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VOL. 14, NO. 8 / KEY WEST, FLORIDA / AUGUST, 1986



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FROM THE EDITOR

Hello:

Now and again something so marvelous happens that one wants to grab strangers as well as friends and share the joyous message with them. What has happened is what has happened before and, of course, I'm referring to the Jacques Brel cabaret show at the Reach which by press time will be playing up the Keys.

I'm not a theatre person and I have no impeccable credentials to trot out to back up my enthusiasm—but I don't care! Joy Hawkins, Tom Murtha and John Wells are divinely superb in this production. First, they all have wonderful voices. Second, they are seasoned show people who avoid any tendency to ham it up—their respect for their material is continually evident. Third, they have all worked together and present an almost flawless unity and stage presence. Fourth, they are three of the most attractive humans imaginable and they do not trade on this by being coy, flirty, or campy, but simply are themselves. Fifth, the lighting and musical accompaniment etc. are all first rate. And, finally, it is the music and words of Jacques Brel that we hear—those quirky, one-of-a-kind, splendidly inspired sounds from the pen, heart and whim of a genius. What an evening!

I was very pleased to see that a revised Key West Salt Pond C.A.R.L. (Conservation and Recreation Lands) acquisition project was sent to the Selection Committee in Tallahassee in late July. Sponsored by the Florida Audubon Society, the project was put together by local Audubon House Director Joan Borel, and has received unanimous support of the City Commission by resolution.

The C.A.R.L. project would encompass all of the undeveloped land around the airport, and involve maintaining

the remaining natural features of the area with canoe access, nature trails, etc. County Commissioner Ed Swift has joined in this effort with input by local, county and state environmental staff. The word is that singer Jimmy Buffet has expressed interest in supporting the project also. Letters of support sent to C.A.R.L. Committee and the Cabinet in Tallahassee would be very helpful.

Final approval of the County Land Use Plan (C.L.U.P.) process is almost complete, following unanimous approval by the Cabinet on Tuesday, July 29. Many people have mixed feelings and reservations about the new plan. The bottom line, though, is the County Commission which will be the key factor in how well or how poorly the new plan works. With three County Commission seats up for election this fall it's very important to have the best people elected who will make intelligent and objective decisions to favor all the people.

We've started a new section to service the Big Pine Key area south through the Lower Keys. Hope you enjoy it. Bill Becker, News Director of US 1 radio and Gil Ryder, well known political observer and activist now living in Big Pine Key, will be supplying columns for this area.

P.S. The David A. Tackett who was an associate of the late Roy Cohn, the lawyer from the McCarthy era who was recently disbarred by the New York Bar Association, is not the David S. Tackett of Key West, who has never met either David A. Tackett or Roy Cohn and is no relation to David A. Our David has had this difficulty for years and at one point was the only Tackett in the Manhattan phone book and was continually mistaken for the other David Tackett.

Our cover artist this month is Theresa Burns.

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THANK YOU

Bernice Louise Shavers: An Illuminated Life

by Phoebe Redner

In these materialistic times, evidence of a life lived and spiritually experienced gives hope to those of us who have forgotten the basics and want to remember.

During the April 20th Appreciation Day for Bernice Shavers, sponsored by the Political Action Women's Club, held at Trinity Presbyterian Church, many letters of thanks came from earnest young people the lady has guided through the years. Letters of commendation came also from the Rev. Jesse Jackson (for helping Margaret Carey - now an attorney), and from Mayor Sawyer. He called her a "rose among the thorns" and thanked her on behalf of Key West for her many acts of community service. One of her many godchildren, John Leggett, cited her on that day also for her ability to impart to little children a simple understanding of Jesus' love.

In her notes on that day, Mrs. Shavers wrote: "All that I haave done and am still trying to do is not me, but God using me to do his will."

From early beginnings here in Key West, her greatest joy was in loving others. This grew into a desire to help them and then, to be a nurse. In spite of the fact that she admits to a fear of seeing a dead body, she became a good nurse.

Born in 1908, the third child of

Richard and Mary Sands, she was married first in 1941 to George Hepburn, a caterer, and then in 1956 to Maxwell Shavers a custodian. He died in 1971. The youngest of his five children she reared.



Bernice Louise Shavers

Photo by Richard Wetherwax

She graduated in the first 12th grade class of Douglas High School (class of '29), and still wears her graduation ring. "It's of pure gold," she proudly tells.

After a poor but happy childhood, the church supported her decision to nursing.

her mother's illness necessitated her return.

She describes her own childhood as that of a studious and quiet person. "I was different from the others, never frivolous. I enjoyed my mother's company - she was quite religious. And I enjoyed being with

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older people."

Her Sunday school teacher inspired her to become a model for others herself. She looked to her teachers for inspiration.

Mildred Shavers, cousin to her husband, was a great friend and also her 7-8th grade teacher at Douglas. The late Mrs. Shavers had a strong input on Bernice's life. A very strong Christian, she was respected by many for the way she taught children how to live.

Now Bernice, herself still a teacher of the young, counsels as well. Many experience a sense of relief after visiting with her. Her front porch is like her office, and a window on the life of Thomas Street as well.

She lives happily and content by herself in her simple frame conch cottage on Thomas Street. Her favorite pastime is in reading the Bible and meditating. She gets so involved sometimes that when others try to get her attention, she will be as on another planet, just at the back of her house! But she ascertains: "God is my constant companion."

Her deepest interest is in divining the purposes of her own existence so she can serve the Lord. "We are more at peace when we serve Him. It is like a form of suicide to live without such belief, I think."

After her first husband's death, Bernice became more fully involved with the church. She became one of the first woman elders of the church, and still serves in this capacity, due to her knowledge and experience. As a member of the general church Synod, she was elected to attend a

General Assembly in 1971 in Chicago. "That was a real honor," she remembers.

She worked for the county in '79 as a volunteer worker, taking care of the retired people. She worked also with the nutrition program.

She was an agent for 20 years with the Central Life Insurance Company and many knew her as the "Insurance Lady." It was her habit to walk the town as she went along doing her business.

She served as member of the Board of Directors at Wesley House, MARC, AARP and was also a member of the NAACP.

She's been active as well in many spiritual groups such as the Eastern Star, Daughters of Isis and an auxiliary of the Oddfellows—the Household of Ruth.

"It is a comfort to serve the Lord, and help others with a joyful heart." She is like a great support, that helps the forward action in our community come to be realized.

Her own spiritual nature becomes also realized in poetry, which flows out of her like water from a fountain. In the midst of our talk she wrote:

When my work on earth is done
And my new work in heaven begun
May I not think about the crown I've won

But only think and pray for others
Others, yes others
Let this my motto be:
Let me live for others
Then I will live for Thee.

It is like a wellspring untapped of natural poetry that stems from her love. Often it has been in the middle of the night that her songs will be written. Most of her nursing work was done during the graveyard shift. It was then her poetry really began.

It was her doctor who advised she give up nursing. She was such a conscientious nurse, she took other people's problems too much to heart and upset herself too much. One withdrawn patient however appreciated that it was Mrs. Shaver's great caring for her which helped her care about living again. Her "inner smile" was how she described it to Mrs. Shavers in her appreciation.

Mrs. Shavers also worked for the church on the islands off Charleston, South Carolina. "It was a great challenge there helping people gain the faith on a day by day basis. The sense of serving a higher purpose, gives you a more profound meaning to what you do."

"If you can't do great things, at least you can do the simple ones cheerfully."

"I begin the day with God," she tells, "and all through the day he stays with me."

Simple truth that means a lot. All which form the pattern of a life meaningfully lived.

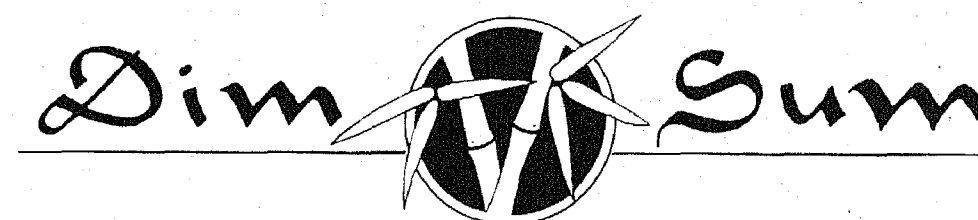
"You just have to put your life in God's hands and He will take care of you. But, you have to keep a constant vigil every day because there are so many bad forces working on the weak and wishy-washy who don't know God well enough to be strong in Him."

elements that should be averted. She feels we could do better to concentrate on making the earth more bountiful and beautiful. Being as the times are corrupted and getting worse, she is sad in her heart. But, her conviction strengthens that we must be a country under God, in order to sustain ourselves. "People want a show of force more than peace. Atheism is gaining power. He will bring peace, but we have to want it."

"All you must do is ask and acknowledge His being. His ways may sometimes seem strange, harsh, and leave one to wondering - but bread can come from heaven!"

Sitting on her wooden porch, Mrs. Shavers brings out the best in you. It is like removing yourself to more rarefied air to sit in her presence and ponder these simple awesome thoughts. She seems to show up the God light in others, you might say....lifting spirits to a higher attainment. "It is sweet to trust in Jesus," she smiles, "just to take Him at His word. Decide who you will serve. No matter what happens you will have assurance that God is with you."

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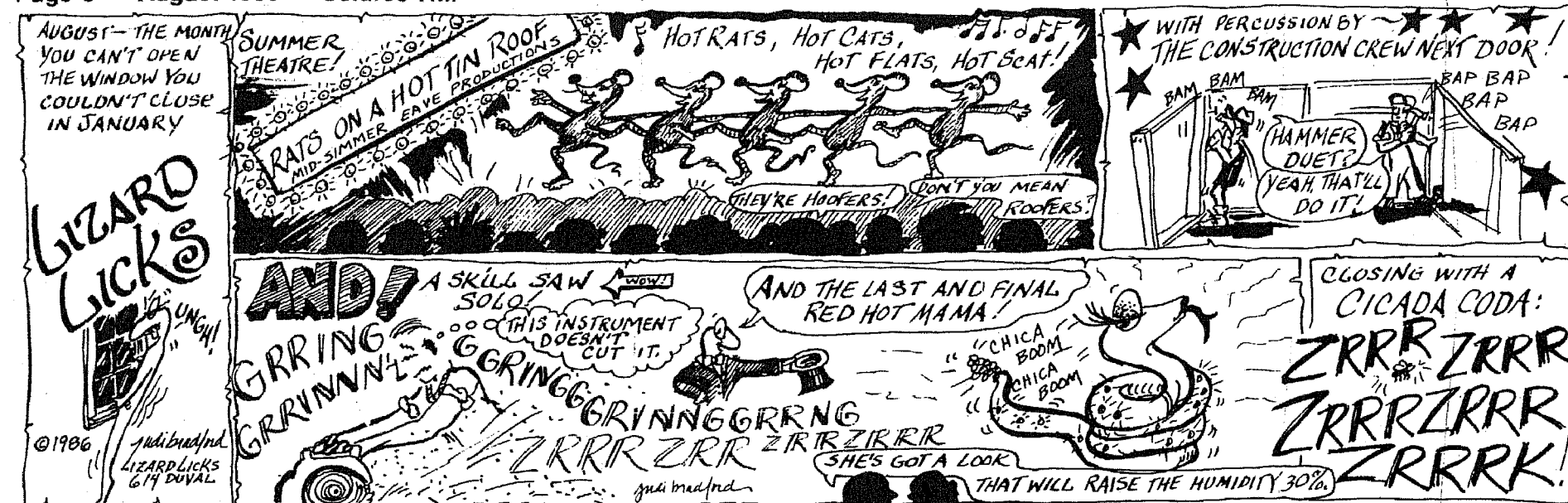
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When I get out to this old house there on Rockland Key, this lady tells me that four years ago yesterday an angel with a big hollow thump fell onto her roof, rolled off onto an old car up on its blocks and landed under a palm tree, its great, albino body heaving. Its giant, quivering wing spread of glossy white feathers fanned out over some cup towels she had drying and bleaching on a bush.

I had come to buy a little antique settee and I had even measured out at home the place to install such an acquisition. I look in her aged blue eyes and tell myself, "I won't touch this with tongs." But, then, of course I do. Ever know a journalist without this greedy curiosity? I can testify today that that morning's experience I string along with other beads of signal discoveries in my life.

This lady is a spunky person of many years with set tastes and few doubts. She has been dependent on her own resources, I can tell. She touches on her life in a

northern state, "You could lease one New York state sugar maple tree for one sap season for \$29.00." We go inside where a huge orange cat jumps down from a shelf and trots in climbing up on the settee for sale. "My cat knows as much about the chairs and pillows and furniture here as I do." There hangs a big Madonna picture. She explains that her grandfather brought it from the old country where the artists knelt while he painted it. He painted all of it on his knees.

She displays a terrible, impressive, gleaming silver-white mark on her forearm. "Come. I will show you proof of the angel." We pass something that boils away in a pan. Looks like chicken feet. She lights beside a tin trunk. A light from a small table lamp falls onto her door knob-shaped knot and laloes it. The trunk lid skreeks open. What did I expect to be in it? A faded blue rose? A dead baby's hand? Splinters of one of the apostle's bones? Now, easy, easy, courage. How old are you when you learn to hide what you feel?

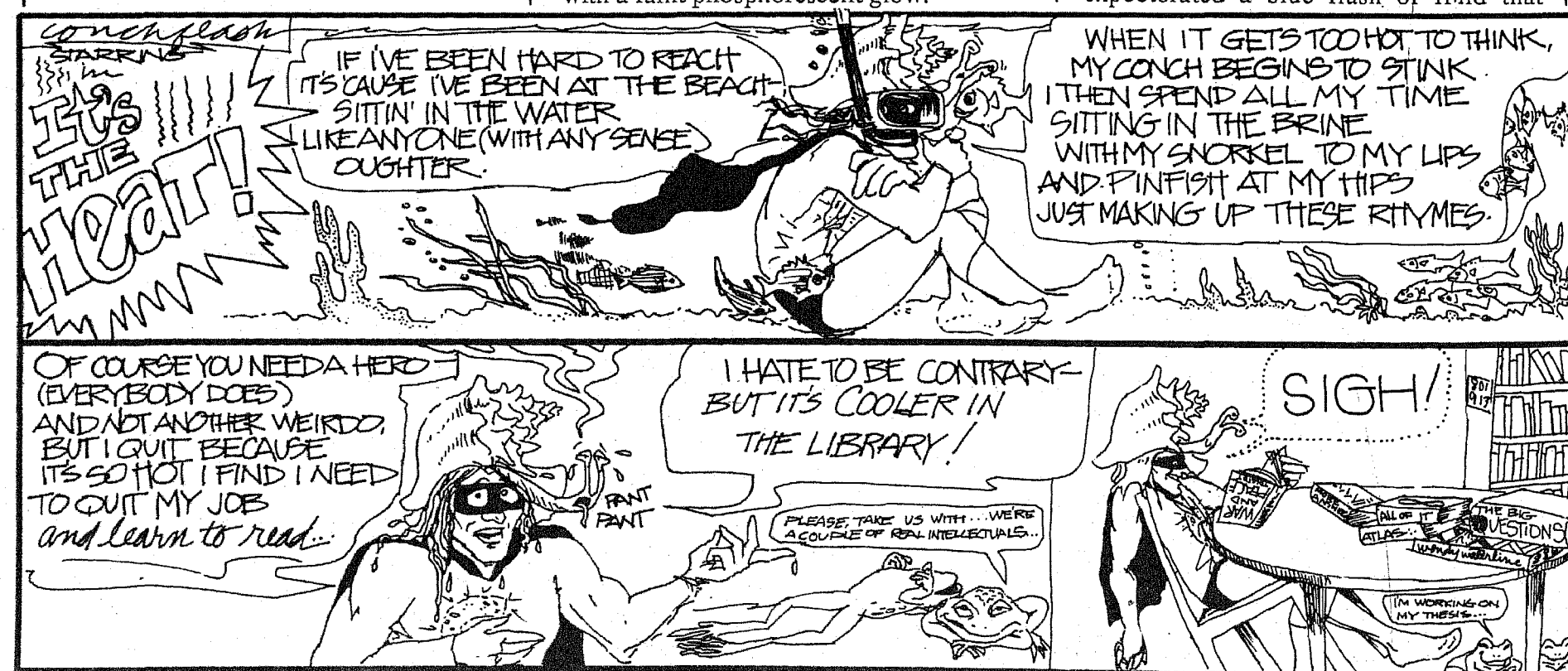
She lifts out a piece of something reminiscent of a propeller blade, a burned ridge on it the size of her arm. White feathers adhere to it, feathers such as on a prehistoric swan - three feet long, luxuriantly fleecy, like an angora sweater, with a faint phosphorescent glow.

Her story: "I was in the kitchen measuring out the two tablespoons of kerosene I allow myself for my stove in a day. When a hard thump came, shook the house. Sounded like a horse hit it. I flew out the door and there on the coral rock lay a fallen angel making a sound like church bells, very high like when you are too close to the bell clapper and you have to hold your ears. Its great sides were heaving and there were such sad moans to tear your heart right out of your breast. And snorts of agony."

I: I didn't think an angel would snort. She, disregarding: "You aren't true," I cry, "You aren't true." Well, what to do? Do you offer an angel a Girl Scout cookie? I run and put a cold wet bath towel on his high, blond brow. One eyelid opened up a slit like a cellar door. I could see a heavenly blue eye. It was the shape and size of that aquamarine rock I use for a door stop, and the expression in that eye was the tenderest I ever have received. O, darling heart, I say. There is a green and purple sky. I begin to feel woozy there beside him, like when I was a school girl and we would sniff glue in the cloak room.

I: I'm sure it made unusual demands on your mind's eye.

She: He raised his poor, beautiful head with many scars and dents. He expectorated a blue flash of fluid that



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flooded the garbage can. Come this time of year ever since, as you see, daisies blanket where that touched. I stole a quick peek down under one great wing tip. Yep, it's a man angel, I says. "Good. You are good", he sighs. Such a wonderful voice, like the touch of Divine Love. O, no, I says, I haven't spoken to my son in seven years. He's a bad egg, you see. My arm shrinks back from his wing. It suddenly hurts awful and there is a smell like the solar system. His melodious, powerful voice states: "No. Good. Your greatest gifts are Faith and then, Compassion." With that, my arm instantly heals and this bit of his wing span drops off onto the yard. It was like dry ice or a cinder off the moon and it took it a week to thaw. Streams of light have the windows glowing, and little sparkles from him run about the house like white mice. With a mighty spring, faster than my eye, he is rising. He speaks and it sounds like "Humanity is not an endangered species." And, "Recalled to God". There was a supernatural light and he was gone.

She shuts the trunk. She has about her an unalloyed surety, a contented surety, in her own nature. As I depart, I look back at this house which sometimes rocks from the jet propulsion of fighter planes roaring up into the untroubled blue air of southernmost Florida. I wave to her, she there in an apron, happy as a clam. Her son is coming for a visit tomorrow. As I go to the car, she cries out, "Steady on, Love." With the old settee sticking out of the car trunk, driving along thinking: My world always bears the unmistakable imprint of God's ordering hand.



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Now, on North Roosevelt Blvd., Burger King has sold 123 whoppers by 1:00 p.m.; in some restaurant, Rotary Club is eating chicken thighs; at Boca Chica, 17 of the new bombers are practising touch-downs. But, I decide I won't worry about a kind of a thing like this. What an exquisite compound of the spiritual and the scary this way. It would be like being exorcised over pot holes on a Key West Avenue, or on the Brooklyn Bridge by Bishop Tu Tu.

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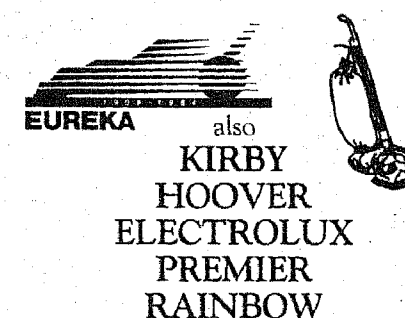
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Key West Memorabilia

by Fred Mathews

Continuing my jaunt into nostalgia I am reminded of some special events or happenings that occurred in the long ago past, such as:

1. The first airplane flight over water to a foreign country (Key West to Havana).
2. The first labor union in the United States (cigarmakers union).
3. Key West being the only southern city to ally with the North during the Civil War.

4. Before radio and television, attending a fire was a big diversion for Conchs. A high ranking police officer who had imbibed a little too much sauce once appeared in the buff at a conflagration and was immediately thrown in the slammer.

Sports personalities who remain fresh in my mind are Panther Pent, the best all-around ballplayer I ever saw, Armando Acevedo, the most exciting player, Willie Daughtry, the most graceful. The biggest showboat - Gabriel (Rubberman) Garcia.

Daughtery was also a member of the best amateur basketball team I can remember, factually named "The Married Men". Other members were Maynard and Noel Baker (brothers), journalist Earl Adams, Victor Thompson, Everett Albury and Denham Bernreuter.

The best football player: George Mira.

Nationally known boxer Pete Nebo, who was managed by Clonie Tait, a New York City man who could and would fight

Best golfer: Joe Lopez, who won practically every title in the state.
Best female golfer: Rosemary



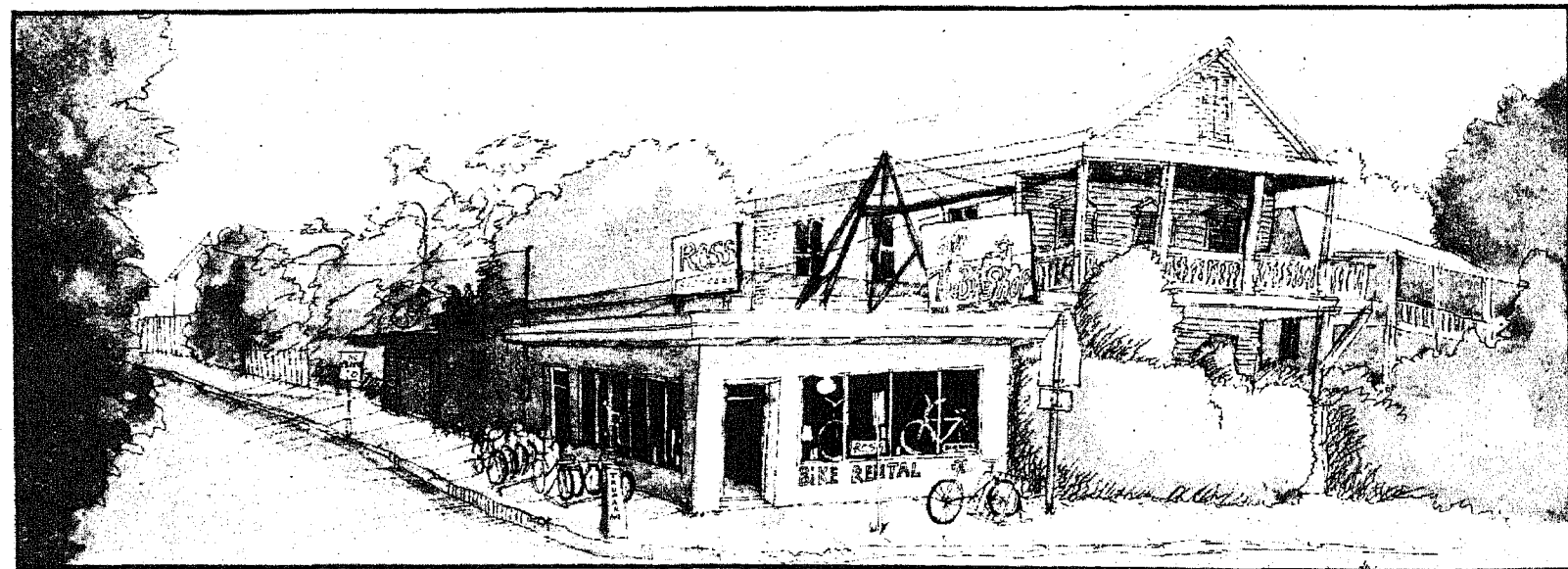
"Another of the best liked men of that time (and the present) is Roosevelt Sands...." Roosevelt (center) is with his grandson Clayton Lopeez and Pam Beerbower.

photo by Wendy Tucker

to the last drop of Nebo's blood. As to be expected, Pete wound up in the funny farm at Chattahoochee where he died, thanks to Tait's avarice.

Mathews, who for three consecutive years won the city championship until her retirement in 1954 to raise a family.
Other memorable personalities:

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stating I never met a man (or woman) who didn't like Roosevelt.

W. Curry Harris, one of the best orators locally and a fine civil attorney.

Gould Curry, the best marble player.
Peter (Red) Elwood, the best top player.

Charles Majors, Jr., best natural comedian.

The best City Commission was comprised of Mayor Kermit Lewin (now County Manager), Tax Collector Harry Knight, banker Bob Dion, investor Henry Lee and civil service worker Charles Pritchard. This commission was the first and last ever to reduce taxes.

The best City Mayor: C.B. Harvey.

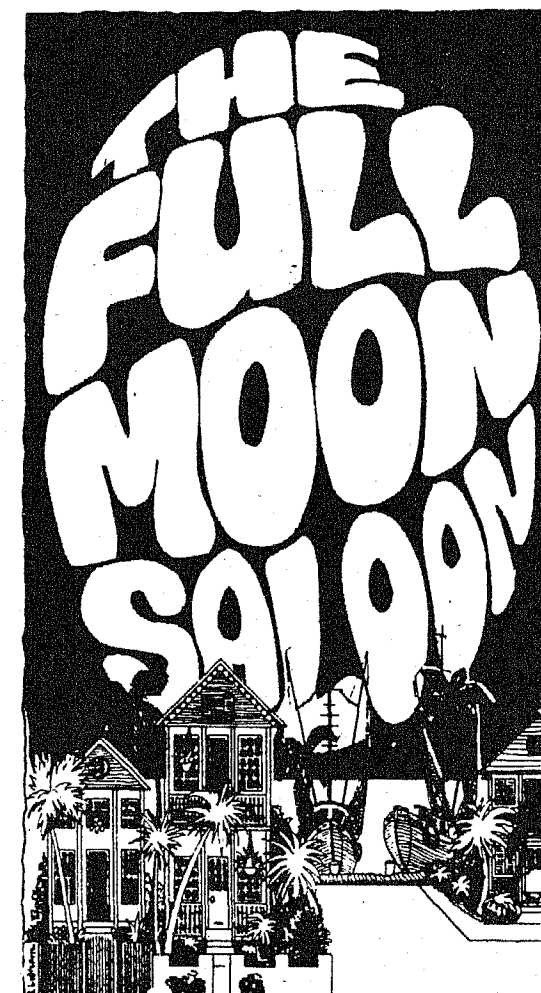
Sam Hart, whose voice was so deep he could make Jules Bledsoe, who sang "Old Man River" in Jerome Kern's "Showboat", sound like a falsetto from the Vienna Boys Choir. It has been told that before the advent of radio Sam would stand on the southwest corner of Fort Taylor and yell warnings of impending hurricanes to the lighthouse keepers on Tortugas (60 miles away). This legend, to me, ranks in credibility with Ferdinand Marcos' golf score card. I do know of two verifiable accomplishments of Mr. Hart. He was the first taxpayer in line year after year and it was rightfully acknowledged by the Citizen with a picture and a story annually. Before the Guinness Book of World Records was

published, and when bananas sold for 10 to 25 cents a bunch, Sam ate 104 in one sitting. At today's prices he wouldn't have had any money left to pay his taxes.

