuda, one must be standing at a green and white striped pole or at a lay-bye, a cemented covered area, or get left-bye.

Bermuda bus drivers run a hazardous course and must keep their eyes glued to these busy, twisting roads or risk being slammed into cold, solid, unyielding rock.

As a result, Bermuda bus drivers do not consult with boarding passengers, some hauling luggage and assuming a routine stop at the Airport.

HOWEVER, THESE DEPARTING visitors are unaware the bus does not stop at any bus stop unless one signals in advance by Pushing The Button.

As a result, a luggage-laden passenger seeing the Airport slowly slip from view cries out in alarm:

"I wanted to go to the Airport!"

With cool, reserved stiffness, the driver replies in detached firmness:

"Madame, you should have Pushed The Button."

As Madame disembarks, balancing a suitcase in each hand, I'm sure the words of the bus driver must ring in her ears and echo in the gusting wind as she battles her way back to the Airport.

SOMEWHERE IN KEY West is a bus driver who played a game of Pushing The Button and turned an otherwise monotonous, lethargic ride into a lively one for a group of Very Special People.

I board in Old Town and notice the majority of the few passengers on board are adult male students, a segment of Key West's Special Children.

Sprawled in their seats in a half-dozing position, one senses this is their escape from the boredom of the bus ride.

AS OUR DRIVER pulls away from the curb, he peers into the rear view mirror. After a few seconds he calls back to the students:

"Hey, you guys. What did you do in school today?"

His words meet with dead silence. Taking another peek in the mirror he calls back again:

"Come on, you guys. Get up off that back seat and talk to me. You know it gets pretty lonesome up here without someone to talk to."

AS THERE IS NO RESPONSE and no shift in position, our driver tries again:

"You know, if you guys don't sit up you're going to make me fall asleep. And, if I do, none of us will get to where we are supposed to be getting to."

A few snickers sound as bodies begin squirming in their seats.

WITH ANOTHER PEEK our driver continues in his quest for contact:

"Listen, if you guys sit up, I'll let you in on a secret."

A few heads bob as one voice answers:

"What kind of secret?"

"I can't tell you until everyone sits up, and I see a few heads back there that aren't all the way up."

ONE BY ONE heads start popping up and eyes begin flashing interest.

"Now," begins our driver (as I find myself anticipating this secret), "do any of you guys know who the President of the United States is?"

The name "Reagan" rings out in loud, happy voices.

"That's right!" our driver calls back, matching their tone of voice. "President Ronald Reagan. Your President and mine. Now, do any of you know what a Communist is?"

Heads bob negatively along with a chorus of "No."

"Well," our driver continues, "Com-

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West started altering its character. "The motel owners and city fathers way back then didn't stick up for the local people and do for the city what they should have," Justa and DeWitt agree.

The couple feel that it was then that a materialistic spirit started to replace the more peaceful, laid-back aura of people living in harmony with nature. After WWII the first motels were incorporated into island life. A corruption began to seep in with the quickened ways, they noticed.

IN LAKELAND THEY know of at least 24 displaced Conch families who have similar sentiments. They feel the newcomers to Key West brought both good and bad influences and changes. Justa loves the artistic spirit and the successful aloe, cosmetics, and hand-print fabrics businesses. "but do you have to go in such a hurry here, when everything is close at hand!"

JUSTA AND DeWITT say it's just too difficult for the Keys to keep up with such a growth spurt, judging by the water shortages and outrageous utility and rental costs.

In Lakeland they pay no garbage, sewer, cable or water. Taxes on their five acres are low for the CBS house they live in.

THE ROBERTSES LIVED for 23 years over on Fogarty near Flagler. She had been happily working as a bookkeeper and secretary for the Old Town Redevelopment Limited. DeWitt maintained a job with the city parking lot after his retirement from the Navy. Kids used to play safely in the peaceful streets when they had first moved into their home on Fogarty. But as things turned out, the residential zoning was threatened. Business wanted to come in, and residents had to fight City Hall. Justa and DeWitt were activists. They were

the spokesmen who took the dissatisfaction to commission meetings to be aired. They organized petitions. After the Robertses moved out, the zoning DID change, and business DID move in.



Justa & DeWitt with T-shirts.  
Hers reads "WILL THE LAST CONCH  
LEAVING KEY WEST PLEASE BRING  
THE FLAG: his reads "KEY WEST  
CONCHS, AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

THE COUPLE HEARTILY applaud restoration efforts but are disappointed by the fading beauty of Key West's beaches--Rest Beach, Simonton, Smathers, South Beach--and consider the beaches endangered zones, with the threat of condos. They remember how wonderful Sunday picnics at the beaches were when families were closer-knit and there were not so many strangers. "Now people seem too self-centered. We got such a happiness from helping each other. Life in Key West gets too over-stimulated now, and there is less centering in the home."

THEY REMEMBER DAYS when they lived on Center Street, and when anyone was sick or in need (black or white) neighbors would respond like family. "Miss Mingo would always bring food when a baby was born. And, seafood was reasonable and available for all. There's no need for waste. Everyone could have. "Coffee Butler would come watch TV. We had the first TV on the block. We'd always have food and a good time visiting."

DeWITT USED TO coach baseball and basketball little league games for years. He had been with the Navy a long time and enjoyed working with youngsters. He cared a lot.

Their offspring include: Glenn 22 (Lakeland), Manuel Lopez 31 (Lakeland), Darlene 27, and DeWitt 25, who remain among us in Key West.

THE ROBERTSES SAY the steadfast Conch spirit is defined by tolerance of the idiosyncrasies of others. Conchs are proud of themselves and don't mind the "difference" of others. Although we point out that some of the kids in the past have beat up sailors, hippies or gays, Justa says "It's an excuse for not having something to do, and in time they will learn to live with others also."

"Like the shellfish, the meat of the Conch is hard to get to, but once you do get into it, it's the sweetest in town. And, once you make a friend of a Conch, he'll always be your friend!" Justa has a happy spirit. One can see that she and DeWitt are best of friends.

