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Vol. II, No. 2

Key West, Florida

December, 1976



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From the Editor

Wow! 32 pages — our biggest issue yet. We could probably have gone to 36 pages this time but we lacked the manpower. This will also be our biggest printing — 15,000 copies!

We still have not heard from Tallahassee officially about Rest Beach. However, there has been no indication that they can help us and we are still waiting for a letter to explain to us why they can't. As soon as we have a letter, we will put it in Solares Hill.

What a treat! A cover by Suzie de Poo and a Solares Hill Christmas greeting drawn by her talented daughter, Martha.

We'd like to thank Art Gates for giving us permission to run one of his Christmas cartoons and we'd like to thank Charlie Munder, President of the Key West Historical Society, for permission to rerun Colin Jameson's excellent article that appeared in the Society's magazine years ago.

Our layout man, Tom Pope, took off for the Thanksgiving holidays and Secty Hillman laid out Solares Hill this time. Her ideas and hard work and beautiful job are much appreciated.

I hope that we will have an article on the problems at the country club for our next issue. Certainly the city should keep possession of the club house and see that it is properly run. A well run country club is very important in a tourist community.

Anyone who would like to submit poetry, articles, and original drawings can leave them at 821 Duval Street and we will pick them up. We are interested in getting more people of the community writing and drawing for us. We do not pay a lot for work submitted to us but we do pay something. Try us.

Key West made its debut in the U.S. Volleyball Association competition in Miami on November 13 and finished in a respectable third place. The team's next step on the circuit was Sarasota and again the team finished third in a field of ten.

The following Key Westers are on the team: Jin Solanik (Captain and Coach); Larry Pennacchia; Emzel Mac;

Mike Hayes; S.K. Barnhart, U.S.N.; Steve Ness; and Kathy Heisington. Georgie's Restaurant in Key Lime Square furnished the team jerseys for the last two matches. However, expenses present a constant worry and contributions are being sought to help defray the travelling costs of this team. Another urgent need is to find a practice facility for the volleyballers.

Anyone or any group that is interested in helping this team that represents Key West around the state should contact Scream (Brayer's) Ice Cream, 308-D Duval Street to make a contribution.

An alert and knowledgeable reader, Jack Mathews, an official of the City of Key West, has sent in some identifications and clarifications of persons mentioned in the poem of old Key West that we ran last issue.

He identifies "Perry" as a local character who carried numerous notes and papers in his stuffed pockets. The "Monkey Man," he points out, is best remembered for the bag of money that he used to hold in his hand which quite often was stolen when he fell asleep in his chair. Also, his boat sank in the vicinity of Fleming Keys, and the hulk was a monument to his memory for many years.

"Chicken Alley" was best known for his yellow vanilla ice cream, Jack Mathews tells us, and Peter Roberts had a fish stand for years at the East end of Front Street across from the present A&B Lobster House.

Many thanks for the information.

Have a splendid Christmas.
See you again in January.

W. H. H. H.

(The cover is by Suzie de Poo).

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EDITORIAL..... BILL HUCKEL
ART DIRECTION..... TOM POPE

COPY EDITOR..... DONNA MARSH

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i.e. killy the horse

Written and illustrated by Malcolm Ross.

KEY WEST NICKNAMES*

What's in a nickname? A Jimmy by any other name would still be a James, a Tom, a Thomas, a Hank, a Henry, etc., ad infinitum. Warm southern ways have always prescribed a quiet informality, a contrast to northern stuffiness and concern for decorum. But then again, the South did lose "The War" and even though hostilities ceased resistance had to remain in some form!

The custom of referring to friends and acquaintances by other than their given names is by no means exclusive to this island or the South, but here on this isle of extremes the custom like so many other things has found fertile soil and grown to great proportions like some of the local tropical plants. Webster defines the phenomenon as "an additional or substitute name given to a person, place or thing; usually descriptive and given in fun, affection or derision." Although the origins of some of the more colorful nicknames associated with Key West are somewhat obscure, most of them would fit into the foregoing categories.

The custom of giving nicknames is virtually unknown to city dwellers (in a large city one seldom sees or notices the same person twice — or has any desire to) but is generally a characteristic of a small community or a society which is relatively stable. Stability and lack of mobility were certainly descriptive of Key West before the 1950's and the advent of the Overseas Highway. Most of the more picturesque and vivid nicknames for which Key West is known originated during this period of relative isolation, when Key West's only connection to the rest of the United States (other than by sea) was a tenuous link by rail. This link was of short duration and was severed after twenty-odd years: by the massive 1935 hurricane. It was a time for individuality and resourcefulness, and the nickname became an efficient form of distinguishing one person from another, particularly those with similar names. (Breathes there a man who in the course of a conversation has not undergone that aggravating period of question and answer in order to determine which "Joe" or "Tom" is referred to?)

Minds were less dulled in those times by television and other distractions, and a sense of humor was a necessary substitute for external programmed entertainment. Many Key West nicknames display the lively sense of humor of the island residents, for not only was a sense of humor necessary to create a nickname (many times the result of a situation where everybody had a good laugh), but it also required a sense of humor to accept a nickname in return.

Sometimes nicknames could be unkind in affixing themselves to individuals, but it was a popular practice and a form of attack that few escaped!

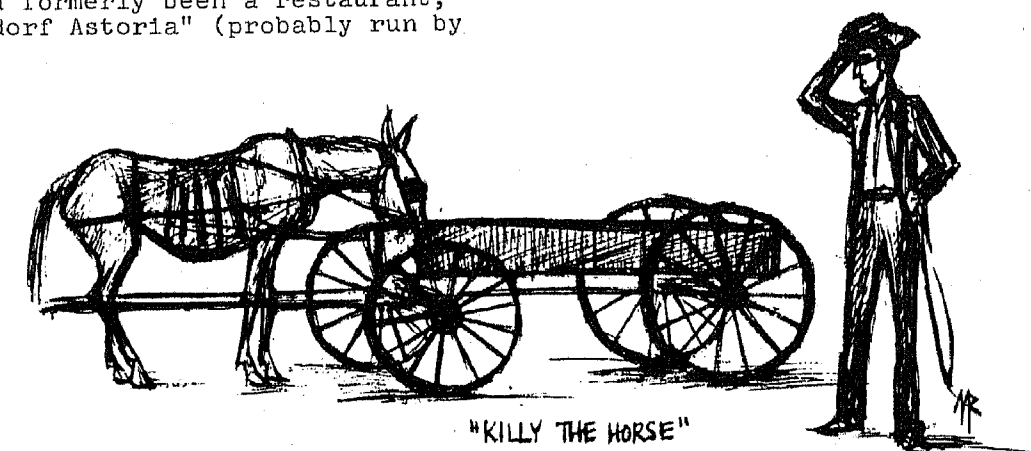
Probably the most immortal of all Key West nicknames is that of "SLOPPY JOE," which belonged to a man whose real name was Joseph Russell. The name probably had little to do with Russell's personal habits, but came as a result of his association with Ernest Hemingway. During the days of the ferry connection between Key West and Havana, Key Westers were wont to spend a great deal of time and money in Havana, its night life apparently having some things to offer that Key West did not. One of the Havana bars known and frequented by many fun-loving Americans in Cuba (including Hemingway and his drinking buddy Russell) was one called "Sloppy Joe's." In an effort to establish a beachhead closer to home Russell decided to open up his own bar in Key West. The site of what is now Captain Tony's Saloon on Greene Street was chosen for reasons known only to Russell. A bar was already there — "The Blind Pig" — where there had formerly been a restaurant, "The Waldorf Astoria" (probably run by

monument to its former owner and the well-known writer.

Joseph Russell was also known by other nicknames as well as "SLOPPY JOE." His fondness for the noisy little fish that inhabits the surrounding waters and the taste pleasures it gave him caused him to also receive the names of "JOE GRUNTS" or "JOSIE GRUNTS."

Fondness for a particular type of food was also responsible for the nickname of "WILLIE GRITS," a local fisherman who regarded the corn product as a staple of every meal. "FRIED RICE," who worked as a watchman at a cigar box factory on Caroline Street, liked fried rice very much, but did not like the nickname! "CHEESE AND JELLY" got his handle from a childhood fascination for that combination on a Cuban roll. At that time four Cuban rolls and a quantity of jelly could be purchased for five cents — an extravagant indulgence! "CHEESE AND JELLY" worked for many years as a city bus and taxi driver in Key West.

"KILLY THE HORSE" did not like his nickname and anyone who called him by



some expatriate New Yorker) with an adjoining cigar store and upstairs cigar factory. In a rather uncreative act Russell's Key West bar was named "Sloppy Joe's" after the one in Cuba and became the well-known watering hole where Hemingway spent so many drinking hours. Whether it was his intent or not the name attached itself to Mr. Russell. In later years Russell decided to relocate the bar and chose its present site on the east side of Duval Street. This location had also been a restaurant, "The Victoria," which was run by Frank Farto, the father of "BUM" (another Key West nickname), whose whereabouts is one of today's mysteries. Here it reposes today, invaded daily by scores of gullible tourists who try to make it a

that name risked verbal obscenities or assault with a buggy whip. "KILLY" was in what today would be called the transportation business, operating a horse and dray¹ and hauling and delivering everything from furniture to foodstuffs from the Front Street auction rooms around town. A favorite prank of the "Armory Hellcats"² when "KILLY" left his conveyance in the White Street Armory area was to unhitch his horse and re hitch it to the dray backwards. Aggravations like these did not improve "KILLY'S" disposition.

No doubt the most colorful of Key West's citizens who had a nickname was "CALEDONIA," a familiar Duval Street figure. The origin of her nickname is unclear as Caledonia was the ancient

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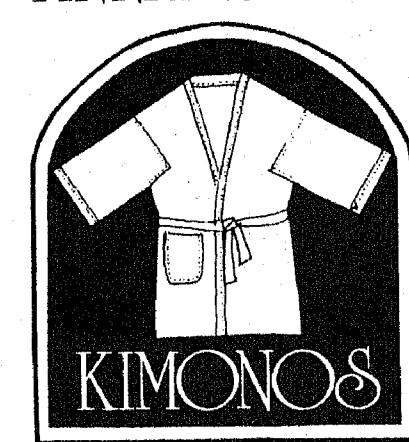
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name for Scotland and it is doubtful that she was Scottish. The corner of Fleming and Duval by Kress was her territory and it was here that her tall thin frame could usually be seen reposing or dancing along the sidewalk like some latterday Isadora Duncan in costumes which changed almost by the hour. Although she sometimes affected a man's hat and shoes or boots, "CALEDONIA" usually made her own clothes, generally shapeless frocks with only arm and neck holes and the fabrics running to bright colored silks and satins. Ribbons and bows of every imaginable hue were a favorite decorative motif, not only on the many braids into which her hair was styled, but at random points about her garments. Clerks in Kress and other five and tens cringed when they saw her approach for it usually meant that she intended to make a purchase. A half yard of each color of ribbon in stock was the usual request, and after this tedious ordeal the clerk had to wait while "CALEDONIA" unwrapped her money (each coin was individually wrapped in a separate sheet of toilet tissue) and paid the bill.

"CALEDONIA" enjoyed compliments about her attire, but woe to the unsuspecting tourist or local that she caught staring at her! "And what in hill are you lookin' at?" was her usual remark, and if she didn't like the answer it was usually followed by a barrage of colorful expletives. Those whose sensibilities were easily offended were quick to flee the scene.

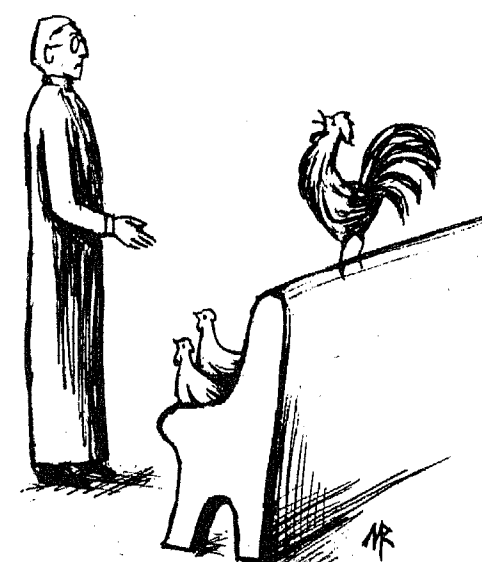
Every family tree may have its horse thief hidden away among its branches, but Key West had an accomplished chicken thief in bygone days. "KATY GRAY" or "KITTY GRAY" as he seems to have been equally known got his nickname from his association with a woman of questionable repute of that name.



His infatuation apparently went through various stages including running away with her. By profession "KATY" was a hack driver, the horse-drawn equivalent of today's taxicab, but his respectable facade of suitcoat, hat and white shirt was marred by an apparent inability to tie a straight necktie. Not only were the ends grossly uneven, but the tie was never centered on his neck. The

suit jacket was an important part of his act, however, and it was quickly removed when a stray chicken came into sight.

He was caught in the act during one of his Saturday night forays in the vicinity of St. Mary's Star of the Sea on Truman Avenue. As he fled he dropped two bags of chickens which scattered into the night. The next morning when the priest came into the church to begin mass he was shocked to see a rooster and several hens sitting on the front pew. As the rooster crowed away the



church began to fill with Sunday morning worshippers, but it soon appeared clear to the priest that he could not compete with the crowing rooster. Some perceptive individual in the congregation recognized the chickens, and their owners were soon located. They came and removed them, and the mass went on uninterrupted.

"KATY GRAY'S" proficiency at chicken thievery was legendary in Key West, and it is estimated that during his period of activity he stole hundreds of chickens from Key West backyards. The marvel is that he could do it without a cackle! Speculation was that he fed the fowl corn which had been soaked in Aguardiente, a Cuban liquor, which made them put up little resistance.

FOOTNOTES

1. A low cart or wagon with removable sides constructed for heavy loads.
2. Key West at the time had several "gangs" or groups of young people who were differentiated largely by neighborhoods: White Street in the area of the Armory was the territory of the "Armory Hellcats"; Newton Street had its "Hell Street Gang"; The mangrove swamp filled area south of Truman Avenue (then Division Street) had its "Swamp Gang"; the North end of White Street which at the time had more coastline and a beach had its "Sandcrabs," and "Tommy Russell's Gang" made its headquarters in the area around Margaret and Southard.

JIMMY CARTER: Back Then

by Bill Bryan

FIRST, a few disclaimers: I am a supporter, was from the very beginning, of Jimmy Carter. Second, although I "know" Carter, we aren't friends by any stretch of whatever that term may mean to you; I knew him strictly on a professional basis -- he as a politician, I as a journalist -- briefly but intimately six long years ago.

Carter was then running for the governor's seat in Georgia and I was assigned to follow him around the state during part of the ten day run-off campaign against former Gov. Carl Sanders. All told, I probably spent the better part of four days and nights with Carter and his immediate entourage. The other time I followed Sanders. Other than a few clippings, I must trust to my memory because, unfortunately, I saved no notebooks from the period.

When the assignment came my way, I was for Sanders, who was the known quantity and apparently the more liberal of the two men. Put with the Sanders party first, I was not particularly impressed by his campaign. When I switched over to the Carter camp, I sensed immediately I was travelling with a winner.

CARTER was confident, he was purposeful and he worked hard at that purpose: getting votes by meeting people, everyday people all over the state face-to-face, and making sure that he was on the right side of the issues as far as a majority of the Georgia electorate was concerned.

His confidence and, I might say, brilliance at a one-on-one meeting with the man on the street, the person outside the factory gate, etc., was to me totally amazing. To call it a performance might be misleading; it was evidence of dedication and stamina, of single-mindedness of purpose which was to stand him in good stead when he decided to shoot for the Presidency.

Jimmy (I can't very well recall if I ever called him that) was charming, gracious and well-mannered -- in a word "Southern" -- without being sticky or Old South, so to speak. You had a feeling he was right in there among the shiny new breed of Deep South pols, Bumpers, Askew, et al.

AND THIS brings me to another point: as a liberal and former Atlantan then living in an urban area (Augusta), I wasn't fooled by Carter's appeal to the conservative rural areas of the state; it was quite easy to see up close he was a progressive in the populist mold and, furthermore, I might even say a person of special talent and ambitiousness who would go far. Now you might say that is easy for me to say this, in hind sight, but

I'm not making it up today. I do remember feeling that way about him all along. You also might have noticed I've shifted away from using the word "charisma" -- terribly over-worked anyway -- concerning Carter. I truly don't think it applies, and I've given the matter more than casual thought and discussed it with friends during the Presidential campaign just completed. However, I would say there definitely is an inner calm, some have called it "steeliness," as in toughness of character, which surely is a part of the Carter make-up. You may be speculative or sure of where this trait comes from, his church and faith, Miss Lillian (his utterly wonderful and fantastically real Mama) or where ever, but none-the-less be assured it's there and it will make him a "strong" President, as he has stated himself and of that I am sure.