The most beloved man of his era was Dr. Harry Galey. When he treated the indigent, his fee was always the same - one cup of Cuban coffee.

Another man of Dr. Galey's ilk was Dr. Jose Sanchez, optometrist, whose charitable works were well known. His son (Dr. Sanchez, M.D.) is a practicing physician in Key West.

Another of the best liked men of that time (and the present) is Roosevelt Sands, whose civic works and unfailing good humor make me paraphrase Will Rogers by



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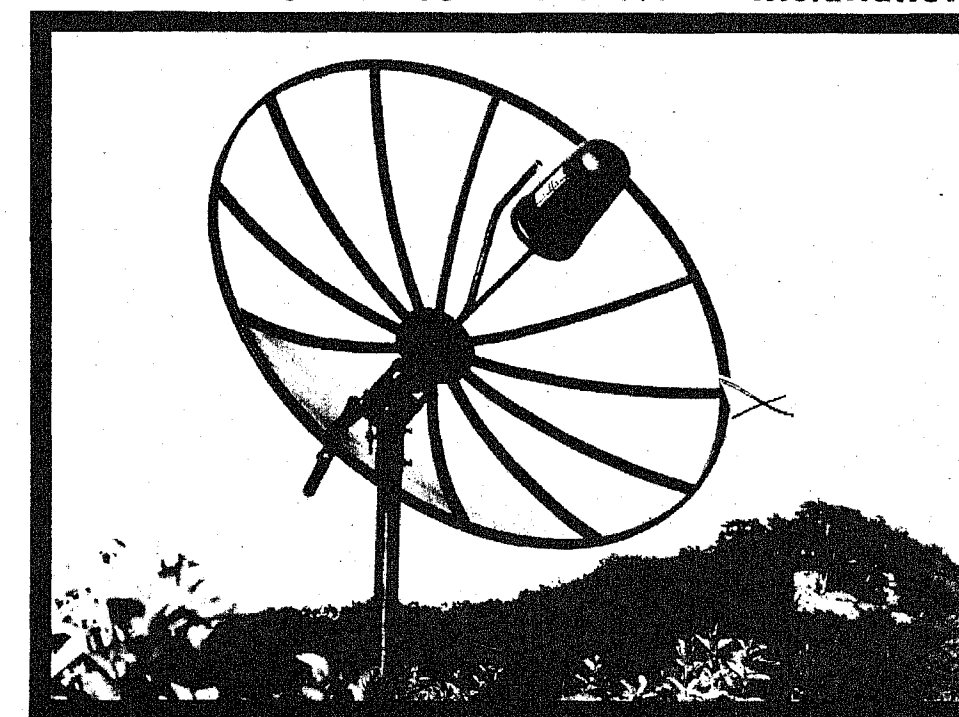
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The best County Commissioner at doing homework: Jerry Shipley.

Harry Pritchard, Willie Saunders, Perucho Sanchez - all valuable allies to have in an election.

Not many people know that Key West's foremost artist, Mario Sanchez, was an outstanding baseball pitcher, speed typist and pool player.

His brother Perucho is champion "bollo" maker of the universe.

Jack Carbonell, Ralph White - outstanding domino players.

Jack Carbonell, Douglas MacCarthy - two champion pool players.

George (Mickey) Babcock, Evelio Cabot, Julio Lacedonias - best male dancers.

Lena Gamble, Nell Rose Lester, Rita Adams - best female dancers (except for my wife).

Marguerite Stickney - best female political worker.

Best Dance orchestra - Howard Wilson's band. In addition to playing for dances they also appeared at the Strand theatre every Saturday night. The leader, Howard Wilson, was the soloist and drummer. He was later to become County Tax Collector for many years. John Pritchard was the pianist, Bill Neblett who later became State Senator and a prominent attorney was the trombonist. Welder Tommy Thompson was the saxophonist, Gus Ayala, Key West's most talented musician, was the trumpet player and pianist. Clarence (Sugar) Sweeting, garage

owner and later city commissioner, played bull fiddle. The guitarist and banjo player was Jack Mathews, later to become long time City Clerk.

People with a fine sense of humor - Jimmy Gamble, Charles (Pop) Walker, Gilmore (Andy) Parks, Charlie Papy.

Some old Conch expressions you never hear now: Sponge gurry; Umga, which is a shortened version of "I am going to". I remember my mother and other females in answering a question as to whether someone had said something to them. When the answer was negative they almost always replied "They didn't say boo to me". Why anyone would want someone to say "boo" to them, unless they were playing Trick or Treat at Halloween, I don't know.

An Englishman many years ago said, "Americans are funny people. They use hot water to make their tea and put ice cubes in it to make it cold, sugar to make it sweet and lemon to make it sour". In some ways I think the above philosophy is similar to that of our legal system, which spends tons of money for law enforcement, more tons for prosecution and finally more tons for Public Defender to spring people from jail (forgive me Rand Winter and Sandy Fowler).

Someone once said of Eddie Stanky, Brooklyn second baseman, "he can't hit, he can't field, he can't run and he can't throw. All he can do is beat you".

The above is applicable to two good friends of mine. Freddy Carbonell, one of our leading dentists for over 55 years, and William "Bill" Cates, now deceased. Freddy made varsity first-team basketball

and football in high school. Bill Cates was an outstanding athlete for many years. Neither one of these men could run down a tortoise but by sheer determination made their mark in sports.

Speaking of speed (or lack of it) another athlete of my era was the best track man of that time, Leonard "Athlete" Curry.

Recently I ran into Louis Carbonell in Winn Dixie and I was taken back in time to when Louis put in hundreds of hours shilling for the March of Dimes from a jerry built stage on Duval Street. This went on for so many years that he started having his mail delivered there.

Louis' older brother Cecil had his own band in New York City in which he played accordion and a musical saw. Cecil was noted locally as the owner of the Preview Lounge located on Duval at Angela Street. In fact, he was the owner of the property five different times, magically retrieving ownership after selling it five times.

Another younger brother was Paul (Riley), former Justice of the Peace and owner of the Bahama Bar, whose forte was chess and pocket billiards.

Still another brother was Elwood (Toots) who owned and operated the 116 Club at Greene and Fitzpatrick Streets. The 116 and Whitney Papy's club, located at Greene and Simonton Streets, were the only clubs permitted to operate all night during World War Two.

England has a far superior court system to the United States. They have much less crime per capita than the U.S. They allow less than half the time we require to select a jury. There is no way a criminal can escape justice through an infringement of his civil rights or a misplaced comma or undotted "i" in the arrest warrant. The trial proceeds and at its conclusion any alleged infraction by the people is investigated and dealt with.

The above comes to mind because of the trial of Harry Sawyer, veteran detective with the Monroe County Sheriff's Department. Sawyer is charged with lying about having a warrant and making an arrest of a person caught with a large amount of marijuana. No judge would deny a warrant to an officer but on rare occasions, because of the delay in finding a judge and executing a warrant, the time lapse has caused many a case to go bust. As a result of this system the lawbreaker is free and a man who has

dedicated his life to law enforcement has lost his job and, though within days of retirement, is in peril of losing his pension. Harry Sawyer is possibly the most commended peace officer in Key West's history. Harry was especially interested in children and spent many hours speaking to them. Our present system as prescribed by the Supreme Courts of the 50's through 70's has done yeoman work for the criminal and to hell with the public.

Earl Adams reminded us in his column about Key West's leading ice cream manufacturer and salesman of yore. His nickname was Sicki Baleu. He was also a master of prose and poetry as demonstrated by his advertising pitch as he wheeled his cart through the streets singing "Made in the shade, sold in the sun, if you ain't got a nickel, you can't get none".

In closing I wish that some of you real oldtimers would write for publication stories relating some of the colorful history of Key West.

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Beer and Sympathy

by Helen R. Chapman

One of the most difficult obligations any of us has to face is visiting a very sick friend, one who is suffering from a severe accident or disease. It is hard to choose the right words to cheer up the friend and at the same time, not be gushily sympathetic.

However, one wouldn't think it difficult at all to commiserate with someone who has sustained minor but uncomfortable injuries. Ha! One of my favorite is having a bad cold--drippy nose, the runny eyes, the hacking cough--and have someone back off in horror, screaming, "Get those germs away from me!" This is calculated to make me feel like a million dollars. I'd rather have a broken leg.

Cracked ribs are always good for a laugh--to others, not the one with the cracked rib. It is, of course, a plot. Friends of the sufferer get together and plan a whole dialogue: "Good old Jim's got a broken rib. We've got to make him laugh." Good old Jim is doing his best to breathe as shallowly as possible when the wits arrive to pound him on the back and then launch into their repertory of the latest jokes.

A while back, I suffered from a cracked rib. Relating this minor but painful injury to a friend brought this response: "You must have very fragile bones. Are you taking your calcium pills?" This reaction to my plight caused me to laugh, of

course, with concomitant pain. I was tempted to see how fragile her bones were!

Some years ago a dizzy friend of mine came into a bar where I was, and displayed a left forefinger sliced to the bone. Blood was running down his arm. Someone had bet him he would not stick his finger into a beer bottle and hit himself on the head with it. Obviously, he won the bet, but the bottle had broken. He ordered a 151 rum and coke, while I implored the barmaid to bring a clean cloth to wrap the finger with. She brought a dirty bar rag. Then I suggested he sterilize the cut by pouring a bit of any kind of liquor over it. The barmaid complied again by pouring a shot of 151 over it--and then charging him for it. Now there's real sympathy for you!

The only answer is to hide out if you are suffering from a visible affliction. Otherwise you may earn the ultimate compliment: "My God, you look awful!" But there's always the chance that this statement will be followed up with, "Come on. I'll buy you a drink!"

I live in fear and dread of being hit by a car in the middle of an intersection, and as I lay there, bloody but unbowed, some acquaintance will rush up and yell, "I told you not to cross the street!"

To which I'll reply, "Skip the sympathy. I can't stand being fussed over." And if that doesn't provoke a desired reaction, I'll crawl to the nearest saloon by myself.

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More About Business

by V.K. Gibson

Consider some of the economic realities of ten or fifteen years ago. Then, as Key West was struggling to recover from a locally depressed economy, any development was perceived as being for the better. Any new business. Any new hotel or condo, however designed. Employment was the big issue. Forward ho!

Now that things are easier we can afford to look back and ask questions. "Why was that allowed? Or this monstrosity? And that one?" It may not be quite fair to weigh the past by current standards, but we are all judges in retrospect.

The current state of our cultural evolution is comparable to that of the commercial situation of recent decades. Anything that's done seems wonderful, compared to what existed before. But, just as the need for expansion in the business sector allowed some things which are now scorned, there will come a day when people will look back on our present cultural efforts and say: "Why was that allowed? And this? And that?"

Immature organizations often suffer from amateurism. They eagerly get on with things, sometimes without realizing that there is another ingredient necessary to achievements of lasting worth. A vital and universal principle is ignored:

Boards exist to raise and

manage money, and to set policy.
Period.

Sometimes, in some (usually performing) arts organizations, they are not even allowed to set policy, or they do so



only with the advice and consent of their artists, but this is normal procedure in the greater world.

What we frequently see here, rather than a proper board/executive relationship, is a panel of officers which pushes its paid director around like a flunky, one day instructing him to do this, another day that, often contradictory from month to month.

Our local organizational officers are generally not stupid. Many are bright and creative and boast of impressive accomplishments in the business and social arenas. What is needed is more input from arts professionals who know the business of culture as well as others know the business of hotels, or restaurants, or whatnot. The two are not the same, although their are points of similarity.

In that respect, congratulations are in order for the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center, in hiring Parvan Bakardjev, a man who brings with him considerable skills,

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knowledge, and contacts with the greater world. He is not the first competent executive to face the challenge of TWFA. Let us hope that he is given the freedom to fulfill his promise.

The subject of how business growth has affected culture in Key West offers many more points to explore.

There will never be a return to the world depicted so well by Mario Sanchez. Instead we will more and more see the Key West now portrayed by certain local decorative artists. This is not necessarily bad, only distasteful to some.

We will continue to cherish the outward signs of our past. As a former member of the OIRC wisely said, the main point of historical preservation is economic, not aesthetic. The visual aspect becomes a

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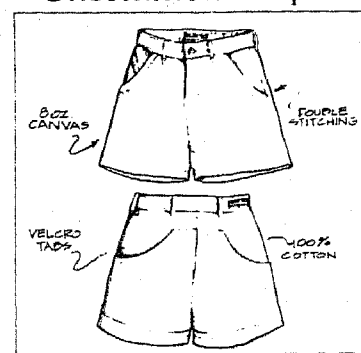
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product, a draw, which only requires faithful maintenance to generate a cash flow forevermore. Of course, there are very serious history-minded persons who work to guard our heritage from a high level of idealism. Sharon Wells is one of these.

Tourism is the cleanest industry, with the possible exception of bee keeping. With either we can get stung now and then. For one thing, tourism can lead to traffic slowdowns and other forms of congestion. Anyone who has followed a Conch Train for any distance knows exactly what I mean. The stimulated economy arising from tourist-oriented business is essential for our cultural well-being, and worth the nuisance.

In earlier times the essence of Key

West culture flowed almost spiritually from the people. Perhaps that is still true, but change is crashing upon us and we must make choices, and quickly.

Grant Spradling, former Executive Director of the Monroe County Fine Arts Council, puts it this way:

"It's not only a matter of preserving things as they were. Many of the qualities which first attracted us here are already lost or will be lost soon. What we must choose is the direction for the future. We can have 'Tinsel Town,' more T-Shirt shops, souvenir carts, and the like. Or we can go for quality, a focus which will not only translate as more dollars for the community, but which will enhance the aesthetic quality of our lives."

Well said, Grant.

He's talking about the sort of thing which the current Executive Director of the Monroe County Arts Council, Parvan Bakardjiu, is working on right now, an internationally important event which he calls the "Festival of Continents."

If it comes off it can put Key West on the map in a way which few have yet imagined. We have already seen a county-wide "Explo," but, as commendable as that was, a successful international festival will focus the spotlight of world attention on this island and that light will show the way to the best of our possible futures.

For we MUST nurture the arts, and local commerce, by attracting the affluent world audience which has enriched such places as Santa Fe, Charleston, and San Antonio, all cities which host major arts festivals.

Such an event will generate millions of dollars in free publicity for this resort town. The visitors it brings will, on the whole, be much more well-to-do than the majority of tourists we now enjoy, leaving more money behind, in more places. The community of artists will experience a bonanza, because tourists of this sort buy art and take it home. Santa Fe has 110 galleries, and you can be absolutely sure that they do not depend on local patronage, as is presently the case in Key West.

This kind of boom will also have the healthy effect of forcing some of our older galleries, which have enjoyed a virtual monopoly with the local art market and their all but captive stables of artists, to adopt professional standards and be more than tax writeoffs, hobbies, or party saloons posing as businesses. I can hardly wait for the Free Enterprise System to impose a good shot of competition in this area.

But that will be one of the minor effects which derive from the successful establishment of a major arts festival. Local cultural institutions will at last be forced to see themselves according to the standards of the greater world. We can expect much gnashing of teeth and tearing of hair as potent doses of civilization are injected into the local arts scene.

The City Commission and the Mayor who support the development of our international festival will go down in history as having performed perhaps the greatest service possible in this most crucial time,

this turning-point. This is an issue which far surpasses in importance the Truman Annex matter, the sewer renovations, or even the waste-treatment crisis.

We are concerned with nothing less than the achievement of a "critical cultural mass," the creation of an arts mechanism which will generate vastly more energy than it consumes, and which has the potential to enliven the local economy beyond the wildest dreams of the TDC.

Arts Council Director Parvan Bakardjiu faces a huge task. He cannot avoid having to work with the often bizarre individuals who sometimes influence local politics and the cultural scene. But there are also many wise and dynamic people who have enough vision to take aim for a better life than we have yet seen.

(This column does not necessarily reflect the opinions of Solares Hill Newspaper or its editor.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I feel compelled to respond to V.K. Gibson's article entitled "Let's Make a Deal."

It would seem amongst other things, I am now a "doer". Although it is true I have an active imagination, truthfully, I can't even paint by numbers and trust me, I can't carry a tune in a basket, let alone act. As for a "real sense of need", I'm not sure what Mr. Gibson means by that, but I do think I know what I "need" better than anyone else. I also engage in social/political games, but what the hell, everybody needs a hobby. So, (and I hope this doesn't shock my mother), I am a "doer".

With regards to the Founders Society that feeds a white elephant on Stock Island. Well, I am an animal lover and besides that I think Stock Island needs all the help it can get. Also, I am intrigued by a white elephant that provides entertainment, and scholarships, as well as other creative needs to the Community, which is something Mr. Gibson failed to mention.

I think if Mr. Gibson had done a little more research he would have found that most of the "doers" in Key West "do" for a number of cultural operations. For example, make a list of the name plates on the new seats at the Red Barn Theatre. Compare that list to the membership roster of the Founders Society, and the Key West Art and Historical Society. By now you would have seen quite a few names of individuals and businesses, many the same names. Of course, the next question is why? Effective use of advertising funds, hardly - "soft touches" - maybe, another method of supporting the arts, certainly.

It would seem that Mr. Gibson has the propensity for biting the hand that feeds him. He pans Ann McKee and the Monroe County Fine Arts Council for their motives yet what he fails to mention was that he was the recipient of, at that time, the largest grant ever given to an individual by the Fine Arts Council. When it comes to social/political games, it would seem that Mr. Gibson's wife was a member of the panel that decided who would receive which grants. Is it possible the old adage, "Let he who is without..." applies here?

To get back to Ann McKee, Mr.

Gibson, why don't you get off her back and pick on someone your own size. After all, it is her money.

All in all, it would seem that Mr. V.K. Gibson is wearing blinders instead of sunglasses, and until he can find a better way of funding the Arts, I'm afraid I'll just have to keep going to the parties and benefits and play the social/political games. So please, Mr. Gibson, stop criticizing us, and until the day comes when you have better ideas on how to fund the Arts, leave all of us poor, downtrodden, browbeaten "doers" alone.

Sincerely,

David M. Kesar

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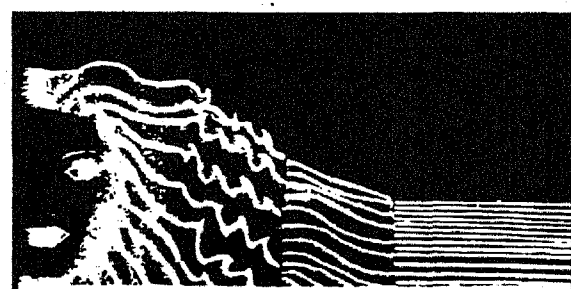
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Dear Editor:

I am writing to support Solares Hill's publication of the series of articles by Vaughn Gibson. I often disagree with Mr. Gibson's style and philosophy but I believe that dialogue about many of the issues he addresses is healthy for our community. I agree that frequently people with keen insight and who are the most affected are not adequately involved in decision-making. Yet I have encouraged people who have influence and are willing, to take more active roles in leading our cultural institutions. Without this type of leadership, arts organizations would be powerless. Mr. Gibson's frustration with complex, socio-economic, political processes leads him to simplistic conclusions and references to personalities rather than well-thought-out content. Nevertheless, I believe he has much to contribute as well as much to learn.

Solares Hill has been called the "conscience of Key West" not because it is always right but because it is willing to forthrightly explore issues - an essential ingredient in an open society. Unwelcome ideas can knock holes through our comfortable-held assumptions and egos - through those openings, fresh insight may penetrate our thinking. I am certain that even those who most heatedly object to Mr. Gibson's comments would deplore any pressure that would gag expression of honestly held ideas even when those expressions are at odds with our own. One of the most significant assets to our

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culturally and artistically-creative community is our acceptance and expressions of diversity - a rarity in so small a community. I find much in Solares Hill to enrich, to inform, to agree with and - yes, indeed - with which to disagree!

Thank you,

Grant Spradling

The Editor Replies:

When I read Vaughn Gibson's initial column for Solares Hill I said that I disagreed with some things he said and suspected that I would continue to do so in his future columns. I told him that I would print a disclaimer at the end of his column stating that his ideas and beliefs were not necessarily those of Solares Hill. I saw that this was done and then, due to my forgetfulness, the most recent columns (including his now famous June column) were lacking the disclaimer. I can truthfully say that I regret the omission.

His column in the June Solares Hill outraged a number of people and I received several angry letters to the editor (and read one that was sent to the Key West Citizen, oddly enough), heard the voices of friends raised in annoyance, and heard about different conversations extremely unflattering to Vaughn and, in some cases, to Solares Hill.

Let's look at what he said.

Vaughn was criticized for his remarks

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about the Founder's spending a fortune trying to keep TWAC going. Obviously Vaughn feels it's a wasted effort and promises a full article on the subject "with all viewpoints represented." This certainly seems fair and will give him a chance to explain his belief that the Founders exert a "vampire-like embrace" on the artists. His message here—and repeated later in the column when he addresses the Fine Arts Council—is that the very people necessary to support cultural events are the ones who ultimately can strangle the same cultural event by having too much non-artistic input in it. He argues for greater participation in the cultural decision-making process by the artist—this seems fair enough to me. Up until last year Solares Hill has been a Founder and I'll be interested in what conclusions his "full article on the subject, with all viewpoints represented" produces.

I can not defend Vaughn's remarks about "aesthetic shingles, the malady which so often seems to afflict Chamber of Commerce inmates." It somehow got by me (with Vaughn there often are a number of verbal brush fires that need containing) and I apologize for it. It was, I feel, a gratuitous and offensive statement meant more to irritate than to enlighten.

Frankly I'm guilty of attending openings at Martello, getting involved with talking with friends at the bar, and, then, running to hastily see the exhibition. Maybe Vaughn's idea of putting the food on the wall and the art on the table would cure someone like me of sometimes shortchanging the art, but I hope he can come up with a better approach. The party

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opening is a time-honored method of attracting potential buyers and I suspect that the right people do make a strong point of seeing the show.

One caller accused Vaughn of "attacking" Margo Golan. This is not true. He remarked that he wishes that her generosity had a "broader focus" than Mario Sanchez. I happen to disagree with Vaughn on this. I'm tickled to have the Sanchez works saved for us by Margo Golan (perhaps the single most philanthropic individual I've ever encountered in my almost 20 years in Key West), but I respect Vaughn's right as a critic to make this observation. Supposing that all the rooms available were taken up by Sanchez—might it not be better to have the option of hanging the art of someone else? Again, for me, the more Sanchez the merrier but it is a valid question he raises. And, of course, in her capacity as an extraordinary benefactress to the town if Margo Golan chooses to donate Mario Sanchez' works to the museum, that is her right as is Vaughn's to speculate that other artists should be represented. (I spoke with an artist friend who told me that a work of his had been purchased for the museum by Margo Golan so it looks like "such generosity (does have) broader focus."

Biting the hand that feeds you is bad policy, but that doesn't daunt Vaughn. He feels that a big problem in Key West (and probably in most places) is that a small group of people generally do most of the volunteer work. They are the "doers" and often they want (and have the right to want, I might add) to expect a voice in the policy of what they are supporting. To the extent

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that these voices might not guarantee the best policies or approaches to cultural events is what Vaughn is worrying about. He wants more artists involved in the decision-making.

Vaughn uses as an example of a "doer", Ann McKee, who has played (and hopefully will continue to play) major roles in the cultural life of Key West. He states that she has opposed artist's participation on the County's Arts Council and Cultural Commission. Then he says, "I hate to admit it, but generally Ann's correct in that the 'artist temperament' does not seem to thrive in the committee setting." But he feels on an individual basis there are artists who have much to contribute to cultural policy and would like to see them included. I see nothing wrong with this.

The letter writer who wishes Vaughn wouldn't pick on Ann McKee doesn't know Ann very well. This is a lady who can take care of herself. I remember the early meetings of the Art's Council and Ann's single mindedness, willing, arm-twisting, persuading and, I feel to a great extent, single-handedly creating the awareness that brought about the Council that has benefited everyone (including Vaughn) so much. If you need something done, a person of Ann's extraordinary resourcefulness is the one to turn to.

I feel that Vaughn Gibson is too blunt and sometimes too insensitive to the prerogatives of others. Also, I feel that he is sometimes off-base in what he says. But I feel strongly that he's often on target in his

remarks and performs his chosen duties as Solares Hill's art critic with a lively and inquisitive intelligence that serves the paper well. (And I certainly hope that I remembered to add the disclaimer that his opinions do not necessarily represent those of Solares Hill!)

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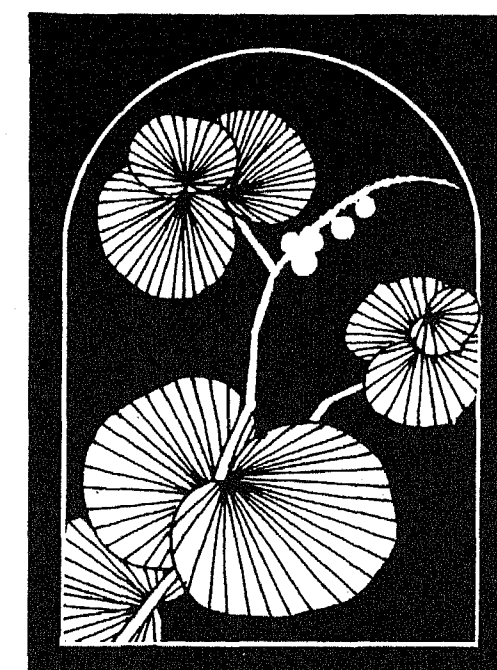
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Key West's Palms: Can They Survive?

by Gerald Semler

Palms are an important part of Key West's landscape. Who can imagine our island city without the feathery fronds of those tall leaning palms gently dipping in an ocean breeze? In a sense these symbols of the tropics are an expression of the "laid back" way of life we cherish in these islands. In the Florida Keys no other plant rivals the coconut palm (COCO NUCIFERA) in providing the unique beauty and charm of that tropical atmosphere which distinguishes this area.