PERHAPS, THE HARD-SHELL hermitage of the Conch is softened in exodus! "My heart will always remain here in Key West," she confides.

The rest of us can only regret the loss of those not among us ... and, hope for reunion in the new Conch Republic!

BY PHOEBE REDNER COAN

## THANK YOU, JANE

BY JUNE PEREZ

On June 18 Jane Zander Sussman will finish a six year tour of duty as Directress of the Children's School of Key West.

JANE WAS IMPORTED from New York in 1976, by the school corporation to teach the Montessori Method. She was 23 and in her own words "naive, young and innocent."

JANE IS CERTIFIED by the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI), recognized world-wide as the "purest" form of Montessori.

MARIA MONTESSORI, FOUNDER of the Method, revolutionized early childhood education by recognizing the importance of allowing individuality in children. Montessori students all over the world learn from a series of tools invented by Maria Montessori in the early 1900's.

AFTER RECEIVING A degree in early childhood education, Jane worked as an assistant in a Montessori school in Connecticut. Two and a half years later she decided to take an additional year of training at a AMI center and become a directress herself.

IT WAS HER faith in the work of Maria Montessori, who she reveres passionately, that sustained her

through the first lonely months of her appointment in Key West.

"I WAS NOT immediately accepted here. But there was a handful of people who believed in Montessori and who supported me. I stayed for the children and for them."

IN 1977 JANE convinced the Board of Directors to apply for certification from Association Montessori



Jane

Internationale. The school became accredited. She is particularly proud of that.

"WE'VE PUT KEY West on the map. All Montessorians are aware of our little one-room AMI school way down here at the Southernmost point, " Jane says with pride.

THE BEST DAY that she remembers at the school was when her father, an elderly artist who is not crazy about children, came to visit. The children, one by one, introduced themselves to

him and shook his hand.

"It was totally unrehearsed. I was so proud of them."

IN 1978 SHE became an Honorary Conch.

The worst day for Jane will probably be June 18, when she will say farewell to the students and the little school that has been her "baby" all these years.

"I've grown up a lot down here."

JANE AND HER husband, Paul Sussman, who she met in Key West and married less than a year ago, will be leaving for Anchorage, Alaska this summer. She would like to go back to school, study child psychology and have a baby -- not necessarily in that order.

"It's hard to leave but I've got to spread my wings..." she says as she packs her framed Honorary Conch certificate into a box with other mementos she will take with her to Alaska.

THEN SHE PAUSES and says in a whisper, "The last day is going to be really rough."



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## HOUSEBOAT Row REVISITED

BY JOHN LESLIE

(In the April Solares Hill article on Houseboat Row it was reported that: "The restrictions on overnight parking have been lifted on South Roosevelt Boulevard," according to [City Manager] Bensko and signs to that effect will be going up soon" and that "as regards the discharge of waste [raw sewage] in Garrison Bight, Bensko states that the city is in the process of installing a septic tank there."

Neither of these two actions quoted by the city manager has happened. According to Port and Transit Authority (PATA) Manager, Charles Hamlin, the 'no overnight parking' signs in front

of the houseboats are under the control of the State Department of Transportation (DOT) and it has not signed the maintenance agreement necessary to allow the city either to enforce the ban on overnight parking or to remove the signs. Until such a time as the agreement is reached the enforcement of the signs remains in limbo—despite claims by houseboaters that they have been ticketed.

And, as regards the installation

### WHAT IS TRUER OF KEY WEST THAN THE HODGE-PODGE ARRAY OF HOUSEBOAT ROW?

of a septic tank at Garrison Bight City Docks, the original plan has been dropped, again according to PATA Chief Hamlin, due to constructional difficulties.]

CITY EFFORTS TO evict the house-

boaters has increased dramatically in the past month, largely on the strength of what appears to be a private war waged by Mayor Dennis Wardlow against what he has called the "freeloaders" of Houseboat Row.

THE WAR HAS reached the stage of attempts by the mayor to lease for the city the bay-bottom of Cow Key Channel thereby giving the city the right to evict all the floating dwellings and their inhabitants from the area. Over

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Photo by Jo Ann Savio

Part of Houseboat Row  
years, Charles Hamlin says that PATA would provide space along the seawall inside Garrison Bight until such time as dock space there became available or "until the prospective marina that the city has claimed would be built along the present houseboat site is completed and the houseboaters could return".

MAYOR WARDLOW IN his various attacks on the houseboat community has never mentioned the possibility that with the construction of a marina it would be possible for those houseboaters, who, having complied with established standards, could return to South Roosevelt Blvd. Perhaps an oversight on the part of the mayor; perhaps not. But the notion of a small marina for use by the houseboaters has not been made public until this time.

IN A MEMO of January 18, 1982, to the city manager, from Hamlin on the subject of the houseboats, he stated that: "It is the opinion of the PATA that some of the houseboats on South Roosevelt Blvd. have made a concentrated effort to maintain their boats and the surrounding area in a neat and proper manner. These people should not be penalized for the faults of others. We feel that the solution to the problem

is for the city to gain possession of the bay-bottom and the bulkhead and to construct a small marina in the area... [amounting] to several small finger piers jutting out from the seawall with water and electrical hookups provided... slips could be rented out to the boats."

Many of the residents of Houseboat Row claim that they would be more than happy to pay a dockage fee if one were established. Few feel that they are freeloaders and have in some cases volunteered to pay something for the privilege of dock space, and some are even now paying personal property tax. As to the unsightliness created by some of the structures, nearly all agree that they are willing to work towards setting up and complying with regulations to insure that all houseboats are well-maintained.

BUT, AS THINGS stand now, nothing is being done to bring about a dialogue between the two groups. The city, according to the houseboaters, is harassing them—some say they have been harassed by the city for nearly twenty-five years. They feel that the most recent harassment came in the form of city police and the dock master from Garrison Bight who knocked on houseboat doors at 7:00 in the morning to inspect sanitation devices on board.