I can't help but add, too, that there was way back then in 1970 those ever-present Bucky Beaver teeth. He'd flash those incisors on you and you could not help but be dazzled.

To make a long story short, the election was held, Carter won, and then won again more easily against the Republican and became head of the state. He made a rather fine governor, I believe ... nothing spectacular, mind, but more than competent in the Nixon era or in the history of some more recent administrations in my home state.

WHAT can one say about the four years Jimmy was governor? Very little, really, except perhaps that his middle of the road course, neither too liberal or conservative in terms of the total Georgia electorate, made for a case of the "blahs" because he was, in general, so steady on the wheel, low profile and politick. Probably this was just his nature expressing itself in the public man, but it was good politics as well. On the immorality of the Vietnam war, for instance, Carter's position was fuzzy and late to the side of the anti-war forces, and then when the U.S. Army finally held itself accountable for criminal acts in the Asian engagement by convicting Lt. William Laws Calley, Jr. of massacring at least 22 unarmed men, women and children at My Lai 4, Jimmy Carter proclaimed American Fighting Man's Day in the state -- seeming to back Calley as a "scapegoat" because so many Georgians were dismayed by the proceeding then going on in Columbus.

What I am saying is that Carter's policies may be at one and the same time the embodiment of the politics of "love" and a sort of planned (programmed) rationalization of issues, some of which may have a strong moral component to them. His actions are not designed to, and

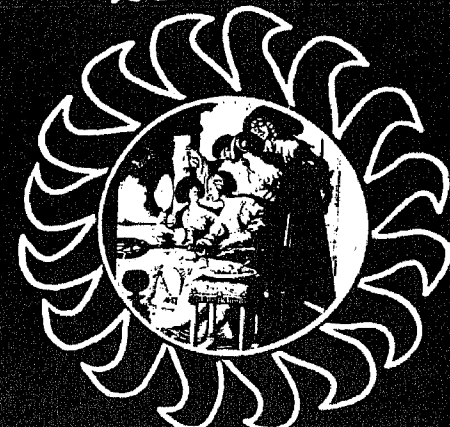
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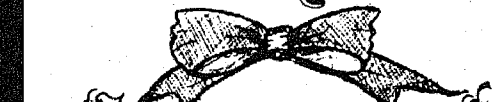
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will not please everyone because although he is at base a man, as they say, of high moral principles, he seems to me to be given to compromise and working things out for the best of all parties concerned (within a given "system," be that the South or the corporate body of his own church), without grandstand plays on moral issues as though there was a win or no-win situation. The recent issue of integration, I believe, when Carter's hometown Baptist Church voted to admit blacks, is a fine example of his brand of leadership at its successful best.

I went back to daily news reporting far from the Capitol scene and saw very little of Carter. But, there was one memorable time I must mention. It was towards the end of his term and he came to our part of the state on what his office billed as a Listening Tour to get the pulse of the people. Anyway, I went to see and hear Carter at a dinner-on-the-grounds celebration at a historic Baptist church way out in the country.

I knew this "neck of the woods" pretty well because I went the 30-miles out to the county seat of Appling once a month to cover the board of commissioners meeting. Although one edge of the county, the one adjacent to Augusta and its county of Richmond was quickly becoming urbanized with what we know as "white flight," the old way of doing things still prevailed, with what used to be called "the wool hat boys" firmly in control. Need I then tell you that these are people whose conservatism and racism and narrow-mindedness are, for the most part, in-grown and strongly held frames of reference. At any rate, Jimmy came out there among them, ate their food, glad-handed them and then, in effect, since he is a lay preacher, gave a powerful sermon on loving those very same persons whom these folks looked down on so sternly and strictly -- especially the Blacks. Carter put it to them clearly in a language they could relate to, and in no uncertain terms. At the same time, he was candid about himself and his conversion to the social gospel, without being syrupy or sounding sanctimonious.

The experience, again, marked Jimmy Carter as a man to watch, as far as I was concerned, and events have proved the validity of that impression.

WHAT KIND of President will he be? I really couldn't say for sure. I voted for him and backed him from the very moment he announced for the office, when there were other Democrats in the field with whom I was perhaps in closer political affinity. Yet, Jimmy was a Geor-

gian, a Southerner, and what's more I felt sure he had a very excellent shot at the whole thing, whereas some of the more liberal ones did not (again, here I was converted by his inner calm and outward confidence, the mark of a winner). I hope with all my heart, of course, that he will make a very fine one.

WHAT CAN Key West expect from Carter, in terms of his effect locally? The Corps of Engineers, who play such a vital role in the Keys and South Florida, will find a President who doesn't like everything they have traditionally stood for, and will find it harder to act as an agency apart. And on environmental issues in general, Carter will be much more strongly on the side of nature and planned development, rather than uncontrolled growth and the big money contractors. He is known, as well, to favor historic preservation, and the heritage of Key West's conch architecture could be the beneficiary of future federal programs in that area, an encouragement many restorers of old buildings and homes will find highly welcome.

Carter has promised to give immediate assistance in terms of new federal programs if the unemployment rate remains high when he takes over. And, although the figures for October in Monroe County show the jobless rate down several percentage points over a year ago, there should be many here who would appreciate such an effort on their behalf.


The fate of the military establishment in Key West remains highly debatable. What effect Carter will have on the closing or retention of the Naval Air Station at Boca Chica is anybody's guess. But Jimmy has let it be known he hates waste and bureaucratic bloat, especially in the Pentagon. Therefore, if I had to bet, I'd say the chances are better under Carter that the Navy will go.

On the question of establishing normal relations with Cuba, something which could have vast influence on the future of Key West, it would be easy to speculate and be entirely wrong. But my hunch is that we will see that day sooner under a Carter administration than we ever would have under Ford and Kissinger. In fact, I would say it might be coming rather soon.


CARTER IS, by his own ready admission, a man who loves to fish. Maybe we can get him down here, lured by the prospect of bright off-shore waters teaming with fish. So, come on down, Jimmy, the Presidential gates are yours come January!

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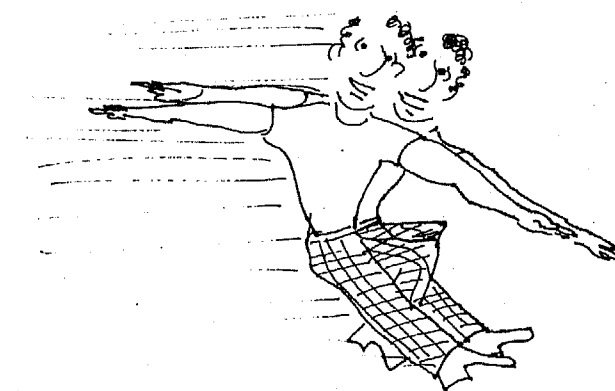
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Key West's First Annual Poinciana Leaf Sliding Contest

by Ray Daniels

Be it resolved as of this annum 1976 and each year after, that there be held a contest by which great spirit shall manifest itself purely for the aspects of furthering the spirit of American competition and sportsmanship and it shall be known as, "The Key West Annual Poinciana Leaf Sliding Contest."



This contest is to be held approximately 20 feet from Ray's Bike Shop near Wong Song Alley on two adjoining slabs of slick sidewalk designated as the slide. Just in front of these two slabs is a rough slab known as the approach.

After a good leaf dropping from the poinciana tree and then a moderate rain, the slide becomes ready for the contestants.

Your 1st official judge is Ray Daniels, 2nd official judge is Thurlow Weed, 3rd official judge is anyone silly enough to apply at Ray's Bike Shop for the job.

There are two classes of entrants - 1. Stock - these are ordinary people wearing regular shoes (usually these people do not know they are entering the contest and are shocked to find themselves in a sudden lurch of unbalanced motion). 2. Modified Pro - these are people who are aware of the fun of sliding on slippery surfaces and wear special shoes or go barefoot to achieve more slide.

As 1st official judge of K.W.A.P.L.S.C. it has been my pleasure to enter seventeen people in the stock competition and eight in the modified. The lack of turnout may be attributed to the lack of rain, leaf fall, publicity or all of these.

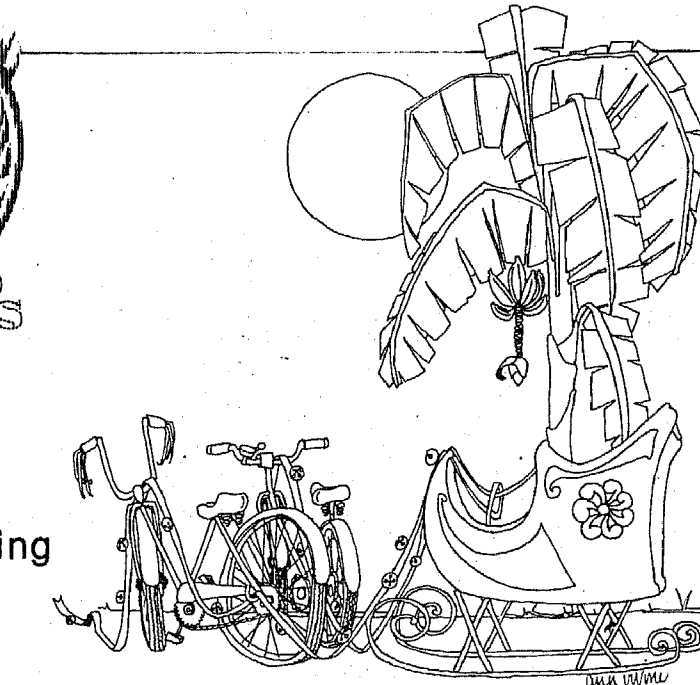
In the modified competition I am awarding a tie to two gentlemen from Canada. This decision was for their undaunted enthusiasm after having entered in the stock class (unknown to them at the time) as they were merely trying to remain upright after two or three false slips. They then shed sandals and flip-flops and started sliding barefoot in earnest. To see this great American contest won by two Canadians in its first year brought tears to my eyes.

Were only the old and unwary going to slide into competition? Where were the truly great poinciana leaf sliders of America? Then a joy to behold - a large heavy-duty lady in her late thirties came by, looked suspiciously at the course and with great disdain entered the stock



competition. Her form was magnificent. I rated her straight 9's. Her arms flailed sideways, windmilled as her feet slid. She maintained her cool and balance and got at least a 30-inch slide. After her performance she offered me a smile and turned her back on that great performance, walked three steps and tripped on a crack in the sidewalk. After gaining her feet she looked back once again with disdain, then with the true grace and spirit of an American sportsperson she "slipped" quietly away aware that even in victory there is a little defeat.

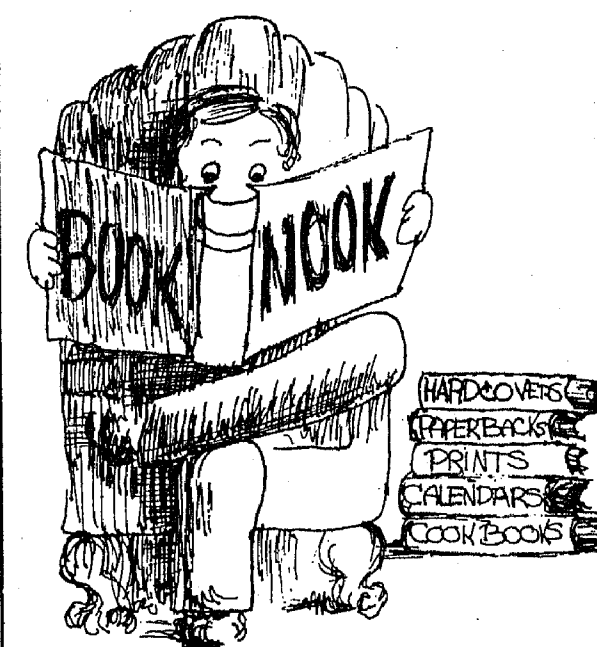
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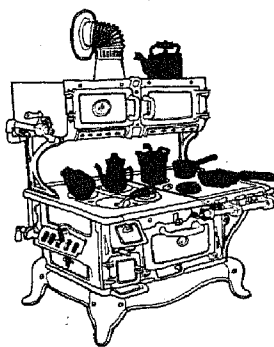
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editorial

ADAM WAS LUCKY. He didn't have to count the number of blocks to the nearest public beach to figure out whether or not he should be wearing a shirt, remember to wear shoes if he planned to do some shopping, or hang his bicycle in a tree because he was not allowed to park either in the street or on the sidewalk.

There was only One Law then, and it was simple and easy to remember. He blew it, as we know, so The Law was divided into ten pieces so that Adam's children could obey it a little bit at a time. But people began to pick and choose, feeling that if they obeyed one or two of the easy ones they could ignore the rest.

Then The Law was recentralized: "Love one another as I have loved you." That sticks. It follows that if you love your neighbor in that way you are not going to shoot him or sell him a shoddy piece of goods or covet his wife or park your car across his driveway.

STILL, some people don't seem to get the point. So we have probably millions of little laws that all try to set us rolling in the general direction of The Law and keep us from straying too far in the opposite direction.

The Law is good, and its many facets and satellites are good to the extent to which they serve The One Law.

THEN THERE ARE major and minor insults to human dignity. There are nibbles and chippings and slashes and choppings at basic rights guaranteed to the citizens of the most noble democracy in history by its Constitution -- those seemingly corny abstractions Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

Just as money means little to those who have it, so those high-sounding ideals so jealously guarded by the Constitution have only a theoretical significance until you wake up one morning, decide to go downtown, and realize that:

- 1) You can't drive, because parking is not allowed where you want to go except spaces you can rent in a lot that you as a taxpayer own, and free parking spaces elsewhere are hard to find during The Season.
- 2) You can't ride your bike, because it is against the law to park a bicycle on the sidewalk,

and if you park it in the street and it doesn't get run over it might get stolen because there is no post in the street to chain it to.

- 3) You can't ask a stranger in a car who is going your way if you may go with him, because hitch-hiking is prohibited.
- 4) Or if you live on a boat anchored off Wisteria (Christmas Tree) Island, you can't row your tender or dinghy into Key West to do your grocery shopping because you can't find a place to beach it legally. And it is a long way to swim one-handed carrying a dissolving bag of food.

So you take many, many little steps for the men who stay up nights thinking of new ways to restrict your movements, and mankind takes one giant step back-wards.

THE RIGHTS of a free people can be taken away all at once by a victorious invading enemy army, or they can be eroded away a little at a time by those in whom the free people, through a free election, have entrusted their well-being.

Did our much-trumpeted Bicentennial fizzle because of commercialization run amuck, or because we have begun to treat those tired old cliches of American revolutionaries as nursery rhymes -- good for the kids to memorize in school, but forgotten immediately after the commencement address?

Does "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty" lose currency simply because the British haven't tried to burn down Washington recently?

MANY OF THE PETTY rules arbitrarily regulating behavior that harms no one are nuisances. They are annoying inconveniences at most. Then why oppose them? Because they are unnecessary, for one thing, but mostly because they are symptoms or forerunners of more serious infringements of liberties that are guaranteed by the Constitution.

From this distance in time it seems quaint that in the eighteenth century the English forbade the Irish to wear green or speak Gaelic, and that they forbade the Scottish to wear the tartan. Satirical songs of protest, which are still sung, resulted from the insult to the Irish, and the Scots still dance to a tune that demonstrates the differ-

ence between dancing with the freedom of the kilt and the restriction of trousers. The symbol is remembered. What is forgotten is that bills of attainder were issued by Parliament at the same time the tartan was outlawed, and the Irish lost the right to obtain a writ of habeas corpus along with their favorite color and their language. Bills of attainder -- extinction of civil rights without due process of law -- are so dangerous and vicious that they are specifically prohibited by our Constitution. Habeas corpus is regarded by legal experts as the sine qua non, the bottom line, the basis of civil rights. It is the last protection against illegal imprisonment.* When habeas corpus is suspended, civil rights no longer exist.

It may be argued that England's repression of the Irish and the Scots two centuries ago is only of academic interest to twentieth century Americans. But it should be remembered that the rag-tag band of simple, pious men and women known as the Pilgrim Fathers (and Mothers) fled English repression to come to America in search of a home where they could be free to follow their chosen lifestyle.

Even the Land of Promise has not been free from repression at the highest level. Motivated by what may have been the most sincere regard for national security, Abraham Lincoln suspended the right to petition for a writ of habeas corpus during the War Between The States, until he was told to desist by a judge, and Franklin Roosevelt's detention of Japanese-Americans without due process also voided this basic civil right.