But the Key's coconut palms are in trouble, they are being devastated by a deadly plant disease known as "lethal yellowing."

Since lethal yellowing was first recognized in the Keys in 1955 it has spread throughout the southern part of the Florida peninsula destroying over 300,000 coconut trees. In the last four to five years Key West has been hit especially hard by this palm killer. In some areas of the island all that remains of a once palm-lined street is a row of sawed off trunks, evidence of lethal yellowing's deadly effectiveness.

The first sign that a coconut palm has become infected with lethal yellowing is the premature dropping of all the fruit, regardless of size. The fallen nuts are characterized by a soft black area on one end

where they were attached to the stalk and often possess a foul odor. The second and most reliable symptom is the blackening of the new inflorescences (flower stalks which eventually produce nuts). On healthy trees the inflorescences are creamy white in color. In the third stage and the one from which the disease gets its name, the fronds turn yellow, usually beginning with the older leaves around the bottom of the crown and advancing upward. Frequently, a single leaf growing near the center of a crown of green leaves will turn yellow providing a signal that the tree may be infected. Fronds that have yellowed, dry up, turn brown, and drop. The collapse of the emerging center or spear leaf signals the death of the palm. Finally the dead remains at the top of the tree fall away leaving the trunk or "telephone pole". A swift killer, lethal yellowing needs only 3 to six months to complete its deadly work.

The earliest known record of a palm disease considered to be lethal yellowing was observed in the Cayman Islands in 1843. By the 1870's it had reached Jamaica where large areas of commercial coconut production were devastated. In 1890, the disease was found in Cuba and by the 1940's coconut plantations on that island's northern coast near Havana had been virtually wiped out.

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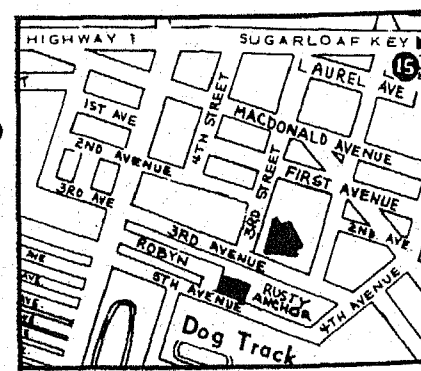
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that lethal yellowing first touched Florida. Between 1955 and 1968, seventy-five percent of Key West's coconut trees were destroyed. The palm killing disease then travelled up the narrow string of coral islands that make up the Florida Keys reaching the lower southeast coast of the Florida mainland near Miami in 1971. Since then lethal yellowing has spread throughout southern Florida. During the following decade few coconut palms in the Key West area were hit by the disease, but recently it has vigorously reappeared and is again sweeping through the Keys.

Besides the coconut there are at least 15 other species of palms that are threatened. These include the popular adonidia or Christmas palm (*Veitchia merrilli*), the Fiji fan palm (*Pritchardia pacifica*) and the Canary Island date palm (*Phoenix canariensis*). It is estimated that at least 80,000 of these additional palm species have succumbed to lethal yellowing in South Florida.

In 1972 the University of Florida Agricultural and Research Center in Fort

Lauderdale began a search to find the cause of lethal yellowing. At first it was believed that the deadly palm disease could only be caused by a virus, but further research discovered the culprit to be a cellular organism, smaller than bacterium, called a mycoplasma.

Unrelated scientific studies done in the 1950's had uncovered over 60 species of mycoplasmas and mycoplasma-like organisms in human and animal infections. They were found to be immune to penicillin but susceptible to tetracycline antibiotics. The smallest and simplest cellular organisms known, mycoplasmas are placed in a separate biological class between bacteria and viruses.

It was much earlier, near the end of the last century, when observers in Cuba had suspected that airborne insects played a role in the transmission of lethal yellowing. More recently, a series of tests in Florida and Jamaica conducted by the Florida Division of Plant Industry to find the vector (the disease carrying agent) obtained evidence revealing a winged insect identified

as *Myndus crudus*, a planthopper of the order Homoptera, to be the most probable transmitter of lethal yellowing.

Myndus crudus is barely one-fifth of an inch in length, yet large enough to be seen with the unaided eye. The insect is active all year in south Florida and it has large eyes adapted to both light and darkness allowing it to move about during the day or night. The planthopper feeds on palms and grasses by piercing the leaf and sucking the plant's fluids. It has been found on palms in all areas in Florida and the Caribbean infected by lethal yellowing.

A number of insecticides have proven to be effective against the planthopper, but because of the insect's mobility and high rate of reproduction, widespread spraying, especially in the urban areas of south Florida, would not justify the results.

Biological control or the use of "natural enemies" has been another method considered to help keep the planthopper's population down. Spiders, red fire ants, lizards, tree frogs and parasitic mites prey on *Myndus crudus* but until more

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information is gathered about its biological enemies they will be ineffective in preventing the spread of the disease.

Not long after the mycoplasma-like organisms were found in infected palms a program was set up to inject the trees with the antibiotic oxytetracycline. The treatment did result in the remission of lethal yellowing but it was learned that if the injections were not repeated every three or four months or were halted, symptoms of lethal yellowing reappeared resulting in death of the palm.

With the ineffectiveness of insecticides, the uncertainty of biological control and the failure of antibiotic treatments to insure palm survival, success against lethal yellowing may rely on the introduction of resistant palms.

In the late 1940's the Jamaican coconut industry began to import thousands of seeds of a coconut palm known as "Malayan Dwarf". The Malayan palm was brought in to help increase coconut production because it bears fruit 2 to 3 years earlier than the "Jamaican Tall". The Jamaican palm tree had been the main species in the Jamaican coconut industry and until recent years the only coconut palm tree grown in Florida.

The Malayan palm is not a dwarf plant. It got its name because it bears clusters of coconuts when it is younger and therefore much smaller in size than other varieties. However, the Malayan's mature height of 60 feet is less than that of the Jamaican Tall which reaches from 80 to 100 feet. According to the color of the coconuts and the petioles (the backbone of the leaves)

the Malayan is divided in to three types - "golden" or "red", "green" and "yellow".

The Malayan palm's resistance to lethal yellowing was discovered by accident. It was not until several years after the Malayan palm was established in Jamaica that growers there realized the palm was resistant. When lethal yellowing swept through Jamaica's northern plantations it had destroyed 90% of the Jamaican Tall palms while less than 5% of the Malayan trees were affected.

Today thousands of Malayan Dwarf palms are growing throughout the Keys and the Florida mainland, the majority are of the golden and yellow varieties. These types were planted initially because homeowners preferred the bright gold coloration these palms exhibit in their clusters of coconuts. But the golden and yellow varieties display less green in their leaves and often need extensive fertilizing to look healthy. Recently Florida has been importing large quantities of the "green" Malayan. The "green" palm has shown that it does better in Florida's sandy soils. It roots promptly, grows rapidly and because of the dark green color of its leaves, the palm closely resembles the Jamaican Tall.

Besides the Malayan Dwarf, several other lethal yellowing resistant coconut palms have recently been discovered. The "Maypan", a cross between a Malayan Dwarf and a Panama Tall, is one tree that has gained attention because it grows much faster than the Malayan palms and is almost 100% resistant. One disadvantage of the Maypan is that homeowners cannot reproduce them by seed. Unless the

Maypan is pollinated by hand, the tree may produce nuts that are non-resistant. Other lethal yellowing resistant coconut palms are being studied are not suitable for commercial use, but they may have ornamental value as landscape plants.

If people who have lived in this area for any period would take the time to look, they would surely notice the great loss of coconut palms around our island. If this loss is allowed to continue and the coconut palm population is greatly reduced, this area will be lacking a great deal - missing a certain look or feeling - lacking a certain quality that only the natural beauty of this palm can add to the Keys.

A city replanting program as well as a county-wide effort should be initiated to insure that Key West and the Florida Keys remain the land of bright sunshine, beautiful sea and gently swaying palms.

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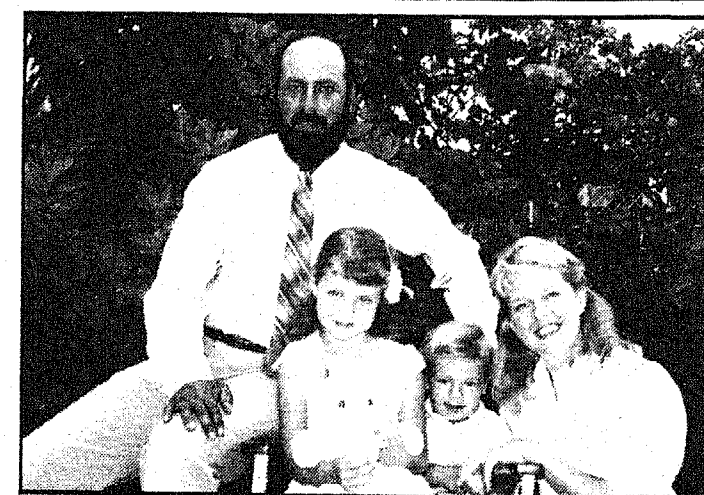
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BIRDS IN THE HAND

by Carol Shaughnessy

Flight has always been a pretty chancy thing in Key West. Now, this is not a reference to the island (easily recognized by their sunburns and their use of adjectives like "lush" and "tropical"), or to the high flying engendered by staying in Sloppy Joe's too long. No, in this case "flight" refers to ordinary air travel.

Even today air travel in the Keys tends to be somewhat erratic. Planes fall behind schedule for no apparent reason. Luggage often follows its owner several flights later, rather apologetically, like a faithful dog that somehow managed to get lost but is doing its best to catch up.

Air Florida's recent troubles have attracted national attention, and Air Sunshine, which for many years was Key West's major airline, was affectionately nicknamed "Air Sometimes," due to its eccentric habits.

However, the problems attendant in flying in and out of the Keys today are nothing compared to those existing some sixty years ago, when the first airlines were just ironing out the kinks in their operations.

The year 1920 brought the birth of Aeromarine Airways, founded almost literally on a wing and a prayer. Founded, to be precise, on twelve wings and a prayer, for the company had purchased six F-5-L's—flying boats, as they were called—from the Navy. The first three of these pioneer airships were named after the ships of Christopher Columbus: the "Nina," the "Pinta," and the "Santa Maria."

Now, each of these planes weighed seven tons. They could fly at approximately seventy miles an hour, and it cost about \$3.00 per minute to keep them in the air. Gas came in five-gallon tin cans. It took a lot of those tin cans to fill the planes' fuel tanks.


In the beginning, Aeromarine flew passengers, and also had the first official international air mail service, between Key West and Havana. Passengers and sacks of mail were charged the same fare for the trip—\$75.00 apiece. The planes were available for charter and sightseeing trips, and at one point they flew advertising flights along part of the route of the Overseas Railroad, trying to drum up business for their company.

Technology, however, was not what one might call advanced in the early Twenties. Navigational equipment was pretty much restricted to a compass—and radio, although certainly desirable, was rarely used because the transmitters and receivers were too heavy and cumbersome for the planes. Instead, Aeromarine relied on the use of carrier pigeons. (They did. Really.)

Some folks say the pigeons were used solely to carry messages should the pilots get lost or run into an emergency situation. Some say, though, that the pigeons were bonafide navigational aids—that, upon getting stuck in a storm, where no landmarks were visible and a compass was next to useless, the pilots would release a pigeon. The pigeon, being no fool, would promptly streak home to its roost in Key West—followed closely by a rather sheepish pair of airmen.

Picture this dialogue between an Aeromarine pilot, a weathered aviation pioneer with deep lines at the corners of his eyes from squint-

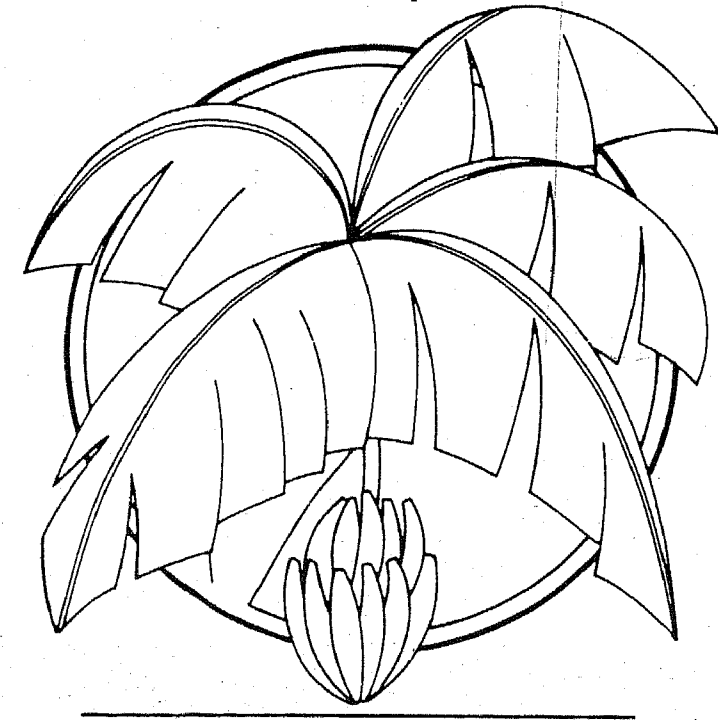
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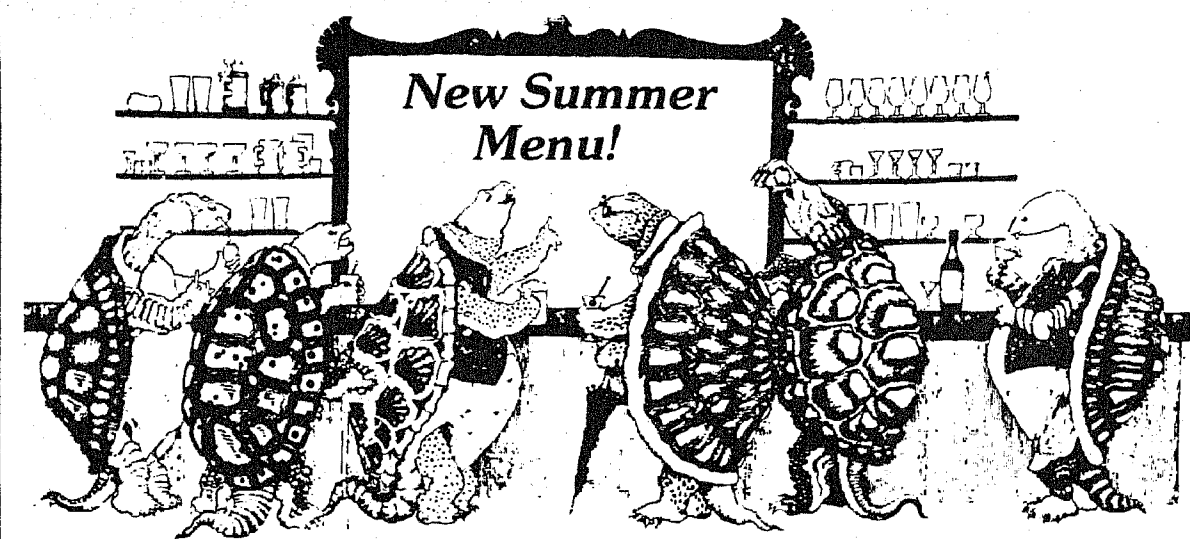
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ing into the distance, and his taciturn co-pilot.
"Think the squall's getting worse, Fred?"
"Yep."
"I can't see a thing."
"Nope."
A long pause, and a sigh.
"Guess we'll have to let loose another of those damn birds, Fred."
"Yep."

And Fred would calmly reach behind his seat for a pigeon.

Pan Am, started some seven years after the inception of Aeromarine, swears *they* never used pigeons for navigation. There are, however, folks that say otherwise.

Pigeons or not, Pan Am had its own problems at the beginning. Pan Am used land planes, mostly Fokker F-7's at first, rather than the pontoon planes of Aeromarine. But on the morning of October 19, 1927, there wasn't a plane in sight at the old Key West Navy base—of either variety.

There should have been. Jack Whiteback, manager of the new airline, was frantic, for October 19 was the last day that Pan Am could deliver the mail to Havana as stated in the terms of their all-important government mail contract, and his plane was still in the factory. Jack was about to give up in despair when a tiny Fairchild floatplane appeared in the sky, circled, and touched down. One Cy Caldwell alighted.

Now Cy Caldwell was what in those early days of aviation was called a barnstormer, an itinerant pilot. The man simply loved to fly. At that time he was on his way to Haiti on a job, and had landed in Key West to refuel. To Jack Whiteback, he was nothing less than a miracle.

It took a lot of fast talking that day, but the terms of the contract were fulfilled. Some fast

flying, too—Cy Caldwell arrived in Havana with the mail about an hour before the cable from Key West announcing his departure. But somehow that little slip-up hardly mattered—because for \$175,000, barnstormer Cy Caldwell had just made the first "official" Pan Am flight, and the airline was in business.

Aviation had, of course, advanced in leaps and bounds since those early days. Today planes seem to glide effortlessly through the sky, and they all have the latest radio equipment, and their instrument panels like something out of "Star Wars." But a reminder of the industry's vivid (if slightly bizarre) history still exists over on the corner of Whitehead and Caroline Streets—Aeromarine's old carrier pigeon house.

The pigeon house is empty now, and has become part of a local bar and restaurant... a good place for a visitor to the island to spend a hot afternoon, sipping a long drink and musing lazily on the habits of pigeons. As soon, that is, as the visitor's luggage arrives at the airport so he can unpack his sunglasses.

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"Aeromarine Airways," an article written by Donald W. Roderick, former flight engineer on Aeromarine's "Nina," and Shop Superintendent at Key West;

And special thanks to Phil Taylor, proprietor of the Pigeon House Patio, for making available his verbal history of Aeromarine and Pan Am, as well as the fruits of his research at the Smithsonian.

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Every Year Solares Hill has the pleasure of running the winning story of the

Hemingway Day's Short Story Contest.
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"Saving the World"

by Jonathan Haws

I don't like to talk much about fate. It gives me the spooks. When people say that something was meant to happen, or that something needed to happen, or when they want to talk about death — no. I don't even like to think about it.

That night I was sitting on my porch, like I do every night, watching the sea in the darkness. It was a night like any other; solemn, dark and comforting, cool and breezy with the wind blowing up off the water. The clouds were rolling in and with the clouds came the thunder, deep and rolling.

A dim light shone on the porch through the windows of the house; the bamboo shades moved with the breeze and hit lazily against the frames. I sat and watched, like I do, with the rum, stretched out and rocking slowly in the old wooden rocking chair.

At night the sea has a beauty all its own, a different type of beauty; only at night are you overwhelmed by sound and smell, unencumbered by the harsh reality of sight. At night you can feel the sea's dark power, sense its vastness and its majesty. At night, in the presence of the sea, you feel very alive.

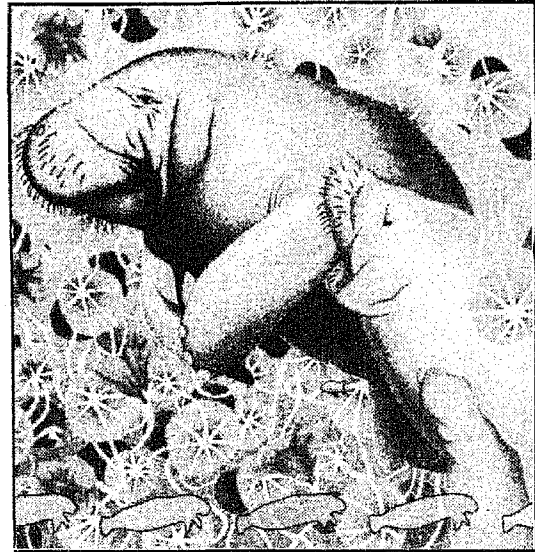
I was sitting there, with the blanket around me, watching the sea and listening to the thunder in the darkness when I first saw the boat—an outline of gray against the black. It was drifting out past the rocks.

Now a boat out there is not unusual

but it is dangerous and the boat-man must be careful of the rocks, especially at night. I got the field glasses from inside the house and came back and looked out. With the glasses the image was clearer.

I made out a man with a white fishing cap, standing on the stern, working. I thought he was working on the motor and it flashed through my mind that he was stalled, in danger, about to be washed against the rocks.

There was a break in the clouds, and the moonlight showed briefly on the boat. I made out the name on the rear through



Courtesy of Margaretville Store

glasses: *Avalon*; I realized it was Ed Tripp's boat and my stomach came up. I felt sick all over. I adjusted the focus on the lens of the glasses. The moon fell back behind the clouds.

Ed Tripp was no more than a boy, twenty-four or five years old. He had black greasy hair and his eyes were red. He was a

bad one, like you find around here; he was always drunk. He was dishonest and foul-mouthed, and a liar, but he'd sold me some good old cars, for a cheap price, and I had no quarrel with him.

He'd hauled the cars over to my house himself, and helped me unload them in the back yard. I got the parts I needed off them; now they sit there, in the back yard, rusting. Most everything rusts here from the heavy salt air and there's a joke in town that the old fellows like me were once perfectly good men until the salt air got in their brains and rusted them out. I don't mind much what they say. Being an old conch isn't such a bad life if you love the sea like I do and you always have plenty of rum. I hear people in town talking, talking about me, talking about all the old sailors, saying our life is a waste, saying it is bad to have men like us around. "It is hard to modernize and revitalize this town when old men continue to live in rusty old houses with rusty cluttered lawns, thinking rusty, ancient thoughts." Well.

One fellow in the bar said if he was president he would line up every old conch and every mobile-home owner from here to Tallahassee and let the army boys go with a little target practice. He will never be president, but, more important, he will never know the happiness of a simple life, a life like mine; one that is without ambition.

I don't mind what they say, but it is true—salt air rusts everything.

I watched Ed Tripp through the glasses. Every now and then I would catch a glimpse of his white fishing cap, and see it lean over the side of the boat and then come up.

Finally he lit a lamp and set it down on the deck. I could see him clearly and I could see what he was doing. He had three manatees on deck with him, huge and ugly-looking in the artificial light, laying dead on their sides. Ed Tripp was cutting one of them open with a knife.

Manatees are kind animals, big and ugly and illegal as hell to kill. Why would anyone want to kill a manatee? Lately people had been finding them washed up on the beach, dead, skinned, partly eaten by the

sharks and the fish. The old boys in town had a suspicion Ed Tripp was doing the killings.

I stood up and went inside the house. My stomach was tight. I sat down on the bed, rubbed my face with my hands, listened to the thunder. I went to the refrigerator and opened the door and looked in, then shut the door and paced around and sat on the bed again. I listened to the smooth soothing rolling-deep sound of thunder, and thought, I don't know how long I sat there.

Finally I stood up and took the key down from the closet door ledge. My hands were shaking. I tried to open the lock on the closet door, but the key shook so that it would not go in. I got it open finally, my hands still shaking, and I got out the gun.

I went to the cupboard and poured more rum into the paper cup. I picked up the field glasses and went back out onto the porch and sat down.

Ed Tripp's boat was still there.

The thunder was sounding. Clouds rolled past the white outline of the moon. I

noticed that the gun had begun to rust in the barrel, so I got up and went inside for a rag.

Joe Solomon had called Ed Tripp the meanest son of a bitch on earth. Joe said it was because he didn't have any brothers or sisters. "You're a college man," Joe said to me. "What do you think it is?"

"I don't know."

"He's a mean one all right," Al Hopper said. "He's the one been cuttin' up them manatees. I know it's him that's doing it."

"Why does he do that, do you guess?" said Joe.

Billie said it was for the skins and that he sold them to someone from up north and Joe said, Come on now, no one would buy a manatee's skin.

"What makes a person like that?" asked Billy.

"Like what?"

"Bad like that."

"I told you," said Joe. "He don't have any brothers and sisters."

Billy said, "I don't have any brothers

and sisters."

"Yes," said Joe, "and look where it got you."

The others laughed.

"Well," I said. "At least he sold me the old cars. And for a good price."

I came back out and sat down and watched him through the glasses. He was working fast all right. He slid a skinned one over the side of the boat, and started on another one. My stomach was going all the time. I drank some rum and worked the barrel of the gun with the rag.

"It must be something to do with the parents," Billy had said.

"Sure," said Al Hopper. "The parents should be locked up right alongside Ed Tripp for raising a boy like that."

"When are they going to lock him up, Al?"

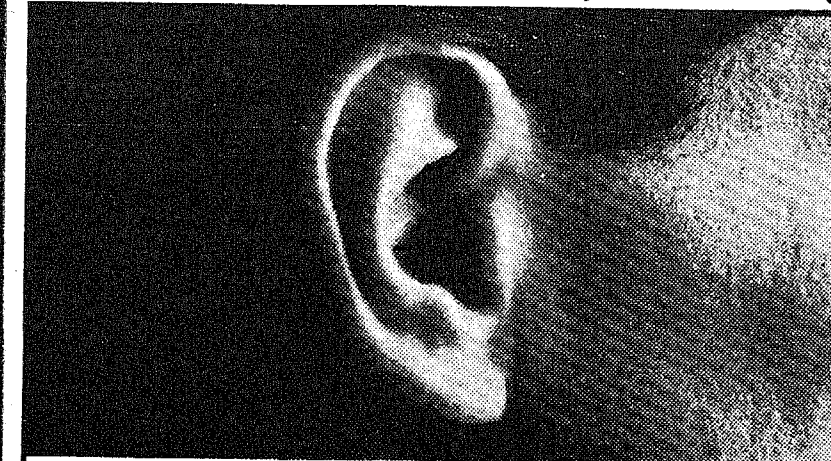
"Hell! When they catch him with a boat full of dead manatees!"

"They won't catch him."

"They'll catch him. He'll get what he deserves all right."

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CHAIRMAN, Florida Keys Community College Board of Trustees.

THE ISSUES

EDUCATION - Increase state funding of salaries of teachers and school staff, expand community college facilities in middle and upper keys and obtain state assistance for drug awareness and prevention programs in our schools.

ENVIRONMENT - Protect our unique natural resources through legislation such as Coral Reef Restoration Act.

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"You can never tell whose fault it is," said Joe.

The barrel of the gun was smooth finally and my hands were shaking as I put the bullets into the chamber.

I wiped the lens of the sight clean with the rag, and brought the gun up and steadied it against the railing. My shoulder was shaking along with my hands now and it took me some time to settle the sight. I must have watched that white cap through the sight for ten minutes. Ed Tripp slid another one off and was cutting the last one open with his knife.