DOCKMASTER JEANETTE HARTMAN says that 7:00 a.m. was the only time they could find people at home. She also stated that quite a few of the live-aboard vessels had the proper sanitation devices.

SOME OF THE houseboaters have been told that they will be served two week eviction notices once the State leases the bay-bottom to the city.

IN THE MEANTIME, it is a war of words without attrition—the houseboaters are digging in for what they consider to be the mayor's personal campaign against them, and the mayor is intensifying his efforts to evict them. They feel that unless the State grants the lease the city hasn't got a legal leg to stand on in its efforts to be rid of them.

THERE IS ALSO the question of who has the right to lease state-owned bay-bottom. If the city is permitted to do so, why not individuals?

MRS. MARGARET DENNIS who lives on the 'Sea Dog', the houseboat that she and her late husband, Morgan Dennis, well-known illustrator and author of several children's books, had built by a ship builder more than 25 years ago, has written a letter to Dr. Elton Gissendanner, head of Florida's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requesting that she be allowed to purchase the bay-bottom beneath her own houseboat. She claims that the entire Cow Key Channel is an ecological area that serves as a fish hatchery and bird sanctuary that should be protected and would be entirely destroyed if a marina for power boaters were built there. Asked if she would be prepared to move to Garrison Bight, she replied, "I am not leaving here."

Mrs. Dennis' pluck, and that of others like her on the Row whose homes and way of living are routinely threatened, could easily be compared to that of the early conch's.

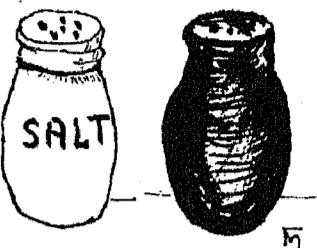
IN A RECENT Tropic article in the Miami Herald, Mayor Wardlow praises the individuality of the early Conchs with their hodge-podge zoning and remembrance of the days when Conchs didn't paint their houses at all or "when they did paint them, a lot of them used battleship gray that they got from the Navy base."

THE TRUE HISTORY of Key West is

being lost," Wardlow says. "We're winding up with something some northerner thinks Key West should look like. It's not the true Key West."

What is truer of Key West than the hodgepodge of Houseboat Row?

THE MAYOR MAY be mayor and self-proclaimed Prime Minister of the Conch Republic. But he is not a dictator.....yet.



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## KEY WEST'S HOROSCOPE

BY EMMA CATES

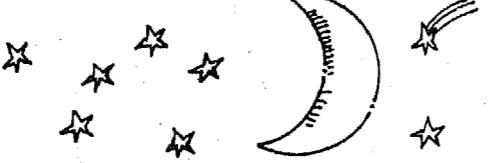
Sun in Gemini, after 21 in Cancer  
Mercury in Gemini, retrograde,  
turning direct on June 13.  
Venus in Taurus, after 25 in Gemini.  
Mars in Libra.  
Saturn in Libra, retrograde, turn-  
ing direct the 17th.

Jupiter in Scorpio, retrograde,  
turning direct the 27th.  
Uranus in Sagittarius, retrograde.  
Neptune in Sagittarius, retrograde.  
Pluto in Libra, retrograde.  
North Node in 15 degrees of Cancer.

THE FULL MOON on June 6 in Sagittarius aspects the 7th house of the Key West chart. Partnership matters are highlighted this month. A trine aspect to the Midheaven of the Horoscope is advantageous for publicity and professionalism.

DURING JUNE, TWO (2) planets that have been retrograde for most of 1982 will take a direct motion. This is positive in the overall view, and in particular Saturn's influence will be less malefic in direct motion. Jupiter will be moving toward a conjunction with the natal Jupiter in Scorpio in the chart of Key West. Employment matters; financial interests; health and hygiene will all be under favorable influence.

THE NEW MOON on June 21 in 29° of Gemini in the 1st house sector of the chart accentuates individuality and self-concern.



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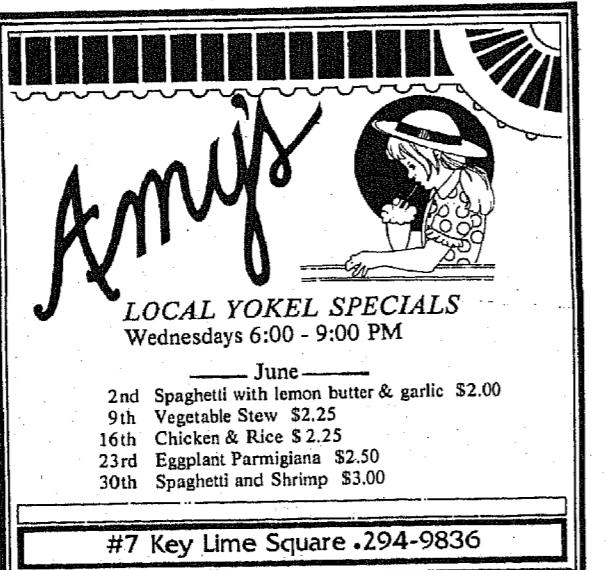
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## Editorial

BY BILL WESTRAY

WE WERE PRESENT at the south end of the Seven Mile Bridge on April 27 to watch the final 160-foot section of new bridge hoisted into place. Only a few media representatives and a couple dozen other interested individuals and workers were present for the historic occasion.

Several thousand spectators joined a couple dozen VIP's and all the newspaper, radio and TV people on Saturday, May 22, 1982, for the official dedication ceremonies at the Marathon end of the span.

CONGRESSMAN DANTE FASCELL, who sparked the drive to obtain the money to build all the new bridges, and Dick Misener, who built and completed it

WHEN THESE DEVELOPMENTS GET ROLLING TOWARD 200,000 PEOPLE, HEAVEN HELP THE FLORIDA KEYS.

within the \$45 million budget and five months ahead of schedule, were featured speakers. Fascell emphasized the coordination of many individuals and organizations at state and federal levels in securing the \$250-odd million dollars to finance the 37-bridge-replacement program.