AND NOW HERE is a double irony. The government that followed from those modestly idealistic beginnings in 1620, carefully building into its Constitution safeguards and checks and balances to ensure that Americans could never be persecuted by their own government because of their lifestyles or religious beliefs, has "persecuted and hounded... pursued, prosecuted, imprisoned and victimized" a Lakota Medicine Man, Leonard Crow Dog, since 1973. Crow Dog, a spiritual leader of the Native American Movement, is "a victim of outrageous injustice...persecuted and harassed by the U.S. Government beyond any deserving...for what were at most minor offenses, suggesting that his real offense has been to lend spiritual force and dignity to the struggle for Indian rights." That is the first irony. The second is that those terrible things said about the U.S. Government are not quoted from a Communist, hippy, underground, radical, or even Indian publication. They come from a resolution passed by the Governing Board of the

National Council of Churches May 4, 1976, and from a letter from the Board's Executive seeking support for Crow Dog's legal struggle, because "Crow Dog's freedom is important to every individual who cherishes the concepts of freedom and justice." The Churches defend a Native American from the persecutions of the government of a people who drove him from his land so that they could be free from religious persecution in their native land.

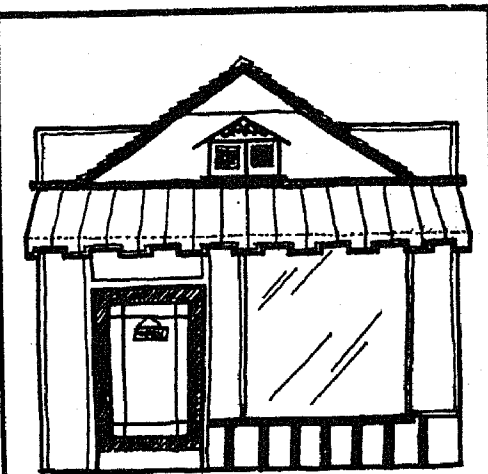
As in the case of the Irish and the Scots, the story of Leonard Crow Dog includes symbolic and symptomatic repression. His Sacred Pipe, Eagle Wing, Eagle-bone Whistle, and Medicine Bundle were denied him while he was in prison (about nine months so far) awaiting appeals of his convictions. That is roughly analogous to refusing a Catholic priest access to his Chalice, Crucifix, Rosary, and Missal.

SO MAYBE YOU don't put an "O" in front of your name and wish you were Irish on St. Patrick's Day, you think kilts look silly and bagpipe music gives you a headache, and you feel that if Indians don't like the way they are treated in America they should go back where they came from. What does all this mean to you, a non-Indian-Irish-Scot living in Key West?

It's the parallelism in thinking. A government that has become detached from its constituents becomes unresponsive to their needs, then begins to view its citizens antagonistically when they demand that the government serve their needs, rather than catering to self-interest or special-interest groups. The government attempts to extend its power beyond the basic serving of the public's good, as we feel the City Commission has done in the anti-hitch-hiking ordinance, the refusal to allow small boats to beach at the west end of Simonton, the general unthinking (and unprofitable) rudeness to boat owners, the harassment of bicycle riders, the shirt law. The government attempts to place itself above the laws that establish it, as the Supreme Court told then Attorney-General John Mitchell he did in authorizing an unwarranted wiretap in the Plamondon Case in 1972, as the House Judiciary Committee (among others) told Richard Nixon he did in the Watergate affair in 1974, as our City Commission apparently did in the Rest Beach townhouse case and may be doing in legislating beyond the water line.

IT IS A RULE of politics that police repression is a symptom of an unsound government. The Key West police are only following orders in arresting shirtless men, ticketing bicycles parked on sidewalks, impounding beached dinghies,

continued on page 30



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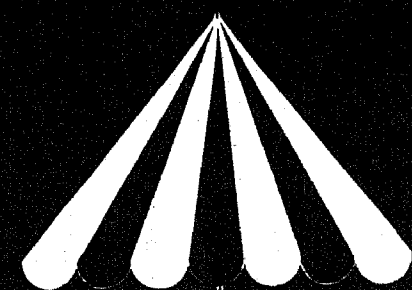
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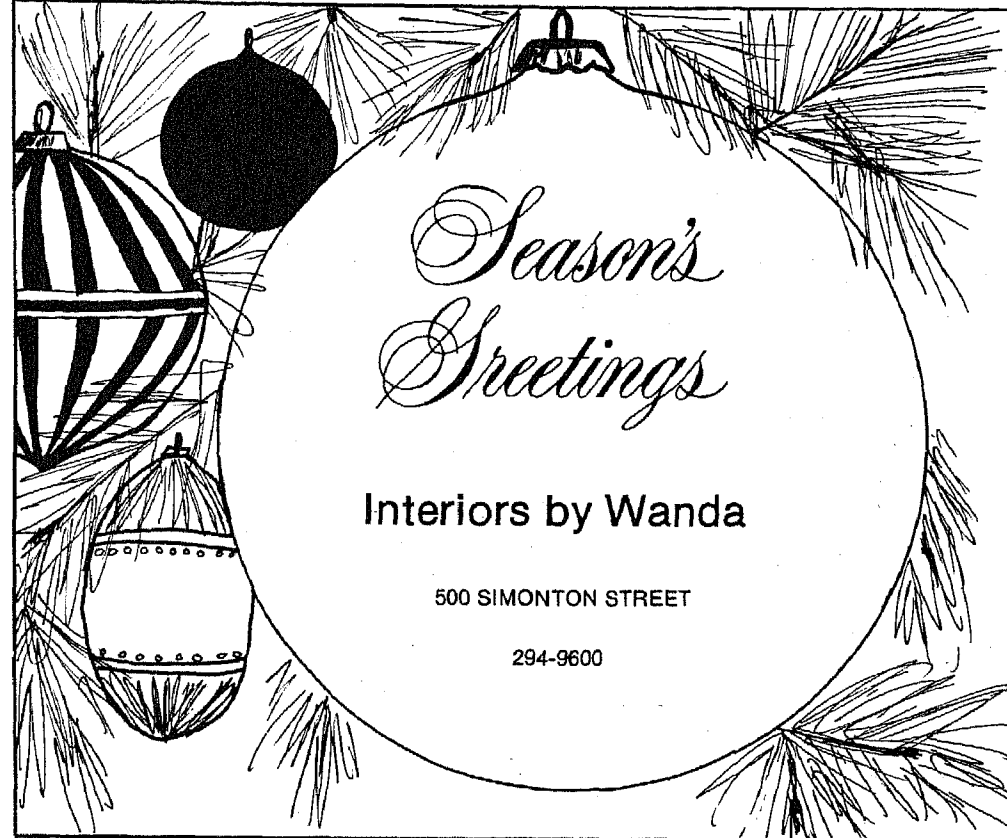
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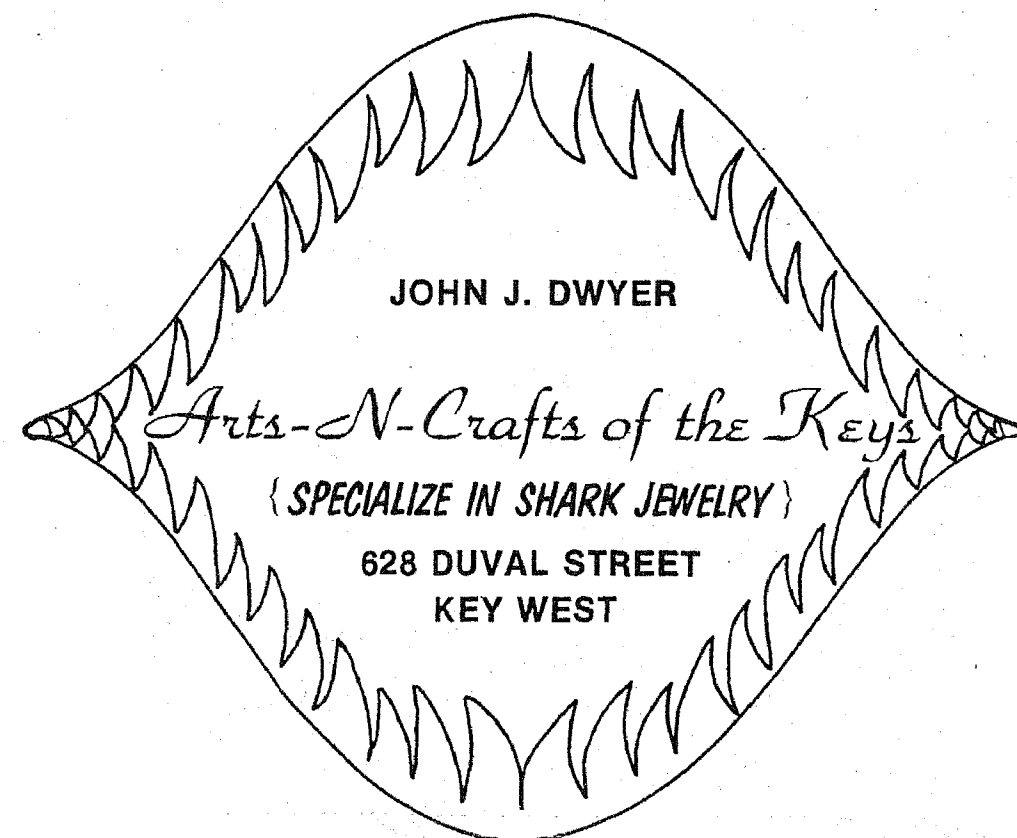
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KEY WEST

S.S.Y.C.

by Jim Coan

Hundreds of cruising sailboats a year pass through Key West. During the past few months, boaters who have stopped here on their way from England, Canada, the Gulf Coast and Caribbean and even Wisconsin and Minnesota via the Intra-coastal Waterway have encountered a bleak situation.

The City Commission passed Key West Ordinance 75-8 giving the city legal jurisdiction over boats anchored 300 feet from our shoreline. Consequently, the Port and Transit Authority banned the dozen or so boats from the free anchorage at the end of Simonton Street and the city proceeded to confiscate any dinghies found on the shore. The boaters then anchored across the ship channel at Christmas Tree Island but weren't able to come ashore at Simonton Street for groceries and supplies.

The Port and Transit Authority said this was done as a result of numerous "confidential" complaints. The complaints were about garbage disposal (since the city doesn't have a contract to pick up garbage from the can by the boat ramp) and instances of skinny dipping and blocking the boat ramp. However, this action effected all visiting yachtsmen since all the marinas in the area are full and have a waiting list.

The boat people organized themselves into the Simonton Street Yacht Club and a spokesman, Ed Bixby, best summed up their plight.

"Suppose an official said a mile of your street was declared impassable. No cars, bicycles, walkers were to be allowed and from now on each person was to leave by the rear, climbing fences, going through back yards and alleys until he came to an approved street where he could drive or walk.

"No reason is given for this, except dark hints about unspeakable things going on, and this is the only way to prevent them in the future.

"But the street looks exactly as it always has, and the official refuses to say when, if ever, your street will be again declared passable. All your distant friends must use this same dark and twisted path to visit you.

"Yet this is a democracy, and you voted for this official to represent your best interests."

The National Boating Federation offered help so that "this unwarranted and ill advised restriction can be removed." The Outboard Boating Club of America wrote that they had "contacted Major Jack D. Thompson, Director of Boating Safety, Florida Department of Natural Resources, in Tallahassee, to determine whether Key West Ordinance 75-8 is in contravention of state law. We have reference to a 1972 Florida Law which amended Section 371.59, Florida Statutes, prohibiting local regulation of vessel operation on the Florida Intracoastal Waterway in the interests of freedom of navigation and statewide uniformity. Although we do not have a detailed navigation chart of the Key West area in this office, as near as we can tell the waters surrounding the island are part of the Intracoastal Waterway.

"There are also, as you point out, questions of conflict with Federal Maritime and Admiralty Law, not to mention violation of riparian rights in denying dinghies and tenders access to shoreline property. We are endeavoring to get some answers from the Seventh District of the U.S. Coast Guard in Miami."



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The SSYC went to the City Commission about the problem and they were directed to the Port and Transit Authority. The initial meeting there was fruitless. Later, however, Chairman Applerouth said that, if a written proposal were submitted it would be given a hearing. In fact, he and Mr. Frank Veliz said that if the group gave them something positive they would listen, set up a special hearing if necessary and try to help. Then on Wednesday, November 24, Chairman Applerouth said that they would allow the dinghies to come ashore once again.

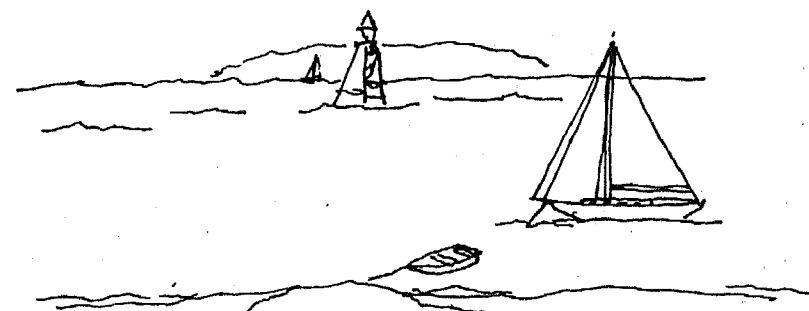
Therefore, the SSYC will present the following proposal at the next meeting of the Port and Transit Authority.

1. Twelve safe moorings will be put down and maintained by the Simonton Street Yacht Club in the area bounded by the ship channel, the extension of the west boundary of the property now owned by Brito's Shipyard, the extension of the east boundary of the property now owned by Pier House. These moorings will be located so that moored yachts will be well clear of the launching ramp and the piers for this purpose.
2. These twelve moorings are strictly temporary, for loading supplies and/or equipment for visiting yachtsmen and/or yachtsmen waiting for a marina berth, and have a time limit of seventy-two hours. The Yacht Club will be responsible for informing owners of this time limit, and for legal behavior of crews and guests on board said yachts.
3. In addition to #2, the north two-thirds of the rock jetty, now owned by the Army Corps of Engineers will be designated to take care of any overflow of yachts who have no room at the twelve moorings in #2. No yachts will protrude more than sixty feet from the mean edge of the rocks out of water at low tide so that free traffic through Key West Bight will not be hampered.
4. The trash and waste, both on the rock jetty and off Simonton Street will be either carried away or paid for its removal by a commercial trash removal company by the Yacht Club from the barrel now located near the bicycle rack at the end of Simonton Street.
5. The beach area from the launching ramp for small boats to the east end of the extension of the property now owned by the Pier House will be designated as a dinghy landing area. Dinghies will be pulled up high enough so swimmers will not be hampered, and a suggestion will be made to each visiting yachtsman that the dinghy be identified with name and number of the parent yacht.

Adopted by the Simonton Street Yacht Club
11-24-76

The club members will also have a brochure of do's and don't's printed and distributed to the boaters.

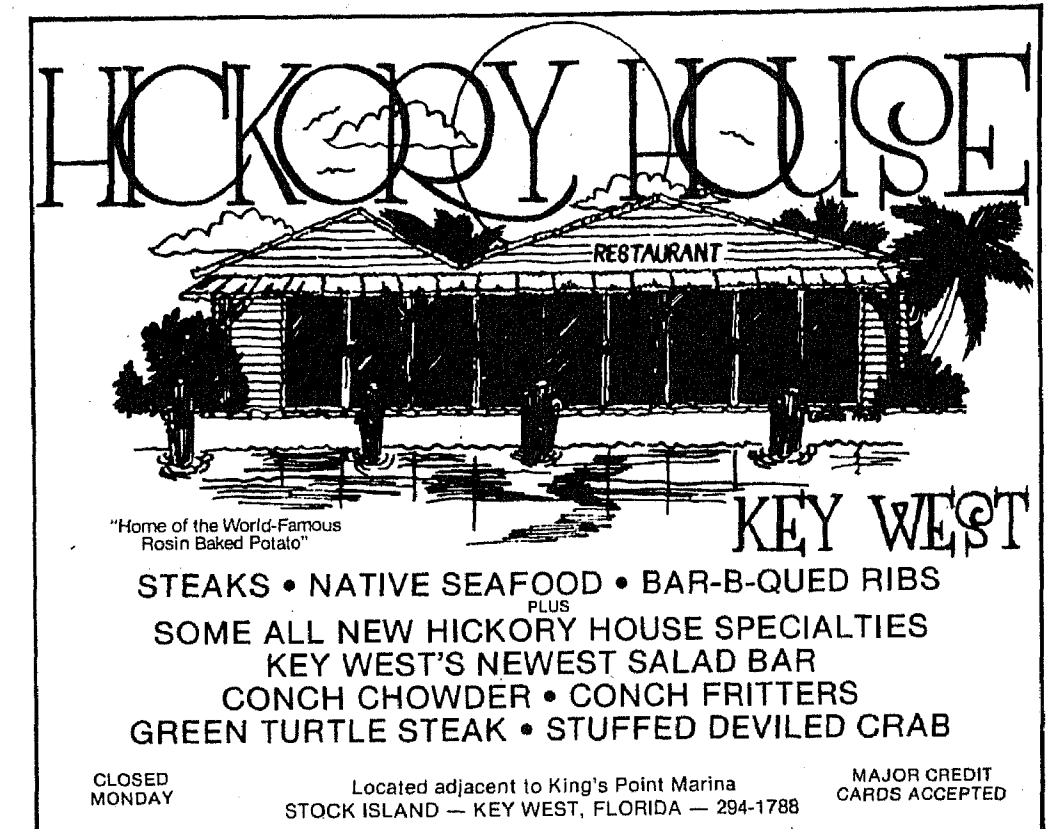
Former City Attorney Michael Cates has said that the intent of Ordinance 75-8 was not to ban the boats but simply to give the city some control over this area. Hopefully, the reasonable proposal of the Simonton Street Yacht Club, if allowed, will alleviate this intolerable situation.