Suddenly the sounds of the sea became louder, unfamiliar, frightening even; the sound of thunder was no longer soothing. I couldn't swallow, and my eyes hurt. The old wooden chair felt hard and uncomfortable. My blanket dropped to the floor. I re-adjusted myself on the chair and took aim through the sight. I was listening to the new sounds of the sea when I heard the pop of the gun.

I looked up. Ed Tripp looked over with a surprised wide-eyed expression on his face. He looked down, up again, then he sunk down slowly and slid over the edge of the boat.

I brought the gun down from the railing and looked out. I sat still, watching the boat sway with the motion of the waves. I waited. I listened to the thunder and tried to keep from thinking. I picked up the paper cup and took a sip; the rum tasted rusty and bad. I put the cup down. I waited. Finally I went inside the house and stood the gun in the closet and relocked the door, and went to bed. Of course I couldn't sleep. I lay

awake the whole night, staring at the ceiling, trying not to think.

That was more than two weeks ago. I heard from Joe Soloman that Ed Tripp's boat had been found adrift in open water, dragging anchor up near Goodtown. Ed Tripp was not on the boat, Joe told me, and the police and Coast Guard think that somebody may have cooled him.

"There was a manatee on the boat," Joe said. "All cut up and sliced open. They found some other hides on deck. Somebody killed him all right. Probably one of those boys from up north. You can't cross them, you see," he said. "They know how to kill a person."

I bought some food and went back to the house.

What do you think of that? His boat was carried out with the tide, and his body must have been eaten. The sharks probably came up with the smell of manatees. I bet they were surprised when they bit into Ed Tripp.

I don't know. I'm sick about it. For two weeks I've been sick. I hear noises at night. I hear rolling thunder when the night sky is clear and there is no thunder. My hands shake and my stomach is bad all the time. Worst of all is the rum. I can't drink it. I bought another bottle but it tasted the same—rusty and bad.

I thought of giving myself to the police, but I am an old man: judgement will be passed on me soon enough. There are bigger things to worry about than the police.

I try not to think about it. Nor about fate. Something that was meant to happen, or something that needed to happen—no. If

there's one thing I have learned, it's that thinking too much is a dangerous practice. I do think this: somebody had to do it. Besides, there aren't many manatees left in this world and, hell, there are plenty of people.

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Muscular Dystrophy Telethon/Auction

IT'S OFFICIAL! Today marked the official "kick-off" of the Key West Jaycee's 13th Annual Muscular Dystrophy Telethon-Auction, to be telecast live via TCI from Marriott's Casa Marina, August 16th from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. This year's telethon-auction will be sponsored by Key West radio station WIIS FM 107.

The Key West Jaycees pledged their support to the Muscular Dystrophy Association's (MDA) 1986 fundraising efforts, in conjunction with the endorsement of MDA by the United States Jaycees, according to Charles Bearham, telethon chairman.

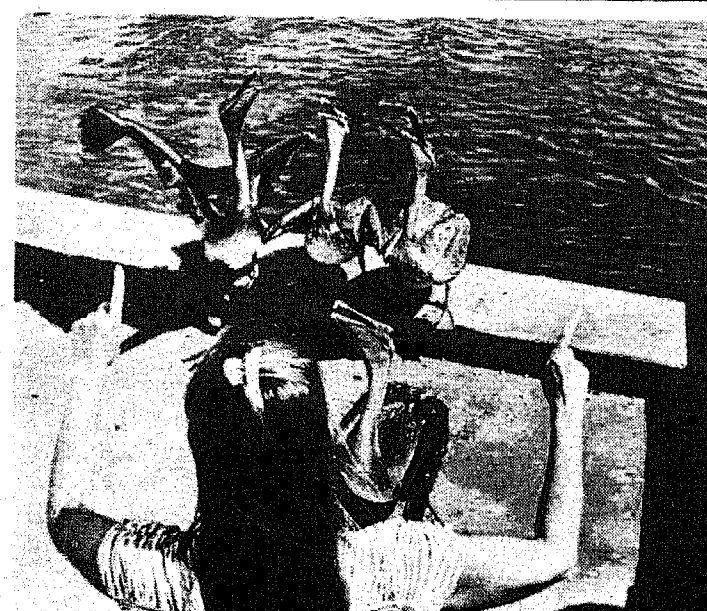


Telethon Chairman Charles Bearman (left) and Joe Russo, General Manager of FM 107, shake on their commitment to MDA.

During the past ten years, Jaycees across America comprising more than 6,500 chapters and 268,000 individual members

have contributed \$14 million to help find a cure for MD. For the 1986 telethon, the Jaycees are committed to a nationwide goal

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HUMOR
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THE PELICANAIRES

of \$2 million, making them one of the top incorporated sponsors of MDA, a relationship that had its beginnings twelve years ago in Key West, Florida.

"One of our major goals will be to mobilize community support for MDA," Bearham said, "Our chapter has made a commitment to raise \$40,000 for MDA and we encourage everyone in the community to assist us in this worthwhile endeavor. Through the efforts of WIIS FM 107, TCI, Marriott's Casa Marina, and local businesses and performers, we'll be able to provide our audience with an entertaining local program as well as a medium in which to purchase exciting trips, cruises, merchandise and services donated from our community."

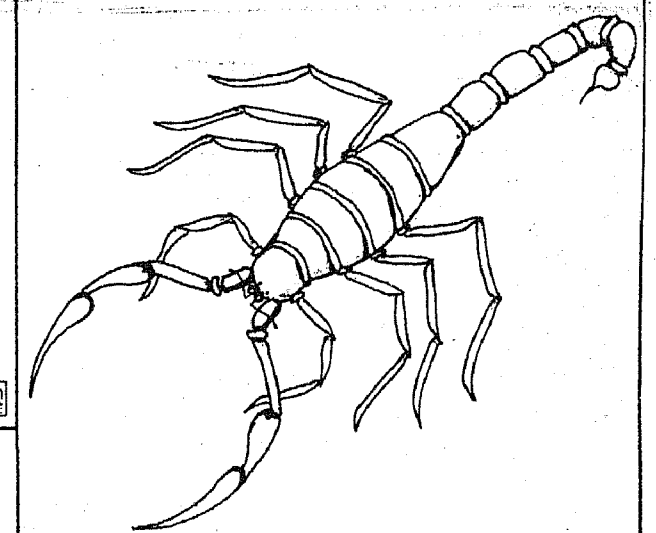
The Jaycee's fundraising efforts will culminate with the annual Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon. Last year, Charles Bearham, then president of the Key West Jaycees, appeared in Las Vegas with Jerry Lewis to present this organization's contribution, totalling \$32,000. In addition, Jaycees from Key West and other chapters will appear on local segments of the telethon and help answer pledge telephones.

MDA funds a network of 240 clinics throughout the United States where victims of muscular dystrophy and related neuromuscular disorders receive diagnosis, treatment therapy, counseling and orthopedic appliances...all free of charge. The Association also sponsors an extensive summer and winter camping program and funds a worldwide research effort seeking the causes and cures for muscle disease.

In Monroe County, victims of muscular dystrophy and related muscle

disorders attend the MDA clinic at the University of Miami. MDA also runs a camping program for patients from this area at Port of the Island, Marco, Florida.

For more information on the Key West Jaycee's 13th Annual Muscular Dystrophy Telethon-Auction, contact Chairman Charles Bearham, Keys Collection Agency, 1202 Seminary Street, 296-4055, or Toni Marnell, PR Chairman at 294-6703.



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Monroe County Jail Story

by Frank Kaiser

Robert Lebo is a young Marathon man of 20, a fisherman who got arrested by the Marine Patrol with unlawfully undersized lobsters and out-of-season stone crabs. Booked, he failed to make \$5000 bond and was imprisoned at Monroe County Jail on Whitehead Street in Key West until his trial seven weeks later.

The easy-going, 250 pound, six-two high school dropout was fingerprinted and photographed, issued mattress, toothbrush and soap (see sidebar), and placed in a windowless cell block with 21 other inmates all awaiting trial. Lebo relates: *It was terrible. Couldn't do nothing. My cell block had 16 Cubans. They all stuck together and all they wanted to do is fight. About cigarettes. Space. Food. They'd piss on your bed just to get you mad. The Americans there would stick together all the time so the Cubans wouldn't beat up on us. The jail was overcrowded. Some slept on the floor.*

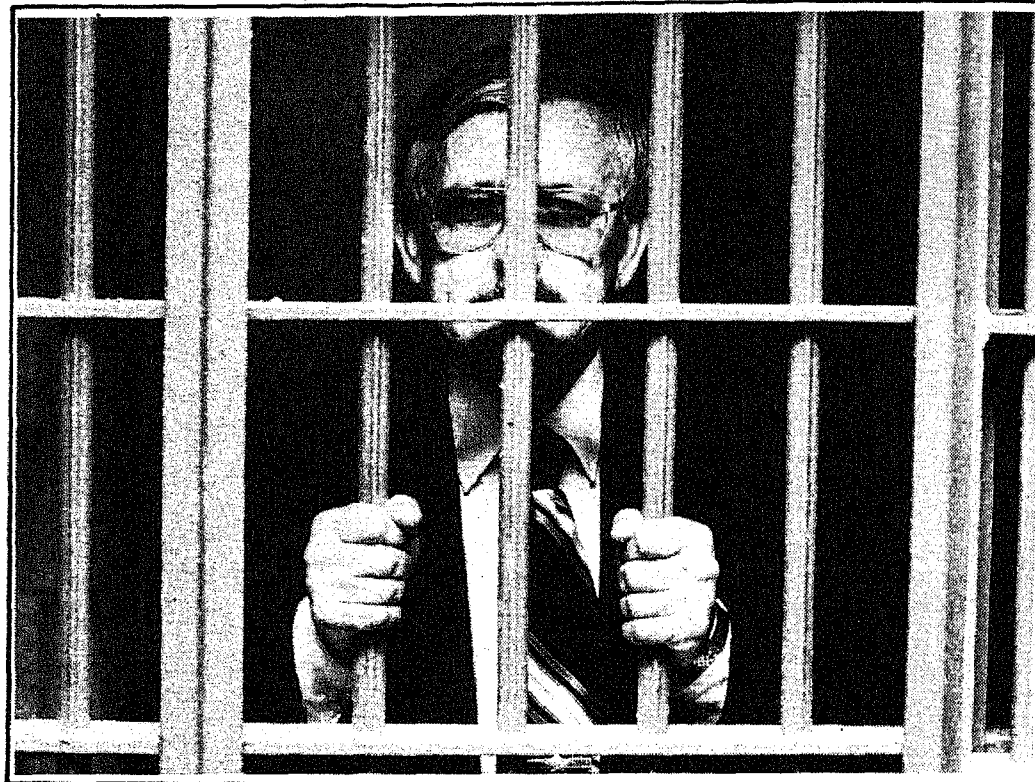
Federal law puts a firm cap on the number of inmates allowed in U.S. jails. Today with a new \$1.6 million addition which opened this year, Monroe County Jail still is allowed no more than 142 prisoners at a time. Yet, according to Sheriff William A. "Billy" Freeman, Monroe County has the highest per-capita inmate population in Florida. These days the population sometimes exceeds 200. Few are actually convicts. The overwhelming majority are men and women awaiting trial. Many are indigent. Most are transients. Chances are that each charged with a felony will stay

within the bars of our jail for 75 to 90 days before they are tried and released, placed on probation or sent to state prison. Two years ago that figure stood at 210 days.

The four-man cell doors just about screamed when they opened at seven every

some more. Or sleep.

Dinner was better than breakfast or lunch. There was ham or fish, maybe chicken, veal, hamburger. Usually potatoes, beans, salad, bread and dessert. Then more sitting around. Again, Cubans



"Jake" Key

photo by Richard Waterway

morning. Unbelievable noise! Chow was delivered. Usually juice, scrambled eggs, toast, apple sauce, cereal, milk, coffee. Even ice water. After Breakfast you could watch Cuban TV, sleep, play cards, get into a fight. All us Americans hung out together in one cell. That way the Cubans wouldn't start anything.

Lunch was something different every day. Like pizza or franks or barbecue. Lemonade. After lunch you'd sit around

threatening us with a fight. But any fights were between them. After a while you'd go to bed. Next day's just the same. Waiting. Always waiting.

\$45 a Day

Captain Donald "Jake" Key oversees the jail's 74 employees, upwards of 200 inmates and its yearly budget of \$2.9 million. Key, a third generation Conch and

Monroe County Jail Update: Booking Sidebar

by Frank Kaiser

Somewhere in the marshes of my mind I remember a film in which a newspaper reporter was assigned to write an "inside story" about an insane asylum. Those were the days of the fabled Snake Pit. To get past the Evil Keepers, the reporter posed as a loony; only the editor knew his true identity. And only the editor could get his writer out once the story was written.

Perhaps such distant memories provoked the idea. Whatever, I found myself asking Monroe County's Chief Jailer, Jake Key, if he would allow me to go through the entire booking process as an accused criminal, up to and including lock-up. Such insight could provide revelations. Key cleared the idea with Sheriff Freeman, told me that I'd be charged with something silly ("Like breathing Duval Street air without permission" he said) and, before I knew it, I was led handcuffed to a holding cell at the Monroe County Jail on Whitehead Street.

"Howzzit here?" With all the cool I

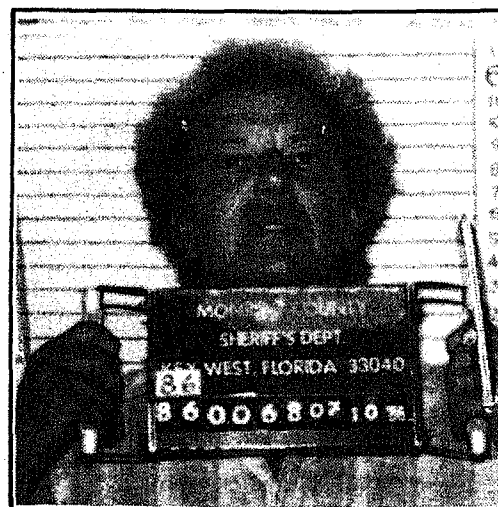
could muster I asked my temporary cell mate about jail conditions. He wore leg irons and a fiesty demeanor.

"It's crap!" he replied. "Can't wait to do my time. Judge gave me 30 months, and state prison's got to be better than this crappy place." Then, after staring absently at his chained legs, he said, "Why, in Miami, they'd let me go! Small-time cocaine charge. Miami jails are too full for little guys like me. Here? Everything here is crap! The food. The cells. Guards. Everything here is crappy.

As the conversation progressed I found that he was waiting to be taken to the dentist, I assume courtesy of Monroe County taxpayers, for the removal of three rotting teeth. His biggest problem seemed to be a lack of patience. In fact, after listening to my "expert inmate" for awhile, Revelation Number One formulated as: **Monroe County Jail is much like being in the army - but without the laughs. Bitching and moaning. Hurry up and wait. Uniforms. The whole bit.**

Soon my new acquaintance was gone. I was taken to a large room for fingerprinting and photos. Pardon me, "mug shots." Front and side views of incoming prisoner Number 86-0068 (see photo).

The officers were friendly and polite. They seemed to know their jobs and do them well. Revelation Number Two: The



Frank Kaiser

old idea of the sadistic jailhouse "screw" is dead. At least here in Monroe County. Most all these men, and those I would meet throughout the jail, have at least 97 hours of intensive training; many have a full 417 hours. Despite the stress involved in their jobs, these men are both efficient and considerate. Important too: most all seemed to have a decent sense of humor.

1954 graduate of Key West High School, has been in charge of the institution for 21 years. An earnest and dedicated man who no doubt cares deeply about his charge, he laughs easily yet chooses his words carefully as if there may be a lawsuit dangling on the end of every participle. On jail matters he gives the impression that he's seen it all.

"We do the very best we can for the people locked up here," Key says. "In a county jail you can't spend taxpayers money just to convenience the inmates. Right now it costs \$45 a day to house each inmate. If you gave them everything they demanded it would end up costing the county another two million a year." Monroe County is already the most expensive place to live in Florida. Its recent per-capita arrest rate as reported in the 1985 edition of *Crime in Florida* has pushed the county into the state's top 10 percent with the current epidemic of "sale, trafficking and possession of cocaine" providing much of the thrust.

When Key first started in 1965 the old jail held 48 people. During those simpler times everything was handled by only three guards. "Inmates were tougher then," Key remembers. "We had a lot of fights, lots of tough and drunken shrimpers. Today's inmates are more likely to be into drugs. When they come in they're withdrawing, not fighting." A 100-bed jail was completed in 1967. The new addition opened this year brings the number of beds to 142. Key continues, "I have 194 people here today, 52 more than my legal cap. But I can't control the number of people getting arrested." It's the legal responsibility of the county jail to house any person getting arrested by statute anywhere from Key West to Key Largo by federal, state, county or

city enforcement officers.

Free Phones Installed

Jail has been called the "House of Striped Sunlight." Most of Monroe County Jail has no windows, no sunlight. Just bars. There are four cell blocks, three with 22 beds, one with eight. There are four single-man cells. The women's section has 12 beds, the trustee room 24, beyond which there's another section with eight beds for the disturbed. There are also the four 13 man dorms in the new jail plus a four-bed infirmary for the medically sick. Each group of prisoners has a TV and a recently installed toll-free telephone for making local calls such as those to the public defender's office. (See *Solares Hill*, June 1986, page 46.)

There is no common room for AA or prayer group meetings. On the roof, enclosed by chain link and barbed wire, is a recreation area from which a 27-year-old Miami man escaped the other day, the jail's first such incident in seven years. The prisoner, considered dangerous, was hunted down and found cowering behind a couch in a Stock Island trailer.

Each and every day a dozen or so men and women come into the jail to await trial while about an equal number leave. Some are found guiltless. Others released are those placed on probation or sentenced to time-served. Those inmates actually sentenced to state prison are taken each week to the Lake Butler Receiving Center 50 miles west of Jacksonville from which they are sent to places like Starke.

I don't know why, but after a month I was shipped to the Stock Island Jail until my trial. It's nice out there. You get better food and everything. Even though the food

his story lost forever.

And Captain Key was leaving for a two-week vacation the very next day!

Then, through several more auto-lock doors, up a buttonless elevator to the cell blocks. (All jail doors and elevators are controlled from centralized points behind bullet-proof glass.) A card with my picture (along with the charge: RETAIL THEFT) was placed on a board with 184 others and I was led to a property room, given a mattress, sheet and towels, taken to another room for my issue of one each comb, toothbrush, soap, disposable razor, an envelope, paper for correspondence (with Monroe County Jail Regulations printed on one side) and a short, eraserless pencil. Apparently no mistakes are allowed once you're on the inside.

I was told that I could visit the canteen three times weekly and if I had no money I could get a pack of Bugler (roll-your-own) cigarettes on each visit. "They eat your lungs out," I was warned by the stern guard. (Maybe I'll start smoking again, I thought. I had nothing to lose now!) I would also be given postage for three letters weekly; all mail, except letters to my attorney, would be subject to inspection.

"Visitors are allowed Saturday and Sunday." (Do hardened criminals like

comes from the main jail, it just looks and tastes better out there. There are windows. You get to go outside every day. Walk around. You're not locked down all the time like here. It's just like a house with two dorms. There's a TV room, a place where you can lift weights. I liked it over there.

Trained Manpower Problem

In spite of the overcrowded conditions at the main jail, the Stock Island facility closed in May. Opened in 1977 at the site of the old Monroe County Hospital behind the present Health Department, the jail held 21 inmates. Authorities claim that the biggest problem at the Stock Island facility was a law which states that each shift must be supervised by a fully-trained correctional officer, one which has received a full 417 hours of intensive training. There were simply not enough of these highly trained men to staff both jails. They expect to have the manpower to reopen at Stock Island by this October.

Since I was put on two-years probation I didn't get in trouble or nothing. I didn't ever want to come back here. But I was out on the boat the day I was supposed to report to my probation officer. Next day I went down to see her and she violated me for missing the day. Now I'm back here for another six months.

Robert Lebo is one of a handful of inmates actually serving a sentence in Monroe County Jail. Today he and 29 others are in the privileged position of trustees allowing them to work in the kitchen, sweep and mop the halls and offices, even help clean up the county beach. It's hard work, sometimes for stretches of 24 hours at a time, but even

myself actually have visitors? Yes, but with bulletproof glass between us.)

Gulp. By this time I was prison green inside and out.

Then, a wicked smile. "OK, you can just leave the mattress there and we'll sign you out. You can change back into your clothes right here if you'd like." Sweet words from my thoughtful keeper, Officer Erasto "Preacher" Perez; he'd been in on it all along. Quickly, my right index finger was inked once again, this time to mark the "out" box of some form. The photo card was taken down and everything that had been done was being undone. Suddenly I realized that the inmates were eating; the hot food smelled good. The air felt cool. I wondered what kind of hell hole a place like this must have been before air conditioning. There are no windows.

Revelation Number Three: **Jail is not a bad place to visit, but.....well, you know the rest.**

Fifteen minutes later I walked through the last of many, many lock-controlled doors out into the sun-filled Fleming Street.

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limited freedom is eagerly welcomed. *I'm called a trustee, all right, but I'll tell you: They sure don't trust you! I admit I've thought of skipping. But I've only got six months; why risk five years. Of course they watch you hard. And every time before you go back into your cell they strip search you. We get urine tests, too. There's drugs in the jail, maybe not now but up where I used to be they had them every day. I don't know how they get in. I don't think it's the guards. They're pretty good here. Most of them you can talk to for hours about your problems if you're not busy. Most want to help if they can. Some can be a real pain in the ass, though.*

The Men In Brown

The men in the brown uniforms of the Monroe County Division of Corrections are a fairly elite group. You can't just take anyone off the street and make him a jail guard. Most applicants are screened out by the time they finish taking the psychological, physical and other tests involved. Although paid less than their blue-uniformed brethren on street patrol - starting pay for correction officers is \$14,000 - they certainly share equal responsibilities and dangers. Within six months of employment all Monroe County Jail guards must get at least 97 hours of training at the junior college level at which time their salary increases to \$15,200. At the end of one year of employment all correctional personnel interested in a career

at the jail are sponsored to a further 320 hours of training. This certifies the person as a fully-trained correctional officer and increases his or her pay to about 17,700. Today there are 18 "320s" on staff.

With five shifts per day, eight men per shift to supervise upwards of 200 prisoners, there is a shortage of guards. Says Key, "We need another four more guards, per daytime shift, to handle activities like taking people to court, to doctors, to lawyer's conferences and interviews." He hopes to increase his personnel within the year.

A guard's job is very stressful. Noise constantly assaults the ears as scores of voices bounce around the concrete cells and halls. Try to remember every law, every policy and procedure pertaining to inmates when you have several of them screaming at you, cursing you from the top of their young lungs. And, in this day and age, failure to remember may subject you and your superiors to a lawsuit. Dangers abound. So-called disturbances are common; there have been riots.

Sleep On The Floor

The biggest problem here is the jail needs to be larger. Eight-man cells have 12, maybe 14 men living in them. Only eight beds. It's like that all over here. The last men to bed sleep on the floor. Or on cots, sometimes, if they're lucky.

Every two weeks a group called the "Jail Committee" meets to discuss jail problems, particularly inmate flow. For

three years now this committee which is made up of county judges, circuit court judges, probation and parole people, along with the sheriff, public defender and the state's attorney, has been attempting to eliminate the overcrowded jail conditions. Cooperation is key. And to a significant extent, these people have succeeded. Says Ray Long III, Chief Probation and Parole Officer, "Today this system works hard to keep the cap of the jail down." Just two years ago the average jail stay was seven months; today it is less than three.

And three may be as low as it's ever going to be. Listen to Monroe County Public Defender Rand Winter: "I fully believe that we are making every reasonable effort to move cases through the system as quickly as possible. I would be more concerned from a defense lawyer's standpoint that occasionally we may run them through too quickly. I don't see how we could, with minor exceptions, move cases through the system any faster than we are. It's not an issue of people dragging their feet."

Monroe County Jail's overcrowded condition is certainly not unique. Nationally, prison populations have swelled 53% since 1980. In fact, the U.S. ranks just below the USSR and South Africa in the number of prisoners per capita.

While national and state penal authorities focus on recidivism, such career criminals play a relatively small part in Monroe County law enforcement. "More often than not, today's crimes in this county are drug-based," says Winter. His 10

assistants and five investigators find that feeding drug and/or alcohol habits puts most of their clients behind bars. "They may be charged with burglary but drugs are the heart of the problem," Winter reveals.

Read The Citizen

To get a more vivid idea of the scope of the problem here the reader need only to read a week's worth of crime reports in *The Key West Citizen*. Check the number of stories which end with "...and then taken to Monroe County Jail for incarceration." According to Captain Key, eighty-five percent of all those who check in don't check out. Perhaps the bond is unobtainable. Whatever, they are added to the jail population. "We're looking for other ways to alleviate this problem but it seems like there's this continuous volume of crime over which there's no control," Key says. "With crime on the climb, I don't know what the answer is."

How did we get ourselves into this mess? Key blames the parents for not taking kids between the ages of nine and 15 and training them about responsibility. He believes that society has been lax in the education of its children, especially about the difference between right and wrong. "We give them too much of what they ask for without giving them any responsibility. The kids turn to wanting drugs, then feel entitled to what they want and soon go out and steal for them," he says. "At least thirty-five percent of my inmates are here specifically on drug charges." Key expects


that by the time he retires in four years, crime in Monroe County will be twice as bad as it is now.

Inmate law suits against the county are a constant concern. They are regularly threatened, often filed for everything from illegal arrest to depriving an inmate of TV for one hour while religious services take place. In the eyes of Monroe County Jail officials the law appears to bite the hand that feeds it. Officials claim that no one has ever won a negligence suit against the jail, but the ever-present threat of litigation makes everyone weary. Captain Key's graying hair bristles. "Criminals say that they can commit a crime, then turn around and accuse us of violating their rights. They never worry about the rights of the victim of their crime. That's forgotten about. All they care about is their 14th Amendment, their Eighth Amendment, and somewhere along the line you're going to violate it. They expect us to remember every little detail. No jail in the world can cope with all the appellate and Supreme Court rulings."

Where does it all go from here? Robert Lebo has two definite plans when he gets out. He wants to get married. And he plans to never see the inside of Monroe County Jail again. As Jake Key says, "The rewarding part of this job is seeing all the people who have served time with you while paying society back, who now are living in the community with a family, kids and a business. You see them develop into good citizens."