MISENER EMPHASIZED THE phenomenal safety record of the, on the average, 150-person work force with no major accidents and only a minor accident during the two-year-plus work effort.

The Seven Mile Bridge project constitutes the longest segmental bridge ever built. The 160-foot segments were prefabricated in Tampa, barged to Marathon and hoisted into place on pairs of four-foot-diameter piers by a "praying mantis-like" structure that crawled

out along each completed span to lift the next span into place.

Spur.

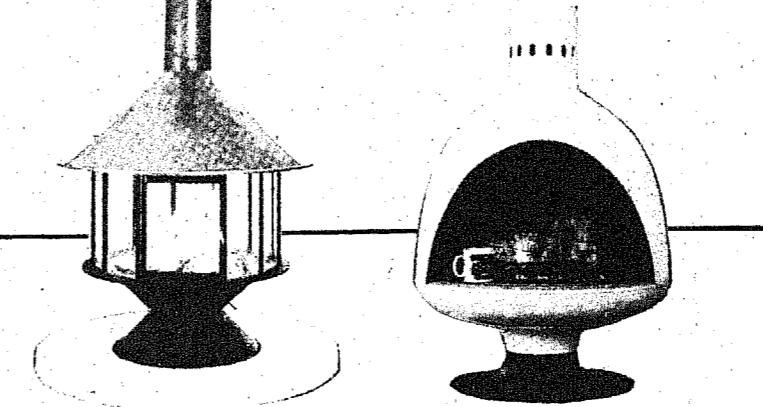
MEANWHILE, NEW DEVELOPERS have lined up fast to build large new developments along Route 905. Bougainville (2800 living units), Carysfort (512), Garden Cove (220), Ocean Reef Shores (180), Largo Hammock (350), Largo Beach and Tennis Club (224), Sea to Sound (129) are some of the large projects being processed for North Key Largo to use up the bonanza of water.

OUR CONCERN ARE the same as we have been writing about for many months. With the advent of new bridges, ample water, and plentiful electrical power, the natural restraints on over-development of the Keys are dissolving. Sensing enormous profits, the speculators are moving in with enormous amounts of money—one two, perhaps as much as 3 BILLION. Not only Key Largo, but Big Pine Key is feeling the pressure. It is no accident that our principal concrete supplier wants to locate a major new batching plant on Coupon Eight, not just to finish the bridges, but to support the major development just up the road on Big Pine Key.

AND WE STILL only have a two-lane highway from Homestead to Key West! When these developments get rolling toward 200,000 people, heaven help the Florida Keys. And at the end of the road we can post a new sign:

"HERE LIES KEY WEST ... R.I.P."

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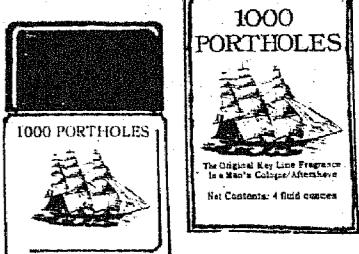


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**RUN FOR THE REPUBLIC—  
AND WESLEY HOUSE!**

BY NED GUARDENIER AND KIM ROMANO

THE SOUTHERNMOST ROAD Runner's Club is pleased to host the 1st Annual "Run for the Republic" to honor the birth of the New Conch Republic - and get the 4th of July celebration off with a bang.

THE PROCEEDS OF this year's event will benefit Wesley House, a child-care center for children of low-income families whose parents work. Wesley House's two centers in Key West and one in Marathon feed and instruct daily over 140 children, aged 2½ years to 12 years old. Wesley House receives a good deal of its financial support from the Key West Community, and what better way to help kids than to exercise in the fresh air and sunshine for our New Republic?

TWO DISTANCE EVENTS will be featured offering something for everyone. The 10 kilometer (6.2 miles) run starts at 7:30 AM at the Key West Art Center, Mallory Square. The course goes through shady Old Town, over Garrison Bight to Atlantic Boulevard, then down breezy South Street to the Southernmost Point and back to Mallory Square.

THE 2 MILE Fun Run starts at 8:45 AM and is billed as the World's longest, going from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean. Everyone is invited to participate. The \$5.00 entry fee will entitle the first 150 entrants to a Commemorative Running Shirt sponsored by Key West Aloe. All finishers will also be eligible for a drawing of dozens of merchandise awards donated by local businesses. Trophies will be presented to the top male and female finishers in the 10 kilometer race.

There will be plenty of soft drinks and beer to cool you off after the race.



The start of last year's run

SO, IF YOU have been meaning to get back in shape, the Southernmost Road Runner's Club invites you to attend a Runner's Clinic on Saturday, June 5th between 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM at the Key West Art Center at Mallory Square. You'll get started with stretching exercises, a 2-block or 2-mile jog, and then a \$2.00 Runner's Pancake Breakfast at Pepe's Cafe on Caroline Street to talk it over.

**REMEMBER: JOIN THE CONCH REPUBLIC  
RUN FOR A WESLEY HOUSE CHILD!!!!!!**

ENTRY FORMS ARE available at any Sporting Goods Store in Key West. The Key West and Marathon Chambers of Commerce, and Farrington Gallery, 711 Duval Street, will also have entry forms.

**THE LAST  
FRONTIER  
IS US.**

Man's greatest discovery will be about himself.

The age which explored unknown lands and sailed uncharted seas is over. The courage, the vision, and the spirit of adventure which sustained it, however, are even more necessary today.

For now we must extend our

mastery over a far more challenging frontier - our own human nature. Over 130 years ago, Bahá'u'lláh, Prophet-Founder of the Bahá'í Faith identified the key to this new age of discovery. It is the consciousness of the oneness of mankind. Recognition of this central truth will bring in its wake the unification of our world, and the solution of all other human problems waits on this great step.