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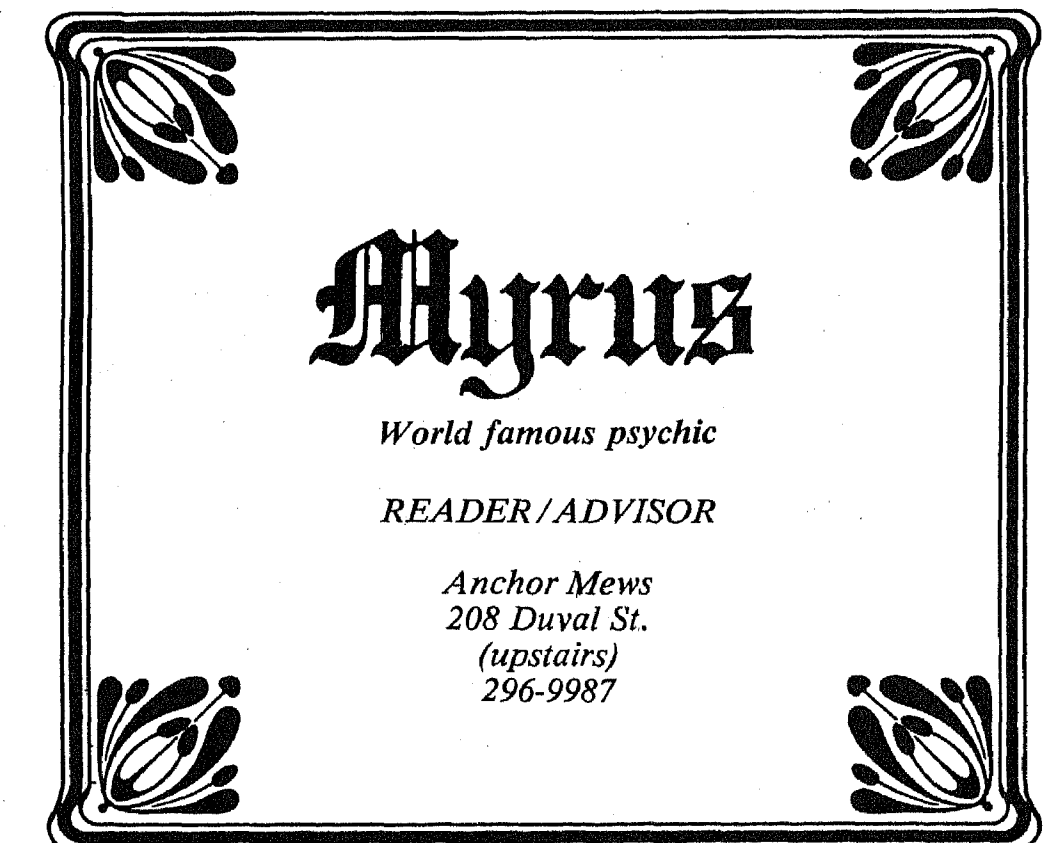
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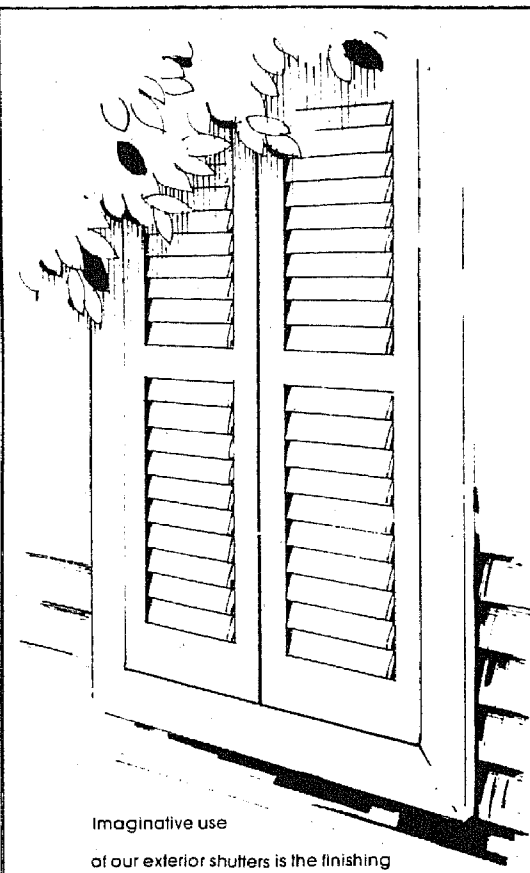
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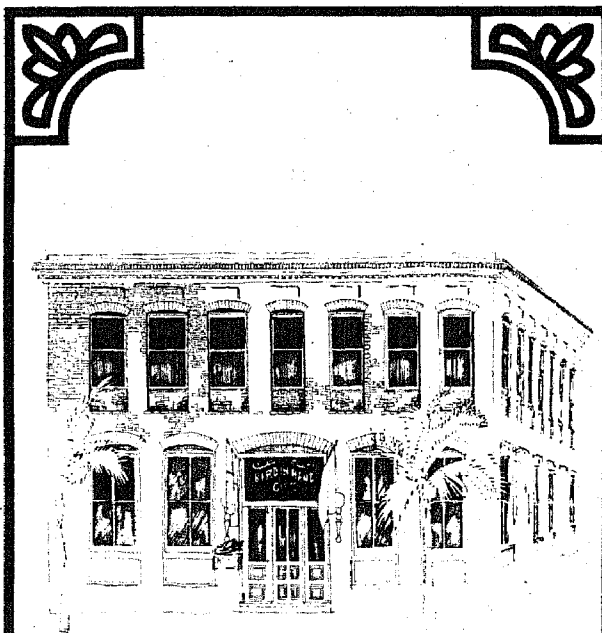
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WATER: a crisis

(This excellent article first appeared in the 1987 issue of *Martello*, a publication of the Key West Historical Society. It traces the history of water in Key West from early times to 1987.)

by Colin Jameson

It seems ironic that a dot of land surrounded by an astronomical cubic mileage of H₂O should be so thirsty. Yet the Island of Key West is notorious for its lack of potable water except during hurricanes and other cataclysms of nature.

One of the latter, to be sure, makes such a statement almost incredible. Travel back in memory to Saturday, November 13, 1954, when scattered showers were predicted for the Key West area. After 18 hours of these "showers", a total of 19.88 inches of rain had fallen on the island.

As an indication of how heavy the downpour was, this reporter can cite two reminiscences. In our back yard we kept a 14-foot boat. Two hoses used as siphons were scarcely adequate to prevent this craft from becoming so heavy that it would collapse its ageing trailer.

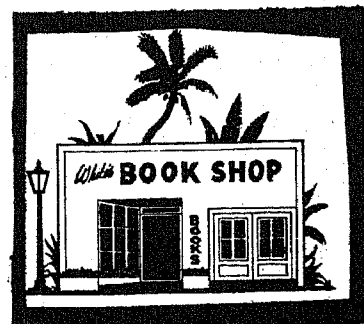
The previous day both my wife and I had noticed that the gallon jug supplying the car's windshield washer was bone dry. After the storm this container was overflowing, though only one operative pinhole provided access to it.

It rained so hard that the next day the surface of the sea around the island was fresh to a depth of over a foot. It was so wet that at various points in the city motorboats plied freely.

One of the popular yachting areas was the intersection of Angela and Simonton Streets, where the City Hall is now located. Here one finds a natural depression at the foot of the dizzy heights of Solares Hill, 22 feet above sea level. Water often collects, and on the occasion noted there was so much of it that fuel oil floated across the street into the magnificent garden of Mrs. Albert J. Mills, doing grievous damage.

Over a century ago, that particular location was, for the same geographic reasons, the site of the "Middle Springs," perhaps the most important source of fresh water on the island. But Key West's water history, as we know it, goes back still another century, to 1763.

In that year two things occurred which were to prove of conclusive importance to the Key West of today.



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(1) The remnants of the Caloosa Indians were driven to Key West and exterminated, presumably by the Seminoles, leaving their bones to provide us with the Spanish designation Cayo Hueso, or Bone Key, later anglicized to "Key West."

(2) As a result of the Treaty of Paris, the Spanish, who had made the mistake of joining in the Seven Years War just before France lost it, were required to cede Florida to England in return for Havana, which the British had captured. (If the U.S. is ever dismembered by the Communist bloc, one can see in this bit of history, and in the later recession of Florida to Spain by the Treaty of Paris of 1783, a semi-plausible claim to the Sunshine State on the part of Fidel Castro, as heritor of the Spanish captain-general.)

The British commissioned a Netherlander, one John Gerard William de Brahm, to survey their new prize. In 1769 de Brahm's assistant, Bernard Romans, another Dutchman, undertook to explore the future State. In 1775 he published his "A Concise Natural History of Florida," to which we are indebted for the first authentic word about the water situation in the Keys.

Romans' report is perhaps a bit sanguine, for he makes the blanket assertion that "all keys abound in water and venison." But maybe it was salt water that he glimpsed through the teeming herds of deer. As far as the Upper Keys go, he does make the specific statement that there was a "good well on the east end of Young Matecumbe" (Upper Matecumbe to be).

When Romans reached Key West, he wrote as follows: "The S.W. end of the island lies in Lat. 24 degrees N Long. 81 degrees 15W. It has a shallow ledge close to it on this south. The point is a low kind of savannah on which one or two single trees appear near which there is a well of very ordinary water." (Probably it was brackish.)

"Within the anchorage place eastward of the point is a path leading to a well or pond of excellent fresh water round which a low kind of stone wall is placed and the trees are marked with many names: the ground is trodden like a sheep crawl, occasioned by the deer who resort here to drink, etc. This watering place is 1/4 mile from the beach." (Perhaps this was the Middle Springs, or City Hall lake, already mentioned, for the shoreline was much closer in those days.)

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Lt. M.C. Perry's report on Key West (1822) reveals the following:

"The western end is the only part of the island that can be approached by anything larger than a boat. The watering place is two miles from the anchorage ground and situated on the south side of the island, the well 100 yards from the beach." From the mentioned distances, this does not seem to be the well or pond mentioned by Romans, but rather his "well of very ordinary water," or possibly the spring later known as Porter's Spring at the end of Whitehead Street.

Perry goes on to say that he had "enlarged the wells and enclosed one with a fence. He found another well, but probably did not get as far as Middle Springs.

In 1828 we hear of these again, when Theodore Owens purchased from Thomas McAfee "1 kiln of lime containing 100 barrels at Middle Springs."

In 1829 Wm. A. Whitehead's map of the city shows the Middle Springs on the northwest corner of Simonton and Angela, with a path going to Whitehead Street, then the only fully completed artery.

This may have been the path mentioned by Romans 60 years before. Visiting ships used to roll their empty water casks down the walkway to replenish supplies.

The Columbia Laundry, now in this location, was placed there because of the readily available water (now lost, apparently, perhaps through modern drainage).

There were, of course, other sources of water, including the famous "Pirate's Well," exact location indeterminate. But not too long after Lt. Perry's visit the use of cisterns to catch rainwater began.

Still visible in Mallory Square are the remains of those constructed to supply water to passing ships. Because of the high water table, they were built mostly above the ground.

In residential installations the water was sometimes filtered through charcoal. If a household also boasted a well, the cistern water could be conserved and flow only to a single outlet in the kitchen for drinking and cooking purposes.

In later years the health authorities instituted an anti-mosquito service for private cisterns. A man came around with little fish and dumped them in to eat the larvae.

For some illogical reason - perhaps because they performed a valuable function - these fish, which had to disintegrate in death and be drunk along with water, were never unpopular like the pigeons which overflowed the water-collecting roofs.

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Wells were originally operated with buckets or hand pumps. One of the best on the island was dug on Solares Hill in 1883 to the depth of 27 feet by Douglas T. Sweeny, soft drink manufacturer and wholesale liquor, wine and beer dealer, whose factory was there located, back of the house still today occupied by his daughter, Mrs. Charlotte Larranage. Doubtless this well drew from the same sources as the nearby Middle Springs.

Mr. Sweeny's business, which was moved to this location from Whitehead Street in 1876, prospered to such an extent that he had to create his own rainwater collection and storage facilities to supplement the well water.

He combined these with what the French would call "caves" for the proper maintenance of his supplies of alcoholic beverages, digging a deep two-story cellar, which would have been impossible anywhere except on Solares Hill, and roofing it over for water collection. In the cellar the temperature remained at 80 degrees F. the year round.

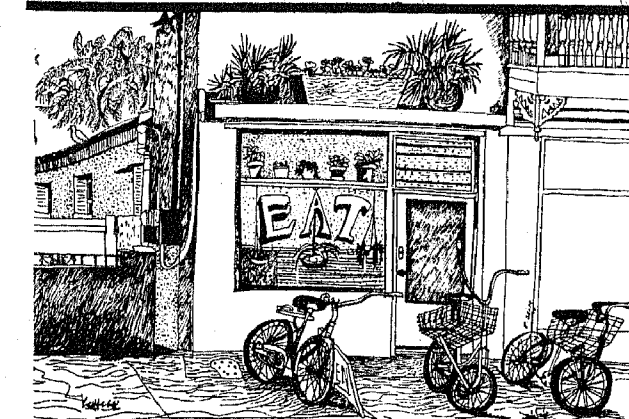
Key West remained wholly dependent on wells and cisterns until the railroad arrived in 1912. Thereafter the F.E.C. made small additions to the water supply of the Keys, largely for its own benefit. Water was transported in cypress tanks on flatcars, and when rain had been deficient tank cars were used to top off visiting P. & O. liners.

In 1949 the State of Florida created (as at intervals it recreates), the Florida Keys Aqueduct Commission. This move resulted from a federal offer under the National Defense Appropriations Act to put up \$2,000,000 for a pipeline if the State would cooperate.

In December of the following year the Navy and the commission completed an 18-inch line from deep wells at Florida City on the mainland, 125 miles away. The arrangement was that the Navy would defray two-thirds of the cost and receive two-thirds of the water, while the F.K.A.C. would have a one-third share of expenses and product.

All well and good - on paper. But by mid-1943 the line had developed so many leaks that one-third to one-half of the water was being lost.

Eyewitnesses to the rapid construction of the aqueduct report that carelessness was probably a factor in the sieve-like qualities of many of the pipes. It seems that lengths were sometimes dropped into their beds of marl, instead of being carefully lowered. Thus the anti-rust coating was scraped and scarred, inviting corrosion. Initially, also, insufficient provision was made to



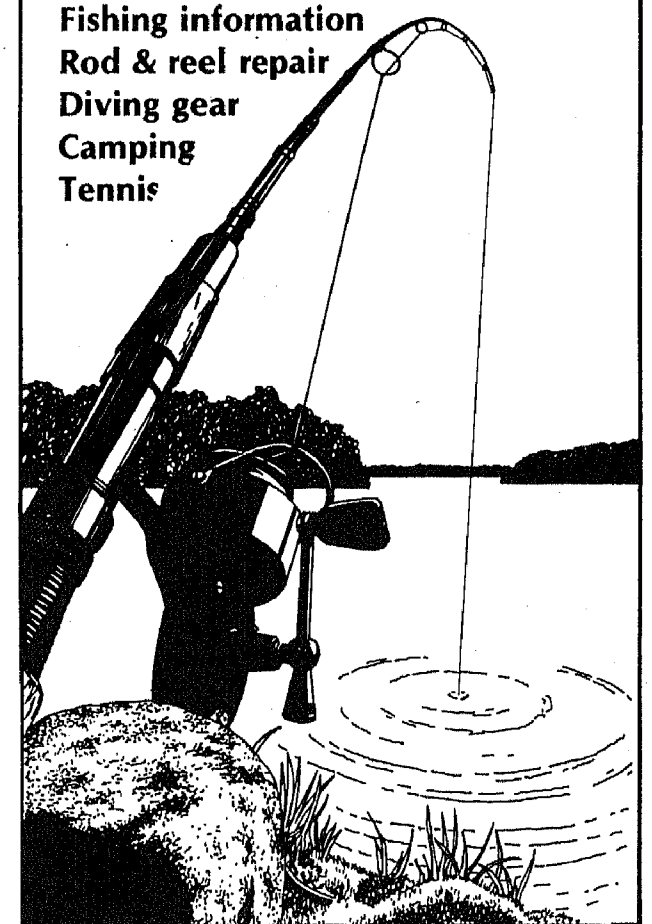
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The Aqueduct Commission was unable to keep ahead of its costs. By 1949 it owed the Navy more than half a million dollars. Congress thereupon permitted the Navy to cancel its contract with the commission, and the investment of the State of Florida was refunded. Thereafter the Navy was sole owner of the pipeline.