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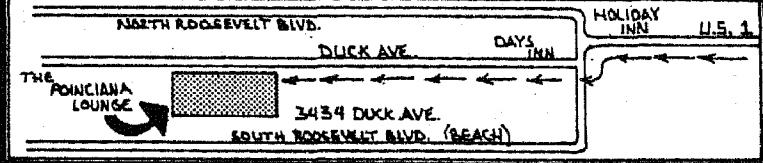
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At the jail there's talk of privatization. Corrections Corporation of America, a Nashville-based company which runs detention facilities in Panama City and eight other locations across the nation, is negotiating with the Monroe County Commission to run the county's jail system. According to CCA representatives, private industry can operate more efficiently than government.

Although the Florida Sheriff's Association strongly opposes private firms taking over county jail operations, Sheriff Freeman is taking a wait and see attitude. He feels that privatization is a buzz word, an "in thing." But he sees that it's saved money for taxpayers in some areas. "If it saves substantial funds, most here would be supportive," Freeman says. "While we're mandated to put money into retirement funds, maybe private industry wouldn't have that quarter-million dollar expense. Maybe they can buy food cheaper. Maybe they'd bid this at cost or below just to get another jail on line."

Public Defender Rand Winter, whose department defends an overwhelming majority of inmates at the jail, sees another possible benefit. "I don't mean to imply criticism of the present system, but I believe that private management would find it financially necessary to screen each and every incoming inmate making appropriate recommendations to the court and others about bond. This kind of reform in the bail system could cut the number of inmates and save money at the same time."

Makes sense. Go down the Jail List

Summary of inmates and you'll see many people who maybe don't belong. They're accused of non-violent crimes. They're not considered a danger to the community. Today a bond of even \$100 can cancel the freedom of some Monroe County Jail inmates. As Winter asks rhetorically, "Although such an inmate may have no ties with the community and may run, is it worth the dollar price we pay to imprison him?"

As long as the jail employees don't get hurt financially, most seem to be willing to give a private company a chance at running Monroe County Jail. As Sheriff Freeman says, "If it doesn't work, we can always take it back."

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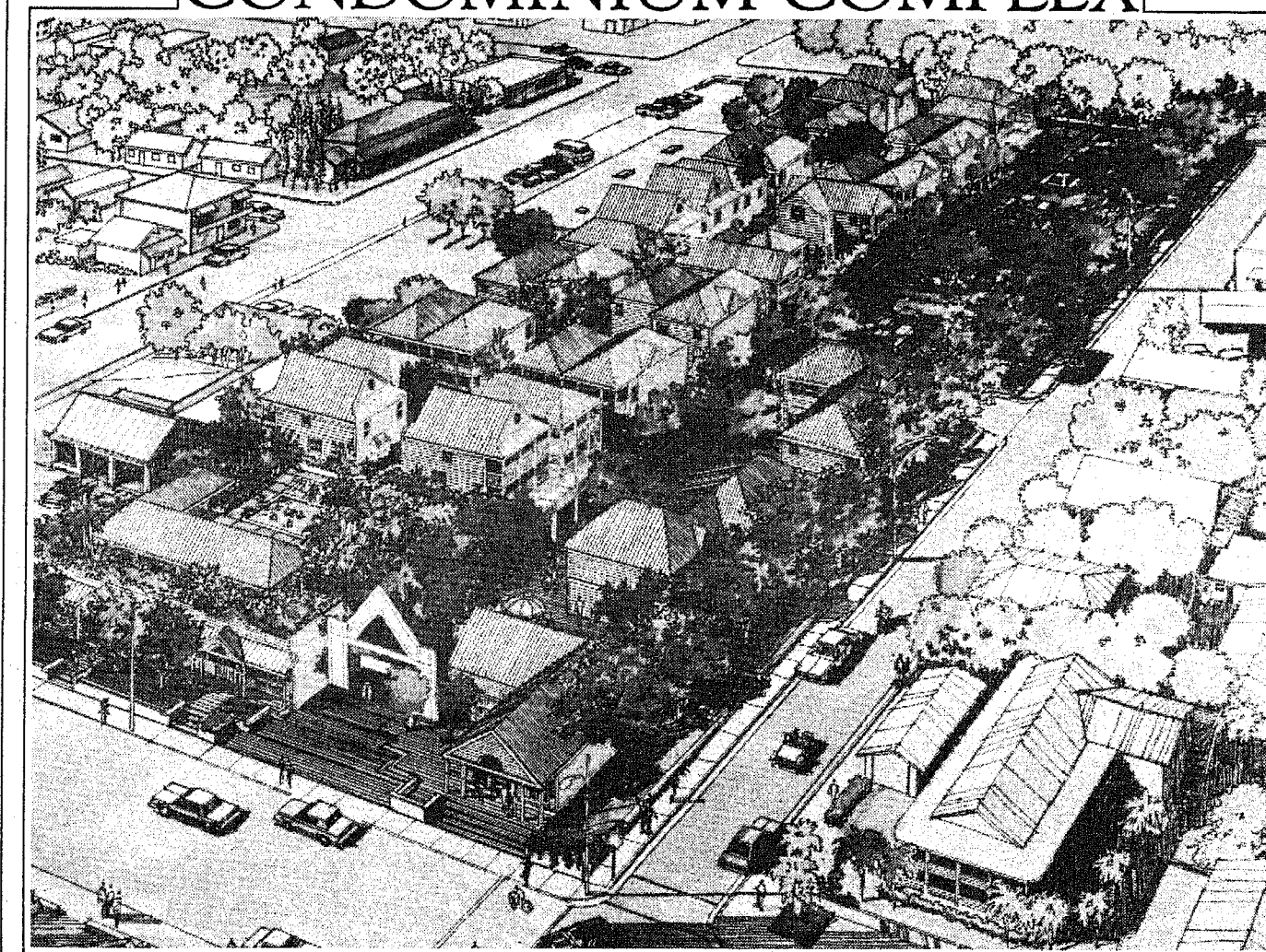


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East Martello Museum

by Ellen Sugarman

EAST MARTELLO MUSEUM, a brick Civil War fort at the edge of the Atlantic Ocean, is operated by the Key West Art and Historical Society (which also manages the Light House) and houses an historical museum and art galleries. This enchanting structure offers a wealth of exhibits depicting the unique history of Key West and galleries that present changing art shows. Two significant folk art collections are permanently housed at East Martello: the Mario Sanchez wood carvings and the Stanley Papio folk sculptures.

John Tosi, President of the Museum, explains, "The Museum is one of the major tourist attractions in Key West and a very major share of our revenue comes from tourists who go to see the Fort and take in some of our local history. We want to develop this further. We will also continue to present exhibits the public can enjoy and to be helpful to our member artists by giving them a place to show. But since this is less needed than it was in the past, when there weren't many local galleries, we are planning to introduce traveling shows of historic import and retrospective shows of former Key West Artists."

Historical significance can now take the lead. A secondary focus will be the essential, and difficult, arena that of necessity must dictate much of the work of any such organization: fundraising.

On the historical side, East Martello is fortunate to be able to lay claim to its Mario Sanchez collection. Sanchez, a Key West native of Cuban descent, was more than modest when he carved out his motto in 1930 and hung it above his work space: "Se que mi modesta arte no es bueno, pero gusta." ("I know my modest art isn't good, but it pleases.") That his "modest art" pleases is obvious as you walk around the Margo Golan room at East Martello and monitor your own - or your fellow visitors' - responses to the charming woodcuttings that cover the walls. Whether or not the art "isn't good" is subject to continuous heated debate, as is the case with much of what the world considers "art".

One thing is certain, though. Thanks to the dedicated eye and facile wit and native talent of Sanchez, much of the soul of old Key West has been captured, reproduced, and preserved with care. It is this that fills the rooms at East Martello, as well as the hearts of so many people who have had the opportunity to share Sanchez's vision and remain grateful that this humble man spends his days making art that can today magically lead you back through time and down the very same streets where Sanchez and his contemporaries spent their days and nights. Nothing else seems to have the same power to describe what, in fact, those days and nights and people and places were really like. Or to depict it so ingenuously - the charm, the simple beauty, the allure of the buildings and people and animals and products and that lifestyle Sanchez manages to capture with his simple wood-working

tools and brightly-colored paints.

Sanchez is, admittedly, a simple man with a simple vision. For some fifty years he has created carvings from his memory of early 20th century Key West. He has always worked in the same way: His style didn't develop, his techniques didn't change, his work didn't differ greatly from year to year. The strong primitive essence, the power of the "naïf", remained. Simple figures, three-dimensional rough-carved buildings, colors that cling to the primary palette. Sanchez still draws his scenes on the back of brown paper grocery bags (the "paper bag art" has become quite valuable over the years), transfers it to wood using carbon paper, outlines the picture with a pencil, carves with a few chisels, a wooden mallet, some broken glass and a single-edged razor. Then, with brushes from the five & ten, he applies color. These days, with some of his carvings selling in the ten thousand dollar range, the artist can afford store-bought paints and he no longer has to work on the back of recycled tobacco crates as he once did. Otherwise, not much has changed about the work habits of Mario Sanchez.

On many levels, including a measure of historical significance that must be applied, this work is well worth saving and cherishing. The Sanchez collection is worthy of attention and respect. Wander down memory's path - Mario Sanchez's memory, that is - some day soon and you'll be touched, quite viscerally, by what Key West has been and still remains - at least to the people who were there. And that, of

course, is what Historical Societies and Museums are all about. For this reason, dismissal of the work is simply not permissible.

The existence of this quite complete collection of historically relevant art owes itself to the foresight and prudence of one person, Margo Golan. Early on, when Sanchez's work was not yet recognized, Mrs. Golan started collecting it. Intuitively, over the years, she has single-handedly saved the Sanchez work from either dispersment or complete obscurity. She has saved it for Key West by donating much of her personal collection to the Museum. Thanks to Mrs. Golan, tourists and locals alike can walk through the Sanchez collection at East Martello and experience something special about Key West lore. Her foresight and good taste are to be applauded.

The Stanley Papio collection at East Martello is the work of another Keys folk artist. His remarkable chrome and welded metal sculptures were donated to the Museum in 1982 and since that time they have earned recognition as significant and valuable works in the history of American folk art. Responding to his own private urge, Stanley Papio, a welder who lived near Key Largo, created huge sculptural parodies from pieces of "junk". His whimsical figures are composed of fenders from old cars, headlights, bed springs, and other found objects. Papio set up a unique roadside museum that his neighbors found distasteful enough to try repeatedly to dismantle. Fortunately, the work and the

man resisted these attacks, and today this stunning collection can be viewed in the newly restored Citadel at East Martello.

In '84, the National Endowment for the Arts awarded a \$5,000 grant to the Museum to provide funds for historian Sharon Wells to catalog the Papio collection. Sharon had been one of the foremost champions of Papio and has been instrumental in getting grants to save his work. By then, art critics from all over the country had come to see Papio as "a unique visionary artist". Recently East Martello won a grant from the State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs to pay for an "on site technical survey and overall conservation policy for Papio's sixty distinctive...sculptures." Phoebe Dent Weil, Chief Conservator of the Washington University Sculpture Conservation Laboratory, conducted this work in March.

Fundraising efforts concerning Papio have been interesting in their creativity in themselves. Earlier this year, a group of people who dubbed themselves "Papio's Pals" raised the matching \$2200 for the NEA grant. (As one of the directors of the Museum remarked, "These were the same people who have been generous to us all along who came to Papio's rescue.") Other local people have "adopted" a Papio piece. What this means is they have donated a pledge of time to work at the Museum restoring their adopted piece of sculpture, as specified by Ms. Weil.

Community support is essential to the Museum. The community supplies the Museum with directors, volunteers, and



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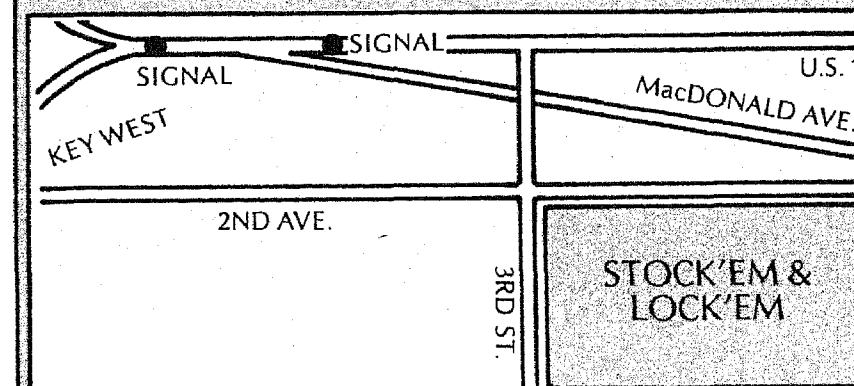
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guidance, as well as money. Currently East Martello boasts close to 1000 members. The Art and Historical Society caters to these members by acknowledging their generosity with parties that are enjoyed by all; eight receptions are held out at the fort for either art openings of historical exhibits and these are very well attended. As Executive Director Lee Dodez put it, "Without the support of our members, we couldn't exhibit at all."

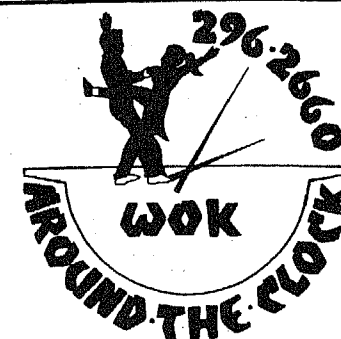
East Martello is the one plant Key West has that is interesting enough and has the space and direction to truly depict Key West history, its sociological evolution and some current art. Everything done at the Museum is with an eye to promoting Key West. You can walk through Key West's history by walking around the Museum, while experiencing a beautiful and unique fort. It is to be hoped that the Museum will continue to flourish.

Solares Hill Editorial

by Bill Westray

Smathers Beach Renourishment: Word comes from Representative Dante Fascell's office that the House Appropriations Subcommittee has approved spending \$93,000 during the next fiscal year for planning beach improvements and renourishment at Smathers Beach. This renourishment project had its beginnings back in about 1979 under former Mayor Sonny McCoy's administration. The project he conceived included not only renourishing Smathers Beach (Segment 2) which was created back in the early 60's, but also creating additional new beach toward the airport (Segment 1) and an additional 3400 feet of new beach along Rest Beach (Segment 3) in front of private property down to White Street Pier.

As envisioned in 1980, the project would have created about 6400 linear feet of new beach, renourished about 3000 feet of Smathers Beach, destroyed about 50 acres of productive seagrasses, eliminated the Bertha Street boat ramp, ignored the White Street Pier problem, and done nothing to rehabilitate either Higgs (County) Beach or South (City) Beach. Most of those who reviewed and commented on this first proposal were receptive to the idea of refurbishing the existing Smathers Beach. However, a majority of those commenting, including all of the state, federal and private environmental agencies, objected to destruction of environmentally sensitive marine habitat so important to our sports and commercial fisheries. There was also serious question of recreational need for additional beaches, which the Corps erroneously calculated at up to 185,000 visitors a day. In the main, these agencies concurred with plans to renourish Smathers Beach only, and objected to the extensions to the eastward (segment 1) toward the airport, or westward (segment 3) in front of private property at Rest Beach.



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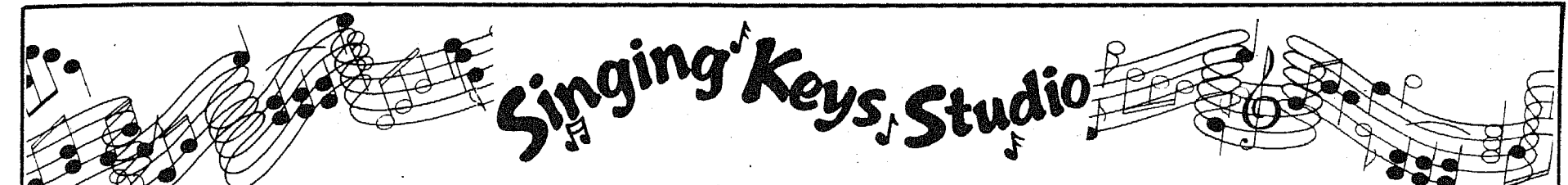
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Ultimately the project was scaled down considerably, particularly with respect to destruction of seagrass beds. It is now estimated that only about 10 acres of seagrasses in front of Smathers Beach would be affected and the Corps has agreed to mitigation by revegetating about 13 acres of new seagrass beds nearby. Under the emphatic persuasion of the Environmental Protection Agency, the question of need and feasibility of Segments 1 and 3 is to be restudied.

We support, as we have always done, the renourishment of Smathers Beach with proper consideration and mitigation for any necessary habitat destruction. This public beach fills an unquestioned public need and is vital to our tourist oriented economy. It is clearly in the public interest.

We continue to strongly oppose creating more beach between Bertha Street and White Street as this would serve primarily private development, and except for a small portion opposite the Indigenous Park, would have limited if any public access. It would not be in the public interest.

We urge the Corps of Engineers, EPA, DNR, DER, the City and the County, to look carefully at the possibility of using the money originally planned for Segments 1 and 3 to correct the White Street Pier



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problem and refurbish the sands at Higgs Beach and South Beach.

We believe that the needs of Rest Beach, including the Indigenous Park and private developments, can be best met by creating a properly designed "perched beach" above the Mean High Water line. The original Rest Beach with cabanas built by WPA back in the "great depression" days of the 1930's, was mainly a dune or perched beach system. This would avoid and preserve the bird feeding shallow flats east of White Street Pier, and leave undisturbed the fish nursery habitat of lush seagrass beds in the waters between Bertha and White Streets.

Certain beachfront property owners have shown a too quick readiness to build fences or structures athwart our historical beaches to deny public access to the sand

and water in front of their property. We believe that this is morally and legally wrong. Even where the riparian owner has title to the submerged land, the courts have held that the public retains right of transit and use of the beach under the legal principle of "customary use". We can establish that many Key Westers have enjoyed customary use to the south shore of Key West for nearly a century. We have affidavits to that effect from prominent citizens going back before World War I. In 1894, the Florida Supreme Court describing the Public Trust Doctrine, declared:

".....the heaven, the stars, the light, the air, and the sea are all of them things belonging so much in common to the whole society of mankind that no one person can

make himself master of them, nor deprive

others of the use of them....."Sullivan v. Richardson, 14 So. 692, 702 (Fla.1894).

We believe that the time is at hand to reach agreement on this project, so that all interests can endorse and support an equitable solution to the overall beach problem for the betterment of all Key Westers.

Article X of the CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, states:

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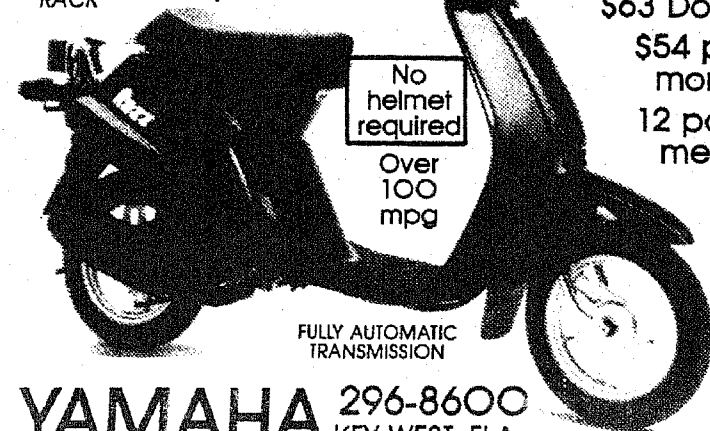
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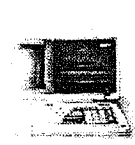
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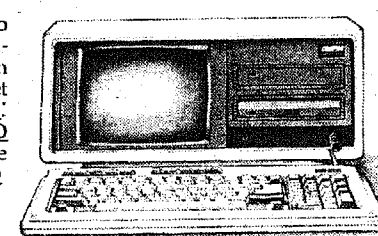
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Glad Tidings Tabernacle

by Jolene Talarico

During the year 1930 a new fellowship formed in Key West which identified with a fairly new organization called the Assemblies of God. The first congregation gathered in a house on White and Olivia Streets to worship. In years to follow the congregation moved to Georgia and Petronia Streets where facilities were added on so that room might be provided for Sunday School.

In 1957, under the leadership of Rev. Wayne Pitts, the church was relocated again, to the corner of Georgia and United Streets. The congregation built its new home through volunteer labor and donated materials. Adjacent property was then purchased which now serves as offices and school rooms. Finally, in 1982 under the leadership of the current pastor, Rev. Charles Elliott, the building was expanded to house a Christian school for children in Kindergarten through the 12th grade. Glad Tidings Tabernacle had found its home.

The Church offers services to its congregation as well as ministries which specialize in the needs and levels of interest of various age groups. Berean Bible College, a two year study program, is an accredited course through the Central Bible College in Springfield, Missouri. Graduates receive a degree in Bible Studies.

The Midweek Satellite Service is an adult oriented meeting with tapes of various

speakers to expose that group to what are known as the "Five-Fold Gifts". Additionally there are youth meetings, children's groups and home meetings.

Under the leadership of Rev. Elliott, Administrator, and Mr. Bill Hunt, Principal, the school is instituting a computer lab and better equipped typing lab. A new chemistry

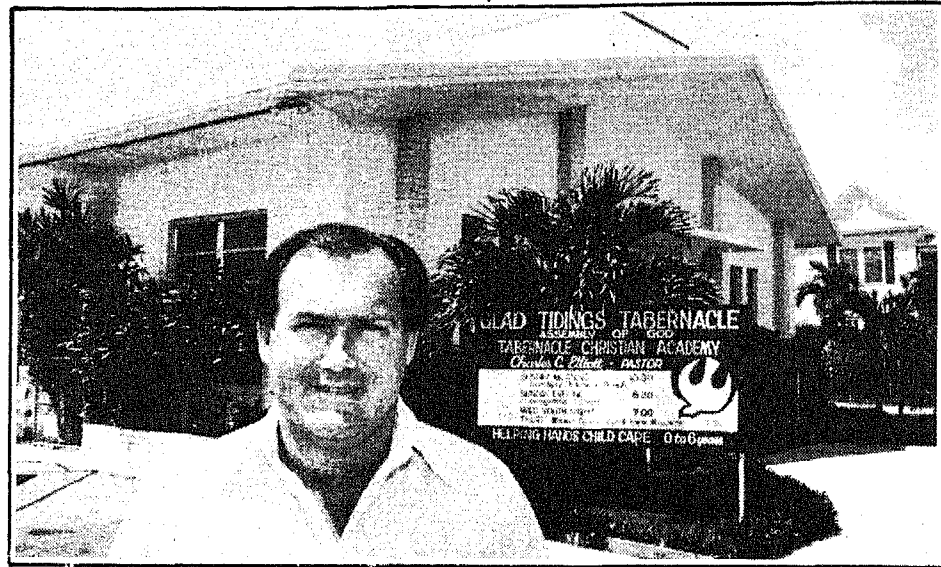


Photo by Richard Wetherwax

Reverend Charles Elliott in front of church

Chock full of activities, Glad Tidings is also the home of Tabernacle Christian Academy (T.C.A.), founded in 1982. T.C.A. uses the Accelerated Christian Education Learning System which allows students to progress in academic studies according to their achievement rate, not the rate of the class or teacher. Curricula are tailored to individual needs, determined by a battery of placement tests taken upon entry. Enrollment peaks at 90 students at this time with a ratio of one teacher to every 12-15 pupils. Diplomas from T.C.A. are accepted by most colleges including West Point, whose standards of excellence is legendary.

lab and sports program are planned for this 1986-87 school year. A new library has also been recently added.

Rev. Charles Elliott hasn't stopped there, however. He told us, "My dream is to build a Family Center with a bowling alley, family theater, skating rink and restaurant, all under one roof—a place where families can enjoy activities together."

Glad Tidings Tabernacle and Tabernacle Christian Academy are located at 1209 United St. Call 296-5773 between 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. for more information.

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ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Glad Tidings Tabernacle, 1209 United St., 296-5773.
Charles C. Elliott, pastor. Sunday worship 10:30 am and
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Greater Keys Baptist Church, Fifth & Seidenberg,
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St. James Missionary Baptist Church, 312 Olivia,
296-5593. Fred L. Carter, DD, pastor. Sunday worship
11:00 am and 6:00 pm, Sunday school 9:30 am.

Big Coppitt First Baptist Church, Ave. F, MM 10,
294-4118. Randy Kitchens, Pastor. Sunday worship 11:00
am and 7:30 pm, Sunday school 9:45 am, prayer meeting
Wed. evenings at 7:30.

Fifth St. Baptist Church, 2318 Fogarty Ave., 294-
2255. Rev. R. Hetherington. Sunday worship 11:00 am
and 7:00 pm, Sunday school 9:45 am.

First Baptist Church, 324 Eaton St., 296-8544. Charles
Teagle Jr., Pastor. Sunday worship 11:00 am and 7:00
pm, Sunday bible school 9:30 am, Wednesday evening
service 7:00.

Key West Baptist Temple, 5727 Second Ave., Stock
Island. Morris Wright, pastor. Sunday worship 10:50 am
and 6:30 pm, Sunday school 9:45 am, senior citizen Sun-
day service 2:30 pm, Wednesday evening prayer service
7:00.

Sugarloaf Baptist Mission, meeting at Sugarloaf
Elementary School, 45-2204. Rev. Mark Beasley, pastor.
Sunday school 9:45 am, worship service 11:00. Vacation
bible school for children ages 3 thru 12 July 14-25 Mon.
thru Fri. 9:00 am to 12 noon, at Sugarloaf Elementary
School.

CATHOLIC

St. Bede's Catholic Church, 2700 Flagler Ave.,
294-2984. Rev. Thomas F. Mullane, pastor. Mass Monday
10:30 am at Senior Citizen Plaza; Tuesday thru Friday
9:00 am in the church; Sunday 9:00 am, 11:15 am, 7:00
pm in the church; Vigil Mass Saturday 7:00 pm.

Church Directory

St. Mary Star of the Sea, Truman Ave. & 1010 Windsor
Lane, 294-1018. Sunday Mass 10:30 am, Spanish service
Sunday evening 6:00, daily Mass at 8:00 am.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

First Church of Christ Scientist, 327 Elizabeth St.,
296-8215. Sunday services 10:00 am and 7:00 pm, Sun-
day school 10:00 am. Reading room open Tuesday and
Thursday.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church of Christ, 1710 Von Plister St., 296-3331 or
294-2202.

Lower Keys Church of Christ, 1609 Patricia St., 294-
3042, 82-9721. Sunday Bible study 10:00 am, Sunday
worship 11:00 am, Wednesday worship service at 7:00 pm.

CHURCH OF GOD

Church of God, 1419 White St., 296-8844. R.W. Tur-
mond, pastor. Sunday worship 11:00 am and 7:00 pm,
Sunday school 9:45 am, family night Thursday at 7:30.