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The right and duty of the individual to investigate truth for himself is a basic principle of the Bahá'í Faith. For further information, please write:

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10:30 TO 6:00 DAILY**

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Sail off into History and Adventure with Key West's own Tall Ship  
Visit Pier A and the workshop operated by Key West Museum of Traditional Seamanship

**AMUSEMENTS**

BY ROBIN KAPLAN

Calendar in brief:

La Tea Dance - every Wednesday and Sunday after 5 p.m. at LaTerazza, the first and still the best.

Sand's Tea Dance - every Saturday sunset-time.

Papillon's Tea-by-the-Sea - Sunday dinner, dancing, drinking and diving at the Atlantic Shores Motel, after 7:30pm.

The Monster schedule:  
6/2 - Mel Brook's film "The Producers." (repeated after Double Dollar Dinner on Sunday, June 6th)

6/9 - Mel Brook's film "Young Frankenstein" (repeated after Double Dollar Dinner on Sunday, June 13th).

6/16 - Mel Brook's film "Silent Movie" (repeated after Double Dollar Dinner on Sunday, June 20th).

6/23 - Mel Brook's film "High Anxiety" (also repeated after Double Dollar Dinner on Sunday, June 27th).

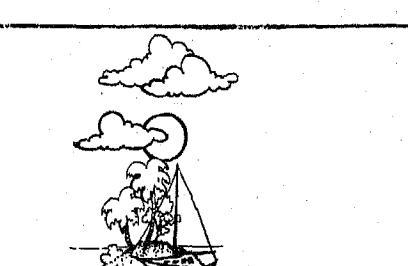
6/30 - Hotcha! Dana Manchester is back in town! Two shows.....

ALSO ON SUNDAYS, the Monster serves a champagne Brunch from noon to four p.m. The food is excellent, ambience lovely by daylight...a leisurely Mimosa afternoon.

EVERY MONDAY AND Thursday nights is Bar-B-Que time. Good, inexpensive, and popular. Come before 8 p.m. for Happy Hour prices - dinner is served until 11 p.m.

THE KEY WEST Art and Historical Society has acquired 12 works by local Artist, Mario Sanchez. The art of this nationally-known folk artist is on permanent exhibit at East Martello Gallery and Museum. Governor Bob Graham, and Secretary of State, George Firestone have announced their support of the exhibit of Key West's primitive painter, Sanchez, who was recently featured in a nationally broadcasted PBS television documentary.

BUS-A-LONG is an alternative weekend transportation service between Port Lauderdale/Miami and Key West. A whole-sale tour operator, Travellers Intl. Services, Inc., will begin their runs on Friday, June 11th and every Friday thereafter through September '82. The reserved-seating luxury bus with complimentary wine served on board, will leave Ft. Lauderdale at 5:30 p.m. from the Together Restaurant at 1800 East Sunrise Blvd. It then stops at the Bus-A-Long office at 2125 Biscayne Blvd. Departure is at 6:30 p.m. to Key West. The following Sunday, it departs at 7:30 p.m. after Tea Dance at La Terazza. Round-trip reservations cost \$42.00. Check or money order is acceptable 15 days prior to departure; only cash on day of departure. Reservations to be made in advance - call 573-9044, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Monday through Friday). For guest house accommodations or further information, speak with Joseph Levy at above-mentioned number.

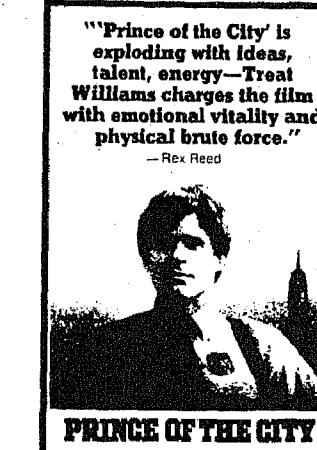


BY ROBIN KAPLAN

**THE  
Picture Show**  
A MOTION PICTURE ALTERNATIVE FOR KEY WEST

**620 DUVAL  
SHOWTIME 7 • 9 PM \$3.00**

**June** Summer showtime is 9:00 only



**30-5**



**6-12**

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a story you'll never forget.



**20-26**

**13-19**

**True Confessions**



**27-3**

**THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW**  
EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT MIDNITE!  
Your favorite beer is now available at the Picture Show

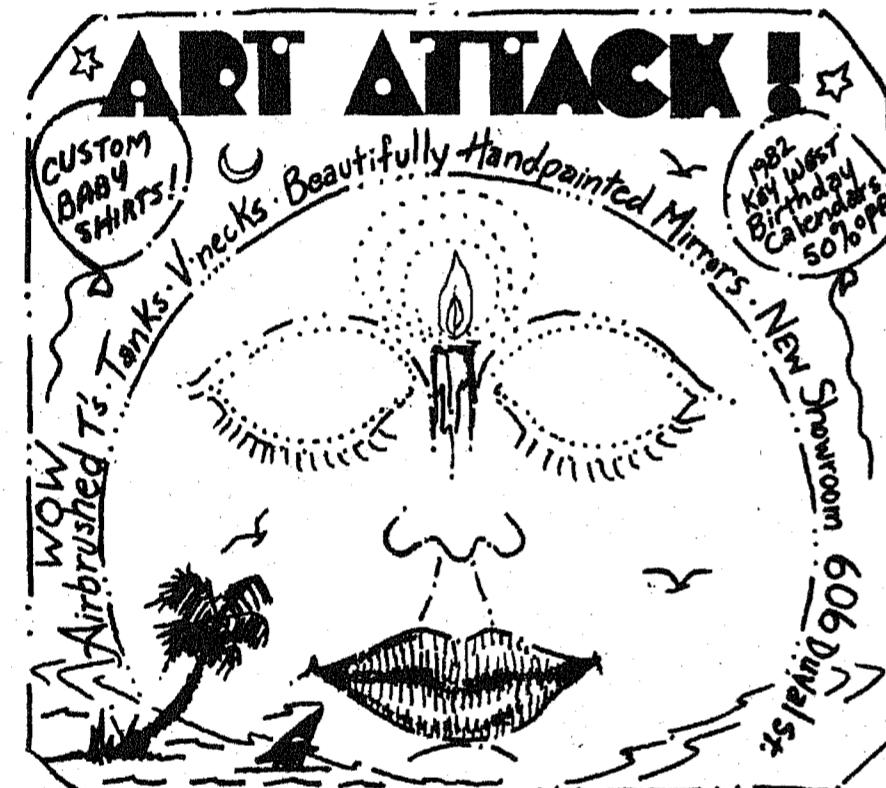
continued from page 2

ROBERT ANDERSON, ONE of the leaders of Save Our Shorelines (S.O.S.), has another good idea. He wants the commission to pass an ordinance forbidding the selling of our deeded streets to anyone. It makes good sense to have this resolution on the books. No more Simonton Street sales, for example.