Meanwhile the civilian development of the Keys and Key West created such a vaulting demand for water that the line became entirely inadequate. Pressures often dropped so low that a consumer with a second story had to install a booster pump if he wanted to wash his hands upstairs.

A few householders had not followed the anti-mosquito advice issued when the pipeline went into operation and had not filled in their cisterns. These were now reactivated by their lucky owners, but for the rest of the populace things got worse before they got better.

In 1958 the F.K.A.C. began planning a new parallel pipeline, but how this was to be financed was a question that even a crystal ball could not answer.

The commission did build three booster stations at Cross Key, Long Key and Ramrod Key, three 500,000-gallon reservoirs in the Upper Keys, and tanks holding 10,000,000 gallons on Stock Island.

The line now had a capacity of 6,500,000 gallons per day, and it was hoped that the shortage would be allayed.

Nevertheless, the treatment plant at Florida City could handle only 5,000,000 gallons, and the population increase continued inexorably. Money problems grew more acute. And by the next year it became plain

that a parallel was financially impossible.

The 1963 military build-up in the area forced the by-passing of well water around the treatment plant until the Navy objected and cut civilian consumption from its normal 3.6 million g.p.d. to 2.8.

By October 1964 the F.K.A.C. had wangled \$250,000 at three per cent from the Florida Internal Improvement Fund and boosted treatment capacity to 7.4 million.

But the extra power to push twice as much water through the pipe as the designed capacity raised costs geometrically, as it did leakage. (For example, 36,000,000 gallons were lost in the 3-month period ending August 31, 1966.) The consumer price for 1,000 gallons had to be raised from \$1.35 to \$1.52.

And demand kept on surging upward. It was now estimated that a parallel pipeline would run in the neighborhood of \$40,000,000. Yet this was one of two solutions proposed by the Office of Saline Water of the Department of the Interior. The other was a \$44,000,000 combination nuclear power and desalination plant.

Aside from the insupportable expense of either project, where would the F.K.A.C. sell the 10,000,000 daily gallons from the desalination plant and market the 50,000 kw. of nuclear-produced power?

The Aqueduct Commission turned to Fluor Corporation, which had pioneered a desalination plant at Point Loma (San Diego), producing 750,000 g.p.d. (This was the plant which was knocked down and shipped to Guantanamo when Fidel Castro turned off that base's water.)

The process recommended by Fluor is called "single-train, multi-stage, flash desalination." Here is how it works:

Salt water is heated by steam under pressure, so that it does not boil when the temperature rises above 212 degrees.

At about 230 degrees the brine flows into a chamber where the pressure is slightly lower. Instantly some of the water will turn into steam. This rises and condenses on pipes carrying seawater at normal temperature and drips into troughs beneath the pipes.

The hot seawater, now a little cooler, flows into another chamber where the pressure is still lower. Another flash evaporation occurs. This process continues through 50 stages. What remains of the seawater, now at 88 degrees F. and 5 percent salt instead of the original 3 per cent is returned to the ocean.

According to information collected by the F.K.A.C. from desalination installations at Point Loma, Wilmington, N.C., and the Virgin Islands, as well as from the Office of Saline Water, fish and other marine life suffer no ill effects from the discharge of brine with this 40 percent increase in concentration.

A desalination plant of the type recommended would draw 10,000,000 gallons of seawater a day from three wells up to 200 feet deep, only two of these being used at the same time. Fresh water capacity would be 2,620,000 g.p.d. (as compared with the more than 3,000,000 gallons now purchased from the Navy.)

Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co. bid \$3,369,000 on a contract to construct on Stock Island what will be the largest desalination plant in the world (temporarily - Los Angeles is planning a 150,000,000-gallon installation for the future).

A loan for \$4,446,000 was floated with the Community Facilities Agency of the Federal Government as "interim financing" until bonds are sold. If the bond market is unreceptive, the C.F.A. will buy the bonds at the 4 percent interest currently being paid for the interim financing.

Ground was broken on July 12, 1966; the deadline for completion of the plant is March 3, 1967. Westinghouse has experienced certain construction delays due to a strike, Hurricane Inez and an accident, but it is expected that the new facility will go on the line only a month or so late. The distilled water it produces will be mixed with pipeline water to give it taste, and the price will remain at \$1.52 per thousand gallons.

What of the future? It looks reasonably rosy. At present the City of Key West has a storage capacity of 17,000,000 gallons of fresh water, the rest of the Keys 5,000,000 gallons. The desal plant, plus reduced purchases from the Navy, are expected to take care of foreseeable water needs till 1972.

At that time one of several courses may be adopted by the F.K.A.C. Another desal plant of the same type and capacity as the present one may be constructed. By then the City Electric System will have built a steam-powered generating plant next door, and used steam may be economically purchased for the heating of sea water.

Up the Keys the Aqueduct Commission is now experimenting with brackish well water. This fluid contains only one tenth as great a concentration of minerals as the sea. It may lend itself to other, cheaper desalting processes. This continued on page 29

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Beers, Banks and Burials

by Bud Jacobson

Some Recollections of a Crazy Political Year

THERE NEVER was a wackier, wilder or more intensely fought political war in the topsy-turvy history of Key West and Monroe County than the one between the late Rep. Bernie C. Papy and his young challenger, Hilario (Charlie) Ramos, Jr., in 1962.

In the heat it generated, it caused family divisions that even to this day are recalled somewhat bitterly among the old Conch and Cuban factions, pitted relatives against each other, business against business and totally disrupted the local population in a struggle the likes of which had never been seen before and probably won't be seen again.

But even after it was over and it had been proven that the myth of invincibility surrounding Bernie C. Papy, the King of the Keys for 28 years, could be cracked, there were after-shocks in subsequent elections that all but cancelled out the force and effect of the upheaval.

THE RIFT between the opposing camps of Papy and Ramos came to an explosive head in the 21 crucial days between the first primary and the runoff in May, 1962.

Ramos' father was then as he is now the county's distributor for Budweiser beer. Papy owned the major interest in Saunders' Wholesale, the county's distributor for Schlitz. The two biggest beers.

the city and the county, as far north as the county line where Harry Harris, former top banana on the county commission for over 30 years, wielded the strength for Papy's forces throughout the campaign.

THE YEAR was 1962.

John F. Kennedy was in the White House and the mood of the country was one of exhilaration. Youth in politics seemed to be coming into its own, personified by the young, witty, handsome Irish-American in Washington.

IT WAS SPRING in Key West, and after a three-year meteoric rise over the political horizon Charlie Ramos was poised on the edge of pulling off one of the most startling upsets in Florida's recent history.

Unknown to anyone then, in the early months of 1962, he was about to defeat State Rep. Bernie C. Papy, the acknowledged "King of the Keys" since 1934. Papy was now Dean of the House, having served 14 straight terms in office -- 28 years in power.

Ramos, barely in his twenties in 1962, was from one of the city's best known and most prominent Spanish-descended families. They owned considerable property, and members of the family were respected in local circles and in business.

Charlie had put in a term on the city commission in the somewhat musty

both feet -- again well-publicized. Very soon Ramos' outspoken performances and fiery speeches in city hall attracted more than passing interest from the public in general. He caught the eye of several influential men and women who were key persons in the city and county's "reform-minded" group, although they were not organized as such. For years they had tried unsuccessfully to wrest control of the county's political destiny from Papy -- but that powerhouse was seemingly impervious.

WHAT MADE IT SO, in those years before the Home Rule amendment to the state's constitution, was that the county's legislator had full and complete authority over what were innocently called "local bills." He could pass them without fear of opposition, and over a period of time they had the effect of making the legislator an absolute ruler of his own county.

Local bills were passed for this county creating public agencies, appointing members to boards, controlling employment, granting highly lucrative liquor licenses, both in the city and outside, setting up rules and procedures, granting the right to float bond issues, and so forth. The sheer power in the hands of the legislator was incredible. And besides, shrewd as he always was, Papy's personal legal counsel was the late J. Lancelot Lester, Sr., who was

Papy simply passed a new local bill reducing the city's elected representation on that board to one (the mayor) and replaced Chappell with his own man. The anguished outcry from the "reform-minded" citizenry, Papy's ostensible opposition, was more huffing and puffing. The court, under the late Judge Aquilino Lopez, Jr., ruled Papy's action legal and fully within his power.

ANOTHER local bill passed by Papy at the time created the short-lived but powerful Public Works Board. It was given authority by the legislative act to float a bond issue for capital improvements in the City of Key West, over and above the authority already vested in the city commission.

The five-man board consisted of Hilario Ramos, Sr.; real estate broker Jim Flenner; businessman Sam Braverman, a wheeler-dealer on the fringe of politics for many years; the late Ernest A. Ramsey, manager of the Florida Keys Aqueduct and a member of the powerful utility board at C.E.S.; and the late retired Adm. E.R. (Ned) McCarthy.

What they achieved with the bond issue was the building of city hall on Angela; renovation of the Mallory docks area into what it is today, a tourist mecca in old downtown; renovation of old warehouses now a proud part of the city's property.

DESPITE the definite improvement gained from that Papy action, the reformers and anti-Papyites continued to chomp at the bit and were gradually, almost unknowingly, shaping up for another election war, this time using Charlie Ramos as their weapon.

Ramos continued his colorful career in city hall and linked up with another "young veteran" politician, Harry F. Knight (now the county's tax collector), and together they formed a breakaway team, challenging the old ways and forcing much of the city's business out in the open. They made hard-nosed speeches about "one-man rule from Tallahassee" and lighted fires of discontent around the fringes of the Papy side. Ramos was not going unnoticed.

In one of his city hall talks, shaking his finger at the audience, Ramos denounced another "special act," as "the rape of the City of Key West." He was getting more and more exposure in the local media.

BERNIE, on the other hand, was the undisputed leader and shrewd political guide for all the years he held office. He deserved the title as "the King of the Keys," but he was no show off. He was personally in touch with the man-on-the-street. He operated quietly and skillfully in Key West as well as in the state capitol where he was a pivotal figure in the old "Pork Chop Gang," a passel of small-county-oriented legislators who held deciding votes in the legislature.

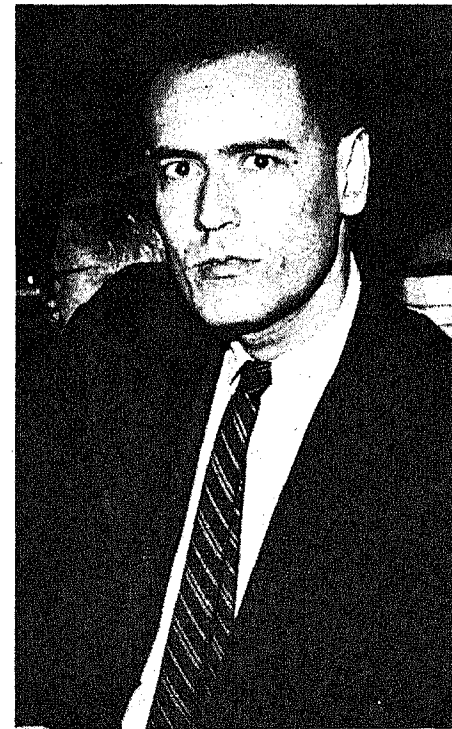
Like Ramos, he was a Conch of the old family tradition. His family had come here from the St. Augustine area, and going farther back, Papy's ties had originated in the Mediterranean area; his great-grandfather was Gaspar Papy, a Turk.

In Tallahassee he saw to it that "my people," as he liked to call all Monroe Countians, Conchs and non-Conchs alike, were not left out in the cold when it came to getting their share of the state's business, jobs, public works projects, funding for roads and bridges and more.

After the sessions in Tallahassee (then held every other year) Bernie would come back to Key West and take up his roost in front of his office on Simonton Street, across from the post office. The door to the narrow little



Bernie Papy in the 1960's



Charlie Ramos at the time of his election

also state attorney for this district and attorney for the City Electric System's utility board. Lester's legal genius was behind many of the local bills (at the behest of Papy) and specially the one creating the City Electric System.

The fourth corner of the powerful Papy combine was the late Claude Gandolfo, tax assessor at the time. The inner circle then included Papy, Wilson, Lester and Gandolfo.

THE INHERENT power of those local bills was dramatically displayed once when Papy, displeased with some nagging and potentially embarrassing questions about closed files and payrolls at the City Electric, reached down from Tallahassee to Key West and casually swatted the pesky political mosquito who'd been raising a ruckus.

The "mosquito" was none other than Bill G. Chappell, now a circuit court judge, who had been a city commissioner and, by the law creating the utility board, was a member of that five-man board along with the mayor of the city.

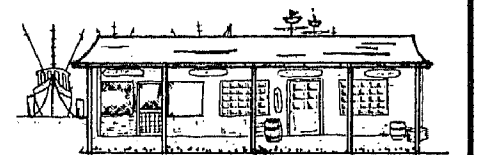
atmosphere of the old city hall, where among many of the moves he became embroiled in was the removal of the Cuban flag from the podium behind the mayor's seat. The Cuban flag had been there for years, with Old Glory on the righthand side, but after the U.S. and Fidel Castro came to blows, and the Soviet Union was firmly entrenched in that island 90 miles south of here, feelings ran high.

The city commission wanted the Cuban colors out of there, and Ramos spoke strongly in favor of the action.

City hall rocked that night with shouted Cuban protests and the waving of fists from the pro-Castro people, while the mayor pounded the gavel and hurrahs came from the equally noisy faction favoring the removal. English and Spanish were mixed in the babble of voices, but the commissioners succeeded in the face of a hotheaded mob.

THAT WAS only one of the several well-publicized occasions that Ramos was involved in as a central figure. Along came the unpopular utility tax proposal and he landed in that controversy with

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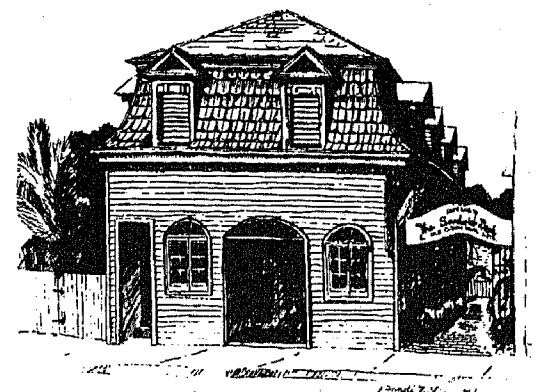


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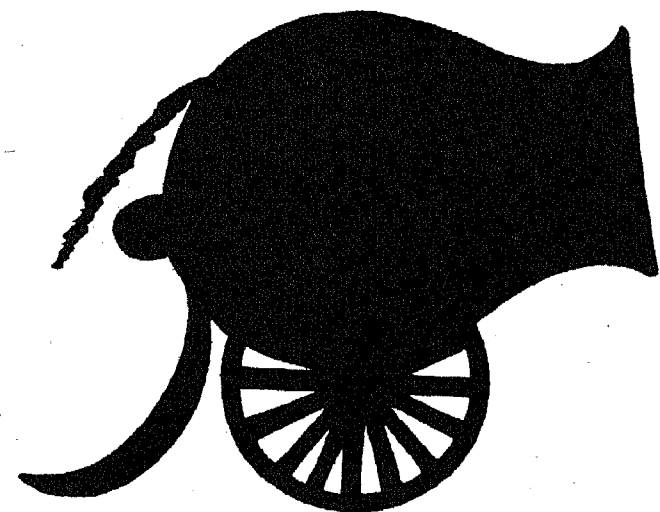


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November 11, 1976

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF THE KEYS AND OUR OTHER FRIENDS EVERYWHERE:

This month marks the third anniversary of Air Sunshine progress since the former AAT Airlines (based in Miami) was acquired and Key West became the home of a regularly-scheduled, fully-certified airline.

Air Sunshine began as part of the Florida Keys and was a promise to the Keys, a promise that is being fulfilled by greatly increased and improved air service, by solid contributions to the area economy through major employment, and by boosting all-important tourism.

Air Sunshine, the Florida Keys' own airline, a private industry with a public service conscience, has invested considerable money, effort and ingenuity to improve the service so vital to the orderly, prosperous development of the Keys. Through innovative fares, the airline has provided special breaks to Keys residents and provided incentives to attract more visitors to Key West and the Keys. We fly fragile cargo with care, critically needed cargo with speed, and your air mail — by regular and by special aircraft. The 93c "Pelican Pouch" service for shipping small packages or documents is successful and will soon be expanded.