EPISCOPAL

Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, 901 Flagler Ave.,
296-3286. Rev. Neal H. Brown. Sunday services 7:30 and
10:00 am, Sunday school 9:15 am, Holy Communion
Wednesday evening at 7:30.

St. Paul's, 401 Duval St., 296-5142. Rev. Jack B.
Meyer. Sunday worship 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 am; Sunday
school 9:00 am, Wednesday services 7:00 and 9:00 am.

St. Peter's, 800 Center St., 296-2346. Rev. Norbert M.
Cooper. Sunday services 11:00 am, Sunday school 10:00
am; Mass on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:00 am.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Jehovah's Witnesses Kingdom Halls, 1117 White St.,
294-0482.

LATTER DAY SAINTS

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 3424
Northside Dr., 294-9400. Sunday services 9:30 am, Sun-
day school 10:50 am.

LUTHERAN

Grace Lutheran, 2713 Flagler Ave., 296-5161. Rev.
Paul N. Rauscher, pastor. Sunday worship services 9:00
am, Sunday school and adult Bible class 10:15 am.
Elementary school for three-year-olds thru sixth grade.

Holy Trinity, 3424 N. Roosevelt Blvd., 294-1305.
Donald Johnson, pastor. Sunday worship 11:00 am.

METHODIST

Cornish Memorial A.M.E. Zion, 702 Whitehead St.,
294-2350. Dr. F. Isaac Lowe. Sunday worship 11:00, Sun-
day school 9:30 am.

First United Methodist, 600 Eaton St., 296-2392. Rev.
David H. Schants, Jr. Sunday worship services 8:30 and
11:00 am, Sunday school 9:45 am.

Fleming Street United Methodist, 729 Fleming St.,
296-2812. Rev. Charles H. Ketchum.

Ley Memorial United Methodist, 1304 Truman Ave.,
296-3313. Walter R. Matthews, Jr. Sunday school 9:45
am, Sunday worship 11:00 am. Bible studies: short term
at various times.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Cosmic Lightbearers, 721 Waddell Ave., 294-0294.
Rev. Jeanette Bottoms. "We are a small group of New Age
seekers who currently use the natural settings of Key West
as our place of worship. Thursday 7:30 pm, Higgs Beach
gazebo.

Gospel Chapel, 720 Southard St., 294-4351.

PRESBYTERIAN

Peace Covenant Presbyterian, 2610 Flagler, 294-
1223. Sunday service 11:00 am, Sunday school 9:15 am.
Trinity Presbyterian USA, 717 Simonton St., 296-
3318. Rev. Albert W. Moses. Sunday service 11:00 am,
Sunday school 9:30 am.

QUAKERS

Quakers, Sunday 10:30 am. Information 294-1523.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Seventh-Day Adventist, 1006 Thomas St., 294-4077.

SYNAGOGUE

Congregation B'Nai Zion, 750 United St., 296-5739.
Rabbi Sol Landau. Services on Fri. evenings at 8:00.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

First Congregational, 527 William St., 296-8633. Rev.
V. K. Relyea. Sunday services 11:00 am and 7:00 pm.
Sunday school 9:45 am.

UNITY

Unity of the Keys, 3424 Duck Ave., 296-5888. Sunday
11:00 am, Tuesday evening course in miracles 7:00 pm,
Thursday 11 am basic Unity principles.

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP

Metropolitan Community Church, 1601 Jamaica Dr.,
294-8912. Steve Torrence, pastor. Sunday service 11:00
am.

WESLEYAN METHODIST

Holiness Wesleyan Methodist, 800 Eisenhower Dr.,
294-4742. Raymond Shreve, pastor. Sunday worship
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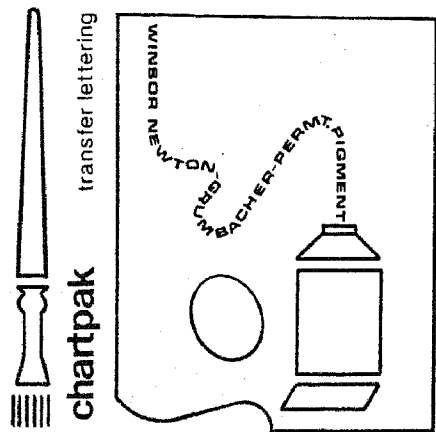
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GALLERY HOPPING

by Gordon Lacy

Supposedly in the depths of the summer doldrums, SoMo is actually a-buzz and throbbing, and I had thought that we were all falling asleep. It is that time of the year, Claude and Carole closing Croissants de France for their vacation, leaving us breadless until late September, and most of us on minimal summer schedules.

Karen at Artist Warehouse is preparing her new location for a fall opening and is operating by appointment only. She was in SoHo on business over the 4th of July and reports that the fireworks and festivities viewed from the West Side Drive, closed for the event, were incomparable. She is back to her first love, painting.

Fred Gros, while disclaiming bee-hive activity, is at least open and using the gallery as studio, so one may actually see the entrepreneur as artist. His artists are all on display, I underline Ron Van Balen and hope he is hard at work this summer: sculpture's answer to Magritte. Also note a new complex and satisfying Jordon Meinster oil. Fred has created a number of painted shirts that are fun, humorous, affordable and signed.

Gingerbread is showing their stable of painters and this month I should like to draw attention to Van Eno's "Ladies", two series of his smaller work, one of which features oriental figures and the other of western, often Gothic influence. These oils shine. Judi Wagner's water colors are rather

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loose in feeling, giving a sense of weather as much as of our local architecture. Wendy Turner's water colors on the other hand are

tightly constructed floral studies rendered by an unerring eye and a meticulous hand.

John and Jordon of the Burgess-Meister brought back from Mexico some fine gouaches on paper by an eighty-five year old Mayan artist, Miguel Gonzalez and these should be seen. A year ago John Burgess started to paste together some collages for his own amusement and he has kept adding and refining his act to the point that what he is doing now is art. Artists learn by working and they are almost always too close, too involved to be able to judge their work. Hats should be doffed.

Everyone is sad that Lee Dodez is

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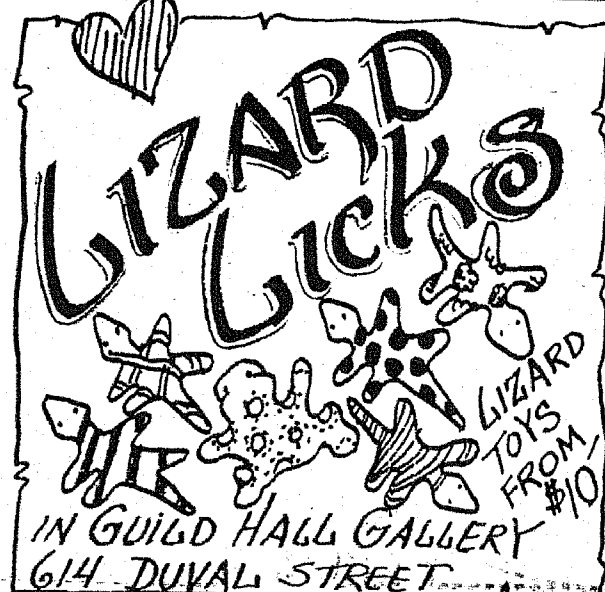
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ending his three-year stint as Director of the East Martello. He is responsible for bringing their accounting system into this century, for changing the look of our great museum and even getting the dust removed. He has helped Mrs. Golan expand the Sanchez collection, established the Papio collection, realized the new gallery. He has made a going business out of the Martello while defending its historic and cultural aspects. The TDC is giving a grant to do a film and a brochure on Key West's four forts (two Martello, east and west, plus Forts Taylor and Jefferson, which though in the Tortugas is a city dependent) and a second grant for new fliers and brochures for the Museum and the Lighthouse.

I have the feeling that this year is the year, given Parvan and the Monroe County Arts Council, that it will be realized that we are much more than just a beautiful vacation-land with perfect climate and that our history and, just as importantly, our culture are unique in America.

Jack Baron is home after a brief and pleasant Mexican sojourn to ready his paintings and "objects" for The Chicago International Folk Art/Naif Art Show in October, feeling very honored to have been selected.

At the Haitian Art Co. Ruth is on vacation in Hawaii and Mally says a

shipment of over 2000 pieces has arrived, including paintings by new artists, namely Henri Robert Bresil who paints green jungle scenes, and Fritz St. Jean plus Henry Jehovah who sews costumed historicals.

At the Key West Art Center the beginning of August will see the end of Maxine McMullen's water colors of local scenes, accent on the architectural aspects and the opening on the 4th of Geraldine Greene's water colors on local themes.

Lucky Street Gallery is open by appointment only.

There have been a lot of changes at The Guild starting with their handsome new sign in front, proudly pointed out to me by the irrepressible Loys Locklear whose ceramics vary from large vases to refrigerator door magnets. Judi Bradford's lizards et al are downstairs now as are Sonja Robinson's fine leather works. Cappy Seiler, Ann Irvine and Poochie Myers have been making field trips together with the result that their recent paintings have loosened and changed from their habitual styles. The Guild is throwing a big party the 8th. Let's all go.

Sandford of Sign of Sandford is in Spain this month, painting up a storm, but business is going on as usual on Simonton St. and featured are her new gym bags (well, they can be used for anything)

hand-painted in pastels, each one different and signed.

The White Street Gallery showing mostly European painters plus Alice Terry, Vaughn Gibson and John Burgess is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays only. From 11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The rest of the time we are quite literally on the beach.

In the justice will out department, I am happy to announce that the Hemingway short story contest's second prize (there were two second prizes this year) was won by none other than SoMo's very own Andrew Gillette and if you're wondering who the hell...it happens to be Vaughn Gibson's nom-de-plume. He felt he was too widely disliked and so assumed the name of one of his own fictional characters in order to be fairly judged. This confirms the Arts Council's wisdom last year in giving Gibson a grant to be able to continue writing, because what he wrote was this

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prize story.

Barbara Cooper of Aristos called in to say that she has been up north checking out several resort towns and that Key West wins hands down; nice food, pleasant service and cosmopolite people. She is featuring her stable of artists and says the gallery is very busy which is just fine after the season with Simonton Street torn up for months.

Before I sign off with my usual tribute to Farrington's free parking lot, I should like to draw your attention to the Keys' newest publication, ISLAND IMAGES a quarterly Art journal of the Keys. Nancy LaRe is the editor-in-chief, Eric Page public relations and sales, Wendy Waterline art director, Richard Tocci main beast of burden with Kathleen Elgin, Lynn Kaufelt, Alice Terry, Craig Biondi, Vaughn Gibson and myself as contributing editors writing on theatre, the literary scene, gardens, festivals, economics, fiction, Art; gourmet and mode will be covered by Tina Sebastian. We are hoping for something glossy and heavy and beautiful, informative, fun and sexy. And we shall be coming your way on or about Fantasy Fest with 16 full-color pages, 16 half-tone pages and 16 black and white pages dealing with the Arts, history and culture of the Keys.

Getting back to Farrington's, Ned tells me that August is back-to-school month and they have a lot of new materials and art supplies that students and artists can have 10% off on if they will say they read it here. Farrington's is pushing classes and

instruction in fabric painting and have all the kits that go with. They are showing the works of Roberta Brownell in connection with their policy of introducing younger artists to the public. Brownell won the list prize in the watercolor division at the FKCC end of year show.

Nature's Way ... Passion in the Garden

by Alice Terry

The dazzling display of color that lined the roadways in late spring has been succeeded by bowers and columns of green. There is a turgid quality to the air and humans and animals move more slowly, knowing that manana means tomorrow. This is siesta time and work goes better in the morning and late afternoon. We learn to accommodate ourselves to the realities in the semi-tropics.

I used to be a transplanted northerner. Now I think of myself as a Florida native. It has been a long, ongoing process, and although I still long for the flowers of a cooler climate I am, finally, a full-time resident of the Florida Keys.

For a long time, in rented backyards, I faithfully planted my heavenly-blue morning glory seeds after dutifully nicking them properly. But year after year they disappointed, as did the nasturtiums and other colorful annuals of the northeast. Now I am working with the natives of the

south, reveling in the tropical beauty of the palm and gumbo limbo, the royal poinciana and silver buttonwood. Tropical vines adorn my fences: mandevilla adding pink, alameda gleaming yellow, bouganvillea shouting red, purple, salmon and mauvy pink. I find that I am drawn to color, always. In my work as a painter I am continually seduced by color and I love to see and enjoy blossoms in the garden. They seem to set off to great advantage the greens and browns of the leaves and trunks. Roses will survive here with proper care, and daylilies are growable, but it is the tropical plant and tree which are really in glory in the Keys. Passion flowers and pandoras are added to the melange on the fences and walls and of course the jasmine with its heady fragrance adds a special note.

Bromeliads offer charm and variety and can be grown in containers, in the soil, or nestled in notches of trees, for they are true air plants and need only the air to survive. They may be seen all through the Everglades, red spires thrust heavenward during blooming time. Orchids, too, can be found in the trees, on the porches and in the backyards and houses of Key West. The variety of form and color is incredible and a host of orchid fans populate this area. The plants are easy to obtain and not too difficult to grow successfully. Do investigate the different species and don't settle for only the usual cattelya or vanda types if you are thinking of indulging your need for an "orchid fix."

I cannot imagine a garden without

shade nor can you. That welcome shade offers refuge to the ferns and bromeliads as well as humans. Tree ferns, asparagus ferns, fishtail ferns, the native leather ferns, staghorn ferns....the list is large. All do well here and add that welcome leafy green that is so desirable, especially in this intense summer heat.

Don't forget the exotic cactus and succulent: the strange-looking spiny pachypodium is a personal favorite, and the jatropa once again in bloom appears in my new painting. How many of you have seen the night-blooming cereus in its full splendor? This is a case of "bigger IS better." The blooms of the unpromising tree-like stalks are breathtaking and the bees in the early morning drink their fill before our astonished eyes. During the day the blooms disappear and revert to green pointed orbs, but at night they shine....oh, how they shine. And then wither, turn black and drop off. But emerging little knobs elsewhere on the trunk promise future shinings. Events of summer nights!

An added pleasure is the appearance of the monarch butterfly, attracted by blossoms, particularly the pentas and lantanas. But trees and gardens do attract them also.

As a painter I cannot help but reflect my senses and experiences and my knowledge of art and I think that Monet's great water lily series, "Nymphae" has had a life-long effect on the way I see. I have been obsessed with the idea of a personal water lily pool and the creation of one became a reality recently. Here is its

genesis.

Our half-lot possessed a mysterious hole in the back corner. Our fine neighbors told us that this hole, whose straight sides were constructed of concrete blocks, had in fact been the foundation for a former outhouse, used for several generations until "civilization" and a city sewer system rendered it obsolete.

The barter system was activated and an art collector offered to create a small water garden in the abandoned hole. Turning this space into a beautiful little pool was a matter of hard labor, a few dollars for cement, paint and grout, decorative tile, and lots of vision and creative thinking. The pool is set in a smart-looking wooden deck built via art-for-labor barter. A small pump fitted with a piece of clear plastic hosing creates water aeration and restful sounds of water falling. Papyrus, tree ferns and huge elephant ears edge the pool. A handsome fence backs it.

Dwarf varieties of lotus and water-lily have been planted in department store plastic containers with two inches of gravel covering a deep layer of rich soil. A big black plastic flowerpot holds growing specimens of papyrus, pickerel and other bog plants which were planted the same way. These containers have been sunk below the surface of the pool and their inhabitants are thriving. New additions to the pool are tiny goldfish...so tiny they don't show their true colors yet. If they survive I shall introduce larger fancy goldfish and perhaps a pair of Japanese koi fish. Strange dark snails now cling to the

sides of the pools and containers and act as scavengers in removing algae that seems ever-present. Oxygenating greenwater plants complete the underwater scene, which will become, hopefully, a balanced and complete aquatic environment.

A word of caution to the would-be water gardeners. If your pool contains new concrete it must be "cured" to achieve maximum growth of plants and fish. Fill it for two separate four-day periods, emptying it out between fillings. Then fill the pool for the third time with fresh water after scrubbing the sides with a weak solution of vinegar and water. Now you are ready for a safe beginning for plants and fish. Remember to "acclimate" fish and snails gradually to their new home. Ask your pet dealer how to do this.

All of my gardening instincts, which lay dormant through many years of living in rented Florida quarters, have been fully aroused and I find that I spend most of my non-painting moments in the study and practice of horticulture. In short, I have become a passionate gardener.

Being a good gardener is largely a matter of attitude and application. One has to really care about growing things to succeed with them. The sight of a new leaf or shoot will excite the avid gardener, perhaps unduly, and THE CHASE, the eternal search for things to plant and tend, becomes an abiding obsession for some.

I am the first to admit that I have become somewhat of a plant-a-holic. I am never satisfied with what I have...there must always be MORE. Living at the very

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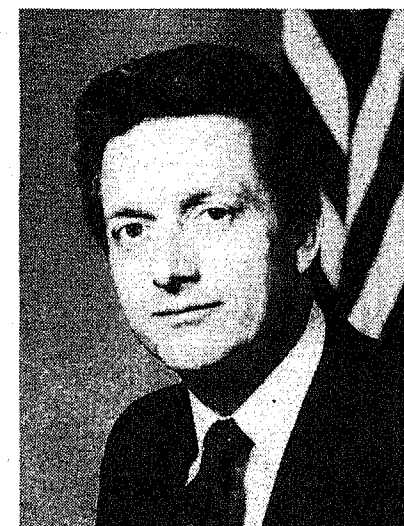
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R O S E N T H A L

TO THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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end of the geographical line presents problems in the endless search for the latest, the greenest, the largest. I have been sharpening my skills for locating and acquiring stock.

Local nurseries offer a limited variety of growing stock. Even so, they are worth visits if for no other reason than "getting ideas" and comparison shopping.

The stack of catalogues on my bedside bookcase is swelling with specialty publications. They range from poorly printed lists of obscure ferns and succulents to slick mini-books enlivened by professional quality color photos. This printed matter used in conjunction with standard reference works on the garden shelf, both my own and those borrowed from our local, well-stocked library shelves, opens pathways to many treasures.

The daily trek to the Post Office in quest of new reading materials, mail-order plants, and news from the outer world has become a highlight of the summer day. *The Florida Market Bulletin*, arriving like

clockwork twice monthly, is an invaluable resource for the gardener. It is published by the Florida Department of Agriculture and is free to all who request it. Classified ads offer sale items ranging from acreage, swine, sheep and farm machinery to plants, seeds and trees. They are placed by "little growers" who truly seem to love and care for their offerings. A card with your name and address to *The Florida Market Bulletin*, 410 Mayo Building, Tallahassee, Florida 31301 will place you on the mailing list.

Resources close to home are also accessible. The Joe Allen Garden Center, in reality the West Martello Garden Center, located in a genuine Civil War Fort in Key West, offers many opportunities to experience first-hand the best of local trees and plants in an authentic subtropical environment. Long lines herald the *Annual Plant Ramble* held by the local garden club each spring on the grounds of the fort.

The Key West Botanical Garden is a less-known natural refuge located on College Road on Stock Island. Maureen

Shaw has been laboring hard and long to make this secluded area accessible to all who are interested in native flora and fauna here. It is hoped that this area will soon be used as a classroom and excursion site for children and adults so that they may better understand the ecology of the Lower Keys.

If you are interested in traveling further afield in your search for examples of nature at her best in South Florida, do visit the Redland Fruit and Spice Park in Redland, not far from Homestead. There you can observe the tremendous variety of common and rare fruit and spice trees that are indigenous to the area. The familiar papaya, mango, banana and avocado grow alongside the pomegranate, rose apple, sappodilla, lychee, guava, and carambola.

A bit further up the peninsula you will find the Fairchild Tropical Gardens in South Miami. The lavish displays are unsurpassed both in the greenhouse areas and on the well-tended acreage. Fairchild offers noteworthy workshops and class sessions in all realms of plant study and also sponsors many important tropical society exhibitions and sales on a regular basis.

It is August in Key West. The light has a different quality and the sky and land and water reflect the change of seasons. Summer is here in earnest. Temperatures are higher than at any other time of year, but I seem to recall that it seemed hotter along the Hudson River in New York, this time of year, than in Key West. The humidity is up, the days are longer and the nights are shorter. We can count on a generous amount of rainfall for the next few months and the earth responds with generosity. In the west the skies glow with other-worldly brilliances of a tropical sunset, reminding us once again of the impermanence and impertinence of our worldly pursuits and struggles.



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Is your mouth watering? We hope so, because we really think you'll enjoy an evening with the Half Shell Raw Bar located at 1 Lands End Village in Key West, phone 294-7496.

This fine restaurant features a beautiful waterfront view in a casual atmosphere. Their decor is, of course, fitting to the ocean and their service is friendly and efficient, with prices to please anyone.



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This company is owned by Wanda Wilcox and located at 500 Simonton St. in Key West, phone 294-9600.

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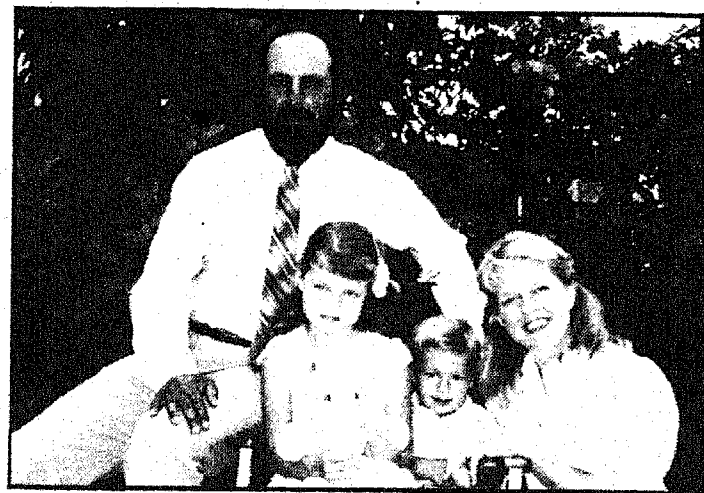
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The staff is accommodating and will serve you quickly with flavorful dishes prepared in a spotless kitchen by chefs who are experienced in the delicate art of seafood cooking. They offer such favorites as fried shrimp, lobster, clams, oysters, scallops, Florida snapper and stone crab. Come in today to enjoy your favorite seafood dish!

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Join the best dressed ladies in Key West by stopping at Tropical Fashions.

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La Trattoria is located at 524 Duval St. in Key West, phone 294-7863. Virgilio Vitale, the owner, invites you to dine here soon. They're open from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. Remember, if you enjoy outstanding food, this is a restaurant you owe it to yourself to try!



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Along the Lower Keys

by Bill Becker

While the rest of the South swelters under an oppressive heat wave, residents of the Florida Keys can be thankful for cooling ocean breezes. Without the Gulf Stream moderating the Keys' climate—cooling the summers and warming the winters—life here would be considerable different.

The heat wave could prove to be a significant factor as the height of the hurricane season approaches. Warm water fuels tropical storms. And the water has been very warm lately.

Lobster season is in full swing. Warm water, calm seas and a full moon have kept trap catches on the low side at the start of the season. Meanwhile, divers have been doing well on the Atlantic side and around the bridges. The Florida Marine Patrol made a record 130 arrests for lobster law violations over the recent sport weekend—mostly for shorts and taking more than the limit, although spearing is also a major problem.

It's a tough life for a lobster in the Florida Keys. Scientists estimate that each year 95% of the Keys' legal-size lobster (and probably a fair percentage of the undersize ones as well) are caught. Amazingly, fisheries biologists have no handle on the size of the recreational lobster harvest.

Meanwhile, another form of Keys' madness is in high gear—county elections. Every voter should try to attend one of the "candidates forums" sponsored up and down the Keys by various local organizations. It's sort of a traveling political road show with each candidate given his or her allotted time on center stage. (The candidates themselves must find the process maddening—they have to listen to each others speeches, jokes, etc. night after night...adjusted, of course, to the particular audience.) It's a political gauntlet, Keys-style.

Lots of eyes on this election, though. It has been two years of intensive land use planning since the last county-wide election. Plenty of water over the dam since then.

Barring any administrative appeals, Monroe County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan should be in effect by late August. Plenty of problems will undoubtedly arise as the county discards its old-planning and zoning set-up in favor of an entirely new wardrobe of land use regulations, tailored during countless hours of detailed attention and more than ninety public hearings. And like any new set of clothes, it may not fit perfectly at first. In fact, it may be more than a little uncomfortable for a while—chafing here, coming up short there, allowing loopholes where none were foreseen. Much tailoring of the plan remains to be done. But it's the future of the Florida

What's happening in the Lower Keys

Keys—live it, or live with it.

It is extremely heartening to witness the revitalization of the Big Pine Athletic Association. The organization has had its ups and downs in recent years, but new leaders have emerged in the past few months and have taken the BPAA in some welcome new directions. In the ten years since its inception the BPAA has developed Watson Field on Key Deer Boulevard into a first-class ballfield (the only one between Key West and Marathon) utilized by men's and women's softball leagues, kids' baseball and junior T-ball groups. But a lack of organizational help and problems with internal dissention threatened to dissolve the BPAA and close Watson Field. Many local residents assumed that the county would come to the rescue if that possibility ever came to pass. However, a deed restriction on Watson Field stipulated that the property would revert to the previous owner (donor, Sandra McKay) in the event the BPAA folded. That sobering realization has spawned a renewed interest in the BPAA by many of the area's younger families who don't want to see such a fine facility lost.

While not denying the interest and value in bat-and-ball games the new organizers are experimenting with some innovative ideas. Earlier this summer the BPAA sponsored "Summer Splash '86"—an activity-oriented beach party at Bahia Honda, with games and events in a fun, family atmosphere.

Next up for the BPAA is the September 27 Big Pine Run for Fun, billed as "a distance for everyone." For one-year-olds, there's the "Diaper Dash." The "Stroller Sprint" will feature parent/infant teams on wheels. For five-year-olds through adults there will be five distances: eighth-mile, quarter-mile, half-mile, one-mile, and two-mile runs over a road course beginning at Watson Field. The entry fee is one dollar, and all finishers receive a ribbon. Races begin at 8 a.m.

And watch for the BPAA's rejuvenation of the too-long-dormant Big Pine Bicycle Race in November.

Another organization undergoing a welcome and refreshing revitalization is the Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce. A rapidly expanding membership and a growing business community have put considerable demands on the LKCC, necessitating the "giant step" of hiring an executive director. The LKCC's search committee seems to have turned up a gem in Charles Walther. Since falling in love with the area three years ago, Walther had been looking for the right situation to relocate to the Lower Keys. Meanwhile, he was polishing his marketing and promotional savvy in Chicago's advertising fast-lane.