CONTRARY TO NEWSPAPER reports, a lot of people want Harris School to remain open. Recently this popular neighborhood elementary school was ordered closed as an economy measure because of dwindling enrollments. If the Navy comes back in force, it will probably be reopened. I hope that a use will be found for it.

IF BAHAMA VILLAGE is going to work (read Phoebe Coan's article on it this issue), then the businesses thus created by it must be run by neighborhood people. Whether straw market, open air food selling, crafts or restaurants or whatever, now is the time to begin lining up the residents of the area who would like to participate. It will defeat the purpose of Bahama Village unless the unemployment in that area is lessened.

See you in August.



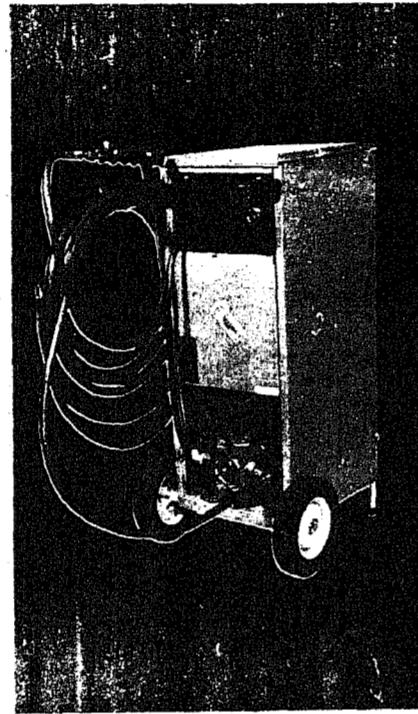
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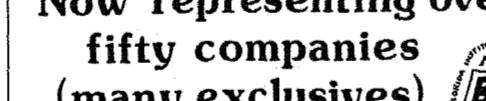
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500 Duval Street, Open 10-6 seven days, 294-2007

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Creative palm readings and interpretations by Stella, Mon.-Fri. 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and Thurs.-Mon., 9:00 p.m. to midnight at Claire Restaurant (in garden), 900 Duval St.

70 minutes of GREAT FRENCH SILENT FILMS 1915 - 1928. Monroe Public Library, Wednesday, June 2, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m. Admission free.

A UNIQUE HISTORIC program-extracts from 10 great silent french films - will be shown on Wednesday, June 2 at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium of Monroe Public Library, 700 Fleming as part of the 1982 French Week in Key West.

ACCORDING TO DAGNY Johnson of Tavernier, who was intimately connected with the making of this film series and knew the film directors personally in Paris during her film years. These films represent the great "fermenting" period of French cinema. Ms. Johnson will give her commentary on the films on June 2. The films are shown courtesy of Burger King and The French Embassy.

## GALLERIES

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

Artist Warehouse: 8 Charles St., (located in Old Sponge House off Duval St.) Monday thru Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and by appointment. A unique "work" gallery representing works by Lois Locklear and Karen Clemens along with other local artists. 294-7141 April 5 - June 4: French classes. Call for further information.

East Martello: 3500 S. Roosevelt Blvd., 296-3913. A "fort-museum" with some of the most interesting facts of Key West history and lore. Show beginning June 2; members annual summer exhibit.

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

Gingerbread Square Gallery: 901-Duval St.; summer hours, Thursday - Monday, 11:00 A.M.-6:00P.M. Information 296-8900; appointments 294-2165. This art gallery blends the modern and primitive styles in the works of Robert Franke, John Kiraly, Tennessee Williams and many more.

Guild Hall: 614 Duval St., 296-9359. Open 9:30 to 5:30 daily. Exhibiting an outstanding array of original art by Key West professionals Walter Ashe, Barbara Bauer, Sharon Cobb, John Cryer, Joan Howe, Ann Irvine, Fran Kebusch, Maxine McMullen, Irma Quigley, Norma Renner, Bee Sackett, and Carolyn Seiler. Featuring oils, acrylics, watercolors, drawings, prints, porcelain, weaving, basketry and other media.

Haitian Art Co.: 600 Frances St., 296-8932. Key West's newest gallery is like a trip to Haiti itself, replete with paintings and metal sculpture. Owner Ruth Kravitz encourages all interested to stop by and see her selection of a "little bit of Haiti."

Key West Art Center: 301 Front St., 294-1241. 10-5 daily. Sundays 11-4. This is a membership gallery, featuring individual wall shows every two weeks.

## EVENTS

Public lectures given from time to time on subjects pertinent to art and artists.

Lighthouse and Military Museum: 938 Whitehead, 294-0012. The highest view of Key West can be had here, along with a survey of aircraft and wartime materials convenient to island defense.

Moira: The art gallery in Key Lime Square, 294-1254. Oil portraits by Bob Birbeck. 11 to 5 Monday through Saturday; 12 to 4 Sunday; or by appointment. 296-9560.

Perkins Chandlery: 218 Whitehead, 294-7635. Showing the following artists: Roland Baker, A.S.M.A.; Commander J.A. Cryer.

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

## FILMS

Monroe County Public Library: Children's activities are scheduled for 10 a.m. every Saturday, one or more films followed by (usually) an arts and crafts activity.