I think we have a good track record ... I won't go into the whole story right here but I can point out some milestones in our efforts.

This year (through Sept.) we carried 84,197 passengers; we expect by year's end to have carried about 107,640 passengers — that's over 2,600 MORE than both Air Sunshine and Southeast Airline combined carried all of last year! The year before that we carried 31,900.

We carry your freight and mail, too. We even have a special cargo-only plane. The figures for Jan.-Aug. 1976 show a 22% increase over 1975! And this fall we have completed the first of the interline agreements to expand "Pelican Pouch" service beyond Key West/Marathon/Miami/Tampa to points north. This has been a very, very popular service, according to reports we've heard from you, and one you have long needed.

Did you know that when Air Sunshine began, there were only 24 employees? There are 100 of us now (as of Nov. 1 1976) — and we're still growing. Most Air Sunshine personnel are located in the Keys, with others in Miami and Tampa. The payroll has increased too, of course: for the fiscal year ending June 30 1976 it was \$730,000. (For the fiscal year ending June 30 1974 it was \$167,568.) And as most of the Air Sunshine people live in the Keys, most of that payroll is spent (or saved) in the Keys. That is a genuine, solid contribution to our economy. We have one of the very top private-industry payrolls in the county.

We now have ten computerized console units to enhance our reservations system with its vital interline connections with the nation and the world. We used to have none. They're at Key West and Marathon and Miami and Tampa. In Key West alone the reservations specialists averaged more than 600 of your calls a day!

Agreements concluded by Air Sunshine with other major national and international air carriers amount to thousands of dollars of savings to Air Sunshine travelers each year. We have more joint fare agreements benefiting travelers than almost any other commuter air carrier in the U.S.A. And we sparked nationwide interest with our efforts to implement a senior citizen half-fare space-available fee, a fare that has had invaluable meaning to the senior citizens of Monroe County.

Always conscious of the value of tourism to Key West and the Keys, we developed, with the cooperation of hotels, motels, businesses and other tourist attractions, a series of innovative travel packages designed to encourage visitors to come down and enjoy our warmth and hospitality.

With faith in the Florida Keys and strong support from you its residents, Air Sunshine is working continuously to improve and expand air service. On Dec. 1 1976 our schedule of Key West/Marathon/Miami and Key West/Marathon/Tampa flights will be significantly increased — compare for yourself the new schedule and that of only three years ago! In terms of commuter air carrier services nationwide, I think our frequency of service is outstanding!

And with the expansion of service come other benefits to the Keys — including purchases of supplies, equipment and services from other private businesses plus fees and taxes paid by the airline. And that's the way we like it, the way we planned it, because ...

We are part of the community. We live here, work here. We buy here, pay taxes here. We care and we try.

Sincerely,

Frank V. Bervaldi

Dr. Frank V. Bervaldi
President, Chief Executive Officer

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office, smelling richly of Havana cigar smoke, was labeled "Real Estate." Among other things, Bernie held a broker's license.

Next door was his insurance agency, Key West Insurance, where his partner was listed on the door as Howard E. Wilson. The same as the bank president and the tax collector.

BERNIE WOULD often sit on the curb, his perky Bahamian straw hat with its polka dot band tilted to shade his sun-glassed eyes, the inevitable cigar in one corner of his mouth.

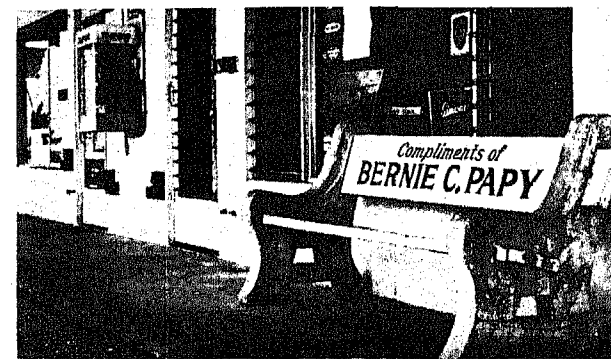
He talked with everyone. Swapped jokes, traded gossip, heard rumors, listened to thousands of hard-luck stories and helped out wherever he could — a few bucks here, a bag of groceries there, a pair of glasses for some child, paying an overdue bill for an old down-and-out friend.

He even held infrequent and unplanned "press hearings," where he might leak a story about some state project coming to the Keys soon, or about some legislation he had a hand in, and maybe, as an aside, he'd pass along some hot rumors he'd heard about "the other side," those opposed to his organization.

One of his corniest but perhaps most effective bits of advertising could be seen all over the city. They were white-painted benches with red scroll lettering saying:

"Compliments of Bernie C. Papy."

They were well known by the Navy, whose presence here in those years was as natural as the sun and sand. A submarine crew dismantled one of them one hilarious night and packed it aboard the boat. When they joined the Fleet in the Mediterranean, they uncared Bernie's bench and set it up in Rome!



BUT AS EVER with the way of the world (and especially in politics where change is Rule No. 1), as one local observer put it:

"The outs wanted in, and the ins wanted to stay there."

Through 14 terms in the Florida legislature, Bernie had carefully molded an interlocking power structure for himself and his minions in the Keys. Whenever his domination seemed threatened, Papy's favorite strategy was to beat his opponent heavily in the election and then placate the opposition by doling out political plums — like appointing his opponent to a cushy public job, naming him to a judicial seat if one was open, or in some way smoothing the ruffled feathers.

LONG YEARS in power, though, led inevitably to abuses mainly through his tremendous influence inside the county courthouse, which was ruled then by the county commission. Several elected county officeholders were clearly indebted to Bernie for his strong support.

The benefits to friends and backers came through tax breaks, public jobs, road deals, real estate preferences, inside tips on impending developments on the Keys, where surrounding land could be bought cheaply and then jump sharply in value once a road or bridge was announced.

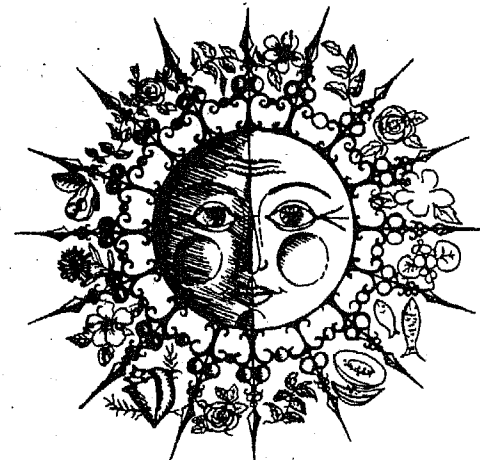
The political game played here was as old and familiar as dominoes. It's the same game played anywhere there's a single dominant boss.

BUT THERE comes a time...

And the time, in the spring of 1962, arrived with Ramos as the man on the scene, at the right time in the right place.
to be continued next issue

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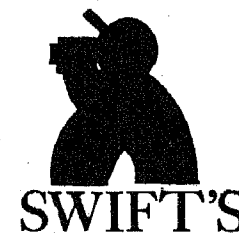
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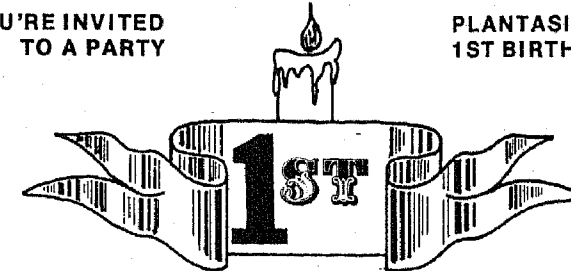
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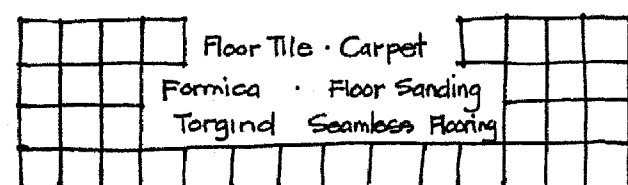
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Roy Butler

A splendid piece of metal sculpture graces the lobby of the Ramada Inn. A mangrove tree with birds flying overhead is the theme of this lovely art work. The artist, Roy Butler, is well-known throughout the world. Key West can legitimately call him one of its own.

Roy was born in Staten Island 42 years ago and moved here when he was 15 years old. He went to High School in Key West and played football for the team. After returning from the service he married Sandra Carbonell, daughter of local dentist Fred Carbonell, and worked at the Navy Yard.

One day Roy got to fooling around with a torch and fashioned a pelican from some pieces of metal that were around the base. He got interested in working with this medium and soon was turning out metal birds and fishes for friends.

Finally he sold a bird to a local gallery for \$645 and, aided and encouraged by local artist Paul Stevens, Roy really got under way. Then, fatefully, due to a cut-back at the Navy Base, his old job was discontinued and he was offered a new one. It was now 1969, and Roy had been working at his sculpture for 11 years.

Roy Butler made a momentous decision. Encouraged by his parents, he decided to take the big leap. He left the Navy Base, sold his house, cashed in his bonds and headed up to the Lauderdale area where there was a bigger potential to sell his metal sculpture.

Just as the last of his money ran out, Roy landed a big commission from the Tampa Airport. He designed a collection of flying birds for their lobby. The commissions began to come in after that and he was soon established as a leading artist. He is currently in

Hand of Man
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Saudi Arabia working on a commission for an Arab businessman.
Roy's mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Butler, Sr., still live here.



photo by Dennis Henize

Also, three of his aunts call Key West home. One of them, Mrs. Elida Sederberg has been here for fifty years. His other two aunts, Mrs. Renata Francis and Mrs. Helen Rafalsky, have lived here for many years.

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fish STORY

by Dick Smitten

KEY WEST IS FULL OF SEA CAPTAINS AND SEA FARING MEN. THEY ALL HAVE STORIES TO TELL...SOME TRUE, SOME NOT SO TRUE. THIS ONE WAS TOLD TO ME BY ONE OF KEY WEST'S MOST FAMOUS CAPTAINS (AND BARTENDERS). I BELIEVE IT IS MOSTLY TRUE.

The time was 1948, the war had ended but the navy base was still very active. A young navy seaman first class (a Key West native stationed in Key West, the son of a commercial fisherman), had been fishing the reef for snapper and grouper every night for a week in his father's boat. And every night as the snapper and grouper started to follow the chum line and circle his boat so did the sharks.

Frustrated with the sharks cutting off his catch before they reached the boat he tried desperately to find a "solution." After a few days he came up with the idea of taking out a rifle and shooting the sharks. That night he went out armed and sure enough the sharks appeared and he started to shoot but all he managed to do was get the sharks more excited and into a frenzy... so his fishing was ended.

Back on shore he came up with another idea...a hand grenade. So he

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Jewelry

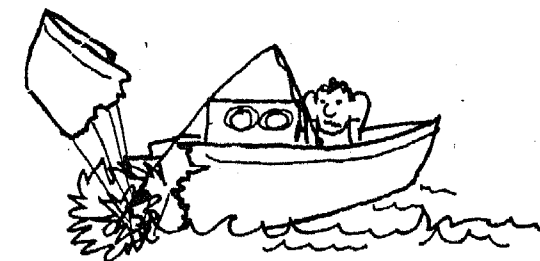
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commandeered a concussion grenade (no shrapnel); very powerful.

That night he started his chum line and got the snapper, yellowtail, and grouper to circle the boat, and for about two hours the fishing was excellent. But sure enough those big ugly sharks appeared and started to cut off his fish.

He was ready this time...he had saved a large snapper (15 pounds). He had stuffed the fish with the live grenade and a wire on the pin. He waited for the largest shark...about a 10 foot Hammerhead and threw him the loaded snapper.

The shark attacked the bait and had it in his mouth. He pulled the wire to arm the grenade and shouted with glee.



Unfortunately the shark headed right for the boat and our hero's shout turned into a scream.

The shark made it under the boat and the explosion blew off the transom (back) of the boat. The boat sank in less than 5 minutes. The other commercial boats came over and rescued our hero who was holding onto a life raft.

When he reached shore he had to explain to his father how had sunk his boat. The father didn't want to see him again for two years.

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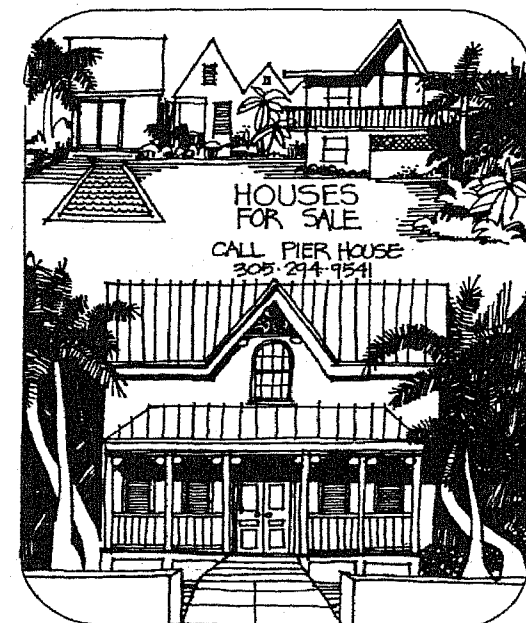
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Why I Ran by Art Weiner

The phone has stopped ringing, the final financial statements have been submitted and the "thank you" notes are in the mail. Signs, posters and bumper stickers have been taken down, trucked to the dump and burned.

Election defeat post-mortems are amongst the most melancholy of contemporary human activities. One carries out the necessary tasks rather cheerlessly. To be a bad loser is unacceptable, but what is a good loser? One cannot cheer the smoke which carries skyward one's hopes for a better future. You cannot say to your family and friends, who worked so hard, that it is a good thing to lose. One gets into the game to win, and American politics, at best, is a difficult game to play.

But dissatisfaction and unhappiness do not have to lead to bitterness and despair especially if you played hard and clean. And one really does wish the victor the best of luck, since one knows after months of analysis, how difficult the winner's job will be. But defeat does grace the loser with time for reflection and contemplation, a prize seldom granted the victor.

But why, you ask yourself in retrospect, did you choose to run for public office. A friend had said at the outset, when you had mentioned the prospect: "Only madmen and dreamers get involved in politics." "It is obvious," I replied, "given only those two choices, that I must fit into the latter category," especially since my acts were usually based upon idealistic motives (at least in my more lucid moments). But there is a definite distinction between idealism and fantasy. The ability to make this discrimination however, requires more than just brainpower.

It requires a considerable amount of life-experience in addition to an accumulation of book knowledge. This is a concept that I have always tried to get across to my students; that wisdom is the offspring of a marriage between knowledge and experience. Knowledge must be tied to experience to have meaning and experience must be tied to knowledge to have direction. As a personal operational philosophy, I have found myself, after many years in the Academy, seeking out more direct experience. Perhaps this was a source of unconscious motivation to run.

But to say that the sole motivation for such a personally significant act was just the desire for a new and unique experience, is much too simplistic. Other factors, such as obligation, responsibility and the drive for power, must also be plugged into the equation. For the past eleven years I have

watched the rape of the South Florida environment. As a graduate student at the University of Miami I was forced, because of the degree of my involvement in my studies, to bear silent witness to the tragedy. But, in my mind, it was impossible to continue nurturing an evolving love and respect for Nature yet, at the same time, remaining passive as her guts were torn out. So in order to resolve this inner conflict and maintain my sanity, I had to accept a certain responsibility for the preservation of the values which I had come to cherish. Thus, almost immediately after leaving school, I became an environmental activist.



Perhaps the decision to become actively involved in this way was simply an exercise in being human. First an awareness of Self and then participation in the "real world" through the process of accepting a challenge in a creative spirit. A decision to act is normally based upon a value judgement, a choice between a personally defined good and evil.

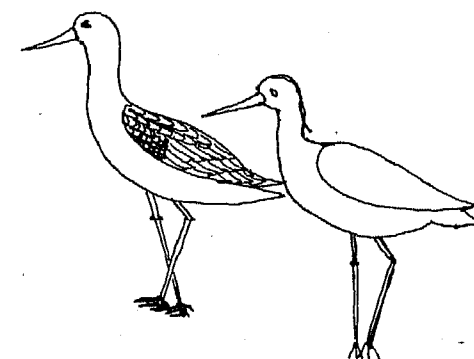
Herein is the classically accepted essence of man -- freedom of choice, or as stated by the philosopher Paul Tillich: "Man becomes truly human only at the time of decision, when he exercises free will". But this freedom is inseparably linked with responsibility both for our choice of values and our acts based upon them.

Only through this process of actively integrating ourselves with the external world do we fulfill our potential as human beings and evolve towards higher states of consciousness. This is not always easy, especially for the thinker and introvert. But as T.H. Huxley has said: "Perhaps the most valuable result of all education is the ability to make yourself do the thing you have to do, when it ought to be done, whether you like it or not; it is the first lesson that ought

to be learned; and however early a man's training begins, it is probably the last lesson that he learns thoroughly."