Walther hasn't wasted any time getting up to speed. He is organizing a giant Lower Keys "Oktoberfest" for October

18. Local restaurants will be staffing food booths and selling their house specialties. Entertainment will be light and varied, with bluegrass by the Low Key String Band, jazz and folk musicians courtesy of the Monroe County Fine Arts Council, and a liberal dose of "ethnic" entertainment. "Oktoberfest" is just one of the new projects, programs and directions being explored by the LKCC under the presidency of Sandra Barrett.

This year witnessed the retirement of the Chamber's much-loved office manager Frances Lee. The Chamber has been fortunate to find a bright, energetic replacement in Nancy Herlehy. Backed by a hard-working board of directors, Nancy and Charles are making things happen for the Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce.

More next month. Till then, fair winds and following seas!

Bill Becker is the News Director for US-1 Radio (104.7 FM) and is a 15-year resident of Big Pine Key. He recently received the 1986 Outstanding Media Award from the state-wide Organized Fishermen of Florida.

Just My Opinion

by Gil Ryder

The election campaigns should be warming up now. There are a lot of elective seats up for grabs this year and there are plenty of candidates running for national, state and local offices.

The elected officials will all be involved with decisions on vital issues, but each elected official will not be involved with each such issue.

Although the voter cannot properly choose a candidate unless the voter understands the position of the candidates on the issues, far too many voters simply do not understand which elected officials are involved with which issues. We'd probably have much better government if one-issue voters would stay home on election day.

The position of a County Commission or Mosquito Control candidate on the issue of abortion is completely irrelevant and immaterial, but the question will probably be asked of candidates at one or another of the coming "Meet the Candidates" sessions.

Candidates for local and state office should simply refuse to answer the question, on the ground that abortion is a national matter and the offices they seek are not in any way involved.

Wouldn't it be foolish in the extreme to vote against a candidate because he or she did not agree with your thoughts on abortion even though he or she agreed completely with your position on land use in the Keys?

The wise voter will try to ascertain the issues that will be before the particular candidates, if elected, and then learn how the candidates stand on those issues.

What are the issues that directly or indirectly affect each voter and his or her

continued on pg. 54



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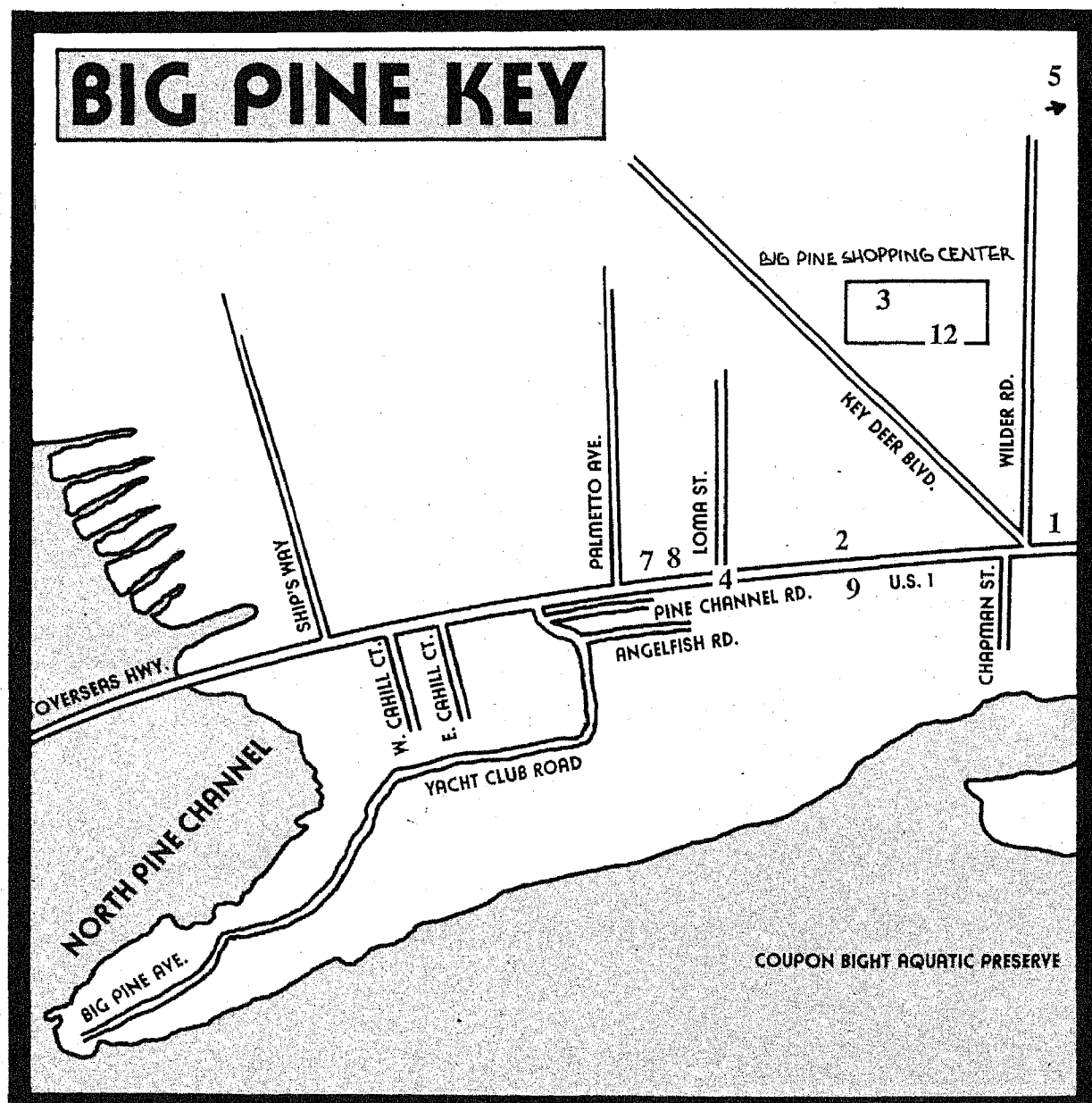
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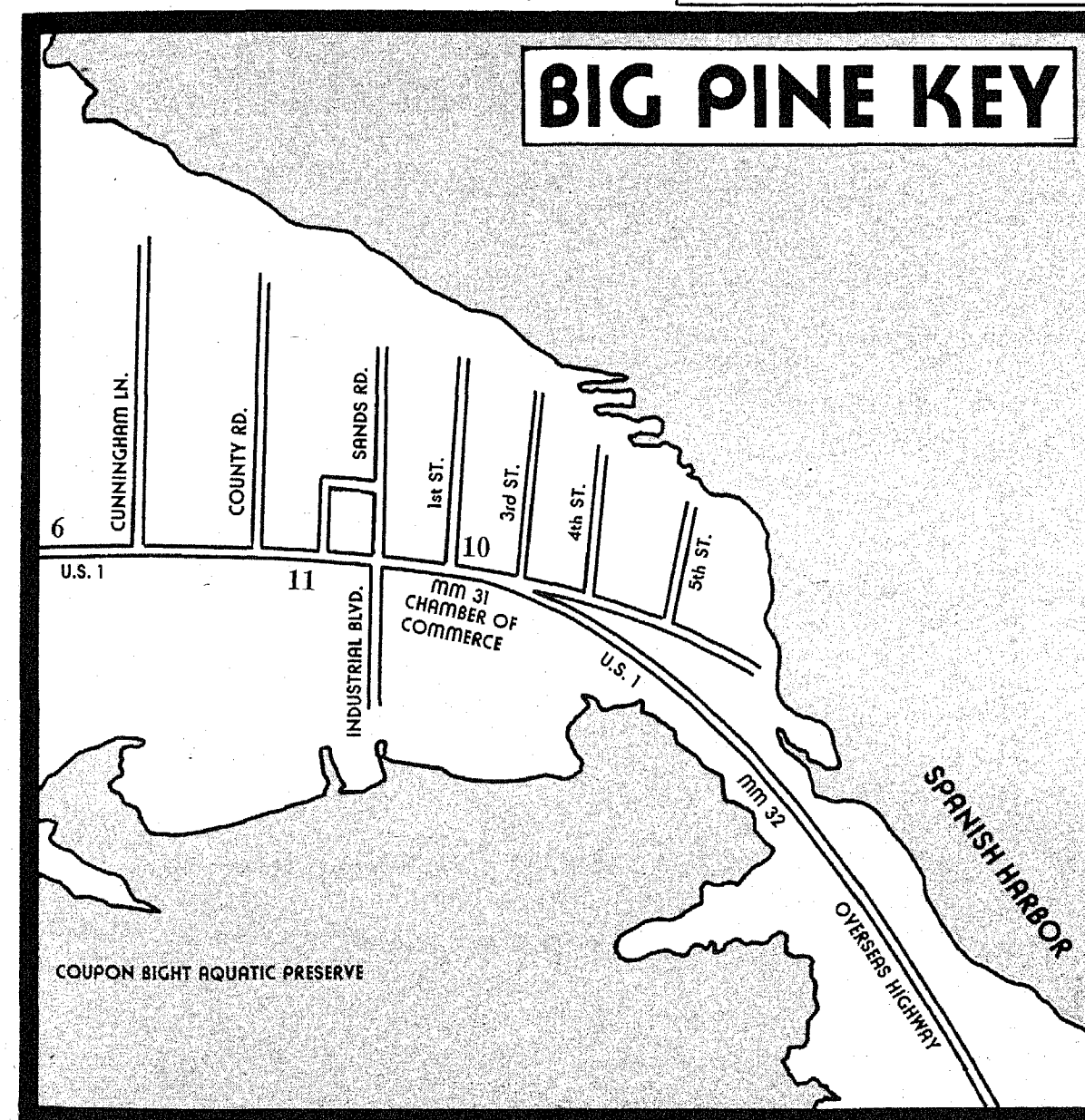
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continued from pg. 51

pocketbook, life style, freedom, health and welfare? The answer that jumps to the forefront is taxes. Everyone complains about them but they are necessary and not apt to go down, no matter who is elected to any office. All we can hope for is to keep taxes from rising too much too fast.

That can only be done by electing County Commissioners and State legislators who thoroughly understand that the cost of government services increases as the population increases. That's just one reason why land planning is exceedingly important to each and every one of us.

If, for instance, all the land in the Keys presently zoned GU could be restricted to one residential unit on one acre, and commercial and industrial enterprises not be allowed to erect any kind of structure within 50 feet of its property line, we could go many years, possibly forever, without building millions and millions of dollars worth of sanitary sewer systems. It should be made clear that when the population of a given area reaches a certain specific number a sanitary sewer system is required. The argument could be presented to the effect that sewer systems could be built with bond issue money and that the bond(s) could be paid with the money collected from the users of the system.

That would be a valid argument except for the fact that the user fee system would in reality be a tax, much the same as the present refuse removal fee which comes with your tax bill.

There's no way that we can eliminate or reduce the cost of refuse removal. In fact, that cost also will probably increase as the population increases; we cannot, so far, devise a septic tank system that will accept and break down our trash and garbage—too much of it is non-biodegradable.

Back to sanitary sewer systems: Try to remember the uproar about the projected sewer treatment plant in Key West a little while back and the related financial figures that were published concerning costs. If memory serves correctly, the replacement of parts would cost one million dollars (\$1,000,000) a year for the first twenty years.

Remember, that's just for Key West. If the replacement of parts in one sewer treatment plant in Key West will be \$1 million a year, what will be the cost for replacement of parts in all the treatment plants in all the unincorporated areas of the Keys?

What will be the cost of standard maintenance of plants and lines, cost of electricity, phone bills, insurance premiums, vehicles, tools and assorted equipment?

Shouldn't the voters know what local elected legislators think about these things, and how these future problems will be, or could be, resolved, or softened, by a land use plan?

Or, should the candidates rather be closely questioned about their views on abortion, the equal rights amendment, and the problems in Libya, Iran, Iraq, Egypt and Israel, none of which they will ever discuss in their official capacity as Monroe County Commissioners.

Will the projected problems be solved by a land use plan heavily weighted in favor of tenement construction (whether condominium or rental), cluster housing and destination resorts? I think not—but that's just my opinion. It would be much better for the voters to know the opinion of the candidates on these matters before election.

Perhaps we should be asking candidates for County Commission and State legislature seats whether they favor better communication between the two entities, and how they would bring that about. Events of the recent past indicate that such improved communication is to be greatly desired.

You say you don't want to take that chance—Tallahassee might wind up running the Keys? You can bet the farm that that's just what will happen if we don't have close cooperation between County Commissioners and locally elected State legislators. Not only will Tallahassee run the Keys, they'll be running it according to rules and regulations devised by people who not only didn't live in the Keys, they didn't live in Florida. (Siemon, Larson & Purdy of Chicago, and Lane Kendig of Mundelien, Illinois)

The area of the world that is now the United States of America has been changing steadily since the early 17th century, when the first permanent colonies were established (no, they were not all English).

Most of the changes were beneficial, others were not. All changes were accompanied by elements of risk and some by real danger.

Those changes were generally slow, with some brief flares of speed. The pace began to pick up in the last years of the 19th century, accelerated quite a bit more after World War I and still more after World War II. Now, in the final years of the 20th century, our changes are rocket-propelled with an ever increasing speed, fueled by the terrible force of exploding population, not only in the Keys and the State, but all over the world.

The rapid changes, constantly fired by the continuing population explosion, carry with them some benefits and some very real dangers.

The greatest benefit is an improved standard of living (in America) for more people than ever before in history.

The greatest danger is that the benefit, and all benefits previously accrued, may well be lost due to the pressures forced upon our over-all environment.

As the human population increases, the wild animal population (with some obvious exceptions) decreases. This, to some degree, is harmful to humans. For example, (and keeping it simple), wild animals that feed upon rats and mice leave the areas of heavy human population, but the rats and mice do not (they're some of the obvious exceptions). This rodent population fares very well in the midst of heavy human population. Our refuse is their constant feast.

As more roads are paved because of increasing population, it becomes more comfortable for all to get around (a benefit), but the paved roads detract from water

absorption, causing minor flooding—look around paved neighborhoods after a heavy rain. Also, the paved roads attract heavier traffic which in turn gives us increased exhaust fumes, thus creating pollution in the air. Kind of a shame in the Keys, where the air (except around City Electric) is comparatively pure.

Further, the heavier the traffic, the more tire particles cling to the paved roads until washed off by rain. Not very harmful, but definitely not an asset when these particles wash into water holes, ponds, and our numerous canals.

All the foregoing is just scratching the surface showing on the tip of the iceberg concerning problems related to increasing population.

Neither County Commissioners nor State legislators can halt the steadily increasing population of the Keys, nor should those of us who are already here desire such action. We should all be ready and willing to share our beautiful climate, clean air and sparkling waters with others.

We should, however, through our various elected legislators establish a plan that would make comfortable room for the newcomers without destroying the environment that brings them here.

All this can be done but it will require action on the part of County and State legislators who are possessed of sound common sense bolstered by active imagination and capable of producing a working land plan and map without going into 1400 pages.

The land plan and map should be simple, explicit, and easily understood by one and all.

All this is, of course, just my opinion, but why not give it some thought before you vote.

Remember, it's your tax money that will pay for whatever happens.

AUGUST SOCIAL EVENTS

Every Day Key West Fishing Tournament thru Nov. 30. Thursday, Aug. 7 •Stories, songs & crafts for children, Monroe Co. Public Library, Fleming St., 9:30 am. Free. •Key West Handprint Fashion Show, Casa Marina, 12:30 pm. Free. •Opening production of Great Performances Series '86, Jacques Brel Is Alive And Well And Living In Paris, Hawk's Cay Resort, MM 61. Call 800-432-2242 for information. Curtain 8:00 pm.	Friday, Aug. 8 •Key West Handprint Fashion Show at Hukilau, 12:30 pm. •Guild Hall Gallery Summer Celebration welcoming 5 new artists, 614 Duval, 8 to 10 pm. Free. •Sounds of Broadway at Jan McArt Cabaret Theater, Mallory Square, curtain 8:30 pm. 296-2120. •Opening production of the Great Performances Series '86, Jacques Brel Is Alive And Well And Living In Paris, Big Pine United Methodist Church, MM 30, 8:30 pm. Call 872-2411 for tickets and info.	Saturday, Aug. 9 •Family films at Monroe Co. Public Library, Fleming St. <i>Taleb & His Lamp, Winnie the Pooh & Tigger Too!</i> , 10 to 11 am. Free. •Rockin Reggae Jam with "Surfside" at Jan McArt Cabaret Theater, Mallory Square. 296-2120. Ticket \$5. 9 pm til 2.	Wednesday, Aug. 13 •Great Performances Series '86. Children's Theater <i>Bamboozled!</i> Kirk of the Keys Church, 8877 Overseas Highway, Marathon, 1 pm. And at St. Peter's Catholic Church, Big Pine Key, 4 pm. Call 296-5000 x357 for tickets and information.	Thursday, Aug. 14 •Stories, songs & crafts for children, Monroe Co. Public Library, Fleming St., 9:30 am. Free. •Key West Handprint Fashion Show at Casa Marina, 12:30 pm.	Friday, Aug. 15 Key West Handprint Fashion Show at Hukilau, 12:30 pm. Free.	Saturday, Aug. 16 •Key West Jaycees 13th Annual Muscular Dystrophy Telethon sponsored by WUIS-FM 107 radio station. Live broadcast on TCI Channel 5 from Marriott's Casa Marina Ballroom 10 am to 2 am. For information call 296-4055 or 294-6703. •Family films at Monroe Co. Public Library, Fleming St. <i>Stone Soup & Ducks</i> 10 to 11 am. Free.	Wednesday, Aug. 20 Movie Days of Thrills and Laughter, Monroe Co. Public Library, Fleming St. 6 pm. Free.
Thursday, Aug. 21 •Stories, songs & crafts for children, Monroe Co. Public Library, Fleming St., 9:30 am. Free. •Key West Handprint Fashion Show, Casa Marina, 12:30 pm. Free.	Friday, Aug. 22 •Key West Handprint Fashion Show at Hukilau, 12:30 pm. Saturday, Aug. 23 •Family films at Monroe Co. Public Library, Fleming St. <i>The Band Concert and The Wizard of Speed & Time</i> , 10 to 11 am. Free.	Wednesday, Aug. 27 •Great Performances Series '86. Opera Highlights, Big Pine United Methodist Church, MM 30, Big Pine Key. 8 pm. Call 296-5000 x357 for tickets and information.	Thursday, Aug. 28 •Summer Story Hour, Monroe Co. Public Library, Fleming St., 8:30 am. Free. •Key West Handprint Fashion Show at Casa Marina, 12:30 pm. •Great Performances Series '86. Opera Highlights, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 401 Duval St. 8 pm. Call 296-5000 x357 for tickets and information.	Friday, Aug. 29 •Great Performances Series '86. Opera Highlights, Kirk of the Keys Church, 8877 Overseas Hwy., Marathon. Curtain 8 pm. 296-5000 x357 for tickets and information.	Saturday, Aug. 30 •Family films at Monroe Co. Public Library, Fleming St. <i>Rapunzel and Uncle Smiley Goes Planting</i> , 10 to 11 am. Free.	Marriott's 65th Anniversary week-long celebration , to be held at Casa Marina Sept. 8 thru 13, will feature a juried Arts & Crafts Show, Poster Contest, Fashion Show, Big Band Dance, and more. Proceeds to be donated to Chamber of Commerce Building Fund. Sponsored by the Casa Marina and WAIL 95 radio. For information to participate or attend, call Bob Hank, WAIL station manager, 296-7575.	Tune in to TCI Channel 5 August 16, 10 am to 2 am, for Key West Jaycees 13th Annual Muscular Dystrophy Telethon live from Casa Marina, sponsored by WUIS 107-FM radio.

For calendar events, please call 294-3602.

To have an event listed in the calendar, please call 294-3602.

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Program 294-5531 x4766
Sheriff 296-2424

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Adult Education 294-5212
Child Find (FDLRS) 296-7541
Downtown Center, FKCC 294-8481
Exceptional Student Education 296-7541
Florida Keys Community College 296-9081
Monroe County Schools 296-6523
Parenting Skills Classes 296-5911

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Boy Scouts 745-3987
City of Key West Recreation Dept. 294-3721
Girl Scouts 745-3737
Monroe County Public Library 294-8488

CHILD ABUSE

Child Abuse Office, FKM 294-5531
Child Protective Services, HRS 294-9513
Child Protection Team, FKM 294-5531
Coalition Against Child Abuse 294-5531
Guardian Ad-Litem 296-7518
Parenting Classes, FKM 294-5531
Parents Anonymous 296-HELP, 294-LINE
Puppet Show 294-5531
Reporting, HRS 1-800-342-9152, 294-1050
Volunteer Child Advocacy Team 294-5531

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Family Advocacy 296-2461
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Monroe County Food Bank 294-8468
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Blind Services 1-800-342-1828
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Childbirth Education 294-3490, 294-4536
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Improved Pregnancy Outcome 294-1021
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LaMaze 294-1068, 294-4218
MARC House - Detox 743-6551
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Monroe County Health Dept. 294-1021
Narcotics Anonymous 296-7999
Nutrition Program 294-1021
Ostomy Support Classes 296-8659
Overeaters Anonymous 294-5183
Pregnancy Aid & Counseling 296-7337
Up Front/Drug Information 1-800-432-8255
Well Baby/Medicaid Clinic 294-1021
W.I.C. (Women, Infants &
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MISCELLANEOUS

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Birth Certificates 294-1021
Family Resource Center, FKM 294-5531
Foster Homes: Information &
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Legal Services 294-4641 x358
National Switchboard for
Runaways 1-800-621-4000
Red Cross 296-3651
Salvation Army 294-5611
Single Parent Hotline 1-800-638-9675
Victim Witness Assistance
Program 294-5165
Welcome Home Ministries 296-2366
Zonta 296-4357

Book Review

by Jane O'Reilly

The LODESTAR PROJECT, by David Bradley, Pocket Books, New York, \$3.50

"The Lodestar Project" is definitely the book for the beach this summer. A sea yarn with all the elements of a satisfying thriller, it combines secret government projects, mysteriously disappearing boats, mad dog drug dealers, Washington skullduggery, a plucky feminist reporter, kidnapping, cocktails in the tropical twilight. And more.

The hero, Alex Walker, a Vietnam War veteran, is delivering a converted shrimp boat from Key West to the Turks and Caicos. His wife and daughter, running a sister ship three miles behind, suddenly disappear, apparently dissolved in a luminous curtain of water rising up a quarter of a mile. When Walker tries to find out what happened to his family he runs into violent and incomprehensible opposition. The search takes him to the Oval Office itself and through the heart of the Bermuda Triangle. Indeed, "The Lodestar Project" posits a solution to the mystery of the Bermuda Triangle. Vincent Davis, an inventor working in the solitude of his Marathon Key home, has reached roughly the same explanation as another man, Navy Captain Richard Bates, working in the solitude of his top-secret office inside the Pentagon. Both suspect that sound from deep water seaquakes becomes trapped beneath the thermocline to become a "sort of laser beam of acoustics" which, if it

bounces off the correct angle on the ocean floor, can hit the surface with a force violent enough to disintegrate boats and low flying planes. The event could also affect the sonar capacities of nearby whales and dolphins—and would explain beachings of entire schools (pods?)

The genesis of "The Lodestar Project" is a good story in itself, one of the sort we like to think could only happen in Key West. A couple of years ago, David Williams, an inventor and underwater buff, put an ad for a writer in the Key West Citizen. The ad was intriguing and a large number of Key West's floating pool of writers responded, usually meeting Williams for a preliminary discussion at Wag's (What would Hemingway have thought of Wag's?). Williams had worked out his acoustical theory to explain the Bermuda Triangle and such phenomenon as whale beachings and he was looking for someone to create a vehicle to express it.

Enter John Leslie, writer, world traveller, frequent astute political explicator for Solares Hill, and—at that particular moment, going broke fishing commercially for yellowtail, and wondering if he should stay in Key West or move on. He was intrigued by the challenge of writing a book around Williams theory and he took the job. The name "David Bradley" represents the two men's collaboration: David Williams and John Bradley Leslie.

The result is a fast paced adventure, with lots of local color and a great sense of kind of mystery and menace that underlies

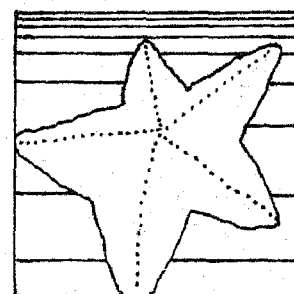
tropical resorts—or the Pentagon. The US Navy, trying to cover up its own ineptitude, is the enemy and its smug careerist cruelties are as well handled as the passages about boats at sea. Leslie obviously enjoyed using some old familiar page turning devices—for example, Alex Walker commandeers a helicopter, and all his Vietnam training suddenly comes back. There are also nice new twists—my favorite was Walker's idea of burying a bad guy in ice in his hotel bath tub until he talks, the ice supplied by those room service machines at the end of hotel corridors.

Williams theory of the explanation for the Bermuda Triangle disappearances (assuming there is such a thing as a Bermuda Triangle) are less plausible than Leslie's plot. Another Key West figure, Fay Feild (sic Feild), the technical genius behind the successful search for the treasure of the Atocha and former director of submarine rescue and recovery at the Harbor Branch Foundation, says an underwater earthquake could not generate enough energy to produce a "laser beam of acoustics", and—among other problems with the theory—there are practically no angles underwater capable of bouncing such a beam to the surface. "But," says Feild, "It's a nice enough idea for a science fiction story." It's certainly a nice enough idea for a great summer read. "The Lodestar Project" takes place on the long shelf of Key West books. There may be no such things as a Bermuda Triangle, but there definitely is a creative energy field over Key West.