Monroe County Public Library:

June 5: Flight of the White Wolf; Dance on a May Day; Peter and the Wolf. June 12: Great Toy Robbery; Cow; The Golden Fish. June 19: Animal Movie; Really Rosie. June 26: Mole as a Painter; tall it Courage.

Special children's programs for ages 8 and up, Wednesday mornings from 10:00-11:00, including arts, puppets, costumes, plants and acting. June 16: Robots; June 23: Paper Puppets; Movie June 30; The Making of Star Wars. For more information call Karen Jansen at 4-8488.

Key West Picture Show: Key West Picture Show, Thursday-Sunday, 2 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.

## REGULAR EVENTS

Key West Poetry Guild: meetings 1st Sundays at 121 Duval, Mostly Magnificent, 8:00 p.m.

Key West Singles: June 12, Big Fleet Western Night; June 26, pot Luck in Ramona's Garden, details 4-9288; June, all month, Hsppy Hour, Pit Barbecue, 4:30-6:30.

Flea Market: Saturday mornings, American Legion Home, Stock Island. June 25, Cheeca Lodge, Islamorada, 11:00.

Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority: no meeting in the Keys this month.

Key West City Commission: meetings 1st and 3rd Mondays at 8 p.m., City Hall, corner Simonton and Angela streets.

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

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

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

Monroe County Commission: June 14, Key West, Monroe County Courthouse, 10:00; June 28, Plantation Key Government Center, 10:00.

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

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

National Association for Retired Federal Employees: meetings last Sunday of the month at the Senior Citizens Plaza, 1400 Kennedy Drive, 3:45 p.m.

Friends Worship Group (Quakers): A gathered silence 10:30 - 11:30 a.m., Sundays, 416 Greene St., up, outside stairs. Inquiries, Sheridan Crumlish 294-1523.

## SELF-HELP

Alcoholics Anonymous: #4 Peary Court (Clubroom), 8:30 nightly; Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 12 noon; 10:30 a.m. on Sunday; 7 and 11 p.m. Friday. 294-9062.

Domestic Abuse Shelter Volunteer: 294-5586.

Emotional Health Anonymous: Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., First Congregational Church, 527 William St.

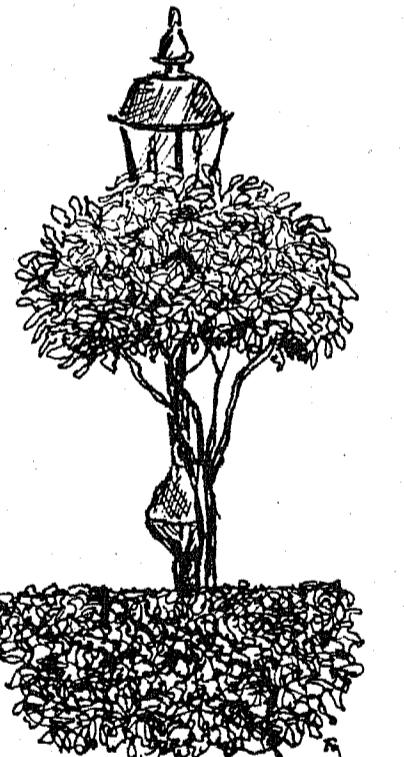
Conscious Pregnancy Classes: 296-6259. Key West Singles: 296-6977, 296-3423, 294-6973.

Mail-A-Book Program: costs you only 29 cents, for mailing. Library, 294-8488. Overeaters Anonymous: meetings Mondays at 7:30 p.m., at the Fleming Street Methodist Church, 729 Fleming St.

Classes on Natural Family Planning: Avoid or achieve pregnancy naturally.

Instructor R.N. certified by the Ovulation Method Teachers Association, Inc. More information call 296-7214 in Key West or 666-1402 in South Miami.

Workshops in Life Painting and Drawings: For information and times and locations, call Malcolm Ross at 294-8301.

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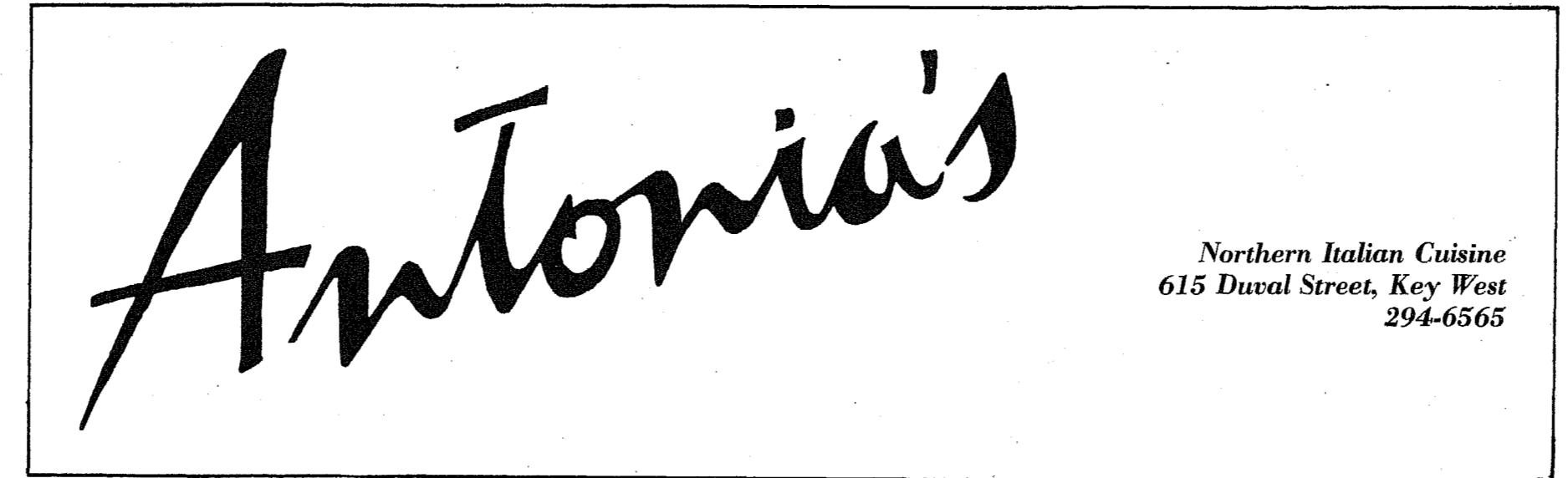
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## STATEWIDE GAMBLING REFERENDUM: AN ISSUE TO BE RECKONED WITH