Thus my decision to run for a seat on the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners represented a logical act when viewed within the context of this personal commitment to become an active conservationist. When looked at from another point of view however, dedication to an ideal or noble set of values involves a certain amount of sacrifice. And to run for political office involves a considerable amount of self-sacrifice. It is at this point that one must acknowledge one's ego.

The egotistical nature of politics should be obvious to all politicians. "I" can do it better -- the ultimate power trip. "I" am sacrificing myself to my ideals. But as Aldous Huxley points out, this is simply a projection of the ego. What is commonly called self-sacrifice is the sacrifice of one part of the ego to another part, one set of personal feelings and passions for another set. Thus the drive to power is fueled by egotistical energies previously utilized to



power other desires. To underestimate the power drive of the ego is to risk missing the lesson of Watergate.

Aside from these internal factors, my motivational analysis easily discovered another component in the decision. This is the easiest to understand -- a frustration and dissatisfaction with the existing structure of the Commission. This primary level of government, embodied to be closest to the people and therefore most aware of their needs, was making a mess of things. The Commission had become almost completely unresponsive to the legitimate demands made upon them by the Monroe County citizenry.

The Commission was answerable only to special interest groups and was either unwilling or unable to plan for the orderly future development of the Keys. Because of this, we were (and are) suffering from the results of decisions which did not take into account the unique and intimate relationships between our economy, quality of life and our environment. There was no expertise on the Commission able to deal effectively with the State and Federal bureaucracies which have the ultimate regulatory authority in matters

of environmental protection, land use and resource management. Thus during the last five years, the split between the intellectual leadership of the County, who perceived this problem, and the existing local civil authority widened to a broad gulf.

Eventually opposition to our ineffective local government manifested itself in the environmental movement. This grass



roots social movement, already well under way on the mainland, inevitably emerged in the Keys because of the desperate need to preserve the economy, quality of life and environmental amenities of the area. This could only be accomplished effectively by challenging the decision-making powers vested in our local government.

Success of this strategy would be achieved through the enactment of growth guidelines and local ordinances which recognized the critical interrelationships, and through the election of competent political leaders willing to enforce the new regulations. The only source of this type of leadership was within the emergent environmental reform movement.

In the Spring of 1973 the movement coalesced through the formation of the Florida Keys Citizens Coalition, a confederation of local citizens' associations and conservation groups. After three years of existence, this alliance has grown to include 21 organizations. Its strength centered on the common goals, collective experience and expertise of its constituents. Initial successes included the "anti-hi-rise" movement, spearheaded by Upper Keys and Key West groups, the declaration of the Florida Keys as an Area of Critical Concern and the passage of a state law prohibiting the harvesting of corals.

The Coalition also acted as an environmental watchdog and information clearinghouse alerting members and regulatory agencies of improper development practices, traditionally a common practice in the Keys. On several occasions member



groups initiated and carried out litigation against proposed developments which were not in the public interest and which would have had adverse environmental consequences. Many of these cases were concluded successfully because legal and other professional expertise was coordinated through the Coalition. Although the Coalition was not explicitly political, it served to prepare its active members for front line duty.

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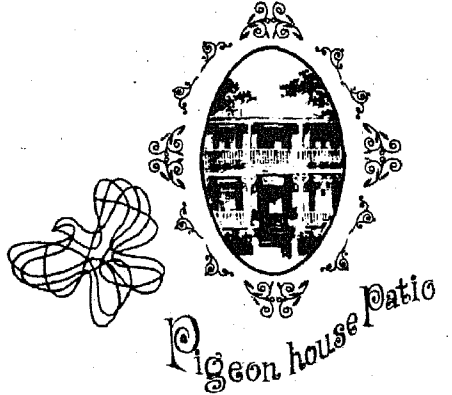
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As chairman and chief organizer of the group, I had become very familiar with the problems of the area and the need to elect new leadership to the County Commission. The 1976 election was critical to the continuing success of the movement since it afforded the opportunity to replace three incumbents. Jerome Shipley, whom most of our members supported in the 1974 election, was sympathetic to our philosophy. Thus we needed to get at least two more fellow thinkers on the Board. Don Schloesser, president of the Upper Keys Citizens Association, was the natural choice to oppose Harry Harris. At least one more candidate was needed.

And so, another determinant in my decision is identified. But during the weeks and months spent agonizing over the option, many negative aspects became apparent: an almost total lack of experience in establishment politics, the desire to maintain a private life with normal familial relationships, the negative effects on my pursuit of a professional career in teaching and science, and, last but not least, the odds against winning.

But perhaps, in the final analysis, I could not come to a rational conclusion for what was essentially an irrational decision, or as Pascal has said: "The heart has its reasons that reason takes no account of."

So it began. Announcements to the newspapers; filling of forms, financial statements, more forms, more financial statements. I discovered why there are so many attorneys in politics — they are the only ones adequately trained to cope with the red tape required to run for public office. Then, designing literature, bumper stickers, posters and signs; trips to the printers and the bank.

"Money is what it takes," the "pros" glibly advised me. "Just raise \$15,000 and the election is yours." Of course that will get you into a run-off so you

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will have to raise another \$5,000 after the first primary. Have you ever tried to raise \$15,000 offering only your integrity and credentials as collateral? Reality dawned early on this campaign. Traditionally the conservation movement has always been over-idealistic and under-financed: could it support two candidates? Slowly the money came in; friends and supporters gave generously, oftentimes contributing far more than they could actually afford. It was a harsh lesson in



humility to have your hand out every time a bill was due. But those that believed gave, and opened up their homes and hearts and asked their friends to listen and perhaps give too. Some who were in a strong position to lend support would only back a "winner." But how could you become a winner without support?

And so many of those that gave dollars also gave hours and days. Long periods of tedious, repetitive tasks: typing, folding, gluing, stamping and telephoning; standing in front of shopping

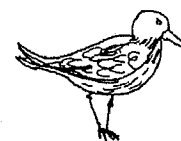
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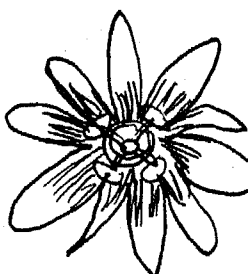
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centers and post offices tackling strangers and soliciting their support while your sensitivities melt away in the Summer heat. This is the essence of campaigning at the grass roots — work that does not engender feelings of glamor or excitement.

The logistics of running a political campaign in the Florida Keys are formidable. So very often there are meetings 100 miles apart on the same day. The miracle of the Summer was that none of the candidates was wiped out on the highway or committed hari-kari by jumping off the Seven-Mile Bridge because the turn bridge was stuck and there was now no possibility of attending the meeting of the Aardvark Protection Society, whose membership represented at least three votes.

And speeches, can you imagine what it is like to hear the same 30 speeches every day for four weeks? There were times then I felt that if I heard that same bad joke again my brain would turn to tuna fish. Polished rhetoric does not characterize a local political campaign.



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One learns about integrity, both in oneself and in others. This is achieved through careful inspection of the compromises and politically expedient decisions one must make in order to win. It is not easy, in American politics to "be true to thine ownself." And one finds, as Edmund Burke has said: "A large part of wisdom is to know how much of the corruption of human nature it is wise to tolerate."

Our government is most certainly a reflection of the electorate's ability and willingness to become aware of the issues and the candidates. If the people elect a contrived image, then they will get government by illusion and sleight of hand. Imagery and expedient compromise begin in the campaign but are brought to fruition during the term (or terms) of office.

Thus my limited political experience has brought me to the point where I tend to agree with the Nobel laureate Saul Bellow, who recently observed that: "People are really far more naive and simple-hearted than we commonly suppose." People want to believe in truth and in the intrinsic honesty of their elected officials. So they become like lovers, projecting nonexistent virtues onto the beloved. But ultimately reality emerges and with it love dies.

For now we must all wait and watch the results of the decisions we made behind the closed curtain. We have new leadership, at all levels, and change, if nothing else, inspires hope.

I come away from my experience with a positive attitude and a sense of hopefulness for the future. My decision was, in the final analysis, a wise one. In the words of Carlos Castaneda: "A man of knowledge lives by acting, not by thinking about acting, nor by thinking about what he will think about when he has finished acting. A man of knowledge chooses a path with heart and follows it; and then he looks and rejoices."



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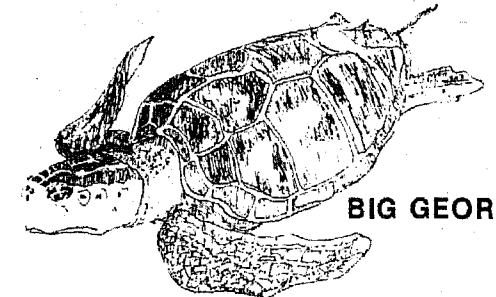


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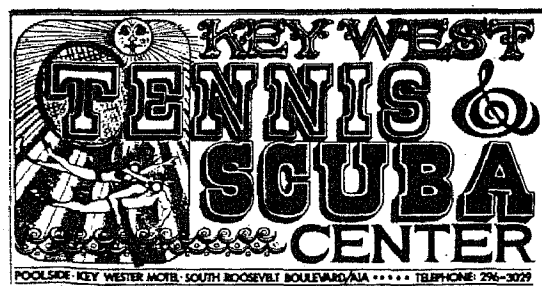
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in the air

by Richard Marsh

IN THE 1930's Lee DeForest, the inventor of the vacuum tube that made radio commercially feasible, foresaw the adolescent broadcasting industry as the medium for a vast cultural awakening. Symphony orchestras and college lecturers would be heard throughout the land. Education and the fine arts would leap distances and surmount environmental barriers to bring culture to the masses.

By the time of his death in 1961 it was clear that both radio and television were firmly settled into the role of merchant, rather than teacher; follower, not leader. The broadcasting industry is in business to sell commercials, not to educate or enlighten. In order to sell commercials, a radio or tv station must demonstrate to the potential advertiser that the station has listeners. The more listeners the station has, the more it can charge for its commercials. Once the expenses are paid and the profits made, some kind of attention can be given to raising the cultural consciousness of the audience. In fact, some kind of consideration must be given to the public good in order to please the Federal Communications Commission. When license renewal time rolls around, the FCC is going to ask the station how much time it has devoted to community service. An easy way out is to play lots of PSA's—public service announcements—like military recruiting, cancer prevention, heart disease education, and local community activity announcements.

A good businessman running a radio station will give the listeners what they want to hear, unlike a good teacher, who gives his students what they need to know. A good teacher running a radio station will soon find himself back in the classroom, his station sold to a good businessman.

There are two alternatives to commercial radio, neither of which is without its drawbacks. A station can convert to a listener-supported status, depending on the listeners to pay the bills rather than the advertisers, or it can be run as a hobby by a wealthy man who can claim it as a money-losing business venture. A listener-supported station can only survive in a large city, where there are enough people who want and will pay for a specified type of non-commercial programming like classical or jazz music or a fine arts format. A hobby station will be run to please the station owner. Neither is meant to be responsive to the majority taste.

Capitalism and democracy join in a peaceful, workable partnership in the field of mass media. A radio station or a newspaper that gives the people

what they want is rewarded with the largest number of advertisers and the greatest profits. Responsiveness to the popular taste is good business.

THERE ARE CURRENTLY three radio stations in Key West -- WKWF, WKIZ, and WFYN-FM -- and sometime next spring there will be two more FM stations. This article is intended to investigate the question of whether or not Key West is well served by its radio stations. It would be premature to attempt to answer that question now. E. Stratford Smith, the new owner of WKWF and its forthcoming sister FM affiliate, says, "When all five stations are on the air next spring, I think that with the jockeying of programming -- when we each find our proper niche -- the music and community broadcasting needs of Key West will be fully covered." Some time next year, after all five stations have been on the air long enough to study the effect of their programming on listeners and advertisers, it will be proper and, in fact, important to attempt to decide if the radio stations are serving the public interest. If they are not, direct approaches can be made to the stations themselves by groups of listeners who feel that their listening needs are not being filled. If that does not work, the FCC can be notified of listeners' discontent, and a whole new tub of worms can be opened. Now is not the time to stray that far into the future, but at this point of transition in local radio programming, we can look around at the recent past, the present, and the projected future to see where we have come from, where we are now, and where we might be going.

WKIZ and WFYN-FM are the constants in local broadcasting. Gayle Swafford, President and General Manager of Florida Keys Broadcasting Corporation, which operates the two stations, says, "You won't hear us change too much. What we are doing now gives us the largest audience in all day-parts (segments of the day and evening) that we can possibly get. Our music changes only as music in a popular vein changes." According to Timothy Lee, a WKIZ announcer, a recent BROADCAST MAGAZINE survey showed that contemporary music and "beautiful" music were the two most popular and most profitable formats nationwide. Lee also said that a recent ARB (American Research Bureau) survey placed WKIZ and WFYN as the top two stations in the Florida Keys, capturing 85% of the audience. WKIZ plays a contemporary format, consisting of jazz, disco, Top 40, progressive rock, and

cross-over country -- country songs that hit both the country and the Top 40 charts. WFYN-FM plays a brand of "easy listening" music that has in recent years become known as "beautiful" music: mostly instrumental, orchestrated versions of current, recent, and old popular songs, the kind of non-controversial, soothing cream of wheat that you hear in dentists' offices and when you are put on "hold."

WKWF ALTERNATED between an easy listening variety of music and the Nashville brand of country music -- country in the morning and sometimes at night and the easy listening in the afternoon-- until November 1975, when Jack Spottswood took over management of the station. Until the station was sold November first of this year, Duke Yanacone kept his morning country show, but the rest of the schedule was given over to a free-form format consisting of mostly "progressive" music and a startlingly diverse mixture of jazz, rock, folk, and country. More about this type of programming after a look at some projected plans.

WKWF'S FM AFFILIATE, which does not yet have call letters assigned, will program "solid gold" music, a formula proven successful elsewhere; WAXY in Fort Lauderdale, for example. "Solid gold" reaches through the moldy oldies as far back as fifteen or twenty years for blasts from the past. If you are in your thirties or younger, you will hear the songs you grew up with on this station, songs that you identify with your first discoveries of tender feelings for the opposite sex, good times, when life was fun and carefree. You will also hear commercials from advertisers who know that you are in your house-car-furniture-appliance buying years, that you are at the age when you will be spending the most money, and that you will be inclined to associate the commercial messages with the good feelings that the music brings back. Nostalgia is good business.

DAVID FREEMAN, co-owner with his brother Sheriff-elect Billy of The Porter-Allen Company, has ambitious, far-reaching, and probably impossible plans for his new FM station, WIIS, which he hopes to have on the air by next spring: "We want to operate primarily as a community radio station. We have an open door policy to encourage listener participation in the programming." Tentatively, the 7 am to 11 pm schedule will include 8-10 hours of classical music per week, an early evening children's program, a program in Spanish aimed at Key West Cuban interests, a variety of programs involving the public library, Florida Keys Community College, and just about any group that has something to offer of community interest. Something for everybody, a magazine of the air, a British Broadcasting Corporation

range of programming, quasi-public radio, total commitment to listener/community needs. It sounds like either a radio listener's dream or a station owner who has never run a radio station before. The second is true; the first remains to be proven. David Freeman is an experienced hand at the technical side of radio. He has been a ham operator for years, and a framed FCC First Class License on the wall of the broadcast booth in the lobby of the Porter-Allen Company attests to his knowledge of what goes on behind the control board switches and dials. Freeman's experience in putting words and music into those switches and dials will be obtained on the air, with everybody listening. It will be like watching a child grow up to listen to WIIS at first.

THEORETICALLY, six months from now most Key Westers will be able to hear just about anything they want to on the radio, at least sometimes. The majority will be served by the contemporary music of WKIZ, the "beautiful" music of WFYN, the "country-politan" of WKWF, and the "solid gold" of the unchristened one. WIIS, with something for everybody, will fill in the gaps and satisfy the minorities. You could get picky and take a census of Blacks in Key West and count to see if the percentage of Black music on the air equals the percentage of Blacks in the population; match Spanish surnames in the phone book to Latin music on the air; compare Scottish names with bagpipe tunes; Polish names with mazourkas. You could also get picky by checking album sales in local stores to find out what kind of music people are buying, then ask, "Do the stations play the kind of music that people have expressed a preference for by buying?" A claim has been made that up to 50% of album sales in Key West are for progressive music albums, but that no air time is given to progressive music since WKWF went all-country.