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12-4 Mike & Rob 5-9 Full Sail 10-2 Jody Kurrant	12-4 St. Petey Twigs 5-9 Mike & Rob 10-2 Jody Kurrant	12-4 Joel 5-9 Mike & Rob 10-2 T.C. & The Shooters Duke Robillard	12-4 Joel 5-9 Mike & Rob 10-2 T.C. & The Shooters	12-4 T.B.A. 5-9 Fells Point 10-2 T.C. & The Shooters	12-4 T.B.A. 5-9 Fells Point 10-2 T.C. & The Shooters	12-4 T.B.A. 5-9 Fells Point 10-2 T.C. & The Shooters
12-4 T.B.A. 5-9 Fear of Flamingoes 10-2 Calabash	12-4 St. Petey Twigs 5-9 Mike & Rob 10-2 Calabash	12-4 Joel 5-9 Fells Point 10-2 Calabash	12-4 Joel 5-9 Fells Point 10-2 New Boys	12-4 T.B.A. 5-9 Fells Point 10-2 New Boys	12-4 T.B.A. 5-9 Fells Point 10-2 New Boys	12-4 T.B.A. 5-9 Fells Point 10-2 New Boys
12-4 T.B.A. 5-9 Fear of Flamingoes 10-2 Calabash	12-4 St. Petey Twigs 5-9 Fear of Flamingoes 10-2 Calabash	12-4 Joel 5-9 Fells Point 10-2 Calabash	12-4 Joel 5-9 Fells Point 10-2 Groove Monsters	12-4 T.B.A. 5-9 Fells Point 10-2 Groove Monsters	12-4 T.B.A. 5-9 Fells Point 10-2 Groove Monsters	12-4 T.B.A. 5-9 Fells Point 10-2 Groove Monsters
12-4 T.B.A. 5-9 Fells Point 10-2 Groove Monsters	12-4 St. Petey Twigs 5-9 Fells Point 10-2 Rhythm Rats	12-4 Joel 5-9 Fells Point 10-2 Rockaholics	12-4 Joel 5-9 Montumo 10-2 Rockaholics	12-4 T.B.A. 5-9 Montumo 10-2 Rockaholics	12-4 T.B.A. 5-9 Montumo 10-2 Rockaholics	12-4 T.B.A. 5-9 Montumo 10-2 Rockaholics
12-4 T.B.A. 5-9 Montumo 10-2 Rockaholics	SPECIAL TUESDAY AUGUST 5 WORLD ACCLAIMED GUITARIST DUKE ROBILLARD AND HIS PLEASURE KINGS SEE WHAT THE CRITICS SAY: "Duke Robillard...a soloist of stunning force and originality." —Robert Palmer, New York Times "Everything you'd ever need to know about Rock'n'Roll...a road map of where Rock'n'Roll has come and where it's going. —The New Paper, Newport, R.I. "Duke is one of the premier guitarists in the world...a class player...subtle, emotionally laden...pop oriented, post Clapton, post Band reinterpretation of the form..." —The Reformer, Brattleboro, Vt.					

"The Last Voyage of the Island Princess"

A True Tale of Terror on the High-Seas

by Captain Finbar,
of the Black Ship "Wolf"
(as told to George Murphy)

One dark and stormy night in late winter, the good Captain and crew of "The Wolf" found refuge in a seedy harborfront barroom where they sat in a dark corner and ordered a round of grog for the table.

I sat across a table from Captain Finbar as his loyal all-girl pirate-crew kept one eye on the foul weather and the other on me. As the captain stroked his beard, he asked if I'd ever heard the story about the ill-fated last voyage of "The Island Princess."

"I seldom tell the tale," he said over a mug of brew.

His first mate, Sophie, who'd been eyeing me suspiciously, trying to size me up, asked, "You believe that?"

"Sure," I said.

"Tell him the story, Finbar."

It was 1980 and I sailed out of Marathon Key bound for Balise, through the Bahamas and the Windward Passage. "The Island Princess" was a 58' wooden boat, a Bahama ketch which had been built in 1939 by Captain. W. H. Albury, a legendary Bahamian boatbuilder.

The crew consisted of Mike Munroe, Bob Harvey, and Matthew "Doc" St. Claire. We were taking her to be refitted.

We'd been out at sea six days, about 60 miles Northeast of Jamaica getting false weather reports from other ships, when the radio broke down. It was August 5th and Hurricane Allen was Westbound through the Caribbean. Our last radio report had the storm heading straight West, South of Jamaica. She was blowing 75 knots.

To be safe, I decided to head North and escape the storm with as much sail as possible. We'd travelled about 40 miles and were about 40 miles South of Cuba.

The weather was deteriorating rapidly and without a radio, we couldn't know what the storm was doing ... but I saw signs.

The hurricane had shifted North and then West and was due to cross our position directly.

Her winds had increased to 200 knots, a Category "5" storm; they say they occur twice in a century. But we didn't know. We were at work preparing for 75 knot winds. Sitting ducks, we were.

Just before dusk, a solid grey wall appeared to the East. About 20,000 - 25,000 feet high, it covered the entire Eastern horizon, it looked as dark and as solid as a rock.

Soon she was blowing about 50-60 knots and the seas were 15', close and steep. It got darker and you could feel the

wind growing in intensity. Visibility was close inside that wall.

About 2200 hours, the winds had reached 100-110 knots, the seas were 20-25' and breaking. We began to realize that it might be more than an ordinary Hurricane.

We'd taken in all the sails except for the staysail. We were going to leave it up even though we'd lose it - for stability.

Up to this point, it had been rough as hell. We were naturally getting bruised up but we weren't worried.

Then it got worse:

At that point, the winds had reached 120-130 knots. The staysail exploded and blew away. The ship went wild and was very difficult to control. I tried to hold to as she rolled windward. The seas were wild and breaking over the deck.

All we could do was turn and run.

At 150 knots, we turned off wind and put out 500' of line and started trailing our anchor but she was threatening to broach and she was hard to control, even with two men at the wheel. But we thought "if we can just hold tight, I know we'll get through it. We'll be all right."

Then it got worse:

We took our first roll. She broached, all the way over, with her sticks in the sea. It scared the sons-of-bitches in the cockpit.

When she came right, she'd taken on water and we couldn't run off the wind safely. So, I turned back and held to, hard to windward. I said to myself, "Now, I've seen everything," and I thought, "it can't get worse. If we can just hold on..."

The it got worse:

Munroe turned to me and hollered through the wind. I could barely hear him. "Are you freaked out yet?" he asked.

"If I am, I'm not going to tell you," I said.

Then she took a second knock down.

After the second knockdown, Doc came up and said "Captain, I hope you know what kind of mess there is below.

Two men had been below with the pumps. After the second knock-down, I became too scared to have men blow decks and called for "all hands," harnesses, and life-jackets. We abandoned pumping.

Then we took a third knock-down.

I was washed overboard but I managed to haul myself back aboard by my harness. I was all laced up in the lines and the rigging.

I looked around at the crew but it was almost impossible to see. The wind started shrieking so loudly that I couldn't hear anything but static, a sort of "white noise." Actually, I couldn't hear anything.

With the knockdown, we couldn't estimate the winds. Later we learned that they were at 200.

The seas were up to 35-40 feet, cresting and breaking. Green water was coming aboard; the decks were awash.

The ship was plunging mindlessly. I

had never before been completely out of control. There was nothing to do.

Then we took a fourth knock-down. This time the mast was in the sea. The main hatch had caved in and the portholes were carried away. She came right but she was awash and sinking. I knew she was about to go. It was about 4 o'clock in the morning.

Now, here's where the story gets interesting. I don't know if you believe in mental telepathy but all four of us agree that in the noise and chaos and darkness, we could barely see or hear a thing. The wash was like buckshot and the wind was just about tearing our heads off. There was no surface to the sea; it was all sheeting seawater mixed with sky.

It was complete chaos, pure hell as only a sailor knows it.

They couldn't have heard my order to abandon and they were already prepared.

Doc cut the lashcords on the liferaft and prepared to launch it. Doc, Munroe, and I took our safety lines and hooked them onto the raft painter. Munroe had readied the raft, clipped the safety line and pulled he into the sea. The two of them jumped into the sea and pulled toward it.

Then we took a fifth roll.

Bob was readying to abandon and he got thrown and caught in the mizzen-mast rigging and hauled 25 feet into the air while we were struggling to even see ourselves.

Cutting himself loose, he fell into the sea and struggled for the raft.

I was left on board behind the helm.

Sooner or later in a situation like this, you do get wierded and you freak.

There I was, my ship was sinking. I was knee deep in the cockpit. I had ahold of the spokes trying to hold the ship up but it simply refused.

Then I heard a voice. It was like a shout but it was inside my head. "Come on, a--hole, get with us."

Suddenly, I snapped out of it, cut the painter, jumped overboard, and made it toward the raft.

When I reached the raft, it was inflated but it was upside-down. As we were fixing to get into the raft, I realized that there was a line tuggin' on the raft, pullin' down on it. And I realized that the line was some part of the riggin' from the ship.

At that moment, a huge sea broke on top of us, much bigger than most of 'em - thirty-five to forty foot sea - and broke right on us and the raft flipped over to its righted position. But that wave drove the raft, us, and everything about eight to ten feet underwater. We could feel our ears poppin' from the pressure.

At that time, I realized I had to cut the line that had fouled itself on the raft and I reached in my pocket for my knife. But I had my foul weather gear, my jacket, and my harness on and was absolutely unable to get my hand into my pocket.

So I thought to myself -now realize this is all taking place while we're underwater - "As soon as we break the



"Doc" St. Clair, Bob Harvey, Mike Monroe, and Captain Finbar two weeks before the ill-fated "Last Voyage of the Island Princess."

surface, I've got to holler to one of these boys for a knife, immediately.

When we reached the surface, broke my head above water, I took one breath and I opened my mouth to holler. But, before I could holler, somebody put an open knife in my hand - with which I cut the line and freed the raft. I never got to say it, never got to ask for it.

It was Doc. He had the good foresight to wear his knife around his neck on a lanyard where he could get at it - which was very good thinking. There's a lot of good things like that you learn real fast in such a situation. Where to keep your knife was one.

Anyway, we cut it loose and she self-righted. The raft was a Givens raft, the only survival raft. It's got a ballast chamber and it's self righting. Rides in the sea like a buoy. After a time like this, you get religious about it. "I've been saved and I believe. I've even kissed Givens."

We got inside the raft and secured the entrance flap. There was a little light in overhead interior of the raft, inside the dome canopy which erects when the raft inflates. It's a tiny chemically-activated light in the middle of the top of this dome. And that light - that little piece of light was 'reality' to us four. That little light was all we had. Without that light the experience would have been ten times more terrible. A hundred times more terrible.

So, at least we got to look at each other. And I looked around and saw three other really scared sons-of-bitches and I can only imagine what I must've looked like.

Doc had a couple of broken ribs.

About that time, Monroe attempted to lighten things up and said, "I bet nobody thought to bring a damn Coca-Cola."

I said, "The hell with the Coca-Cola. I want a joint."

Then Bob said, "The hell with the joint. I want my old lady."

Then Doc looked around at the rest of us and said, "The hell with you all. I just want to know what the hell's goin' on here!"

And that's about as much conversation as there was for the next few hours. We just sat there and we looked at each other.

It's hard to imagine but we were being driven underwater by huge breaking seas. We were driven well under water at least a dozen of times.

Then, about fifteen or twenty minutes after we abandoned ship, we passed into the eye. It passed directly over us. We passed right through the center of the eye. Everything got calm. The noise receded. It became fairly quiet.

I opened up the flap and there was a small clear circle overhead. Stars! And there were little five to six inch ripples on the water, little wavelets. That's all.

We just looked at each other, not believing it. And there wasn't much to say at that point. We knew we were in for it and we just looked at each other alot. And we were all damn glad the others were there.

Then, after about twenty minutes, we heard a roar that sounded like about ten thousand freight-trains comin'... and that

was the other side of the eye. When it hit us, it hit us like hittin' a wall and a huge, horrendous wave broke on us and drove us underwater again.

We went through another hour and a half to two hours of that before it began to subside somewhat and the waves lightened up but we were still in fifteen to twenty foot seas for the remainder of the night and half of the next day before things finally subsided.

Middle of the next day, things finally got calm and very, very clear. Everything settled down. Long glassy swells. Not a puff of wind. And there we were sittin' somewhere between Jamaica, Cuba, and the Caymans - in the middle there, over the very deepest part of the Caribbean Sea, the Cayman Trench, which was where our ship was lyin'.

Next problem was water. Both Doc and Michael had done a fair amount of throwing-up the previous day because of very rough conditions, Michael especially. And they were both pretty dehydrated. In addition to that, in the process of abandoning ship, we all drank some seawater - bein' in the water, haulin' ourselves to the raft ... just breathing. And when you drink seawater, it hastens dehydration. So, we went through all of our water ration in the first day.

We tried very hard to give most of it to Monroe. He would drink it and hold as much of it as he could but eventually he'd throw up. And then we'd give him some more, tryin' to get as much water into him as we could 'cause we could already see the

signs of dehydration: his eyes were gettin' sunk in his head, he was very lethargic, his skin was gettin' puffy, his tongue gettin' swelled up. And we did that until the water was gone.

We did not attempt to ration water. We kept on drinkin' until the supply was gone ... because it is my belief — and the rest of the crew agrees — that, when you have a limited water supply, it's best to continue drinking it at your normal rate and postpone the beginning of dehydration as long as possible. When you ration water and don't drink as much as you want or as much as you need, dehydration will begin sooner and then all the water you want won't help you.

So we went through our entire ration the first day. Then, there we were, drifting around, drying up and the obvious was on our minds — not on our tongues, but on our minds — and nobody said a negative word. Not once. Not even Monroe, who thought he was dyin' — and probably was.

On the second day, we all began to get hallucinations. We had at least one person, sometimes two, on watch while the others slept ... on watch for ships.

During that afternoon, Monroe began to get very lethargic and we were gettin' very much in fear for him at that point. In one of his lucid moments, in order to get him to focus his attention, so that he'd fight to survive, Bob grabbed ahold of him when he woke up — grabbed him by the collar, looked him in the eye and said, "If you die,

Well, Mike got wide-eyed real quick. And he stayed that way for quite a while. And so it continued with as much light humor as we could muster for the rest of the day.

Then, that evening — it was just about dusk, the three of us were just layin' there with our eyes closed and Bob was on watch — Bob said very softly, "I think I see two stars on the horizon moving horizontally. What that meant to us was that he'd sighted the masthead lights of a large ship. So, we all got up to take a look and verify what he saw and, sure enough, there were two lights. We couldn't see any other lights on the ship because it was too far over the horizon. We estimated distance at about seven or eight miles.

It was just beginning to get dark so we began to fire flares.

We had a total of fifteen flare cartridges and after we'd fired seven of the flares, we hadn't attracted the attention of the ship.

We decided to fire one more flare. Either that got his attention or it didn't ... cause he was at his closest point and, at that point, we decided to save the other flares for the next ship.

On the eighth flare, he turned and started to steam towards us. Within about an hour, he had stopped within about two hundred yards from us and they were beginning to put out a small boat in case we weren't strong enough to paddle the raft. However, we did muster the strength. Doc and Bob managed to paddle the raft over to the ship. They were in the best condition at

that point, even though Doc had a couple of broken ribs.

When we got up to the side of the ship, they had a rope ladder lowered for us. We bolted out of the raft so fast that, when Monroe's turn came, he forgot to unfasten his harness line from the raft. When he got half-way up the rope ladder, he got jerked to a stop and fell ass-over-teakettle back into the raft.

After all of us had managed to get on board, we sat there on the deck because none of us could stand up. It'd been two and half days since we'd abandoned ship.

It was a Norwegian tanker, The Jastella, which is just the most beautiful tanker that was ever built. I didn't think tankers were that beautiful but *that* one is.

So we sat there on the deck of the tanker and looked up and, there before our eyes, was a whole gang of hairy, fuzzy Vikings. Norwegian Vikings. But the crew also included half a dozen very buxom Viking-looking, great big, voluptuous Nordik women.

Well, we looked around at that and I turned to the boys and said, "That's it, boys. We done drowned and went to Valhalla."

Anyhow, they carried us to quarters, sat us in the bottom of the shower, let us rinse off, and poured us into bed.

When I woke up the next morning, before I opened my eyes, I found myself squirming around trying to find a dry position in the raft and then I realized I wasn't in the raft anymore. I opened my eyes and there I was in this dry clean bed aboard this tanker and I just didn't believe it. And I looked around at the other boys and they were lookin' at me and they were just laughin' at me wakin' up that way.

Mike was still laid down in the bunk — he couldn't get up — but the rest of us felt well enough to get up and we walked around the ship a bit. When I came back to quarters, I said, "Mike, they got a swimmin' pool on here. You wanna go for a dip?"

Anyway, a day later we were put ashore at Cayman Brac, the smallest islands in the Cayman group ... which had been devastated by the same Hurricane that had sunk our vessel. And when we reached Cayman, about a third of the people on the island were homeless, and the hospital, which was probably about a fifty or sixty-foot square building, had lost part of its roof. But they took us in and put us under the part with the good roof.

They took care of us. They fed us with food they didn't have and cared for us with supplies they didn't have.

We couldn't understand all of this: why they treated us so well and made such a fuss over us when so many of their own people had been homeless and injured.

Well, the second day we were there, we realized the reason for all the fuss.

Bob and I felt well enough to go for a walk down the beach and we walked about a mile down the beach and we came upon an ancient graveyard. When we looked around the graveyard, we realized that the stones were too close together. There couldn't

possibly have been that many people buried there — and we began to read the stones.

At the bottom of each stone, it said, "Lost at Sea" and we realized that this graveyard was just a bunch of stones set there for people who sailed away and never came back.

At that point, we realized why, even though we were strangers, they made such a fuss over us: because we were taken by the sea and given back ... and to those people, that's a very magic thing.

I don't know how to describe the feeling when I looked at the gravestones and understood.

But I can tell you I felt very lucky.

After five days in the hospital in Cayman, the people in Cayman were good enough to arrange all the customs stuff for us and put us on an airplane and get us back to the States. We didn't have any papers or any money or anything. We didn't have anything but what we were wearin'.

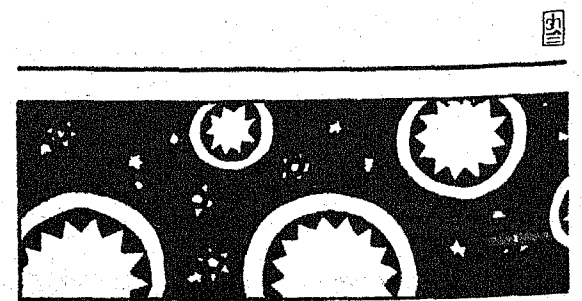
When we reached the States, we immediately received word that Jim Givens was on the way down to Key West to talk to us. He met us here and he wanted to know immediately what was right and what was wrong. He was very elated, of course, that another bunch of lives were saved by his raft.

Later, myself and Mike Munroe went to Washington to testify before a Coast Guard hearing which had been called to re-evaluate standards on inflatable life-rafts. I asked the Admiral who'd invited us why we were called to testify as experts, and he told me that, to his knowledge, noone had ever tested an inflatable life raft as severely as my crew and I had. It was the heaviest test on record because all the other tests had been simulations or tests done in lesser storms and this was the first Category-5 hurricane since the invention of inflatable rafts.

One ship near us had recorded a gust of 225 knots and we reckon we had sustained winds of 175, gusting to 200 at least.

There were five other vessels, including two freighters, taken by Hurricane Allen and all of those other people — some sixty or so — on those vessels didn't make it. We were the only ones. We were the only people who'd been run over directly and survived.

Each of the crew has a little brass plaque in his home now. And on the plaque it says, "In Memoriam for The Island Princess" and it gives the date she was built and date she sunk and the position. And the footnote on the plaque is "A ship is safe in the harbor but that's not why ships are built."



"Sixty-Eight-Eighty" The Solares Hill Citizen Hotline by George Murphy

If you've got a question you need answered,
a problem you can't seem to solve,
let us try to get to the bottom of it for you.
Call 294-6880
with your concerns and questions.

Q: I live on Peacon Lane and I want to know why my street, unlike every other street in my neighborhood, is being bypassed and is not getting new pipe installed in the city's new sewer project with Hycon.

A: The Sewer Department reports that both before and after any existing pipes are replaced, they are subject to an underground, underwater television inspection. A camera is snaked through the existing pipeline and the inspection is conducted aboveground by experts.

So, be assured that the Peacon Lane pipeline has been inspected and is in no need of replacement. So, throw away the feeling that your street is being shortchanged; rather, you and other taxpayers are being protected from unnecessary replacement costs.

Q: I've read that City Electric can make State-guaranteed loans to Key Westers who want to make solar electric improvements on their homes.

A: As an owner of solar power generators myself, the State program intrigued me. I've been in the process of expanding my solar independence and, to get official word, I sent the following letter to City Electric last month:

Bobby Padron
City Electric Co.

Dear Mr. Padron:

After having read Order #15566 (Docket # 850769-EC) of The Florida Public Service Commission in Tallahassee, I have been encouraged to submit this request for a loan of \$2500 from City Electric for the purpose of implementing a solar domestic water heater [under Section (d) 17, page 5].

After having done some research on the economics of solar water heating, I have come to realize a few (I believe) facts:

1. Electric Power in this city is expensive, compared to national averages.

2. National figures (assumedly low compared to those high rates) estimate that conventional electric hot water heaters cost an average of 1.5¢ per gallon to heat.

3. With a solar water heater, those costs are (again "nationally") reduced by 67%.

4. Solar experts have recently estimated that the normal national solar investment "payoff" time of 5-6 years is, in the Florida Keys, reduced to approximately 2 years, compared to our existing local rates and to the abundance of sunshine we have in Key West.

I understand that from those documents that "any utility which, as part of its approved conservation plan, submitted pursuant to s. 366.82(2), Florida Statutes, proposes to loan its funds to eligible customers as defined in Rule 25-17.51(2), F.A.C., for the purpose of purchasing conservation measures... may apply to the Commission for the guarantee of all or any portion of the loans being made."

I further understand that "The utility may apply for the guarantee of such loans made by one or more lending institutions, as part of the utility's approved conservation plan."

I realize that a State Public Service Commission-approved loan application from the utility or its subcontracted lending institution must be completed as part of the procedure.

Would you please advise me as soon as possible as to:

A: Whether City Electric has an "Approved Conservation Plan" under which such a loan to customers could be guaranteed by the State.

B: If City Electric has, under this ruling, formulated a plan for loaning funds to eligible customers for "the purpose of purchasing conservation measures [such as solar hot water heating and solar swimming pool heating] listed" by the Florida Public Service Commission.

C: What procedures will be followed in the approval of such a loan and what sort of paperwork would be required.

D: What sort of time frame might be anticipated in awaiting a decision on such a loan.

Given what seems to me to be an opportune State-guaranteed program which will benefit both individual homeowners and

the over-burdened City Electric system, I am assuming that these rulings are familiar and that City Electric would be interested in assisting with this request.

Thank you for your time,

George Murphy

Last week, I spoke to Mr. Padron and to City Electric Operations Chief Leo Carey who told me that, in response to my inquiry, they have talked to the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC). He said that they are required by law to have an Approved Conservation Plan but that their particular plan does not presently include a program for making loans for such solar improvements.

He said that, in order for City Electric to participate in this program, they'd have to revise and amend their Conservation Plan which would have to be approved by the City Electric Planning Board. Then, they'd have to get permission from the PSC.

City Electric has spoken with the PSC about the matter and has forwarded the matter to their attorney to examine further. As a municipal utility, they may be subject to special legal requirements; further many details such as forms and procedures would need to be worked out.

Carey did say, however, that the program sounded like a good idea to him and that he'd keep me posted on the progress of my request.

We'll keep you posted here - and if the program sounds like one that would be of value to local homeowners, contact City Electric yourself and encourage them to include this program in their Conservation Plan.

more to come...

NOTE: A few months ago, this column included a phone number which our sources believe is means of determining whether your phone is tapped or not.

A representative of Southern Bell has written us to say we were mistaken and that the information we gave is incorrect.

We promised that we'd print a note about their advisement to us in this column.



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Fleming St. Antique Row

Welcome to Key West's Antiques Row — the hiding place of treasures just waiting to be found and loved by a special person. And special are the folks whose shops line Fleming Street between Duval & Simonton. The most recent addition to this happy group of antiques lovers is "The Swan & Unicorn" nestled between Key West Island Bookstore and the Bird's Nest. Proprietors, partners and best friends Andrea and Leda have fulfilled a dream they've shared for a number of years. A pair of treasure hunters, both women were raised around antiques. Leda's childhood memories are of living in her family's 14-room Victorian home — just packed with antiques. Andrea recalls her grandmother's house full of unusual old pieces and the wonderful mythological tales she told.

The Swan & Unicorn is a charming place, filled with an exciting variety of things of beauty. Furniture, glassware, clocks, paintings, baskets and perfume bottles are just a few of the choices on display. Perhaps pottery is more your style. Currently the shop features a selection of Roseville, McCoy and Hull.

If jewelry is your fascination, you won't want to miss The Swan & Unicorn's outstanding collection of one-of-a-kind costume pieces from the turn of the century through the 1940's styles. Or maybe a rhinestone cosmetic case would add a touch of glamour to an evening out. Lovely feminine items are just one of their specialties.

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Andrea & Leda

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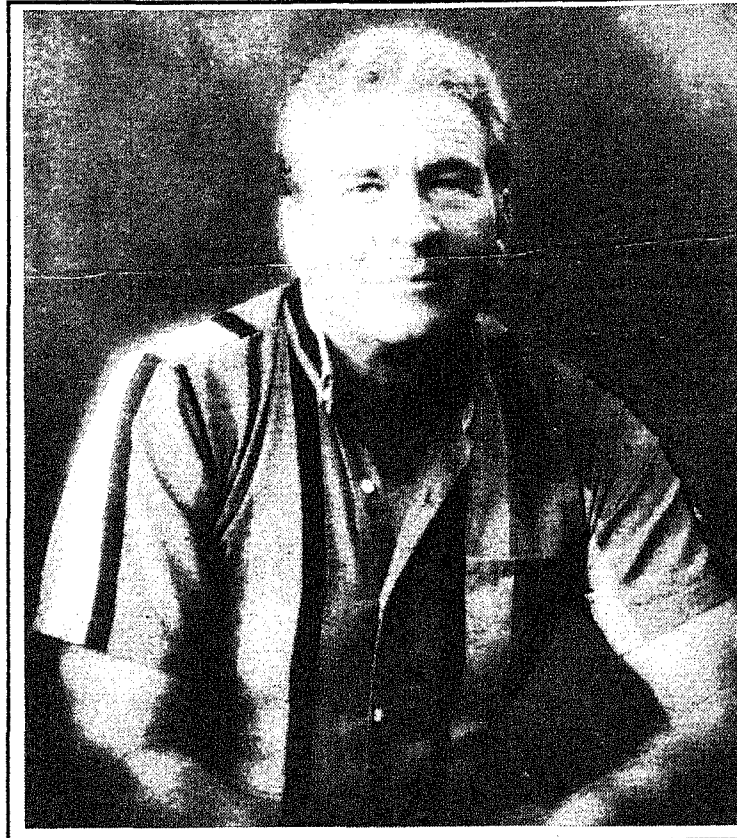
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