BY DEANNA BERTONCINI

IT'S SATURDAY NIGHT in Rockland Key, the cocks are crowing while some local good ole boys are laying down ten spots on their cock of distinction. The pugnacious roosters meet head on in bloody combat to the death. Not a sight for the squeamish, members of the ASPCA, or Audubon, but a common occurrence in Conch wagering. Concurrently, in a smoke-filled backroom of a local Key West pub, five guys with rolled-up sleeves gather round a card table with shots, brews and five-dollar chips at their sides, deeply concentrating on their card fans, Duval Jack deals a poker hand with great finesse, while the players up their antes.

On Friday afternoon Manuel is out on the street buzzing around on his moped inconspicuously making his rounds collecting for bolita tickets. Bolita, a Cuban game which resembles the lottery, pays for winning numbers. Such are the everyday occurrences in Conch Bubba gambling. Key West has always been a gaming town; it's part of the heritage, a tradition.

### HAS GAMBLING BEEN A PROBLEM IN KEY WEST?

Not for the community, possibly for some loser's family, but those are individual risks, part of the admission fee. Gambling is thrilling and addictive. Games here are geared to the resources of the player. Everyone knows if a local guy is good for a marker (a gambling buzz word for I.O.U.). They all know who is, what he does and what he can and cannot afford. It's rather friendly gambling, and no one is allowed to exceed his limit because all the other players are in the know.

AS OF NOVEMBER 2, all this friendly Conch gambling could come to a halt. A referendum is on the Florida ballot to legalize statewide gambling. A group called Citizens for Less Taxes is supporting it in full force and pushing for a state-wide casino network including one for Key West at the old Food Fair building currently housing Lopez Distributors, Aamco, etc., on N. Roosevelt Boulevard.

CITIZENS FOR LESS TAXES is a syndicate, composed of individuals statewide like Chuck Rosen, owner of the Castaways in Miami; Joel Grey, entertainer, New York resident, part owner of the Doral; the owners of the Diplomat, Eden Roc, Marco Polo, and Waikiki in Miami; the Beach Club and Holiday Hotel in Ft. Lauderdale, the La Playa Motor Inn in Daytona, the Tides Motel in St. Pete, the Causeway Inn in Tampa, the Ramada Inn in Ft. Walton, the Holiday Inn in Panama City, etc. All these hotels have been suffering from lack

of tourists and feel that gambling will revitalize their cash flows. But will gambling lower taxes? Ask New Jersey residents, they will tell you No, it only lines the bulging pockets of the Big Boys and the casino owners.

### WHY WOULD STATE LEGALIZATION OF GAMBLING HURT KEY WESTERS AND BUBBA GAMBLING?

Playing at the Casino against the house gives a gambler a better chance to make the Big Kill, beaucoups bucks or to overextend himself by accumulating markers, markers that he can't afford to pay. Casino croupiers aren't aware that John Local is a dishwasher with three point two children, a house and car payment, who takes home \$125 per week, and furthermore they don't care. So if John Local loses, he faces the prospect of rendering his paycheck directly to the Casino or to skip town in fear of a facial rearrangement. NO ONE cheats the House. These casino guys mean more than business. They only get richer and stronger, the odds are always with the House.

MANY OF THE former Conch gamblers will cash their checks at the Casino, be romanced by free drinks and cigarettes and seduced by big-time gambling's "sky's the limit" stakes. Some will possibly win, some will assuredly lose, most will overextend themselves. Gambling is an obsession just as addictive as alcohol and drugs. Many can't stop with one roll. When they're losing they are compelled to even up, so keep building markers hoping to make a kill that may never come.

### WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE IN KEY WEST WHO CAN AFFORD TO GAMBLE?

If they can afford to gamble they can afford a fare to Nassau or Las Vegas. Furthermore, many of them probably won't want the type of individuals casinos will attract and employ living next door or coming in for extended gambling sojourns.

### WHAT ABOUT THE ISSUE OF STIMULATING TOURISM?

The tourists a casino draws are in many cases boisterous high-rollers, who are usually middle-income people seeking a fast buck and a lot of recognition. Many are demanding and surly when not sated or when on a losing streak. You hotel and motel owners had better learn to collect your room fees before these tourists hit the Casino. You better add on some "CLASS" suites equipped with waterbeds, red carpets, floored wallpaper, crystal chandeliers

--and a wet bar, naturally. You'll also need to install safety deposit boxes with 24-hour accessibility, for without these lavish extras, you'll be ruled out as a place for the gambling tourist to stay.

YOU RESTAURANTEURS, BAR owners and merchants had better make credit card checks your standard procedure.

YOU WAITERS, WAITRESSES, bartenders and kitchen helpers had better learn the meaning of obsequious and tolerant. You'll also have to learn what quick service is. Gambling folks won't tolerate the present laid-back island attitude about food service. They expect and demand fast service and tip frugally. So either develop a new modus operandi or find a new occupation selling bottles of Key West's rejuvenating air to the more gullible of tourists.

IF FLORIDIANS ARE that desperate for tourism then we had better be ready to pay this ante, but are we willing to take the chance? I wager not. Voting is more than a privilege, it's a duty. I implore you, consider this issue and weigh it carefully.

### DO YOU WANT KEY WEST TO BECOME ANOTHER ATLANTIC CITY?

If not, actively oppose the November Statewide Referendum to legalize gambling, on November 2's ballot.