AT THIS POINT business-like reason and hard, cold facts, figures, and cash become almost completely irrelevant to the discussion. We come to definitions, and nothing holds still. I used to think I knew what country music was; my wife and I used to play it in bars Friday and Saturday nights. I could have told you ten years ago what was on the Top 20 when I was a rock and roll disc jockey. But in a break from the typewriter two sentences ago I just heard Billy Swann, a country singer by definition, sing his latest release on WKWF, a country station by definition. The song: "Snake, Rattle, and Roll." Children, that was the granddaddy of rock and roll songs; Bill Haley and the Comets, 1954. I wore out my copy learning to jitterbug in Ellen Kay's basement.

Chris Elmore, a sometime musician, student of the music scene, and conscientious progressive rock buff, used to

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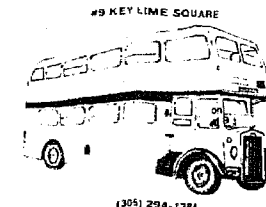
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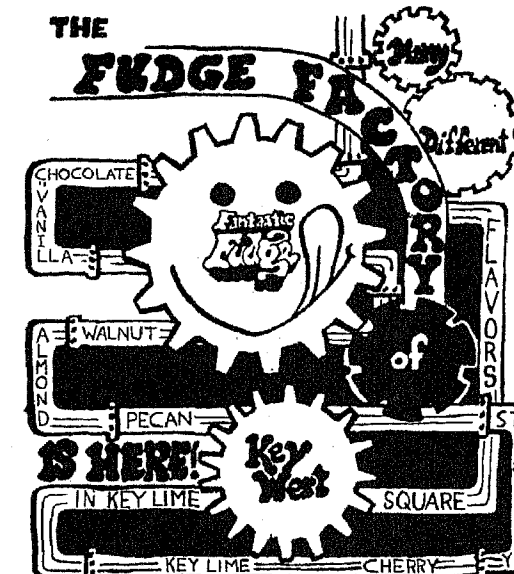
Capt. BOB'S

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in the
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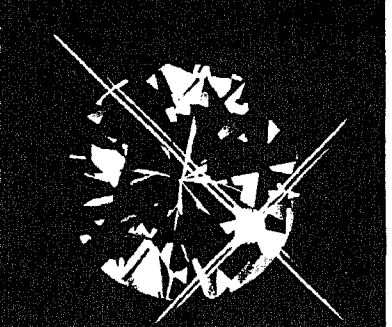
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like WKWF's programming before the all-country format. He does not listen to WKIZ except by mistake when he goes to turn on his car tape deck. Timothy Lee says that WKIZ includes progressive in its format, "but the most popular cuts on an album." Apparently WKIZ is not progressive enough for Chris. He does not listen to radio anymore. He has a lot of albums.

CONFUSION FORBIDS any orderly discussion of progressive music. A disc jockey could play songs all night and identify each song as an example of progressive, but you would hear songs and musicians that are clearly country, Top 40, soul, folk, acid rock, English bluegrass, blues. A brief spell with an all-rock or an all-country station would turn up a song or two that a progressive fan would claim. Where do you draw the lines of definition? Where do you pin what labels? In the early 1960's Moe Asch (Folkways Records) was already making plans to document rock and roll as a type of folk music as soon as its day was over. He defined folk music as any kind of music that is widely accepted by the people as their own. Perhaps there are only two kinds of music: classical and folk. All other borders are hazy, and they disappear when you approach too near.

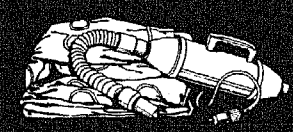
The only thing that seems to be clear is the intention expressed by each radio station regarding the type of music format it follows. Station policies dictate that WKWF plays only country, its unnamed sister will play only the top easy listening contemporary songs, WKIZ plays contemporary songs according to a strict formula, WFYN plays only programmed tapes of carefully selected music, WIIS will play a little bit of everything.

Although three stations will apparently be playing at least some music that will probably fit into at least some definitions of progressive music, with the exception of a tentatively projected segment of WIIS there is no time specifically set aside for that format. But all in all, it seems that nearly everyone will be at least partially satisfied except two people: Simon Hendrix and Tom Corcoran.

THE WRITING of this article was instigated by reaction to WKWF's change of format from one-third country and two-thirds free-form programming, which featured progressive music, to 100% country. Most of the discussion considered whether or not a significant portion of the community was being deprived of a certain kind of music, and whether or not country music would generate more advertising than progressive music.

TOM CORCORAN, who does everything in The Suede Shop, was a WKWF announcer from March 1974 to February 1975. He left the station to devote more time to his leather business. "There is a gap,"

**What do you
do for a
second bed
when you
barely have
room for one?**



Waterbeds, too!

Environmental Circus

518 DUVAL ST.

Corcoran says. "Listener reaction proved that there was a market for progressive music or an album-type format. There is no way to judge any business in Key West by the textbook. I know; I got an A in Marketing 301. Key West is a unique market. Progressive music attracted new advertising accounts to WKWF."

He describes progressive music as music for adults; albums, not 45's. "Albums are the art form of the 70's. They have reached a sophistication that appeals to adults." He played performers like The Amazing Rhythm Aces, John Mayall, and Bonnie Raitt, who have had several successful albums but never hit the Top 40 with a single.

"When I was on the air my main goal in programming was to help the audience learn not only what songs were popular, but to teach them more about popular songs, writers, background musicians, and vocalists. It makes a song more entertaining if the listener knows that James Taylor, Art Garfunkel, and Crosby and Nash are all harmonizing on one chorus together. Or that Stevie Wonder wrote a song that James Taylor included on his album."

SIMON HENDRIX, co-owner of Hope's New York Times Restaurant and former WKWF announcer, says, "Everybody's missing the point." The point being, Hendrix feels, that the gap resulting from WKWF's change is a gap in communication. "It's not the music that's gone; it's communication that's gone." Hendrix sees Key West as a family and music as a form of communication among the members of the family. "The music I play is only an extension of what I want to say." Hendrix composed tone-poems to his audience using such diverse elements as the music of Judy Garland, Duke Ellington, Frank Sinatra, Janis Ian, The Doors, Glenn Miller. This is free-form programming which Hendrix feels is suited to the free-form life-style of Key West. Jack Spottswood allowed the announcers to program their own segments, a freedom rarely given by station managers. The programming came not from the pages of BILLBOARD but from the imagination and heart of the person behind the microphone, an intimate relationship that Hendrix recognized in his sign-off: "Thank you for letting me be a part of your life."

There is no free-form programming currently in Key West radio, nor does there seem to be a place for it in the projected future.

KEY WEST has lost an art form: free-form radio programming. It has gained another 17 hours a day of country music, which is gradually evolving toward a more sophisticated "country-politican" sound. Progressive music, depending on how you define it, has either been lost entirely or considerably reduced. It is not certain how many listeners are affected by the change.

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The future will see no significant changes in the three existing stations, according to present plans. WKWF's new sister FM station will increase the air-play of oldies, which are currently heard on WKIZ frequently in the morning and occasionally in the afternoon.

WIIS will be responsive to the needs of the community, David Freeman promises, but specific programming content is still an uncertain factor.

ONE THING is sure, though. Five radio stations are all Key West gets. No more channel allocations are available for this area. Key West listeners will either have to be satisfied with what the five stations produce or convince the stations that they are not serving the public well, if that is seen to be the case. Music may be the universal language, but banknotes speak louder than musical ones. If you patronize an advertiser because of his radio commercials, let him know, and tell him that you approve of his musical taste. Write to the program director of your favorite or unfavorable station and brighten his day with praise or educate him in your musical preferences. Letters are better than phone calls; they last longer and frequently score a point with more than one person; they show that you care enough to take the trouble to organize your message on paper; they wait until the man you want to reach returns from lunch.

LISTEN CAREFULLY and make your opinion known. It's nobody's fault but your own if you don't get the kind of radio programming you want.



continued from 15

would at least enable the Upper Keys to be supplied without placing a growing burden on the pipeline.

By 1972 the most attractive of these desalting methods may also be adaptable to full-strength sea water and thus usable on Stock Island. This process is called "reverse osmosis."

Greater pressure is applied to sea water than its osmotic pressure (the pressure that carries water up trees), forcing it through a cellulose membrane to the fresh side. This method requires less than half the power needed by the flash distillation operation.

Regardless of the future, it is a tribute to the vision of the F.K.A.C. and other prime movers that Key West's water problem has been carried so swiftly beyond stopgap answers to an imaginative and forward-looking solution.

Common Sense

by Gil Ryder

AN AMBITIOUS and extremely important volunteer effort, just now getting underway, will lead to the formation of a countywide Citizens Crime Commission.

The Lower Keys Chapter of AARP voted to sponsor an initial conference of the formation of a crime commission as the goal.

Interested, concerned citizens from Key Largo to Key West have been meeting and discussing the need for such a commission and came to the conclusion that one of the more active organizations in the area should try to get something started. The Lower Keys Chapter of AARP agreed to try to get other organizations together and has been busy contacting such organizations for the purpose of arranging a conference.

The president of the Lower Keys Chapter spent a number of hours with the Key West Police Chief and the Sheriff-elect on the subject. These men, and others conversant with the project, all believe it might well be a big step in the right direction.

The intent and purpose of such a commission would be to take such steps as might be legal, moral, ethical and feasible to reduce street crime, breaking and entering, fraud and bunco, and to improve community-police relations.

As such a commission gains experience, it will undoubtedly get further involved in all area of crime.

The consensus, up to this point, indicates that the commission should be made up of calm, deliberate, intelligent persons, but should exclude government people, either presently active or retired, and should also exclude the politically ambitious. Thus, the commission could not be dominated by police agencies, courts, or other government branches and neither could it be used for a political springboard.


Such a commission, once established, will find itself embarked on a never-ending job, but will find the results well worth the effort.

The members of the commission will not in any way be vigilantes, neither should the commission be confused with a "police review board." The members will not be issued badges and guns or empowered to act as police. Also, they will not be paid.

The commission must be made up of studious persons, seeking solutions to serious problems -- and finding them!

There is no doubt that serious, dedicated and capable people will be found to make up the commission and that they will work persistently to overcome the now unforeseen difficulties and stumbling blocks found in their path, to give the rest of us a better, safer and more secure community in which to live.

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continued from page 9

etc. You go beyond the symptom and treat the cause: unjust laws and the men who made them. And because this is a democracy, and the men who make the laws are supposed to follow your wishes, you tell your elected representatives to run your government your way or you will replace them with someone who will.

You look to other times and other places to learn the signs of a government that is not responsive to the needs of the people and that has gotten out of control.

Then you look around you today in Key West and see the symbols of repression and the symptoms of an unhealthy government.

And you wonder where it is leading.

R.M.

*Habeas corpus is the right of a citizen to obtain a writ to bring him before a court or judge as a protection against illegal imprisonment.

"WHO WILL WATCH THE WATCHDOG" (continued from last issue)

I dropped in to see the Police Chief recently. After we had discussed my business, he told me that he was disappointed that I had failed to mention in my last month's editorial ("Who Will Watch The Watchdog" - an editorial calling for the establishment of a Police Review Board)* that there was a Florida law on the books that very clearly stated that the police do not have to go before a Review Board. This law was designed to protect the police from over-zealous civilian and governmental agencies. The law provides for the review of police suspected of wrongdoing, but it states that the investigation will be conducted by fellow officers - not outsiders - and it also spells out the procedures to be followed and the rights of the accused officer (which, incidentally, include the right to counsel and the right to tape all the proceedings).

Chief James felt that I was misleading Solares Hill readers by not mentioning this pertinent fact. I answered that the article was exploratory and introductory in nature. We wanted to put the idea before the public first, get its response, and then in a subsequent article we would go into the problems before us, i.e., a law saying that what we wanted was illegal, etc.

However, after thinking it over, I'm inclined to agree with the Police Chief. I should have mentioned that this law existed when I first wrote this article. It would have let readers know better the obstacles facing those who desire such a board. I'm sorry for the oversight.

Now that it's mentioned let me state that I feel that this law is not an impossible impediment to the creation of a Police Review Board. The people have a right to ask that a law be changed if they feel it is wrong.

Let me give another example of why I feel that a Police Review Board is necessary.

Recently a man I know and like came to me with a story about some heavy problems he encountered when he went to City Hall to lodge a police complaint. He said he ran into resistance from the officials with whom he dealt and didn't get to file his complaint. The officials in question, while not acknowledging the event, did not deny it either. If his story is true - and I have no reason to doubt him - it further points out the need for an independent board expressly set up to handle these complaints and accusations. The tendency for a governing body to find a complaining citizen a nuisance and a trouble-maker can prove irresistible. It is much easier to classify the citizen a "nut" than to have to dig out information which may prove harmful to a friend or acquaintance - such is human nature.

I will have more on this proposal later.

W.H.

* This is not to be confused with the proposed Civilian Crime Commission that Gil Ryder is writing about on page 29

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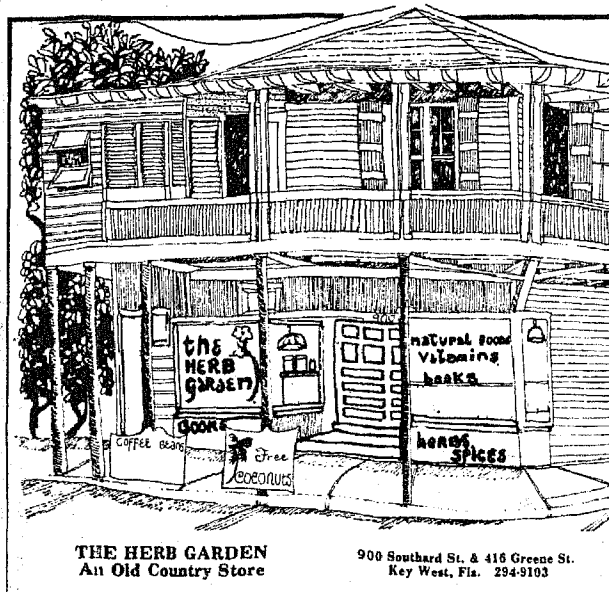
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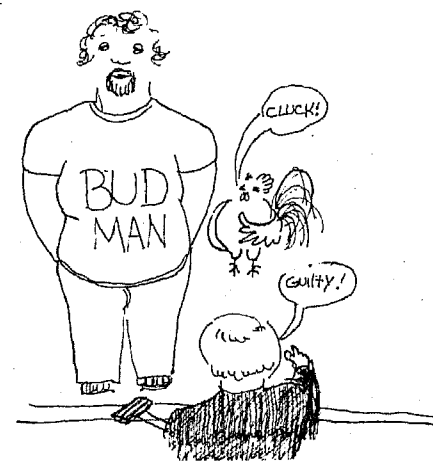
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presents



Animal Farm

Dec. 15 - Jan. 1 Tues. - Sat.
8:30 P.M. 294-5001



MR. BUD McARTHUR WAS FOUND GUILTY AND FINED \$27 RECENTLY FOR KEEPING A ROOSTER THAT MADE FREQUENT NOISE THAT DISTURBED THE COMFORT AND REPOSE OF PERSONS IN THE VICINITY.



"I just want clothes for Christmas this year."



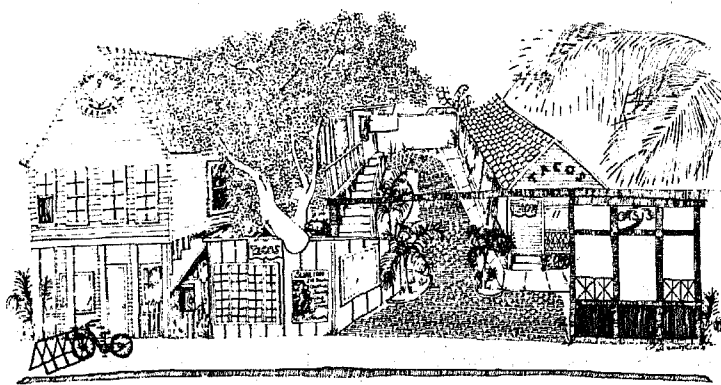
"A space suit, football helmet, swimming flippers and a baseball glove."

Looking through the window of the world
There is always another bright day
When the trees blossom with their foliage
of green,
And our Autumns are as gentle as our
memories.

And when one didn't think he could
tolerate another day of loss and regret
A star will shine and twinkle
Laughter will appear
And that great anticipation of uncovering
the magic of another gentle true spirit
Which flies through the skies like a
free bird
Will once again enter into our window
And venture we will, for this is the
magic, the colors, the joy
And the secret to life.

Tebay Anne Rose

Anchor Mews



Emeralda Scream Breyer's Ice Cream The Added Touch

Sun Lion The Oasis Redbeards T-Shirts

Stork's Nest **UNIQUE SHOPS** Island Ices

Island Snax & Treats Myrus Reader/Advisor The Woodcarver

From the Earth and Sea Key West Taco Co. New Hope Leather Co.

Nook

208 Duval Street



R GLORE & FRIENDS

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Open 10 to 8

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